



DID THE COVID GRINCH STEAL YOUR CHRISTMAS?

Christmas, 2021, was looking to be a wonderful celebration, with many of us having plans to share dinner with loved ones, for the extended family to finally get together, for a chance to see Christmas concerts, and, generally, to experience the “perfect” Christmas. Unfortunately, the Omicron variant of Covid arrived just before Christmas to disrupt, destroy or alter our plans. As I watched “How The Grinch Stole Christmas”, however, the message of this perennial favourite that “Christmas came just the same” despite the Grinch, rang true. While we might not have experienced a “perfect” Christmas, most of us managed to share a meal, a laugh, or a gift, and to remember once again why we celebrate Christmas. Even in times of war, displacement, poverty, and suffering, Christmas comes, and brings with it the reminder that Jesus’ birth offers a message of peace, good will, kindness, and hope for each of us.



OUR YOUTH ARE AWESOME!

Members of Central youth prepared 22 Christmas gift bags for our shut-ins which included Christmas cards, beautiful snow globes, chocolates, and messages of hope. Those who are unable to attend Central due to disability or poor health were not forgotten by our youth and were delighted to receive these gifts.



DATES AND EVENTS

Kids Zone / Every Sunday Morning / **10am**

Youth Zone / Every Thursday Evening / **6:30pm – 9pm**

Women’s Bible Study / Friday, January 8th / **10am**

Youth Zone Parents Meeting / Tuesday, January 18th / **7pm**

Annual General Meeting (Zoom) / Monday, January 24th / **7pm**

Communion / Sunday, February 6th / **10am**

**Due to the recent regulations regarding the Omicron virus, some of these dates and events may be cancelled.*

CENTRAL SUPPORTS THE ORTIZ FAMILY!

On Sunday, December 12th, Christmas stockings placed on the pews were filled with money to support the Ortiz family in their mission work in Cubulco, Guatemala. Our generous congregation contributed close to \$5,000 to this worthy cause and we know this money will be used to aid those who are struggling in this poor village.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year for the first time, due to pandemic restrictions, we held two in-person Christmas Eve services, one at 5:30pm and one at 7:30pm. People wishing to attend were asked to pre-register to keep numbers to a level which allowed appropriate physical distancing. Even with some cancellations due to the Omicron variant, 255 people attended the two services. The spirit of Christmas shone through the services and we were able to worship both in person and online to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus.

RETIREMENTS

George Barrie:

Our longest serving elder, George Barrie, has tendered his resignation from the Session. George became an elder in 1961, and has served Central for over 60 years. He has been active in every aspect of church life, and served on many church committees. Always up for a new adventure, George travelled to Lesotho in 2009 and 2012 to build classrooms for Rachel's Home where he amazed us all with his strength and energy. His wisdom and guidance will be greatly missed.

Andrew Foster:

Andrew has been an elder at Central for 30 years and for most of those years has been Central's representative to the Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery. As our representative, Andrew was able to advocate for Central and to provide a liaison with the wider Presbyterian Church. Andrew has also served on the Worship Committee and the Pastoral Relations Committee. Always a voice of reason whenever contentious issues were discussed, we will miss his logical analysis and input.

CENTRAL IN THE NEWS

On Wednesday, December 29th, readers of the KW Record found a picture of our spire and an article about our restoration project on the front page. The article was very positive about our resolve to renovate this architectural treasure. Community outreach is essential to the success of this project and we ask you to share the article with friends and neighbours. Let's not let such good publicity go to waste!

