

Profile

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO, CANADA



Central Presbyterian Church is searching for a forward-looking Minister who leads from the heart and is eager to guide a committed congregation into its next chapter.



Profile

CENTRAL – WE ARE A JESUS CHURCH

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Who We Are

"We are a Jesus church,
where everyone is welcome,
where no one is perfect,
where everyone is loved
and where anything is possible.

OUR CORE VALUES

With these words, people of many walks of life and denominational backgrounds are welcomed into the Lord's presence as we worship together on Sunday mornings and as we work together to build God's kingdom in this community.

We are a multi-generational congregation with people from many different cultural backgrounds. As of December 2024, we are blessed to have 172 members and 284 adherents.

We are risk-takers, willing to walk on new paths to ensure that our church continues to be relevant in a changing world.

We praise God for his many blessings and for Central's history of stability and continuity, having had only seven ministers since its founding in 1880.



We dream dreams trusting in God to lead us into the future. Every 3-5 years we undertake a strategic plan to identify key objectives that we wish to achieve.

We are a compassionate congregation, where people care for one another, form friendships and welcome everyone who enters our doors with a warm greeting.

We are a serving congregation, with a strong commitment to local and international mission and where a very high percentage of our people volunteer their time and talents in our ministries.

We are a "peachy" church, very easy to enter and to feel a sense of belonging, with a rock solid core of belief in God's love for all.

Historical Highlights

1832 Scottish settlers in Galt found St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

1880 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Union Presbyterian Church amalgamate to form Central Presbyterian Church.

1882 The first service in the newly constructed Central Presbyterian Church is held in March.

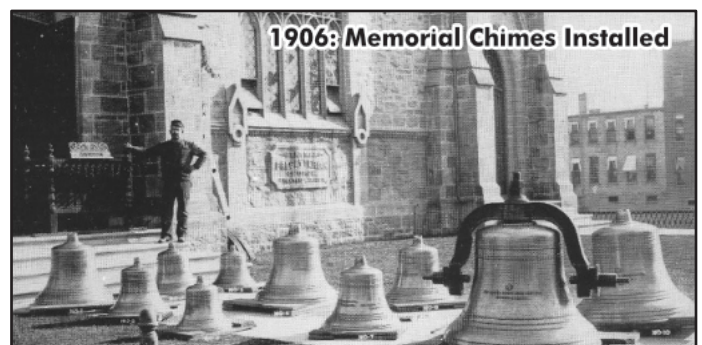
1906 The memorial chimes are installed and continue to ring out through the city.

1928 The three manual Casavant Frères organ is installed.

2002 Central calls its current minister, the Rev. Dr. Aubrey J. Botha.

2009 Groups from Central travel to Lesotho to build & **2012** classrooms, a wash house and other projects for our international mission at Rachel's Home.

2016 The renovation of the worship space is completed to provide for new styles of worship and community related events.



2016 Two morning services, one more traditional and one more contemporary, begin.

2018 Due to the positive response to the contemporary service, Central discontinues the traditional service and moves to one Sunday service for everyone.

2022 The restoration project for the replacement of the slate roof and several stained glass windows is completed.

Life and Work at Central

From the 2025 Congregational Survey: the 3 things most important to Central

① Children and Youth Ministries

Central is fortunate to have young families and children ranging in age from a few months to secondary school.

The Children's and Family Ministry

Coordinator organizes programming and teachers for children up to grade 6.

The Youth Ministry Coordinator is a separate position and this person plans programs for our youth.

Vacation Bible School is a popular summer event which involves both older and younger students.



② Welcome Ministry

Positive first impressions set the tone for everything that happens at Central. Every Sunday there are people attending Central for the first time and we strive to make sure they feel comfortable and want to return again.

It is our goal to ensure that everyone, whether they are here for the first time or are lifelong members, receives a warm welcome on Sunday mornings. We receive positive feedback on the friendliness of everyone in our congregation.

We have a wonderful team of greeters who faithfully greet people each week with a smile, a welcoming word and a listening ear.



③ Multi-Generational Ministries



YOUNG ADULTS

Our young adult group (ages 18-25) meets weekly for Bible Study and discussion.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

There are a number of opportunities for the women of the church, including a time for bible study and reflection, day conferences, and a book club which reviews current Christian literature.

MEN'S MINISTRY

At present opportunities for men include the Men's Breakfast which always features a topical speaker and Rugged Hands, an opportunity for service.

Rugged Hands is a regular contributor of labour to [Camp Kintail](#), one of our church camps. The day is spent working – planting trees, building picnic tables (over 100 at last count), painting or whatever needs doing.

Kintail weekends are a time of service, fellowship, study and worship.

SENIORS' MINISTRY

Social time for Central's seniors and the community at large is important. In response to this we have introduced the Hymn Sing Café and Coffee @ Central.

Many seniors love the old hymns. The Hymn Sing Café is a time to sing traditional favourites and have a social gathering.

Coffee @ Central brings a topical speaker to Central as seniors gather for a morning of socializing.

Our Missions

International

RACHEL'S HOME

Central has been involved with [Rachel's Home](#), an AIDS orphanage in Lesotho for over twenty years.

Two groups from Central have travelled to the orphanage, built extra classrooms, a washhouse, and done many other tasks to aid the work at Rachel's Home.

Currently, we fund the teachers' salaries and purchase food and supplements for the children's nutritional needs.

We also support students wishing to continue their education past elementary school by funding their tuition and boarding costs at secondary school and college or university.



CHICKEN PROJECT IN CUBULCO, GUATEMALA

Central supports a [mission in Cubulco](#), Guatemala.

Members of our church went to Cubulco in 2018 to build a structure for this community which will serve the church as well as provide classroom space to train local students.

While there, this team discovered that protein was scarce in the diets of many of the inhabitants and so began the [Chicken Project](#).

When one of our families moved to Cubulco to support the growth of Christianity there, they also trained interested individuals in methods to improve the feeding and care of chickens. This gives the local people more access to eggs and meat.

The [Chicken Project](#) continues to be funded by Central Church.



Local

CAMBRIDGE FOOD BANK

Locally, Central Church supports the [Cambridge Food Bank](#) in several ways. On a monthly basis, the Food Bank identifies the particular food needed and our congregation responds.

At Christmas, Central Church members decorate a "mitten tree" with scarves, mittens and hats which are sent to needy families in the community. The annual

"White Gift Sunday" focuses on providing older adults with clothing, slippers, toiletries, candy, etc,

Each summer we initiate a "challenge" to see how many containers of the needed food item we can donate. In a recent challenge, a ton of peanut butter was donated.



Historic Building ... Modern Worship

WORSHIP



The words of "Stained Glass Window", a tune we use in worship, says... "like a stained glass window, I want to feel your light shine through". With the charm and grace of a bygone era, Central has been updated to provide a beautiful and functional worship space in which to praise God.

Knowing that many people coming through our doors may not have a "church background", our service features a modern approach with everyday language, understandable to all, and often includes a touch of humour.

Through the inspirational, Biblically-based sermons we hear on Sunday mornings, we hear the Word of God, and learn about the context of the Scriptural passages and how they relate to our lives today.

MUSIC

Music is an important component of our Sunday service and with a Praise Band, a Choir, a concert grand piano, a three manual Casavant organ, keyboard, drums, guitars and other instruments, there is great scope for flexibility and variety. Whether the Praise Band is leading us in praise songs or the Choir is singing a more traditional hymn, we are blessed with beautiful music.

The Minister and Creative Worship Team meet monthly to plan the music and services.

Central is known for its music and is a highly appreciated venue for concerts by community groups, professional musicians and symphony orchestras, and is a popular choice for weddings.

PRAYER

The importance of prayer is emphasized during our Sunday service and the minister includes the names of those requiring support in his congregational prayer. Prayer support is reinforced by a group who often meet after the service with individuals who need prayer.

As well, a prayer group convenes each week to pray for those from our congregation who are ill or grieving or going through turbulent times and need support. They also pray for the world around us.

MEDIA



While most of our congregation are sitting in the pews on a Sunday morning, a substantial number take part in the service via YouTube. Streaming our service live has resulted in a viewing audience which not only includes members of our congregation who are unable to attend services in person, but also people who live in geographically distant places.

We actively post upcoming events, concerts and important Christian celebrations such as Easter and Christmas on Instagram and Facebook as part of our outreach. As a result, our social media profile and online attendance have grown enormously.

A [virtual tour](#) is available on the church [website](#).



Leadership at Central



Having tried various models over the years, Central's Session has chosen one in which elders have a district and serve on one or more teams which oversee the major aspects of congregational life.

At present these teams are Central Cares, Christian Education, Congregational Development and Fellowship, Congregational Records, Communications/Media, Missions, Pastoral Relations, Presbytery Rep, Stewardship and Worship.

The Board of Managers is responsible for the property, building, and finances. In addition, we have two joint teams, Personnel and Use of Church, made up of elders, board members and congregational representatives.

Most teams have representatives from the congregation. In a recent survey, 48% of respondents indicated that they volunteer in some capacity in the life and work of the church.

The well-being of our minister is paramount. Our Pastoral Relations Team is in place to look after the Ministers needs, everything from a friendly ear to addressing his/her concerns.

The Session and the Minister work collaboratively on forward-thinking leadership. We prepare a Strategic Plan every 3-5 years to provide focus and direction as we strive to continue to be relevant in a changing world.

In addition to a full-time minister, Central has five part-time staff positions in Children's and Family Ministry, Youth Ministry, Music Director, Church Office Administrator and Custodian.

Cambridge, Ontario – Your Future home

Cambridge – Our Home

Central is located in [Cambridge, Ontario](#) – a thriving, scenic community that blends small-town charm with economic opportunity

The Community



- ✦ Cambridge sits on the convergence of the Grand and Speed Rivers with an abundance of trails, parks, recreational and cultural activities.
- ✦ The city has a diverse population of 145,000.
- ✦ The city was created in 1973 when the communities of Galt, Preston, Hespeler and Blair were amalgamated.

Cultural and Historical Charm



- ✦ Cambridge is rich in history. Areas of Galt, Preston, and Hespeler provide a quaint, historical atmosphere with preserved architecture. The [Cambridge Farmers' Market](#) has been operating since 1830.
- ✦ The city features three downtowns, each with a unique architectural style.
- ✦ Cambridge is a popular Ontario filming location with many architectural assets and the [Grand River](#) which is designated as a part of the [Canadian Heritage River System](#).

Affordability

- ✦ Compared to larger cities such as Toronto, Cambridge offers more affordable housing options.

Centrally Located



- ✦ Cambridge offers all the amenities of a big city with the charm of a small town.
- ✦ Part of Waterloo Region, one of Canada's fastest growing and diverse regions, Cambridge is located in the heart of Southwestern Ontario.
- ✦ Close to everything, Cambridge is 45 to 50 minutes from Pearson International Airport, 90 minutes from downtown Toronto and 60 minutes from downtown London.

A Place for Families



- ✦ Exceptional schools – public, Catholic and private.
- ✦ Five top tier universities and three colleges are within an hour's drive.
- ✦ Healthcare facilities – Cambridge has the newly renovated [Cambridge Memorial Hospital](#) and strong medical network.
- ✦ Cambridge has over [100 parks and 13 recreational facilities](#), including arenas, a brand-new outdoor soccer facility and year-round cultural and recreational activities.
- ✦ Outdoor activities abound, such as canoeing along the beautiful Grand River, fishing, hiking, and biking.
- ✦ Theatre lovers can enjoy both [professional](#) and award winning [community](#) productions.

Financial Overview



Rising to Challenges with Faith and Generosity

Central Presbyterian Church exemplifies resilience and stewardship, meeting significant financial challenges with unwavering faith and remarkable generosity.

In 2018, our congregation, facing the structural decline of our iconic building – opened on March 5, 1882 – chose to remain a vibrant presence in Cambridge’s historic core by embarking on a \$2.5 million renovation.

With prayerful determination, we completed critical upgrades: restoring several stained glass windows, replacing the slate shingle roof and spire, updating copper panels, enhancing lightning protection, repointing masonry, modernizing the fire alarm system, and upgrading plumbing.

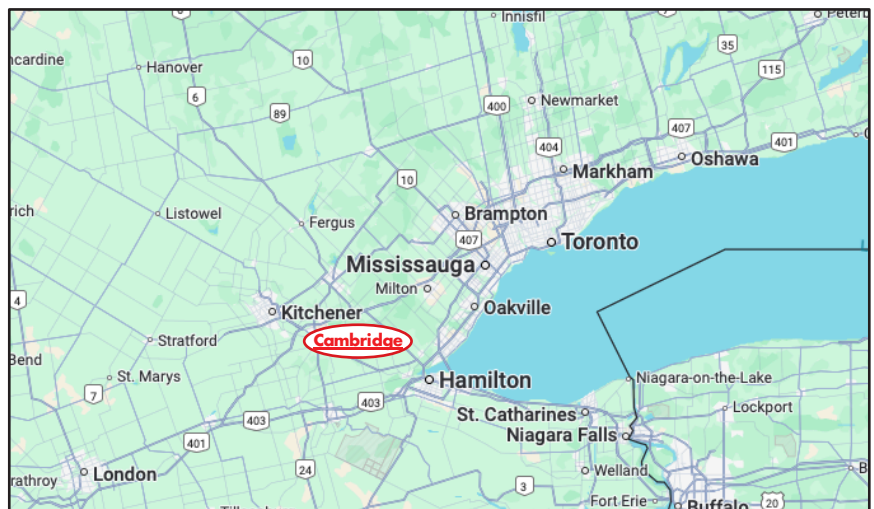
In just three years, our dedicated congregation has repaid \$1.3 million, leaving a manageable \$1.2 million balance. This progress is fuelled by a strong restoration campaign, including two annual community events that showcase our hospitality and commitment.

Our financial vitality extends beyond preservation, supporting impactful missions like the Cambridge Food Bank, Rachel’s Home in Lesotho, and the Chicken Project in Cubulco, Guatemala.

This last fiscal year we had a small surplus in our operating budget. This generosity reflects a spirit that transforms lives locally and globally.

We are truly blessed!

Location



7 Queens Square,
Cambridge, Ontario, Canada N1S 1H4
(519) 623-1080

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LEADERSHIP PREFERENCES FOR CENTRAL

Central Presbyterian Church is searching for a forward-looking Minister who leads from the heart and is eager to guide a committed congregation into its next chapter.

In a recent congregational survey, the congregation specified the skills and qualities deemed of significant importance in our new minister.

We also appreciate that each minister has a “personal style” and individual strengths.

PREACHING AND SERMONS

- ✚ We are blessed each week with well-prepared, uplifting sermons which are delivered from the heart and relate to our lives in today’s world. We enjoy hearing personal stories about real issues and people.
- ✚ We hear the Word of God, learn about the historical and cultural background of the times, and are helped to understand how various translations can impact meaning. We appreciate a sermon which gives us something to think about as we leave the Sunday service.
- ✚ We believe that spiritual leadership through engaging sermons brings people back week after week.

WARM AND WELCOMING TO ALL

- ✚ Central is a church where our motto is “Come as you are”. In keeping with the idea that the minister is “one of us”, we do not expect the wearing of clerical robes.
- ✚ We are looking for someone who can be warm, approachable and welcoming to all.

PASTORAL CARE

- ✚ The world we live in can be very challenging and individuals within our congregation sometimes require help. When their problems are too serious for the counselling the minister can provide, making appropriate referrals to community supports is important for those who are struggling.

LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK

- ✚ We appreciate a minister who provides collaborative leadership, empowering others and equipping them to lead.
- ✚ We respect someone who celebrates the achievements of individuals and groups within Central and fosters a sense of teamwork with staff and church leaders.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

- ✚ Change requires planning and, in these challenging times, we are looking for someone who will lead the congregation with confidence as we continue with the development and implementation of long term goals.

MODELS CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

- ✚ The minister’s position within a church is complex and members of our congregation often look to the minister to solve problems and to mediate congregational differences when they occur.
- ✚ We are looking for a leader with a sense of humour and the wisdom to tackle difficult situations with calm assurance.

PERSONAL FAITH WALK

- ✚ A congregation is only as spiritually strong as its leader. We wish to call a minister who spends personal time with the Lord each day in prayer and scripture.



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