

*Sharing the Heart
of Christ from the
Heart of the City*



LOVING GOD
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING THE WORLD

From The Pastor

You'll be reading this newsletter after Easter, when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but I write in the middle of Holy Week, and I'm meditating on the cross.

All by itself, the incarnation - that the Son of God would become one of us in the man Jesus of Nazareth - is astounding and shows the depth of love God has for us. But even more so is the cross - that the Son of God would willingly undergo the agony and humiliation of a death by crucifixion.

In a devotional I received today the writer pointed out that the Roman preferred crucifixion not for its efficiency - there are much quicker ways to execute someone - but for its theatrical cruelty that served as a warning to anyone who would dare defy Rome. The cruelty began with the condemned forced to carry his execution device through the streets where the crowds would heap insults and shame on him.

But there was a greater shame and humiliation for Jews who were crucified. Based on a passage from the Old Testament, Jews believed that anyone hung on a tree was cursed by God, forsaken and rejected by him. The Roman cross was believed to symbolize a tree, so a crucified Jew was not only being punished by the Romans but utterly rejected by God. To the people of Jesus's time, there was no more shameful end in all the world than to be crucified.

So imagine what it was like for Jesus first to carry his cross through the streets, jeered at by the people he came to save who saw Jesus as a failure, cursed by God and facing an excruciating death because he'd done something to earn God's condemnation. For Jesus the cross meant not only a torturous death but complete and utter rejection by his own people. In this way Jesus fulfilled the prophecy from Isaiah 53,

"He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity...
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised and we held him of no account...
We accounted him stricken,
struck down by God and afflicted."

Yet it was our rejection of God that led us to reject Jesus Christ; it was the depth and breadth of our sin that made necessary his atoning death on the cross. This week, I'm thanking God for his son Jesus Christ, who endured the shame and agony of the cross, that I could be saved.

LOVING GOD

Worship Updates

We are so ridiculously fortunate at Central to be inundated with talented musicians, vocalists, technicians, and servant-hearts who make worship so meaningful and rich. THANK YOU, fam! You are amazing and I know that God is pleased. Thanks be to God!!!

Coming up:

April 1st & 15th: Helen's eye surgeries (please pray she heals quickly!)

April 7th: Rev. David Wright is preaching

April 14th: One 10am service with Sandy's Retirement brunch to follow!

April 27th: Second worship conversation with Rev. Bruce Humphrey

May 3rd & 4th: "And So... a musical about Jesus & those who chose to follow"

(May 3rd: 7pm, May 4th: 2pm & 7pm. Free admission. Reservations available on [EventBrite](#))

May 31st: Beth & Andrea's last days at Central. Please pray for them & for all of our staff needs!

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Growing In Prayer

Prayer Champions -

Connect with your child/student each month!! 😊

Spring is here and the children and youth have many, many projects to do and activities going on in their lives. Remember to pray for them often.

Please also **reach out** to them via a text to their parents, a note in their family church mailbox, or send a card in the mail. **It matters!!**

Knowing that someone cares and is praying for you makes a huge difference in how you handle challenges in life. Our children are precious to God. Take a few minutes each month to let them know.

THANK YOU FOR BEING AWESOME PRAYER CHAMPIONS!!

LOVING GOD

A Note From Erin

This time of year is wild and wonderful! When my head is full, it helps me to organize my thoughts through rhyme, so here goes:

*What a joy to be in the season of Resurrection
What a great God we have: worth all our affection
I'm eternally grateful to all who invested
Their time and their gifts to make Lent so blessed.
Our Church is a family, growing together
It's beautiful to witness and so worth the endeavor
Sadness is felt in seeing Sandy retire
Yet, how deeply she deserves it after all she's inspired
Looking forward to celebrating on April 14th
To wish all of the best for her and for Gene
Only one month away from "And So..." - lots to do!
My head is swimming and my heart bursting too
Do not forget to reserve your spots!
May 3rd & 4th: Two nights & one day slot
April is full and I have high expectations;
Yet, God's provision is greater than my imagination
Trusting the King, the Triune, the One
Partnering with Him to build Kingdom come*

LOVING GOD

From The Organ Bench

THANK YOU to all who were involved in any way with the Lenten Noontime Musical Meditation held recently – to Pastor Scott for opening, to the greeters, Diane Sheep, Sandy Myers, and Nancy Weisel for the first program and to Cheryl Whalley, Trena Oyler, and Marjorie Hamsher for the second program. Also a huge thank you to Ben Brosious for all his expertise at running the sound/livestream, to Alexis Helman for designing and putting together the programs, posters, postcards, etc., to Erin Adams for her communications' part as well as reporting the music to ONE LICENSE, and to Scott Shearer for all the details that go along with such a program. Last, but not least, thank you to all who attended. I pray that God's blessings have come to you through these programs as much as they have come to me in planning and playing them.

Looking ahead, I am scheduled for cataract surgery with the left eye the day after Easter and the right eye two weeks later on April 15th. So I will probably be "OFF THE BENCH" for some weeks. I do not know how soon my eyes will be back to seeing music and close things. Hopefully, soon!!

I would humbly ask for your prayers. This has been quite an experience with several delays, etc. but I am totally trusting that GOD will guide this whole experience and healing after surgery.

Meanwhile, until I return to "the bench"--- HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER TO ALL-
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

Gratefully,
Helen Wingert,
Organist

LOVING ONE ANOTHER
CPC Kid's!

Matthew 5:16 "Let your good deeds shine...
so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father"

That is the Bible truth we have been discovering, and learning how to live out at CPC Kids'!



COMING UP at CPC Kids!

April 7, 21 & 28 -- Exciting lessons from Stellar during
10am Sunday School!

May 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Lessons on big questions that kids
ask about Jesus, God, the Bible and church;
with answers from God's word.





THANK YOU!

Thank you CPC....

...for the privilege of being your Children's Ministry Director!

Retirement is fifteen days away as I write this and I must admit I'm pretty emotional composing these 'last' newsletter articles. How do you sum up sixteen years of loving and being loved by a church family onto one page? So many people have touched and enriched my life by their faith, prayers and kindness; including Pastor Scott and our incredibly talented, faith filled church staff.

I think back over the years of ALL the children who have been part of CPC Kids!! So much joy and countless wonderful memories. Walking beside children and their families as we journey through life, learning to know Jesus deeper, love Him more, and live like Him, has been a privilege and a blessing.

There have been some challenges, and deep sorrows through the years – yet God has walked with all of us through every part of it.

There have been extremely exciting events, celebrations and so MANY God Sightings!!!! VBS! Sunday School! CPC Kids' Club! Kids in the Word! Agents in Action! Plays & skits! Music! Family Events! Popcorn Movie nights! Picnics! Bible Science! Games! Art! Laughter! Hugs! Praying together!....just to name a few of the joys! 😊

I have been blessed immeasurably by those who have been on the Children's Ministry Team over the years. Always supportive and helpful, they have made my 'JOB' a 'JOY'! I must give a special shout out to the current team – Amber Keller, Beth Jaczun, Bree Rauhut, Erica Dunklebarger, Jenine Grove, Sue Stahl and Tyla Mellott. They not only lead Children's Ministry, but also are staunch prayer warriors for the children and families and for each other. They are amazing women and wonderful faith friends.

I am SO EXCITED that Bree Rauhut will now be the Children's Ministry Director at Central!!!! Bree's love for Jesus and love for children are evident in all she does. She has a gift of making the Bible come alive and be relevant for daily living. She wants each child to come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. I am confident that, led by the Holy Spirit, she will help CPC KIDS' MINISTRY thrive. Surround her with your prayers and support and love her well!

On a personal note, the ways that you all showered Gene and I with cards, flowers, food, acts of kindness and PRAYERS through our three cancer battles will never be forgotten. This church is a family who lives out their faith in word and deed.

Thank you again, for all the love, friendships, support and prayers through the years. I have loved being the Children's Ministry Director at Central. Retirement will be different, for sure, but I know that God has new plans ahead for us; and His plans are always for our good.

*With deep love and gratitude,
Sandy*

PLAYSCHOOL CENTRAL



WONDER

Our theme at PlaySchool Central for the 2023-2024 School Year was WONDER. We wanted to look at wonder through a child's eyes and craft our lessons and classrooms to inspire learning and wonder. Our end result was for our teachers to create a wonder map that would be used to guide our decisions in how we would spend the money raised by the spaghetti dinner fundraiser to create spaces that inspire wonder. Each classroom has around \$1000 to spend in creating a unique environment for our students. We would not be able to make such incredible changes without the support of our parents and Central. Over the next few months in the Window we will go over the other classes and their plans to transform their spaces! We will include pictures after the spaces are finished!



TWO YEAR OLD CLASS

Our two year old classroom is currently bright yellow, which used to be the trend in early childhood classrooms. Think bright primary colors, plastic materials, and in-depth bulletin board displays. Research has shown that bold bright colors can be over stimulating for young children and we would like to tone down the color to a light cream. The priority is to create a calm aesthetically pleasing (homelike) environment that promotes learning and wonder thru child-led play. This will be achieved through painting the walls, using natural textures, adding soft lighting, updating dramatic play and creating a wonder wall.

---Jen Alonso, Two year Old Teacher

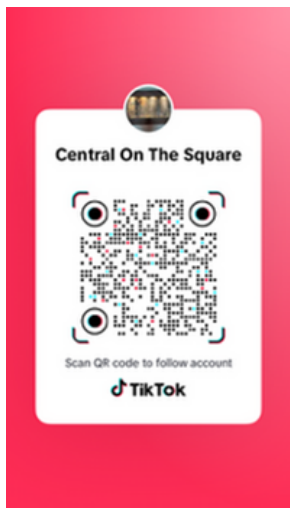
LOVING ONE ANOTHER Communications

SMS

Are you following us on Facebook? Instagram? TikTok? If not, we'd love for you to start!

Facebook: facebook.com/centralonthesquare

Instagram: instagram.com/centralonthe2



TikTok:

Are you signed up for our church-wide emails? [Use this link to sign up!](#) By the way, if you need something publicized in the next Friday blast, please send your information to Erin no later than Tuesday afternoon.

Have you seen the revised website? Check it out! centralonthesquare.org

To God be all the glory!

LOVING THE WORLD

Diaper Depot

On March 16, Diaper Depot served 226 families, of which 20 were new. Families were treated to a pancake and sausage breakfast along with receiving a dozen jumbo, free-range eggs, and apples.

Thank YOU for your prayers, volunteer time, and financial support.

Next DD@C is April 20. If you want to help, diapers will be sorted and packed on April 17 at 3 PM and distribution starts with setup on April 20 at 9 AM.

COMMUNICATIONS

f FACEBOOK:
CENTRAL ON THE SQUARE

t TWITTER:
CENTRALONTHE2

i INSTAGRAM:
CENTRALONTHE2

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WWW.CENTRALONTHE SQUARE.ORG

ARE YOU ON OUR EMAIL LIST?
IF NOT, & YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE,
NOTIFY ERINMREGAN@GMAIL.COM



Diaper Depot 2024 Volunteer Info & Dates

Diapers are packed the Wednesday before the event at 3pm in Friendship Hall, and it usually takes 1 - 1.5 hours.

Set up starts at 9am on Saturdays, and the doors open at 10am. Everything will conclude when the leftover diapers are stored at around 12:30pm.

Packing dates: Event dates:

April 17	April 20
May 15	May 18
June 12	June 15
July 10	July 13
August 14	August 17
September 18	September 21
October 9	October 12
November 13	November 16
December 11	December 14

Youth at Central

March 1st-2nd - Lock-in

13 of our Central Youth participated in a Lock-in the first weekend in March. This was a time for growth and connection. The youth team facilitates this by planning fun together, private Bible study time, and moments for intentional connection.

March 10th - Pancake Dinner

One of the intentions of the Youth @ Central for this year is to plan connection points for the Youth and the church members to interact. The pancake dinner was one of those events! We served 100 people and enjoyed over 10 variety show acts. The youth had a great time setting up, serving, participating in the variety show, and cleaning up. Thank you to everyone who made this possible and participated in this fun time.



What have the youth been learning?

Our Easter study for Sunday school was called This is Real Love, about what Jesus did to demonstrate his love at Easter. The themes of these lessons were: Jesus shows us what real love is, Jesus treats everyone like they are important, and Jesus offers everyone forgiveness. These lessons were based on the scripture 1 John 4:10. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they’ve done to our relationship with God.

Our youth group study time has been centered around a devotional book called “What If Jesus Was Serious?” This book takes a look at some of Jesus’ most demanding teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and pushes us to ask whether we’re hearing what Christ is saying in these passages.

Finance Report

THANK YOU! We are especially grateful for your generous giving throughout the year. Your contributions allow Central to continue to grow in discipleship and mission.

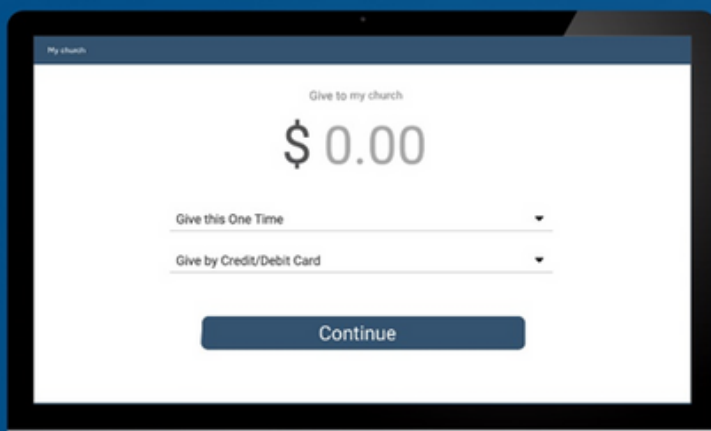
Financial Report:

	<u>March 2024</u>	<u>YTD Jan-Mar 2024</u>
Donations Received (as of 3.26.24)	30,237.00	109,311.61
Income Received from Trusts	1,380.83	61,232.66
Total Income	31,617.83	170,544.27
Expenditures	38,119.86	134,679.36
Net Income/ (Loss)	-6,502.03	35,864.91

Giving is easier than ever!

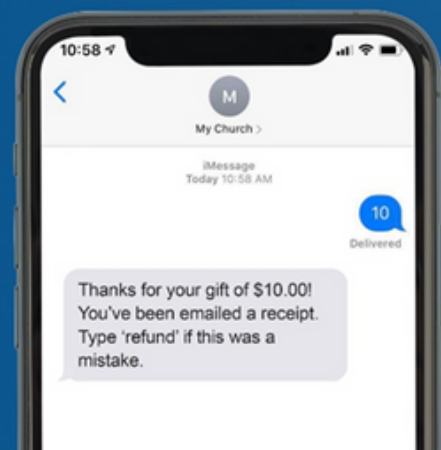
Give Online

<https://centralpc.breezechms.com/give/online>



Give by Text

Text the amount you wish to give to **(717) 347-0371**



Or scan the QR code:



Checks are always accepted – Mail to the church:
40 Lincoln Way West, Chambersburg, PA 17201

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Jaczun
at accounting@centralonthesquare.org

Thank you for your faithful generosity!

SESSION ACTIONS

March 2024

Session took the following actions at their March meeting. If you have any questions, please talk to one of the Elders: Bill Best, Amanda Bietsch, Tim Dalton, Jean Diehl, Erica Dunklebarger, Pat McNamee, Deb Miller, Soon Park, Andrew Pozzuto, Doug Vanderau, Ross Winegardner, Dick Young, or Kathryn Finley, Clerk.

- ADOPTED the Covenant Agreement with Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly and the Presbyterian Foundation to pursue Project Regeneration – dates TBD. The Foundation will help Session explore options for our church's future, including an analysis of Central's financial resources.
- APPROVED the recommendation to hire Bree Rauhut as the part-time (25 hours per week) Director of Children's Ministry, effective June 2024.
- APPROVED the job description for the newly created Church Administrator position. This will be a full-time position, 35 hours per week.
- APPROVED the recommendation to hire Alex Helman as the Church Administrator, effective date TBD.
- APPROVED the job description for the newly created Church Receptionist position. This will be a part-time position, 30 hours per week.
- APPROVED the youth's request to sell homemade chocolate Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday to raise money for Doctors Without Borders.

CPC News

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, and cards during my recent illness. I am doing much better at this time. I really appreciated your support.

With Gratitude,
Mary Norcross



Mission Trip to Wilmington, DE, the week of July 15-19, 2024.

The Mission Committee is happy to announce the first mission trip in five years to Wilmington, DE the week of July 15-19. We will be working with Friendship House whose mission is to unite people facing homelessness with caring communities who are able to assist them. This is the same organization that the i117 Youth Council worked with last year on their mission trip. We encourage all members of the congregation to consider participating this summer. It is our prayer that this trip will be a time of intergenerational fellowship as well as doing the work Christ calls us to do. The i117 Youth Council will once again be participating and we hope to see Central's youth as well as adults all participating.

STAFF

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COORDINATOR OF
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