

Sharing the Heart of Christ from the Heart of the City

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE WINDOW
DECEMBER 2025

LOVING GOD
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING THE WORLD



FROM THE PASTOR

Thoughts at the Start of the Holiday Season

We have just crossed the finish line and starting another journey. We have recently passed Christ the Kind Sunday and Thanksgiving, and now will be starting a new liturgical year with the four week Season of Advent. We may momentarily stop on December 25th to spend time with loved ones and family and friends in a time of sharing fellowship and gifts. The next day will come and we will be left to rush toward New Year's Eve, Epiphany and then the year 2026.

Many of us will be busy with the preparation and planning of this time of year. There are meals to prepare and present. There are decorations to take out of the closet or garage, make sure that they are still functional, and then arrange those decorations around the inside and outside of our home. For some of us, it will be a matter of planning travel arrangements, either by driving, flying or another mode of transportation. We need to work on these plans in order that we ourselves, or our friends and relatives, safely arrive at their destination. There will be commitments for people in their home lives as well as work lives. There will be parties and social gathering in which people will participate. There is much to be done in order to be ready for the holidays. It will be busy for me, and it will be busy for you.

With all that is ahead of us, what is in our hearts and minds? What we are centered on as we approach this time of busyness? Where have we placed our priorities as we rapidly approach the Holiday season? Just because it is a busy time, we should not gloss over the messages of the season. I think we need to remember that the first portion of this holiday season is Thanksgiving. This is a time for us to be grateful and thankful for what we have. We can take time in the middle of this race of days and just be glad for the blessings God has placed in our lives. Thanksgiving leads us into the time of Advent, when we can take time and consider the coming of the Christ child into the world, whose life transformed so many people. Advent is a prominent reminder for us of this gift given to us by God. Jesus Christ was brought into the world for us, and gave us much for which to be thankful and hopeful. We can revel in the church services that will be ahead of us, the music which we will experience in the scheduled services, the Children's Christmas Program, the Gospels account of the Christmas story, the special Christmas Eve services which we will celebrate together (Yo Sheep!), and allow ourselves to bask in God's glorious love. We can take some time and enjoy the events which will occur in the life of this church: the various worship services, times to connect and fellowship, and the sharing of love and hospitality offered.

I recognize the upcoming weeks as a busy time. We may find ourselves busy in the days ahead, but that does not mean we cannot enjoy this season. We can take time to be with friends and family and be grateful for our time together. During Advent and on Christmas, we can feel humbled by the gift of Christ Jesus whom God gave us. We do not have to be overwhelmed by this demanding and hectic time.

(Continued on the next page)



On November 15, the Diaper Depot was honored to serve **205 families, including 37 new clients!** Thanks to the generosity of **Pete & Gerry's**, each family received fresh eggs, and **SCAPP** provided apples. One of our faithful volunteers knitted scarves which were given to our clients. The **Kiwanis Club of Chambersburg** distributed 200 Thanksgiving bags to our families! Our local doula, Andrea, had multiple baby items which were available for parents to select as well. And of course, a delicious breakfast of pancakes and sausage was served throughout the morning.

None of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers. Their time, energy, and compassion are the heart of this ministry. We thank God for each of them and the love they pour into serving others.

Did you know that Diaper Depot also provides adult diapers and briefs? We have been blessed by some very generous donations of these supplies to assist families and older adults.

Diaper Depot is completely funded through private and organization donations and grants. Our beloved Dottie Bush, who headed up Diaper Depot for many years until she moved across the state, continues to write grants for us. Our most recent receipt was a \$5000 grant from Proctor & Gamble. We are so grateful to Dottie and her continued work for the cause!

Save the Date!

Our next Diaper Depot will take place on **Saturday, December 13:**

- **Set-up begins at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Doors open at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Doors close at 12 noon and clean up begins.**

Diaper packing will be held on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall.

Whether you're coming to receive support or to lend a helping hand, we invite you to be part of something truly special. Together, we are sharing Christ's love and blessing our community in many ways.

Thank you for being part of the Diaper Depot family!

From The Pastor Continued

We each have our own lists of things to do in the next few days and weeks. Let us leave some time for us to experience the season we are in, the joy and bliss that comes from it. Let us not forget the meaning of this holiday season, or become too involved with the details. May we remember that God blessed us, and that this is a time to remember our blessings. May we come to truly appreciate the gift God gave us through the life of Jesus, who born into this world to minister to us and offer us hope and salvation. And when we find ourselves in the midst of this busyness, may we do our part by helping spread the holiday spirit of joy and blessing to those who are around us, to friends and strangers, family and loved ones. I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Peace be with you.



LOVING GOD

Prayer Action Team

December Verse of the Month:

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’”

- Matthew 1:23

Immanuel = God is with us! A familiar theme that we hear at Christmas time. Yet, sometimes, the wonder and majesty of that truth can get smothered by all that is happening in our lives and all around us. Sometimes we get caught up in the busyness, the ‘to-do’ lists, the shopping, the wrapping, and the deadlines. Sometimes we get carried away with the celebrations, decorating, and parties. Sometimes we are burdened with sadness of loved ones no longer with us, health concerns, financial difficulties and other struggles. With all that we have on our minds and on our plates, sometimes we just give it a passing nod.

This Advent and Christmas season, our prayer challenge is to **pause**. Even for just a few minutes each day. **PAUSE – be present with Immanuel – God is with us!** Let the magnitude of those words fill us with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. **GOD. IS. WITH. US!** Glory to God!

Advent Prayer Walk in the Sanctuary

You are invited to come to the church Sanctuary any time during Advent for a time of quiet reflection and prayer. This year’s Advent Prayer Walk theme emphasizes notes how the symbols of Christmas we see all around us, all point to Jesus. Walk along the edges of the sanctuary, pausing at each of the symbols located between each window to reflect and pray. May each time you see these symbols throughout the season, bring your thoughts back to Jesus and fill you with joy!

(NOTE: special thanks to Laurie McKelvie for painting the symbols of Christmas)

Thank You Prayer Champions!

Merry Christmas and THANK YOU to all our Prayer Champions. Your prayers, notes, and cards help the children and students in our church family know that they are loved, cared about and prayed for. Thank you for participating in this important ministry! Your time and service are greatly appreciated!

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Sandy Wilson at 309/714-1557.

LOVING GOD

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

As we start into December it seems impossible that we are almost at the end of another year. However, there are a lot of things happening in December.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 is the Advent Noontime Musical Meditation starting at 12 noon in our sanctuary. I have been doing these programs in some form or other for about 12 years. The first one was in Lent 2014. We hadn't advertised very much. SIX people attended. So I challenged each of those to bring a friend and come back the following week. From there it grew. I simply hope to continue to share the music of the Advent/Christmas season with others. This is always a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to come see our church and just enjoy the meditative music, some Advent, some Christmas, some I've played before, and some is new.

We have Christmas Celebration Sunday on December 14 with one combined service at 10 AM.

On Christmas Eve there are 3 services – contemporary at 3 PM and 5 PM. The traditional service is at 7 PM.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! May we remember and celebrate Christ's birth.

To God Be the Glory!!!

Helen Wingert, Organist



Do you enjoy reading and then discussing books? Did you know that Central has a book group that meets the second Thursday of each month from September until May? The book group is casual, friendly, and open to members and non members alike. We meet at 2 p.m. in either the Parlor or Semper Fi Classroom located across from the Pastor's Office. Below are the meeting dates and the books we will be discussing, join us for one or all of the discussions, we love to talk about books.

- January 8 - The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles
- February 12 - The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis (this book MAY change, under discussion)
- March 12 - All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- April 9 - Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure by Matthew Algea
- May 14 - The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald



Here's my annual love letter to you, Central!

As of December 5th, I will have been a CPC employee for 14 years.

I can't believe it; and yet, I can! After all, I feel like I've lived 5 different lives with you!

We have shared so much, laughed so much, cried a good bit, seen highs and lows, celebrated wins, mourned losses, and have endured many-a storm together.

People ask me often if I would still worship at Central if I didn't work here, and the truth is: YES. The Body of Christ in and through Central is so beautiful. I am honored to know you, honored to love you, honored to serve alongside you.

I hope that we can continue Sharing the Heart of Christ from the Heart of the City together.

Praise be to God always!



It is Advent/Christmastime! How are we here already?!

Thank you to everyone who contributes toward the meaningful worship at Central!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT CPC

HONEST ADVENT

RECLAIMING THE SACRED

NOVEMBER 30TH:
9AM TRADITIONAL / 11AM CONTEMPORARY

DECEMBER 3RD:
ADVENT NOONTIME MUSICAL MEDITATION

DECEMBER 7TH:
9AM TRADITIONAL / 11AM CONTEMPORARY

DECEMBER 14TH:
10AM COMBINED WORSHIP

DECEMBER 21ST:
9AM TRADITIONAL / 11AM CONTEMPORARY

DECEMBER 24TH:
3PM & 5PM CONTEMPORARY /
7PM TRADITIONAL

DECEMBER 28TH:
10AM COMBINED WORSHIP

www.centralonthesquare.org

Communion Sunday will be December 7th.

December 2025

Central Presbyterian Youth Update



Christmas Parade Hot Cocoa

During this year's Chambersburg Christmas parade, the youth handed out nearly 200 cups of hot cocoa to our friends in the community! It was a busy evening, but the youth persevered. Then we watched the parade, ate some pizza, and had a good evening.

Christmas Gifts for Teens in Need

On December 5, we will also take part in the Downtown Cocoa Crawl by handing out sweet treats and collecting donations for our now annual gift drive for teens in need. Last year, we were able to provide Christmas gifts for 50 local teens. The gifts will be distributed through the Salvation Army. Let's see if we can match that number this year!

Boys HS Basketball Regular Season Kick-off

The boys basketball team will kick off their season the week of December 9. Games will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Chambersburg Recreation Center. Tuesday games will start at 7:15 and 8:15. Thursday night games will be 8:00 and 9:00. The full schedule will release December 2. Stay tuned for more information!

Children and Youth Christmas Program on Dec. 14

On December 14, the youth will take part in the children and youth Christmas service. The youth have been working on adding their own perspectives to the projects. I'm looking forward to seeing these come together.

Youth Creative Arts Ministry on December 18

The Workshop, our youth creative arts ministry, will have our monthly meeting on December 18 from 6:00-8:00. Our theme will be "a light in the darkness."

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

PEER TUTORING: 12/8 AND 12/15

BASKETBALL PRACTICES: 12/2, 12/4

COCOA CRAWL BAKE SALE: 12/5

BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON: 12/9

YOUTH AND CHILDREN CHRISTMAS SERVICE: 12/14

CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY: 12/18



CPC Kids' Ministry

November was fast and fun! We finished our unit on when life is scary, God is good. Working through this unit with the kids reminded me of the song "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." I sang it to the kids and told them that when I feel scared, I think of that song. I put my hands together, pretend they are God's hands, and imagine myself small enough to fit into my hands. It always helps me to calm down when I remember that God is holding me in His hands. A pleasant thought as we move into the Advent season.

Currently, on the third floor, we are practicing our play for Christmas Celebration Sunday. Our theme is "What's the most important part of Christmas?". I am talking to them about the different parts of Christmas that we all love (presents, trees, bells, wreaths, etc.) and how all these things have origins in Jesus. We give presents because the wise men gave gifts to Jesus. We decorate evergreen trees, because they point to Heaven. Candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world and so on. In talking about this with the children, I am hoping to point them to the most important part of Christmas, Jesus! After all, Christmas is about celebrating the birth of our Savior. So, it makes sense that all the things we love about this holiday have a connection to Him.

During Christmas Eve service, I like to visualize Mary cradling Jesus in her arms. I must admit I don't always have this image in my mind throughout the entirety of December. Life is busy, after all! But what if I made time to do just that? Starry night, a warm, smelly stable, and a mother softly caressing her newborn child. She holds onto Him as He holds onto us. He's got the whole world in His hands.



Communications

Our theme for Advent is “Honest Advent, reclaiming the Sacred”, so you will notice our social media will look a bit different in December. Also, you will be receiving quotes from the book Honest Advent every day! We highly recommend the Advent Biola online devotions as well.

Have you visited our website?

Go to www.centralonthesquare.org and explore what Central has to offer!

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

Facebook: facebook.com/centralonthesquare

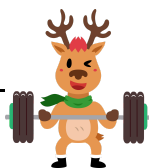
Instagram: instagram.com/centralonthe2



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.**

FITNESS MINISTRY:



While I (Erin) am recovering from an ankle sprain, the Monday and Wednesday fitness classes are no impact! All workouts are being done from a chair or from the floor. Mondays and Wednesdays 9:20-10am!

Connect with us...

FACEBOOK:
Central on the square

TWITTER:
Centralonthe2

INSTAGRAM:
Centralonthe2

TIKTOK:
@centralonthe2

Church Website

WWW.CENTRALONTHE SQUARE.ORG

Are you on our email list?

If not, would you like to be?

Notify:

ERINMREGAN@GMAIL.COM

Diaper Depot

Volunteer info & Dates

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

2025 Event dates:

December 13th

2026 Event dates:

January 17th

February 21st

March 21st

April 18th

May 16th

June 13th

July 11th

August 15th

September 19th

October 10th

November 21st

December 12th



Join us for our monthly Super Senior luncheon, held on Wednesday, **December 17th at 11:30 a.m.** in Friendship Hall. Please Note the New Schedule: This date is one week later than our usual gathering, and we will begin at 11:30 a.m. (15 minutes earlier than usual). We are excited to offer a delicious, special meal catered by McAlister's Deli! Be on the lookout! Brooklyn will be sending out the menu options the week before so you can review them. When you RSVP, by Monday, December 9th, please be prepared to give her your meal order so we can finalize the catering. This event is open to everyone, as always, we appreciate your donations so we can support events like these. Please call the church office at 717-264-4113 to reserve your spot!



The talented Choristers from Chambersburg Area School District are returning to Central Presbyterian Church for a special, free holiday concert open to the entire community.

Date & Time: Sunday, December 17th, at 12:30 PM

Location: The Main Sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church

The Choristers are a select ensemble of 11th and 12th graders, chosen by audition from the nearly 200 members of the Chambersburg Area School Glee Club. In addition to performing in the Glee Club's main concerts, this distinguished group regularly performs at community events throughout the year.

Their festive holiday program will feature a delightful variety of traditional and contemporary favorites, including:



"O Come All Ye Faithful"
"I'll Be Home for Christmas"
"Jolly Old St. Nicholas"



...and a lively carol sing-along for the audience!

The Glee Club and its specialty groups, including The Choristers, are under the direction of Elizabeth Stahl, who also teaches music, Introduction to Piano, Advanced Piano, and Bell Choir at the school district.

Join us for this wonderful performance to celebrate the sounds of the season!



FINANCE REPORT

November 2025

We're making a real difference, and it's all thanks to you. Your generosity empowers us to provide essential resources and achieve measurable progress for our neighbors who need it most. Thank you for being a vital part of our efforts—we truly couldn't do this without your help.

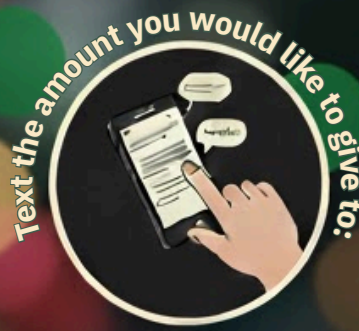
Financial Report:

	<u>November 2025</u>	<u>YTD Jan-Nov 2025</u>
Donations Received (as of 11/24/25)	\$39,248.38	\$377,416.35
Income Received from Trusts	\$1417.02	\$76,776.41
Allocation from Investment Fund		\$40,000.00
Total Income	\$40,665.40	\$494,192.76
Expenditures (as of 11/24/25)	\$29,903.44	\$571,176.27
Net Income/(Loss)	\$10,761.96	(\$76,983.51)

Join us in generosity

A quick and easy way to give gifts of support.

Visit our website to give by credit/debit card or through a bank ACH transaction.



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

(717) 347-0371

Checks are always accepted

Mail to the church: 40 Lincoln Way West, Chambersburg, PA 17201

If you have any questions: Please contact Alexis Helman at

accounting@centralonthesquare.org.

Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Or scan the QR code:

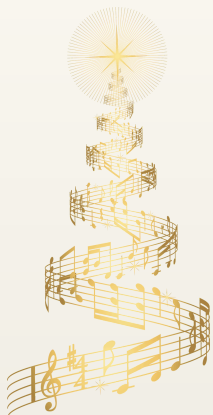


Online giving - no stamp required!

CPC News



Advent Noontime *Musical Meditation*



We invite you to our Advent Noontime Musical Meditation on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM.

For 30 minutes, let the majestic sounds of the organ, played by our own Helen Wingert, transport you into the spirit of Advent. It's a perfect opportunity to recenter yourself during the lunch hour.



POINSETTIA ORDERS

To purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, which will decorate the Sanctuary and the Garden for our services on December 21st and 24th, please use the following link to submit your order online:

<https://centralpc.breezechms.com/form/67c9684147>



CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXTRAVAGANZA

Join us for a day of baking as we prepare for our Christmas Cookie Extravaganza. The cookies baked will be distributed to different community groups. We still need a few ingredient donations. Please sign up in the Lincoln Way West Lobby. We will begin baking Saturday, December 6th at 9 AM.

STAFF



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