

A person with long blonde hair, wearing a white robe, is shown from the chest up. Their hands are held out in front of them, palms up, in a gesture of offering or blessing. The background is a soft, warm light.

Sharing the Heart of Christ from the Heart of the City

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE WINDOW
AUGUST 2026

LOVING GOD
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING THE WORLD

From the Pastor August 2026 Newsletter

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”
1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

These words conclude the famous “love chapter” of 1 Corinthians, a favorite passage for weddings. The love that the Apostle Paul is describing in this letter, though, is not the romantic love of a new marriage. Instead, Paul testifies to love-in-community, friendship in the context of church. The entire letter is written to a Corinthian congregation working through some intense disagreements. Paul mildly scolds them for the conflict they are harboring, and he reminds them of the one faith they share. He weighs in on some of the controversies, but mostly he reminds them that they are one body, made up of different members who possess distinct gifts, and that the unity of their fellowship benefits from their differences.

Then he gets to chapter 13, where he offers a hymn to Christ-centered love-in-community. This love, he says, is not competitive, possessive, angry, or arrogant. This love finds expression in kindness, patience, and truth-telling. Christian love inspires members of the community to bear with one another in their differences, and it binds members together in the shared hope and work for Christ’s future. Faith and hope may be virtues for Christians living before the coming of God’s kingdom, but love will endure even when God’s reign is made manifest, because love is the nature of that realm. Love is what binds Christians together as the Body of Christ.

Friends, in my first month among you, I have been overwhelmed by your love for one another. Deacons caring for homebound members, church leaders concerned for the well-being of our staff, a staff with genuine affection for the members of our church, friends lifting up in prayer others who need the presence of Christ in their lives. This is a church bound together in the kind of Christian love that Paul was talking about.

I know this not just by observation but also by first-hand experience. Even though we are relative strangers to you, you have embraced Elizabeth and me as friends, to the point that we already feel like we’ve known some of you for years. Love shines through in meals provided, shared, and offered. Love makes a claim every time one of you asks about our sons. Love sang forth in the wonderful welcome picnic, in the gentle admonitions when I skipped a day off, in the wise counsel to pace myself as I begin my work among you. We have been showered by the love of this congregation, and that has only deepened our conviction that this is the community God has called us to join.

(Continued on the next page)



From The Organ Bench

WELCOME Dr. James Calvin Davis or “James” as you said we should call you on staff.

Over my years as organist, not only here at Central but former churches as well, each time a new pastor would come on board I often would wonder what he (or she) would be like, what changes would he propose, would he be a good “preacher”, “teacher”, “leader,” “listener”, would he have regular staff meetings, would he visit the sick and homebound, etc. etc. etc. As I am writing this James has been here not quite a month yet and I AM VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED!!

He led a staff meeting that was well organized. We all had a very open discussion about different topics. He listened to our concerns, but also gave his opinions. He showed genuine concern for the issues at hand. He said he wants to meet with each person on staff “one-on-one” sometime within the next month if possible.

I have heard all the sermons he has preached at Central so far. They have been excellent!! He is easy to understand and makes his points very well.

After all the above I think it goes without saying, but I will still say it, I am looking forward to working with him. I truly feel GOD has connected our church with him and him with us for a reason. Together with GOD’S SPIRIT guiding us I can hardly wait to see what good things are ahead for Central Presbyterian Church.

WELCOME JAMES AND ELIZABETH, TOO!!! I’m looking forward to getting to know you, Elizabeth, better too, as time goes on.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!

Helen Wingert,
Organist

From the Pastor continued

Also impressive about this congregation is that you do not hold on to love as a scarce resource, but instead you export it generously in the ministries you offer to our neighbors. Diaper Depot, Vacation Bible School, support for the softball team, acts of hospitality to the Cumberland Valley School of Music and the people who attended Chamberfest—all of these ministries attest to the fact that love is something this congregation does really, really well.

As we get closer to the start of our programming year next month, I hope that we will continue to prioritize this practice of love, because more than anything else, the investment we have in one another is what will bring people to this church to stay. In a culture that is habituating distrust and hate, we have an opportunity to witness to a better way—the way of unconditional welcome and care for one another and the people Christ calls us to touch. Thank you for welcoming my family and me into this community of love. Thank you for inviting us to join in your important witness to the Gospel of Christ. Soli Deo Gloria!





Prayer Action Team

August Prayer Focus & Verse(s) of the month :

GOD'S GOT ME!

Since May, we've been learning two verses of Psalm 121 each month, and reflecting on this TRUTH ---- **God's Got You !!** Now we come to the 'lazy, hazy, days of summer' in the month of August. As you take some time this month to relax in the shade, sit on the beach, or sip some iced tea, take part of that time to slowly read through Psalm 121. Let it sink into your heart and mind. Personalize the phrase from '**God's Got You!**' to '**God's Got ME!**' Spend time in grateful prayer (i.e. talking to God). Rejoice in His help and protection. Thank Him for His great, constant, forever, 'wherever-you-are' love. Then share it with someone you care about because it's a truth too incredible and wonderful to keep to yourself!

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD; the Maker of heaven and earth." - Psalm 121:1-2*
*"The LORD watches over you – the LORD is your shade and your right hand.
The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night." - Psalm 121:5-6*
*"The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life;
The LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:7-8*

Dear Prayer Champions,

School begins this month for most of your children/students. Some things you can pray for them include:

- Protection from any form of evil or harm*
- Wisdom in decision making*
- Solid friendships that build one another up*
- Courage in living out their faith at home and at school*
- Assurance that Jesus is with them and will help in every situation*
- Confidence in learning new subjects and meeting new challenges*
- Eyes to see God-sightings in their lives*
- Hearts tuned to the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control.*

Write them a note to encourage them. Maybe share one or more of these areas you are praying for in their lives. Share a favorite verse. Let them know they are loved and prayed for.

THANK YOU for being a Prayer Champion! You are sharing the love of Jesus in a wonderful way.

NOTE: Does the Prayer Champion Ministry sound interesting to you? Your responsibility is to pray regularly for a child/student from Central and occasionally write them a note or send a card of prayer and encouragement. For more details, please contact Sandy Wilson.

A NOTE FROM

Erin 

*"Oh God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning and I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step, You'll lead me and I will follow You all of my days."*

In the month of June, I finished the book Theo of Golden.
Have you read it? If not, YOU MUST!

Besides scripture, it is the clearest representation of Jesus' love, presence, generosity, and heart that I have ever read.

It's not really supposed to be a "christian book". It's a fully fiction novel that Allen Levi (the author) wrote just to see if he could have the discipline to finish it.

It does, however, have christian themes - some explicitly and some not - and it is heartwarming to say the least. The characters are richly created and described, the setting is tangible, and the action brought me a renewed sense of purpose.

I cannot highly recommend it enough.

I don't want to say more for fear of spoiling the book for you, but just take my word for it.

Love to all of you and happy reading!

LOVING GOD

Worship Updates

A huge thank you to all who participated in Central's worship services this July!

What a wonderful month of being together and praising God.

Extra thanks to those who provided special music: Jocelyn Merriman,
Amanda and Sophie Bietsch, Pat McNamee, Trena Oyler, and Joel Happel.

We continue with our one 10am services thru August.

Communion will be August 2nd!

Choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 2nd; however, choir will not start singing in worship again until September 13th.

We praise God for our new pastor, our church family, and the mission God has set before us!

Communications

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

Have you visited our website? Go to www.centralonthesquare.org and explore what Central has to offer!

Check out the wall calendar in our main lobby! To view our church calendar, touch the TV with slides. You will see all that we have coming up!

Facebook: facebook.com/centralonthesquare

Instagram: instagram.com/centralonthe2



TikTok:

Are you signed up for our church-wide emails? Contact Erin at erinmregan@gmail.com or [Use this link to sign up!](#)

Erin has restricted hours in the summertime (since the boys are off school), so communications can get a bit tricky. If you want information to be shared with the rest of the church, a good rule of thumb is: *communicate early and communicate often*. This way, we will be sure to get your stuff "in the know". Please do NOT use eregan@centralonthesquare.org. Erin's experience with Microsoft has not been good and her gmail address (erinmregan@gmail.com) is much more reliable.

Fitness Ministry!

This summer, we are offering free fitness classes on **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9-9:45am**. You can use the provided equipment OR bring your own!



Mondays:	Tuesdays:	Wednesdays:
9:00am-9:45am	9:00am-9:45am	9:00am-9:45am
lower body	upper body	lower body & core

There will be NO class on Monday, August 17th!

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

+717-264-4113

40 Lincoln Way West
Chambersburg, PA 17201

www.centralonthesquare.org

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DIAPER DEPOT VOLUNTEER INFO & EVENT DATES:

Set up starts on Saturdays at 9:00am and the doors open at 10am. Everything will conclude when the leftover diapers are stored at around 12:30pm.

If you would like to volunteer to help pack diapers. We meet on the Wednesday before Diaper Depot in Friendship Hall at 1:00pm. All are welcome!

2026 Diaper Depot Dates:

10:00AM-12:00PM

- August 15th
- September 19th
- October 10th
- November 14th
- December 12th



On July 11, the Diaper Depot welcomed **151 families**. Thanks to the generosity of **SCCAP** each family received a bag of apples. In addition, English and Spanish language Bibles were available for clients to take home, as well. Meritas Health provided health and educational resources. As always, a delicious breakfast of pancakes and sausage was served throughout the morning.

None of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers. We are especially grateful to the twenty volunteers that came out this month. During the school year we rely on the help of our local high school students. We see a significant decrease in volunteers during the summer months, so if you are interested in helping out, **August would be a perfect time to jump in!**

Save the Date!

Our next Diaper Depot will take place on **Saturday, August 15:**

- **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, August 12 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.

Diaper Depot is entirely self-funded through grants and donations from community organizations and businesses. If you are interested in supporting this ministry financially you may write a check payable to Central Presbyterian with Diaper Depot in the memo. If donating online, please make a note of Diaper Depot. Your support is gratefully received and appreciated. All funds are used to purchase diapers and breakfast ingredients.

*Thank you for being part of
the Diaper Depot family!*



July has been busy, busy, busy! And fun, fun, fun!

This past month in Truth Lab Investigations, we have continued with our study on the book of Luke. We sailed on a boat with Jesus, encountered a terrible storm, and learned that we are never alone for God will never leave us. Then we met Jairus and chronically ill woman and learned the power of faith. We did a science experiment demonstrating the suction power of heat, played games, and of course ate snacks. The most wonderful part of this unit is that the children get to read through a whole book of the Bible and experience the lessons in different and interesting ways.

Vacation Bible School was held on the last week of July. Our church was changed into a rainforest where the children learned about the nature of God. We sang songs, played, games, had fun with science, created beautiful art, but most importantly learned about God. This week takes a lot of careful planning over the course of several months and is then over in a blink of an eye. However, it is 100% worth it to see the children praising God and learning more about Him. Thank you to everyone who helped make this week possible!





KNOW THY NEIGHBOR



SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON



Join us for our next Luncheon!

Join us for our next Super Senior Luncheon on August, 12th at 11:45 AM in Friendship Hall as we continue our Know Thy Neighbor series with guest speaker Marcie Taylor.

The Drew Michael Taylor Foundation

Marcie Taylor co-founded the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation in Shippensburg, PA, with her husband, Randy, following the tragic death of their three-year-old son in a June 2006 auto accident. At the time, Marcie was a high school Spanish teacher at Chambersburg High School. In 2008, Marcie retired from teaching to dedicate herself fully to the foundation.

She currently serves as the Bereavement Educator for the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation and is the Family Services Coordinator for Drew's Hope, the foundation's family grief support program. Marcie also facilitates five of the DMTF's grief support groups for adult grieverers. In 2012, Marcie earned her Certificate in Thanatology from Hood College in Frederick, MD.

Marcie enjoys swimming with the Masters swim team at the YMCA in Chambersburg, serves as the Family Ministries Coordinator at Messiah UMC, and enjoys gardening, cooking, and golf.

Don't forget to RSVP by August 10th!

Email: Brooklynshearer@centralonthesquare.org

Phone: 717-264-4113

August 2026

Central Presbyterian Youth Update



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thanks to everyone that came out to help with the blood drive! This was an awesome opportunity for our church to work to address a major need in our community. This was truly a group effort as we had folks of all ages come together to make this a success. Hopefully, we can continue doing this work as we move into the future!

Youth Moving Team

Over the summer, we had a number of people affiliated with the church who needed help moving. I'm very proud of the youth who jumped at the opportunity to serve their community. Without this group of young people, all of these jobs would've taken MUCH longer. This is just a reminder of the strength of a church that embraces the talents and efforts of all people.



Central Basketball

On Thursday evenings, we've been having basketball from 6:00-8:00. We have middle school through college boys coming out to compete, develop skills, and enjoy some fellowship!

Central Softball

Central Softball is entering the last few weeks of the season with a solid 6-4 record. On August 15

at 8:00am, we will be in the playoff tournament at Norlo Park. More information will be released, but please come out and support our young guys!

Kick-off to the Programming Year

Get ready! Our traditional programming year will kick-off on September 13. Look forward to restarting Sunday School, Creative Arts, and more! I've been working over the past few weeks to put together some quality opportunities for our young people.

FINANCE REPORT

Your faithful generosity continues to strengthen our shared ministry as we welcome Pastor James and look ahead to an exciting new season at Central. Because of your support, we remain grounded in faith, serving our neighbors, and stepping boldly into where God is leading us next.

	July 2026	Jan - July 2026
Donations (as of 7/24/26)	\$13,772.64	\$219,434.59
Trust Income	\$1983.88	\$73,876.70
Total Income	\$15,756.52	\$293,311.29
Expenditures (as of 7/24/26)	\$22,408.19	\$322,784.34
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$6651.67)	(\$29,473.05)

PARTNER WITH US

Giving Options

A quick and easy way to give a gift of support. Visit our website to give by credit/debit card or through a bank ACH transaction.



Text

Text the amount you would like to give to: (717) 347-0371



Online

Give once or set-up recurring giving at <https://centralpc.breezechms.com/give/online>



In Person

Donate in person at the church office.



By Mail

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

If you have any questions:

Please contact Alexis Helman at accounting@centralonthesquare.org.

CPC News

Dear Cindy & Central,
Thank you so much for your generous donation of "Be Kind" t-shirts to CEC and Gaby! We appreciate all you do to support CASD students and the community.
Thanks again,
Lynn and Chambersburg Cares Coalition
Healthy Communities Partnership of Franklin County

MEN'S BREAKFAST
First Saturday of each month at
9:00AM at Texas Lunch.



Are you willing to join Central's meal train?

When a member of our church family needs a little assistance because they are recovering from surgery, they had a baby, they are grieving, members of our church family step up to provide meals.

When there is a need, all participants receive an email, you simply check your calendar and only sign up to take a meal if it suits your schedule. The email

will include details on the number of people, food likes and dislikes, delivery time, etc.

It is best to deliver meals in disposable containers so the recipient does not have to bother with returning dishes. Meals do NOT need to be homemade, you could simply run to the Butcher Shoppe or deliver a meal from a local restaurant.

If you are willing to occasionally provide a meal, please send an email to Cindy Happel at happecin@gmail.com so you can be added as a participant.

The Fragrance

I lie here making sense of scents,
for wafting from my window
is a light flower smell, sweet
with something heavier, deeper
like the scent of rich, loamy soil—
the smell of life.

I remember the presence
in the smell of my father's clothes,
saved like an emptied shell,
comforting, safe—
a lingering smell of love.

I imagine the strength
in the smell of Jesus walking,
the overwhelming scent of his anointed head
the acrid stench of Him, suffering, dying—
the sacred scent of sacrifice.

And now, risen Lord, Creator God, Holy
Spirit, in your lingering here
do you have a smell
that tells me You are near
with me, inside me, outside—
my atmosphere?

I sense and thirst for that,
like the scent on my husband's pillow.
It fills up my senses with soft desire
and perfume of peace. I breathe it in,
relaxing, savoring the scent
of deep certainty of your presence—
the sweet scent of redemption.

Bonnie E Birdsong Fortuna
June 28, 2016

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COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

BREE RAUHUT, KIDS' MINISTRY
DIRECTOR

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