

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



LOVING GOD  
LOVING EACH OTHER  
LOVING THE WORLD

## From The Pastor

Lent is early this year, beginning with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14th (Valentine's Day!), and I'm excited about what we have planned.

The theme for Lent will be **Friendship with God**. Astonishingly, we can actually enter into friendship with God, a deep, intimate relationship. God initiates this, but we respond and grow in friendship with God by specific attitudes and practices. This is for our good, and for the good of the people around us, communities and world.

I would like as many of us to read and discuss a great new book: **Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as he did** by John Mark Comer. It's the best book I've ever read on how to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ – and I've read a lot of them! My Wednesday night discussion group, the Women's Wednesday Group, and my 10:00am Sunday morning class will all be reading and discussing the book and you're welcome to join in – or read the book on your own. If there is interest we will form some short-term groups to meet at another time to discuss the book. We will have a supply of the books in the church lobby for sale for \$20 a copy, or you can purchase your own. The Kindle edition is a good bit cheaper.

Related to the book, I will continue the sermon series **The Good Life**, where each week we'll consider a particular practice, discipline or belief that will help form us more deeply as followers of the Lord Jesus. Here's the schedule:

Feb. 18	Romans 12:9-21 – The Good Life – Forgiveness
Feb. 25	Luke 14:7-24 – The Good Life – Hospitality
March 3	The Rev. Larry Blaker preaches (filling in after my 2nd cataract surgery)
March 10	2 Samuel 23:8-17 – The Good Life – Friendship
March 17	Luke 6:1-11 – Sabbath
March 24 (Palm Sunday)	Mark 11; 1 John 1 – The Good Life – The Gift of Joy
March 31 (Easter)	John 20:1-18 – The Good Life – Facing Death with Courage

We're also encouraging **three specific spiritual practices** for Lent:

- Daily counting of blessings at mealtime – each day at supper time think of (and share if eating with others) one specific blessing you've experienced during the day. Give thanks to God while saying grace. Then as another way of expressing gratitude, put a coin in a Lenten collection box or bowl (any container will do) to be given for a mission supported by the church. Bring your collections on Easter Sunday.

*(Continued on the next page after Worship Updates)*

LOVING GOD

# Worship Updates

Huge thank you to everyone who contributed toward the beauty & meaning of the worship services in January, especially those who covered for me (Erin) while I had the stomach bug.

February is set to be full of faith goodness! Here's the schedule:

**Sunday 2/4** - Two services, 9am traditional & 11am contemporary

**Sunday 2/11** - Two services, 9am traditional & 11am contemporary

**Wednesday 2/14** - Ash Wednesday service, 6:30pm in sanctuary

**Sunday 2/18** - First Sunday of Lent! Two services, 9am traditional & 11am contemporary

**Sunday 2/25** - Second Sunday of Lent. ONE 10AM SERVICE, followed by a congregational meeting & luncheon.

Our Lent theme is: Friendship With God

## From The Pastor continued

- Sabbath – set aside your Sundays for worship, family, friendship, fun and relaxation AND fast from social media – put aside your phones and devices to shut down all the voices clamoring for your attention
- Daily devotionals using a Lenten calendar supplied by the church

Here are some other Lenten activities we have planned:

- Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper – we'll feast on pancakes and sausage (gluten free pancakes available) prepared and served by our Youth Group, and be serenaded by a jazz ensemble led by Pat McNamee
- Ash Wednesday Service, Feb. 14th – a simple, meditative service with the imposition of ashes
- Film, supper and discussion – we'll gather in the church parlor on Sunday, March 10th at 5:00pm for pizza, watching and discussing the great movie *Babette's Feast* (one of my all-time favorites).
- Lenten Noontime Musical Meditations – on March 6th and 20th
- Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner March 28th
- Sanctuary Prayer Walk with verses and thoughts from *Practicing the Way*
- The annual Good Friday Community Service at noon

I hope you'll participate in these activities as we grow together as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

# Growing In Prayer

## Prayer Champions -Send your child/student a Valentine 😊

February is a month we think about love. It's also a great time to send your child/student a note or a Valentine card reminding them of how much they are loved by Jesus; and that you care about them and you pray for them.

## Resources to help you have time alone with God each day...

Spending even a few minutes each day alone with God is a wonderful way to grow in faith. Each month the Prayer Action Team is highlighting two resources -- one digital and one book to help encourage you in your faith walk. There are so many wonderful tools out there! May we all walk closer with Jesus in 2024!

### Digital resource:

With God Daily --- <https://www.withgoddaily.com/devotionals/>

This resource is recommended by Pastor Scott. It digs a little deeper with some pertinent challenges. The following is quoted from one of the devotions:

***The Sacred Ordinary*** “encountering the sacred in the ordinary and not just in the spectacular. Isn't that what Jesus' incarnation teaches us? The Lord of all creation is to be discovered in the humble person of a Galilean carpenter. The inability of the religious leaders to recognize God's presence in the ordinary appearance of Jesus is ultimately why they rejected and killed him. I wonder if it's why many of us still struggle with faith. We demand God appear to us in the spectacular and overlook his presence in the ordinary.”

### Devotional book resource:

**NIV Once-A-Day: 40 Days to Easter** -- by Kenneth D. Boa (published by Zondervan)

40 daily readings with Scripture passages, meditations, and prayer prompts examining the Passion narratives in the Gospels. Achieve a greater understanding of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus during this glorious season of the year.

Please check out the sample copies of some of the recommended devotional guides located on the narrow table in the church lobby. Information on how to purchase the devotionals are also located there. 😊

*Growing In Prayer continued next page*

# Growing In Prayer

## *Go for a Walk! An indoor prayer walk in the sanctuary!*

*Just as taking a walk improves your physical health, taking a prayer walk improves your spiritual health. Set aside time to take a walk through the sanctuary during Lent stopping at each window for a few moments of reflection and prayer beginning February 14th (Ash Wednesday).*

*During the season of Lent (the forty days leading up to Easter) there will be a Prayer Walk set up in Central's Sanctuary that correlates with lessons from Scripture and the book **Practicing the Way** by John Mark Comer. This book study will be offered several times each week during Lent so that as many people as possible can participate. Times include: Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour; Wednesday mornings at Women's Bible Study; and Wednesday evenings.*

*The book study and prayer walk are designed to help each of us become more like Jesus. Following Jesus, being shaped and formed by Him, will help improve our lives and change the world.*

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## **Fill Up The Heart!**



Have you ever noticed the bulletin board on the wall outside of Friendship Hall? Go on a hunt to find it starting on February 1st, because we need your help!

On that bulletin board there is a large white heart. There are also heart stickers. Here is what we need you to do.....

.....in the season of Lent, Pastor Scott is asking all of us to stop once each day and tell our family members or a friend about one blessing we received from God that day. This is a way for us to intentionally look for 'God-Sightings' or 'God-Glimmers'; becoming more aware of God at work, taking care of us and blessing us each and every day.

So.....whenever you are at church, place a heart sticker on the large white heart representing your thankfulness for God's love. Put stickers on the heart every time you remember a way God has blessed you! (You can put on many stickers 😊)

"Blessings" are not always BIG things! Sometimes they come in the form of

- Sunshine sparkling on snow,
- A call, note, text of encouragement from a friend,
- The song of a bird outside your window,
- A warm home on a cold night,
- A delicious dinner,
- An answer to prayer, ----- you get the idea!

Let's **Fill Up the Heart** as an expression of our thankfulness to God!




LOVING GOD

## *A Note From Erin*

I love Leap-Year Februaries!

As many times as I've said, "I just need an extra day to get this done.", it feels like February 29th (every four years) is that little gift from God.

How will you choose to use your "extra day"? Of course, we know it's not really extra... It's just a normal Thursday for all intensive-purposes. I'll have to arrange for childcare since it's Spring Break at PSC so I can work in the morning & come back in the evening for choir. But maybe, just maybe, we can each find an hour, a minute, a second to honor the "extra gift" God is giving us this year. Or maybe, just maybe, we can find time every day to thank God. Let's take the leap on that!



LOVING GOD

## From The Organ Bench

As many of you may already know I have been having some eye issues, especially seeing to read music. I recently had a pre-op eye doctor appointment in preparation for cataract removal. This appointment, however, turned out completely opposite from what I expected. Several days after Christmas I had a viral infection of my left eye. I saw the eye doctor who then prescribed medications for which I followed his instructions precisely. At this recent appointment I was told that my surgeon will not perform the cataract removal operation for at least one month after the meds are finished and the "infection" quiet. Sometimes some surgeons will not operate for SIX months afterwards. If I should happen to have a flare then the counting starts over.

Needless to say I was very disappointed, but as I went into Ludwicks I breathed a prayer "God, this is in your hands." So I am trusting that there is a good, necessary reason why I have to wait at least another month for my pre-op appointment.

All the above sort of cleared my schedule to plan for Lent and Easter. This includes two Lenten Noontime Musical Meditation programs on the organ. I have already begun to plan music for these, thankful for the newer organ light which makes seeing the music much easier. The two dates for this are March 6 and March 20. Please put these dates on your calendars now and watch for more details to come.

I appreciate your ongoing prayers that God will guide my eye situation and direct me to the right procedure and timing. Meanwhile I will try my best to continue playing for worship in praise of GOD!!!

"To GOD be the glory!"

Helen Wingert, Organist



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

# Communications

SMS

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

Are you signed up for our church-wide emails? Email [erinmregan@gmail.com](mailto:erinmregan@gmail.com) to get the sign up link. By the way, if you need something publicized in the next Friday blast, please send your information to Erin no later than Tuesday afternoon.

Keep your eyes open for a revived CPC website! The welcoming team is working with AW Designs to create something very user-friendly and eye-catching.

To God be all the glory!

## COMMUNICATIONS

- FACEBOOK:**  
CENTRAL ON THE SQUARE
- TWITTER:**  
CENTRALONTHE2
- INSTAGRAM:**  
CENTRALONTHE2
- TIKTOK:**  
@CENTRALONTHE2

[WWW.CENTRALONTHESQUARE.ORG](http://WWW.CENTRALONTHESQUARE.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.

<u>Packing dates:</u>	<u>Event dates:</u>
February 14	February 17
March 13	March 16
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



LOVING THE WORLD

# Diaper Depot

The January Diaper Depot at Central welcomed 203 families on a very cold morning. Along with diapers, families took home one dozen eggs and some apples. The volunteer pool was increased as DD@C welcomed JROTC students from CASHS. These young people are required to complete service hours that provide help for people in the community. DD@C is grateful to these teens who smiled as they worked hard.

A special thanks goes to the MLK Day volunteers who sorted and packed diapers for the January distribution. This is the third year of the partnership.

Next DD@C is February 17. If you want to help, diapers will be sorted and packed on February 14 at 3 PM and distribution starts with setup on February 17 at 9 AM.

•where play educates•

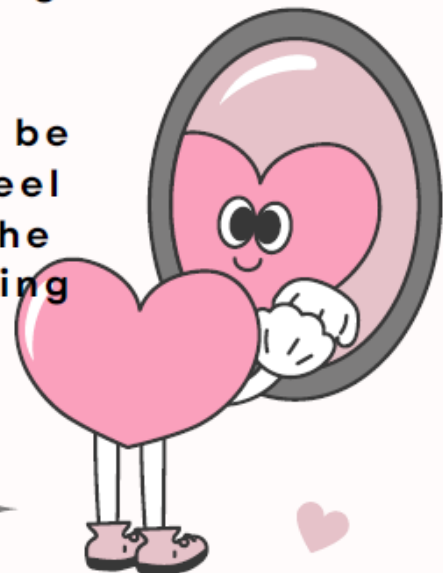
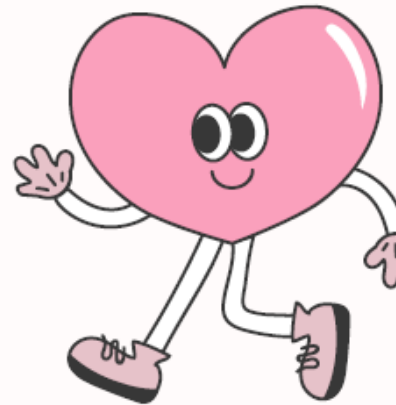
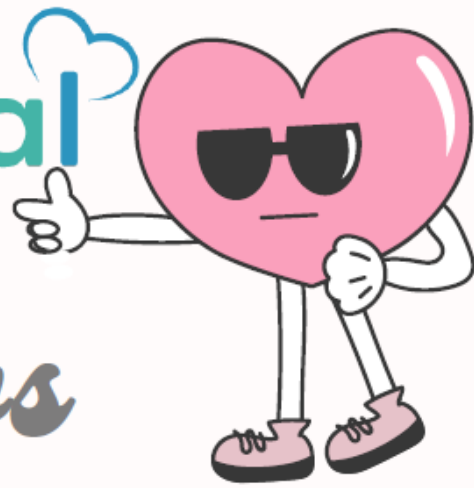
## February News

PlaySchool Central is accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year!

We have a new software management system entitled: Playground that we will be using beginning February 1st. This system allows for easier communication with our parents, online registration and many other functions necessary for a childcare business.

We will be adding to our classrooms and play environments thanks to our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser & Auction. Thank you to all the congregation members that helped us by donating gift cards or purchasing toys for our Auction!

God's Big Backyard this month will be all about the author: Eric Carle! Feel free to step inside and see what the children will be learning and creating this month!



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

# CPC Kids' News

**JESUS' LOVE SHINES INTO OUR LIVES.....**

**.....AND WE REFLECT THAT LOVE TO OTHERS!**

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



Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to join the adventures on Sunday mornings from 9:50am - 11:00am on the 3rd floor. Come dig into God's Word, sing great songs, create art, discover God's truth in science experiments, play games that reinforce the Bible truth, share God-sightings, pray together and make great friends!!





LOVING ONE ANOTHER

# Youth Ministry



## Faith Thoughts from the Youth

- During our Youth Group discussions, we talk about our lives, our problems, our accomplishments, and the things we are involved in. We attempt to be practical. How do we help one another? The goal is to create a community of volunteers and young people who care for one another. This form of community is rooted in God's agape love. This form of love is not conditional; rather, people are loved because they are God's children, not for what they create. Our youth are thoughtful, caring, and enthusiastic about art, athletics, and having fun together. This is a great basis to start this community of love toward one another and with time, our city.

## Fun Together

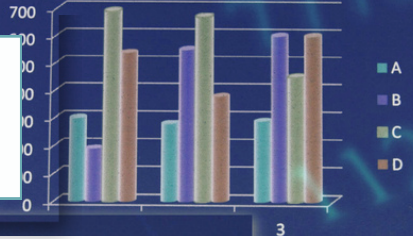
- During the last month, we have tried out a few different activities that allow for more time together building relationships. This includes a game called Headbands. This game encourages conversation and allows opportunities for those playing to learn more about one another. Another game we implemented is a game called SPUD. This game encourages strategy and gets some of our energy out.

## Food

- Eating together is an important part of our time together as a youth group. It is yet another opportunity to communicate with one another. It also allows for the people of the church to serve the youth in this way. What an incredible impact this can have on our youth, to know that one of their church people cares enough to provide them with a hot yummy meal. Thank you to everyone who has donated and continues to donate food to the young people of our church.



# Finance Report



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

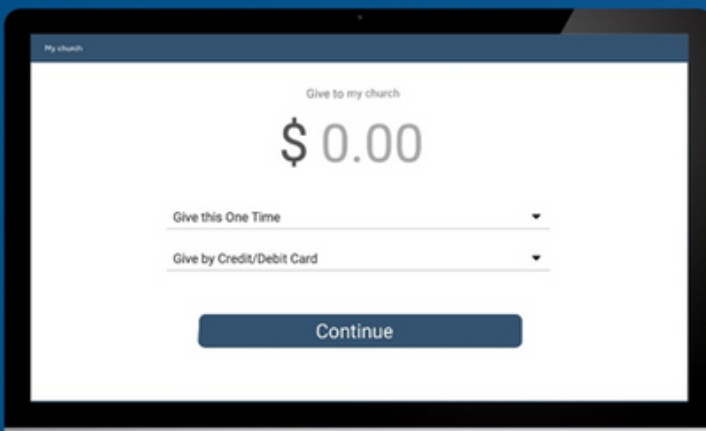
## Financial Report:

	Jan-Dec. 2023	January 2024 As of 1/23/24
Donations Received	\$449,619.29	\$33,587.35
Income Received from Trusts	\$70,353.57	\$2,133.17
Allocation from the Central Fund	\$60,000.00	
Total Income	\$579,972.86	\$35,720.52
Expenditures	\$608,932.72	\$28,576.81
Net Income/ (Loss)	(\$28,959.86)	\$7,143.71

# Giving is easier than ever!

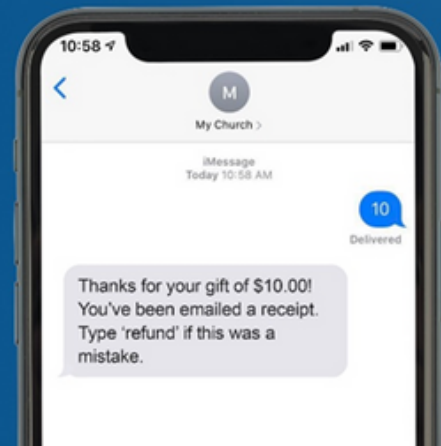
Give Online

<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](mailto:accounting@centralonthesquare.org)

*Thank you for your faithful generosity!*

## Updated Inclement Weather Policy



1. If inclement weather is predicted for the weekend, the Pastor, Custodian and Director of Worship will, by Thursday evening, decide whether Sunday's schedule should be adjusted to celebrate one 11am combined service, with no Sunday School. This will be announced on Friday to the congregation via email, robocall, social media and the church website.
2. If the forecast indicates travel may be unsafe, the Pastor and Director of Music will record a simple service of music, prayer and the sermon to be shared via livestream on Sunday at 11am.
3. If conditions by 7am Sunday morning are unsafe for travel, the Pastor, Custodian and Director of Worship will confer to cancel in-person worship, contact the congregation as above and livestream the pre-recorded service.

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# Thank You!

*I wish to express my gratitude to Central for support and prayer during my sudden health crisis and diagnosed heart disease and surgery in the beginning of January. This was not a great way to begin 2024, but thanks to Pastor Scott Bowerman's concern and visits and all the prayers sent out from church members, my recovery is going well. Special thanks must be given to the Meal Train under Rosemary Elder. Their kindness and good nourishment helped greatly. May God bless our church and caring congregation.*

*Joanne & Bob Creter*

## STAFF

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PASTOR

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JUDY YOUNG, COORDINATOR  
OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

ALEXIS HELMAN, SECRETARY

SCOTT SHEARER, CUSTODIAN