

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



LOVING GOD
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING THE WORLD

From The Pastor

Can you guess what the most watched TV episode of all time is? The farewell episode of MASH that ran in February 1983. The cease-fire ending the fighting in the Korean War has been announced and the characters in the series who've wanted to go home the whole time they were in Korea, some find it hard to say goodbye. One is Hawkeye Pierce's dear friend BJ Hunnicut, BJ doesn't want to say those two short and simple words "goodbye." Because to him goodbye means goodbye forever. It means he will never see Hawkeye again and that for the rest of his life, he'll have to live without that daily friendship he was so accustomed to having during the Korean War. So BJ opts to pretend that he and Hawkeye will keep in touch with Christmas cards and annual visits to medical conventions or each other's homes. And he won't say goodbye - until the end of the episode, when Hawkeye flies off in a helicopter and sees that BJ has spelled out, in large stones on the ground, the simple message - Goodbye.

I'm finding it hard to say goodbye too. After today:

I won't be standing up here on Sundays sharing what I've learned by studying the word of God...won't be standing up in the front row singing at the contemporary service and occasionally trying to clap in rhythm with the music, a skill I've not quite mastered.

Won't be visiting you in the hospital when you've had a baby and get to hold your newborn or baptize you or your children or cry with you when someone has died or pray with you before surgery...

Won't see you regularly as we do on Sundays or Super Seniors or Theology on Tap...

Won't be getting together with your church staff to laugh and pray and work together...

It's the prospect of no longer seeing, being with, people I love like I do you guys that is the hardest part about saying goodbye...

But there is something beautiful about the word goodbye - it comes from Elizabethan English, a contraction of "God be with ye" - it's a word of blessing - not a word of final parting so much as a word of blessing - that God be with you wherever you go.

As the Presbyterian pastor Frederick Buechner notes:

A woman with a scarf over her head hoists her six-year-old up onto the first step of the school bus. "Goodbye," she says... It was a long while ago that the words 'God be with you' disappeared into the word 'goodbye,' but every now and again some trace of them still glimmers through."

Here's how I will say goodbye - God be with you - by thanking you, by asking your forgiveness, and by blessing you.

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From The Pastor →

Thank you

Susan and I moved to Chambersburg in the beginning of December 2012 and on the first Friday of the month came downtown to see the Christmas lights, to see Central decorated for Christmas -the church was open for prayer and meditation - and we climbed up the stairs into the Sanctuary and were amazed at the beauty of the church - the lights were dimmed and candles lit and Christmas music was playing in the background and several church members were there and greeted us and you could feel the presence of God in the place - it was a sacred moment I'll never forget and I felt a profound sense of welcome, of rightness, in becoming your pastor that set the tone for the next twelve years. And I have a lot, to thank God for in being with you as your pastor.

I thank God for how you've opened your lives to Susan and me - you've invited me as your pastor to share some of the most beautiful moments of your lives - presiding at your weddings, your children's weddings, letting me come to the hospital and hold and pray for your newborn babies, giving me the privilege of baptizing those babies. Sharing dinner with you at your homes and at restaurants. And you invited me to share some of the hardest moments of your lives - I sat and prayed over your loved ones during the last moments of their lives; I conducted funerals and entrusted them into the love of God in Christ; you shared your heartaches and troubles with me and we talked and prayed together; you invited me to visit with you and pray with you before surgery, when you were sick and hurting and in the hospital - when you were in crisis. You shared yourselves with me, you trusted me, we've laughed and cried together and I am profoundly grateful and though I'm retiring from being your pastor you will always have a place in my heart.

And I thank God for your children - I'm grateful for the times I participated in Vacation Bible School and was invited to let my inner goofball come out, playing biblical characters in bad costumes. I'm grateful for Abbie's little notes she gives me on Sunday mornings, for Will's hugs around the knees, for Christmas pageants where you never knew just what was going to happen - for watching your kids grow up - I'm thankful even for when you played stump the chump with me - your kids ask you a hard question, like, where did God come from? and you'd say, Go ask Pastor Scott.

Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you on your journeys of faith. I think of the Going Deeper Bible study that met Mondays at 7am to study the gospel of Mark, the Wednesday night gatherings - Bible studies and book discussions - at Roy Pitz and Nathan Miller and The Pub - thank you for understanding the value of getting out into the community instead of always staying within the walls of the church building. I think of the many pastoral conversations we had to think through hard questions of faith, when you were struggling with doubt, when you were trying to discern the will of God, when you just needed to talk to someone - and you trusted me.

And I thank God for how you are a congregation that loves one another. The love of Christ is in this church - the way you pray for one another and do meal trains and send each other cards and call and check on one another. By how you have a board of deacons who visit and care for the elderly and shut-ins of the church. And the way you cared for me when I had my bike accident and broke my pelvis - coming over and rearranging our downstairs to make room for a hospital bed, bringing us food and gift cards and coming to sit with me and praying for us - Susan and I have said repeatedly we don't know what we would have done without you. Jesus said that the world will know we are his disciples by how we love one another - and you guys do that.

Thank you for being a church willing to try new things. Like switching the times of the worship services - wasn't that fun? Like the Thanksgiving Community Dinner a few months ago. Like all the support you gave Erin as she developed and offered the amazing productions of the Passion of the Christ, and And So.

I also thank God for being a church that likes to have fun together. Some of my absolute favorite memories here are the pancake supper and variety shows our youth group has sponsored, and especially I and some other large men presenting interpretative dances, to the music of Ride of the Valkyries and the 1812 Overture.

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From The Pastor →

I thank God for the staff colleagues I've served with. I have served as pastor in four different churches. I have friends in ministry that have served in dozens more. I read a lot about challenges facing church staff. And I can tell you that Central's church staff is not only the best I've ever served with, it is one of the best I've ever heard of. Not just in terms of talent, work ethic, creativity - though the staff has those qualities in abundance - but in the myriad ways the staff challenges, supports, collaborates with and cares for one another. There are no turf wars; no jealousy, no competition. Rather, the staff is a group of Christ-followers who genuinely enjoy one another (not that we never fussed at each other!) and who are dedicated to serving Christ through Central Presbyterian. One of the hardest things about stepping away, is that I won't get to see them, be with them, regularly anymore.

I thank God that Central is a church that lives its vision to share the heart of Christ from the heart of the city. Starting Diaper Depot that was just an idea in Dani Kardisco's head that has now become one of the most important ministries in our community, serving hundreds every month; the Blessing Box, the Pastor's Benevolence Fund you entrusted to me, the amazing work the Missions Team has done serving the Al-Ali refugee family, youth mission trips, the church mission trip to Wilmington last summer; the Little Free Library; Central launching what became the anti-human trafficking ministry She's Somebody's Daughter - and the way you open the church to the community during downtown events and share the building with organizations like the Y and the Cumberland Valley School of Music. Ministries like PlaySchool Central - its brought me such joy to have the children in the building and to see the blessing that ministry is to the children and their families - this is all great, Kingdom of God stuff that you've done and our Lord is pleased with you. God is at work in and through this church.

And I'm grateful for your love and affection and how you've cared for, provided for, me and Susan. You are a loving and generous bunch and I thank God for you.

So much more to say here - I thank God for the elders who've served on Session and led this church with me during the last twelve years; I thank God for the Trustees, handling big jobs like repairing the steeple, replacing the HVAC to little things like undecorating the church after Christmas; I thank God for the beauty and diversity of worship - music from an organ, piano, banjo, keyboard, drums, violin, marimba, flute, clarinet, cello; dance and drama; I'm thankful for how you've supported me as I served in the community through the United Way and Racial Reconciliation and Homeless Matters; for your adaptability during COVID as we learned to worship remotely via livestream and then outdoors.

Here's how I see you, friends - this comes from Mike Yaconelli in his book, *Messy Spirituality*, where he writes about Moorhead, Minnesota, the home of Concordia College, which lies across the state line from Fargo, North Dakota, a very bleak part of the country (especially during the winter). All year, the community anticipates Concordia's annual Christmas concert. Each December, a huge choir and a full orchestra give a musical performance in the concert hall at the college. And every single year, the people in the community create a unique background for the concert - a one-hundred-by-thirty-foot mosaic.

Beginning in the summer, about six months before the concert, the community designs a new mosaic, rents an empty building, and the painting begins. Hundreds of people, from junior high schoolers to senior citizens, paint the mosaic. They paint by number on a large-scale design that has thousands of tiny pieces. Day after day, month after month, one little painted piece at a time, the picture on the mosaic gradually takes shape. When everyone has finished painting, an artist goes over the entire creation, perfecting the final work of art. When the mosaic is completed, they place it behind the choir. It has the appearance of an enormous, beautiful stained-glass window. The weekend of the concert, those people who helped paint arrive early, along with their friends and neighbors. Throughout the building, you can hear people whispering, "See that little green spot below the camel's foot? I painted it." Every year in the middle of the summer in Moorhead, Minnesota, thousands of unknown, ordinary people paint a tiny insignificant tile. Six months later, the result is a spectacularly beautiful masterpiece.

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From The Pastor

That's what's Central is to me, friends - that's what you're part of - God's masterpiece. All different kinds of people who together make a beautiful picture. Where you are loved, simply because you are a sister or brother in Christ. Not for who you are or what you have or your looks or station in life or anything else.

Isn't this what we crave the most? To be accepted and loved - without the pretending and posturing? With no more having to feel inadequate because of our gender or skin color or poverty or any other way the world judges us less? Where we loved and cared for when we're down and hurting? It's here, friends - I know it is - I've seen it among you, and you showed that love to me.

Forgive me

Goodbyes are also a good time to seek forgiveness. You already know that as of tomorrow I won't be your pastor anymore. The Presbyterian way is for me to go away and not to meddle in the affairs of Central. It's a wise policy. Your next pastor needs every bit of love and support you can give him or her and doesn't need the ghost of Scott Bowerman hanging around here. I'll still be your friend and I'll always love you, love this church, but I won't be your pastor anymore. So I need you to forgive me in advance for leaving you - and also to forgive me for my failures while I was here. There were times when I was distracted and didn't listen to you well enough, when I didn't hear or realize that you needed me, that I disappointed you with a boneheaded decision, that you disagreed with my theology, that I let you down. If that is the case, I ask your forgiveness so we can say goodbye without anything between us.

The Blessing

So to say goodbye - Thank You, Forgive Me, and Finally - a blessing.

May God, as Paul says to the Philippians, finish the good work he started in you - as a church 156 years ago, as individuals when he called you to faith - that you be equipped and strengthened to continue to be the marvelous congregation you are;

May God drench you with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that you be filled with the love of God;

May the heart of Christ be found in you and may God lead you to share Christ's heart here from the heart of the city and beyond.

May you, in trying times, maintain the bond of unity in Christ, with him the center of your life together;

And - may God enable you to love your next pastor and family as you have loved Susan and me, and may God bless with you a pastor who deeply loves you.

And so, it's goodbye. God be with you my friends. I will hold you in my prayers, and my heart, as long as I live. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.



LOVING GOD

Worship Updates

So far, 2025 has felt like a blur for me (Erin) since I was off on the 5th, sick on the 12th, only the 9am service on the 19th, and the combined service on the 26th! Here's to a much more predictable and present February! In all seriousness, THANK YOU so much to all who covered for me while I was out and sick. I feel so grateful to have such a collaborative and compassionate church family.

On February 2nd, we will be led in worship by Kristal Smith, of the Carlisle Presbytery; then, hopefully an interim pastor! No matter who is "leading" us, we are privileged to worship a perfect God who loves us & cares for the Church and His creation.

If you are interested in participating in any of our worship groups at Central, please let me (Erin) know! The Easter season is coming and we are always looking for more people to join together in fellowship & in working together for the glory of God!



LOVING GOD

A NOTE FROM ERIN

Well Central, we are neck-deep in a drastic season of change!

As someone with OCD and anxiety, change has not always been a welcome guest in my life, but alas, it is inevitable & good things can come from it.

We are so fortunate to have had the same pastor for the last 12 years, and now we look ahead to new leadership and new opportunities.

Here's what I hope:

- We stick to our vision of Sharing the Heart of Christ from the Heart of the City.
- We continue to worship God together, relying on the Holy Spirit, and regularly meeting as the Body of Christ at Central.
- We actively lean into our foundations of Loving God, Loving Each Other, and Loving the World.
- We seek out opportunities to learn and grow in faith individually and collectively.
- We do all of this with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We're in this together! I can't wait to see what God will do.

ALSO, thank you so much to all who brought my family meals, prayers, medicine, and more while I was sick with the flu! You are such a gracious church fam & I am humbled by your love.

LOVING GOD

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

As we start a new month I have much for which to be thankful. After 5 weeks of not being able to drive because of my broken ankle, now I am wearing just a soft brace and allowed to drive again. Many thanks to all who gave me rides. (You are named in the annual report.) This also makes organ playing much easier and better using TWO feet!!!

I want to say a very sincere “thank-you” to Pastor Scott for his 12 years as Pastor with us at Central. It is hard to sum up all he has done in just half a page, but I will mention some significant things. First, as Head of Staff he has been there for us. At staff meetings his leadership was evident in devotions, in discussions, in listening to any current problems, and just creating an atmosphere where we could feel “safe” sharing any concerns we might have. His Bible studies or book studies were beyond words. They were helpful in daily life. His sermons just kept getting better each week. He always shared something we could take into the week with us to help us with daily life. He showed that he cared for all people.

Needless to say, we will miss him and Susan, too. But he has taught us well and we will try with God’s help to carry on the mission of our church. I personally wish both of them the best. I am sure beyond any doubt and trust that God will use Him and Susan in some new way in retirement to help fulfill HIS purposes here.

THANK YOU PASTOR SCOTT AND SUSAN!!! MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE IN A WELL-EARNED RETIREMENT!!!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!

Helen Wingert, Organist



Diaper Depot was blessed to provide 205 families with diapers on January 18. In addition to diapers, we distributed eggs and apples. Personal care kits and children’s books were donated to our clients as well. A hearty breakfast of pancakes and sausage was also served and many families stayed to enjoy the meal.

We look forward to our next Diaper Depot on Saturday, February 15. Set up begins at 9am and the doors open at 10am. Come join us to volunteer or just to see this amazing ministry in action! Your support —whether through volunteering, prayers, or financial contributions — makes this possible. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being part of the Diaper Depot family. Together, we are making a difference, one family at a time!



On the third floor, we have restarted our journey through Rome. We are currently focusing on the fact that God's love is always with us. With Valentine's Day upon us, I thought this is the perfect theme right now. It is so important for us all to remember that wherever we go and no matter what we do that God's love is indeed always with us. The Bible verse we are memorizing right now is Romans 8:38 "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love."

Just think that Paul, a man who had recently persecuted Christians who had accepted Jesus and was currently preaching about salvation to everyone and spent time in jail for this good work, was still convinced that nothing could separate him from God's love. Paul was a quite the villain and yet was saved and loved by God. What a lesson for us all! So even if you do not receive a dozen roses or a large box of chocolates this February 14th, remember that God's love is always with you, and that is a gift no one can top!



COMMUNICATIONS

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WWW.CENTRALONTHESQUARE.ORG

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



Diaper Depot 2025
Volunteer Info & Dates

Set up starts at 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:

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|-------------|--------------|
| February 15 | August 16 |
| March 15 | September 20 |
| April 12 | October 11 |
| May 17 | November 15 |
| June 21 | December 13 |
| July 12 | |

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

We've been having some issues with our weekly emails going to people's Spam or Junk folders. If you miss a week or two of our weekly emails, check your spam/junk folders! If the emails are in there, make sure to move them to your inbox so that your email account doesn't send them to spam/junk anymore. Thanks!

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.**

Faith Fellowship Food

Super • Senior • Luncheon

Super Seniors starting the New Year with a new series called **KNOW THY NEIGHBOR**. Each month we will be inviting someone in our community to join us for our Super Seniors lunch/meeting to talk about the work, and how their faith plays a part of all that they do. We ask that you RSVP with the church office each month well in advance of our meetings so we have an adequate count for meal preparation.

Here is our line-up for the first half of the year:

FEBRUARY 12th @ 12pm

Our lead off speaker is Mrs. Julia Blaker, who will be sharing "the experiences and challenges of being a deaf interpreter". Learn about the deaf Bible and why it is different. Be prepared with questions and learn more about what made the deaf ministry that Julia was involved with for over 30 successful years.

MARCH 12th @ 12pm

Barry Roberts author, founder of Take 2 Productions, and host of the weekly radio station JESUS AND ALL THAT JASS. His show airs on 96.3 FM each Sunday from 7am -11am. Barry has an extensive and rare collection of Jazz music, including hundreds of albums and singles from the 20's, 30's. and 40's including early recordings from the 20's of Louis Armstrong when he played with King Oliver. Barry's book, THE APOSTLE JESUS, THE KINGDOM AMONG YOU will be available for purchase (\$10.00) at the luncheon. His message of combining his faith to the music he loves is a must for people of all ages.

APRIL

Franchisee/owner from Chick-fil-A will be speaking on his company's commitment to being a faith driven organization, and how it is translated each day in their operation.

MAY

Mark Story from Habitat for Humanity will address the work performed throughout the day, and the motivation behind each project.

JUNE

A representative from Hobby Lobby will be discussing the Christian values that drive this power company.

JULY

A manager from our local Starbucks will be discussing the standards that their customer service and service to the community is built upon, and how that culture is maintained.

February 2025

Central Presbyterian Youth Update



“Souper” Bowl of Caring

Get ready, football fans. The annual “Souper” Bowl fundraiser is coming on February 9. For those that aren’t aware, the “Souper” Bowl of Caring is a national project to raise money for local organizations that address hunger in their communities. On that Sunday, the youth will be collecting donations that will go toward SCCAP, a local organization that works to help those in need in our community.

Pancake Dinner and Talent Show

Mark your calendars! On the evening of March 4, the youth will be hosting their annual pancake dinner and talent show fundraiser. Everyone’s invited to come out, enjoy a meal, and watch some of Central’s best exhibitions of talent! If you’re interested in participating in the show, reach out to me at winegardner.ross@gmail.com with a description of your performance. Each performer will have five minutes to demonstrate their talents. Whether you’re performing or part of the audience, I promise it’ll be a fun evening!

High School Boys Basketball

The season has kicked off and our boys are doing a great job! Come out and support them on the final game of the regular season on February 6th at 7:15. All games are at the Chambersburg Rec. Center. Check the dates and times below:

REMEMBER THIS

As a church family, we’re about to go through a period of transition. There is no doubt, change can be frustrating and scary. But remember, the Lord is with us. And he asks us to keep going in His name, doing His work, and demonstrating His love for one another and our community.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 NIV

Finance Report

THANK YOU! We are especially grateful for your generous giving which enables us to serve those in need, and make a positive impact on our community.

Financial Report:

	December 2024	YTD Jan-Dec 2024
Donations Received	\$68,437.64	\$472,747.50
Income Received from Trusts	\$1380.83	\$75,072.39
Total Income	\$69,818.47	\$547,819.89
Expenditures	\$75,887.99	\$583,344.58
Net Income/ (Loss)	(\$6,069.52)	(\$35,524.69)

Join us in generosity this holiday season

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.

Give online

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

Give once or set up recurring giving.

Give by Text

Text the amount you would like to give to:

(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:





THE YEAR WITH THE BIBLE (YWTB) has started up again with the gospel of John. We meet on Mondays and Fridays by Zoom from 8:10am until 8:50am. If you'd like to join, contact Bonnie Fortuna at bonnie.birdsong@gmail.com.



CALLING ALL PRAYER CHAMPIONS!!

February is a month when we think of Valentines Day and love. Please send some love to the child/youth that you pray for by dropping them a note or a text to let them know how much Jesus loves them; and that you love and pray for them. Thanks for shining the love of Jesus into their lives!!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, Feb. 9th to begin after the 9am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, and officers to church boards. The Nominating Committee will place names in nomination, and nominations may be made from the floor. For reasons of order we ask you to secure the permission of any prospective nominees.

STAFF

ERIN ADAMS, WORSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

BREE RAUHUT, KIDS' MINISTRY DIRECTOR

ROSS WINEGARDNER, YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

HELEN WINGERT, ORGANIST

SHELLEY MARANGONI, PLAYSCHOOL CENTRAL DIRECTOR

JUDY YOUNG, COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

ALEXIS HELMAN, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

BROOKLYN SHEARER, CHURCH SECRETARY

SCOTT SHEARER, CUSTODIAN