



MOVING TOWARD THE LIGHT

As we progress through what we hope are the waning days of the COVID pandemic, we are starting to see jobs returning, gyms reopening, indoor dining, basketball and hockey being played to audiences, and, best of all, our children back in school. Although we are anxious about our safety, especially in crowds, we are gently pushing ourselves out of our houses, cautiously rejoining friends and family for celebrations, and carefully resuming volunteer and professional commitments. While we are emerging from the darkness of the pandemic, we see the light of Christmas beckoning us forward. For those of faith, Christmas brings the birth of Christ and the promise of a better life. As we immerse ourselves in the familiar traditions and warmth of the season, we can move from the isolation and fear of the past months into the light of hope and togetherness. This year, more than ever, we appreciate the love and joy which the Christmas season brings.

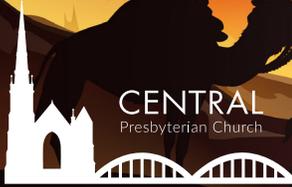
WELCOME STEPHANIE!

Stephanie Armstrong has recently accepted the position of Youth Leader for Central Church. A “Central” girl, Stephanie and her family have called Central their church home for many years and Stephanie grew up attending Sunday School and Youth Programs here. Those who accompanied Stephanie to Lesotho saw for themselves the skills Stephanie demonstrated with the children. Just like the Pied Piper, the children followed wherever she went. Stephanie has degrees from Carlton University as well as Ryerson, and has had experience with social media as well as working as a Children’s Pastor in Ottawa. She also worked in partnership with the Cree Nation of Mistissini to foster reconciliation. Fortunately for Central, Stephanie was hired to help with the 2021 summer program, which was very successful. This fall she has continued to work with our youth, and, as the numbers of students involved continues to rise, we give thanks for this wonderful addition to our leadership team. We are indeed blessed!

FALL FESTIVAL

Congratulations and many thanks to Kerri, Stephanie and all the volunteers who helped make this day special. About 40 children took part in games, crafts, a scavenger hunt and enjoyed the snacks on offer.





RACHEL'S HOME

A recent message from Hilda from the orphanage in Lesotho reads: "We are all well and the children are doing well. We had a massive storm on Thursday and yesterday and properties were destroyed but nothing happened to us only three windows were broken. We are still in lockdown though not the very strict one. I haven't been to South Africa for some time now because of the Covid testing (we have to pay every time we cross the border). We have 20 children at Rachel's Home at the moment and 52 at school. We have three teachers and two helpers. It is spring now though, still cold and we are grateful for all the support that you have given us through the most difficult time in our lives and for keeping us warm during winter with heaters and warm clothes. May the Lord bless you and keep you as you serve and may He give you all your heart desires."

DATES AND EVENTS

Youth Cozy Christmas Crafting / Saturday, November 18th / **1pm**
Survivors Documentary / Friday, November 19th / **7pm**
Communion / Sunday, November 28th
Mitten Tree / Sunday, November 28th
Christmas Tree Hymn Sing / Wednesday, December 1st / **2pm**
White Gift Sunday / Sunday, December 5th
Fireside Christmas / Sunday, December 12th
Christmas Eve Service / Friday, December 24th / **5:30pm**
Christmas Eve Service / Friday, December 24th / **7:30pm**

PLEASE NOTE: *There will be two Christmas Eve services this year. Those wishing to attend must preregister to reserve their seats. There will be a limit of 150 participants for each service.*

Contact Us / **(519) 623-1080** / www.centralchurchcambridge.ca

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Our annual fundraiser for Rachel's Home in Lesotho will finish in November. Since many companies in Africa that once supported Rachel's Home are struggling and unable to contribute, we are hoping that Central members will take part or sponsor those who are walking, running, etc. Our generosity not only provides a home for these AIDS orphans, but also gives them education and opportunities for the future.

