

## Children & Family Ministries

I am excited to announce that our Easter Extravaganza will be held on **Saturday, April 15th from 10:00-12:00!** We will have a devotion from Pastor JF, a visit from a special friend, a fantastic egg hunt and then we will end the morning with free hot dogs!!! Please spread the word around the community! I will have flyers available in the church office that you are more than welcome to post at businesses or hand out to families. If you are willing to help with the event, we have several opportunities for you to get involved. We will need folks to donate candy, goodies (small enough to go inside of the eggs), plastic eggs or pre-filled eggs. We will need volunteers to stuff the eggs; some folks have already volunteered to take the eggs and goodies home to stuff in their free time (which is great!) and I have set aside 3 dates to come and stuff eggs. Those dates are March 27th & April 3rd from 1:00-3:00 pm in the church office, or April 12th from 10:00-12:00. Our youth will also be helping stuff eggs Sunday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm. The morning of the event, we will need a few volunteers to help register the children as they arrive, and we will also need volunteers to help in the kitchen and folks to hide eggs! Thank you for considering giving of your time, talents and resources!!!



If you have not purchased your ticket to attend our **9th Annual Dinner & Auction**, it is not too late! We will sell tickets through Monday, March 20th. The tickets are \$12 each, and includes a delicious dinner catered by George's Carryout (lasagna, salad, bread). Beverage and dessert will be provided by your church family. This event is Friday, March 24th beginning at 6:00. Food is available for carryout!

We are now two weeks away from our big night, and we are still in need of desserts to accompany our meal. Please let me know if you are willing to provide a dessert for the dinner...store bought is fine!! We will need desserts to be dropped off no later than the morning of the dinner (March 24th). Thank you to all of those who have already agreed to provide a dessert! Thank you to those who have volunteered to help in the kitchen and in childcare. We could still use a few more adults for childcare!

## YOUTH NEWS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS CHANGE!** This Sunday our Middle School Class will meet in the (old Youth Room) which is now the Kindergarten Classroom, and our High School Class will meet in the former College Classroom for our Sunday School time!!

**MYF:** We meet tonight at 6:00! Come enjoy a light dinner followed by games, worship and more! Don't miss out!!

**TBC** (Prayer Breakfast): Come bless us with your presence! Chick-fil-A! 6:54 AM! \$3.25 gets you a chicken biscuit, hash browns and a refillable drink!

**BREAK THRU:** Join us for some food, fun, fellowship and more this Thursday from 6:30 till 8:00 pm.

**WEEK OF HOPE:** \*Note: All of our Team Members should be able to register on-line this month! I will pass the link on to you when Group Cares has it up and ready.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Attention ALL 7th Graders and those that may have missed or have not gone through Confirmation. We will be taking this year's group to the Confirmation Retreat at Lake Junaluska the weekend of April 28-30. More details coming soon...



Just a reminder...

Turn your clocks forward on Saturday night before you go to bed. Don't want to be late for Sunday morning service!

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## Budget

**Needed to Date \$125,713.20 Received to Date \$118,702.35**

## Ministry Wish List:



From time to time we need to access the gifts, skills, talents, and abilities of our church family for ministry opportunities. Here are some wishes we currently

have:

- 2 Bell Ringers** (Contact Bev Lawrence @ 336-302-5578 for more information)
- People to serve on **Prayer Ministry Team** (contact Wanda Tatum @ 336-953-1993)
- Kitchen Supervisor** (Contact Shirley McAnulty for more information)
- A man interested in organizing and heading up a **renewed Men's Ministry** at Central UMC. (contact the church office at 336-629-1425)
- A beautification committee for the church grounds.

## CUOC Update

Reception volunteers needed for greeting and receiving clients, 4 hour slots, Mon-Thurs, morning or afternoon. For application, call 336-625-1500 or drop in at CUOC, 930 S. Fayetteville St (formerly Dan Thomas Pontiac).

**Food Sculpture Contest.** Made with non-perishable food items. Entry form and / or details at [www.CUOC.ORG](http://www.CUOC.ORG).

Entry deadline Mar 15,  
Sculpture completed by Mar 24.



CUOC Items

Any item

## YOUR CENTRAL CHURCH STAFF

**Dr. J.F. Howard** Senior Pastor  
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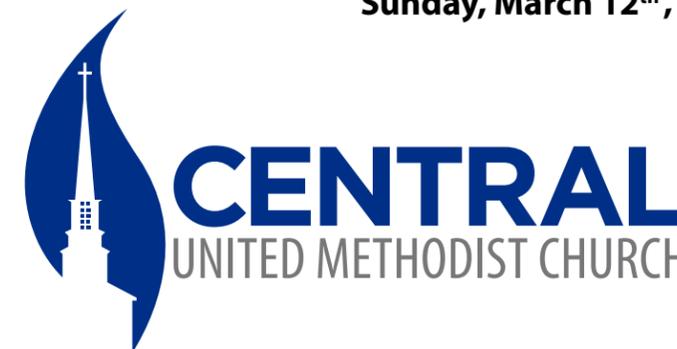
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Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017



Our Mission is to follow Jesus, make disciples and transform the world.

We are about making connections — connecting people to God and to each other.

## Born Again?

**"You must be born again."** (John 3:7)

It is one of the most powerful and profound statements that Jesus ever made. And yet, it's meaning can be hard to fully understand and completely grasp. In fact, Nicodemus, the religious expert who first heard Jesus say it, had no small amount of trouble trying to fathom what Jesus meant.

The next installment of our new series **"No Shortcuts"** will address the idea of being "born again" head on. But for now, instead of trying to understand the "how's" and "why's" of what Jesus meant, like Nicodemus, consider this list from the Bible on what happens to people when they experience what Jesus described as being "born again."

To be born again means a person has:

- Received everlasting life (John 3:16)
- Been born of God (1 John 5:10)
- Been born of incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23)
- Become a child of God (John 1:12)
- Become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Been passed from death unto life (John 5:24B)
- Been redeemed from under the law (Galatians 4:5)
- Received an eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12)
- Been reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- Received peace with God (Romans 5:1)
- Been justified (Romans 5:1)
- All sins are forgiven (Colossians 2:13)
- Been delivered from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13)
- Been transferred into the kingdom of the Son of God (Colossians 1:13)
- Been made holy forever (Hebrews 10:14)
- Sins are no more remembered (Hebrews 10:17)
- Been made complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)
- Been accepted of God (Ephesians 1:6)
- Been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:6)
- Been baptized by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Been indwelt by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Been sealed with God's Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)
- Become the recipient of God's love (Ephesians 2:4)
- Become the recipient of God's grace (Romans 6:14)
- Become the recipient of God's power (Ephesians 1:19)
- Become the recipient of God's faithfulness (1 Corinthians 1:9)
- Become a citizen of heaven (Ephesians 2:19, Philippians 3:20)
- Been seated with Christ in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)
- Been given a home in heaven (John 14:1-3)
- Been kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:5)
- Been crucified with Christ (Galatians (2:20)
- Been buried with Christ (Romans 6:4)
- Been resurrected with Christ (Ephesians 2:6)

Jesus said, **"...no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again"** (John 3:3). But after considering all that God does in our lives when we are born again, why would we even want to go through the Christian life otherwise?

Then I guess it only makes sense to ask the obvious question: Have you been born again?

This Sunday we will discuss that question in more depth.

PASTOR J.F.

