



**Day School Items of the Month:
Tissues**

Envelopes for Angels

Thank you so much for your participation in our Envelopes for Angels fundraiser for the Day School. It has been a huge success! The children get so excited to receive a gift! Envelopes for Angels will continue through January 31. Please be sure to check your angels' envelopes in the hallway for thank you cards and new art work. Thank you for being such a blessing to our little angels!

Children & Family Ministries

We will be taking a break from Eat, Pray, Serve during the month of December. We will resume our Wednesday night program on January 10th. Please remember you can pick up monthly calendars in the Day School hallway, just outside of the choir room.

On behalf of Children's Ministry, we wanted to take a moment to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas! Children remind us that Christmas is a time of joy and of excitement! The anticipation of this one day out of the year keeps them smiling, giggling and full of life! How wonderful that we can use this as a teachable moment...and a personal reminder. As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, etc. we have the responsibility of teaching the children that we celebrate Christmas because this is the day Jesus was born. This is the day that Jesus became fully human, while still being fully God. This is the day that we were set free from the sin that entangles our life. This is the day that God's grace became bigger than any struggle we face, bigger than any sickness we endure and bigger than any evil we see happening today. But we also must learn from the children; we too should be so filled with joy and laughter that we appear as little children awaiting Santa...as we await the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST!

Dear Parents,
I am so proud of the children who participated in the Christmas Presentation this past Sunday! These children worked so hard, practicing almost every week since the first of November. I'm always amazed at how serious they are when they get up in front of the church...let's just say it's a different bunch of kids than the ones in practice! In all seriousness, I hope you enjoyed the moment. I beamed as if each of them belonged to me, and I will gladly claim each and every one of them as my own! Thank you so much for the opportunity to pour in their lives and for the gift of their love that they give so freely! Love, Heather

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us for Sunday School & Worship this week! Our Middle School students meet in their classroom, and our High School students meet in the Gathering Area.

MYF (Caroling & Christmas Party): Meet us at the church by 4:30 pm to load up in the vans and begin our time by sharing some Holiday cheer with some of our homebound friends. Afterwards we'll make our way to the parsonage for our Christmas Party at Pastor JF & Kari's. (BRING a \$4.00 gift to exchange!)

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT: Register today for our Youth Winter Retreat the weekend of Jan. 19-21 in Blowing Rock, NC! Simply turn in your completed registration form along with a \$75 deposit made out to: Central UMYF! *Mark your calendar: Our Winter Retreat Orientation will take place Sunday, Jan. 7th!

WEEK OF HOPE: This summer's destination = Nashville, TN, July 8-14, 2018 (Sun. through Sat.!) Register today by turning in a \$50 deposit to secure your spot. Team member cost for this exciting week will be \$325.00! Our youth fundraisers will help offset the additional program expense and transportation per team member.

GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS: NEW Central UMC ink pen's for purchase!! This pen has a stylus for your phone and/or notepad, twist open blue ink, and a flashlight on the head that you simply depress after taking off the yellow protector. It even has our church's web address on it!! If you'd like one for a friend, family member, or to simply share with a neighbor - we're asking \$3.00 per pen, or you can get 2 of these awesome pens for just \$5.00! All proceeds go to support our Youth Missions!

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Budget

Needed to Date \$628,566.00 Received to Date \$632,700.79

Endowment Fund December Challenge Goal:

\$150,000.00

Cash Received : \$51,323.55 Pledges: \$166,750.00.00

Pledges Received: \$115,26.45



A pictorial directory is a powerful tool in our church to help each of us know each other better. Our last directory is out-dated and it is time for a new one. Please make an appointment today at the table located in the education wing. Your participation with help the church and yourself. Every family photographed for the directory will receive a copy of the directory at no cost and a free 8 X 10 portrait. You will also have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits at the time of photography. For questions, please contact Heather Cagle at the office. 336-629-1425

YOUR CENTRAL CHURCH STAFF

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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.

"The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year"

Don't you just love Christmas? I do. Some of my best memories are from this season of the year. December is an important month for me and my family. Not only do we celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus our Savior, and all the busyness that Christmas and church functions bring, but December is the month that Kari and I were married, and the month that our first son, John was born. They are, by the way, my two favorite Christmas gifts of all time!

Here are some of my favorite things to do at Christmas:

- 1) Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas."** I was three years old when this first debuted on TV and every year I would make sure I knew what day and time it was going to come on. To this day I am still moved when Linus recites the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke.
- 2) Candle Tea at Old Salem.** I first attended the Old Salem Candle Tea as part of a sixth grade field trip. I loved every minute of it: Singing Christmas carols, looking at the Old Salem Christmas scene, watching them make beeswax candles for Christmas Eve, and hearing the Christmas story. Our family went several times over the years. It always takes me back to sixth grade and I relive those warm memories all over again. It is a guaranteed experience to get you in the Christmas spirit!
- 3) Trans Siberian Orchestra concert.** Have you ever seen them? You have to go! I think Kari and I have been to see the Trans Siberian Orchestra in concert four times. Every time is better than the one better. Their musicianship and stage show is amazing. I always leave their shows with a major boost of Christmas joy and spirit!
- 4) Christmas at Biltmore Estate.** If you get a chance to go to the candlelight tour at Biltmore during the months of November and December, do it! The decorated and lit Christmas trees, and feel of that amazing home at night is unforgettable.
- 5) Christmas music.** I have eclectic taste in favorite Christmas songs. I like to listen to all different types of music. At Christmas some of my favorite songs are: Trans Siberian Orchestra's "Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24" (their amazing interpretation of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Carol Of The Bells"); Charles Wesley's "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," a lesser known carol entitled "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" which contains the refrain, "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee." Another Christmas favorite is Chuck Berry's song, "Run Rudolph Run." My favorite Christmas music memory is playing "Silent Night" on guitar at the close of the Christmas Eve candle light service with our son Graham playing guitar with me. Playing on Christmas Eve was his first time playing guitar in public. I told him beforehand, "You will never forget that moment when you stand there playing in church with all those candles lit and raised in praise." And he never has.
- 6) Christmas Eve worship.** Since I did not grow up attending church very often, Christmas Eve services are very special to me. I have led services on Christmas Eve from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm and just about every hour in between. The carols, the candle lighting, hearing again the Christmas story, feeling that spirit of "Immanuel" that God really is "with us"...I love all of that. We told our boys from a very early age, that we would do all sorts of things to have fun at Christmas, but first we would worship Jesus our Savior and celebrate His birth. After that, there would be plenty of time for presents, toys, food, and fun. We did our best to make good on that promise. I hope you and your family will join us for Christmas Eve worship at Central Church this year. We have two morning services (at 8:45 am and 11:00 am). These will conclude our series "Prepare Him Room." Then on Christmas Eve night, we have two candlelight and communion services planned (at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm). Bring your family. Come as you are. Just come. I promise, these are the memories you will treasure for many future Christmases.

Pastor J.F.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday December 10 th 2017	Third Sunday of Advent	8:45AM
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Heather Cagle		
THE ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE & OPENING PRAYER <i>John, Angie, Maggie & Carlie Kern</i>		
WORSHIP SONGS "It's Christmas" "What A Glorious Night" "The First Christmas" Praise Team		
TIME OF GREETING Fred Huffstetler		
TIME OF THANKSGIVING PRAYER		
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	Matthew 2:11	Pastor J.F.
On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.		
GIVING OF GIFTS		
OFFERTORY SPECIAL	"When Love Was Born"	Praise Team
SCRIPTURE	(See insert)	
MESSAGE		Pastor J.F.
SERIES	Prepare Him Room	
SONG	"Go Tell It On the Mountain"	Pastor J.F.
CLOSING SONG	"A King Like This" "What A Beautiful Name" "Christmas Medley"	Praise Team

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The kneeling rail in the United Methodist Churches has traditionally been a place of prayer. If you have made a decision today that you would like to express publicly; if you would like to join this church on a profession of faith or by transferring your membership, or if you have a need for prayer, you are invited to come forward at this time. Decisions that could change your life are made at the altar.

Closing Prayer Fred Huffstetler

USHERS 8:45 AM

Tammie Walker, Tim Dunn, Ross & Debbie Reaves

GREETERS 8:45 AM - Susan & Charles Swiers

USHERS 11:00 AM

CHAIRMAN – Michael Smith

Captain – Charles Swiers, Alice Hammond, Mike King, Roland Cox, Dick Renigar, Jack Mitchell, Steve Morgan, Wayne Hartley

GREETERS 11:00 AM - Bob & Judy Phillips, Kaye Bryan, Susan Huffstetler, Norma Connell, Susan Swiers

Merry Christmas!

We serve a living, loving, giving God. We are thankful each and everyday but especially throughout this special season that God's infinite and eternal love, mercy, and grace for all of us was acted upon with his ultimate Eternal Gift of his Son, Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. God's gift of His son has been a living, loving, giving presence for generations upon generations and will continue to be forever and ever. As we as a church ponder these beautiful and wonderfully miraculous acts of our God and our

Lord and Savior, let us pray about what we can do with the many things God has generously given to us. Let us pray and act by donating to the Central Endowment Fund, a gift that says thank you to those who came before us here at Central; a gift that will help so many in our community now; & a gift that will leave a legacy for our church for generations to come.

God Bless You!



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday December 10 th 2017	Third Sunday of Advent	11:00 AM
PRELUDE	"Joy to the World"	String Quartet
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR		
CALL TO WORSHIP	"Christmas Meditation"	Handbells
WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER		Pastor J. F.
THE ADVENT LIGHTING SERVICE	<i>Chris, Lori, Riley and Hayes Clark, with Daniel and English Brown</i>	
*HYMN OF PRAISE.	"There's A Song in the Air"	#249(UMH)
*A TIME OF GREETING		
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	Matthew 2:11	Pastor J. F.
On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.		
OFFERTORY	"Still, Still, Still"	Handbells
*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (sung to the tune of "The First Noel")		
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all Creatures here below, Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.		
SPECIAL MUSIC	with COMBINED CHOIRS FROM CUMC AND ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN	
	"Sing Joy To All The World!" by Lloyd Larson	
	"Tidings of Comfort and Joy!" "A Light Shall Shine" "Prepare the Way!" "David's Royal City" "Glory in the Highest" "Joy of Every Longing Heart" "Worship Christ, the Newborn King" "Sing Joy to All the World!"	
*CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION.		Pastor J.F.
*POSTLUDE	"Toccata"	Widor
	*Congregation please stand if you are able.	

Soloists Sharon Morgan

Narrators: Chris Osteen, Christian Morgan

Choir Directors, Joretta Holt and Barbara Strider

Instrumentalists

Violins: Ramilya Siegel, Sandra Rathbone,

Viola: Maureen Michels, Cello: Ryane Dunnagan

Organ/Piano: Joy Menius

Soprano

Ann Asbill, Jaci Betts, Bettina Bushmire,

Ann Graves, Amy Harrelson, Sharon Harrelson

Paula Keeter, Bev Lawrence,

Sharon Morgan, Chris Osteen, Doris Pennington,

Janice Poole, Mary Lois Powell, Vicky Russell

Karen Stephens, Pam Wolfe

Alto

Kathryn Chrismon, Lynne Finison,

Joyce Harrington, Mary Lee Hartley,

Joretta Holt, Marj Murdock, Linda Thomas, Joan Wilson

Tenor

Earl DeLooze, Pastor Doug Hefner, Tom Osteen,

Larry Pennington, Greg Russell, Tim Trogdon, Tom White

Bass

Sidney Craven, Jim Finison, Rusty Hammond,

Eddie Harrington, Charles Link, Ron Seale, Patrick Osteen

Christmas At Central

You are invited to attend the following special events this Christmas season:

December 24: Christmas Eve AM, services at 8:45 am and 11:00 am

Christmas Eve PM, services at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm

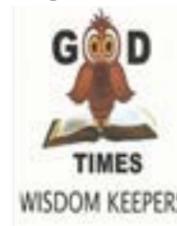
December 31: Wesley Covenant Service, start the new year off right! 8:45am & 11:00 am.



ATTENTION SENIORS!

All who are registered for our December 19th Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater Christmas trip remember to meet this Tuesday morning @ 8:45am in FLC area.

We will be on the road by 9am and should return that afternoon by 6:30pm.



Sincere sympathy from the Staff & Congregation to Johnny and Nancy Bunch & Family at the passing of their daughter, Kateland "Katie" Bunch on Sunday, December 10th, 2017

Memorials & Gifts

CHAPEL RENOVATION FUND

In Honor of Gary Strider, Pat Pittillo, Mary Isley, Frank Wells, & Doris Lucas, the Christian Homemakers SS Teachers
By Christian Homemakers SS Class

ENDOWMENT FUND

In Honor of Joanne Moffitt, Betsy Kozlow & Vicki Moss

By Cheryl Freeman

In Honor of The Church Staff, Peggy Woodruff, Mary & Rob Brittain, Julia Howell, Betty Crowell, Becky Hughes, & Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

By Mary Isley

BUDGET FUND

In Memory of Bryan McDowell

By Jack & Iris Ragland

In Memory of Giles Setzer

By Jack & Iris Ragland



HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

CUMC Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

8:45 AM – Contemporary Worship

9:45 AM – Sunday School / Endowment

Q & A - FLC Conference Room

11:00 AM – Traditional Worship

4:00 PM – Youth Caroling & Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th

6:00 PM – Volleyball

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th

7:00 AM – "Walk and Worship"

9:00 AM – Good Times

5:45 PM – Pilates

7:00 PM – Open Gym

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th

10:00 AM – Wednesday Prayer Group

6:00 PM – Kids Party

7:30 PM – Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st

7:00 PM – Open Gym

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

7:30AM – Men's Coffee Break @ The Table



December

17 Kathy Allen

Amanda Julian

Amanda Dennison

Elizabeth Morton Gerringer

Brandon McNeill

Adam Wilhoit

Nathaniel Grantham

Donna Hobson

18 Peter Brisley

Dee Ellen Yates

Ernest Carroll

Sally Shuping

Caroline Becker

Dan Lyons

19 Claire LaPlante

Scott Harmon

Gregory Hiatt

20 John Bunch Jr

Frank Byerly

Megan Jarrell

Ashley Hill

Don Malpass

22 Randy Allen

Annette Yates

Laura Buhman

Spencer Patton

23 Wilma Patterson

Jennifer Parks

Hello World!

We now have simple, easy to use mobile and online ways to donate to the church with the following features:

- No hidden Fees. Credit cards are processed at 2.6%+\$0.30/ea.
- Text to give, Credit, Debit or ACH bank draft options.
- Online signup and management of automatic recurring bank draft.
- Personal pledge tracking.
- Designate donations to various specific purposes including the new endowment fund.
- Reduced administration time.
- PCI Level One Security Certified host –highest level of security handling donor information
- Online events management for meal sign up, Kids-ahoy, etc.

Our objective with this program is to engage members, enhance communications and increase donations. We want to thank everyone for your contributions to the mission of our church.

Log on to the website at centralunitedmethodist.org and click Donate.

or browse the internet at giving.ncsservices.org/ChristisCentral or Text 336-891-3722 to donate now.

Save a link to the giving page on your mobile device for quick access.

View the introduction video at YouTube by clicking at the link

<https://youtu.be/S-wcNjYI9w>