



**CENTRAL**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.

**Did You Hear The News?**

Do you like to hear the latest news? Do you like to hear good news? Sometimes in our world, good news is hard to find.

The message that God has entrusted to the church is the ultimate message of good news. That message is referred to as “the gospel.”

Do you know what the gospel is? Do you know how to articulate the gospel?

As I get older I find that I am becoming more and more committed to, and passionate about, declaring the gospel whenever and wherever I can.

I am also finding out that the older I get, the more I need the gospel, and the more I need to hear the gospel proclaimed over and over. I have learned that I will never outgrow or get beyond my need for the gospel.

The Christmas story of the birth of Jesus is at its foundation, the good news of the gospel. Here is a summary of the good news of the gospel from Matthew:

**<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.**

**<sup>20</sup> But...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”** (Matthew 1:18, 20-21)

Right in the midst of the announcement of Jesus’ birth is the good news of the gospel, **“he will save his people from their sins”** (Matthew 1:21).

The very heart of Christmas is the story that Jesus is born to save us from our sin. The baby born in a Bethlehem manger came for a purpose, to save us and redeem us. That is good news...it is the best news!

But there is more good news! Not only was Jesus born to redeem us from our sins, but also to restore us, and all of God’s creation. In Acts 3 the disciples proclaimed the gospel this way:

**<sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. <sup>21</sup> Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything.** (Acts 3:19-21a)

The good news of Jesus’ birth is both that He has come to redeem us from all things, and to restore us to all things. All of the brokenness, division, separation, wounds, disappointment, disease, and defeat, will one day end, and Jesus will restore all things, including us, back to the way God originally intended.

This Christmas season, I invite you to take hold of the good news of the gospel for yourself, receive the One who comes to redeem us of our sins, and trust that He will one day restore all things in our lives, and in our world.

This Christmas Eve, in both morning services (8:45 am and 11:00 am) and evening services (5:00 pm and 8:00 pm) we will gather to declare once more the good news of the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and our Restorer.

I look forward to telling you the good news this Christmas Eve!

Pastor J.F.



**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!

We will have an **acolyte refresher training** on Sunday, January 28th, following church. We will serve the children lunch, then walk our new servants through the process. We will also talk about expectations involved in being an acolyte. If your child is an acolyte, I need you to make every effort to have them here for this training. No need to RSVP, but please let me know if your child will not be here.

We will have a **Safe Sanctuary training** on January 14th at 2:00, in the FLC Conference room. If you are involved with youth, children’s or older adult ministry in any way, please plan to attend this meeting. Please call Heather or the office to let us know you will be attending so we can have enough materials for everyone.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**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.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** We will have two services this Sunday evening. The first will be at 5:00 pm, and the second at 8:00 pm. Bring your whole family out for this special night of worship!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!** Come let us adore Him!  
—You are loved, Your Central Youth Ministry Team

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR:** “It’s A Wonderful Life”  
A Live Radio Drama! Pick up your tickets today for this amazing and exciting production!  
Showtimes: Thursday, Dec. 28th at 7:00 pm,  
Friday, Dec. 29th at 7:00 pm,  
Saturday, Dec. 30th at 2:00 pm &  
Saturday, Dec. 30th at 7:00 pm. A percentage from ticket sales will go toward our Youth Missions!  
Thanks for your support!!



You may pick up your  
2018 Offering Envelopes in the hallway  
outside the sanctuary.

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**Budget**

**Needed to Date \$641,137.32 Received to Date \$649,168.47**

**Endowment Fund December Challenge Goal:**

**\$150,000.00**

**Cash Received : \$58,873.55 Pledges: \$168,250.00**  
**(Pledges including Insurance Policies)**



Today is the last day to sign up to have your picture made for our new church directory! Please take a moment and sign up at the table in the educational wing, located just outside of the church office. Photographs will take place Jan 2nd – Jan 9th. Having your photograph made for the directory will guarantee you a free directory, as well as a complimentary 8 x 10 photograph! If you miss signing up by Sunday, Dec. 24th, you will need to call 866-557-2253 to make your appointment to have your photograph taken. You will not be able to sign up at the church.



Sign up at the SM  
Table in the  
Narthex  
Or contact either  
Cindy or Trenten  
Contact info at  
SM table

“Commissioned”  
Stephen Ministry

Register for Training

Kickoff  
Training Meal  
January 7  
after second service  
Family Life Center

**YOUR CENTRAL CHURCH STAFF**

**Dr. J.F. Howard** Senior Pastor  
jhoward@centralunitedmethodist.org

**Joy Menius** Organist  
meniusjoy@yahoo.com

**Fred Huffstetler** Youth Pastor  
youth@centralunitedmethodist.org

**Ralph Davis** Praise Team Director  
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bevandterry@yahoo.com

**Heather Cagle** Children & Family  
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**Barbara Strider** Chancel Choir Director  
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# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:45AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Heather Cagle  
THE ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE & OPENING PRAYER  
*Derrick, Heidi, Aaron & Jessica Atwell*

WORSHIP SONGS "Jesus Messiah"  
"Oh What a Glorious Night" Praise Team

TIME OF GREETING Fred Huffstetler

TIME OF THANKSGIVING PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Micah 5:2, 4-5a Pastor J.F.

<sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace.

GIVING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY SPECIAL "Hope Was Born This Night" Praise Team  
SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2: 8 -15 (See insert)

MESSAGE Know Jesus, Know Peace  
No Jesus, No Peace Pastor J.F.

SERIES Prepare Him Room

CLOSING SONG "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" 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** - Judy Oliver

**USHERS 11:00 AM**  
**CHAIRMAN** – Dee Bulla  
**Captain** – Hal Powell, Jerry Little, Ray Hargett,  
Bill McAnulty, Dean Lail, Tony Pugh, Boyd  
Thomas, Tom Allred

**GREETERS 11:00 AM** - Don Barrett, Vicki Jarrell, Nancy Hardin,  
Amy & Alan Pugh, Nancy Little



**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 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent 11:00 AM

PRELUDE Joy Menius  
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR  
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Heather Cagle  
THE ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE & OPENING PRAYER  
*Russ, Judy and Jared Smith*

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "Angels From the Realms of Glory" #220 (UMH)  
\*A TIME OF GREETING Fred Huffstetler

TIME OF THANKSGIVING

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Micah 5:2, 4-5a Pastor J.F.

<sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace.

\* OFFERTORY "Mary Did You Know?" Lowry/Greene  
*Tom Osteen, and J.F. Howard*

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.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS Heather Cagle  
THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON) #895(UMH)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

ANTHEM "Joy To The World!" Arr. Frank Kuykendall

Joy to the world the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the world the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods repeat the sounding joy.  
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.  
Joy to the world the Lord is come.

*\* Children leave for Children's Church*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2: 8 -15 (See insert)  
MESSAGE Know Jesus, Know Peace Pastor J.F.

SERIES No Jesus, No Peace  
HYMN OF RESPONSE Prepare Him Room Pastor J.F.  
"The First Noel" #245(UMH)

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 Pastor J.F.

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Congregation please stand if you are able.*



**To The Central Church Family:** Thank you so much for all the many kind and generous expressions you have shown to us this Christmas season. You have blessed us abundantly with food, flowers, cards, well wishes, and gifts of every kind. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to each of you for all you have done. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!  
Your Church Staff: J.F., Fred, Heather, Jill, Barbara, Joy, Ralph, Camela, Bev, Larry, and Ken.



Congratulations to Matteo & Mallory Nardin at the birth of their son, Marco James Nardin Born on December 13th, 2017.  
Proud Grandparents: Jim & Wendy Kinlaw

## Memorials & Gifts

### BUDGET FUND

In Memory of Katie Bunch  
By Jack & Iris Ragland

### CHOIR FUND

In Honor of Roy & Donna Kirkman  
By William Eichelberger

### ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Norman Nance  
By Delette Self

In Memory of David Hughes  
By Becky Hughes & Family

In Memory of Harris Sanders  
By Patty Sanders

### BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Katie Bunch  
By Tammie Walker

In Memory of Mary Lou Priest  
By Larry Putnam

In Memory of Harris Sanders  
By Mike Smith

In Memory of Robert & Ida Lloyd  
By Robert & Jane Thomas

In Memory of Connie McAnulty  
By Pervis & Ann Greene

In Honor of Pastor JF & Kari Howard  
By Les & Marilyn Fowler



### HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

#### CUMC Weekly Schedule

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>

8:45 AM – Contemporary Worship

9:45 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Traditional Worship

5:00 PM – Christmas Eve Communion

8:00 PM – Christmas Eve Communion

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>

Merry Christmas!!! Office Closed

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>

Office Closed

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>

Office Open 9:00am - 12:00 noon

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM – Open Gym

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>

Office Open 9:00am - 12:00 noon

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>

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

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>

Wesley Covenant Service



### December

24 Nellie Bescher  
Charles Link  
Marlene Wooten  
Mike Allen  
Caleb Cartwright  
Grant Phillips  
Lucy Griffin

25 Jim King  
Nicole Connors

26 Richard Schoenberger  
Rick Flickinger

27 Vicki Jarrell  
Cheryl Viracola  
Jason Mandara  
Will Clauser

28 Hazel McCollum  
Drue Trotter  
Ashley Bunch

29 Rusty Hammond

30 Sam Varner  
Jamie Bigelow  
Charlie Parker

31 Luann Bullard  
Christopher Watson  
Kathy Bridgeman  
Jackson Byrd

Happy "97<sup>th</sup>" Birthday to our very own, Frances Coleman  
January 1st, 2018

### 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](http://centralunitedmethodist.org) and click **Donate**.  
or browse the internet at [giving.ncsservices.org/ChristisCentral](http://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-wcNjY19w>