



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.

Resolved In The New Year

Do you make New Year's resolutions? I do. I try taking some time each year between Christmas Day and New Year's Day and reflect on the past twelve months and dream about the next twelve months. Then I write down the things I would like to see come to fruition in the New Year. I usually go over them first thing on New Year's Day, and then I refer back to them periodically over the upcoming weeks and months.

Here are the first three resolutions that I have for 2018:

1) I am resolved to know God better in 2018.

Jonathan Edwards is my inspiration for making resolutions. His life was guided by the resolutions he made starting when he was a teenager. Jonathan Edwards wrote:

"Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will." The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians:

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ.

--Philippians 3:7-10a

That pretty much sums up the state of my soul at the start of 2018. I want to know Jesus Christ better in the New Year than ever before!

2) I am resolved to know the Gospel better in 2018.

The older I get the more I come to believe that Jesus followers never grow beyond the gospel; we are to continually grow deeper into the gospel. Do you know the Gospel?

One of the simplest presentations I am aware of comes from the Apostle Paul: ***¹Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.***

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

--1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Jesus died for our sins and was raised for our eternal salvation. That is good news!

3) I am resolved to know God's grace better in 2018.

Some years ago, I was interviewed by an elementary school student for a class project. One of the questions she asked me was, "What is your favorite Bible verse?" I thought for a moment, and then replied, "The one that best captures my passion and purpose in life is Acts 20:24." Do you know that Bible verse? It goes like this:

²⁴However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

These words from the Apostle Paul continue to inspire and guide me through life. I am committed to finishing the race and completing the task Jesus has given me, and I know that the heart of that is to "testify to the good news of God's grace."

I know my list of 2018 resolutions will get longer than just **these** three, but that's a pretty good start, don't you think?

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.

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 week-end 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.

THANK YOU: To Pastor JF & Keri for hosting our Youth Christmas Party! We had a rich and blessed time! Love, The Central Youth Group

BREAK THRU: Join us this Wednesday night for a light dinner and more... It all starts at 6:00 pm. We'll wrap things up at 7:30 pm. Great fun & fellowship.

Central Breakfast Club: Come kickoff the New Year with us this Thursday morning at 6:45 at Chick-fil-a. Come enjoy a warm breakfast and an encouraging word!

WELCOME OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR TODAY! We are blessed to have with us as our New Year's Eve speaker the Rev. Gary Allred. Gary and his wife Lou Ann retired from a distinguished career of pastoral service in the North Carolina Conference of the UMC this past June. Then, the Lord led them back home to Randolph County! Most recently Rev. Allred served a successful ministry as the senior pastor of the Hollands UMC in Raleigh, NC. Lou Ann served as the Executive Assistant to the District Superintendent. Central UMC is most blessed to have Gary and Lou Ann worshipping and serving among us. We are doubly blessed to have Gary as our preacher for today. Please pray for Rev. Allred as he proclaims God's Word today, and make sure you give him a warm Central UMC welcome! Pastor J.F. is taking some time away after Christmas at his home in Lake Junaluska. If you have a need for pastoral care when Pastor J.F. is away, please contact the church office. If you have an emergency and need to get in touch with Pastor J.F. right away, you may contact him by cell phone at (336) 830-5031.

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



PERIODICAL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Asheboro, NC 27203
Permit No. 073-440

Volume 23

Number 52

Periodicals published weekly except July 4 and December 25
Periodicals postage paid at Asheboro, NC 27203. (US 073-440)

Budget

Needed to Date \$653,708.64 Received to Date \$662,890.51

Endowment Fund December Challenge Goal:

\$150,000.00

Cash Received : \$72,745.55 Pledges: \$175,450.00
(Pledges including Insurance Policies)

UMW NEWS FOR JANUARY 2018

SUSANNAH WESLEY---**MONDAY, JANUARY 8** at 1:30pm in the PARLOR
FOLLOWERS---**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28** at 2:30pm in the FLC CONFERENCE ROOM

****UMW UNIT MEETING****

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28---3:00pm to 4:30pm in the FLC CONFERENCE ROOM
(Officers will provide refreshments)

STEPHEN MINISTRY
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
fretmeister61@gmail.com

Jill Akins Church Office Manager
jakins@centralunitedmethodist.org

Bev Lawrence HandBell Choir Director
bevandterry@yahoo.com

Heather Cagle Children & Family Ministry Director
hcagle@centralunitedmethodist.org

Camela Nixon Day School Director
dayschool@centralunitedmethodist.org

Barbara Strider Chancel Choir Director
bapstrider@triad.rr.com

300 South Main Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203
Phone (336) 629-1425 • Fax (336) 629-6550
Youth Line (336) 629-0962 • Day-School Phone (336) 629-5887
www.centralunitedmethodist.org

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday December 31 st 2017	First Sunday after Christmas	8:45AM
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		
WORSHIP SONGS	"Here I Am To Worship" "I'll Fly Away"	Heather Cagle Praise Team Heather Cagle
TIME OF GREETING		
TIME OF THANKSGIVING		
PRAYER		
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	Isaiah 43:19	Rev. Gary Allred
<i>¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.</i>		
GIVING OF GIFTS		
OFFERTORY SPECIAL	"Will You Take Him With You"	Praise Team
SCRIPTURE	2 Timothy 4:1-8 (See insert)	Rev. Gary Allred
MESSAGE	Invest Your Life	Rev. Gary Allred
THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER (in unison): Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer: I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me in the struggle for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.		
CLOSING SONG	"All My Hope"	Praise Team

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Leader: May our God, who establishes covenant relationships with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always. May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross, bring you peace. May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and forever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!
People: Amen.

USHERS 8:45 AM

Tammie Walker, Tim Dunn,
Ross & Debbie Reaves



CUMC Attendance

December 24th

Contemporary Worship 109

Traditional Worship 148

Total Worship 257

Sunday School 94



GREETERS 8:45 AM - Cynthia & Randy Allen

USHERS 11:00 AM

CHAIRMAN – David Allen

Captain – Roy Kirkman, Mike Chewning,
Dr. Charles Betts, Worth Winslow, Van Rich,

Talmadge Baker, Eddie Pugh, Bill Croom, Tal Hardin, Dr. Kelly Harris

GREETERS 11:00 AM - Gary Strider, Wayne Thomas, Sara Delk, Wanda Tatum
Mike & Char Fisher



The Endowment Fund Founders Committee would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the members of Central who have given, pledged, or plan to give. We ask that you prayerfully, boldly and expectantly continue to lift up the Endowment Fund.

II Corinthians 9:15 states that whoever sows generously will also reap generously. If we continue to sow the seed for future generations and leave a legacy here at Central, God will PROVIDE and give us a great harvest! Please remember all gifts to the Endowment Fund benefit Central and that in the initial stages,

we need as much cash infusion as possible so that the principal can begin creating the interest we need. The Fund is a marathon not a sprint, so may we follow the words of Paul in Hebrews 12 and let us run the race marked out for us with perseverance and let us always fix our eyes on Jesus, The Author and Perfector of our Faith. Happy New Year, God Bless You and to God Be the Glory!!!

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday December 31 st 2017	First Sunday after Christmas	11:00 AM
PRELUDE		
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR		
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		
*HYMN OF PRAISE	"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"	#218 (UMH)
*A TIME OF GREETING		
TIME OF THANKSGIVING		
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	Isaiah 43:19	Rev. Gary Allred
<i>¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.</i>		
* OFFERTORY		
DOXOLOGY		
PRAYER FOR OTHERS		
THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)		
<i>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.</i>		

ANTHEM "In This Very Room" Ron and Carol Harris
In this very room, there's quite enough love for one like me,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me,
and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.
And in this very room, there's quite enough love for all of us.
And in this very room, there's quite enough joy for all of us,
And there's quite enough hope, and quite enough power to chase away any gloom.
For Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.
And in this very room, there's quite enough love for all the world.
And in this very room, there's quite enough joy for all the world.
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room

** Children leave for Children's Church*

SCRIPTURE 2 Timothy 4:1-8 (See insert)
MESSAGE Invest Your Life Rev. Gary Allred

THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER (in unison):

Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:
I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me in the struggle for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE "What Child Is This" #219(UMH)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Leader: May our God, who establishes covenant relationships with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always. May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross, bring you peace. May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and forever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

People: Amen.

**Congregation please stand if you are able.*

Special "Thank You" to Lisa Garrison our organist for today.

Memorials & Gifts

BUDGET FUND
In Memory of Katie Bunch
By Bill & Shirley McAnulty
In Honor of Staff
By Bill & Shirley McAnulty

BUILDING FUND
In Memory of Katie Bunch
By Talmadge & Sara Baker
In Honor of Pastor JF
By Rusty & Alice Hammond

ENDOWMENT FUND
In Memory of Katie Bunch
By Jerry & Wanda Bowman
In Honor of Aaron & Lisa Garrison
By The Wesley Class

CHAPEL RENOVATION FUND
In Honor of Rusty Hammond, Fred Huffstetler, & Ken Hicks
By The Wesley Class



HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

CUMC Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

8:45 AM – Contemporary Worship

9:45 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Traditional Worship

MONDAY, JANUARY 1st

Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2nd

5:45 PM – Pilates

7:00 PM – Open Gym

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd

10:00 AM – Wednesday Morning Prayer

1:00 PM – Chair Chicks

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4th

5:30 PM – Trustees Meeting

7:00 PM – Open Gym

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6th

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



January

- 01 Frances Coleman
Bill Croom
Tuffy Henderson
Jack Mitchell
Sandy Pope
Thomas Robinson
Carolina Prochnau
Debra Setzer
Christopher Thompson
- 02 Julia Howell
Sadie Richey
- 03 Ann Graves
Ellen Hamilton
Rodney Tyler
Kenny Marion
- 04 Nancy Baucom
Lauren Freeman
Laurel Kingston
Cynthia Allen
Sydney Hayes
Margaret Phillips
Whitney Shevlin
- 06 Ryan Cranford
James Foster
Jessica Vet
Frank Wells

If you missed 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.

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-wcNjY19w>