

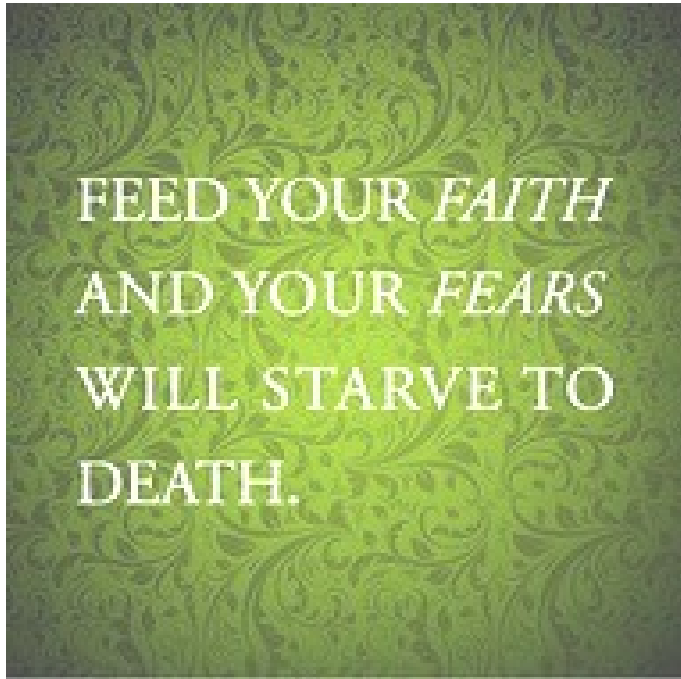
# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.centralumcmonroe.org

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT THIS WEEK!**

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**January 7, 2018**



Happy New Year!

Did you make any resolutions for 2018? Roughly half of us made some kind of promise that we hope to fulfill in the next year. Many of these resolutions have to do with our health and others are intent on creating a new habit or stopping a bad habit.

While these resolutions may be good for us, four out of five people who make New Year's resolutions will eventually break them. In fact, a third won't even make it to the end of January.

**A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.**

If being more positive was one of your resolutions, forget those last two statistics.

There is one resolution that many of us made at some point in our lives. It was more than a simple statement that we conjured up and have given little thought to after a few months. It was a promise to be a follower of Jesus. The implications of this promise are more weighty than the thoughts of dropping five pounds. This commitment is all consuming. It comes along with plenty of temptations, and honestly, there are times when we believe that we have failed.

A friend of mine shared this quote from author Dallas Willard:

"Jesus told us explicitly what to do. We have a manual, just like the car owner. He told us, as disciples, to make disciples. Not converts to Christianity, nor to some particular "faith and practice." He did not tell us to arrange for people to "get in" or "make the cut" after they die, nor to eliminate the various brutal forms of injustice, nor to produce and maintain "successful" churches. These are all good things, and he had something to say about all of them. They will certainly happen if—but only if—we do what he told us to be and do. If we just do this, it will little matter what else we do or do or do."

It is good to be reminded of how we are to live into the promise we made to God. Our goal is not simply to "save our own skin" but to help others know the love of God. We are building a kingdom, not merely a church. Each time we utter the words of that well-known prayer, 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done,' we are recommitting ourselves to our promise to be a disciple. That is a resolution worthy of our full attention.

I look forward to a year of joining you in doing great things for God's Kingdom.

Danny

## **CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF**

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**Phone: 704-289-3186 Fax: 704-289-3187**

**Senior Pastor: Reverend Danny Leonard**

**Associate Pastor: Reverend Laura Hamrick**

# THIS WEEKS ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BE OUR GUEST! BRING A GUEST IN JANUARY!

**Kids** who bring a first time guest with them to Sunday School, Church or the January 20th PJ and Pancake Game Night will receive two Free Chick-fil-A Kid's Meal Cards. **Youth** who bring a first time guest with them to Sunday School, Church or to a Life Group Meeting will get two free Chick-fil-A Treat cards. Limited Quantities. First come, first served. Go to the bulletin board next to Central Hall to get your January Guest Special Form and redeem your card.



## STEPHEN MINISTER CARE

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We're talking about that undistracted, full attention kind of listening. That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others. We need more Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the valley of a life crisis. Will you consider serving in this way? Interviews are the week of January 22. Training begins on February 13. For more information, contact Rev. Laura Hamrick (704-289-3186; [revlbhamrick@gmail.com](mailto:revlbhamrick@gmail.com)).

## CENTRAL FRIENDS

Central Friends will meet Thursday, January 11, 2018, in the Hospitality Room. Bring a dish and join us for fellowship and lunch. Open to all members and/or friends of members. The more the merrier!

## PLEASE REMEMBER WITH YOUR PRAYERS

The Campbell children (friends of Rena McGee-Helms), Grace Medlin, Cindy Malone (Angie Mallard's sister), Clara Wiggins & family, Belinda Sisk, Andrew Young, Shannon Neal, Elaine Hall, Patti Price, Joel Kurtz, Amy Helms, Gail Klein, Evan White-Parker A1C, Lloyd Ratliff, Barbara Murray, Pat Johnson, Bob Sullivan, Jo & Julian Bell, and Jason Hill.

## THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL



**Sunday, 1/7**

10:00 am Blood Drive - FLC  
12:00 pm Central Kids Family Mtg. - Hospitality Rm.

**Monday, 1/8**

1:30 pm Faith, Hope & Charity Circle - Hospitality Rm.  
6:00 pm Boy Scouts Board of Review - Pathfinders Rm.  
6:00 pm Upward Practice - FLC  
6:30 pm Central Squares - Hospitality Rm.  
7:00 pm UMW Board Meeting - Library

**Tuesday, 1/9**

6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting - Library  
6:00 pm Upward Practice - FLC  
6:30 pm Knitting Girls  
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday, 1/10**

10:00 am Soul Food - Hospitality Rm.  
6:00 pm Celebration Singers - Choir Rm.  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Choir Rm.

**Thursday, 1/11**


7:30am Thursday's Men's Group - Hilltop Restaurant  
9:30 am Children's Weekday Board Meeting - Library  
12:00 pm Central Friends - Hospitality Rm.  
6:00 pm Upward Practice - FLC  
6:15 pm Handbells - Sanctuary

**Friday, 1/12**

2:30 pm L.I.F.E. Crafters - Library

**Saturday, 1/13**

9:00 am Upward Games - FLC  
9:00 am Brass Rehearsal  
10:00 am InnerChange Vocals - Choir Room  
11:00 am InnerChange Instrument - Central Hall




***The Altar Flowers in the Sanctuary Today***

*To the Glory of God and In Honor of*

*Jo H. Bell who celebrated her 93rd birthday January 4th.*

*Given by her husband and children*



## OUR FAITHFULNESS - DECEMBER 31, 2017

**ATTENDANCE TOTAL:** Combined Brunch Worship **104**

<b>TITHES AND OFFERINGS DECEMBER 31:</b>	<u>WEEK</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Budget	\$13,006	\$780,395
Actual	<u>\$14,469</u>	<u>\$717,132</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 1,464</b>	<b>(\$ 63,263)</b>