

Pastor Lanny's Lyrics:

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sisters! This week we have been considering Matthew 18:15-20, in which Jesus outlines a very specific process of how to resolve disputes in the church and live at peace with one another, starting with approaching each other one on one for deeper understanding. In Matthew 18:20, at the end of detailing this process, Jesus says, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." In other words, it is in the midst of a community of reconciliation that Jesus himself dwells. It is the nature of God to be in such community.

This is so important to remember in these times. With all we have been through the past few months and now with the presidential and general elections coming up in November, we need to be aware that there are forces in the world that seek to divide us for the purpose of giving them more power. We live in a participative democracy and we do take the blessing and responsibility of that seriously. There are significant decisions about the future of our community, state, and nation to be made. And we pray for God's guidance with that.

However, we need to be aware, as Christians, that our **ULTIMATE** allegiance is to Jesus Christ and each other as part of the body of Christ, not a particular politician or political party. Our call in Christ, is to work on the unity of the body for what we share: the blessed status as beloved children of God. As the Apostle Paul says in 1Corinthians 1:10: "Now, I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose."

Now, does that mean we will always agree about everything, including politics? No. What it does mean is that what unites us, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is stronger and more **CENTRAL** to our identity than anything that could try to divide us. I'm so glad that **CHRIST IS CENTRAL AT CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!** We have already begun to see commercials, social media posts, emails, and text messages that clamor for our ultimate allegiance to specific politicians and political parties. We will see more and more in the two months to come and they will become more and more aggressive and polarizing. I encourage you, church, especially in this season, to hold to what matters most: our connection in Jesus Christ. Let us continue to be the kind of loving community, focused on Christ, trusting his promise, that where two or three are gathered in his name, he is here among us! Thanks be to God! Amen.



DRIVE-IN
Celebrate Christ Church
with Central
Sunday, September 13 @ 9:00am
Transmitting on FM 87.9
Please stay in your cars Building will remain closed

Feeling isolated? | Longing to Connect?



Central Connect Groups

Deepen your Connection in Christ with Central Connect Groups

Introducing Connect Groups; a way to connect with friends and be encouraged in your walk with Christ. Weekly in-home or online meetings with group of 8-10 people forming now.

Contact Sigrid Mottram to sign up with any questions
704-635-8685 | smottram@centralumcmonroe.org



Song Lyrics for Drive-In Church

If you would you like to be able to sing along with the worship music on Sundays during drive-in worship, please email James O'Dell at jaodell4335@gmail.com and he will send you .pdf files for the songs we will be singing. If you don't have an email and want to be able to sing along please call Shannon in the church office at 704-289-3186 and we can get you a copy to have for the upcoming service.



Prayer Requests

(All prayer requests will be kept on for 2 weeks unless requested to stay on)

Students, Parents & School Staff

Wint & Mary Lou Holtzclaw

Unspoken

Jason Hill

Bob Sullivan

Maxine Wally

Larry Shell

Koy Dawkins

Judith Rogers

Ellie Walden

Dean Davidson

Our Bishop Paul Leeland

District Superintendent Laura Auten

The Family of Ken Dickens

Our President & Vice President

Our Pastors

Ricky Black

Ron Williams

Joan Haynes

Please call the Church Office 704-289-3186 or email skeesler@centralumcmonroe.org to add your prayer requests. If you have a confidential prayer request, please email llancaster@centralumcmonroe.org or smottram@centralumcmonroe.org.

Our Faithfulness

Week of September 6, 2020

Tithes & Offering	MTD	YTD
Received	\$ 11,018	\$ 456,892
Expenses	(3,378)	(460,168)
Difference	\$ 7,640	\$ (3,277)

NOTE: Numbers in **RED** indicate the Church is experiencing a shortfall in Finances.

There are 3 ways to give

Text to Give

(instructions to the bottom right)

Give online

(Go to Central UMC website)

Mail to the church

(see address below)

The best way to give your tithes and offerings is to give securely through "Text 2 Give" or online at "centralumcmonroe.org" (please see main Constant Contact page for link to instructions). If you would rather mail your tithes and offerings our address is 801 S Hayne St, Monroe, 28112, Attention: Debbie. We appreciate your faithfulness to your church in these times as our bills and expenses are ongoing.



The Task Force has decided to change the keypad code to enter the building. This is to help keep everyone safe. We need to know who is entering the building so we can do our best to keep it sanitized. If you have any questions, please see the new building use policy that is in affect currently. The new policy has been sent out to the congregation via Constant Contact (email blast) and via mail to those that don't have internet access. If you need a paper copy, please give us a call and we can mail it to you. If you need to come into the church building, please give the front office a call at 704.289.3186 or you can ring the buzzer during office hours (8:30 to 5 M-Th).



There are several ways to give to Chalk it Up to Love – Central this year! You can go online and buy from Amazon and they will ship it right to the church! You can buy items and drop them off at the church during office hours (or make arrangements with Virginia or Linda). Or you can donate monetarily and send it in to the church with your tithes & offerings and designated what you want given to Chalk it Up to Love – Central.

The Mobile Blood Drive

Antibody Testing and COVID-19 Safety



oneblood
Share your power.

THIS SUNDAY
September 13, 2020
9:30am to 2:30pm

Our next scheduled blood drive is **this coming Sunday, September 13**, from 9:30am to 2:30pm. We are using the Big Red Bus as before. You will need to wear a mask. If you do not have one, one will be provided. The bathroom will be available in the FLC. Lucas Paschal has asked to host the blood drive. One Blood has a scholarship program. The top 5 student collectors receive a \$1000 scholarship. Let's step up to the plate and help Lucas win this scholarship. One Blood also gifts the donor. They will also screen the blood to see if you have Coronavirus antibodies. That could indicate if you had the virus and had no symptoms. Many of us are curious about that.

One Blood **may** contact you about an appointment. Sign up to donate by clicking anywhere on this graphic. Questions or concerns call or text **Irene Ward @ 9803280520**.

TEXT 2 GIVE INSTRUCTIONS

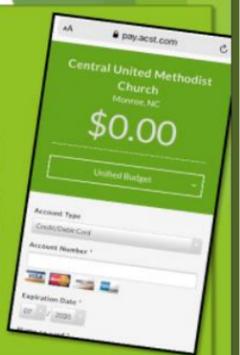
1

For recipient/number type: **73256** at the top of text message. In the message type in: centralumcmonroe.org. Press send. You will get a text message back with a link to click. Click on link.



2

Enter Amount, Select Fund you wish to contribute to, Account Type, Account Number, Expiration Date, Name on Card or Account, Address, City, State, Postal Code, and email address. Click Give at the bottom of the screen.



3

Once completed you will receive a text message acknowledging. You will also receive an email receipt for contribution. Please contact Debbie Eggleston if you should have any questions at deggleston@centralumcmonroe.org or at the office at 704-289-3186.