



Connect at Central

God • Each Other • Community

SCAN
TO GIVE
QR
Code



Pastor Lanny's Lyrics...

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar...
O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright...
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light¹

I have long been inspired by the mysterious magi/wise men/kings/seers who seemingly appear out of nowhere with gifts for Jesus. They are a reminder that Jesus, Emmanuel (God with us), comes for all people, not just a chosen few. They also remind us that the natural response when we come into the presence of a king is to bring gifts. The mysterious magi from the East arrive with Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, Gold, symbolic of Jesus' Kingship, Frankincense, symbolic of his Royal Priesthood, interceding for us to God the Heavenly Father, Myrrh, a spice used in ancient times to anoint the dead bodies of loved ones to prepare them for burial, pointing us to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us and for our salvation. Fantastic gifts!

As we have been blessed this year and in all the seasons of our lives, we are invited to bless Jesus with a special gift. After all, it is HIS birthday. I want to thank you for your faithfulness to the Mission and Ministries of Central United Methodist Church this year and in years past. Your prayers, witness through service, and financial gifts literally make our Mission and Ministries possible.

Would you consider a special year-end gift to Central? Every dollar you give in tithes, offerings, and special gifts for the glory of Christ helps us meet our Mission and Ministry goals for the year. That means Connecting real people with the life changing experience of Jesus' love. Central is a place and people of CONNECTION, Connecting with God, Connecting with Each Other, and Connecting with our Community. In addition to our ministries of worship, forming disciples of Jesus, and congregational care, we support over 40 outreach programs in our community (including the most recent Mobile Food Pantry in which we served over 200 families). Would you join Janet and I and share a special gift to the glory of Christ through Central United Methodist Church? May the perfect Light and Love of Jesus, Emmanuel, be yours this year once again!

Lanny

¹ We Three Kings by John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Welcome this morning! We are glad you are here! Remember to fill out your *Connect Card* and put in the offering plate!

You're invited to a Farewell Celebration for Jamie Bryson

Today following 11:00 am Service

Please join the SPPRC for a reception honoring Mr. Jamie Bryson. Come and share a piece of cake and thank Jamie for all that he has contributed to Central! The reception will be held in the Hospitality Room on December 17th following the 11:00 am service.

Birthday Club

Birthday Club will meet at Logan's this Thursday, December 21st at 11:30 am. Nancy Gustafson is the hostess. Join us to celebrate our December birthdays!



People,
Look
East!

JOIN US
TOMORROW
EVENING!

Monday, December 18, 2023 | 7:00pm
Central UMC Monroe's Sanctuary

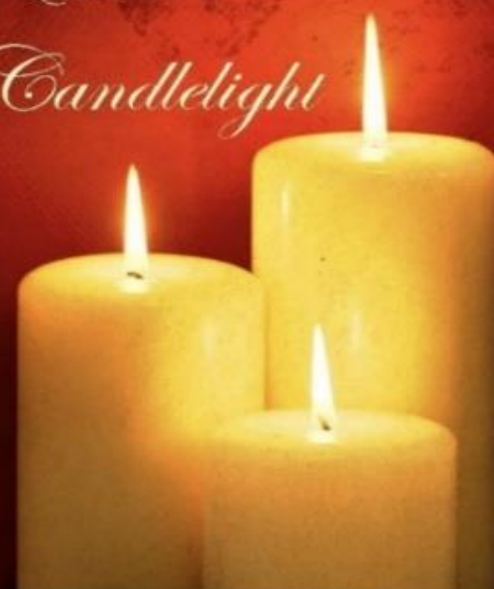
A CLEMENTS MUSIC CONCERT

Lessons
and Carols

Sunday, December 24
10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight

Sunday, December 24, 2023
7:00 pm
Central UMC Sanctuary



Prayer Requests

Family of Helen Scarpantoni (Ruth Wall's sister) | Charles & Judy Sanders | Scott Foley
John & Kim Cattie | Cynthia Smith | Shan Reeder | Carol Reeder | Linda Burris
Rev. Sigrid Mottram in her new endeavor | Unspoken | Staff | Charles Magee
Jon Lundin | Sue Brown | Linda Thomas | Lori Romolo | Our Church | Ruth Creech
Shirley Alexandra | Bill Phifer | Mike Taylor | Melony Cordero | Jodie & Family
Emily & Family | Mark & John Patrus | Matthew Burnette/Family
Children of St. Jude/Shriners Hospitals | Victims of War/Disasters || Randy Brabham
Janet Holden (Fred Duncan's sister) | Unspoken | Christmas Play | Dinner Church Leadership
Jonathan Mackay | Parent's house sells Sandra Glenn | The Majewski Family | Unspoken
Troy Gamble Family | Nettie Dean | John Goetz
(Prayer Request's stay on the above list for 2 weeks unless requested
to be put on the "ongoing prayer requests")



Ongoing Prayer Requests

Glenda Moon | Phyllis Matthews | Donna Cranford | Carolyn Kindley | Dillon Brantley
Shauna Leonard (Kallie Clement's sister) | Jonathan Mackay | Sandy Deskins | Nancy Snyder
Addie Laney | The Matson Family | Barbara Pfau | Martha Rollins | Betty Harkness
Barbara Klutz (Elaine Hall's sister) | Margaret Furr | Elaine Lambert | Andrew Lanier
Brian Outen | Kelli Whitaker | Dixon & Elaine Hall | Rosey Olsen | Mary Jones
Mitchell Taylor (Carolyn Kindley's nephew) | Chris Wiggins | Ruth Mackay
Vanessa Deese & Family (Linda's daughter in law) | Jimmie Hargett
Joel Kurtz | Kappy Giblin | Darlene Childers (Doris Campbell's sister)
Barbara Horack (Shelley Loberger's mother) | Eldoris Loberger (Dale's mother)
Our President | Our Governor | Our Military | Our Country
Bishop Ken Carter | DS Rev. Beth Crissman | Central Staff
Please call the Church Office at 704.289.3186 or email skeesler@centralumcmonroe.org to add or
remove prayer requests. If you have confidential prayer request, please email
llancaster@centralumcmonroe.org or smottram@centralumcmonroe.org.

Attendance

Week of 12/10/23-497

8:45 am Service-51
Sunday School/Reception-65
11:00 am Service-72
11:00 am Online-233
Dinner Church-62
Youth Retreat-14



December

Beth Hargett & Libby Helms

Ushers

8:45 am Contemporary Service
12/17- Amy Garrison & Denise Rumley
12/31- Cheri Barker & Erica Kirby
11:00 am Traditional Service
12/17-Hank Baucom & James Clements
and David & Kalli Clements
12/24 (am)-Jack & Jackson Hargett and
Dale & Shelley Loberger
12/24 (pm)-Robert & Linda Hinson
and David & Kalli Clements
12/31-David & Kalli Clements and
James & Grace Clements

Central Squares Men's Group

Central Squares Men's Group will meet
next in January on Saturday the 6th. We
start cooking breakfast at 7:30 am with a
devotion at 8:00 am. Come join us for
breakfast, fellowship, and devotion. For
any questions or for more information
contact Eric Shupe at 803.370.3693 or
Gabe Febus at 704.774.0342.

United Women in Faith

Lessie Anne Circle meets next on
Tuesday, January 2nd. Call Mary Engel
with any questions at 704.226.1176.
Faith, Hope & Charity Circle's next
meeting is on Monday, January 8th. Call
or text Nancy Gustafson for more
information 704.733.8686.
New Beginnings Circle will meet again
on Monday, January 15th. Contact Linda
Deese at 704.219.7199 for more info.
Grace & Mercy Circle please contact
Donna Young at 704.226.5954 if you
have any questions or you need more
information.



UCCA Ministry Food Pantry Needs List

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Baked beans | Crackers | Pork & beans |
| Black beans | Flour | Potatoes |
| Black Eyed peas | Great Northern beans | Ravioli |
| Boxed meals | Green beans | Refried beans |
| Canned condensed milk | Jelly | Rice |
| Canned meats | Kidney beans | Spaghetti noodles |
| Canned soups | Kool-Aid drink packets | Spaghetti O's |
| Carrots | Lima beans | Spaghetti sauce |
| Cereal/Grits/Oatmeal | Macaroni & cheese | Sugar |
| Cereal bars | Mixed fruits | Sweet peas |
| Chili Beans | Mixed vegetables | Tea bags |
| Coffee | Pancake mix | Tomatoes |
| Corn | Peaches | Tomato sauce |
| Cornbread Mix | Peanut butter | Tuna |
| | Pineapples | |

We are continuing to collect food (see list above) for Union County Crisis Assistance for
the month of December! We are also collecting monetary donations as well. Please put
December Shareback in the memo line for all checks. If there are any questions please
contact the church office at 704.289.3186.



TODAY is the
last day to order
your Poinsettia

\$12
each

Fill out the order form located in the Narthex,
in Central Hall or at the Crossroads, click the link
in the main e-blast page OR call the church office
704.289.3186 or email
skeesler@centralumcmonroe.org to
order your Poinsettia!

2024 Central UMC Calendars



The Youth and Music Ministries have teamed up
to create a 2024 Central UMC Calendar. Enjoy
scenes from the life of Central all year long while
keeping up with important dates of the Liturgical
Church Year. Calendars are \$25 each are available between
church services, from in the church office during office hours
or email Julie julie@centralumcmonroe.org or Jamie
jamie@centralumcmonroe.org. All the proceeds benefit the
ongoing Music and Youth Ministries.

Soul Food Bible Study start back on Thursday, January 4th.

December at Central

SUNDAY 12/17

8:45 am Contemporary-Central Hall
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Hospitality Room Reserved
11:00 am "The True Gift"-Sanctuary
11:00 am Livestream Worship-Online
12:00 pm Farewell Reception-Hospitality Room
3:00 pm Central Youth Christmas Party
3:00 pm Jr. Youth Christmas Party

MONDAY 12/18

ALL DAY Pastor Sigrid's Sabbath/Pastor Lanny on call
5:00 pm Newsletter/Bulletin Submission Deadline
2:00 pm Sanctuary reserved until concert
7:00 pm Nathan Clements Christmas Concert-Sanctuary

TUESDAY 12/19

9:30 am Worship Planning
11:00 am Staff Meeting
4:00 pm Knitting Girls-Library
6:00 pm Dinner Church (Team 2)-FLC

THURSDAY 12/21

8:00 am Men's Breakfast Group-The Derby
9:30 am Stephen Ministers Meeting-Room 114
11:30 am Birthday Club-Logan's Restaurant
1:00 pm Dancing Club-FLC
4:00 pm Common Heart-Getting Ahead Graduation-FLC
7:00 pm Union Big Book-Scout Hut

FRIDAY 12/22

ALL DAY Pastor Sigrid on call/Pastor Lanny's Sabbath

SUNDAY 12/24 Christmas Eve

10:00 am Traditional Worship-Sanctuary
10:00 am Livestream Worship-Online
7:00 pm Candlelight Service-Sanctuary

MONDAY 12/25 Christmas Day-Happy Birthday Jesus!

ALL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

ALL DAY Pastor Sigrid on call

TUESDAY 12/26

ALL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 pm Dinner Church (Team 3)-FLC

THURSDAY 12/28

8:00 am Men's Breakfast Group-The Derby
7:00 pm Union Big Book-Scout Hut

FRIDAY 12/29

ALL DAY Pastor Sigrid on call/Pastor Lanny's Sabbath

SUNDAY 12/31 New Year's Eve

8:45 am Contemporary-Central Hall
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship-Sanctuary
11:00 am Livestream Worship-Online

