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# Connect at Central

God • Each Other • Community

January  
7<sup>th</sup>  
Newsletter

## Pastor Lanny's Lyrics...



"In the beginning, God created..."  
The gift of time  
What an extravagant gift it is!  
Time to walk with our Lord Together  
Time to see and hear and taste  
Time to create  
Time to do God's Work  
Time to contemplate the Real  
All while being  
Held and energized  
By Love  
Always, we begin again.

We have been given the Gift of The Sacred Now. That is why it is called the Present. We have learned and gained experience in the past. We plan for the future. But today, now, is the gift of the Lord for incarnating his Love. Come, journey with us in our New Worship Series, "The Sacred Now" as we learn how to fully inhabit God's Sacred Now for us!

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

## Happy New Year 2024!

### Central is hosting a Mobile Food Pantry



**COMMON  
HEART**  
a small revolution of kindness

### Tuesday - January 9<sup>th</sup>

Central will host another Mobile Food Pantry with Common Heart on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Come on out and help us feed our neighbors! Starting at 8:00 am volunteers will set up tables, pack food items, load food items into neighbors' vehicles, and pack up after the pantry is complete. We will be done by 12:00 pm at the latest. If you available to help please call the church office 704.289.3186 or you can email [skeesler@centralumcmonroe.org](mailto:skeesler@centralumcmonroe.org).

## IT'S A PARTY!

The *Sonshine Class* is sponsoring a County Wide Adult Special Needs Bingo Party on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm in the Family Life Center.

For more information or to volunteer contact Sandy Deskins at 704.289.6210 (please leave a message) or Leslie Sanders (via text) at 704.254.6418.

### MOBILE BLOOD DRIVE

See the main email blast page for the online sign-up link, contact Irene Ward or call the church office to schedule a time



Sunday | January 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Give Blood. Give Life.



Contact Irene Ward at 980.328.0520 with any questions

 **Connect  
at Central**  
God • Each Other • Community



704.289.3186

801 S Hayne Street  
Monroe, NC 28110



[centralumcmonroe.org](http://centralumcmonroe.org)



[cumcmonroe](https://www.facebook.com/cumcmonroe)



## Birthday Club



Birthday Club will meet at Southern Roots on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Hostesses are Nan Thomas & Shannon Neal. If you want your name removed from the list or want to be added, please contact Nancy Gustafson at 704.733.8686.

## Grief Share<sup>®</sup> at Central UMC

A new 6-week class will  
start on Wednesday  
February 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

If you are interested in joining the class,  
contact Bill McKee  
at 337.288.3539 or [bmckee302@gmail.com](mailto:bmckee302@gmail.com) or  
sign-up on the sheet at the Crossroads.

## Celebration Singers

For children from 4 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm



We meet in Room 112 on the Children's Hall!  
Contact Barbara Pfau at 704.282.6770 with questions  
or if you need more information.

## January ShareBack

### The Chuck Wagon Blessing Box

#### Items needed:

Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Ham, Vienna Sausages, etc.)  
Canned soups, Beanie Weenies or Chili  
Canned pasta with meat (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)  
Peanut butter and alternatives (any type of nut butter)  
Jelly (plastic jar)  
Instant grit or oatmeal packets  
Crackers/granola bars/protein bars  
Individual serving size items  
Single-serve dried fruit/trail mix/nuts

For questions or more information, please call  
Cheri Barker 704.242.4851 or Jean Semken 704.301.0435





# Prayer Requests

The Family of Virginia Bjorlin | Steve Blalock | Jon Lundin | Our Church's search for new staff | Charles Magee | Andrew Forsyth | Gary Caudill  
Risha Edwards | Praying for Pastor Sigrid and her new journey | Unspoken | John & Kim Cattie | Shan Reeder | Carol Reeder | Pat Stewart | Our Church  
Dinner Church | Pastoral Staff | My Family | Unspoken | Bill Phifer | Mike Taylor | Melony Cordero | Jodie & Family | Emily & Family  
The Family of Dillon Brantley | Matthew Burnette & Family | Joe Blanton | Children of St. Jude/Shriners Hospitals | Victims of War/Disasters  
Mark & John Patrus | Sam Keesler (Shannon's father-in-law) | Kristin | Roman Zabaleta | Cynthia Smith | Staff | Joey | Jacob Williams | Jonathan Mackay  
Betsy Griffin | Charles & Judy Sanders | Betty Lathan | Phyllis Matthews | Those celebrating alone | Kevin Walker | Curtis Outen  
*(Prayer Request's stay on the above list for 2 weeks unless requested to be put on the "ongoing prayer requests")*

## Ongoing Prayer Requests

Linda Burris | Glenda Moon | Donna Cranford | Carolyn Kindley | Addie Laney | Shauna Leonard (Kallie Clement's sister) | Sandy Deskins | Nancy Snyder  
The Matson Family | Barbara Pfau | Martha Rollins | Betty Harkness | Margaret Furr | Barbara Klutz (Elaine Hall's sister) | 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@centralumcmmonroe.org](mailto:skeesler@centralumcmmonroe.org) to add or remove prayer requests.  
If you have confidential prayer request, please email [llancaster@centralumcmmonroe.org](mailto:llancaster@centralumcmmonroe.org).

### Attendance

#### Week of 12/31/23-423

8:45 am Service-38  
Sunday School-39  
11:00 am Service-74  
11:00 am Online-212  
Dinner Church-60

### GET THE WORD OUT...

Have something you want promoted here in the newsletter?



Send details, a graphic and/or color ideas with your contact information to Shannon in the church office by email [skeesler@centralumcmmonroe.org](mailto:skeesler@centralumcmmonroe.org) or by phone 704.289.3186. Deadline for submission is Monday at 5:00 pm for the upcoming Sunday's newsletter.

### January

Beth Hargett & Libby Helms



### Ushers

#### 8:45 am Service

1/7-Amy Garrison & Erica Kirby  
1/14-Cheri Barker & Denise Rumley  
1/21- Amy Garrison & Erica Kirby  
1/28- Cheri Barker & Denise Rumley

#### 11:00 am Service

1/7-Ken Neese & Jimmy Parker and Jack & Jackson Hargett  
1/14-Matt & Nancy Gustafson and John & Mary Ann Burns  
1/21-Hank & Addie Baucom and Millie Baucom & David Clements  
1/28-Dale & Shelley Loberger and Robert & Lina Hinson

## CENTRAL CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 1/7 Baptism of the Lord/Epiphany Sunday

8:45 am Contemporary-Central Hall  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Traditional Worship-Sanctuary  
11:00 am Livestream Worship-Online  
3:30 pm Central Youth  
4:00 pm Jr. Youth

### MONDAY 1/8

12:00 pm Civitans-Scout Hut  
1:30 pm Faith Hope & Charity Circle-Hospitality  
5:30 pm UWF Executive Board Meeting-Hospitality

### TUESDAY 1/9

9:00 am Mobile Food Pantry-FLC Parking Lot  
4:00 pm Knitting Girls-Library  
5:00 pm Community Faith Nurses-Room 115  
6:00 pm Dinner Church (Team 2)-FLC

### WEDNESDAY 1/10

6:00 pm Celebration Singers-Room 112  
6:00 pm InnerChange-Choir Room  
6:30 pm Finance Meeting-Library  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir-Choir Room

### THURSDAY 1/11

8:00 am Men's Breakfast Group-The Derby  
NO Soul Food this week  
7:00 pm Union Big Book-Scout Hut

### FRIDAY 1/12

ALL DAY Pastor Lanny's Sabbath/Rev. Hinson on call

### SATURDAY 1/13

9:00 am Family Life Center Reserved until Noon

### SUNDAY 1/14

8:45 am Contemporary-Central Hall  
9:30 am **Mobile Blood Drive**-FLC Parking Lot  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Traditional Worship-Sanctuary  
11:00 am Livestream Worship-Online

5:00 pm Central Youth Group Lock- In-FLC  
**MONDAY 1/15 MLK Holiday**  
ALL DAY Church Office Closed

6:00 pm New Beginnings Circle-Hospitality  
**TUESDAY 1/16**  
9:00 am Newsletter/Bulletin Submission Deadline  
5:00 pm Community Faith Nurses-Room 115  
6:00 pm Dinner Church (Team 3)-FLC

**\*To add your event to the calendar please call the church office 704.289.3186 or email [skeesler@centralumcmmonroe.org](mailto:skeesler@centralumcmmonroe.org)**

## United Women in Faith

**Faith, Hope & Charity Circle's** next meeting is on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Call or text Nancy Gustafson for more information 704.733.8686.

**New Beginnings Circle** will meet again on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Call/text Linda Deese at 704.219.7199 for more info.

**Grace & Mercy Circle** please call/text Donna Young at 704.226.5954 if you have any questions or need info.

**Lessie Anne Circle** meets next on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Grace Snelgrove has the program. Call Mary Engel with any questions at 704.226.1176.

## Central Squares Men's Group

Central Squares Men's Group will meet next on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Soul Food Bible Study** will not meet this Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> but will meet again on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room. We are studying the series *Twelve More Women of the Bible*.



### Marriage & Family Therapy

Here at Central

Todd R. Matson, D. Min., LMFT  
704.375.5354, ext.407 | 704.242.3694

### FREE ONE-ON-ONE CONFIDENTIAL CARE PROVIDED BY TRAINED CAREGIVERS

Your Stephen Minister will walk with you, listen to you as you search through the pieces of your heart. To connect with a Stephen Minister call or text Irene Ward 980.328.0520.



Christ caring for people through people  
**STEPHEN MINISTRY**  
Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for YOU!

## OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of office volunteers from time to time. Would you be interested in filling in for a couple hours during staff meetings, half a day or even a whole day to cover a sick or vacation day? Please call the 704.289.3186 or you can email Shannon [skeesler@centralumcmmonroe.org](mailto:skeesler@centralumcmmonroe.org).