

SCAN
TO GIVE
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CODE



Connect at Central

God • Each Other • Community

January
21st
Newsletter

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

Pastor Lanny's Lyrics...

"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."—Genesis 9:13 (NRSV)

Imagine the chaos of witnessing the whole world destroyed before your eyes while you, your family, and a few thousand species of animals are clinging to a little ark of a boat. 40 days and nights of surfing up and down the gnarliest waves ever known in the history of the world.

This was the plight of Noah, the greatest surfer of all time. After 40 days and nights of rain and even longer surfing that ancient ocean that covered the earth, waiting for the waters to abate, he comes out of the ark to a very, very different world. I wonder how Noah felt about this. I wonder if he longed for the old world.

After months of shutdown during the pandemic, we emerged to a very different world. And therefore, a different church. A lot of cultural changes happened during this time. Priorities shifted. There was a huddling effect that led some folks to withdrawal from commitments and allegiances. Sociologists noted this effect and even gave it a name, "quiet quitting." This phenomena affected businesses, charities, and civic organizations. And yes, it has affected churches around the country as well. We may long for the "good 'ole days" when things were different.

As Noah encountered a whole new world, God put a rainbow in the sky to remind him that though he was in a much different world, the covenant remained, the sacred promise that God would be with humanity and they would not disappear. I thank Sydney Sanders for sharing this splendid photograph of a rainbow over our church in the early days of this new year. What a reminder to us, that despite the changes in our world and church, God is with us! God is leading us on. We are not at the end but a new beginning.

Our mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" has not changed. Our vision (the way we live out that mission) to "Connect with God, Connect with Each Other, and Connect with our Community" remains. But God leads us to accomplish these in different ways. Living into the Sacred Now means being willing to try new things in new ways to reach people for Christ. We can do this because we can trust the God that leads us ever forward. So, let us pray together and rededicate ourselves to Connecting with God, Connecting with Each Other, and Connecting with our Community. This is who we are, Central United Methodist Church. And this rainbow is just one more sign that Christ is with us in the Sacred Now! Praise be to God!

Pastor Lanny



Hymns IN THE *Spirit* OF THE *Classics*

A & CLEMENTS MUSIC CONCERT

Part II: The Hymns meet the Ideas of the Classics

Sunday, February 4, 2024
6:30pm | Central UMC Chapel
Featuring Nathan Clements, piano

Connect
at Central
God • Each Other • Community



704.289.3186

801 S Hayne Street
Monroe, NC 28110



centralumcmonroe.org



cumcmonroe



Celebration Singers

For children from 4 years old to 5th 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.



We had a successful Blood Drive last week! 15 units of regular blood, with 45 people benefiting & 3 units of double red blood cells, used typically for persons with sickle cell anemia or traumatic injuries were collected. Thank you to all who donated!

Coram Deo

(New Sunday School Class/Bible Study)
EZRA/NEHEMIAH (Pray-Build-Plan)
STARTS TODAY-January 21st
at 9:45 am in Room 118

When our burdens seem overwhelming, Nehemiah showed us the importance of prayer, contemplation and action. The story is more than building of a wall; It reflects the spiritual renewal of people; a necessary alignment with God's purpose and call to action. Please contact Jack Rouviere 704.668.7612 if you have any questions.

Central is hosting a
Mobile Food Pantry



COMMON
HEART
a small revolution of kindness

Tuesday-January 30th

Central has rescheduled the Mobile Food Pantry with Common Heart to Tuesday, January 30th. We need help starting at 8:00 am with setting up tables, packing food items, loading food items into neighbors' vehicles, and packing up after the pantry is complete. We will be done by 12:00 pm at the latest. If you available to help please contact the church office 704.289.3186 or skeesler@centralumcmonroe.org.

**The Sonshine Class is sponsoring a
County Wide Adult Special Needs**



Party

Saturday, February 17th | 2:00-4:00 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.

Prayer Requests

Frank Maynard | Jon Lundin | Steve Blalock | Our Church | Robert Ward | Everyone in our church | My Family | Pastor Sigrid
Community members | Jamie | Cynthia Smith | Staff | Sam & Marilyn Keesler (Shannon's in-laws) | Kristin | Roman Zavaleta
Bill Phifer | Mike Taylor | Curtis Outen | Melony Cordero | Matthew Burnette & Family | Jodie & Family | Mark & John Patrus
Joe Blanton | Jerry Taylor Family | Children of Shriners/St. Jude Hospitals | | John & Kim Cattie | Beverly Carnes | Ivil Porter
Ruth Perry | Jeanne Mackay | Victims of War/Disasters

(Prayer Request's stay on the above list for 2 weeks unless requested to be put on the "ongoing prayer requests")

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Pat Stewart | Jonathan Mackay | Betsy Griffin | Charles & Judy Sanders | Betty Lathan | Phyllis Matthews | 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 | Joel Kurtz | Kappy Giblin
Vanessa Deese & Family (Linda's daughter in law) | Jimmie Hargett | 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.

Attendance

Week of 1/14/24-578

8:45 am Service-50

Sunday School-52

11:00 am Service-61

11:00 am Online-331

Youth Lock-in-23

Dinner Church-61



January

Beth Hargett

& Libby Helms

Worship Leader/Psalm Reader

1/21-Eric Shupe-Worship Leader

Cat Evans-Psalm Reader

1/28-Mary Ann Burns-Both

Central Squares Men's Group

Central Squares Men's Group will meet next on Saturday February 3rd. 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 meets Thursdays, at 10:00 am in the Hospitality Room. Come join us!

Grief & Share
at Central UMC

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

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

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!

U
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8:45 am Service

1/21- Amy Garrison & Erica Kirby

1/28- Cheri Barker & Denise Rumley

11:00 am Service

1/21-Hank & Addie Baucom and

Millie Baucom & David Clements

1/28-Dale & Shelley Loberger and

Robert & Lina Hinson

Church members: If you have food stored in the center section of the refrigerator, in the upstairs kitchen, either put your name or group name on it or toss it. This area needs to be cleaned. In the future, following any receptions or events involving food, etc., please DO NOT leave food or drink behind as no one will eat it. The freezer upstairs is still NOT WORKING. Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Nancy Gustafson, kitchen coordinator

United Women in Faith



Save the dates!

Saturday, February 10th

Heart to Heart

Sunday, February 18th

UWF Soup Luncheon

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

Faith, Hope & Charity Circle will meet at the Bazemore Adult Center (for the meeting and a tour) at 1:30 pm on Monday, February 12th. Visitors are welcome! Call or text Nancy Gustafson for more information 704.733.8686.

New Beginnings Circle will meet next on Monday, February 19th at 6:00 pm. Call/text Linda Deese at 704.219.7199 for more info.

Grace & Mercy Circle please call or text Donna Young at 704.226.5954 with any questions or info needed.



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

CENTRAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY 1/21

8:45 am Contemporary-Central Hall

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

11:00 am Traditional Worship-Sanctuary

11:00 am Livestream Worship-Online

3:30 pm Central Youth-FLC

4:00 pm Jr. Youth-Children's Hall

MONDAY 1/22

5:00 pm Newsletter/Bulletin Submission Deadline

TUESDAY 1/23

11:00 am Staff Meeting

4:00 pm Knitting Girls-Library

6:00 pm Dinner Church (Team 1)-FLC

WEDNESDAY 1/24

6:00 pm Celebration Singers-Room 112

6:00 pm Apprentice Basketball Game-FLC

THURSDAY 1/25

8:00 am Men's Breakfast Group-The Derby

10:00 am Soul Food-Hospitality Room

7:00 pm Union Big Book-Scout Hut

FRIDAY 1/26

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

SATURDAY 1/27

9:00 am Family Life Center Reserved until Noon

SUNDAY 1/28

8:45 am Contemporary-Central Hall

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

11:00 am Traditional Worship-Sanctuary

11:00 am Livestream Worship-Online

3:30 pm Central Youth-FLC

4:00 pm Jr. Youth-Children's Hall

