



Code



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

"Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be?'"—Luke 1:34a (NRSV) This was the response of Mary, the mother of Jesus, to the changes that confronted her when the angel, Gabriel, shared the message of the coming of Jesus, the "Son of the Most High," the one who "will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High...[and] will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:32-33). After all, how would you and I react to such a grandiose plan?

You and I also ask, "How can this be, Lord?" when changes are thrust upon us, even if they are ultimately for the good. "How can this be?" when we look around our troubled world and our troubled lives? The angel reminds Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." (Luke 1:35a) In other words, "nothing is impossible for God." (Luke 1:37)

When we are confronted with the changes that come upon us, we can take complete confidence in the promises of God to accomplish his good will. As we near the end of 2023, we reluctantly say goodbye to Pastor Sigrid and Minister of Music, Jamie Bryson. Pastor Sigrid has the opportunity to continue using her wonderful pastoral gifts as the lead pastor at another United Methodist charge. Jamie has the opportunity to move much closer to his family and continue to use his wonderful musical gifts.

Though we wish we could journey farther with them, we know that God is always doing a new thing, so we rejoice for these opportunities for them. We rejoice that the mission goes on through us, Central United Methodist Church, as we Connect with God, Connect with Each Other, and Connect with our Community. The closing of this chapter leads to the opening of a new chapter in the history of our church. We pray for the new ministers who will come in our future to work with us. We look forward with the confident assurance of 175 years of making disciples of Jesus Christ in this community. As John Wesley said, "The best of all is that God is with us!" Like Mary, let us say to the Lord, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord, Let it be with [us] according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

# **Mobile Food Pantry**

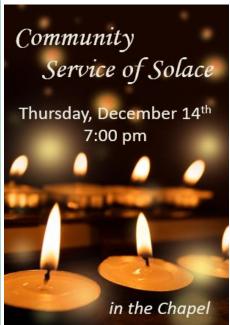


**This Tuesday** December 12th



**Central** will host a Mobile Food Pantry with Common Heart this Tuesday, December 12th. 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.

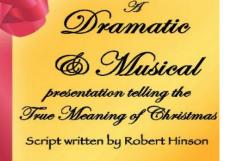
\*\*Volunteers needed! Please contact the church office with any questions.\*\*











## **Birthday Club**

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

# **UCCA Ministry Food Pantry Needs List**

**Baked beans Flour Black beans Great Northern beans Black Eyed peas** Green beans **Boxed meals** Jelly Canned condensed milk Kidney beans **Canned meats Canned soups** Lima beans **Carrots** Cereal/Grits/Oatmeal **Mixed fruits** Ε **Cereal bars Chili Beans** M Coffee **Peaches** В Corn **Cornbread Mix Pineapples Crackers** 

Kool-Aid drink packets Spaghetti noodles Macaroni & cheese Mixed vegetables Pancake mix Peanut butter

**Refried beans** Rice Spaghetti O's Spaghetti sauce Sugar **Sweet peas** Tea bags **Tomatoes Tomato sauce** Tuna

Pork & beans

S

Н

R

Ε

B

**Potatoes** 

Ravioli

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.

### **Prayer Requests**

Charles & Judy Sanders | Janet Holden (Fred Duncan's sister) | Randy Brabham | Unspoken Christmas Play | Dinner Church Leadership | Jonathan Mackay | Parents house sells Our church | Shan Reeder | Carol Reeder | Sandra Glenn | Linda Burris John & Kim Cattie | The Majewski Family | Unspoken | Troy Gamble Family Nettie Dean | John Goetz | | Sue Brown | Home repair issues | Maxine Wally Steve & Gina Blalock | Linda Thomas | Ruth Perry | Ginger Hightower | Jack Hightower Pam Majewski | Beulah Lassiter | Sam Keesler (Shannon's father-in-law) | Bill Phifer Mike Taylor | Melony Cordero | Matthew Burnette/Family | Nancy Burnette | Neal Helms

Victims of War/Disasters | Children of St. Jude/Shriners Hospitals (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 Helen Scarpantoni (Ruth Wall's sister) | 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 Vanessa Deese & Family (Linda's daughter in law) | Ruth Mackay | 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.

### <u>Attendance</u> Week of 12/3/23-1584

Greening of the Church (11/26)-16 8:45 am Service-55 **Sunday School-57** 11:00 am Service-75 Online-268

An Appalachian Christmas-275 An Appalachian Christmas Online-1040 **Dinner Church-53 Central Youth-15** Jr. Youth-5

#### **Ushers**

8:45 am Contemporary Service

12/10- Denise Rumley & Cheri Barker 12/17- Amy Garrison & Denise Rumley 12/31- Cheri Barker & Erica Kirby 11:00 am Traditional Service

12/3 (pm)-David & Kalli Clements and Dale & Shelley Loberger 12/10/-David & Amy Paschal and John & Mary Ann Burns

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





# 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 by contacting Julie by email julie@centralumcmonroe.org or Jamie at jamie@centralumcmonroe.org. proceeds benefit the ongoing Music and Youth Ministries.

#### **United Women in Faith**

Lessie Anne Circle meets next on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 need information.

Central Squares Men's Group Central Squares Men's Group meets next on Saturday, December 16<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 pause meeting in December and will start back on Thursday, January 4th.

# This week at Central

#### **SUNDAY 12/10**

8:45 am **Contemporary-Central Hall** 

9:45 am **Sunday School** 

SS Hour **Farewell Celebration Reception-Hospitality** 

11:00 am Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 11:00 am Livestream Worship-Online 12:30 pm Middle School Retreat return

**MONDAY 12/11** 

Pastor Sigrid's Sabbath/Pastor Lanny on call ALL DAY 5:00 pm Newsletter/Bulletin Submission Deadline

**TUESDAY 12/12** 

9:30 am **Worship Planning** 12:00 pm Civitans-Scout Hut

4:00 pm Common Heart-Getting Ahead-Hospitality, Upstairs Kitchen, Pathfinders and 108 & 111

Knitting Girls-Library

4:00 pm Dinner Church (Team 1)-FLC 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY 12/13

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

THURSDAY 12/14

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

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

4:00 pm Common Heart-Getting Ahead-Hospitality,

Upstairs Kitchen, Pathfinders and 108 & 111

6:00 pm Sanctuary reserved until 8:00 pm

**Union Big Book-Scout Hut** FRIDAY 12/15 Middle School Retreat

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

SATURDAY 12/16 Middle School Retreat

8:00 am **Central Squares-Upstairs Kitchen/Hospitality** 

10:00 am Christmas Play Rehearsal-Sanctuary 1:00 am Sanctuary Reserved until 4:00 pm

**SUNDAY 12/17 Middle School Retreat** 8:45 am **Contemporary-Central Hall** 

9:45 am **Sunday School** 

11:00 am Traditional Worship-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** 

# **Christmas Eve Services** Schedule at Central

