



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)

Lanny

Mobile Food Pantry



This Tuesday  
December 12<sup>th</sup>



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

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

Community  
Service of Solace

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm



in the Chapel

People,  
Look  
East!

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

A CLEMENTS MUSIC CONCERT

Central  
Presents:

The  
True  
Gift

Sunday,  
December 17, 2023  
11:00 a.m.  
Central UMC Sanctuary

A  
Dramatic  
& Musical  
presentation telling the  
True Meaning of Christmas  
Script written by Robert Hinson



Birthday Club

Birthday Club will meet at Logan's on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 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                  | Pork & beans      |
| Black beans           | Great Northern beans   | Potatoes          |
| Black Eyed peas       | Green beans            | Ravioli           |
| Boxed meals           | Jelly                  | Refried beans     |
| Canned condensed milk | Kidney beans           | Rice              |
| Canned meats          | Kool-Aid drink packets | Spaghetti noodles |
| Canned soups          | Lima beans             | Spaghetti O's     |
| Carrots               | Macaroni & cheese      | Spaghetti sauce   |
| Cereal/Grits/Oatmeal  | Mixed fruits           | Sugar             |
| Cereal bars           | Mixed vegetables       | Sweet peas        |
| Chili Beans           | Pancake mix            | Tea bags          |
| Coffee                | Peaches                | Tomatoes          |
| Corn                  | Peanut butter          | Tomato sauce      |
| Cornbread Mix         | Pineapples             | Tuna              |
| Crackers              |                        |                   |

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.

SHAREBACK



# 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](mailto:skeesler@centralumcmonroe.org) to add or remove prayer requests. If you have confidential prayer request, please email [llancaster@centralumcmonroe.org](mailto:llancaster@centralumcmonroe.org) or [smottram@centralumcmonroe.org](mailto:smottram@centralumcmonroe.org).

## Attendance

### 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

It’s time 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](mailto: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 by contacting Julie by email at [julie@centralumcmonroe.org](mailto:julie@centralumcmonroe.org) or Jamie at [jamie@centralumcmonroe.org](mailto:jamie@centralumcmonroe.org). All the 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 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>. 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 4<sup>th</sup>.

# 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

ALL DAY Pastor Sigrid’s Sabbath/Pastor Lanny on call  
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  
4:00 pm Knitting Girls-Library  
6:00 pm Dinner Church (Team 1)-FLC

## WEDNESDAY 12/13

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 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  
7:00 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

