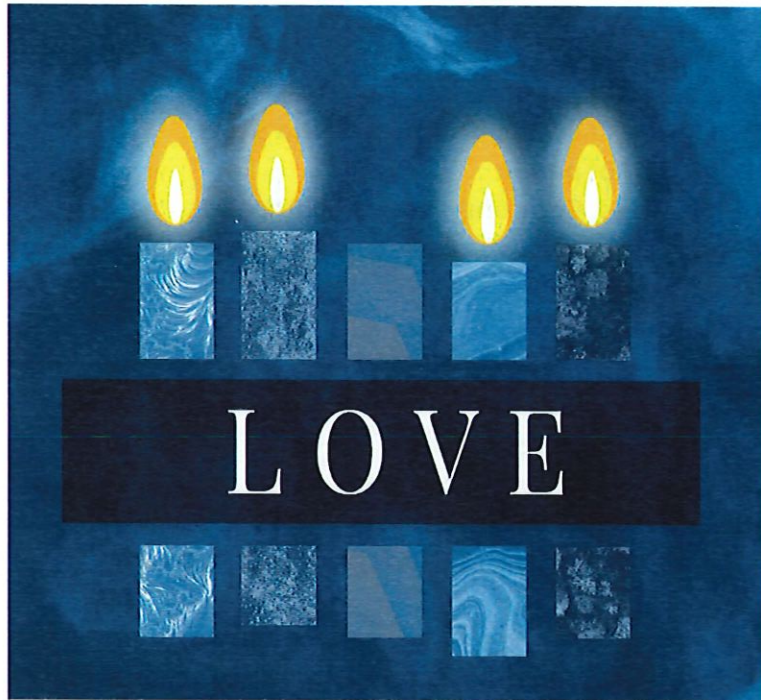


Central United Methodist Church



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024
10:45 a.m.**

Our Vision:

***Making Christ known by extending hospitality,
serving the community, pursuing justice and embracing all.***

201 - 3rd Avenue Knoxville TN 37917
www.knoxcentralumc.org

We Gather to Praise God

Prelude

People, Look East

arr. Mary McDonald

Welcome

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

Opening Prayer

† **Call to Worship**

Jabette Carlson

In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light.

Thanks be to the God of light.

In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.

Thanks be to the God of peace.

In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.

Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life. AMEN.

† **Opening Hymn**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (vv. 1-3)

UMH 384

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Beta Class

The first three candles we lit were for hope, peace, and joy. Today we light the fourth candle--the candle of LOVE. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than LOVE. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than even death. We love, because God LOVES us.

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your LOVE within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v.4)

UMH 211

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture

Psalm 30: 1-5; Philippians 2:5-11

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

A Time for Young Christians

Allison Malone

Sunday school for nursery through 5th grade is offered every week following children's time except on Sundays when we celebrate Holy Communion (typically the first Sunday of each month).

Anthem

Light of the World
Madie Shehan, soloist

arr. Dan Galbraith

Sermon

Joy to Carry You Through

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

† Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv 1, 3 & 4)

UMH 230

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

† The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Offertory

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Mary McDonald

† Dedication of Gifts

(Veni-Emmanuel - tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World

† Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

† Benediction

Postlude

Away in a Manger with O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Alex-Zsolt

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† Please stand in body or spirit

The altar flowers are given today by Susie Knable. They are in honor of Archie Ellis' December 18th birthday and in memory of Jean Ellis on her December 22nd birthday.

Prayer List
Sunday, December 22, 2024

David Helms is temporarily at Island Home Park Health and Rehabilitation for additional physical therapy (1758 Hillwood Dr, 37920).

Lucy Varnell had an epidural for back pain Monday. She will have an MRI to see if she needs additional back surgery.

The **family of Richard Metcalf** (a member of the Beta Class) who died December 6. A small service will be held at Central in the future.

Diane Overbey has been moved out of neurological critical care into a private room at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center following her stroke on December 8. She is showing a little more activity each day, but she cannot communicate her wishes. She will then move to a skilled nursing facility. A CaringBridge page has been established for updates

Ronny McDaniel (Judy Dooley's partner) is scheduled for open-heart surgery (3-5 by-passes) on January 15. Please remember him, Judy, and his family.

James Mendenhall (Judy Dooley's brother-in-law) died Wednesday morning. Please continue to remember his family during this time.

Michael Pursival (friend of Sean Gangaware) is recovering from surgery to clean out an infected wound.

Please continue to remember **Pat Cowart** (Melanie Gangaware's mother), **Ford Deese** (Mary Humes's grand-niece, 2046 Mower St, Newberry, SC, 29108), **Emalie and Haley Dockery** (5215 E Sunset Rd, 37914), **Lena Frye** (friend of Lauren Gangaware), **Brenda Bacon Goble** (friend of Susie Knable), **Karen Till Johnson** (friend of Susie Knable), **Larry Ketron** (Jodie Overton's father), **Peter Keyes** (2806 N Decatur Rd, Apt. 514, Decatur, GA 30033), **Diane Lowe** (7125 Meadowbrook Cir, 37918), **Joan Moon** (7655 Apple Cross, Corryton, 37721), **Nancy Morgan** (3105 Atoka, 37917), **Donna Shirley** (Larry Ward's sister, 4133 Stephanie, Jonesboro, AR 72405), **Mike O'Tool** (Ron O'Tool's grandson), **Charles Sartwell** (Ann Sartwell's father and former CUMC member, Ivy Park at Monterey, 1110 Cass St, Apt 101, Monterey, CA 93940), **Billy Varnell** (4121 Riverstone Ln, 37918), **Carroll and Lucy Varnell** (4408 High School Rd, 37912), **Diana Deatherage Waldrip** (lifelong friend of the Renfro and Ball families), **Kathy Whaley** (friend of Penney Helms, 200 Nodding Oak, Chapel Hill, NC, 27516), **Bill Winans** (3696 Halcyon Trace, Trussville, AL 35173), **Rev. Grady Winegar** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #223, 37918), and **Nic** (friend of In Mendenhall, c/o Tim Mendenhall, 865 Barksdale Dr, 37918)

Each year, we invite you to give towards a **special Christmas Eve offering** here at Central. A portion of that offering goes to support an important ministry, typically outside of the local church. This year, a portion of the Christmas Eve offering will go to support a new hygiene closet at Fulton High School. The funds received will go towards purchasing personal hygiene products that are made available to students at no cost. Please consider giving towards this by using the special Christmas Eve offering envelopes or send a check to the office and mark Fulton in the memo. Please do not bring any specific items to the church. We are asking for monetary donations so that we can buy these items in bulk to be donated to the school. Thank you for your generosity.

Looking Ahead ~ Our Calendar

Weekly:

Builder's Class Bible Study via Zoom, Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Bible Study, Tuesday, 6:30-8:00 pm, Room 209
Bible Study, Wednesday, 10:00-11:30am, Room 209
Handbell Rehearsals, Wednesday at 5:30-6:15 pm
Choir, Wednesday at 6:15 – 7:45 pm
Worship, Sunday at 10:45 am

Monthly:

1st Tuesday – Prayer Group, 10am, Room 213
Caswell Manor Lunch Prep
1st Wednesday – Serve Caswell Manor Lunch
3rd Thursday – VMC Lunch Prep
3rd Friday – Serve VMC Lunch
4th Thursday – Help at Minvilla Manor
Second Harvest Food Pantry

December 22 Blue Christmas service, 6pm, Sanctuary
December 24 Christmas Eve Services, 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Bible Study (Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning) is on hold until January 7th and 8th, 2025.

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative - This is an intentional prayer followed by intentional listening to the voice of God's Spirit for guidance. We let go of our opinions and preferences and Let God. This is a churchwide practice of the Holston Conference that Central's Prayer Group has prayed about, has composed a prayer, and has been introduced to our congregation. We are asking you to participate in praying this prayer daily along with your other prayers. Imagine all of us praying this same prayer to the God whose Power resurrected Jesus Christ from the grave on Easter morning. A helpful book Dynamite Prayer has been written by Sue Nilson Kibbey (dynamite comes from the Greek work "dunamis" – meaning "power" - and is used 120 times in the New Testament in reference to Jesus' miracles).

Breakthrough Prayer

Holy Spirit, break through and open doors to new hopes, dreams,
and possibilities in our church and in our lives. Open our minds and hearts.
Help us surrender to your will and faithfully follow Christ by serving others. Amen.



Blue Christmas

A service of
remembrance and hope

Sunday, December 22 - 6:00 pm

Central United Methodist Church
201 Third Avenue - Knoxville, TN.

The poster features a blue background with a stylized Christmas tree on the right side, decorated with white stars and a bright star at the top. The text is in white and light blue.

In Honor of

Patricia Cowart & Jean Gangaware
Penney & David Helms
Robert & Kathy Gant

Grandma & Grandpa Gant
Hadley, Jordan, & Brooklyn, Juli, Preston & Erin
Marie Cole
Central UMC Staff
My Children & Grandchildren
Marilyn McCullough
Lucy & Carroll Varnell, Susie Knable & Grady Winegar
Paul Morgan, Jennie Ball, Stephanie, Matt,
Ben & Katie Byerly, Marsha, Chris, Townsend,
& Avery Smith, & Sue Renfro
CUMC Music Ministry
Rachel Roberts
The CUMC Leadership Council
John & Ali Umbarger family, Rob & Leigh Stivers family
Nancy Brown
Tony & Linda Jackson, Doug Johnson
Melynda Whetsel
The CUMC Choir & Music Director

In Loving Memory of

Rev. Jack Brown & Michael Brown
Spencer Davis
Robert & Jean Ellis
JoAnn Fowler
Marie Kozich Gangaware
Katherine Hoskins
Our Parents & Grandparents
Roy Cole, Ted & Ruby Johnson
Jim Kopotic
John & Christine Lewelling, Billy McCullough
Emma Loy & "B" Carrell
Alice Evans & Jay & Louise Craft
Kim Ball, Barbara Morgan, Dot & Chuck Tarver,
Hal & Dottie Kelly
Our Parents
Charles Parham
Darris Ball, Dottie Ball Kelly, Kim Ball, & Bertie Jenkins
Norris Roberts
James F. & Margaret T. Laise, Warren E & Dean S. Smith
Cliff & Aileen Pettit
Rev. Jack Brown, Doris Wilson & Michael Brown
Herman & Edith Sims, Dan Sims
Katherine Hoskins & Robyn & Alma Lee Walker

Given by

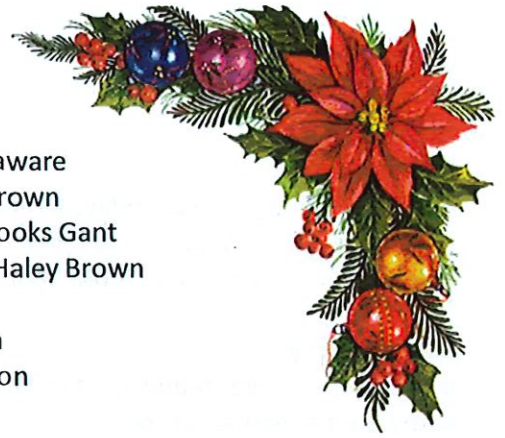
Tim & Melanie Gangaware
Emma Gant & Julia Brown
Emma, Natasha & Brooks Gant
Matt, Julia, Alexis & Haley Brown
Brooks Gant
Tony & Linda Jackson
Doug & Sherry Johnson
John & Gaye King
Bobbi Kopotic
Tyler Lewelling
Jonathan, Allison & Cason Malone

Sally Ball-Morgan
Patty Parham
David Roberts
Rev. Jimmy Sherrod
Beth Stivers
Revs. Dan Taylor & Diana Brown Taylor
Mark & Laura Walker
Bob Whetsel
Bob & Melynda Whetsel

Given by

Nancy Brown
Annie Davis
Ellis & Knable families
Jenny & Frank Fowler
Tim & Melanie Gangaware
Ed Hoskins & family
Tony & Linda Jackson
Doug & Sherry Johnson
Bobbi Kopotic
Tyler Lewelling
Don & Anne Loy
Jonathan, Allison & Cason Malone

Sally Ball-Morgan
Ron O'Tool & Tom Price
Patty Parham
Sue Renfro & family
David Roberts
Charles & Susie Smith
Beth Stivers
Revs. Dan Taylor & Diana Brown Taylor
Elizabeth Thomas
Mark & Laura Walker



Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting with us today, we invite you to let us know you were here. In front of you, in the pews, you will find a visitor card. If you are willing, leave us your name and phone number, or e-mail address so that we can connect with you and find out more about you and share more about who we are as well.

Care and Prayer

If you have a prayer request, let us know so we can be in prayer for you. Either use the visitor cards in front of you or e-mail Kathy Gant at gants@att.net

Sunday Morning Coffee

The coffee is on! Every Sunday morning at 9:30 am, you are invited to join us for coffee. Connect with Central folks for fellowship and conversation. Coffee is available from 9:30 until 10:45 am.

The Central Hub

Keep up with what's going on each week by subscribing to our weekly e-newsletter. You can subscribe by going to knoxcentralumc.org and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

Spiritual Discipline of Giving and Financial Update

Giving financially is a spiritual discipline and has the power to shape and transform us. When we give, it expresses priorities in our lives. All are encouraged to give out of the abundance that God has provided us. We aren't currently passing the offering plates, but we do ask you to consider giving to the ministries of Central Church in one of the following ways.

- Place your gift in the offering Plate on Sunday Morning. You'll find them as you exit the sanctuary.
- Mail a check to 201 Third Ave. or bring it by the office.
- Give online (text to give) and through the Vanco Mobile App.
- Set up an automatic withdrawal through your checking account. Please reach out to Laurie in the office to sign up.
- Scan the PayPal QR code to donate through PayPal.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
Sign up for our weekly e-letter, The Central Hub, on our website,
www.knoxcentralumc.org



Pastoral and Administrative Staff

Office: 865-524-1659

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| Brandon Coffey, Music Director and Organist | brandon@knoxcentralumc.org | Laurie Speranza, Administrative Assistant | | |
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| Ron O'Tool, Building Coordinator | | Doug Johnson, Facilities Manager | | doug@knoxcentralumc.org |
| | | Jeff Criswell, Custodian | | |