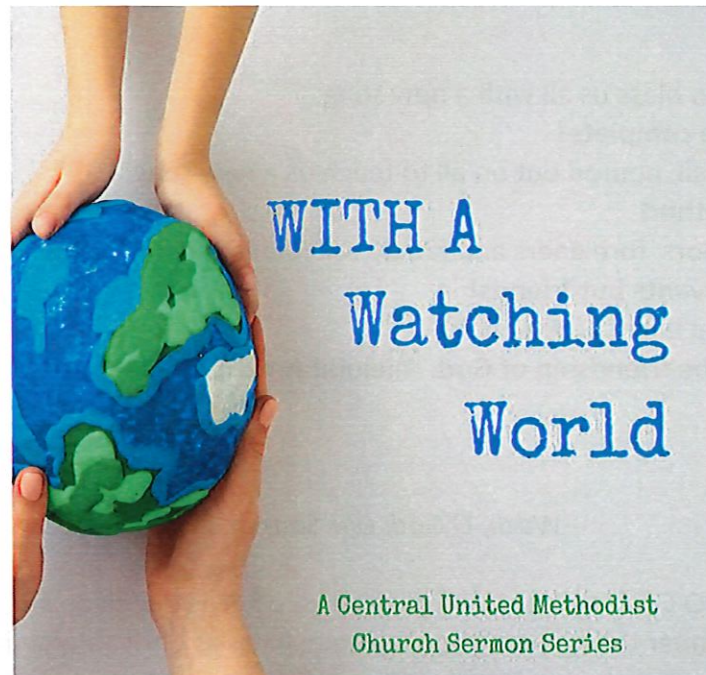


Central United Methodist Church



Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 19, 2025
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

Blessed Assurance

arr. Phoebe Knapp

Welcome

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

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

Opening Prayer

† **Call to Worship**

Jenny Fowler

The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

Let our joy be complete!

Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

Love one another!

Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

No longer servants but friends!

Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

Rejoicing in the friendship of God. Alleluia! Amen.

† **Opening Hymn**

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

UMH 605

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

† **Scripture**

John 3:1-21

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

Song

Something Beautiful

UMH 394

Something beautiful, something good;
all my confusion he understood;
all I had to offer him was brokenness and strife,
but he made something beautiful of my life.

A Time for Young Christians

Wil Davenport

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

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian

arr. Mark Cabaniss

Sermon

With a Watching World

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

† Hymn

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow, though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow no turning back, no turning back.

Renewal of Baptismal Covenant

UMH 33

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer,
and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Offertory

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Larry Shackley

† Dedication of Gifts

Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World

† Closing Hymn

This is the Day of New Beginnings (vv 1-4)

UMH 383

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

† Benediction

Revive Us Again

arr. Larry Shackley

Postlude

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† Please stand in body or spirit

Devotional for the week of January 20, 2025

Romans 12:1-2 (Common English Bible)

“So, brothers and sisters, because of God’s mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is - what is good and pleasing and mature.”

We often hear about the ways the world call us to progress and perfection, but our faith calls us to live differently. Romans 12:1-2 suggest that in ALL we do — our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around lives we give to God as an offering. Romans 12:2 takes it a step further and urges us not to be “conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” As people who follow Jesus, this is a call that we cannot neglect. We are to engage our mind, body, spirit, hands and feet and reflect an all-compassing faith that changes us from the inside out.

In a season of polarizing politics and with an upcoming inauguration of a new president, we listen not to the ways of this world, but to our renewing faith in Christ. A faith that calls us - - no compels us to love one another whether we agree with them or not. This is the hard work of discipleship, but one in which Jesus is clear about.

The world is watching, not only we the people of the United States, but the world, including our children, are watching how we live out our faith - watching how we pursue justice and extend hospitality and embrace all — and allow our minds to be renewed and transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit alive in us.

As you prepare for the coming week, you are invited to pay attention to the ways in which you are renewing your mind and spirit. Pay attention to the ways in which you are specifically loving others. Pay attention to how you are navigating the political environment around you. Are you allowing yourself to be consumed by hate and divisiveness, or are you, like Nicodemus, seeking the way of the one whom God has sent to show us the way of love?

We do this alongside a watching world so that we can show the way of Christ.

Prayer for the week:

God who is with us and within us - in our going-to-work and walking-around lives - your presence gives way for deep purpose. In the coming days, weeks, and seasons ahead, may we find that through our prayers, we are able to show up within and throughout the world a little bit differently. As your people, in your holy church remind us what it means to be truly with and always for the world that you hold around us. Amen.

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

January 20	Martin Luther King Jr Day, Church Office Closed
January 26	Bowling with Friends, 4pm, Strike and Spare, 5700 Western Ave.
January 27	Ministry Team Meeting, 5:30 pm, Room 209 Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Room 210
January 30	Centro Hispano Event, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Bowling with Friends!- Sunday, January 26th 4-6pm All Youth and Children are welcome to meet us at the Bowling Alley to enjoy an afternoon of bowling, snacks, and fun! Parents are encouraged to join in on the fun. We will meet at Strike and Spare Western Ave. (5700 Western Ave. Knoxville, TN 37921) at 4pm. Please RSVP to Madie at Madie@knoxcentralumc.org.

In February, our worship series will be called Three Beautiful Words. Some of the best stories in church can be told in just three beautiful words. In this three-week series, we are going to break down three different stories that can be told by our church to the world. The first week's three words are "I was invited." The second week will be "You belong here," and the third week will be "I am forgiven." We are looking for testimonials of people who have experienced these words in a powerful way. Are you willing to share in worship or in print? Maybe share with the pastor to be used as illustrations in a sermon? We believe these are beautiful words that have the power to help others experience God's transformational grace. Please talk with Pastor Jimmy or e-mail him at jimmy@knoxcentralumc.org if you have a story to share. We look forward to hearing from you!

We have a new calendar on our Sign Up Board to highlight activities and opportunities each month here at Central. Check it out for ways to get involved!

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 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).

Holy Spirit, breakthrough and open our hearts to be obedient to your will for Central Church.
Energize and empower us as we seek to accomplish your work in our community, our country, and the world.
We boldly pray and wait for your guidance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer List
Sunday, January 19, 2025

Diane Overbey is now at Beverly Park Place (off Tazewell Pike). Cards and short visits (no food) would be appreciated. Her address is Room 115B, 5321 Beverly Park Circle, 37918.

The family of **Bud Cottrell**, who died early Monday morning. His service was Thursday. Please remember Carolyn and family (4004 Ross McCloud Way, 37938).

Ford Deese (Mary Humes's grand-niece) had an MRI Thursday to check for any traces of the cancer (2046 Mower St, Newberry, SC, 29108),

Ronny McDaniel (Judy Dooley's partner) open-heart surgery was rescheduled for last Friday.

Mason S (son of Tiffany Mynatt's friend) will have a series of surgeries on his spine and brain. The first surgery is scheduled for Thursday.

Please continue to remember **Pat Cowart** (Melanie Gangaware's mother), **Emalie and Haley Dockery** (5215 E Sunset Rd, 37914), **Lena Frye** (friend of Lauren Gangaware), **Brenda Bacon Goble** (friend of Susie Knable), **David Helms** (801 E Inskip Dr, 37912), **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)

Beaumont Snacks Needed

Sometimes something small makes a world of difference!

The snacks we take to **Beaumont Academy Magnet School** make a difference. The most requested are **mini bags of crackers, goldfish, and cheez-its; applesauce pouches, granola bars- no nuts, please; baked chips, popcorn, veggie straws and fruit snacks**. A small snack can stop hunger pains in a hungry child, and that makes a difference! Please add these to your grocery list and bring them to Central. We deliver on a weekly basis to help our kids at Beaumont.

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		
Madie Shehan, Director of Families with Children	madie@knoxcentralumc.org	Katie Chait, Preschool Supervisor		doug@knoxcentralumc.org
Ron O'Tool, Building Coordinator		Doug Johnson, Facilities Manager		
		Jeff Criswell, Custodian		

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