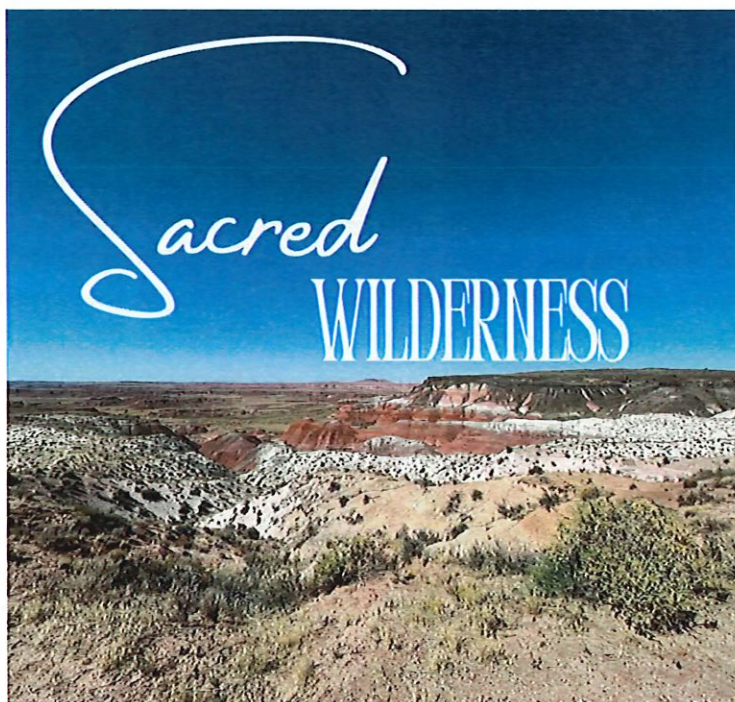


Central United Methodist Church



The Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 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

"I Must Tell Jesus"

arr. Joel Raney

Welcome

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

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

Choir Introit

Opening Prayer

Diana Brown Taylor

† Call to Worship

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ,
rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

† Opening Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

UMH 110

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture

Psalms 91:1-2; 9-16; † Luke 4:1-13

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

A Time for Young Christians

Madie Shehan

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

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

arr. Mark Hayes

Sermon

Sacred Wilderness: *When the Going Gets Tough...*

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

† Hymn

It Is Well With My Soul (vv 1 & 2)

UMH 377

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

[Refrain] It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

Congregational Lenten Prayer

Because temptation is woven into the fabric of our lives,
and we know the weariness of forty days in the desert,
and the beckoning power of sweet fruit, and the vain promises of the world, we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because we see the broken before the whole, and the half empty cup, and the unfinished task,
and the thirst in freedom's quest, we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because we trust in what we can see, and we are blinded by our prejudices,
and we do not know what we do not know, we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because our need for correctness exceeds our need for truth, and our excuses preempt the cry of the wounded, and our celebration of blessing is mindless of those displaced, we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because you came among us, and breathed into our souls,
and healed our pain and let us wound you, and loved us to the end,
and triumphed over all our hatred, we need you, God.

We need you, God.

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

"Be Still, My Soul"

arr. Faye López

† Dedication of Gifts

Doxology

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men.

We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World

† Closing Hymn

O God Our Help in Ages Past

UMH 117

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

† Benediction

Postlude

"Come Thou Fount"

arr. Jason D. Payne

All music licensed for performance and streaming via: ONELicense: Limited Podcast/Streaming License, Category C. M401423

† Please stand in body or spirit

Prayer List
Sunday, March 16, 2025

Emalie Dockery was released from the hospital and is feeling better.

Ron O'Toole is dealing with some health issues.

Diane Overbey continues to make slow progress. Short visits and cards are welcome (Room 115B, 5321 Beverly Park Circle, 37918).

Kathy Deakins (Susie Knable's cousin in Johnson City) had tests last week to evaluate her lymph node breast cancer.

The **family of Bruce Foster**, who died March 8. He was the husband of Betsy Guinn Foster, who grew up at Central.

The **family of Judy James** (Elizabeth Thomas's friend and neighbor) who died the week before last.

Todd Rexrode (Mary Humes's brother-in-law) learned his prostate cancer had not spread and will be starting treatment next month (205 Park St, Ninety Six, SC, 29666).

Tajah (one of Tiffany Mynatt's clients) is facing financial and childcare challenges as she recovers from surgery to repair a broken ankle.

Please continue to remember **Pat Cowart** (Melanie Gangaware's mother), **Haley Dockery** (5215 E Sunset Rd, 37914), **David Helms** (801 E Inskip Dr, 37912), **Peter Keyes** (2806 N Decatur Rd, Apt. 212, 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), **Kathy Whaley** (friend of Penney Helms, 200 Nodding Oak, Chapel Hill, NC, 27516), **Bill Winans** (3696 Halcyon Trace, Trussville, AL 35173), and **Rev. Grady Winegar** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #223, 37918).

Looking Ahead ~ Our Calendar

Weekly:

Builder's Class Bible Study via Zoom, Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Bible Study, Wednesday, 10:00-11:30am, # 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, # 213

Caswell Manor Lunch Prep

1st Wednesday – Serve Caswell Manor Lunch

3rd Tuesday – Trustee Meeting, 10am, # 209

3rd Thursday – VMC Lunch Prep

3rd Friday – Serve VMC Lunch

4th Monday – Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, #210

4th Thursday – Help at Minvilla Manor

Second Harvest Food Pantry

March 17	Remembering Your Story, 4 pm, Room 209
March 18	Trustees Meeting, 10 am, Room 209
March 21	Centro Health Fair, 8 am – 1 pm, Fellowship Hall
March 24	Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Room 210
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 20	Easter Sunday

Loving Your Neighbor is part of who we are at Central! In the month of March we will collect diapers for the women at Centro Hispano in conjunction with *The Helping Mama's*. *Helping Mama's* is a group that helps provide diapers, wipes, and other essential baby items to low-income families, allowing them to focus on education and skills training. They are working with Centro Hispano, our upstairs neighbors, to collect donations for the women in their programs throughout the month of March. The types of diapers and a link to purchase on-line will be emailed to make donating easy. **Please check your email in the directory to ensure your email is up to date** if you want to participate electronically in loving our neighbors with diapers! We will also post the type of diapers being requested on the sign up board for those that purchase locally and bring to the church. The collection point is on the 1st floor at the bottom of the stairs.

Planning ahead, Palm Sunday Egg Hunt is around the corner! We are asking for donations of small candies or toys to be placed inside eggs for our hunt. We do not need any egg donations at this time. Donations may be placed inside the church office. Thank you!

School can be difficult for some kids. Being hungry in a challenging environment is difficult no matter what age! This is why we take snacks to our kids at Beaumont Academy. Applesauce pouches, and fruit snacks fight the hunger. Granola bars without nuts are great, too! Each week we take snacks to help our kids do better in school. Please add to your grocery list and bring to Central when you come on Sunday. Our kids are an important part of our community. Let's love them with healthy snacks!

The Knoxville Marathon will be held on Sunday, April 6th. Please note that there will be street closures that day which could impact your drive to worship that morning.

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.

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.

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

Rev. Diana Brown Taylor, Deacon in Residence
Brandon Coffey, Music Director and Organist
Madie Shehan, Director of Families with Children
Ron O'Tool, Building Coordinator

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, Senior Pastor
brandon@knoxcentralumc.org
madie@knoxcentralumc.org

Jimmy@knoxcentralumc.org
Laurie Speranza, Administrative Assistant
Katie Chait, Preschool Supervisor
Doug Johnson, Facilities Manager
Jeff Criswell, Custodian

Laurie@knoxcentralumc.org
doug@knoxcentralumc.org

Facebook: Central United Methodist Church, Knoxville, TN