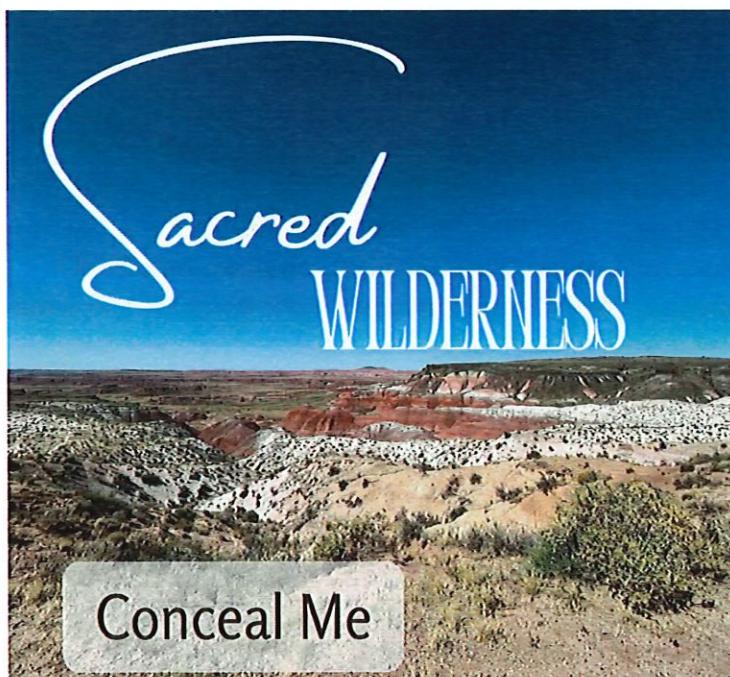


Central United Methodist Church



The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 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

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

arr. Joel Rane

Choir Introit

Welcome

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

Rev. Jimmy Sherro

Opening Prayer

Rev. Diana Brown Taylor

† Call to Worship

Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows
that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When threats bombard you from every corner,
stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more,
what do you say?

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us,
welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

**Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of
trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.**

† Opening Hymn

I Will Call Upon the Lord

I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord.)
who is worthy to be praised. (who is worthy to be praised.)
So shall I be saved from my enemies. (Saved from my enemies.)
I will call upon the Lord. (Repeat verse)

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. (repeat)

Rock of Ages (vv. 1-3)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from the wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

UMH 361

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture

Psalm 27 † Luke 13: 31-35

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

"Safe Within Your Arms"

Mark Hayes

Sermon

Sacred Wilderness: *Conceal Me*

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

† Hymn

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

UMH 129

Give to the winds thy fears; hope and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears, God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms, God gently clears thy way;
wait thou God's time; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.

Leave to God's sovereign sway to choose and to command;
so shalt thou, wondering, own that way, how wise, how strong this hand.

Let us in life, in death, thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our latest breath thy love and guardian care.

Pastoral Prayer

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

"Near to the Heart of God" with "Children of the Heavenly Father"

arr. Brant Adams

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

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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Prayer List
Sunday, March 23, 2025

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).

J. R. (friend of Laurie Pearl) is recovering in Nashville after liver transplant surgery. He is out of the hospital, but he must stay nearby.

Please continue to remember **Pat Cowart** (Melanie Gangaware's mother), **Kathy Deakins** (Susie Knable's cousin), **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 23 Justice Knox meeting, Noon, Room 210

March 24 Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Room 210

April 13 Palm Sunday Lunch and Egg Hunt

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.

Palm Sunday Lunch and Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 13th - We are collecting candy (no chocolate) for our eggs, donations can be placed in the church office. We have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for cold salads and drinks. If you plan on attending our lunch, please RSVP at Madie@knoxcentralumc.org.

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

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Brandon Coffer, Music Director and Organist
Madie Shehan, Director of Families with Children
Ron O'Tool, Building Coordinator

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, Senior Pastor
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