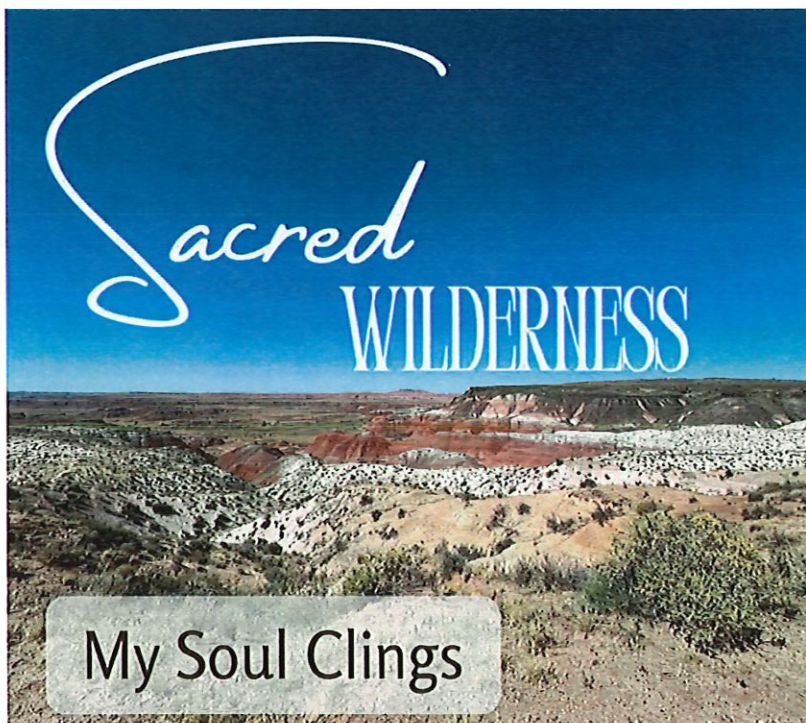


Central United Methodist Church



**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 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

"How Great Is Our God"

arr. Bill Wolaver

Choir Introit

Welcome

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

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

Opening Prayer

Mark Walker

† Call to Worship

Children of God, what has God done for you?

God saves, provides, and holds us in God's steadfast love.

Consider and remember: in the joyful times and in the sorrowful times, what has God done for you?

God covers us and lifts us up, protecting and empowering us with steadfast love.

When you have been like the fig tree in Jesus' story that seems unable to produce and that everyone has given up on, what has God done for you?

God tends the soil and waters the ground, nurturing us into life with steadfast love.

Children of God, come, let us worship God who never gives up on us!

We come to worship and cling to God, for God's steadfast love never fails!

† Opening Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

UMH 381

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us thine we are.

We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou has promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture

Psalm 63:1-8

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

Song

As the Deer

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you. (repeat)

A Time for Young Christians

Holly Walker

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

"A Closer Walk"

Dennis Allen

Sermon

Sacred Wilderness: *My Soul Clings*

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

† **Hymn**

The Old Rugged Cross (vv. 1-2)

UMH 504

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

[refrain] So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary. [refrain]

A Statement of Faith

The United Church of Canada

UMH 883

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

arr. Jason D. Payne

† 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

My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing)

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

[refrain] No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [refrain]

† Benediction

"Recessional in C"

John S. Dixon

Postlude

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† Please stand in body or spirit

Prayer List
Sunday, March 30, 2025

Lori Guess is recovering from her Tuesday surgery.

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).

Lucy Varnell is having lumbar surgery tomorrow at UT Medical Center. She should be in the hospital 3-5 days.

Danny Armstrong (wife is friend of Ali Umbarger and his grandson is in her class) had what is thought to be a mini-stroke. He is a two-time kidney transplant recipient.

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

2nd Thursday – Help at Minvilla Manor

Second Harvest Food Pantry

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

3rd Thursday – VMC Lunch Prep

3rd Friday – Serve VMC Lunch

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

April 13

Palm Sunday Lunch and Egg Hunt

April 17

Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary

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.

Please tear off and leave in an offering plate or in the church office



RSVP

Palm Sunday Lunch and Egg Hunt

Lunch: Sub Sandwiches, Cold Salads, Chips, Cookies
and drinks

Egg Hunt following lunch!

NAME AND
ATTENDING _____

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
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Laurie Speranza, Administrative Assistant
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Jeff Criswell, Custodian

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