

Central United Methodist Church



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 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

Standing on the Promises

arr. Joel Raney

Welcome

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

Rev. Jimmy Sherron

Opening Prayer

† Call to Worship

We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

where people are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

where we are called to service, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

Where hope is wrapped in humility, and the service we offer is love.

Let us worship the God of resurrection. Amen.

† Opening Hymn

Christ Is Alive

UMH 311

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

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

A Mother's Hands

Words & Music by Ruth Elaine Schram

Sermon

Making Christ Known: Serving the Community

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

† Hymn

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vv. 1,2,4)

UMH 581

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

Announcements

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.

Offering our Gifts

Offertory

† Dedication of Gifts

The Doxology

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!

UMH 94

We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World

† Closing Hymn

Here I Am, Lord (vv. 1,3)

UMH 593

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

[refrain] Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? [refrain]

† Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on "Austrian Hymn"

arr. Joel Raney

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† Please stand in body or spirit

Breakthrough Prayer

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.

Looking Ahead ~ Our Calendar

Weekly:

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

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

May 12	Ministry Team Meeting, 6:30 pm, Room 209
May 14	Leadership Structure Team Meeting, 10am, Room 209
May 18	Senior Recognition Day 4 th and Gill Neighborhood Meeting, 4 pm, Room 210
May 19	Telling Your Story, 4pm, Room 209
May 20	Centro Postpartum class, 10am-12noon, Room 106
May 21	Rehearsal for Beaumont Graduation, 11am, Sanctuary Beaumont Graduation, 4pm-8pm, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
May 22	Centro Medical Interpreter Graduation, 5-8pm, Fellowship Hall
May 26	Memorial Day – Church office closed

Vacation Bible School: Scuba Diving into Friendship with God! June 8-10, 6-8pm

VBS is offered for all children through 5th grade. We will serve dinner each evening at 5:30. We need volunteers to help serve, teach, craft, and play each evening. Please see the bulletin board for more information. Plan for a brief VBS meeting May 18th after Worship Service.

Hands-On Mission Project 2025 Food Buckets for Zimbabwe

We are blessed to be part of a connectional church that works in all areas of our world. Central is part of the Holston Conference UMC, and this year's Annual Hands-On Mission is 500 Food Buckets for Zimbabwe, Ishe Anesu Project for Underprivileged Children. We at Central want to provide a minimum of 10 food buckets. This might seem like a drop in the bucket, so to speak; but there are 67 churches in our district, (Tennessee Valley District,) of the Holston Conference. If each congregation contributes 10 Food Buckets, we will surpass the goal of 500! You do the math! Let's do our part and make a difference to these children! The deadline is May 28th.

**** Here are the instructions for filling a bucket: Purchase the food items from the list and pack inside a NEW 5 Gallon bucket with lid.****

Please put the buckets in the 1st floor foyer in the nursery area.

1 bag self rising flour (4-5 lb)

1 bag sugar (4-5 lb)

1 bag of dried beans (2lb)

1 bottle of cooking oil (48 ounces or less)

1 bag of rice (2 lb)

1 box of powdered/dried milk (no larger than 64oz)

2 cans of meat: Ham (1 lb can), SPAM or Tuna (12 oz can)

Note: An \$8.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. Please leave the monetary donation in the church office rather than putting it in the bucket.

Prayer List
Sunday, May 11, 2025

Bob Gant will have outpatient surgery tomorrow to repair a ruptured tendon in his ankle.

Sybil Brown's (Nancy Brown's daughter-in-law and Dan and Diana Brown Taylor's sister-in-law) cancer surgery went well. Her PET scan last week did not reveal any areas of concern. She is waiting on further biopsy results.

Carolyn Cottrell had the battery in her pacemaker replaced on Tuesday.

Elena Karsten (Ali Umbarger's student teacher in the fall) and her family after the sudden death of her brother Jo.

David Lewelling (Tyler Lewelling's father) is having shoulder surgery May 20.

Kelly Stephenson (friend of Tyler Lewelling) has been diagnosed with colon cancer.

Don Stinton (Mary Humes's brother) is struggling with some health concerns (P.O. Box 62, Walden, CO, 80480).

Michael Whitaker (friend of David Gilliland) is at Vanderbilt University Medical Center recovering from lung transplant.

Terry Woodcock (friend of Patty Parham), who was in the hospital this week with many health issues.

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), **Ron O'Tool**, **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), **A C Wilson** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #215, 37918) and **Rev. Grady Winegar** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #223, 37918).

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.



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Sign up for our weekly e-letter, The Central Hub, on our website,
www.knoxcentralumc.org



Pastoral and Administrative Staff

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