

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 or scan the Vanco QR code.



- 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. Jimmy Sherrod, Senior Pastor Jimmy@knoxcentralumc.org

Facebook: Central United Methodist Church, Knoxville, TN

Central United Methodist Church



The Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026
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 *A Mighty Fortress* arr. Stephen L. Amber

Welcome The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!** Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

Opening Prayer

† **Call to Worship** Rev. Diana Brown Taylor

We've come to worship God, who makes streams flow from rock,
who turns the parched earth into springs of water,
who sends the rain from heaven and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.
As the deer thirsts for flowing streams, so we thirst for You, O God.
Come, let's worship our life-giving God,
who pours out living water on all who thirst. Praise be to God!

† **Opening Hymn** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* UMH 127

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; (want no more)
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; (strength and shield)
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; (give to thee)
I will ever give to thee.

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture John 4:7-29; 39
The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Amen.

Looking Ahead ~ Our Calendar

Weekly:

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

Central Harmony, Wednesday at 5:30-6:15

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 Wednesday – Help at Minvilla Manor
Second Harvest Food Pantry**

3rd Monday – Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, #210

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

3rd Thursday – VMC Lunch Prep

3rd Friday – Serve VMC Lunch

March 2

Ministry Team Meeting, Choir Room, 6:00 pm

March 3

Prayer meeting, Room 213, 10:00 am

The Central UMC Book Club will be reading the New York Times bestseller Theo of Golden by Allen Levi for March. This poignant story about art, seeing and being seen, connection, and giving back began through a chance visit to the local coffee shop called "The Chalice." Theo of Golden is quickly becoming a beloved favorite nationwide and is easily available through all book purchase locations. Our book discussion of Theo of Golden will be Sunday, March 22 at noon in Room 213 after the morning worship service. Light snacks will be served. Contact Sue Renfro for more details.

Due to the recent bad weather and the cancellation of services two weeks in a row, we have moved Pastor Appreciation Sunday to March 15th. The Central congregation is thankful for Pastors Jimmy Sherrod and Diana Brown Taylor as they lead us in worship and growing discipleship, service in our community and faithful care throughout the year. The Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) invites you to help honor them by making a contribution to the Pastor Appreciation fund as we plan to honor Jimmy and Diana during morning worship on Sunday, March 15th. Your contribution, duly noting its designation for Pastor Appreciation, can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or sent to the church office by March 5th. Thank you for considering a financial gift to help us extend our thanks and appreciation to them.

Jesus said, "Come and see." The Serving Team is asking you the same, "Come and see."

Every month Central's Service Team is active helping our neighbors with our ministry partners. We serve the Homeless and Newly Housed at the Volunteer Ministry Center, the Elementary Children at Beaumont Magnet Academy, the Needy Families with food insecurity at Fulton High School, and the Mothers with Babies recovering from drug addiction at Susannah's House. We also seek new avenues to help the marginalized in our community. If your heart is leading you to take action with love against systemic injustice, **we need you.**

If God is leading you to serve, please email [serving@knoxcentralumc.org](mailto:-serving@knoxcentralumc.org) or contact Jane Meier, jmeier321@yahoo.com, or Melanie Gangaware, melaniegangaware@gmail.com, to let us know!

Serving is a joyful opportunity! Come and See!

Prayer List
Sunday, March 1, 2026

Ken McClain (neighbor of Tim and Tammy Mendenhall) will meet with a doctor this week to schedule surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm. He is very nervous because his father died from an aneurysm.

Cyndi French continues to work with health care team on cancer treatment options (4233 Drifting Drive, 37912).

Vicki Skeen Hollingsworth had an MRI and has seen an orthopedist. She will begin physical therapy, but she is still having tests to try to determine the root cause for her pain (3326 Clearview St, 37917).

Joe Mahlum is a patient at Select Specialty Hospital-Knoxville. (4262 Williamson Dr, 37938).

Sally Ball Morgan continues to recover at home and awaiting additional tests.

Rachel Roberts's (David Roberts's mother) health continues to decline. Remember Rachel, David and the family at this time (7028 Mellon Pointe Way, 37924).

Dr. Linda Buchanan had a successful surgery and is healing well. The prayers were greatly appreciated.

Denver Meier (6-year-old granddaughter of Mike and Jane Meier) has a condition that produces bone spurs throughout her body.

Please continue to remember **Gunnar Barnes** (Lucy Varnell's brother-in-law), **Pat Cowart** (Melanie Gangaware's mother), **Al Curl** (420 Ridgedale Drive, Strawberry Plains, 37871), **Phyllis Greear** (sister of Nancy Brown, Brewton, Alabama), **Cyndi French** (4233 Drifting Drive, 37912), **Vicki Skeen Hollingsworth** (3326 Clearview St, 37917), **David Helms** (801 E Inskip Dr, 37912), **Peter Keyes** (2806 N Decatur Rd, Apt. 212, Decatur, GA 30033), **Diane Lowe** (7125 Meadowbrook Cir, 37918), **Denver Meier** (6-year-old granddaughter of Mike and Jane Meier), **Joan Moon** (7655 Apple Cross, Corryton, 37721), **Nancy Morgan** (Lori Guess's mother, 3105 Atoka Ln, 37917), **Ron O'Tool** (312 Hamilton Rd, 37920), **Charles Sartwell** (Ann Sartwell's father and former CUMC member, Ivy Park at Monterey, 1110 Cass St, Apt 101, Monterey, CA 93940), **Donna Shirley** (Larry Ward's sister, 4133 Stephanie, Jonesboro, AR 72405), **Billy Varnell** (4121 Riverstone Ln, 37918), **Carroll and Lucy Varnell** (4408 High School Rd, 37912), **Bill Winans** (3696 Halcyon Trace, Trussville, AL 35173), **A C Wilson** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #215, 37918), and **Rev. Grady Winegar** (The Village at Allandale, Virginia's Garden #206, 100 Strickland Court, Kingsport, TN, 37660).

Breakthrough Prayer

Holy Spirit, breakthrough this Lenten season and deepen our understanding of Christ's sacrifice for us.

In his suffering and death, may we realize the depth of Christ's love for us more fully.

As we journey towards Easter, help us find new joy and renewed gratitude by serving Christ and others more faithfully. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Time for Young Christians

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).

Prayer Concerns

Sermon

The Cup of Living Water

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

Hymn

Fill My Cup, Lord

UMH 641

Fill My Cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord. Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole. (repeat)

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Offertory

As the Deer

arr. Mark Hayes

† 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.

Communion Anthem

In Remembrance
(from "Celebrate Life")

Beryl Red and Ragan Courtney

Celebration of Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

Great God of mercy and love, hear our prayer:

For paying more attention to the expected path than the right one,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For denying your very aliveness out of a misguided self-sacrificing agenda

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For valuing the safe choices instead of the ones that lead to life,

Forgive and restore us.

Words of Assurance

Lost is not lost to God. You are not lost to God.
God is with us, forgoing and restoring us to wholeheartedness.
By God's grace, we are forgiven and redeemed.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord!**

(Sung to the tune of Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing)

It's a good and joyful thing, to always and forever sing,
Thanks to God, our great creator, steadfast love you always bring.
You who formed us in your image, filled us with the breath of life,
You who speak to us through prophets, and deliver us from strife.

Holy, holy, God Almighty, God of love and power and might:
Earth and heaven are filled with glory; through you all things come to light.
Hosanna in the highest! Lord we praise your from on high!
Blest are all who come in your name, those whose lives you occupy!

You are holy, you are blessed, as is Jesus Christ your son.
He who preached your great redemption and prayed all might be made one.
He healed, he ate with sinners 'till upon the Cross he died;
But the tomb on Sunday morning proved your love is still alive!

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us...

When the supper was over, he took the cup...

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine and on all who gather here to give you thanks. May these gifts become for us the body and blood of our Lord so that we, in turn, may be the life for the world.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ...

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World

† Closing Hymn

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

UMH 133

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

[Refrain] Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (refrain)

† Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare Postlude

Douglas E. Wagner

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† Please stand in body or spirit