Central United Methodist Church



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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 *I Love to Tell the Story* arr. Joel Raney

Welcome The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

Opening Prayer

† **Call to Worship**

We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.
The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.
We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.
The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.
We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.
Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us,
empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.
We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God,
and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

† **Opening Hymn** *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* UMH 152

I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture I Thessalonians 1:1-10
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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).

Anthem *Everlasting Arms* arr. Susan Naylor Callaway

Sermon Always Give Thanks: Chosen Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

Hymn *Blessed Assurance* (vv. 1-2) UMH 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

[refrain] This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [refrain]

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.

Prayer Concerns

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Offertory *Pass It On* arr. Mark Hayes

Dedication of Gifts Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us" Give thanks.

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 the 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

Postlude *God of Grace and God of Glory* arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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† Please stand in body or spirit

Breakthrough Prayer

Holy Spirit, break through the noise of this world and fall afresh on us. You know each of us by name and choose us as your own. Empower us to live just and righteous lives, showing Your love and compassion for those around us. Open our eyes and hearts to Your leading, surrendering our will to Yours. In Christ's Holy Name we pray. Amen.



What is the **UTK Wesley Foundation**? Want to find out? We are serving the UT students our infamous Lasagna Casserole **this Coming Sunday evening, November 8th**! We will serve dinner approximately 6:45 pm to 7:00 pm after their service that starts at 6:00 pm. Whaaaat? This Sunday?? Are you kidding me? Nope. We suddenly have an opportunity to break bread and share Jesus with young Christians. **Won't you join us and meet these young folks who are attending college and seeking Jesus? If you can join us, please reach out to serving@knoxcentralumc.org or text Melanie Gangaware at 865-256-4280. Let's answer God's call and seize the opportunity to be a light at UT!**

Looking Ahead ~ Our Calendar

Weekly:
Builder's Class Bible Study via Zoom, Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Mahjong, Tuesday, 5:30 pm, # 210

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

1st Wednesday – Prep Caswell Manor lunch
1st Thursday – Serve Caswell Manor lunch
2nd Tuesday – Trustee Meeting, #209
3rd Thursday – VMC Lunch Prep
3rd Friday – Serve VMC Lunch

November 8	**Charge Conference, 2pm, Room 210**
November 9	**Justice Knox Annual Assembly, 7:00-8:30 pm**
November 10	**Trustees Meeting, 11 am, Room 209**
November 11	**4th and Gill Potluck and Meeting, 6pm, Fellowship Hall**
November 15	**Brunch Church, 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall**
November 21 & 22	**Church Clean Up Days**
November 23	**Memorial service for Lynn Whitted Hutton Pitts**
	5-7 pm Receiving of friends; 7 pm Service
November 26 & 27	**Church office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**

Sustainable Giving through your faith and generosity!
Central has supported **Fulton High School** for many years by providing Thanksgiving boxes for the needy families. Last December, we began providing food for the kids that did not have enough to eat on the weekends. Through your generosity, we were able to provide food and hygiene products, each week throughout the school year. Wow! Thank you! Fulton has now created a store within their marketing program to keep on hand food, clothing, and hygiene products. It allows them to help students during the week and send food home on the weekends. To sustain this program an informal coalition has been formed. To date, the group consists of Central UMC, Washington Pike UMC, Fountain City Baptist, Knox Connect Church, and the Fountain City Ministry Center. This coalition is providing Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes for approximately 100 Fulton families. ***For Thanksgiving, Central will provide 40 boxes.*** A sign up with the shopping list is on the Central Sign Up board outside of the sanctuary. Donations are always welcome for this long standing ministry as it is no longer just for Turkey Day.

The Central UMC Book Club will hold our final book discussion of 2026 on Sunday, November 8 at noon in Room 213 about The Story of the Other Wise Man, by Henry Van Dyke. This literary classic was first published in Harper's Bazaar in 1892. The brief book is a wonderful pre-Advent meditation for your personal Christmas preparations if you are unable to attend on November 8. The Story of the Other Wise Man is free on Kindle and Guttenberg.org, for a minimal cost on Amazon, or available at local libraries. See Sue Renfro, Adult MInistries chair, for details. Snack volunteers welcome on November 8.

Our annual Charge Conference will be held TODAY at 2 pm in Room 210. *This meeting is open to everyone*, although only members of the Charge Conference are eligible to vote. What is Charge Conference? This is an annual meeting where we approve leaders for the coming year, vote on the pastor's compensation package, celebrate ministries and hear a word from our District Superintendent. If you have questions about Charge Conference, feel free to reach out to Pastor Jimmy or Melynda Whetsel, our Leadership Council Chair.

Beta Christmas Party!!
We are excited to celebrate Christmas at the Beta Party on Tuesday, December 15th from 6-8pm! We need food, drinks, money for pizza, gifts, and volunteers! Please sign up on the bulletin boards for donations, and take gift items and wrap for our friends. Please bring gifts by Sunday, December 13. Money donations to Megan Brown. Questions Jeanette Brewington 865-228-2699. Thank you!

Prayer List
Sunday, November 8, 2025

Jabette Carlson's broken ankle continues to heal, and she is getting out with a wheelchair.

Susan Marks's health continues to decline. She has an appointment with UT Neurology on November 11 (1315 Snowdon Dr, 37912).

Susie Smith is recovering at home from October 27th knee replacement surgery.

Mark Tester's back and leg pain has improved enough for him to be at church.

The **family of Chester Brooks** (father of Scott Brooks), who died October 28th in West Virginia.

Ford Deese (Mary Humes's grandniece) continues to recover from brain cancer. Her scans are still clear, and the doctors plan to remove her port Monday. She will also undergo some "post treatment" testing.

Jean Duncan (Bobbi Kopotic's mother) is home on hospice care.

Hank Kelly's (Sally Ball-Morgan's 5-year old grandnephew) had another chemotherapy treatment this week that went well.

The **family of Lynn Hutton Pitts** (former organist/choir director and director of Christian Education), who died October 23. A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, November 23, at 7 p.m at Central. Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. An obituary can be found at https://knoxnews.com/obituaries/pokr1595483

Brianna (Tiffany Mynatt's client) is waiting for a court date to resolve her custody battle. Her brother Bryan has awakened from his coma.

Please continue to remember **Cyndi French** (4233 Drifting Drive, 37912), **David Helms** (801 E Inskip Dr, 37912), **Peter Keyes** (2806 N Decatur Rd, Apt. 212, Decatur, GA , 30033), **Susie Knable** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #121, 37918), **Joe and Marlene Mahlum** (4232 Williamson Dr., 37938), **Kourtnee McDougle** (friend of Mary Humes), Joan Moon (7655 Apple Cross, Corryton, 37721), **Rosemary Phillips** (mother of friend of Tyler Lewelling), **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), **A. C. Wilson** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #215, 37918), **Rev. Grady Winegar** (The Village at Allandale, Virginia's Garden #206, 100 Strickland Court, Kingsport, TN, 37660), and **Tonya Wright** (316 St. Francis Way, 37919).

Please update information regularly and let Kathy know if a person can be removed from the prayer list.

CENTRAL CLEANING BLITZ DAYS

Saturday, November 21 10-1 or 1-4 in the Sanctuary
Sunday, November 22 after worship to 4 pm, in the Fellowship Hall
Everyone can help in some way, we have tasks for all ages
Cleaning Supplies will be provided.
Help make Central shine bright as we approach Advent and our 100th Celebration!!

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.

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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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