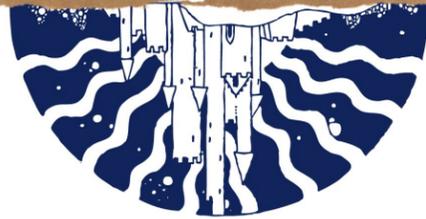


The altar flowers are from the wedding of Patricia Woller and Kyle Pike.  
They are placed in loving memory of their grandparents:  
Mr. John Arnold Woller, Senior  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Dale Sayers  
Mr. Billie Jewel Dukes  
Mr. Ray Edwin Pike

## The Upside-Down Kingdom



## The Upside Down Kingdom Sermon Series

October 3: "Where the Last Are First" - Mark 10:17-31  
October 10: "Where the Least are the Greatest" - Mark 10:35-45  
October 17: "Where the Blind Can See" - Mark 10:46-52

Music Director: Susan Thompson

Organist: Virginia Paul

"Psalm XX" - Young c. 1998 Lorenz Publishing Co. "Across The Lands" (W&S 3032) c. 2002 Thankyou Music/Adm. By worshiptogether.com songs

"Praise to the Lord" - Broughton c. 1998 Lorenz Publishing Co.

"When I Can Read My Title Clear" - Paxton c. 1998 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Call to Worship courtesy of Ministry Matters.

CCLI License # 2306531

Need someone to talk to? Contact Pastor Miriam. Central also offers **Stephen Ministers**—lay Christian friends trained to help through times of crisis. The pastor can get you in touch with one.



## Bible Reading for October 10 Mark 10:35-45: "Where the Least are the Greatest"

### Discussion Questions

*Who is the greatest? It's an important question, and one that we may think about more frequently than we realize. In popular culture, who is the greatest musician? Who is the greatest author or teacher? Who is the greatest politician? The disciples were having an argument on the subject and Jesus gave them a very clear answer. Who does he say is the greatest? How "great" are we?*

## September Financials

Needed Weekly	\$15,559
Received Sept 26	\$7,035
Needed for Sept	\$62,235
Received for Sept	\$44,980

## Last Week's Attendance

In-person:	170
Online:	55

Facemasks are Recommended



and Encouraged while indoors.



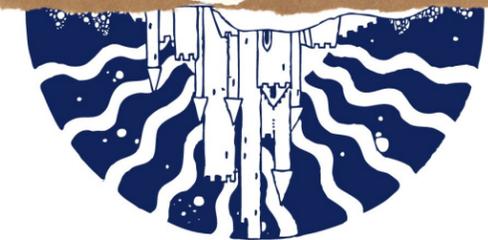
616 Jackson Street  
Decatur, Alabama 35601  
256) 353-6941

[CUMC@CentralUnitedMethodist.com](mailto:CUMC@CentralUnitedMethodist.com)  
<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>

Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

## Where the Last Are First



Central's mission:

**Love God, love others, and serve the world**

October 3, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

Please silence electronic devices.

\*Stand at these points, as you're comfortable.

Musical Gift "Praise to the Lord"

Broughton

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

The kingdom of God is at hand.

**We want to enter this kingdom.**

The mercy of God is made known.

**We want to receive this mercy.**

The grace of God is abundant for all.

**We praise you, O God, for your compassion and your love.**

**Accept our grateful praise as we come to worship you today.**

\*Hymn #576 "Rise Up O Men of God"

Rise up, O Men of God! Have done with lesser things.

Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God! The kingdom tarries long.

Bring in the day of brotherhood and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait,

Her strength unequal to her task; rise up, and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod.

As brothers of the son of Man, rise up, O men of God!

\*Prayer of Confession and Pardon, Passing the Peace

**Merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**  
**We have failed to be an obedient church.**  
**We have not done your will,**  
**we have broken your law,**  
**we have rebelled against your love,**  
**we have not loved our neighbors,**  
**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**  
**Forgive us, we pray.**  
**Free us for joyful obedience,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

Greeting

\*Hymn #405 "Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Bible Reading — Mark 10:17-31

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds**  
**by the power of your Holy Spirit,**  
**that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,**  
**we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

As Jesus continued down the road, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. You know the commandments: Don't commit murder. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal. Don't give false testimony. Don't cheat. Honor your father and mother."

"Teacher," he responded, "I've kept all of these things since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him carefully and loved him. He said, "You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will

have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me." But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.

Looking around, Jesus said to his disciples, "It will be very hard for the wealthy to enter God's kingdom!" His words startled the disciples, so Jesus told them again, "Children, it's difficult to enter God's kingdom! It's easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

They were shocked even more and said to each other, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them carefully and said, "It's impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God."

Peter said to him, "Look, we've left everything and followed you."

Jesus said, "I assure you that anyone who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms because of me and because of the good news will receive one hundred times as much now in this life—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms (with harassment)—and in the coming age, eternal life. But many who are first will be last. And many who are last will be first."

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message — "Where the Last Are First"

Rev. Miriam Smith

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer—

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*We give thanks for God's creation and deliverance, concluding:*

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**  
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*We give thanks for the Son and the gift of the Holy Meal.*

...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.**

*We give thanks for God's presence, the Holy Spirit, concluding:*

...all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

With the confidence of God's children, we are bold to pray together:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

*[While standing, receive the bread and cup. Then pray at the rail or return to your seat. Offerings left at the rail go to the needy. You may wish to receive with these words. If you wish to remain seated, please alert an usher and a server will come to you.]*

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

\*Prayer after Receiving

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery**

**in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world**

**in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others,**

**in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn #354 "I Surrender All" (v 1, 2, 4)

All to Jesus I surrender;

All to him I freely give;

I will ever love and trust him,

In his presence daily live.

**Refrain**

***I surrender all, I surrender all,***

***All to thee, my blessed Savior,***

***I surrender all.***

All to Jesus I surrender;

Humbly at his feet I bow,

Worldly pleasures all forsaken;

Take me, Jesus, take me now.

**Refrain**

All to Jesus I surrender;

Lord, I give myself to thee;

Fill me with thy love and power;

Let thy blessing fall on me.

**Refrain**

\*Sending Forth

Musical Gift "When I Can Read My Title Clear"

*Paxton*