

NARRATIVE

Alexis White

As our final preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we will light the Chrismon tree. And in this time of Advent, whenever you see a lighted tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light into our darkness, healing in our brokenness, and peace to all who will receive Him. May this tree, arrayed in beauty and splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in hearts.

CHILDREN "Away in a Manger"

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Miriam Smith

Go forth from this place an awakened people, aware of the world's darkness, yet reaching for the light.

We see God at work in our world, and that makes all the difference.

Go forth from this place an expectant people, conscious of judgment in our midst, yet welcoming God's new order and justice.

We welcome God's new day, believing that Christ will set us free.

Go forth from this place a serving people, sensing anew the pain so many bear, yet confident God will bring healing, even through you.

We open ourselves as channels of God's grace, for we have heard good news and we have been empowered to share it.

May the God of peace be with us all, this season and forever.

Amen and Amen.

MUSICAL GIFT "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *Prentiss*

- Music Director: Susan Thompson
- Children's Director: Debbie Looney
- Cherub Choir: Suzanne Woller
- Organist: Virginia Paul
- Acolytes: Jack Henry Lively & Nile Sickles
- Parament placement: Carlton McMasters
- Candle placement: Wes, Sam & Anna Kate Stephenson
- Holly window placement: Jimbo Green & Emerson Weinman
- Chrismon placement: Catherine Botto, Lucy Bentley, Sarah Sanders, John Tyler Colley & Jamie Sturm
- Cherubs: Margaret McMasters, Ann Thomas Gantt
- "The Coventry Carol" - arr. Hughes c. 1981 Lorenz Publishing Co.
- "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"-arr. Wilson c.1987 Lorenz Publishing Co.
- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - Prentiss c. 2004 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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.

November Financials

Needed Weekly	\$15,559
Received Nov 21	\$21,048
Needed for Nov	\$62,235
Received for Nov	\$56,078

Last Week's Attendance

In-person:	146
Online:	43

There will be a **Church Council/Charge Conference** meeting on **November 28 at 5 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All members are welcome.

All poinsettias ordered through the Market must be picked up from the Fellowship Hall (Grant Street double doors), Dec 1, 1:00-5:00pm. Also, if you know of any friends or neighbors who ordered through CUMC, Please make them aware of the pickup day and time.

Let's celebrate the start of December remembering what the Christmas season is really about, the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord! On **Dec 1 at 5 pm** in the Fellowship Hall we will celebrate with a **TACO bar, birthday cake and entertainment**. If you would like to make a donation for the purchase of a **poinsettia in honor or in memory** of a loved one, please notate on your check in memory or in honor of and the name and "for poinsettia". Names will be listed in the Dec 19 bulletin. Forms are also located around the church.



616 Jackson Street
 Decatur, Alabama 35601
 256) 353-6941
CUMC@CentralUnitedMethodist.com
<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>
Sunday School – 9:30 AM
Worship – 10:30 AM

Calendar

Sunday, November 28

- 9:15 AM Crossroads (Rm 209)
- 9:30 AM Children, Youth 3rd Fl), Cornerstone (LFH), Agape (L), Lovett (Rm 208), Bates/Godwin (Rm 213), Good Fellowship (CH)
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 5 PM Church Council/Charge Conference-FH

Tuesday, November 30

- 5:15 AM Exercise Class, G
- 8:00 AM Centering Prayer, CH
- 9:30 AM Tuesday Morning Ladies B.S.-L
- 2:30 PM Prayer Team

Wednesday, December 1

- 5:15 AM Exercise Class, G
- 1-5 PM Pick up Market Poinsettias
- 5 PM Happy Birthday Jesus Party, last night of programming until after holidays

Thursday, December 2

Thanksgiving Day, Church office closed

Friday, December 3

- 5:15 AM Exercise Class, G
- 9:00 AM Women's Java Jaay Bible
- Church Office Closed

Monday, December 6

8 PM Online Conference-Wide Called Charge Conference, for the purpose of casting the church's ballot regarding Boy Scouts of America pending litigation.

CH- Chapel, *FH*- Fellowship Hall
LFH- Lower Fellowship Hall
L - Library *S*- Sanctuary *G*- Gym

Central's mission:

Love God
 Love others
 Serve the world



November 28, 2021
 First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens Service
Please silence electronic devices.
**Stand at these points, as you're comfortable.*

Musical Gift "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" *arr. Wilson*

Words of Welcome

*Litany of the Greens

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?
With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.
 How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?
With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.
 How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Savior?
With arrangements of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death and resurrection.
 How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?
By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.
 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
All Glory to God in the highest!



*Invocation

God of manger and star, let us enter your story once again and find ourselves kneeling with the shepherds, singing with the angels and worshipping with the Magi. Touch our hearts with the wonder of birth, and the depths of your love. Speak to us in word and song and lift us to the realms of glory. Amen.

*Carol 196 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

PARAMENTS

Isaiah 40:3-5 Jennie-Marie McMasters
In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

NARRATIVE Lily McMasters

Our Advent paraments are purple, a royal color. We place these paraments to remind us of the King of Kings, who came to be the “Light of the World”.

Carol 211 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ADVENT WREATH

Jeremiah 23:5-6 Anne Stephenson

The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which He will be called: “The Lord is our Righteousness.”

NARRATIVE Charlotte Stephenson

The Advent Wreath is a vivid symbol of preparation. The lighting of a new candle each of the four weeks before Christmas reminds us that something is happening, but more is yet to come. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the everlasting covenant offered in the birth of Jesus. The four candles symbolize HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. The center, or CHRIST, candle is lit Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Kyle, Patricia and Riley Pike

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WREATHS AND GARLAND

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Alicia Mullican

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, among them a light has shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

NARRATIVE Amelia Mullican

From ancient times, evergreens have been considered a symbol of eternity, a sign of God’s everlasting nature. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, throughout the church, we hang wreaths shaped in circles, and place garlands of green, as a sign of everlasting life. These are symbols of Christ’s gift of eternal life and of the celebration of Christmas itself.

HOLLY AND IVY

Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6 Patricia Pike

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with grief; surely He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; Upon Him was the punishment that made us whole. And by His bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

NARRATIVE Riley Pike

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by His death on the cross, and by His resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ’s passion. Their prickly leaves suggest the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we place the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus our Savior.

CAROLING

Psalm 96: 1-4a, 6 Ginny Pylant

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

NARRATIVE Annie Pylant

The singing of Christmas carols is one of the greatest joys of the season. During Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day, the words of our music reflect the joyous news of the Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! For this service, and in a celebration of this Christmas season’s special music, please remain seated as we sing the first verse of several favorite carols.

217 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

- 218 “What Child is This”
- 224 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
- 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
- 245 “The First Noel”

CHRISMONS

Micah 5:2,4 Christen Adams

But you, O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from ancient days. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the one of peace.

NARRATIVE Mary Hyatt Adams

The word “Chrismon” is a combination of the words “Christ” and “Monogram”, and refers to the special ornaments we place on our tree here in the sanctuary. Each white and gold represents a symbol of Christianity. Today, we place four of the most recognized symbols on the tree: The Crown, which symbolizes Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Star, which represents the Star of Bethlehem. The dove, which is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, and the butterfly, which symbolizes the resurrection and life everlasting for the believer.

CELEBRATION OF GIFTS FROM GOD

- “Adore” *arr. Clydesdale*
- Angel - Sade Bouchillon
- Mary - Molly Adams / Joseph - Grant McRee
- Shepherd - Jace Sturm / Wiseman - Weinmann Gantt

You are invited to bring your estimate of giving card to the chancel once the nativity characters are in place.

TREE LIGHTING

John 1: 1-5, 9-14 Kim White

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the Beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born not of the blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.