

Worship Director: Susan Thompson

Organist: Virginia Paul

Soloist: Susan Thompson

Advent Reading: Matt and Julia Young

Scripture Reader: Laura Smith

"And the Glory of the Lord" - Handel 1991 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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You are invited to a Christmas Day celebration! Next Sunday we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with many of our favorite carols and hymns! Dress up or wear your favorite tacky Christmas sweater—however you find yourself on Christmas Day in the morning, we hope you will find your way here. (Kids are invited to bring along a toy to be blessed as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all of his good gifts to us.)

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.



There will not be a **Lunch Bunch** on Wednesdays until after the new year. An announcement will be made when they are starting back up.

On December 21, there will be a **Longest Night Service** in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm.

**Christmas Eve** candlelight services will be at **5 pm** and at **11 pm** on Dec. 24. **Sunday, Dec 25th**; there will be a **blessing of the toys**. Bring your favorite toy received this Christmas to be blessed during the service.

### December Financials

Needed Weekly	\$15,559
Received Dec 11	\$7,900
Needed for Dec	\$62,235
Received for Dec	\$21,010

### Last Week's Attendance

In-person:	134
Online:	83



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<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>

Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

### Calendar

#### Sunday, December 18

9:15 AM Crossroads (Rm 209)  
9:30 AM Children, Youth 3rd Fl), Cornerstone (LFH), Agape (L), Lovett (Rm 208), Bates/Godwin (Rm 213), Young Adult (Rm 211)

10:30 AM Worship Service

#### Tuesday, December 20

5:15 AM Exercise Class, G  
8:00 AM Centering Prayer, CH  
2:30 PM Prayer Team

#### Wednesday, December 21

5:15 AM Exercise Class, G  
6:30 PM Longest Night Service, S

#### Thursday, December 22

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study-JJ

#### Friday, December 23

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

#### Saturday, December 25

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc  
1100 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc

CH- Chapel, FH- Fellowship Hall

LFH- Lower Fellowship Hall

L - Library S- Sanctuary G- Gym

Check our website for up-to-date calendar.



# RESTORE US

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19: MATTHEW 1:18-25

Central's mission:

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

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

Please silence electronic devices.

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

Musical Gift "And the Glory of the Lord"

Handel

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel

**Children:** You lead your people gently and kindly

**All:** You sent us your light and your salvation.

Hear us and restore us, Lord God Almighty

**Children:** Help us to hear you and know you are here

**All:** Jesus Christ is our Lord, our light and our salvation.

Let us praise and worship him together.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set our people free.**

\*Opening Hymns #O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain**

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

**Refrain**

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

**Refrain**

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

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;  
Before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.

**Refrain**

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

\*Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
The third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic\* church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*universal*

\*Greeting

Hymn "A Star Shone Bright"

A star shone bright across the plain  
And calmed the earth so Love could reign.  
'Twas in a child that hope was born,  
A dream fulfilled! O happy morn!

O Son of God, Incarnate Word,  
O Wisdom's Light, whom angels heard,  
Come forth again, our hearts console.  
O heal our hurts and make us whole.

From Bethlehem come to our day;  
Reveal to us your holy way.  
Be born again, Eternal Fire.  
O Spirit come, our souls inspire.

O star shine forth once more this night  
And flood our streets with heavenly Light  
Till every heart in Christ shall see  
The glory of eternity!

Prayers of the People

**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.**

Children's Message

Alicia Mullican

Special Music "The Jesus Gift"

*Martin*

Shall I gather emeralds, shall I bring him gold?  
Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?  
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?

Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,  
Offer him warm laughter, and love.

Shall we gather emeralds, shall we bring him gold?  
Shall we shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?  
Shall we spangle jewels like stars above?

Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,  
Offer him warm laughter, and love.

Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts;  
Kindness he'll use as he leads.  
So, give him these gifts, hand him your hearts,  
Honor his birth and you'll need no  
Emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold;  
Neither bright diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold.  
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above;

You'll have laughter, sweet peace-filled laughter,  
Simple warm laughter and love.

Bible Reading — Matthew 1:18-25

**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.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had

resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel",

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

—  
The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message — Restore Us

Rev. Miriam Smith

\*Closing Hymn #196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

\*Sending Forth

Musical Gift "In Dulci Jubilo"

*Martin*