

*Congregational Prayer of Benediction:

Lord God, you breathed into us the breath of life, then offered us Life and Light again in Your only Son.

Draw from us the Light and Life you created and lead us continually back to your presence. May our lives reflect your glory through the Gospel and in love and service to the world Christ died to save.

We pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

Musical Gift "Take My Life, and Let it Be Consecrated" *Arr. Hayes*

Serving Today

- Interim Pastor: Minnie Bailey
- Worship Director: Susan Thompson
- Pianist: Kim Osborn
- Scripture Reader: Brian Bouchillon

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In the Wilderness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CAFÉ: The menu for Wednesday, March 1st is meatloaf, sides and dessert. A full salad bar will also be offered.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to place flowers in memory or honor of someone, contact Kristen Bentley.

GIVING: Your faithfulness in giving to CUMC helps support the day-to-day expenses of running our church. Not only that, it supports the various ministries we have in place. **OFFERING PLATES** are located near the doors if you would like to give during our worship services. PayPal (make sure to mark "friends and family") may be used, as well as mailing a check to the office.

REGISTRATION PADS: Please sign in on the black registration pad, located at the end of your pew.

SUPER BOWL BAKE SALE RESULTS: \$2060.00
 Thank you SO much for your support of the Super Bowl Bake Sale February 12th! This is the largest amount ever raised from the annual sale. Proceeds will be used to provide Christmas for families through Hope Place.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet tonight at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.



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, February 26

- 9:15 AM Crossroads-Rm 209
- 9:30 AM Cornerstone-LFH, Agape-L, Lovett-Rm 208, Bates/Godwin-Rm 213, Young Adult-Rm 211
- 10:30 AM Worship Service -S
- 5:00 PM Youth -3rd floor
- 5:30 PM Children -3rd floor
- 6:00 PM Church Council - FH

Tuesday, February 28

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

Wednesday, March 1

- 5:15 AM Exercise Class, G
- 5:15 PM Wednesday Nite Café-FH
- 6:00 PM Programming
- 7:00 PM Choir - choir room

Thursday, March 2

- 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study - L

Friday, March 3

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

CH- Chapel, FH- Fellowship Hall
 LFH- Lower Fellowship Hall

Financials for February

Needed Weekly	\$12,910
Received Feb. 19	\$2,903
Needed for Feb	\$51,632
Received in Feb	\$19,644
Year-to-Date giving	\$49,708
Needed Year-to-Date	\$95,889

Last Week's Attendance

In-person: 97
 Online: 151



Central's mission:
**Love God, love others,
 and serve the world**

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent
 10:30 AM

*Please silence electronic devices.
 Stand at these points, as you're comfortable.

Musical Gift "Come to Jesus" *arr. Carol Tornquist*

Welcome

***Call to Worship from Psalm 32**

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
 and whose sin is put away!
**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
 and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
 because of my groaning all day long.
**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
 my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
 And di not conceal my guilt.
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
 Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**
 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
Shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

*Congregational Prayer

We praise you, Father, in Jesus, our blessed Redeemer, through whose death we were granted this season of grace. Christ, our life, we were buried with You through baptism and have been raised to walk in newness of life in You. Lord, you have blessed us beyond comprehension or comparison. Empowered by your Spirit, may we seek to do your will on earth as it is in heaven. Beloved Healer, cure the sickness of our souls and change us from glory to glory into the image of Jesus Christ your Son, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #269 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

*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 “Holy Ground”

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

Prayers of the People

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 for ever. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Special Music “Lamb of God”

Your only Son, no sin to hide;
But You have sent Him from Your side,
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love they crucified;
They laughed and scorned Him as He died.
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

**Refrain
Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

I was so lost I should have died;
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God.

(Refrain)

Geron Davis

Bible Reading— Matthew 4:1-11

Brian Bouchillon

**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.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

But Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message — In the Wilderness

Pastor Minnie Bailey

*Closing Hymn #534 “Be Still My Soul”

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief of pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change God faithful will remain.
Be still my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.