

Worship Director: Susan Thompson

Organist: Virginia Paul

Soloist: Doug Maze

Scripture Reader: Doug Shoemaker

"A Trilogy of Praise" - Thygeson c. 2006 Lorenz Publishing Co.

"Change My Heart, O God" © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

"Here I Am, Lord" Arr. Lloyd Larson c)1981 and this arr. © 2011 OCP Publications

"Living for Christ" - Smith c. 2003 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Call to Worship courtesy of Ministry Matters

Discussion Questions

Prepare for 3/27: Luke 15:1-32

This week's reading is a familiar parable. Read through Luke 15:1-32 and look for the character with the most to lose. Which person is the most disappointed? Why do you think that is? Is there a character you identify with in this story? How would the story differ if it were told from the point of view of the older brother? The father? The servants in the household? Parables are intended to provoke a response from listeners, what do you think Jesus wants to provoke in his audience?

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.



Services during LENT



April 10th

10:30 Service ~ Palm Processional
Potluck luncheon @ 11:30
Easter Egg Hunt

April 14th

Maundy Thursday Service
Sanctuary
7:00pm



GOOD FRIDAY



April 15th

A Service of Shadows
Sanctuary
7:00pm

April 17th

10:30 Service
Children's Choirs sing



The Church Council Meeting is this evening, March 20th at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All members are welcome. There will be performances of **Godspell** in the sanctuary on April 8 and 9 at 7 pm and April 10 in the afternoon. Church members are supporting and participating in the show. More details to follow.

April 10th is Palm Sunday. There will be a Palm Processional at the service, a potluck luncheon, and an Easter Egg Hunt.

April 14th there will be a **Maundy Thursday** Service at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

April 15th Good Friday service at 7 pm in the sanctuary.

March Financials

Needed Weekly	\$15,559
Received Mar 13	\$13,092
Needed for Mar	\$62,235
Received for Mar	\$33,742

Last Week's Attendance

In-person:	112
Online:	58

March 23 Menu for Wed Nite Café

Spaghetti
Naked Pasta
French Bread
Salad
Dessert



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Sunday School – 9:30 AM
Worship – 10:30 AM

Calendar

Sunday, March 20

9:15 AM Crossroads (Rm 209)
9:30 AM Children, Youth 3rd Fl), Cornerstone (LFH), Agape (L), Lovett (Rm 208), Bates/Godwin (Rm 213)
9:30 AM Confirmation Class
10:30 AM Worship Service
5:00-7:00 PM Children, Youth
5:00 PM Church Council Mtg-FH

Tuesday, March 22

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, March 23

5:15 AM Exercise Class, G
5:00 PM Wednesday Nite Café
6:00 PM Wednesday Nite Programming
Children, Youth, Adults
6:30 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, March 24

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study-JJ

Friday, March 25

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

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

Check our website for up-to-date calendar.
www.CentralUnitedMethodist.com

Central's mission:

Love God
Love others
Serve the world

WHAT'S IN THE WAY?

WHAT IS THE POINT?

LUKE 13:1-9



Central's mission:

Love God, love others, and serve the world

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 AM

Please silence electronic devices.

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

Musical Gift "A Trilogy of Praise"

Thygeson

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

We have come this day to learn about what God expects of us. **Sometimes we really don't want to know what God wants. We are afraid to make the commitments God seeks.** God is persistent. God will not let us off the hook so easily. **But we have failed so many times in the past. How can we possibly serve now?**

Open your hearts to receive forgiveness and healing. Listen to God. Be ready to work with God for hope, peace, justice and love.

Be with us, Lord. Help us to turn around, to see you, to serve you, to be a witness to your love. AMEN.

Opening Hymn #577 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days
For the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore
Serving thee whom we adore.

*Affirmation of Faith

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 "Change My Heart, O God"

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

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

Debbie Looney

Special Music "Here I Am, Lord"

Doug Maze

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them: my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Bible Reading — Luke 13:1-9

**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.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — "What is the Point?"

Rev. Miriam Smith

Closing Hymn #357 "Just As I Am"

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown, hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Musical Gift "Living for Christ"

Smith