

Discussion Questions

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The passage from the letter for this week picks up with the end of a long list (beginning back in verse 17) of accomplishments of our forerunners in the faith. Then we run into one of the best known passages from this letter: the great cloud of witnesses. We do not live the life of faith alone! We have not only each other here and now, but the many who have gone on before us! Who is in the cloud cheering you on? Whose life impacted your own? Whose faith has inspired yours? What does it mean for your own life that you are participating in this relay race? Why might the author be encouraging us with this example?

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.



August 14th - 9:30 am to 10:30 am
and after church service

Where do you fit?

Where are your talents needed?

Come visit the different ministry booths
and find where you can serve.

The first **discernment meeting** for all members will be **this evening at 6 pm** in the fellowship hall.

There will be a **Ministry Fair** on **August 14th** during the Sunday School hour and after church service in the Fellowship Hall. Representatives from every ministry at Central will be set up for an opportunity for members to find out what is going on at Central and get involved. There will be breakfast, fellowship and a little competition!
Junior High Parent Meeting: August 14, from 5 to 7, in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch Bunch is every Wednesday at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch is \$3 to help with the lunch costs.

Back to School Bash!! Something for everyone, dinner, then children on the inflatables and waterslides, while the adults enjoy music inside from the Southern Cross Quartet. Wednesday, **August 17th, 5-7.**

July Financials

Needed Weekly	\$15,559
Received July 31	\$18,572
Needed for July	\$62,235
Received for July	\$66,832

Last Week's Attendance

In-person:	166
Online:	61



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, August 7

9:15 AM Crossroads (Rm 209)
9:30 AM Children, Youth 3rd Fl, Cornerstone (LFH), Agape (L), Lovett (Rm 208), Bates/Godwin (Rm 213)
10:30 AM Worship Service
Blessing of the Backpacks
5:00 - 7:00 PM, Youth, 3rd Fl
6:00 PM Discernment Meeting, FH

Tuesday, August 9

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

Wednesday, August 10

5:15 AM Exercise Class, G
11:00 AM Lunch Bunch, FH
5:30 PM Grief Group, Room 211
5:00-7:00 PM Youth, 3rd Fl

Thursday, August 11

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study-JJ

Friday, August 12

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

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Finding Our Way Home

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

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Love God, love others, and serve the world

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

Please silence electronic devices.

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

Musical Gift "Improvisation on Diademata"

Hughes

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

The mighty One summons us from sunrise to sunset.

Out of perfect beauty, God shines forth.

God calls to heaven and earth,

"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me."

**The heavens declare the righteousness of God,
the judge of people and nations.**

Let us not forget God, but with thanksgiving
as our sacrifice, let us be a people of justice.

We worship the God of our salvation.

*Opening Hymn #529 "How Firm a Foundation"

How Firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, they troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

*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 “Sanctuary”

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living
Sanctuary for 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.**

Blessing of the Backpacks

Special Music “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Arr. Larson

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Bible Reading — Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

**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.**

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don’t see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going. By faith he lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise. He was looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith even Sarah received the ability to have a child, though she herself was barren and past the age for having children, because she believed that the one who promised was faithful. So descendants were born from one man (and he was as good as dead). They were as many as the number of the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore. All these people died in faith without receiving the promises, but they saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them. They confessed that they were strangers and immigrants on earth. People who say this kind of thing make it clear that they are looking for a homeland. If they had been thinking about the country that they had left, they

would have had the opportunity to return to it. But at this point in time, they are longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God isn’t ashamed to be called their God—he has prepared a city for them.

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

Message — Finding Our Way Home

Rev. Miriam Smith

*Closing Hymn 710 “Faith of our Fathers”

Faith of our fathers, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
When e’er we hear that glorious word!

Refrain

**Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.**

Faith of our fathers, we will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God,
We all shall then be truly free.

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.

Refrain

*Sending Forth

Musical Gift “Recessional in D”

Mansfield

Worship Director: Susan Thompson

Organist: Virginia Paul

Scripture Reader: Joan Cox

Soloist: Doug Maze

"Improvisation on Diademata" - Hughes c. 1989 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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