

Discussion Questions

Prepare for Sunday, September 25: Read Luke 16:19-31. As you read the parable, how do you find yourself reacting to the story? Are there any parts that stand out as familiar to how you or others you know might respond? Is this simply a warning to shape up and quit sinning, or is there more to the story? Consider the picture that Mary, Jesus' mother, paints with her Magnificat at the beginning of Luke's gospel. If this parable is a warning, it is also an invitation—to work out what it means to be a child of God here and now. What might God be saying to us today with these words?

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.



Wednesday Nite Café Sept 21 Menu

Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Coleslaw, Rolls, Salad, Dessert

If you would like a To-go box for Wednesday Nite dinner, call Wim Marchant before Monday at noon so he can get an accurate count to order food.



Pricing

Adult/\$7
Child/\$5
Household/\$20

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

The Children's Bible Class begins, October 2nd, taught by Pastor Miriam.

There will be a **Church Council meeting** this evening, **Sept 18, at 5 pm** in the fellowship hall.

September Financials

Needed Weekly	\$15,559
Received Sept 11	\$8,290
Needed for Sept	\$62,235
Received for Sept	\$16,863

Last Week's Attendance

In-person:	142
Online:	no streaming

Calendar

Sunday, September 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, 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
5:00 PM Church Council Mtg-F.H.
5:00-7:00 PM Youth-3rd flr
5:30-7:00 PM Children-3rd flr

Tuesday, September 20

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

Wednesday, September 21

5:15 AM Exercise Class, G
11:00 AM Lunch Bunch, FH
5:00-7:00 PM Wed Nite Café
6:00-6:45 PM-Chancel Choir
6:45-7:30 PM-Voices of Praise

Thursday, September 22

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study-JJ

Friday, September 23

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

SERVE ONLY ONE

Luke 16:1-13

Central's mission:

Love God, love others, and serve the world

September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

Please silence electronic devices.

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

Musical Gift "The Power and the Glory"

Smith

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Come let us worship the one who calls us here.

We gather to worship with joy and in hope.

Come, let us worship the one who desires our hearts.

We bring our whole selves in worship to our God.

Come, let us set aside all that distracts us from true worship.

We come as we are and ask the Spirit to gather us in and direct our vision.

Come, let us worship the one who calls us here.

We are here to worship with all that we are.

*Opening Hymn #89 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Every singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.



Central's mission:

Love God
Love others
Serve the world

616 Jackson Street
Decatur, Alabama 35601
256) 353-6941

CUMC@CentralUnitedMethodist.com
<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>

Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

*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 #354 "I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

Refrain

***I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.***

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me Jesus, take me now.

Refrain

All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit truly know that thou art mine.

Refrain

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;
Fill me with thy love and power; let thy blessing fall on me.

Refrain

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 "Amazing Grace"

Arr. Lee Turner

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

Bible Reading — Luke 16:1-13

**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 also said to the disciples, "A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. He called the manager in and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.'

"The household manager said to himself, 'What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I'm not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. I know what I'll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses.'

"One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.' The manager said to him, 'Take your contract, sit down quickly,

and write four hundred fifty gallons.' Then the manager said to another, 'How much do you owe?' He said, 'One thousand bushels of wheat.' He said, 'Take your contract and write eight hundred.'

"The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it's gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. If you haven't been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? If you haven't been faithful with someone else's property, who will give you your own? No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Message — Serve Only One

Rev. Miriam Smith

*Closing Hymn #453 "More Love to Thee, O Christ" (v1)

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ to thee;
More love to thee, more love to thee!

(repeat)

This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ to thee;
More love to thee, more love to thee!

*Sending Forth

Musical Gift "Praising the Almighty"

Broughton

Worship Director: Susan Thompson

Organist: Virginia Paul

Scripture Reader: Garrison Sickles

"The Power and the Glory" - Smith 1996 Lorenz Publishing Co.

"Amazing Grace" Arr. Lee Turner © 1973 Broadman Press.

"Praising the Almighty" - Broughton 2005 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Call to Worship: (Derek Weber for UM Discipleship Ministries)