

Central

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVE GOD | LOVE PEOPLE | MAKE DISCIPLES

First Sunday of Advent
NOVEMBER 29, 2026
Volume 71 *Purple* *Issue 48*

The Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Arr by. Paige

Praise & Worship Through Music

The Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Lake Family

Leader: We gather today at the start of a new season, watching and waiting for the light of Christ to break into our world.
People: We come with open hearts, holding onto the promise that God is with us.
Leader: Even when the world feels uncertain or hurried, our hope is anchored in the One who comes to make all things new.
People: Come, Lord Jesus. Be our hope today and always. Amen.

Reception into The United Methodist Church

Mick Bresley and Mary Jane Nickell

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

*The Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' 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.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer and 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, forever. Amen.

The Anthem — Chancel Choir

Children's Moments

The Offertory — Praise Team

*The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Song of Preparation — Praise Team

*The Gospel Lesson — Mark 13:24-37

The Sermon — "Can I get a Witness? "

Rev. Keith Stewart

*The Hymn — "Soon and Very Soon" — #706

*The Benediction

*Choral Benediction — Chancel Choir

The Postlude — "Once in Royal David's City" — Arr by. Johnson

*We stand as we are able.



The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Genesis and Zariah Williams by their family.

Serving This Week

Trustee (Unlock Church)	Liz MacDonald
Trustee: (Lock Church)	Buren Mitchell
Ushers:	Brian Summer David Dubose
Greeters:	Phil and Judy Epps
Children's Church:	Cheryl Mitchell Lucy Brown
Acolyte:	Travis Bonds
Nursery:	Mary Glover Elizabeth Morago
Offering Stewards:	Brian Summer Carla Cruickshanks
Sound System:	Sam Hart
Video System:	Zoey Lyon
Springfield Friends:	Millie Livingston

The Week Ahead

Sun., November 29	9:00 am	5th Sunday Brunch
	10:00 am	Worship Service
Tues., December 1	5:30 pm	Trustees Meeting (Church Library)
Wed., December 2	10:30 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Children's Christmas Program and Churchwide Dinner (Henry Hall)

Announcements

The Wednesday AM Bible Study
We are continuing Advent Hymns with our study "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Andy Longshore and Ann Longshore Duncan. Join us in Henry Hall this week at 10:30 AM.

5th Sunday Brunch
Join us for fellowship and food! Our 5th Sunday Brunch will take place on **Sunday, November 29, 2026, at 9:00 AM in Henry Hall.** Please note that **Sunday School will not meet that day** so that we can all share this special time together. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pledge Cards
We appreciate everyone who has already submitted their pledge card for the upcoming year! If you have not yet had the opportunity to return yours, there is still time. Pledge cards are available in the sanctuary vestibules and the church office. Your faithful stewardship directly supports our ministries and shared missions. We are deeply grateful to you all! God Bless You.



Central UMC Annual Christmas Dinner & Children's Program

Wednesday – Dec. 2nd – 5:30 PM – Henry Hall

Families with the last names beginning "A" thru "M"

*Bring a vegetable and dessert

Families with the last names beginning "N" thru "Z"

*Bring a vegetable and salad

Ham and beverages will be provided by the church. The meal will be followed by the Christmas Program. Please join us for the fellowship and celebration of the season.

New Ventures (55+) White Elephant Gift Exchange and Lunch!
Join us for the New Ventures White Elephant Gift Exchange and Lunch **on Tuesday, December 8 at 11:30 AM in Henry Hall**. Please bring a $10 - $15 gift for the White Elephant gift exchange. Call the office to sign-up at 803-276-3903. *We Hope to See You There!*

Mill's Cookie Ministry
Share cookies for our Mill's Christmas Eve Cookie Ministry. Named in honor of Bill and Freddie Mills who started this annual ministry. You are invited to participate in this ministry by bringing homemade cookies to the church kitchen on **Christmas Eve before our Worship Service**. The cookies will be arranged on trays and delivered to the local law enforcement agencies, the hospital, Nursing homes, and Fire stations. We do this as a way of showing our appreciation to those who keep our community safe over the holiday season by working long hours while we celebrate the season with our loved ones. Jackie Mount and Freddie Mills coordinate this ministry. Thank You.

Special Advent Opportunities 
December 13 – Mini Christmas Cantata (during church service at 10:00 AM).
December 24 – Holy Communion and Candle Lighting Service (5:00 PM).

Manna House and **GAAP**
Manna House is located at DSS on Wilson Road and is open from 1:00-2:00 pm each Tuesday and Thursday. (Applicants may now receive food once per month as needed.)

GAAP is open every Saturday at O'Neal Street UMC for those in need or to volunteer.

Food Pantry (10am-12pm)
Love Thy Neighbor Clothes Closet (10am-1pm)
Feed Thy Neighbor Kitchen (11am-1pm) for a hot nutritious meal that's served to those in need.
Collection Boxes are located near the College Street entrance for both ministries.

Financial Report

Total Budget 2026	497,075.00
Weekly Budget Needs	9,559.13
Received on November 16-22, 2026	2,968.50
Other Funds Received on November 16-22, 2026	
Poinsettias	288.75
GAAP	200.00
Feed Thy Neighbor	100.00

Church Information
We operate under an abuse prevention policy designed to help us protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults from harm.
We are a Stephen Ministry Church

To Join: Feel free to speak with or contact the pastor should you wish to join with this congregation of Christ's Church or have any other need.

Nursery: Available to children 0-3 years old and located on the 3rd floor. The ushers can direct you there.

Staff Information
Pastor: Rev. Keith Stewart
Administrative Assist: Jackie Benitez
Financial Secretary: Lyn Bethea
Director of Music: Chris Wofford
Organist: Becky Smith
Nursery Attendant: Elizabeth Morago

Prayer List

Members

Richard Carter
Michael Charles
Jim Clamp
Jim Harris
Penny Harvey
Mike & Kathy Keim
Kristin Keim
Tori MacDonald
John & Patsy Miller
Charles Simmons
Linda Turner
Betty Wiggins
Kathy Spotts
Carol Thompson
Harriett Rucker Family
Ed Kyzer
Carolyn Partridge
Lillian Hoeschen Family
Joan Kyzer
Greg & Pam Casto -Family
David Dorroh
Ginna Vedder

Military and First Responders

Sheriff Lee Foster
Patrick Griffith
Jack Lawrence
Jake Longshore
Benjamin Moore
Sarah Jane Harrison
Andy Stout
John Ralph Williams
Casey Wilson
Tyler Wilson
Justin Clevenger
Cody Bacon

Friends of Central

Judy Bobb, *mother of Cindy Moore*
Chris Cook, *Vicki's aunt*
Lavina Chandler, *sister-in-law of Becky Smith*
Laurie Copps, *niece of Trish MacDonald*
Nancy Cottingham, *sister-in-law of Jennie DuBose*
Kate Epps, *daughter-in-law of Mike & Peggy Epps*
Madison Gandy, *great niece of Michelle Williams*
Charlie Harris, *friend of MacDonald family*
Jamie Hitcher, *friend of Ellen Roberts*
Jennifer McCullough, *daughter of Cynthia & Frank Downs*
Rev. Alan Mears, *friend of Pastor Laura & Mike*
April Moore, *friend of Central*
Joyce Myers, sister of Kim Moore
Amy Roberts, *sister of Susan Haile*
Mahaylia Schumpert, *friend of Ellen Roberts*
Ethan Stout, *nephew of David Stout*
James Michael Torrence, friend *of Eppses*
Amelia Walker, *sister of Polly Carter*
Mike Whitesides, *son of Paulette Mayer*
Kathy Bethea, *Sister-in-law of Earle and Lyn Bethea*
Julie Sease Dennis, *friend of Polly Carter*
Lori Pressley, *sister of Carla Cruickshanks*
Jackson Parker, *student at Ruben Elementary*
Scott Wishart, *friend of Doug Gayman*
Tavin "Blue" Wicker, *friend of the Fosters*
Dr. Allen Charles, *father of David & Michael Charles*
Lisha Senn, *mother of Jeremy & Maggie Senn*
Elizabeth Weikel, *friend of Jill Longshore*
Brenda Gunter, *friend of Lillian Bouknight*

Help us keep this list current. If you know of any names that need to be added or removed, please contact the church office.



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