

Rev. Dewey Miller, Pastor
Gracie Schmidt, Director of Children's Ministries
Brent Heeke, Director of Youth Ministries
Rose Hartig, Organist & Pianist
Emily Musgrave, Choir & Hand Bell Director
Vickie Pokorney, Office Manager
Amanda Peters, Child Care Director

revdewey@central-church.org
gracieschmidt6@gmail.com
brentheeke@gmail.com
rahartig@aol.com
ezona.davis@gmail.com
CUMC@central-church.org
director@centralchildcare.org



MISSION STATEMENT

Making disciples of
Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.

VISION STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centered,
scripturally grounded
community, growing in
loving relationship with God,
our local children and
community, and our world.

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2023



GROWING.

LOVING.

RELATING.

WELCOME

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Christmas Program
Choir and Children

Worship Order – 9:15 a.m.

PRELUDE “Mary’s Little Boy Child” arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please fill out a Connection Card to place in the offering plate.

CENTERING MUSIC “O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. James Koerts

*CALL TO WORSHIP
L: Good news!
The Holy One, God Almighty, claims us as God’s very own!
P: Rejoice in the Lord!
L: Good news!
The times of trouble are nearly over!
P: Rejoice in the Lord, always!
L: Good news!
God is in our midst, ready to renew us with holy love!
P: Rejoice in the Lord, always! Again we say rejoice!
L: Good news! Good news!
The peace of the Lord will dwell in our hearts!
ALL: We lift up our hearts in thanksgiving. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” No. 239

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Advent Reading Jim and Susan Herring

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” arr. Cindy Berry
*THE DOXOLOGY No. 95

**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**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

ANTHEM “Angel’s Carol” by John Rutter

ANTHEM “Everybody’s Comin’ to Bethlehem Town”
by Mark Kay Beall & John Carter

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (SEE INSERT)

Walk to the Manger

Cast:
Angel..... Georgina Garcia
Mary..... Hunter Havener
Joseph..... Liam Schmidt
Shepherd..... Cruz Dyer
Wise Women..... Grace Morse, Selah Schmidt, Lila Barron
Readers..... Caroline Barron, Ellie Barron, Lila Barron, Natalie Morse, Adelyn Schmidt, Selah Schmidt

ANTHEM “How Quietly” by Joel Raney

ANTHEM I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” arr. Lloyd Larson

*HYMN “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” No. 229
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Sussex Carol” arr. David Paxton

*Stand as you are able

WEEKLY CALENDAR

TODAY
SUNDAY, December 24
Christmas Eve
Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m.	Choir Practice	Choir Room
9:15 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary/Online
10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Classrooms
10:30 a.m.	Youth Group	Youth Room
11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary

MONDAY, December 25
Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, December 26

Church Office Closed

5:30 p.m. Zumba FLC

THURSDAY, December 28 5:30 p.m. Zumba FLC

SATURDAY, December 30 8:00 p.m. N.A. Meeting Garden Room/FLC

SUNDAY, December 31 9:15 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary/Online

10:30 a.m. Sunday School Various Classrooms

10:30 a.m. Youth Group Youth Room

ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR LOAVES AND FISHES

Given by: Jo Wilson
Memory of : Earl C. Wilson, Wayne & Goldie Freshley

The Church Office will be closed 12/27, 28, 29 with Christmas Day and Christmas Eve
observed on 12/25, 26.

WIFI PASSWORD: WWJD2014

Advent Candles

Week Four: The Candle of Hope

Scripture Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Leader: Let us pray. Father of Light, bless this Advent candle. O Jesus, you are the light of the world. You have come to strengthen the weary, to guide the lost, to walk with the lonely. You are the hope of all people. Help us to see your will in us. Always be with us so that we may come to know you in many ways. We recognize the glory of your light when we see a smile on a little child's face. Teach us always to realize your presence among us. Maranatha.

Come, Lord Jesus

All: Amen.

Walk to the Manger

Promise of the Prophets..... Selah Schmidt

Congregation Sings “Come, O Long-expected Jesus” vs 1

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in who our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
Dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Gabriel’s Announcement to Mary Lila Barron

Gabriel’s Announcement to Joseph Natalie Morse

Congregation Sings “O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs 1

O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.Yet in the
dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in
thee tonight.

The Journey to Bethlehem..... Ellie Barron

The Birth of Jesus..... Adelyn Schmidt

Choir Sings ‘How Quietly’

Children Sing “Away in a Manger” vs 1 & 2 in medley

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he
lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes I
love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side, ‘til morning is nigh

The Angels Appear to the Shepherds..... Natalie Morse & Caroline Barron

Congregation Sings “Angels We Have Heard on High” vs 1

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the
mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus.... Ellie Barron

Congregation Sings “The First Noel” vs 1

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In
fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

The Visit of the Wise Men..... Ellie Barron & Adelyn Schmidt

Sing “We Three Kings” vs 1

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field
and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of
wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

God with Us..... Caroline Barron

Congregation sings 1st verse of ‘Joy to the World’

Joy to the world! The Lord is
come, Let Earth receive her
King!

Let every heart prepare Him room.

And Heaven and nature
sing , And Heaven and na-
ture sing,
And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing!