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Gracie Schmidt, Director of Children's Ministries
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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 31, 2023



GROWING.

LOVING.

RELATING.

WELCOME

Worship Order – 9:15 a.m.

December 31, 2023
New Year’s Eve
“Let’s Keep Herod
in Christmas”
Matthew 2.16-21

PRELUDE “Behold, Rise Up, Go Tell!” arr. Mark Hayes
Behold That Star! • Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow • Go, tell It on the Mountain

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

CENTERING MUSIC “Coventry Carol” arr. Mark Kellner

*CALL TO WORSHIP
1 Samuel 15.22-23
L: What is it that pleases the Lord?
Is it your gifts, or your offerings, or your obedience?
P: Hear the truth!
Obeying God is better than giving to him.
L: Doing his will is greater than the best gifts.
P: Rebellion is as sinful as anything.
L: Being stubborn to God is like serving idols.
P: We will obey the Lord.
L: We will not reject him.
All: We will serve the Lord.

*HYMN “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” No. 251

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.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Gracie Schmidt

OFFERTORY “In the Bleak Midwinter” arr. Jenifer Cook

*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

SPECIAL MUSIC Makenna Counts

MESSAGE “Let’s Keep Herod in Christmas” Pastor Dewey Miller
Matthew 2.16-21

*HYMN “We Three Kings” No. 254

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “He is King of Kings” arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*Stand as you are able

WEEKLY CALENDAR

TODAY

SUNDAY, December 31

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, January 1

New Year's Day

Office Closed

TUESDAY, January 2

5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, January 3

9:00 a.m.

5:030 p.m.

THURSDAY, January 4

5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, January 5

5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, January 6

3:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, January 7

Communion

8:45 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Sunday School

Youth Group

Sanctuary/Online

Various Classrooms

Youth Room

Zumba

FLC

Organic Produce Club

Choir Practice

Garden Room

Choir Room

Zumba

FLC

Organic Produce Club Pot Luck

Garden Room

Birthday Event

N.A. Meeting

Tunnels

Garden Room/FLC

Choir Practice

Worship Service

Sunday School

Youth Group

Choir Room

Sanctuary/Online

Various Classrooms

Youth Room



If you have information regarding yourself or a member being in the hospital or in need of something or an update that can be shared, please contact the Church Office. You can also let us know of any activity you want to announce. We want to stay in the loop with our members.

WIFI PASSWORD: WWJD2014

Let's Keep Herod in Christmas

Matthew 2.8-16

31 December 2023

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." **Matthew 2.13**

Keep Christ in Christmas vs. Keep Christ in Christians

"Forget about putting Christ back in Christmas; let's put Christ back in Christians."

Observation I: Christmas is _____ for everyone.

"It was not a silent night, there was blood on the ground." **Andrew Peterson**
Childbirth is dirty, painful, and inconvenient.

Observation II: Christmas is _____

It was not easy for Mary.

It was not easy for Joseph.

Observation III: Christmas is _____.

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. **C. S. Lewis**
King Herods still exist.
Mass shootings, terrorism, etc.

Observation IV: Christmas always has _____.

Take Away Prayer

O Lord, be with us this day.
Through the struggles of Christmas, keep us strong.
Against the temptations of the world, keep us faithful.
When we are faced with enemies, stay close to us.
As we get tired and frustrated, give us peace and patience.
Amen.