



Announcements & Events

- **December 15:** Central Staff Christmas Lunch
- **December 24:** Christmas Service at 11 AM
- **December 25-26:** Office closed
- **January 1-2:** Office closed
- **January 7:** Wesleyan Covenant Service/Soup & Sup Sunday
- **January 27:** Sat. 9-12 Lunch served. Central Planning Retreat/Party



- December 1: Leila Granfield
 December 3: William Bushman
 December 4: Eleanor Andrews
 Beverly Coltrane
 December 6: Deborah Reed
 December 10: Frederick Gutshall
 December 13: Debbie Harris
 Kekoa Peters
 December 14: Randy Lindamood
 John Un
 December 15: Amelia Coltrane
 December 23: Anita Jackson
 December 26: Ed Pickett
 December 29: Kylie Artley
 December 30: Connie Davis
 December 31: Thomas Mitchell
 Kainoa Peters

- January 2: Won Un
 January 3: Arabelle Stumb
 January 5: Lauren Granfield
 January 8: Michael Melton
 January 14: Mary Ann Shoemaker
 January 16: Sandra Clemmer
 Ronald Jones
 January 18: Millicent Brubeck
 Ellen DeLong
 January 20: Jim Printy
 January 26: Thelma DePriest



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Monday-Thursday
8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Friday

The Central Connection

2017 December Newsletter



Merry Christmas
 &
 Happy New Year
 to you and your family!

Bob Markley
Carolyn Smith
Augusta Mackley
Carrie Davis
Bebbie Fourn
Caroline Jones
Janet St. Nicholas
Jackie Bunk
Sarah Russell
Ed Smith
Sandra Clemmer
Won Un
Love & Service
Jim Clemmer
Angela Scott



GOOD NEWS!

By Suzanne Peeler

Luke 1:8-10 (NIV). And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people."

Advent is a time of hope and anticipation! The good news of great joy brought by the Angel so many years ago announcing Christ's birth comes again now at a time so needed when many issues hang heavy, casting dark instead of light upon lives.

We recall the Old Testament prophesy of his coming and the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. When he came, they did not recognize him. Not so for us but even the common ventures of life in today's world seem to cloud over the joy of good news announced by the Angel. Where is the peace and goodwill so longed for? Instead there is much hate and fear.

We have heard the message before. Let us open our hearts so that we can hear it again. With it comes the joy of salvation and eternal life. In Advent, 2017 there is good news of great joy for all to hear!

Let us pray: "Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus. come in today, come in to stay; come into my heart, Lord Jesus. Amen."



November Council meeting

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:00 pm on November 28, 2017 in the Wesley Fellowship classroom. Connie Davis presented a devotion. Minutes from the October meeting were distributed and approved.

Committee Reports

Chair: Chairman Tom Davis reported that our investments have done well in 2017. All investment accounts have increased substantially in value in addition to paying out their distributions.

Lay Leader: Anita Jackson reported that she and Ellen have continued with the Agape Basket Program including our annual Christmas gifts to them. There are 11 children who receive assistance.

SPRC: Ed Pickett reported that the director of music position is still open. A new applicant is Rev. Steve Young who is willing to be our church organist. He is hesitant to manage the entire music program. Volunteers would be needed to direct the choir. SPRC is going to invite him to do a demonstration for the choir.

Finance: Joe Hill presented the monthly balance sheet for October 2017 on behalf of Jeff DeLong. The balance sheet shows the income for the month was \$21,053.75 and the expenses were \$18,120.99. Additionally, we are on track to meet 100% of our conference apportionments this year for the first time in many, many years. The finance committee plans to send a letter to all members reminding them to keep Central on their gift list for this year. The committee is also recommending that we have a special Christmas offering and offered that Council may direct the purpose of this offering. Council unanimously decided to earmark this offering for SACRA.

Trustees: Jim Printy reported that the sale of the Tichnor lot has fallen through. The St. Stephens property has also not been transferred yet. The trustees decided to remove the defibulator. For 2018 the Trustees will review our emergency response plans. The elevator is still not working. Representatives from the elevator company will meet with the Trustees in the next few weeks to develop the repair plan.

UMW: Caroline Jones reported that Ellen DeLong will be the 2018 President, Connie Davis the Vice President,

and Caroline Jones the Susanna Wesley circle leader. Susan Wesley Circle will meet on the second Wednesday beginning in January. The UMW provides gifts for a patient at Western State Hospital and support for Casa de Amistad, the Henry Fork Service Center, and Kingsway Prison Ministry. The Days for Girls sewing group is going strong.

UMM: Jim Printy reported that the UMM are planning to meet December 1. After the business meeting the men will assist decorating the church and perhaps cleaning up leaves from the perimeter of the lot. Jim announced that the amount raised was approximately \$740 from the Brunswick Stew project and thanked all those who assisted.

Nurture/Witness: Sandra Clemmer reported that the committee met on November 12. The committee provided refreshments for the annual Staunton Christmas parade. Approximately 600 cups of hot chocolate were provided. They are also sponsoring the upcoming Socialite Dinner on November 29 at which time the children will be making Christmas ornaments for the Christmas tree. Sarah Russell is making address labels for our VIPs so members can send Christmas cards to them. Barbara Snyder and Cheryl Kent are going to work on plans for new banners for the sanctuary.

Outreach: Connie Davis reported that the Food Pantry is going well with the average number of clients per week increasing. Early in 2018 the Pantry will receive computers for record keeping. The new "choice" method has been working well. The Pantry recently received the donation of an entire pig. A refrigerator was offered by Tom King for the Pantry. Based on the Trustees recommendation, it could be used to replace one of the existing refrigerators. The Trinity Luncheon in November went well. Approximately 40 people were served. Jim Printy mentioned that the Tool Trailer has been used by Calvary United Methodist and St. Paul's UMC. Pastor Won reported that the district mission coordinator, Valerie Ritter, has requested its use during February or March for a mission trip to Florida. Jim reported that the Johnson Street project has two apartments completed and occupied and a third is being worked on. The tree for hats and gloves will again be provided for members to donate to. These will be offered first to the Agape group and the remainder taken to the Salvation Army.

Children/Youth: The Children's Night In for December has been canceled. A potential outing to Massanutten Ski Resort is being planned for January.

Pastor: Pastor Won reported that his trip to South Korea went well. There will be a Christmas newsletter and is seeking two people to write articles on the meaning of Christmas. He desires to involve more people in the morning worship service. He proposed a planning retreat on January 27.

Council decided to not meet in December. The January devotion will be provided by Barbara Snyder. The meeting concluded by reciting the Lord's Prayer at 8:47 PM.



Pastor's Christmas Message

As we anticipate the coming of the Lord once again, what is your expectation of the One who will show us the way of the Father in heaven?

Do you expect health and wealth? If Jesus met those expectations, what would you do with it?

Do you expect Jesus to show us the way to be good and faithful Christians? What would that look like in the life of your home, church, neighborhood, state, nation, and world?

These are some of the expectations we might have of Jesus, but have we thought about what would be Jesus' expectation for us as His followers?

I pray that God in Jesus will expect nothing short of Christian perfection from us, and we will rise to meet that expectation with help from God. Glory in the highest!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Won Un, Pastor