This Week at Central, December 27–January 1, 2010

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00–10:45	Children's Choir & Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday		**Church Office Closed Today**
	5:00 p.m.	Weight Watchers (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Companions Small Group (Library)
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Newsletter Assembly Crew
Wednesday	9:15 a.m.	Praise & Worship Service (Connections)
	10:00–11:30	Food Pantry
	6:00 p.m.	Women's NA (Eagon Hall)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Eagon Hall)
Friday	8:15 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Eagon Hall)
Saturday		New Year's Day
	6:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Eagon Hall)

Central United Methodist Church
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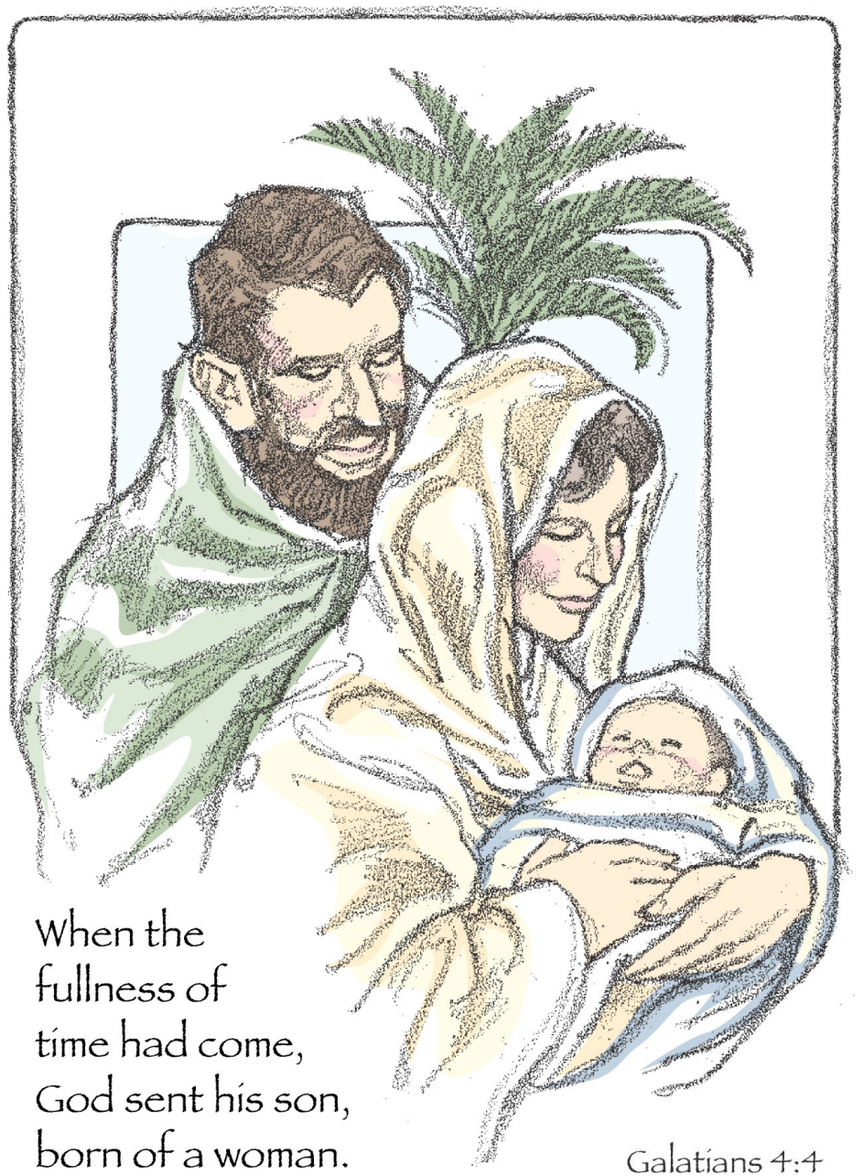
Central UMC is:

- A vital congregation of diverse people
- Centered in faithful worship of God
- Growing as disciples of Jesus Christ
- Moving out in compassionate service to others, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Ministry

General Ministers. 325
Pastor. . . . . Stephanie M Sault
Minister of Music/Organist. Sherry von Oeyen
Church Secretary. . . . . Agnes Campbell
Child's Play Director. . . . . Jo Ann B. Black
Custodian. . . . . Janet Nuckoles
Retired Missionary Professor. Hunter P. Mabry
Retired Pastor. . . . . David D. Reed
Professor MBC. . . . . Kenneth A. Beals
District Superintendent. . . . D. Michael Houff
Resident Bishop. . Charlene Payne Kammerer



When the
fullness of
time had come,
God sent his son,
born of a woman.

Galatians 4:4

Central United Methodist Church

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 26, 2010 11:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "On Christmas Night". . . . . Haan / Burkhardt

*Greeting

Christ is born; give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven; receive Him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!
O you earth, sing to the Lord!
O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified!

*Processional Carol 234, Verses 1, 5, 6. . . . . "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Opening Prayer

O God our Father,
you have brought us again to the glad season
when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day
and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.
Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.
Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children's Moment

**Please Stand as Able*

Carol 184. . . . . "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Bidding 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.

First Lesson

God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 2)

Carol 211, verses 1, 2, 7. . . . . "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Second Lesson

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

Genesis 22:15-18. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 16)

*Carol 196. . . . . "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Third Lesson

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 554)

Carol 188. . . . . "Christ is the World's Light"

Fourth Lesson. . . . . .

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 . . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 558)

Carol 216. . . . . "Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming"

Fifth Lesson

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

Luke 1:26-35, 38. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 831)

Musical Offering: "See in Yonder Manger Low". . . arr. John A. Behnke
Chancel Choir

Sixth Lesson

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

Luke 2:1-7. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 832)

Carol 230. . . . . "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the World, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:8-16. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 833)

*Carol 238. . . . . "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Eighth Lesson

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Matthew 2:1-11. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 784)

Carol 248. . . . . "On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

**Ninth Lesson*

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

*John 1:1-14. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 862)

*Carol 240. . . . . "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Prayers of the People

Holy God, heaven and earth are met this day in the newborn Child,
Savior of the world
We celebrate his birth; for in him you come to be close to us,
that we might be close to you.

Especially, we give thanks for the birth, life, death, and resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ and all he means to us . . .
For prospects of peace in the world . . .
For confidence in your almighty love . . .
For those who generously give . . .
For those who graciously receive . . .
For the Church's nurturing us in the faith . . .

God of all mercy, as you have come in Jesus Christ to be our guest,
inspire our hearts to a hospitality
that welcomes all your children in his name.

Especially we pray
for those who have not heard your good news . . .
for the sick and suffering . . .
for those who know no laughter, only tears . . .
for those who govern and rule . . .
for those enslaved by tyranny . . .
for prisoners of addiction or abuse . . .
for the church as a refuge for the needy . . .
All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Pardon

Leader to people: Hear the good news; Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

Leader and people: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Peace *(Let us exchange signs of reconciliation and love.)*

Offering *(Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God)*

Offertory: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella". . . . . arr. C. Uehlein

The Great Thanksgiving.. . . . . Hymnal Pages 20-22, Musical Setting C

Unison Prayer After Communion

We give you thanks, Most Gracious God,
for allowing us to share in this feast as your family
and to be fed with the bread of heaven;
give us grace that we all may grow in love, glorifying you in all things,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Carol 246. . . . . "Joy to the World"

*Dismissal with Blessing

May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth in peace and joy. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*Response: Hymn 238, Refrain. . . . . "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Glo - - - ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - ria, in excelsis Deo!

*Postlude: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing".. . . . . arr. Alfred Fedak

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GREETERS: Constance and Kim Mitchell **READER:** Carla Robertson
COMMUNION: Vicki and Jim Printy; Sybille Jobin, Carla Robertson
USHERS: Tom Spotts, Jim Printy, Jack True, Tom Davis, Judd Bankert, Ed Smith, Joe Hill, Mike Melton, Jim Linnane

THE FLOWERS today are given by Bill Van Fossen in memory of Jeannette on their anniversary, December 27.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to Tommy Rosen at the death of his father.

TO OUR GUESTS: We are delighted to have you worship with us. All the opportunities and programs of Central are available to you. To become a member of this fellowship, please talk with the pastor after the service. Following the service will be a time of refreshment and fellowship. Please join us so that we might get better acquainted.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT to sign the attendance slip in your pew; and, if you are a member here, please introduce yourself to anyone who might be visiting with us today. Your warmth and hospitality will be a blessing in someone's life today.

CHILDREN are invited to worship with their parents in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Focus, children under 6 years of age may go to the play room. Later, during the Doxology, they will be brought back into the Sanctuary to participate with their parents in the Great Thanksgiving and receiving the Lord's Supper. We welcome the participation of the youngest members of the family of faith.

THE COMMUNION RAIL is open for prayer at any time, but particularly during the pastoral prayer, during Communion, during the final hymn, and after the worship service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please let the pastor know.

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please note it in our Prayer Book (in the Narthex) or in a Prayer Request folder (may be placed in the offering plate or given to the Church Office), and our prayer ministry team will join you in praying for the person/need.

MITTEN TREE: Thank you for the warm and lovely items that decorated our mitten tree. We've already given some to the needy individuals and families in our community. If you wish to donate additional items, we'll be glad to handle the distribution.

OUR FISCAL YEAR ENDS DEC. 31. Any contributions you wish to have counted for the year 2010 may be placed in the offering plate today or must be received in the Church Office no later than 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 4. (The Church Office is closed Mon., Jan. 3.)

OUR STEWARDSHIP (December 19) Attendance: 100
Income received toward budgeted expenses: $5,055.00

FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS:

2010 UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES AVAILABLE IN THE GATHERING ROOM: Regular print $12; Large print $15. This daily devotional, based on the Lectionary Readings, will be helpful in your walk with God.