

STEWARDSHIP REPORT				USHERS: Clyde Kerns Joe Patterson
ATTENDANCE				
(12/1) 8:45 Service.....59		10:50am Service.....69		
<u>Operating Fund</u>		<u>Capital Improvements Fund</u>		
Contributions 12/1	\$10,835.13	Contributions 12/1	\$5,150.00	GREETERS: MaryWade Smith
2019 Year-to-date		2019 Year-to-date		
Contributions \$	373,453.79	Contributions	\$8,305.06	
Worship Leaders		Additional Church Staff		
<i>Pastor</i> , Bruce Gwyn		<i>Director of Youth & Children's</i>		
<i>The Chancel Choir</i>		<i>Ministries</i> , Gene Bragg		
<i>Director of Music</i> , Carlos Zamora		<i>Hand Bell/Drama Director</i> ,		
<i>Organist/Accompanist</i> , Doug Parker		Teresa Williams		
<i>Acolyte</i>		<i>Administrative Assistant</i> ,		
		Candy Love		

The Story of the Chrismon Tree

The Chrismon tree began as an offering to God. God blessed the offering and it became a song of praise and thanksgiving to Him. It continues as witness to His love and His glory, as a proclamation of His holy Name through His Son, Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.

The story of the Chrismon tree began at The Lutheran Church of Ascension in Danville, Virginia in 1957 when Mrs. Frances Spencer volunteered to decorate the church's Christmas tree. She envisioned a tree different from the one with colored lights and balls that had previously adorned her church. Two important ideas soon emerged as she considered what would be the best way to decorate a Christmas tree that honored the birth of the Christ Child. First the decorations should bring out the real person for whom we celebrate this day of the year and second that this Christmas tree would be worthy of being placed in the Lord's house and would contribute to the spirit of worship during this holy season.

Over the years these ornaments have developed so that now a Chrismon may be a monogram, a sign, a symbol, a type, or a combination of any of these. Early Christians used these monograms to designate meeting places of the church, and, sometimes, to show unbelievers where they stood. These symbols of the early church have served to spread the faith and beliefs of Christians as they are shared and passed on.

All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold, to His majesty and glory. The tiny white lights on the tree point to the Christ as the Light of the world. Therefore, all symbols on the Chrismon tree must, first of all, point to our Lord and God.

It is our hope at Central United Methodist Church that this ministry will lay the foundation for the understanding of Chrismons for each of us since ***THE CHRISMON TREE IS COMPLETE ONLY WHEN THOSE WHO SEE IT UNDERSTAND ITS MEANING.***

Central
United Methodist Church



To Live and Love as Christ

Special Upcoming Services
12/15/19 Early Service, 8:45am
12/15/19 Christmas Cantata Service, 10:00am
12/24/19 Candlelight Communion
Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm

Pastor Bruce Gwyn
704-291-0212 (cell)
113 South Piedmont Ave.
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
704-739-2471 www.cumckm.org

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
DECEMBER 8, 2019

GATHERING

WELCOME

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

O Come All Ye Faithful.....ARR. BRIDGES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, have you heard? Do you see?
We have heard God is coming to find us.
Open your eyes, what do you see?
We see God in our midst, bringing joy and justice.
Dream with God, and rest in his promise.
With vision, we await our God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN, No. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful..... ADESTE FIDELES

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, The Apostles’ Creed, No. 881

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 arose 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.

*THE GLORIA PATRI, No. 71.....GREATOREX

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. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLEKEVIN & JENNIFER OSBORNE

THE MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER, No. 895

UNISON

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 GIVING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

Tidings of Great Joy.....ARR. WAGNER

*THE DOXOLOGY, No. 94.....LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

ANTHEM

All Earth is Waiting.....ALBERTO TAULE

HYMN OF PREPARATION, No. 254

We Three KingsKINGS OF ORIENT
***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 light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.***

*THE SCRIPTURE LESSON.....MALACHI 3:1-4 ; LUKE 3:1-6

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON, *Joy in the Journey*.....BRUCE GWYN

*HYMN, No. 238

Angels We Have Heard on High.....GLORIA

*THE BENEDICTION

*SENDING THE LIGHT

THE ACOLYTE

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE, No. 159

Lift High the Cross.....CRUICIFER
**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore His sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore His sacred name.**

*POSTLUDE

Festivity on "Here We Come A-Caroling".....WAGNER

** Those who are able are invited to stand.*