



Central

United Methodist Church

Vol. 20, Issue 12

Live and Love as Christ

December 2020



Pastor Bruce Gwyn



A Christmas Message from The Pastor



“Fear not for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the town of Bethlehem is a Savior who is Christ the Lord” so says the Luke 2: 10-11 KJV. We live in a time where these words are relevant. Fear not the angels said. Easily done for heavenly beings that do not have the worries of living among political unrest, Covid and all the other problems we humans here on earth face. Wouldn't now be a better time for the angels to come down from heaven and bring that message to a hurting, fractured world?

Well, let's look at what was happening when the angels brought that message the first time. Political unrest in the country. The Romans occupied Judea overpowering the Jewish government causing great upheaval in their worship and social structure. The message was first given to a group of people that felt marginalized at best. The angel appeared to the shepherds in the countryside, heralding the great event that was taking place. Something that I have realized over and over in my life is that every culture, every generation, every human being has faced challenges that seemed unsurmountable. It has never been the case that any generation has not faced problems. We wonder, how did they not only survive, but overcome living in such a time?

The story is told of a child who had the lines “Fear not for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the town of Bethlehem is a Savior who is Christ the Lord”. He stepped out from behind the curtain in his angel costume and the words disappeared from his mind. Rather than quoting the script, he varied it a bit when he said, “Hey everybody, boy have I got something good to tell you. God is getting ready to do something amazing”. Not exactly the script but close enough. Too often we think of God as distant and not really a part of our life. Let me suggest a different way of interpreting this passage. What if the angels had said to the shepherds, God has seen your suffering. He knows your fears and concerns. We have come tonight to tell you that God himself is coming down to earth to live among you in the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ. That is good news but the great news is His coming is for everyone. There are going to be fears, upheaval and unrest in every generation this is a truism. But the greater truth is that because of the proclamation of the angels all generations will not face these troubles alone. I like the little angel boy's proclamation, “Hey everybody, boy have I got something good to tell you. God is getting ready to do something amazing.” That's what the Christmas season should proclaim.

Christmas

Candlelight Celebration

Sunday, December 20 at 6:30pm

Come join us for a new twist this year on our annual Christmas Candlelight Celebration! This event will be held **OUTDOORS** in our parking lot. We will be having a Lessons & Carols worship service and will be lighting candles. During our service, we will parade around the outside of the church singing “Joy to the World” celebrate the season. Afterwards, you will be invited to sing traditional carols around the fire pits set up in the parking lot. Refreshments will be available in the Christian Activities Center. Bring your friends and family to celebrate the joy of the season!



Reaching Out To Our Schools

In early November, Central UMC packed and provided goodie bags for the teachers and staff for our schools in the Kings Mountain area. With the help of volunteers, these bags were distributed to the schools. We received a note of thanks and phone calls from several of the schools for remembering them during this challenging school year.

Photo: Gene Bragg & Audrey Brooks



Join Pastor Bruce online on our **Facebook Page** for a Christmas Eve Meditation that will premiere on 12/24/20. *Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and that you recognize the presence of Jesus in your home and heart.*

**REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR**

Please consider donating these items directly to the Blessing Box located outside of our church. With your help, the box will be continuously stocked and will help serve so many in our community.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



We welcome all youth from 6th-12th grade to come join us! We provide a time of gathering for youth to support one another, to have fun, to develop service projects, and to grow deeper in Christ. Any questions, please contact Gene Bragg at gene@cumckm.org or 336-404-8673. **We are now meeting Sundays at 5:30pm.**



Our Congregational-wide **Sunday School** is held in the CAC after our 9:00am service. For the month of December, we will be doing a Bible study of Advent. Brian Brooks and Gene Bragg are leading this group and we encourage you to attend if able. In order for us to grow as disciples we must spend time in the Word, live like Christ, and be a community of followers. We hope that even if you are unable to attend you will read the material and see what God has in it for you.

Join us for **indoor service** in the CAC at 9:00am on Sunday Mornings! We are also livestreaming on our website at www.cumckm.org.

For an archive of our services, please check **out our YouTube page** we have a link available on our website at www.cumckm.org.

Central United Methodist Church of Kings Mountain
 113 S. Piedmont Ave. Kings Mountain, NC 28086
central@cumckm.org www.cumckm.org
 704-739-2471

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am -4:30pm

Staff:

- Pastor,** Bruce Gwyn
- Administrative Assistant,** Candy Love
- Director of Discipleship Development,** Gene Bragg
- Handbell/Drama Director,** Teresa Williams
- Preschool Director,** Lindsay Romesberg
- Organist,** Doug Parker

A History Minute by Libby Putnam



As we enter Advent, we often think back on ways our church family has celebrated Christmas in years past. "There is a Bethlehem," a Christmas Journey of Faith was presented by the youth of our church almost twenty years ago. The youth pictured here are now parents to over 30 children of their own and this Advent they will be teaching their own little ones the story of Christmas. CUMC youth pictured above are Meghan (Potter) Wood, Tyler Maxey, Yuuki Nishiyama, Emily (Edwards) Nishiyama, Molly Hamrick, Lesley ((Potter) Deaton, Hannah (McDaniel) Rhyne, Sloane (McDaniel) Rinaldi, Stephanie (Edwards) Greenwood, Meghan Bradshaw, Michelle (Jones) Shook, Charlie Jones, Alyson (Kerns) Gray, Rebekah (Miller) Hopkins, Colleen (Brogden) Witherspoon, Kathleen Miller, Susie (Potter) Wease, Kelly (Mattox) Carter, Thomas Reid, and Kevin Tsui.



Kids in Discipleship aka KID Central is back in session on Sunday Mornings! Families will sit together in service and, after the morning prayer, KID Central volunteers will escort your children to their rooms and return them at the end of service. Volunteers will take every safety precaution that they can to keep your children as safe as possible.

New PJ's Needed



Abba's Love, the recently transformed women's shelter ran by Cleveland County Rescue Mission in Shelby is currently seeking new women's and children's pajamas (all sizes are needed).



Please bring your donations and put in the collection bin in the CAC hallway.

For more information, please contact the church office at 704-739-2471.



In November, Scouts from Troop 92 completed their Scouting For Food project by collecting food from homes around Kings Mountain. Food will be given to foster families.

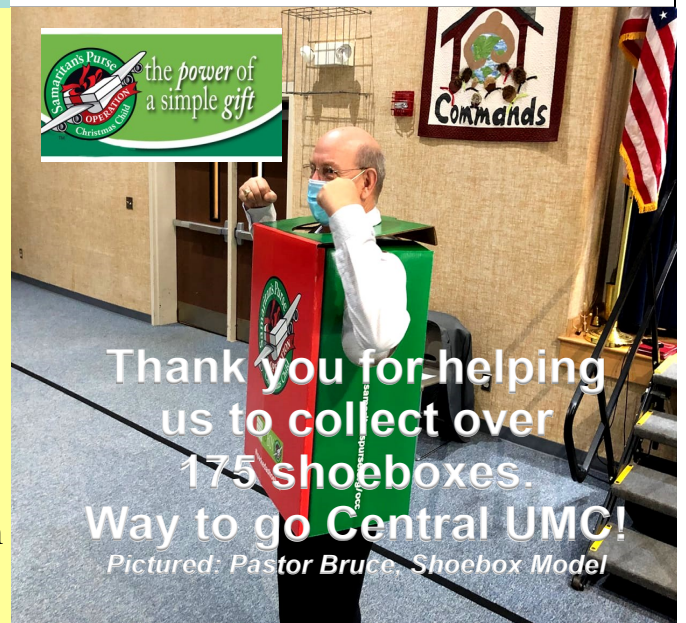
Upcoming Meetings

12/14/20 Administrative Council, 7:00pm

Community Kitchen Volunteer Christmas Party
Friday, December 4, 6:00pm RSVP to the Church Office.

We now have a **Hearing Assist System** that will allow you to connect via a belt pack that the church provides or if you have a smartphone, you can use it with your own earphones. Please see Gene Bragg for assistance.

The **Community Kitchen** is open on Thursdays from 3:00pm-4:30pm.



Thank you for helping us to collect over 175 shoeboxes. Way to go Central UMC!

Pictured: Pastor Bruce, Shoebox Model

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