

**SERMON TEXT FOR TODAY: “God with Us Brings Peace”**

**Luke 2:8-20 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 that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**STEWARDSHIP –DECEMBER 16, 2018**

**GIVING**

**Budget**

Weekly Need	\$ 7,204.86
Given	\$ 10,718.00
Behind	\$ 8,118.82

**ATTENDANCE**

Centred	77
Worship Service	209
Total	286
Sunday School	176

**Other Funds**

Kitchen	\$ 250.00	Community Mission Fund	\$ 25.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$1,220.00	Mission Team Fund	\$ 2,025.00
Facility Repair	\$ 400.00	Non-Cash	\$ 20.00

**Center United Methodist Church**

[www.centermethodistwelcome.org](http://www.centermethodistwelcome.org)

P. O. Box 179, Welcome, NC 27374 ▪ 186 Center Church Road, Lexington, NC 27295

Office 336-731-6616 ▪ Fax 336-731-0251

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Pastor: Rev. Mitch Wilson**

[cumcw.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:cumcw.pastor@gmail.com), 336-291-3650 (Parsonage) 980-622-6357 (Cell)

**Assistant Pastor: Rev. Edward L. Evans, Jr., 336-764-5242 (Home), [pastoreddie121@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreddie121@gmail.com)**

**Youth/Young Adult Minister: Dr. Hunter Duncan [hunter.duncan@rocketmail.com](mailto:hunter.duncan@rocketmail.com),  
336-414-8728 (Cell)**

**Music Director: Karen Stutzman**

[karen.a.stutzman@gmail.com](mailto:karen.a.stutzman@gmail.com), 336-701-1572 (Cell)

**Accompanist: Marty Stanbery, [martystanbery@triad.rr.com](mailto:martystanbery@triad.rr.com), 336-655-0711**

**Administrative Assistant: Joyce Rector, [cumcw.aa@gmail.com](mailto:cumcw.aa@gmail.com), 336-731-6616**

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**Center United Methodist Church**  
**Mitch Wilson, Senior Pastor**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent-God with Us Brings Peace**  
**December 23, 2018**

**11:00 AM** **Nursery with pagers available**

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**Prelude** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* Marty Stanbery and Karen Stutzman  
**Greeting and Announcements** Tim Williams, Lay Leader

**Call to Worship** Marty Stanbery  
PRESENTATION of the LIGHT of CHRIST Hamilton Kepley  
The Gift of God’s HOLY WORD Morgan Wood  
The Marvelous CROSS of CHRIST Graylin Snyder  
Lighting of the Advent Wreath Aubrey Adkins, Gracie Black and McKinley Hollingsworth

**\*GREETING and SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST** The People  
**\*HYMN NO. 220** *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”* Karen Stutzman  
Please Bring Breakfast Cereal for Greater Things Outreach Center Offering to the Altar

**Registration of Attendance**  
**Sharing of JOYS and CONCERNS and PRAYER**

**VOICES OF THE CHILDREN** *“Down in the City of David”* Children’s Choir  
Soloist, Gentry Smith  
**CHILDREN’S TIME** Molly Long

Following Children’s Time, children K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade may go to Children’s Church

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**  
**OFFERTORY** *“A King is coming to Town”* Chancel Choir  
**SONG OF THANKSGIVING NO. 2036** (The Faith We Sing) *“Give Thanks”* Karen Stutzman  
**\*HYMN NO. 230** *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* Karen Stutzman

**\*The Reading of the Word** *Luke 2:8-20 NIV* Rev. Mitch Wilson  
**The Preaching of the Word** *“God with Us Brings Peace”* Rev. Mitch Wilson  
**\*HYMN of COMMITMENT NO. 251** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”* Karen Stutzman  
The Altar is open during the singing of the Closing Hymn

**\*CHRIST’S LIGHT and CROSS of CHRIST GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD**  
Hamilton Kepley and Graylin Snyder

**\*BLESSING** Rev. Mitch Wilson  
**\*POSTLUDE** Marty Stanbery

\*Congregation Stands

### WELCOME

We welcome you to our church! If you are a guest, we are especially glad you are here and ask that you give your name, address, and phone number by filling out a Visitor’s Card found on the back of each pew and placing it in the offering plate as it is passed. If you do not have a church home, we cordially invite you to share in the life of this congregation.

### VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

#### GREETERS

Today – Bud and Jean Sink  
Klynt and Gayle Nifong  
Next Sunday – Clifton and Lynda Beck  
Mike and Kim Craver

#### ACOLYTE

Today – Hamilton Kepley  
Next Sunday – Isabelle Johnson

#### BIBLE BEARER

Today – Morgan Wood  
Next Sunday – Nate Johnson

#### CROSS OF CHRIST BEARER

Today – Graylin Snyder  
Next Sunday – Sophia Johnson

#### CHILDREN’S TIME

Today – Molly Long  
Next Sunday – Margaret Story

#### DOORSTEP VISITATION

Today – Robert and Lisa Bates  
Next Sunday – Ed and Becky Wassum

#### SAFE SANCTUARY

Children remain in the Sanctuary during Worship or with our trained teachers in Children’s Church. Children are not permitted to sit in empty classrooms or roam the hall without adult supervision.

#### MISSION OFFERINGS

First Sunday - **Community Mission Offering**  
Second Sunday - **Macaroni & Cheese and Sugar Offering**  
Third & Fourth Sundays - **Breakfast Cereal for Greater Things Outreach Center**  
Fifth Sunday – **Crisis Ministry Cash Offering**  
*Audio CDs of the worship service are available at the mailboxes in the hallway.*

#### USHERS

Today – Charlie Minter (Head)  
Jimmy Leonard, Kenneth Leonard,  
Mike Leonard, Tad Leonard  
Next Sunday – Charlie Minter (Head)  
Tony Leonard, Rod Loflin,  
Steve Long, Jason Martin

#### INFANT NURSERY

Today – Parenting Nursery  
Next Sunday – Parenting Nursery

#### TODDLER NURSERY

Today – Joseph Talley/Danielle Herron  
Next Sunday – Dawn Essick and  
Danielle Herron

#### CHILDREN’S CHURCH

Today – Ruby Combs & Glenda Stabler  
Next Sunday – Angie Leonard & Mitzi Tesh

#### EARLY SERVICE NURSERY

Today – Wendy Talley  
Next Sunday – Tess McCrary Warren

**RECENT JOYS TO BE THANKFUL FOR:**

- Parker Lofflin, son of Kevin and Amy Lofflin, graduated from UNC Chapel Hill on Sunday, December 16. Proud grandparents are Rod and Bonnie Lofflin.
- The Children's Ministry had a very successful Children's Christmas Play on Sunday. We would like to thank all the kids for their hard work as well as all the leaders. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the children. It really means a lot to have such a caring church family! Thank you.
- What a joyful time everyone had at the UMW Children's Shoppe. All of the children found something for everyone on their list. What a joy to teach children the beauty of giving. They were so excited to fill their baskets with gifts and can't wait to give them to their loved ones at Christmas. Thanks to all of Santa's Elves who were there to help with the shopping and wrapping. Our greatest joy is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our wonderful children who adore Him.

**PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES!**

- Dan and Shannon Maloy (with CRU on College Campuses in the low country) – Thank you for all the ways you empower our ministry and care for our family. We are grateful for you! Please visit the church website and enjoy a few recent photos of our family. We will be resuming our normal ministry communications at the end of the month. Please pray for us to see more students sign up and join us at our Winter Conference December 28-January 1.
- Josh and Kristie Aberle – Thank you so much for your love and support over the last year! We are so excited to reconnect with many of you over the next few months and are so grateful for your partnership in reaching the B people and other unreached peoples of SE Asia. Please be in prayer for our family during this transition to another area in SE Asia and for all the logistics involved in this international move involving three different countries.
- Dustin and Faith Minter – Prayers that we can learn and grow together as a team and all be known by His love throughout Bitola, Macedonia. Prayers for our continued transition of moving to another country, language and cultural acquisition and that God's peace extends to all borders around us and no matter what the decision around the name change is – that His love is known.

**On Going Prayer Concerns for December 23:**

- Bob Wagner
- Linda Leonard
- Brian Grubb (Joy Jones's Brother)
- Kim Dorton
- Marlene Wood
- Margaret Story
- Randy Story
- Kathy Kepley – Home
- Rick Moser
- Allen Culler
- Katy Culler
- Nancy Lanier
- Jerry (Doc) Cecil (Rita Wood's Brother)
- Kitty Minter
- Jean Teague (Martha Varner's Sister)
- Chris Briggs (Wayne Briggs's Brother)
- Bryan Martin (Donna Muraco's Son-in-Law)
- Mark Connell (Faye Sambleson's Brother)
- Paul Stevens (Steve and Molly Long's Friend)

**PLEASE NOTE ALL UNCLAIMED ITEMS:**

**Unclaimed items left in the Christian Fellowship Center are under the tables across from stoves: crock pots, casserole dishes, plates and containers. Please check to see if any items belong to you. Unclaimed coats left in the CFC for a year or longer are in a box in the CFC coat closet.**

**SYMPATHY:**

Willie Ray Everhart's brother, Phillip Eugene, passed away on Sunday afternoon, December 16, at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. A Celebration of Life service was on Friday, December 21, at Bethesda United Methodist Church Life Center. Please remember Willie Ray and all the family during this time.

Jeffrey Dean Varner, brother-in-law of Monty and Kimberly Pendry, passed away Tuesday, December 18. A memorial service was held December 22 at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. Please remember the Pendry family and the Varner family during this time.

**SHUT-INS AT HOME**

Ann Clodfelter  
Dot Craver  
Mozelle Koontz  
Sherry Lanier

Charles and Bonnie Minter  
Bruce and Betty Regan  
Treavie Weaver

**REST HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING**

Marian Funderburk – Arbor Acres  
Don Grubb – Grayson Creek, Room 203  
Joy Jones – Patriot Living  
Tony Koontz – Spring Arbor, Room 204  
Bill Lanier – Brookdale Lexington, Room 409, 161 Young Drive, Lexington, NC 27292  
Nancy Marlow (Lisa Bates' Mother)

**IN THE MILITARY**

Aaron Kepley

Aaron Lineberry

**Happy Birthday Jesus!!!**

We would like to invite all Kids Pre-K through 5th grade to a special party!! Today at 10 AM ( in the children's basement during Sunday school), we are having a fun filled birthday party for Jesus, with cupcakes, decorations, and lots of activities! I hope you can join us! .

**DAILY UPDATES**

Please check e-news for updates on joys, concerns, and announcements. If you do not receive daily e-news, contact Henrietta Hayes to be added at [hhayes.eneews@gmail.com](mailto:hhayes.eneews@gmail.com) or [cumcw.churchenews@gmail.com](mailto:cumcw.churchenews@gmail.com)

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR**

Please fill in the Sundays you will be putting flowers on the Altar. The information for the Sunday bulletin should be given to Joyce Rector by email [cumcw.aa@gmail.com](mailto:cumcw.aa@gmail.com), by note or by phone (336-731-6616) the week before the flowers are to be placed in the church.

**2019 CALENDAR IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD!**

**Let's get off to a good start for 2019 with filling in dates for Sundays now! Thanks a lot!**  
Your help in this ministry is most appreciated.

*SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE WEDNESDAY AT 9:00 AM*

**THIS WEEK AT CENTER**

**Sunday (December 23) -Advent IV - Peace**

8:45 AM CenTered Worship (CFC)  
10:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 PM Children's Birthday Party for Jesus (Basement)  
11:00 AM Worship Service  
12-6:00 PM Kim Leonard's Family Event (FH)  
6:00 PM Youth  
7:00 PM Cub Scouts

**Monday (December 24)-Christmas Eve**

All Day Lanier Family Event (FH)  
4:00 PM Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)  
11:00 PM Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

**Tuesday (December 25)-MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Office Closed**

**Wednesday (December 26)**

6:30 PM Youth (MoJoe's)

**Thursday (December 27)**

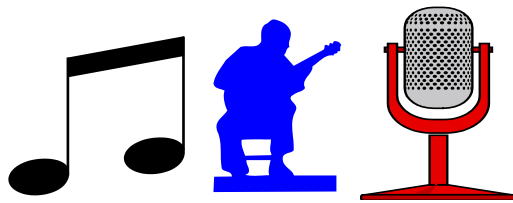
6-6:00 PM P&G Set Up(CFC)  
6:00 PM P&G Hot Dog Supper (CFC)  
7:00 Pickin' & Grinnin' (CFC)

**Saturday (December 29)**

4-9:00 PM Koontz Reunion (FH)

**Next Sunday (December 30) -Combined Worship**

9:30 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship Service  
6:00 PM Youth  
7:00 PM Cub Scouts



**Pickin' & Grinnin' at Center**

Come join us for an evening of Pickin' & Grinnin' in the Christian Fellowship Center on **Thursday, December 27, at 7:00 PM** A Hot Dog Meal will be sold for \$5 starting at 6:00 pm

The Offering this month will be given to: **Genesis House Family Shelter**

**MEMORY AND HONOR**

***In Memory of Brent Stabler***

*Budget Fund*

Jeff and Martha Mendenhall

***In Memory of Brent Stabler***

*Mission Team Fund*

Good Samaritan Class

***In Honor of the Good Samaritan Class***

*Youth Mission Fund*

Martha Varner

**TAKE HOME POINSETTIAS TODAY!**

**Please take your flowers home today. If you put a flower in honor of someone, make sure they get their flower. If you put a flower in memory of someone, please take the flower with you today. Thank you for adding much beauty to our sanctuary during this season of the year.**

**2019 GIVING ENVELOPES**

*If you have not been getting your giving envelopes or would like to start receiving the envelopes, please contact Gregg Stabler at 336-619-4115 or contact him at church. The current envelopes for 2019 are located in Sunday school class rooms or in the Narthex. Please pick up your envelopes now to begin using them in January. If you plan to make a donation for 2018, please remember next week is the last Sunday and the funds need to be in by December 31. Thank you.*

**MONEY FOR MISSIONS**

Center UMC Youth will be kicking off our Puerto Rico Mission trip with an Envelope Fundraiser. We ask that you take an envelope from the display board located in the Christian Fellowship Center and bring it back filled with the amount of money that is printed on the outside of the envelope. The envelopes can be placed in the offering plate. All proceeds will be used for Youth Missions and expenses. Displays will be up until December 30<sup>th</sup>. All envelopes must be turned in by January 6, 2019. Please help us in our efforts to make a difference in the world and to grow spiritually.

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

**CELEBRATION EVENTS**

**DECEMBER 23-Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**God with Us Brings Peace**

*10:00 AM – Children's Birthday Party for Jesus (Basement)*

**DECEMBER 24**

**God with Us Brings Jesus**

*4:00 PM – Candle Light Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)*

*11:00 PM – Candle Light Christmas Service (Sanctuary)*

**DECEMBER 25**

*Merry Christmas, Church Family*

**DECEMBER 30**

*10:30 AM – Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary)*

**DECEMBER 31 – New Year's Eve**

**TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TREAT BAGS!**

In loving memory of Bud Hayes, his traditional Christmas treat bags are located in classrooms and each foyer entrance. If you know of someone not present today or a shut-in, please take one for them as well. Special thanks to the Faith Seekers Class for their help in assembling and distributing the bags to classrooms again this year. Merry Christmas to all! Henrietta, Kelly and Ann

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: DELEGATION LISTENING SESSION!**

**The Western North Carolina Conference General Conference Delegation invites you to join them at a "Make Your Voice Heard, Delegation Listening Session". Two opportunities are available and will be identical so you can register for the one that you prefer: Saturday, January 5, at First UMC, 200 N. King St., Morganton from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM or Sunday, January 6, at First UMC, 217 S. Church Street, Salisbury from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**

**The time together will include overview information, covenant, and Q&A; table conversations with delegation members at each table; personal statements by participants; and commissioning of the delegation. Delegation members will be present and available around tables to participate in discussion and hear your perspectives.**