



January 2022  
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Issue 1



# THE CENTENARIAN

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Centenary United Methodist Church Family and Friends,

As I am sitting down to write this letter for 2022, I am amazed that I am typing that date. I am also sad to say that we are beginning 2022 with some of the same concerns which we dealt with in 2021, especially surrounding life and the various variants of Covid 19. I read a letter which someone had written to a blogger which stated that they were tired of the intensity of the world – the pandemic, the political scene, the divisions around, job loss, economic hardship, and the list could go on. The writer of the letter signed it, "Running on Empty."

I feel that many of us could use that signature – Running on Empty. The person was asking how to find hope in 2022. The person to whom he was asking was not a person of faith.

We as followers of Jesus Christ must rely on the tried-and-true components of the Advent Season to lead us into the New Year. We must carry faith and hope, claim joy and love, and allow the Christ Child to be our light in every situation of life.

As we advance into the new year as a church, we must continue to be those who love and nurture people inside and outside the church. We must learn and study the Scriptures through Sunday school, bible Study, and worship, and then take the lessons which have been imprinted on our hearts and share them with the world.

We must remember that Christ is our constant – regardless of our circumstances and hold on to Him. He will be our guide, teacher, friend, and most importantly Savior.

We all must join as a congregation to be the church – vital and faith forming, mission orienting, and power praying.

We must know that God has a specific plan for all churches, including Centenary UMC, and we must be attentive to heed His leading and direction.

Here are some Bible verses of Both the Old and New Testaments which remind us that God is steadfast in hope, faith, and love, and we must be also.

### **Isaiah 40:29-31**

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

### **Galatians 6:9**

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

### **James 1:12**

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

## Philippians 4:13

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Let us take the hand of Christ and allow the baby from Bethlehem to lead us not only into 2022, but into eternity.

Prayer for the New Year 2022:

God of steadfast love, trusting you, we devote our hearts to learning and our lives to walking.  
Teach us truth, that we may walk with courage.  
Teach us mercy, that we may walk with humility.  
Teach us forgiveness, that we may walk with compassion.  
Teach us grace, that we may walk with strength.  
Teach us wonder, that we may walk with praise.  
Teach us goodness, that we may walk with those in need.  
O God of steadfast love, learning from you, may we walk well.  
Amen.

— [J. Bradley Wigger](#)

Please know that David, Meredith, and I love each of you greatly. The congregation graces us with gifts and expressions of love in abundance. You gift us with kind words of encouragement, notes of sentiment, calls of love, you allow us to be with you in some of your most joyous of times as well as your most challenging of times, you gift us with truth and accountability, but most importantly you gift us through prayer and sharing in the faith of Jesus Christ.

We thank you more than you will ever know.

Please know that my door is always open.

Take care and God Bless always,

Kelley

## Announcements

- There will be an SPRC meeting at 2:00 pm in the Conference Room on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- We have a continuous collection of nonperishable items for the Urban Ministry at our church. You may drop them in the baskets located throughout the church, and we will make sure that they are delivered.
- 'Women's Supper Club will be meeting on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Location TBD. Please contact Emily Lawing 336-906-9996 if you are planning on attending as some restaurants will not allow parties greater than 6 people. Thank you and Happy New Year!'
- Soul to Soul will meet Saturday, January 8th at 10:00 am to put blessing bags together until we can gather for the Community Breakfast again.
- On January 12th UMW Board Meeting at 10:00am followed by a guest speaker, Sandra Williamson, with a \$5.00 box lunch from Jason's. Contact Debra Schlueter 336-707-4213 to let her know if you would like a box lunch. Everyone is welcome do plan to attend!

If you are in a new Leadership Position, the Western North Carolina Conference will host Leadership Trainings using Webinars the week of January 23-27.

Like most events during the pandemic, our **District Winter Leadership Training Events** will look a little different for 2022. Rather than hosting in-person events in each district, we will offer a series of Conference-wide training webinars during the **week of January 23-27** to resource and equip all areas of your Church leadership. More details will be announced soon.

I, Kelley, will be in touch when we learn more about the training. It is important that we take advantage of these trainings. More in 2022.

### Winter Fellowship Lunch and Ad Council on Sunday February 6th

Join us for a Winter Box Lunch with your Church Family. The meal will once again be provided by Jason's and then around 1:15, the Ad Council will have their first meeting of 2022. We want to have our first Ad Council meeting after the trainings which the Western North Carolina Conference offers.

Please add this to your calendar.



### Friendship Club Members

We are going to have the first Friendship Club meeting will be the second Tuesday in February at noon. It will be the monthly gathering of folks for a light meal, program, devotion, and laughs. We will continue this for March, April, and May. Get ready for the fun to begin!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



### Community Breakfast and Clothes closet



It is our hope to begin our Monthly Community Breakfast in February. We have talked to people in the District Office, and if we take the correct covid precautions, we are on go. We will monitor the situation, but that is our target date as of now.



### American Red Cross Blood drive

*Together, we can save a life*

We are going to try once again to host the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> in our Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 6:30.

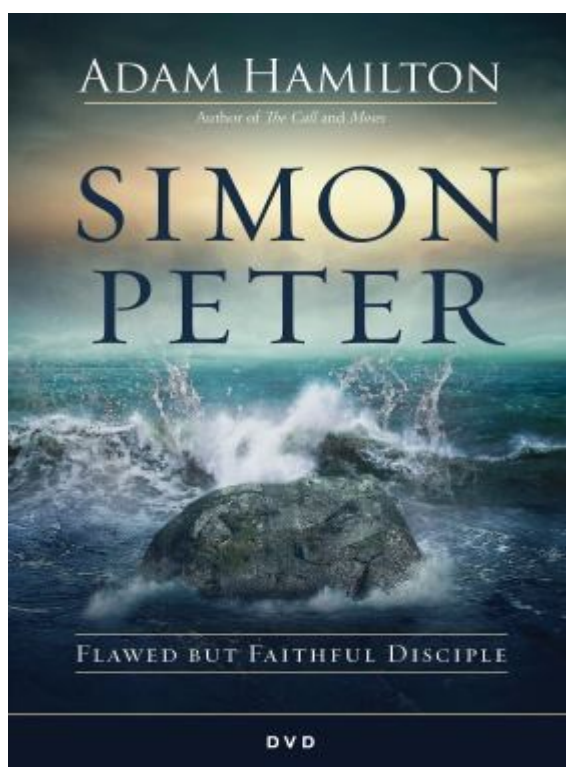
If you can help register participants, or gift cookies to those who need a snack afterwards, any time which you could gift would be appreciated.

### Souper Bowl Sunday

Souper Bowl Sunday will occur on February 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special offering which will be divided to help both the Urban Ministry as well as the Out of the Garden Project.



## New Bible Study Opportunity: Simon Peter – Faithful but Flawed Disciple



He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man.

And that's the point of *Simon Peter*, a new book and six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to have influence today. In addition to the Leader Guide and DVD components for adult studies, corresponding youth and children's resources, sold separately, can be used to create a churchwide study.

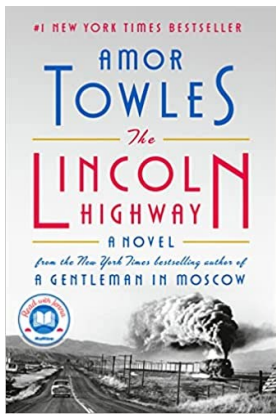
Chapters Include:  
The Call of the Fisherman  
Walking with Jesus in the Storm  
Bedrock or Stumbling Block?  
"I Will Not Deny You"  
From Cowardice to Courage  
The Rest of the Story

We are all flawed in many ways, but our goal is to be faithful. You are invited to join in this Bible study on Monday Evenings for 6 weeks. It will be in person and those who want to join by Zoom may.

If you would like a book for \$10.00, please let Rev. Groce know by Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. She will have them to you in time that you may have read the first chapter by our first meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Begin your 2022 invested by digging deeper into the Words of Scripture.

It always produces a blessing!



## Centenary Starlight Book Club

Book Club for January 2022 Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at

6:30 at the Church Narthex

**The Lincoln Highway: A Novel Hardcover – October 5, 2021**

by Amor Towles (Author)

4.5 out of 5 stars 13,834 ratings

In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York.

Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

All who are interested are always welcome.



**Big Thank You** to the following people, Betty and Mandy Durham, Caryn Hull, Coak May, Kelley Groce, Jim Wilson, Harold and Linda Billings who helped ring the Salvation Army Bell at Friendly Center on December 7<sup>th</sup>.





As you engage your 'Prayer Life' this week, please remember these prayer concerns: If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage 336-285-5081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

**Mike Crabtree**, suffered a heart attack has a stent and is home recovering. **Louise Woods**, back in the hospital. She is allowed 1 visitor per day. **Joann Martin**, health challenges and upcoming tests. **Dave Blackman**, had a stroke and is home with out-patient therapy. Keep Barbara and David in your prayers. **Jane Norman, is at home now recovering.** **Scott Stanley.** **Kay Scott**, health challenges and treatment. **Susan Carrick.** Please keep him and the family in your prayers. **Anne Murr**, prayers for her treatments. **Margaret Miller** health issues. **Lori Johnson.** **Sheridian Wacker**, health issues **Trudy Sillmon.** **Don & Clara Ellis.** **Aly Saunders.** **Judy Milligan.**

Correction of Bill Eller's new address is: 925 New Garden Road, Apt. 1401, Greensboro, NC 27410

Please be in prayer, as many are ready to return to this service of outreach.



- 5th Brien Deuterman
- 7th Barbara Singleton
- 8th Teresa Snider
- 12th Reid Townsend
- 16th Jane Norman  
Alyson Saunders
- 17th Jimmy Stanley
- 19th Andrea Wisekal
- 22nd Don Stowe
- 24th Hannah Stout
- 29th Bill Eller  
Bill Ellis

If you, or a loved one, have been left off the birthday list, please contact Libby Boggs at 336-299-9643.

*Faith is not believing that God can, it's knowing that He will.*

*Life is too short to be anything but happy.*

### Financial Update

Year-to-Date Giving/Expenses—Ending	
Revenues	\$ 290,671
Expenses	\$ 349,758
Profit or (Loss) ( \$	59,087 )



## Prayer & Offering Support

Thank you for continuing to support the church with your pledges, tithes, and offerings! Mail your donation to: CUMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403 Use your bank's bill pay feature and set-up payments through your account. Or, you may use our online giving platform, SubSplash. Directions for online giving can be found on our website [www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org](http://www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org). Use your credit card to make a one time donation, or set-up weekly or monthly giving.

### Meetings-

NA-Narcotic Anonymous every Wednesday at 8:00pm and every Sunday at 1:00pm Fellowship Hall

AI-Anon-every Friday at 8:00pm in the Conference Room

Compassionate Friends First Monday of each month at 7:00pm room110

### Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 am Sunday School Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Worship Service



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1.
2. 10:00am Bible Study	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8. 10:00am Soul to Soul Blessing Bags Fellowship Hall
9. 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm SPRC Meeting	10.	11.	12. 10:00am UMW Meeting followed by lunch and guest speaker	13.	14.	15.
16.	17.	18.	19. Friend's Home Guilford at 3:00pm	20. 6:30pm Book Club	21.	22.
23.	24. 6:30pm Bible Study	25.	26. 6:00pm Women's Supper Club	27.	28	29.
	District Winter Leadership Training January 23-27					
30.	31. 6:30pm Bible Study					



# THE CENTENARIAN

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**WORSHIP with us online!**

<https://www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org/>



### Our Mission:

To experience God's life changing love and take God's love into the world.

### Our Vision:

To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.



## Gifts for the Budget: 12-1-2021– 12-31-2021

### In Honor of Mike & Gretchen Crabtree

David & Trudy Sillmon

### Memorial to CUMC

Roach Bible Class

### In Memory of Keith Eller

Joann Martin

Coak & Nancy May

Carol Raney

Jimmy & Diane Stanley

Paul & Judith Verchick

Jim & Brenda Wilson

Malcolm Arnette

Marvin & Mary Jo Baugh

Alice Burkholder

Jack Cole

Frank Fary

Duilla Harkins

Ed Hines

### In Memory of Anza Cole

Jack Cole

### In Memory of Dot Frye

Lisa Cox & Sarah Frye

Duilla Harkins

### In Memory of Charlie Frye

Duilla Harkins

### In Memory of Georgine Eaton

Alvin Eaton

### In Memory of Brent Mabe

Madeline Hodge

## Dear God:

*Enlighten* what's dark in me....

*Strengthen* what's weak in me....

*Mend* what's broken in me....

*Bind* what's bruised in me....

*Heal* what's sick in me....

and lastly,

*Revive* whatever peace and love  
has died in me....