



December 2022

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Issue 12



The Centenarian

Dear Centenary UMC Family and Friends,

"I bring you good news of great joy!" Luke 2:10

As another December comes, anticipation and expectancy of the Advent Season comes along with it, cumulating in the celebration of Christmas Day.

I was once in our United Methodist Bookstore, Cokesbury, looking for some literature when my eyes were drawn to a new product for Advent – a felt Advent wreath for children who are too young to have the real wreath with the blue and pink candles all aglow. Thinking of the blessing of my daughter, nephews, and niece, and the promises which I make each Sunday to nurture all children in the love, grace, and hope of Jesus Christ, I went and purchased one for my niece Campbell and my nephew Cooper.

I knew that they would not really understand the meaning of the Advent wreath that year because of their young ages, but exposure and practice of my sister and brother-in-law, with their new children practicing this simple tradition of faith would have an impact for a lifetime. Campbell and Cooper are now 12 and 14 and have practiced the tradition of the Advent wreath in their home and church each season from that young age.

I love Advent wreaths and of the 4 Sundays of anticipation which lead up to Christmas. The candles have various meanings as defined by the resource which you may be looking at, but their message is the same.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath can enrich our walk to accept the baby in the manger if we simply take the time to look. The advent wreath is typically a circular wreath made of evergreen branches and five candles – three purple, one pink, and one white arranged on the wreath. The circular shape is the symbol of eternity. The evergreens used on the wreath symbolize hope and renewal. The five candles together on the wreath symbolize Jesus being born as the light of the world.

The first purple candle is the prophet's candle, and it symbolizes anticipation and expectancy of the Advent Season comes along with it, cumulating in the celebration of Christmas Day. The second purple candle is the Bethlehem candle. It represents Christ's manger and symbolizes love. The third candle is pink, and it is called the shepherd's candle. The shepherd's candle symbolizes joy. The fourth candle is purple and is the Angel's candle. It symbolizes peace. The final candle is white, and it is lit on Christmas Eve. The white candle symbolizes Christ who has come into the world to save it from its sins. The traditional colors of Advent are purple, pink, and white. Each of these colors are represented in the candles of the Advent wreath.

Purple is a color associated with repentance as a reminder to prepare internally for the coming holiday. It is also associated with royalty in anticipation of the birth of the coming king.

Pink is used during the third Sunday of Advent, and it represents joy. It marks a shift in the season away from repentance towards rejoicing. White is associated with purity. The white candle in the center of the wreath represents the sinlessness of Jesus.

For such a simple wreath – there is great meaning and spiritual depth, much like the cross.

We are beginning anew to travel the Advent journey. Take time to look, listen, smell, and sense all the signs of great anticipation for the gift of the Savior in the manger. Know that this is the beginning of a miraculous gift leading us toward the greatest gift which Christ will share with us – that of the empty tomb.

It is my prayer that the symbols of the Advent Candles may be instilled and lived out in this joyous season and indeed your entire Christian discipleship long. May God bless us as a church, and all therein – the gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace, as we worship Jesus the Christ born in Bethlehem.

In closing, I leave you with two thoughts. There is a little 3-year-old boy – Luke Samra who had his own version of a Christmas carol which goes like this: "We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New YOU."

Read the rest of the Centenarian for the many Holiday Activities, Missions, and Ministries occurring this month. Please know that God loves us all unconditionally and that I love you as well.

Merry Christmas to all,

Kelley

December Sunday's at Centenary

Advent Sunday School: The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

By Matt Rawle



We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

We will participate in this study from Nov 27- Dec 18th.

We will not have Sunday School on Dec 25th or Jan 1st.

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion @ 4 on December 24th.

Christmas Day Lessons and Carols Service at 11 on December 25th.

Blessing of the Animals
December 11th at 2pm

Blessing of the Animals will be held on December 11th at 2 at the Manger on our Front Lawn. People are asked to bring items which we can donate to the Greensboro Animal Shelter. Please share this with friends and family as we reach any in our community. All are welcome!



**CENTENARY
COMMUNITY CONCERTS**
presents
A program of piano music, from far
and near, with Christmas themes
performed by
Anita Trumpler-Rich and James Esterline

**Christmas
on the Keys
VOL. II**

**Sunday,
December 11
at 3:00 PM**

**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave,
Greensboro, NC
(336) 299-9643**

Love offering to be collected
in lieu of admission



Prayer Concerns

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.

Donnie Stowe. Paul Long. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Lori Johnson. Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane, Jim & Scott Stanley. Anne Murr. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Cecil Overbey. Al Barnes (Dave & Caryn Hull's friend). Sharry Hastings (Caryn Hull's sister) Claire (Suzy Swindell's cousin-in-law). Rachel Dykes, Sue Rosser (Debbie Robinson's friends). Hilda (Debbie Robinson's Aunt). Quinton Verchick (Harold & Linda Billing's grandson). Rob Barnard (Larry & Suzy Swindell's nephew).

We extend of sympathy to the family of Nelda King who passed away November 26, 2022.

Thanks to the Congregation!

From Kim Eller, Northern Piedmont Lay Leader

How wonderful to celebrate our laity at Centenary- to have the opportunity to thank all the Tabitha's for years of faithful service. Continued blessings as you serve each other and your community. I so enjoyed our time together. Thank you for the honor. With love, Kim

From Betty Durham

What a honor and how very humbling to be given the Laity Service Award for this year. It's my honor to be able to serve Jesus here with you. There are so many more deserving members of this church and I enjoy working along side you. Thanks for all you do. Your Sister in Christ, Betty

From Lori Johnson

I want to express my gratitude and thankfulness for the phone call, money, gifts given during my recovery. I love my church family. Joy and my blessings, Lori

The Summerfield-Peace Christmas Store

Thanks to all that supplied books and gifted their time serving the families in our community again this year.

Mission Opportunities

Urban Ministry is in desperate need of food.

Please continue to bring your food items, place them in the baskets marked "Urban Ministry" and we will get it to the Urban Ministries. Please donate – these are desperate times for the food insecure!



The Clothes Closet

In order to be good stewards of our limited space, in the Fellowship Hall, we will only be able to accept "gently used" current season clothes for men and women. Special needs; Jackets for men and women all sizes. Men's pants size 32 and belts. Bedding and hygiene products.

Call Caryn Hull if you have any questions, 336-402-2633.

UNDIE SUNDAY is the first Sunday of each month. Needed black or white socks for men and women. New packaged underwear for men or women,

December 17, 8am to 10am

Please come serve and share the love of Christ at this mission to our community!



Community Breakfast

Salvation Army Bell Ringers!

December 8, Noon to 8pm

We are going to be ringing the Red Kettle bell for the Salvation Army on Thursday, December 8th at the Belk's at Friendly Center facing Macy's from noon until 8. You may bring a chair. There are still spots open! It would be nice to have 2 at each hour. Here is what we have thus far:

12pm to 1pm Mike Crabtree & Jim Wilson
1pm to 2pm Barbara Albright & Jackie Thompson
2pm to 3pm Zackery Riddle
3pm to 4pm Harold & Linda Billings
4pm to 5pm Betty & Mandy Durham
5pm to 6pm Coak May & Jim Wilson
6pm to 7pm Kelley & David Groce
7pm to 8pm Caryn Hull



Please call the church office if you would like to help with this very important mission.

Centenary Starlight Book

Thursday, January 19th

Dragonfly by Leila Meacham



Blue Christmas Drive Thru Prayer Offerings

Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship service as an alternative to the more traditional gatherings. This is in honor of those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss. This tradition in the U.S. dates to 1990.

The services draw relatively small, intimate crowds of those mourning the loss of a loved one and are usually tagged the longest night services in the country because of the tradition of holding the service on or around the longest night of the year, which is usually December 21.

Although the reason for observing a Blue Christmas has remained the same since its earliest known history in 1990, the term has taken on a new meaning since May 2016, when Kevin Dunn, a resident of Simpsonville S.C., started a movement that seeks to highlight and honor the sacrifices law enforcement officers make to protect us during the festive period. This was in response to the death of a police officer who died on duty earlier in the year. The movement aims to show support for law enforcement officers and "honors the memories of those officers who have given their lives in the line of duty." Kevin created a Facebook group called 'A Blue Christmas' and was able to gather hundreds of members. As a Christmas devotee, he also showed his support with the Christmas lights in his own home, replacing some of the traditional holiday lights with blue bulbs or candles.

Instead of having a Blue Christmas Service, we are going to Offer a Drive Thru Prayer service

You may come and drive to the front of the church and we will pray with you while in your car.

The date is December 21 from 8-9:30, 12-1, and 5-6.

I will need people to please be there to pray with me.

Please spread the word in the our community! Invite your family and You friends !



- 5th Nina Stowe
- 6th Charles Gordon
- 7th Grant Sillmon
- 10th Betty Durham, Carol Burklin, Alvin Eaton
- 12th David Sillmon
- 13th Scott Stanley
- 15th Bobby Burklin
- 17th Haley Saunders
- 18th Clara Ellis, Mark Schlueter, Geoff Horn
- 19th Nancy Carrick
- 22nd Harrison Stout
- 24th Trudy Sillmon
- 30th Mary Jo Baugh
- 31st Travis John



The Staff of Centenary UMC will celebrate the Holiday with lunch on December 15th at 1. The office will close a bit early that day. Please take time to tell the staff your appreciation for their dedication and hard work which they gift to Centenary UMC

PECANS!!

The UMW still has pecans (whole and pieces) available for \$15.00 each. If interested please see Debra Schlueter or call the church office!

The Light Up the Church Campaign

The sanctuary lights have been in despair for several years. You may have not noticed because you see the lights on, but you do not know what goes on to make this happen. If you would like to contribute to the cause-please gift to **Light Up the Sanctuary Campaign and designate as such**. We would love to have this project completed by our Christmas season services.



If you would like to support this campaign you may donate in honor and/or memory of a special person with a personalized luminary to be lite on Christmas Eve after the Christmas Candle light service.

Suggested donation \$5.00 per bag.



The Worship, Mission, Nurture and Outreach Committees made the decision to support our community with much needed food for families in need. **This will be in lieu of poinsettias**. We ask for a \$25.00 donation for Food Bags. These gift will go to the Urban Ministry.

There will be a special bulletin in honor and in memory for both of these missions.

You can use the enclosed insert. Put your money with the form so that we recognize the people you are honoring or memorizing. Please return to the church by December 19th.

Gift to the Budget for November

In Memory of Irmgard Daiber

*E. Jean Brincefield
Patrick and Margaret Miller
Mark & Debra Schlueter
Chuck & Susan Carrick
Duilla Hawkins
Phoebe Swing
Coak and Nancy May*

In Memory of Jean Farabee

*Mark & Debra Schlueter
Paul & Dawn Long
Marvin & Mary Jo Baugh
Mark Chapman
Jack Cole
Duilla Harkins
Mary Hummel
Paul & Dawn Long
Joann Martin
Cecil Overbey
Phoebe Swing
Coak and Nancy May*

In Memory of Gerry Cochrane

Duilla Harkins

In Memory of All Saint's We Lost

Betty Durham

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Giving/Expenses-Ending 11/30

Revenues	\$ 247,775.00
Expenses	\$ 345,377.00
Profit or (Loss)	(\$97,602.00)

December 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	5	6	7 Book Club 3pm	8	9	10 Summerfield-Peace Christmas Store
11 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 2pm Blessing of the Animals 3pm Piano Recital	12	13	14 3pm Rev. Kelley will be at Friends Home Guilford for Devotion and Communion	15 1pm Church Office will close for the day	16	17 8am to 10am Community Breakfast
18 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	19	20	21 Prayers on the Go 8am to 9:30am 12pm to 1pm 5pm to 6pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00pm
25 Christmas Day 11am Service only	26	27	28	29	30	31

THE CENTENARIAN

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**WORSHIP with us online! Like us on
FaceBook Live , on YouTube or on our
website at**



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.

Offering Support

Thank you for your continued support of the church with your pledges, tithes, and offerings! **Ways you can give.**

Put your offering in the offering plate.

- Mail your donation to:

Centenary UMC
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, Sub-Splash. Directions for online giving can be found on our website www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org. Use your credit card to make a one time donation, or set-up weekly or monthly giving.
- To date we have had 29 pledges for a total of

\$96,652.00

Periodical Postage

Paid at

Greensboro, NC

Sunday Morning Worship

9:45 am Sunday School - Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Worship Service—Sanctuary

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 room 110

Can't make it to church?

Watch us on FaceBook Live, YouTube or on our website at

www.centenaryumcgreensboro.org. On our website you will find our Worship Bulletin, Announcements , Prayer Requests, Joys , Concerns and updates on the life of the church.

Join us anytime!

