



## Hope: A Weary World Rejoices

December 1-29

For many, Christmas is a season to get through as much as a season to enjoy. Each week as we prepare for Christmas, we'll examine the gospel of Luke to help move us from weariness to hope and joy.

### DECEMBER MESSAGES:

- December 1** *Be Alert*
- December 8** *From Darkness to Dawn*
- December 15** *Being Good News*
- December 22** *Coming Home (10:30am)*
- December 29** *Dressing Well (10:30am)*

## CENTRAL CONTRIBUTIONS

	6-Oct	13-Oct	20-Oct	27-Oct	Online
<b>Worship Attendance</b> <small>* worship attendance includes online</small>	338	305	326	317	
<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	130	116	139	163	
<b>Contributions</b>	\$ 20,625	\$ 21,633	\$ 12,260	\$ 16,236	\$ 32,288
<b>Faith Promise</b>	\$ 2,227	\$ 5,580	\$ 490	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,936
<b>Promised 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</b>	\$78,438	<b>Received YTD</b>		\$30,642	

## Christmas Eve Offering: Hurricane Relief

Tuesday, December 24 | 4:00 & 7:00pm Services

Each year our tradition for Christmas Eve is to receive an offering that goes to a mission that makes a difference in peoples lives. This year we are giving our entire Christmas Eve offering to hurricane recovery efforts with the Holston Conference of the UMC. This money will be used to help individuals and families recover and find hope.

## Christmas AT CENTRAL

- 12.1 Advent Sermon Series**  
*Hope: A Weary World Rejoices*
- 12.5 Food Drive at Parade**  
5:00pm
- 12.8 Hanging of the Greens**  
4:00pm
- 12.9 Advent Tea Special Guest**  
*Mary Thompson*  
6:00pm
- 12.22 Combined Service**  
10:30am
- 12.24 Christmas Eve**  
4:00 (Modern) & 7:00pm (Traditional)

## Shop the World

Sunday, December 8 | 8:30-12:30

Shop the World will join us this month and be set up in the Gathering Area and hallways. This gift shop is Fair Trade, meaning artisans get paid a fair wage for their work.

Make plans to do some Christmas shopping that makes a difference in the lives of people around the world.

## A Letter from Pastor Scott

*What's Christmas all about?*

If I had to sum up Christmas in three words, it would be the words "God came near." One of the characteristics of the Christian faith is that God does not remain aloof to our suffering and sin, but chooses to enter into our suffering. May God come near to you and those close to this season!

- Scott Layer



## Christmas Parade

Thursday, December 5 | 5:00-7:00pm

This year, Central has a vision to "be" the church at our Lenoir City Christmas parade by hosting a canned food drive (specifically canned beans). All participants that donate will be entered to win a \$200 gift card to Walmart to use for the holidays. If you'd like to help us set up and/or man the food drive, email Hannah Collins (hannah@centralmethodist.com). Help us spread the word to our community.



## Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 8 | 4:00pm Worship Center

Make plans to decorate the church with your church family. We will share Christmas songs, a devotion, share some goodies, and decorate the church. Bring a finger food to share. Let's get in the spirit of Christmas!

**CENTRAL KIDS**



**Hanging of the Greens**  
Sunday, December 8 | 4:00pm

While adults are decorating the church after the service, Central Kids will be creating our own ornaments and garland for the kids' Worship Center tree. If time allows, we'll watch a Christmas movie in the Pavilion.



**Christmas Pageant - Christmas Eve**  
Tuesday, December 24 | 4:00pm Service

Central Kids will present a Christmas pageant for our 4:00pm Modern Christmas Eve service. We hope your child can join us.

There'll be approximately 10 speaking parts and 5-6 silent pageant parts. This pageant will be rehearsed during *Music with Ms. Rachel* time from 10-10:20am in the choir room on Sunday mornings.

If your child would like a special speaking part or silent pageant role, contact Hannah Collins (hannah@centralmethodist.com). All children who would like a special role will receive one.

**CENTRAL STUDENTS**



**Youth Christmas Party**  
Sunday, December 15 | 5:00-7:00pm Pavilion

It's the most wonderful time of the year! All 6th-12th graders are invited to our Christmas Party. Come wearing your favorite Christmas pajamas for our first ever PJ contest and be ready to enjoy fun games with prizes, a yummy supper, decorating sugar cookies, listening to a Christmas devotion, opening presents and more. Please bring a \$10-15 gender neutral gift for Secret Santa.

**December at a Glance**

- 12.1 No Sunday Night Youth for Thanksgiving
- 12.8 Hanging of the Greens // 4pm
- 12.15 Youth Christmas Party // 5-7pm
- 12.22 No Sunday School or Youth
- 12.29 No Sunday School or Youth

**Sunday School**  
Sunday Mornings | 10:00-10:45am Pavilion

We hope you'll join us Sunday mornings as we discover how 2 Thessalonians can help us celebrate the birth of Christ and prepare our hearts and lives for His return.

**Youth**  
Sunday Nights | 5:00-7:00pm Pavilion

We'll be celebrating Christmas with Hanging of the Greens on December 8 and enjoying a Christmas party on December 15 in the Pavilion. We hope you enjoy the holidays with family on the other December Sunday nights.

**The Methodist Build**  
*Habitat Update*

We're excited to announce that we anticipate having a house dedication for our Habitat House in January 2025. Thanks to all who are giving their time and hard work to make this house a home!



**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**Christmas Luncheon**  
Thursday, December 5  
11:30am Barbara Williams' Home

UWF will have their annual Christmas luncheon at the home of Barbara Williams (165 Old Farm Road, Lenoir City). The cost is \$5.00/person and guests are welcome. Please bring an item for the "grab bag" gift basket. RSVP by December 2 to Sandy Dunsmore at 865-271-7426. Driving directions will be available in the UWF file box in Hallway A.



**Blessings Box**

Donations of non-perishable foods can be brought to the designated wooden storage bin in the Gathering Area.

**The following items are requested (NO GLASS CONTAINERS):**

- Canned spaghetti, chili, soups, meats
- Granola bars, cereal bars, protein bars
- Microwavable mac and cheese cups
- Pasta noodles and sauce
- Peanut butter
- Cheese/peanut butter crackers

**December Birthdays**

- 1 Mason Messler
- 1 Carol Ann Williams
- 3 Barbara Williams
- 4 Ruth Ann Wampler
- 5 Lisa Worner
- 6 David Read
- 6 James Gilbert
- 8 Martha Fox
- 8 Carolina Jay
- 8 Frances Jones
- 11 Lilly Borders
- 11 Evie Gillman
- 12 Sascha Hill
- 14 Rebecca Moses
- 15 Doris Prater
- 15 James Platfoot
- 16 Carol Taylor
- 17 Laurie Davis
- 17 Mary Platfoot
- 18 Rebecca Smith
- 19 Carol Clark
- 20 Emily Hensley
- 25 Jeanette Sixour
- 25 Susanna Platfoot
- 26 Rose Langefeld
- 29 Michael Langefeld
- 31 Garry Hudson