



THE MESSENGER

Vol. XXXIV No. 3

Central UMC

January, 2021

Church address:
6030 Albemarle Road
Charlotte, NC 28212

upon this church as we continue our journey in 2021, I would like to ask that we focus on prayer for the rest of this month as a start. Too often the attitude towards prayer is that of, “well, all we can do now is pray!”

Prayer is not the hopeless act of desperation. Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach the throne of grace with confidence—like that of children coming to their parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats and every part of life. It is an opportunity to express the deepest heartache and the greatest joy. Prayer is a conversation between the Creator and the created...and the conversation began with God, for us, in Christ Jesus. Pray for this congregation, for the pastor, for the staff, for the leaders, for those who carry out ministries, for the Sunday School teachers, for those leading adult Bible studies and for those leading small groups. Pray for those in hospitals and nursing homes. Pray for all those connected to your church that they might know God’s redeeming love for all in Christ.

In our Advent Study we are using the book, POWER SURGE, the 6 marks of discipleship for a changing church. In one of our lessons we learned of a technique to help us remember to pray.

I would like for us to use this same technique as a visual reminder to pray. We will have various colored dots right outside our front door. You may stop by and get some. Place them on your rear view window in your car, bathroom mirror, refrigerator, or whatever place that would serve as a visual reminder to pray. It will also remind us of our faith which will help focus our attention on the immediate presence of God. Be on the look-out for more helpful tools you can use to encourage your growth in prayer. Happy New Year!!!!

Pastor Pam’s Ramblings...

Happy 2021! We finally made it! 2020 will forever be remembered as the year of the virus that practically stopped everything. We had to close down businesses and social gatherings.

We had to stop coming to church in person in order to stay safe. For all the things we had to stop, we couldn’t stop the power and presence of Jesus from shining through into the darkest corners. We were able to stay in touch with you in ways we never had in the past. We started our small group ministry because of our concern that we needed to stay connected. We were able to create new on-line means of spreading Jesus message of love that we never dreamt possible. We were able to share our worship online, and even have drive-up worship in the back of the church.

The virus changed our lives but it couldn’t change God, who is the same, yesterday, today and forever. I would like to thank the staff for a job well done! You all have been tremendous through it all.

And to our faithful disciples, we are thankful that God raises up people to help us keep our focus in serving Christ. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to each and everyone of you for being mighty warriors for God.

I would also like to thank everyone for thinking of me during Christmas. Your cards, gifts, and acts of love touched my heart. Thank-You! Central, since my arrival I have noticed that powerful praying happens in this place, prayers that move the hand of God. I want us to emphasize this gift God has bestowed

**Sunday Service at 11:00 each
Sunday at**

**<http://facebook.com/cumccharlotte>
and we now have Drive-In service to
allow you to better connect with your
church family**

Sunday School 12:30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3509008260?pwd=SEoxQ2NUSDI0K0huZ1dubWtDODU0Zz09>

THE STAFF

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I hope you would consider the “5-5-1 challenge”:

Send a card to 5 people; make a phone call to 5 people, and do something nice for 1 person (bake cookies, pick up groceries, etc.).

Gifts in Honor/Memory

Budget

Honorariums:

To the Budget:

Nancy McLaughlin IHO Sharon and Don Irons

Alice and Wes Spindler IHO Rick and Sandra Lanier

Rick and Sandra Lanier IHO The Dennys, The Nazarchyks, Ina Davenport

To Pastor's Discretionary:

Fran Jones IHO Pastor Pamela Blackstock

To Central Cares:

Charlie and Sybil Long IHO Bobbie Denny

Don and Sharon Irons IHO All those that help with the broadcast each week

Dr/ Mrs Jerry Childress IHO Mark Nazarchyk, Edna Welch and Ina Davenport

To Christmas for the Troops:

Donna and Artie Jones IHO Sandra Lanier

Memorials:

To the Budget:

Alice and Wes Spindler IMO Lisa Fowlers Sister-in-law, Betty Bells' Brother

Birthdays and Anniversaries in January

1/1: Nancy Wohlfeil
Delores Spruill
Boaki Kamara
Musa Kamara

1/2: Victor Guevara

1/5: DeAnn Cynamon
Jeff Moss
Andrew & Amanda Pippin

1/11: Bruce & Kathy DeCamp

1/14: Chet Hughes

1/15: Joy Clark
James McNeely

1/16: Raphael & Amba Totou

1/17: Polly Smith

1/18: Jack Jordan

1/19: Akia Queegly

1/20: Sharon Jordan

1/22: Judy Johnston

1/23: Walter Welch
Monica Mullis

1/24: Terry & Frances Eudy

1/25: Emma Henley
Artie Jones

1/30: Arely Guevara

1/31: Bette Nazarchyk



Spiritual Life

“God’s Good World”

God created the world and all that is in it. All God created was good. God is still creating, and all God creates is good. Man just cannot keep from marring the good world. Man seems bent to sinning and hurting the world and all that’s in it.

Fortunately, God is merciful, loving, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. His mercies are new every morning; great is His faithfulness. God sent us Jesus, and He is the reason we are not consumed by the Holy Righteousness God. By faith, we can be forgiven. By faith in Jesus, we can become new creations in Christ. The old has gone; the new has come! Look! God is making something new! Do you not perceive it?

We begin 2021 with readings of God’s good world. This should bring us to our knees in praise and thanksgiving for the abundance of good we were given. Look around and give thanks and praise. Then as the month proceeds, our verses shift from the focus on our good God to humanity, which was created in the image of God, but has a bent to sinning. “The world” took on a negative connotation. We read caution from Jesus not to love the world and the things in it. We read to love the Lord first, to give God the first fruits of all He has given us. We must have no other gods before the only true God. Put God first, Jesus will say, and all these things will be added for you. It comes down to priorities. God’s world is still good, and we are to be good stewards of it. We are to care for our world, to appreciate and keep good our environment. As we do things to show God we are grateful for the world He created, we are to focus on Him, to love Him with all we are. And we are to love the people God has created, the easy-to-love AND the most-difficult to love. God says we are to love our enemies, those who would do us and the world harm. We are but travelers in this world. This world is NOT our home. It’s temporary. God says what is seen is temporary, and what is unseen is permanent. We are headed toward our promised land, our eternal home with our Creator. On the way, following THE WAY, we are to bless those who journey with us, and we are to care tenderly for God’s good world. Happy New Year, Central. May the blessings of our good God be yours in 2021.

Bobbie Denny, spiritual lay leader

Missions

For the New Year Central Cares needs dried beans, bar soap, and canned mixed veggies.

Central Feeds is in need of desserts (call Bobbie 704-622-2068 for dates).



Update from Finance Committee

Welcome to 2021!

As we begin a new year, and are hopeful for a return to more normal times, we need to be glad and count our blessings for all we have!!

Central continues to be an active presence in our community and further the outreach started by so many of our congregants!! To that end, our 2021 budget needs will present some challenges. To meet the projected needs of our church staffing and programs we have a goal for weekly tithes and offerings to the budget in the amount of \$ 6440. This will enable Central to continue ministry and keep our buildings in good operating condition for that day when we can resume our in person services!!

On behalf of your finance committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of your church and wish you many blessings in this new year!!

Yvette Cianci

THANK YOU FAITHFUL DISCIPLES!

Thank you to those who devoted extra time or donated items during Advent and Christmas. To those who helped to decorate our church, Sunday School teachers and kids for their extra time for the Christmas program, pianists, acolytes, staff, sound/video-streaming/projection



Daniel Fast

Join Pastor Pam as she does a Daniel Fast for the beginning of the year and watch what God does in response to your commitment. The Daniel Fast is based upon the prophet Daniel's experiences as recorded in the Bible.

If you have any questions please reach out

@pamelablackstock@yahoo.com.



December in Pictures

From Christy Bost- Children and Youth Coordinator



system operators, and many others who devoted extra time for our Advent and Christmas activities. Your dedication and time are a blessing to our Central church family!

Pastor Pam, Christy, DeAnn, Irma and Rebecca

Update from Outreach

Happy New Year to you all! Thank God we have finished a year that was not very easy, with many changes and challenges. My wish for each one of you is that this year be much better and that the coming changes be for the better. For my part I am very grateful to God for the opportunity to work with people with God & love in their hearts, here at Central UMC.

I thank God for the connection I have made with our Hispanic community and the opportunity to serve them. I am especially thankful for our Wednesday prayer group because there are at least 8 families who have been actively participating, strengthening each other in these difficult times and growing

spiritually together. I feel blessed!

¡Feliz año nuevo a todos! Gracias a Dios hemos terminado un año no muy fácil, con muchos cambios y retos. Mi deseo para cada uno de ustedes es que este año sea mucho mejor y que los cambios sean para bien. Por mi parte yo me siento muy agradecida con Dios por la oportunidad de trabajar con gente con el amor de Dios en su corazón, aquí en la iglesia Central UMC.

Le agradezco a Dios por la conexión que he hecho con nuestra comunidad Hispana y la oportunidad de servirles. Especialmente le agradezco por nuestro grupo de oración de los miércoles por que son por lo menos 8 familias que han estado participando activamente, fortaleciéndose unos a otros en estos tiempos difíciles y creciendo espiritualmente juntos. ¡Me siento bendecida!

Best wishes to you/Mis mejores deseos para ustedes,

Irma Sandoval
