



THE OUTLOOK

Central United Methodist Church

Volume 124 Issue 1

Our Mission:

Proclaiming Christ, Growing Disciples, Transforming Lives!

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 2 — MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 3 — Supper House 3:45 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 5 — Worship Service 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 7 — Staff Meeting 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 9 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Juliet's 9 a.m. (Cherokee Restaurant)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (Lower Level)
- 12 — Worship Service 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
Beyond the Walls Team Meeting 11 a.m. (Parish Hall)
- 14 — Mix & Match Team Meeting 1 p.m. (Library)
- 16 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 19 — Worship Service 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
MLK March 3:45 p.m. (Mount Zion)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 20 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (CUMC Parking Lot)
- 21 — Outlook Deadline
Book Club 10 a.m. (Library)
Building Team Meeting 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 22 — Leadership Council 5:30 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 23 — Volunteer at Kids' Food Basket 11:30 a.m. (1537 Getty Street)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (Lower Level)
- 26 — Worship Service 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 28 — Outlook Mailed 9 a.m. (Conference Room)
Kitchen Crew 11 a.m. (Parish Hall)

Thank you for helping keep our calendar accurate!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 — Lisa Lively
- 4 — Sally Wibalda
- 7 — Cheryl Youngquist, Jayne Potgeter
- 9 — Sue Zack
- 11 — Rob Cook, Matthew Johnson
- 18 — Juanita Joiner
- 21 — Azailea Clarke-Finch
- 26 — Hank Zack
- 27 — Karen Farmer
- 31 — Blake Duram



Share their grief:

Family and friends of **Martha Giacobassi** who peacefully passed away on December 15 at her son's home in Minnesota. The family plans on holding a memorial service in the spring. Please keep Martha's family in your prayers.



Your January/February Upper Room is now available at the Narthex Desk. Start 2025 off with devotions each day.



The Central UMC Staff wishes each of you a Happy New Year.

Rob, Connie, Marie Marian, Dan, and Carl

Beyond the Walls is asking you to donate any of these items on their "needs list" during the month of January.

1. Cheez-its or Gold Fish Single-size sealed packs. 2. Fruit cups NO foil tops. 3. Meat sticks 0.5 oz or 0.28 oz. 4. Pudding cups.
2. Winter items, such as hats, gloves, socks, and blankets, are also needed.
3. Monetary gifts are also always appreciated. Please mark your check/envelope as "Beyond the Walls" or Emergency Food Bags.
Thank you, Liz and Keith Krol

Church Office Hours

Our regular office hours at the church.

Tuesday — Thursday 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Please make note:

The office will be open on New Year's Eve and January 2

Dear God, 2025 is a canvas for new beginnings that is filled with promises. Please encourage CUMC to move forward with the faith our church was built upon so long ago. May we never lose sight of their faithfulness and always "Shine On".

Mission Possible for January 2025

Jan. 5 — Mission of the Month
Grace Pediatric Clinic

Jan. 12 — Local Mission
Youth for Christ

Jan. 19 — Helping Hand Fund

Jan. 26 — Hunger/UMCOR
Multiethnic Ministries

Monthly Pantry Donation
\$\$ for 1M

Mission Accomplished November 2024

Mission of the Month

United Methodist Student Day \$385

Local Mission

Hope Project \$350

Helping Hand Fund \$241

Hunger/UMCOR

Where Needed \$405

Pantry

Jail Ministries \$230

Reminder...mission offerings can be given any time during the month even though we list our offerings by the week.

THIS AND THAT

- ◆ Please keep the office updated on any changes you make to your address, telephone or email. We want our information to always be correct and up-to-date.
- ◆ Do you want to start receiving our Thursday and Sunday email? Please call the church office.
- ◆ Marian Davis thanks you for all the cards donated to her to use. She would still appreciate any extra 2025 calendars you may have so she can share those with our shut-ins.
- ◆ During the month of January we will be starting to “roll out” our new branding. Be watching for all the places you will see it being used throughout our church and in the community.

The Journey Continues

~Juanita Joiner

Wasn't that another wonderful journey Pastor Rob took us on during Advent? We journeyed with “Real People” this year and were inspired with his sermons: *Getting on, Son of Abraham, Virgin Mary and The Wilderness Child*. Our “We Are the Church” banner also took a journey. The foundation of the church has now been stitched onto the background fabric. I just had to have the long arm quilter who started me on my journey of church banners stitch the foundation. Darla now lives in Florida, but that didn't stop me from mailing the fabric to her. I will begin to hand stitch each of your pieces represented by your wonderful fabric choices into place starting New Year's Day. As I bagged the fabric, the first verse of *The Church's One Foundation* filled the bag. Have you ever just thought about the foundation of CUMC? It was built on a rock...but wait, that's another hymn that has powerful words and fits right into this banner. You see...like the genealogy of Jesus, this banner traces the genealogy of our church over the years by people who loved the church and made sure that our foundation never crumbled during the difficult times.

I always read from our 2012 Advent Devotional during Advent. *The Road to Christmas* is filled with personal thoughts by people within our church. This year I kept reading and rereading the December 16th entry by Lynn DeMoss. I thought it would be appropriate to share a shortened version of this with you. *He truly added the meaning of the word journey...his, ours and that of Central's.*

“After two weeks at sea I caught my first glimpse of Africa. It had all been so sudden—the decision to become a short-term missionary, the application and interview process, intensive training in Nashville. An overnight train took me to New York where I and fellow short-termers boarded the S.S. Steenstraete, a freighter bound for the Belgian Congo.

Then one day we stood on the beclouded, rain-sprinkled deck viewing the thin grey line of the coast of Africa. Reality came crashing in. And I thought, “I'm going to be stuck out here for three long years!!!” The enormity of what I had undertaken in goodhearted naïveté hit hard as I pondered the unknown future.

Surrounded as we were by missionary families, we sought to adjust to a different culture, learn a new language, and discover how best to serve. We bonded together to survive the loneliness and make the best of life.

For me Advent is the “Long Road to Christmas.” I prepare to celebrate the birth of the holy child, but I also anticipate the adult Jesus who “walked the road for us,” that we might be rescued from Sin and Death. Because Jesus walked the long road, God used my sojourn of service in the Congo to make me a better Christian, husband, father and pastor.

Jesus walked the long road on your behalf as well. By God's grace through faith you are rescued from doubt, worry and fear. May you trust God to enable you to live a loving life, made bold, confident and useful by God's liberating love.”

Just think...if Central and Lynn had never clung to the word *faithfulness*, our church may never have been completed or Lynn may not have blessed us years later by spreading his love and encouraging us to “Shine On”. Our banner will also show the faithfulness passed onto each of us by our strong lineage...a lineage we still carry with us in 2025. We have that solid foundation that belongs with a church. CUMC, thank you for your faithfulness in building our foundation.

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation, by water and the word;
From Heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS, Lord unto thee!



“Creating safe spaces
for growth and community
in Christ”