

central

united methodist church monroe

Hope



NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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10:00 A.M. Combined Worship | Sanctuary

✝ *Please rise in body or spirit* | Congregational responses are in **bold**.

GATHERING MUSIC *Savior of the Nations, Come* arr. Michael D. Costello
 Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen Johannes Brahms

PRELUDE *Hope is Dawning on the World* arr. Larry Shackley

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ, our Messiah will come!

Christ, our Messiah is coming soon!

✝ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

✝ **CHORAL RESPONSE** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH 230, Verse 4

✝ **HYMN OF PRAISE** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ADVENT LESSON Sonshine Class, Leslie Sanders, & Emily McGinnis
The First Candle: Hope

CHORAL RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

PRAYER HYMN *Blessed Be the God of Israel* UMH 209

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

People, Look East

arr. Howard Helvey

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Emmanuel

Michael W. Smith

† DOXOLOGY

Advent Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low.

Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† HYMN OF PREPARATION

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (NRSV)

SERMON

“Strong Through the 'Now' and the 'Not Yet’ ” Rev. J.D. Moffett

✝ HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

✝ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Let All Mortal Flesh” arr. Rebecca K. Owens
and “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Bill White, Jr. | *Senior Pastor*
Erica Kirby | *Director of Children’s Ministries*
Central Festival Choir

Rev. J.D. Moffett | *Associate Pastor*
Nathan Clements | *Organist & Pianist*
801praise!

Ushers: Jack Hargett, Jackson Hargett, Ken Neese

WELCOME TO central

Welcome to our Advent Combined Worship Service at Central! We are so glad you’re here today as we gather in this season of watching, waiting, and hopeful expectation. Advent invites us to slow down and turn our hearts toward the promise of Christ’s coming.

As we worship together as one body in Christ, we remember that we are not yet at Bethlehem. We are still waiting, still preparing, still hoping. Today we wait for the gifts Advent holds: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Whether this is your first Sunday with us or you’ve been part of our family for years, we pray you feel at home in this time of worship. May God draw us closer to Him and to one another in this holy season.

Children are always welcome to remain in the worship service. Toddlers and Children through 2nd grade are invited to Kid’s Worship following the Children’s Message.

ADVENT LESSON

THE FIRST CANDLE: HOPE

Sonshine Class, Leslie Sanders, & Emily McGinnis

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.



Sundays in Advent

9:00 A.M. • Sunday School

10:00 A.M. • Combined Worship | Sanctuary

Regular Sunday Mornings

9:00 A.M. • Modern Worship | Central Hall

10:00 A.M. • Sunday School

11:00 A.M. • Traditional Worship | Sanctuary

Tuesday Evenings

6:00 P.M. • Dinner Church | FLC

Stream online at centralumcmonroe.org/media

Welcome to Central United Methodist Church in Monroe, NC, where we believe in a holistic approach to ministry. We address the needs of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. We have numerous ministries and programs that enable us to effectively serve God, our community, and each other.

Come and experience our vibrant and meaningful worship, where faith is formed and reformed and connections are strengthened through fellowship.

We hope that you will live out your call to Christian Discipleship by uniting with Central UMC, share your spiritual gifts and talents, and be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours In Christ,
Dr. Bill White, Jr.
"Dr. Bill"
Senior Pastor



Scan the QR CODE to download **THE CENTRAL APP** to Register your attendance, Find a ministry, Give your offering, and more.

Central uses visual and audio images of participants in our worship services and events for broadcast, event promotion, publicity, and other related communications endeavors.

Upcoming Opportunities

- Nov. 30 Sunday School, 9 am
Combined Worship Service, 10 am, *Sanctuary*
Youth Group, 3 pm
Advent by Candlelight, 4 pm, *Chapel*
- Dec. 1 SPRC Meeting, 6 pm
- Dec. 2 Lessie Ann Circle, 10 am
- Dec. 3 United Women in Faith Executive Meeting, 3 pm
Central Ringers Rehearsal, 5:30 pm
Celebration Singers, 6:15 pm
Christmas Choir, 6:45 pm - 8:15 pm
- Dec. 4 Men's Breakfast Group, 8 am
Soul Food Bible Study, 10 am
- Dec. 7 Sunday School, 9 am
Combined Worship Service, 10 am, *Sanctuary*
Youth Group, 3 pm
- Dec. 8 Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 pm
Grace and Mercy Circle, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 9 Office Closed for Staff Event, 11 am - 5 pm
- Dec. 10 Central Ringers Rehearsal, 5:30 pm
Celebration Singers, 6:15 pm
Christmas Choir, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Dec. 11 Men's Breakfast Group, 8 am
Soul Food Bible Study, 10 am
Central Friends, 12 pm
- Dec. 14 Sunday School, 9 am
Festival Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, 10 am, *Sanctuary*
Youth Group, 3 pm

To Learn more about *Advent & Christmas Central*, visit www.centralumcmonroe.org/christmas

For more details about Central's Upcoming Opportunities and to view the full Central Link, visit centralumcmonroe.org/news OR visit the NEWS icon on the Central App home page!

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Visit centralumcmonroe.org/iamnew!