

# central

united methodist church monroe

Love



**DECEMBER 21, 2025**  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
*CHRISTMAS AND BAPTISM SUNDAY*

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**CHRISTMAS AND BAPTISM SUNDAY**  
**10:00 A.M. Combined Worship | Sanctuary**

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

**GATHERING MUSIC** (*worshippers may enter*)

<i>The Wexford Carol</i>	arr. Howard Helvey
<i>What Child Is This</i>	arr. Sondra K. Tucker
<i>God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen</i>	arr. Sondra K. Tucker

<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>Gentle Mary Laid Her Child</i>	arr. Barbara B. Kinyon
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✝ <b>PROCESSIONAL HYMN</b>		UMH 238
	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Christ, our Messiah will come!  
**Christ, our Messiah is coming soon!**

✝ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

✝ <b>CHORAL RESPONSE</b>	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	UMH 230, VERSE 4
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✝ <b>HYMN OF PRAISE</b>	<i>There's a Song in the Air</i>	UMH 249
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**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

<b>ADVENT LESSON</b>	Sherry Brantley and Libby Helms
<i>The Fourth Candle: Love</i>	

<b>CHORAL RESPONSE</b>	<i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel</i>	UMH 204
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CELEBRATION SINGERS *Away in a Manger*

James R. Murray

PRAYER HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

UMH 229

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 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

arr. Mark Hill

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

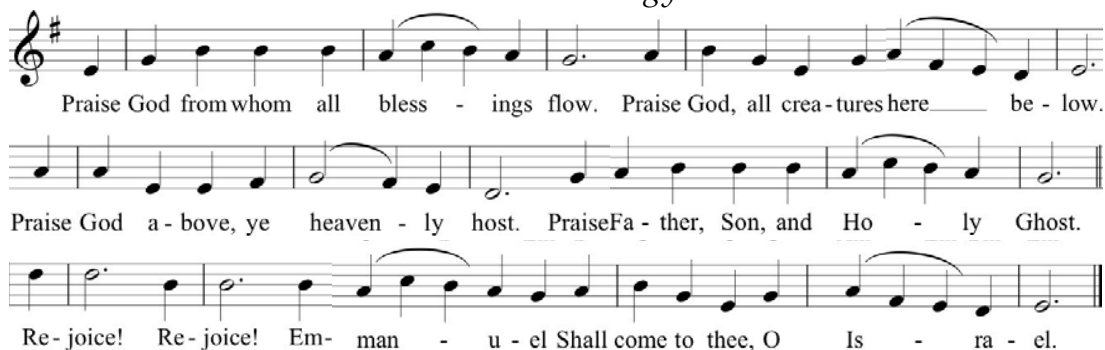
OFFERTORY *When I Think Upon Christmas*

King/Sieff/Tan

✠ DOXOLOGY

*Advent Doxology*

VENI EMMANUEL



Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here be low.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✠ HYMN OF PREPARATION *What Child Is This*

UMH 219

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

“Favor with God”

HYMN

UMH 605, Verse 1

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

UMH 39, The Baptismal Covenant II

✝ HYMN OF DEDICATION

*The First Noel*

UMH 245

✝ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fantasy on “The Holly and the Ivy”*

arr. Matthew H. Corl



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Bill White, Jr. | *Senior Pastor*

Erica Kirby | *Director of Children’s Ministries*

Rev. JD Moffett | *Associate Pastor*

Nathan Clements | *Organist & Pianist*

Ed Mills | *Trumpet*

Central Festival Choir

801praise!

Ushers: Matt & Nancy Gustafson, David & Amy Paschal

## 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 FOURTH CANDLE: LOVE

Sherry Brantley and Libby Helms

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.



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



*Dr. Bill preached his initial sermon on December 18, 1988 at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church in Charlotte, NC, where his late father, Rev. Dr. William M. White, Sr., was the pastor. Happy 37<sup>th</sup> Ministry Anniversary!*

## Our Staff

Dr. Bill White, Jr. - Senior Pastor  
Rev. JD Moffett - Associate Pastor  
Julie Miles - Director of Youth Ministries  
Erica Kirby - Director of Children's & Weekday Ministries  
Debbie Eggleston - Business Administrator  
Jessica Parker - Administrative Assistant  
Sylvia Jenkins - Custodian



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.

 801 S. Hayne St. | Monroe, NC | 28112  704.289.3186

## 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](http://centralumcmonroe.org/media)

## Upcoming Opportunities

# THIS WEDNESDAY!

**Christmas Eve** Wednesday, December 24  
*Candlelight* 5:00 P.M. | Central UMC Sanctuary  
4:45 P.M. Musical Prelude

- Dec. 21 Youth Christmas Party, 3 P.M.
- Dec. 22 Christmas Choir, 6:00 pm - 7:30 P.M.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Musical Prelude, 4:45 P.M., Sanctuary  
Christmas Eve Worship, 5 P.M., Sanctuary
- Dec. 28 Sunday School, 9 A.M.  
Combined Worship, 10 A.M., Sanctuary
- Dec. 24-29 Church Office Closed in Observation of Christmas
- Dec. 31 Church Office Closed in Observation of New Year's, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.
- Jan. 1 Church Office Closed in Observation of New Year's
- Jan. 4 Modern Worship Service, 9 A.M., Central Hall  
Sunday School, 10 A.M.  
Traditional Worship Service, 11 A.M., Sanctuary

To Learn more about *Advent & Christmas Central*, visit [www.centralumcmonroe.org/christmas](http://www.centralumcmonroe.org/christmas)

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

## First time visitor?

Visit [centralumcmonroe.org/iamnew!](http://centralumcmonroe.org/iamnew!)





# Poinsettia Dedications 2025

## In Memory

I.B. and Dorothy Shive by Dan Shive

William Douglas Mackay by Jeanne Mackay

Jim, Sherrie, and Jimmy Bryant by Dr. Jane and Ken Neese

Tom, Wilma, and Ann McCollum by Dr. Jane and Ken Neese

Kenneth E. Neese, Jr. and John Neese by Dr. Jane and Ken Neese

Dillon Brantley by Sherry Brantley

Frank Helms by Libby Helms

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Sullivan by Bill and Suzette Sullivan

Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Sprouse by Bill and Suzette Sullivan

Jim Wall by Ruth Wall

Kay Parker by Bill Parker

Sally Kohler and Tripp Kohler by Bill Kohler

Barbara Funderburk by Denise Rumley

Shelby Ford by Rev. Gayle Ford

Fred Ingold and Becky Johnson Link by Joyce Ingold

Phil Hargett, Sr. by Beth Hargett and Family

Elizabeth (Lawson) and Sam Hinton by Beth Hargett and Family

## In Honor

Susan McInnis and Sue Mangum by Dan Shive

Roy and Dot Wade by Sean and Lisa Daly

Steve and Madge Daly by Sean and Lisa Daly

Sam Brown USMC by Ruth Wall

Our children and grandsons by Matt and Nancy Gustafson

Bonnie Parker by Bill Parker

Karen Ford by Rev. Gayle Ford

Central Staff, Timber Ridge Group Home, and Leslie Sanders by Sandy Deskins

My children and grandchildren by Beth Hargett

**If you purchased a poinsettia, please take it home after the Christmas Eve Service.**