

THE HERALD



Christmas is in the Air

Many thanks to the faithful volunteers who came out to decorate Adams Hall and our Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season.

We have a lot of events happening during the month of December that we would like you to take part in. Be sure to mark your calendars.

December 5:	PrimeTimers Christmas Party,	10:30am
December 8:	Christmas Caroling	1:30pm & 3:30pm
December 15:	Handel's Messiah	3:30pm
December 18:	Christmas Sing-Along and Dinner	5:30pm
December 22:	Blue Christmas Service	4:00pm
December 24:	Christmas Eve Worship	6:00pm

Details about each of these events can be found on page 2.



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***Central unconditionally
welcomes and affirms all
people to the journey of
faith in Jesus Christ.***

A look at our finances

Year to Date
(As of 11/24/24)

Receipts Received: \$368,751.18

Receipts Spent: \$399,440.18

You can donate to Central by visiting, www.centralbc.org and clicking on the [give now](#) link or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Gifts to Central

In Memory of:

Steve Lauxman

*From: Paulette Amos, Robert
McDaniel*

Death in the Church-at-Large.

Tony Campolo, Baptist pastor, author, professor and sociologist died November 19 in Pennsylvania. He was 89. Campolo spent decades trying to convince evangelicals and other Christians that their faith should motivate them to address social ills like poverty and racism.

Announcements and Special Events



PrimeTimers Christmas

The PrimeTimers will be having their annual Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 5 at 10:30am. The cost is \$5 and will feature entertainer Joe Meadows and lunch provided by the Olive Garden. Please call the church office to place your reservation no later than December 2.



Christmas Caroling

Join us for Christmas caroling at nursing homes on Sunday, December 8. We will sing at Magnolia Manor at 1:30 PM and Paradise Pointe at 3:30 PM. The church bus is available for those needing a ride. We'll have lunch after worship before heading to our first location.



Blue Christmas

Christmas can be difficult for those facing loss, whether from a loved one, job, relationship, or unfulfilled dream. We invite everyone to a special service on Sunday, December 22 at 4 PM.



Handel's Messiah

The Daytona Beach Choral Society will be performing Handel's Messiah here at Central on Sunday, December 15 at 3:30pm. Be sure to arrive early as we anticipate a full house.



Poinsettia Orders

We are still taking orders for poinsettias. These beautiful plants are only \$10 but hurry, all orders must be received no later than December 9.



Christmas Sing-Along

We invite everyone to join us on Wednesday, December 18, at 5:30pm for a special Christmas sing-along and dinner as part of our weekly Connections gathering. This will be a covered dish meal, so please bring an entree or side to share.



Christmas Eve

Our annual Christmas Eve service will take place at 6pm. We hope you will join us for this special service.

Sonny's Sayings

I'm writing this from the auto-care waiting room in Walmart on the Tuesday morning before Thanksgiving, and I have to tell you it's eerie in here. I arrived at about 7:15 this morning, checked in, and then as I was walking around the store looking for the restroom, it felt eerily empty. I could hear an employee 4 or 5 aisles over whistling. Somewhere on the other side of the store, you could hear a machine cleaning the floors. Both of those noises are almost never audible, at least from the distance where I was hearing them, on account of the busyness of a Walmart.

As I was thinking about how empty this store was, I remembered visiting a Walmart late on Christmas Eve, probably 12 or 13 years ago, looking for stocking stuffers for the kids. It was so busy, you could barely maneuver your cart around the aisles, and I remember waiting 30 minutes in line to check out, well after midnight.

No doubt my Walmart store will gradually ramp up in busyness as Christmas approaches. And as Walmart gets busier and busier, our Christmas experience will get busier as well. We'll see more houses with their Christmas decorations up; we'll empty our pockets on Christmas gifts; we'll attend Christmas parties.

I can't help but wonder, however, if our faith will increase along with our busyness. In Luke 18:8, after telling the

Parable of the Wicked Judge, where Jesus was encouraging the disciples to pray and not lose heart, he asks this question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

I thought about ways that we can increase, not the busyness of our faith, but the authenticity, the urgency, and the intensity of our faith, in ways that stand in stark contrast to how our culture treats Christmas. And so I made a list that I intend to rotate through as the days move toward December 25:

1. Reflect on the wonder of a God who becomes flesh and dwells among us. (John 1: 14).
2. Think about what you can give to those who might be overlooked at this time of year (Isaiah 1:17).
3. Celebrate and express your gratitude for the relationships that God has given to you (John 13:1).
4. Find ways to shine the "Christmas lights" of your faith (Matthew 5:16).

I'm sure you can find other items to add to your list, but this is my list for this year. I hope your Christmas season is filled with holiday cheer.

Blessings to you,

Sonny



Basket Brigade

For the past few years, our MOMCo group has participated in the Volusia County Basket Brigade, which is designed to provide Thanksgiving food to those in need. This year, due to Hurricane Milton, they called upon Central to help fill this void by donating the foods needed to prepare these boxes. Thanks to your generosity, the group was able to prepare and send out 25 boxes of food.



A Christmas Hymn Story

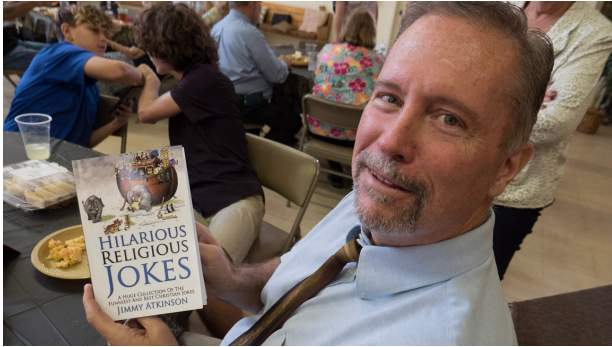
by BJ Meyer

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” by Edmund Sears, who was the pastor of the Unitarian Church in Wayland, Massachusetts. This poem-turned-carol was written in 1849. It is said that a pastor friend of Sears, William Parsons Lunt, requested that the hymn be written for his Sunday School class. The famous melody tune “Carol,” that most often accompanies this hymn, was not written until 1850. The melody “Carol” was specifically written for Edmund Sears’ text. The poem was written during a difficult period of Sears’ personal life. The US-Mexican War was taking place at the same time, both of which no doubt go a long way toward explaining the song’s numerous references to darkness, sin and strife. This hymn also breaks with many traditional Christmas carols as it does not focus on Bethlehem but rather the world of Sears’ day, filled with war and a longing for peace. Something that we long for still today. This beautiful hymn can be found in our hymnals on page 93.

“It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to men
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.”

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Due to Hurricane Milton, we had to postpone our celebration of Pastor Sonny and his family to Sunday, November 3. We are so grateful for Sonny and his leadership here at Central.



Meyer's Musings

Happy New Year!

Wait, what? It's not New Year's yet, is it? BJ, you're mistaken.

Well, I do make mistakes, but in this instance, I'm right. Allow me to explain: in the church calendar, last Sunday, November 24, was Christ the King Sunday, which is the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar. Which means that December 1 is not only the first Sunday of Advent but also the first Sunday of the new (liturgical) year. And, for those of you that do follow the liturgical calendar, we are beginning year C of the lectionary.

What is the lectionary? Simply put, the Revised Common Lectionary provides 4 sets of scripture (typically) per Sunday. Each week includes an Old Testament, Psalm, Gospel, and Epistle lesson. Generally, these 4 texts provide an overarching theme but not always.

This coming Sunday, December 1, I will be filling in for Sonny while he is away with family for Thanksgiving.

As I mentioned above, we are beginning the season of Advent. There are four Sundays of Advent, each with a specific theme - Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. During the worship service each week, we will light a candle that is associated with the theme for each service.

The text for the first Sunday of Advent is Luke 21:25-36. Upon first reading it, you may be asking what does this have to do with Jesus coming to Earth as a little baby in a manger? This passage is full of end-times prophecy and talks about the returning Messiah.

Yes, you are correct, and be sure to hold on to the last phrase in the sentence above, "the returning Messiah."

Without giving away my entire sermon, the uniting theme between this passage of Luke and the prophecies of the coming Messiah is hope.

Just as God's people patiently waited for the Messiah's arrival and birth, we too eagerly anticipate the Messiah's return, filled with hope and longing. As the prophets of old understood, our world is a fallen one, plagued by injustice, classism, anxiety, and political turmoil (to name just a few of its afflictions).

We wait with hope knowing that when Jesus returns, he will come not to establish some earthly kingdom but to bring His kingdom here on earth.

Some may wonder why we observe Advent. We already know that Jesus came to Earth, was born as an infant, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross to reconcile us to Him. It might even feel like we're denying these events, but that's the wrong perspective. Advent is about preparing for the coming of Christ.

For us, our longing and waiting is for the day when Christ returns, and because we do not know when that will be, just as those of old waited, we too wait with hope and longing.

One of my favorite Christmas cantatas that we performed at Central is called "The Winter Rose" by Joseph Martin. Martin uses the imagery of our world being a garden and Christ being the perfect Rose that restores that garden. The last phrase of the opening selection says, "O let us now remember when God put on the thorn, And Love restored the garden, and the Winter rose was born."

Thanks be to God!

Thanksgiving Sunday

On Sunday, November 24, we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christ the King Sunday with worship and a meal.



*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel".
-Isaiah 7:14*

*"Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
It's time to get another book,
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone,
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne."*

-- Charles Wesley

Deacon Nominations Extended

We are extending deacon nominations to Sunday, December 15 as we are still in need of a few more nominations. Deacon chair, Mike Flenniken, shared about the importance of the role of deacons within the church and challenged church members to prayerful consider become a deacon.



**What's Happening at Central?
November 2024**

Dec. 5 PrimeTimers 10:30am

Dec. 8 Christmas Caroling

Dec. 12 Food Ministry 10:00am

Dec. 13 MOMCo 9:30am

Dec. 15. Messiah Perf. 3:30pm

Dec. 18 Sing-along 5:30pm

Dec. 22 Blue Christmas 4:00pm

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve. 6:00pm

Church office closed Dec. 24 & 25,
Dec. 31 & Jan 1

Weekly Events

Sundays

Sunday School at 9:30am

Sunday Worship at 11:00am

Youth and SHINE at 5:00pm

Tuesdays

Bible Study via Zoom at 10:30am
Meeting ID: 3262313643
Password: 882551

Women's Book Club @ 12:30pm

Wednesday

Lunch with the Pastor at 12:15pm

Connections at 5:15pm

*Questions, Comments,
Suggestions?*

*Send a note to
Newsletter@Centralbc.org*

Servant Leadership

Ministers.....All Members

Senior Pastor.....Dr. Sonny Gallman

Minister of Senior Adults and
Office Manager.....Rev. BJ Meyer

Minister of Music.....Laurie Moran

Pianist.....Meg Pokorny

Custodian.....Nicole Mott

Bookkeeper.....Becky Price

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Thank You Central Servant

November's Central Servant award was given to Mike Flenniken.

Mike is always willing to give of his time and talents to further the kingdom of God at Central.

Mike is currently the chair of the Deacons, serves on Stewardship and is the Co-Director of the youth department with his wife Nancy. In addition to that, he and his wife Nancy began a Thursday night Bible study centered around the series "The Chosen."

Mike, thank you for all that you do for us at Central.

We love you!

