



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue.
Greensboro, NC 27403
September 15, 2024

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Welcome friends, family, and visitors. May your hearts be touched by the Holy Spirit as we join in worship with devotion, songs, and prayer.
Our Mission: To experience God's life-changing love and take God's love into the world.
Our Vision: To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to worship Word of God, Speak Kiple/Millard Choir

Call to worship

Leader: Lord, I am not perfect. My mouth is just a little too slick and my soul is just a little too sick and tired of stumbling.

People: Lord, we're made in your likeness.

Leader: I keep falling because sometimes my tongue gets in the way. I know right from wrong, but sometimes my tongue gets the best of me.

People: Lord, we're made in your likeness.

Leader: It starts arguments and ignites fires that not even the firefighters can extinguish. My tongue, this sword of fire, has become an instrument of life and death.

People: Lord, we're made in your likeness.

Leader: "If you want it, you can come and get some," is my attitude. I am a Samurai. I am not the first, nor am I the last. I tried to put this all in my past, but it presently keeps finding itself in my future.

People: Lord, we're made in your likeness.

Leader: I don't want to keep living this way. I am ready to lay down my sword and shield to study war no more, but it's hard. People keep coming for me when I never sent for them.

All: Lord, I am your child and I need you. Please help me control my tongue because we praise you and curse our brothers and sisters with the same tongue. And this should not be. Amen.

Curry F. Butler, Africana Liturgical Resources, Pentecost Package #2, ed. Safiyah Fosua.

†Hymn Jesus Shall Reign UMH 157

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Anthem Empty Hands, Open Arms Lloyd Larson Choir

Scripture: James 3: 1-12

Sermon: "Speaking the Truth" Rev. Kelley Groce

†Affirmation of Faith The Apostle's Creed UMH 881

†Gloria Patri

We Worship with God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory Loving Spirit Murray/Copes Choir

†Doxology

†Hymn Lord, Speak to Me UMH 463

†Benediction



Leader: Arise, my fair ones, and come away.
Go forth in joy to serve with love.
Be doers of God's word.
God has blessed you forever!
All: **Amen**

Postlude

Preludio

C. Adolf Bossi

†Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit and silence your cell phones†

As you engage your 'Prayer Life' this week, please remember these prayer concerns: If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage 336-285-5081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Shari Saunders-foot surgery. Bari Hendrix-fall. Kristy Stout-health issues. Win and Lin Johnson. (Jeanne Batten's brother and sister-in-law). Doris Pruitt. Andy McFarland-health issues (Milton McFarland's brother). Andrew Gibbons-heart issues (Harold Billings nephew). Michael Santowaso-cancer (Becky's husband, David Sillmon's son-in-law). Dave Hull. Pray for our church that we may be guarded in our conversations during this time of transition. Joann Martin. Carol & Bobby Burklin. Margaret & Patrick Miller. Martha Nell Rives. Gretchen Crabtree. Dave & Barbara Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian. Lee & Jane Norman. Scott Stanley. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane & Jim Stanley. Aly Saunders. Hazel Perritt, Pat Glover. Joy Ellison, Janet-rare form of blood cancer (Suzy Swindell's Friends). Debra Kirkman (Jean Green, Kelley's Mom, friend). Carolyn Crabtree (Mike Crabtree's aunt). Joe (Susan Shuping's brother). A Northwest High School student who was injured in a car accident.



Birthdays: September: 1st Susan Carrick. 2nd Martha Proffitt, Chris Bagwell. 3rd Robert Hemphill, David Groce. 4th Waynette Goodson. 5th Polly Bowman. 9th Dawn Long. 12th MaryAnn Smith, Sarah Horn. 16th Lee Norman. 21st Shari Saunders. 23rd Martha Nell Rives. 24th Lori Eaton. 25th Carolina Robinson, Joshua Pace. 27th Brenda Wilson. 29th Bill Deuterman.

Announcements for Mission and Ministry

September 15th-Today- Finance Committee Meeting immediately after Worship in the Conference Room.

September 22- 2pm- Trustee Meeting in the Conference Room. Members of the Trustee Committee are: Reid Townsend, Linday Billings, Bob & Mary Ann Smith, Kristy Stout, Dawn Long, Coak May, John Pugh and Betty Durham.

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Rev. Kelley Groce

Dear Members of Centenary United Methodist Church,

On Sunday, September 8th, I was able to share with the congregation that the leadership of CUMC is in conversation with Irving Park about a merger. The leadership teams from Irving Park and Centenary UMC met together on August 25th at Irving Park UMC to share a meal and to discuss how mergers take place in the UMC. District Superintendent Beth Chrisman was our Facilitator for the event.

We will now be on the next step of the journey where there will be a transition team to work together for from a merger Covenant. My friend Rev. Willis Greene explained a Merger Covenant with these words:

“A merger covenant is a theological document and not a legal one. You will remember the covenants that God made with God’s people in the Old Testament. These covenants were promises based on God’s love. A covenant is therefore entered into with love and approached with the idea of giving of oneself. A contract is often entered into with suspicion and the idea of what one can receive from it. A contract is set in stone while a covenant is a dynamic, living document. The merger covenant set the terms and conditions for our life together as a newly formed family.”

I want to thank those who have served on the revisioning team. Now we are forming a Transition team to work on the merger covenant. The transition team will be limited in number. After much prayer and thoughtful discernment, if you would like to participate in the transition team, please speak to me personally. I will then schedule an independent time for one-on-one discussion.

This process is exciting as we see where God is leading the two churches to combine mission and ministry. It is also a step-by-step process as we navigate merging two churches.

Thank you for your prayers and your patience.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, or email me.

God is making all things new!

Rev. Kelley Groce