



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue

Greensboro, NC 27403

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

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

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Call to Worship.....*The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Call to Worship:

Leader: Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

People: Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Leader: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

**People: May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be seen.
AMEN.**

Hymn.....*Hail to the Lord's Anointed # 203 v. 1&4*

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.*

Lighting of The Fourth Advent Candle.....Jeane Batten & Teresa John

Musical Response.....*O Come, O Come Emmanuel #211 v. 4*

*O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy
people be; before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

Birthdays of the week: Ann Overbey (21), J. Harrison Stout (22), Trudy Sillmon (24)

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

We worship with our Tithes and God’s Offering

We want to thank you each week for your gifting of your monetary donations to the church for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Your faithfulness is very appreciated.

The months of December and January we are going to have our over and above offering be designated for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Dominican Republic. Our team is saddened that we cannot physically be there to share in healing ministry, but the pandemic has changed that for us also. We can still be resources of money to help with the orphanage, buying medical needs and resourcing the clinic, as well as rice and beans. So, if God puts it upon your heart to give to the Dominican Republic, please make the check out to Centenary UMC with the DR in the memo line.

Offertory.....*What Child is This?*

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon: Love: White Christmas

Advent Litany:

Litany

Leader: Darkness was over the world before creation. God called for Light and it was given. Bright, beautiful, warm, powerful. Are you ready to receive the Light?

People: We want to be ready.

Leader: Words of praise and community became words of anger and division. God’s light shone but humankind covered their faces, hid themselves behind masks of prejudice and indifference. They needed the light, but turned their backs on it. Are you are ready to receive the Light?

People: We want to be ready.

Leader: Conquest, turmoil, abuse, fear covered the land. Hope was a dimly flickering flame, hidden deep within some hearts, extinguished in others. Darkness was again gaining a

foothold in all the lands. Cries were heard "O Lord, how long will you hide your face from us?" But it was not God who was hidden. It was the hearts of the people, hungering and fearful. Are you ready to receive the Light?

People: We want to be ready.

Leader: In the fullness of time, God again sent someone who is to be the Light to the world. This someone is God's Son Jesus, who teaches us how to live, how to witness to God's love, and how to serve. This is the true light, which illumines everyone. Are you ready to receive the Light?

People: Lord, help us to be ready. We so easily live in the darkness and long for the true Light. Open our eyes, our hearts, our ears, and our spirits. Help us to witness to Your most blessed gift, your Son Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Hymn.....*Hark the Herald Angels Sing #240 v. 1&3*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*Hail the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

(Refrain)

Benediction

Choral Benediction.....*In the Bleak Midwinter*

The Altar Flowers are given today by the Worship Committee.

Prayer Concerns

If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call

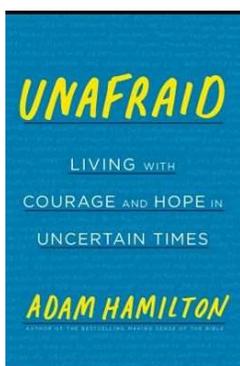
Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.

The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people:

Lee & Gail Eggers, Ministers. Andrea Massey, Libby Boggs' niece has tested positive for Covid. **Landa Wallace's mother Frances Faust passed away yesterday, December 16. Diane Stanley's friend- Betsy Gaines's granddaughter - Caroline Pope (21 weeks) with heart valve situation. Hailey Saunders, tested positive for Covid. Peggy Smith. Nina Stowe Aunt, declining dementia. Donald Stowe, health. Abbie Samuels, eye surgery. Peggy Harris, eye surgery. Jean Farabee, Cone Hospital. Friend of Kelley Groces, Karen Dolbear palliative care. Barbara Blackman's sister, Dorthey Wessels. Buddy Durham father of Mandy and Jessica Durham. Dean Saunders, collapsed lung. Mary Louise Woods, tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. Dwight Adams, Coak and Nancy May's niece's husband who is hospitalized and on a ventilator with Covid-19. Bonnie Travis' sister, Peggy Mayo having chemo. Bonnie Travis' granddaughter needs prayer. Paul Long's younger brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Sharon Long, both have the Covid-19 virus. Ann Hennings. Joann Martin fell and broke her left hip. Peggy Bowles. Mike Crabtree. Amy Coffee and her grandmother-Ruby Foland . Sally Goin's friend Janice Osborne. Jackie Thompson's mom-Lucille Crawford. Friend of Betty Durham-Julia Willis. Judy Milligan, Noah Demmitt, Don & Clara Ellis, Chuck Farabee, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard, and Pat Stevenson.** Please, keep all in your prayers as so many who are dealing with many anxieties over the coronavirus.

Our sympathies to Stephanie and Debbie in the death of James F. "Jim" Adams on December 14, 2020.

Continue to lift up Centenary UMC in prayer. The leadership of the church is working on creative ways to bring smaller groups in for study and worship.



New Bible Study: *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton
Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

When: Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 AM and Tuesday Evenings @ 6:30 PM

Where: via zoom

Dates: January 5 – February 2 (5 weeks)

A widely admired mainstream pastor shows how people and communities can flourish as beacons of hope and serenity in an anxious age. For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety, or who wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, Unafraid offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions. Trusted pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton draws on the latest research, therapeutic insights, biblical principles, and personal experience to untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus's recurring counsel to his followers: Do not be afraid. As a leading voice in the progressive tradition, Hamilton communicates with grace and understanding to a wide and inclusive audience in accessible language that will ring true regardless of one's religious conviction. Today, December 13th at 2:00pm there will be a blessing of the Animals on the front lawn with the manger. Socially distanced, mask required, and lovable animals requested.

On Christmas Eve we are asking people to put a white lit candle on their front porch to symbolize the light of Christ on Christmas Eve and to allow it to symbolize all being unified in holding the white Candle during the singing of Silent Night on Christmas Eve night.



Worship Bags are available in the office if you would like to pick up one for Christmas Eve.

⇒ **Dominican Republic** -Each year for over 20 years , Centenary UMC has helped sponsor a medical mission team that goes to the Dominican Republic (usually in January). Unfortunately, we will not be able to go to the Dominican Republic in January due to the coronavirus. Please consider giving what you can to this mission project. We will send the donation in January 2021. A check payable to CUMC with "The Dominican Project 2021" on the memo line may be sent to CUMC, 2300 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27403. **You can drop off check on December 20th 1-2:00pm.**

⇒ **We will collecting rice and beans for the Urban Ministry on December 20 1-2:00pm**

⇒ **Quarantine Cooking-Cookbook**



Share your favorite recipes and help with our DR fundraising, and get the entire recipe booklet for your contribution! Suggested donation of \$5/recipe included or submit 5 for \$20. You can submit your recipes to Libby in the office along with your check. Deadline 1/31/2021.



⇒ **Rice and Bean Luncheon Sunday, January 17**

On Sunday, January 17 we will have our rice and bean luncheon. Due to the Covid virus it will be pickup only. Email Pastor Kelley or call Libby in the office to reserve your meals.



**The office will be closed for Christmas and New Year's Holiday,
December 23, 24, & 25, 31.**