



**Centenary United Methodist Church  
2300 W. Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
November 6, 2022  
All Saint's Sunday**

**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.*

Gathering Music

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Call to worship:

One: Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

**Many: May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.**

One: May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

**Many: In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.**

One: May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

**Many: And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.**

**Invocation**

**God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

†Hymn

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

Scripture:

Matthew 6:9-12, 14-15, Luke 23: 32-34

Sermon:

Living a Christian Life is one of Forgiveness

Rev. Kelley Groce

Anthem

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

## Invitation

Minister: We come to this table, not because it itself is so special,  
but because it is an echo of another table,  
a table that stretches as far as the eye can see  
a table that is laden with God's good gifts  
a table where no one goes hungry, or sits alone.  
A table where everyone we ever loved  
and who ever loved us  
sits and feasts together.

In our own lives, we sit at tables  
where there are empty chairs  
people we love and miss  
people who no longer stop by for dinner  
or come in for the holidays.

We grieve those empty chairs,  
but know that in Christ,  
our separation is only a temporary thing.

As we light the candles and chime the bell,  
I invite you to think about the saints in your life  
the people whose memory you carry in your heart.

The Members of Centenary UMC give thanks for the Saints who have gone to the  
church Triumphant since the last All Saints Day.

We Remember and give thanks for :

<b>† Keith Eller</b>	<b>December 6, 2021</b>
<b>† Becky Lineberry</b>	<b>December 20, 2021</b>
<b>† Betsy Wampler</b>	<b>January 2, 2022</b>
<b>† Judy Milligan</b>	<b>January 3, 2022</b>
<b>† Louise Woods</b>	<b>January 10, 2022</b>
<b>† Irmgard Daiber</b>	<b>October 10, 2022</b>
<b>† Jean Farabee</b>	<b>October 23, 2022</b>

**Congregation: For all those we have mentioned in your presence, God, we give thanks, and come gladly to this table to eat once more with those we love to join with all the saints, all *our* saints, in praising Jesus Christ, who defeated death and leads us all to God's heavenly banquet.**

**All are welcome here.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Minister: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

We worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory

†Doxology

†Hymn

For All the Saints

UMH 711 (1-3)

The Great Thanksgiving

May the God of all saints be with you.

**May God bless you as well.**

Children of God, offer your hearts to the One who loves you.

**We will empty ourselves so we can be filled with grace.**

People of God, sing your praises to the One who loves you.

**We will offer the new songs taught to all creation.**

You approached chaos, Troubled God,  
with visions of all which could be good  
and beautiful in your imagination.

You spoke a Word and  
    gazelles danced in fields,  
    elephants trumpeted their joy;  
your Spirit stirred in the cosmos and  
    stars sang your praises,  
    winds whistled through canyons.

All these gifts were the inheritance  
for your children created in your image,  
    but we dreamed that such power could be ours,  
    and listened to death's lies uttered by sin.

Minor and major, women and men,  
you sent the prophets to us  
to remind us of your hopes for us,  
    but we chose to cling to the temptations  
    which had enticed us away from you.

So you sent us the One who invited us  
to receive the kingdom you offered to us,  
Jesus, the Child of your heart.

With those we call martyrs because of their struggles,  
with those we call saints because of their lives,  
we join in offering our thanks to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of saints and sinners.**

**New songs are sung to you by all creation.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who offers us your kingdom.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We have heard of your holiness, God of Wonder,  
from the One who came bearing the gifts

which you would offer to us in every moment.  
Jesus came, to those who had forgotten you,  
    so we might remember your joy in us;  
Jesus spoke, to those who heard only curses,  
    so we might hear the blessings you speak;  
Jesus came, to those who hungered for hope,  
    to those who thirsted for justice,  
so death might be destroyed  
by the life he offered for us,  
    and the power of sin over us  
    might be broken forever.

As we remember the blessings he offered to the poor,  
as we seek to offer the gifts with which we have been blessed,  
we would sing of that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, loving those who had been his enemies;  
Christ was raised, giving everyone resurrection life;  
Christ will come again, so we might receive your kingdom.**

Here at this Table, gathered with our sisters and brothers,  
we pray you would pour out your Spirit  
upon us as well as the bread and the cup.  
It is the bread, in all its brokenness  
which is our true inheritance,  
    the weakness which overwhelms all power,  
    the meekness which welcomes the weak and lonely.  
It is the cup, with its grace overflowing,  
which is your greatest blessings,  
    filling us with peace and reconciliation  
    so we might pour ourselves out for a broken world  
even as did all those saints and sinners  
who have gone on before us.

And when we are gathered at the end  
of all time and history with our sisters and brothers

from every time and place, we will join  
all creation in forever singing you praise,  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer Following Communion:

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Thank you for the Saints which we have remembered this day. We witnessed the Light of Christ in their lives. May we live so as to carry on their legacy of Love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

†Hymn: For All the Saints UMH 711 (4-6)

†Benediction

†Please stand as you are able.

The Altar Flowers were given to the Glory of God from the family of Jean Farabee.



**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.**

Prayer Requests:

Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Lori Johnson. Chuck Farabee. Lori Eaton. Nelda King. Peggy Harris. Diane, Jim & Scott Stanley. Anne Murr. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Cecil Overbey. Lisa Goller (Kelley Groce's friend). Gloria Burton (Margaret Turnage's sister-in-law). Al Barnes (Dave and Caryn Hull's friend)

We extend our sympathy to the family Debra Elfrid (Faye Elliott's friend) in her death.



**November Birthday** - Nancy Gordan (8), Gretchen Crabtree (10), David Lucas, Caroline Howerton (13), Jessica Peake, Sharon Shumate, Alexis Marvin (14), Gary Bowman, James Esterline (15), Kristy Stout (20), Mike Crabtree (22), Albert Esterline (25), Teresa John (26), Dave Hull, Carolyn Townsend (27).

### **Announcements and Calendar of events**

**November 8- noon-** Friendship Club. We will have a boxed lunch from Jason's Deli, Bingo, and lots of prizes, fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

**November 13 – 2pm** - Church Charge Conference in the Conference Room.

**November 20- 11am– Commitment Sunday. Worship Service “The Lord’s Prayer” sermon series.**

**12pm- Soup Luncheon after worship in the Fellowship Hall.**

**1:30pm- Celebration of Life for Irmgard Daiber.**

**2:30pm-** Reception for the Daiber Family to celebrate what would have been Irmgard's Birthday

**Wednesdays at 6:30pm** choir practice and bell practice at 7:30pm. All are welcome to join. See Anita if you have any questions.

**Sunday School at 9:45am** – in the Fellowship Hall. We're currently studying the “Moses” Bible Study by Adam Hamilton.

**We have a continuous collection of nonperishable items for the Urban Ministry.** You may drop them in the baskets located throughout the church.

**Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes-** if you would like to support this ministry, shoes boxes and instructions are available in the church office, or you may contact Emily Lawing at [hopelovefaith710@gmail.com](mailto:hopelovefaith710@gmail.com). Collect date here is **November 13, 2022.**

**UNDIE SUNDAY** is the first Sunday of each month. Needed black or white socks for men and women. New packaged underwear for men or women, all sizes.