



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue

Greensboro, NC 27403

November 15, 2020

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

Announcements for Missions and Ministry.

Choral Call to Worship.....*My Life is in You, Lord*

Call to Worship:

Leader: We lift our eyes to the Lord.

People: God created the heavens and the earth

Leader: We raise our voices in songs and speech

People: We raise our voices in prayer and praise

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers, accept our praise.

People: Lord, open our hearts to receive your blessings of peace. AMEN.

Opening Prayer:

Hymn.....*Take My Life and Let It Be* #399 v. 1&3

*Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.*

*Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour*

*at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.*

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Birthdays This Week Gary Bowman (15), James Esterline (15), Kristy Stout (20), and Irmgard Daiber (21).

Pastoral Prayer and 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. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Worship with God's Tithes and our Offering –

Offertory.....*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

Scripture: Matthew 25: 14-30

Sermon: Why are we afraid to invest in God?

Litany of Commitment

Leader: The voice of God is speaking to you. God is calling you today to come and rejoice. Come to me dear ones. Open your hands.

People: **We can't, Lord. Our hands are calloused and dirty, rough.**

Leader: Open your hands. My healing and cleansing love will protect and soothe you.

Leader: Come to me, beloved friends. Open your hands.

People: We can't, Lord. Our hands have been wounded and they are bleeding.

Leader: Open your hands and I will touch your wounds and stop the bleeding.

Leader: Come to me, disciples, witnesses. Open your hands.

People: We can't, Lord. We have nothing to offer to you. Our hands are empty.

Leader: Open your hands and I will give you my peace. Now you are healed.

People: Now we can reach out to help.

Leader: Now you can go into the world to offer blessing and hope.

People: Praise be to you, O God, who has taken our excuses and turned them into commitment.

ALL: Let us not be afraid to invest all of ourselves in the one who breathed into us the breath of life and sustains us for eternity. In the name of God the Father, through Jesus the Son, and through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn.....*Here I Am, Lord* #593 v, 1&2

*I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

(Refrain)

*Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my work to them.
Whom shall I send?*

(Refrain)

Benediction

Choral Benediction*Together We Service*

The Altar Flowers are given today by Emily Lawing in honor of her nephew, Ansel Sykes, 1st Birthday. Let us wish Ansel a Happy Birthday.

If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, to be given in honor, in memory, or in celebration, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643. The following date is still available in 2020: December 27.

Prayer Concerns

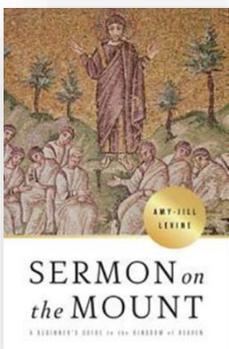
If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

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

Mary Louise Woods, tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. **Cooper Boyd, Kelley Groce's nephew**, concussion from being hit with an aluminum baseball bat. **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** fell and broke her shoulder on November 2. **Joann Martin** fell and broke her left hip. **Peggy Bowles. Mike Crabtree. Amy Coffee's 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, Amy Coffee, 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 Jean, Sandy, and Walt York on the death of Jean's husband Frank York October 31.

If you have a prayer concern, 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.



New Bible Study – *Sermon on the Mount* by Amy Jill Levine

When: Monday Mornings @ 11:00 am and Monday Evenings @ 6:30 pm

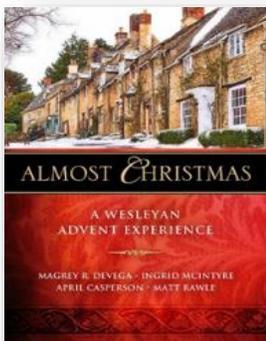
Dates: November 2-December 7 (6 weeks)

Where: via zoom

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples, and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

In *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.

You may order *Sermon on the Mount* from Amazon, Cokesbury, or Christianbooks.org. We will discuss the first lesson on the first gathering, November 2. Have your book and Bible. Please contact Rev. Kelley Groce at 336-299-9643 or kgroce@wnccumc.net and let her know if you plan to participate.



New Advent Study-Almost Christmas

When: Sunday mornings @10:00am

Dates: Advent Study will begin November 29 –
December 20 (4 weeks)

Where: via zoom

Make your Wesleyan heritage
a part of your Christmas

In John Wesley's famous sermon, "The Almost Christian," he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in exploring how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, and connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. Additional components for a four-week study include a DVD and a comprehensive Leader Guide, as well as Nativity hymns by Charles Wesley, litanies for lighting the Advent wreath, and prayers that can be incorporated into both worship and small group Setting. You may order the book, which would be helpful, thru Cokesbury, Amazon, or Christianbooks.com

Zoom Sunday School - Harold Billings, Dave Blackman and Carolyn Townsend are offering Sunday School lessons via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM. They are using the International Lesson. No book is required. Email Kelley at

kgroce@wnccumc.net or call her at the parsonage, if you would like a Zoom invitation or the phone number to call in for Sunday School.

Grace and Peace to you Centenary UMC,

This is Rev. Kelley Groce with some important announcements.

SPECIAL NOTE FROM REV. KELLEY GROCE:

If you receive an e-mail from Me stating that I need a favor from you regarding any type of gift card or monetary donation, please disregard. Someone has used a part of my e-mail. My official e-mail is kgroce@wnccumc.net.

It is hard to say this before we even can enjoy Thanksgiving, but in regard to the missions of Centenary UMC – it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Emily Lawing has encouraged us to participate once again in Operation Christmas Child. We have the boxes available at the church if you choose to fill one or two. We are collecting them Through Thursday, November 19th, but will have a drop off time this Sunday, November 15th under the portico from 2-3:00PM.

We will also be collecting any monetary donations for the Summerfield Christmas Store – checks made out to Summerfield/Peace UMC. If you are writing a check, please make it out to Summerfield Peace UMC with Christmas Store on the memo line.

Electronic options:

Via the website for the Summerfield Christmas Store:

www.summerfieldchristmasstore.com Click on “Donate” tab. Click on “Donate with PayPal”.

Via the website for Summerfield Peace UMC:

www.summerfieldpeaceumc.com

Scroll down to click on “giving page” under online giving. Choose “restricted gift” (under the choices where “general fund” originally appears). Note Summerfield Christmas Store in the memo section

We are continuing to collect disposable diapers up to 12 pounds, onsies up to 6 months, baby blankets, and baby wash for a Room at the Inn.

The Worship Committee is gifting each family unit an Advent kit for practicing Advent at home. Advent begins on Nov 29, 2020. You may pick one up on the 15th from 2-3:00pm or we would be happy to deliver to your door if you let us know in the church office.

"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks".—Unknown

1st Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."