



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro, NC 27403

March 14, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Announcements for Missions and Ministries

Choral Call to Worship “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10)

The grace of Christ Jesus be with you all.

And also with you.

We each have a right to be here,
a right not based on our righteousness.

but on God’s free grace.

**O give thanks to our God who is good,
whose saving love endures forever.**

Let those who are redeemed by God declare it,
rescued from trouble and gathered from many lands.

**From the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south,
give thanks to God who is always good!**

— written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on **Bruce Prewer’s
Homepage.** <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

Prayer of Confession:

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge,
we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did,
full of complaints and dissatisfaction.

Nothing is enough.

we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

**Forgive us when we become so comfortable.
that we moan and groan about
the most insignificant details of our lives.**

In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites,
to consider the bigger picture
of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us.

Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us.

keep sending loving and compassionate leaders.

to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.

(Pray in the silence and confession)

Words of Assurance

You are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of you.

So return God's blessing by the way you love others.

~ written by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, in *So Loved: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Lent*. Posted on the Worship Ways page of the **United Church of Christ** website. http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Hymn

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

UMH 185 vs. 1&2

When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised! A-like at work and prayer,
to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised! The powers of darkness fear
when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

Pastoral prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament-Numbers 21: 4-9

We worship with our Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory

"What Wondrous Love is This"

Scripture: John 3: 14-21

Sermon: The Snake Strikes but the Savior Saves

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;* the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

UMH 378 vs. 1&6

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
now am found; was blind, but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright
shining as the sun, we've no less days to
sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Benediction

Choral Benediction

“God be With You”

UMH 672 v. 1



Birthdays for this week - Marty Mikles (12), Pat Stevenson (15), Kristina Kinard (16), Harold Billings (19)

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.

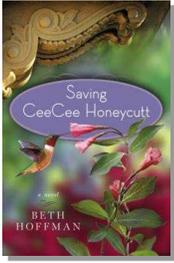
Abbie Samuel, surgery March 11 detached retina. At home recovering. **Jane Koenig**, friend of **Debbie Robinson**, fell and has terrible brain and head injuries. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Ms. Carol**, friend of **Scott Stanley**, health problems. **Edna Johnson** had surgery. **Carrie Hodgin**, friend of **Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Gretchen Crabtree's sister, Joyce Anderson**, health concerns. **Cynthia Michael**, upcoming shoulder surgery in March. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Peggy Boles. Don & Clara Ellis, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard.**

Also, many are dealing with anxiety, stress, depression, and loneliness due to COVID-19. Please put it upon your heart to offer all people the grace which God offers all. Prayers for our country during this transition.

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.

Upcoming events for Holy Week

- March 28th Palm Sunday, Stations of the Cross Begins at 2:00pm enter at the portico and walk the stations. **We ask that you wear your mask, social distance and use hand sanitizer.**
- March 29th Monday, noon prayer service—Call the office 336-299-9643 or email Libby libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org to make reservations to attend. **(We are Limited to 80 people).** **We ask that you wear your mask, social distance and use hand sanitizer.**
- March 30th Tuesday, Lenten Bible Study at 10:00am or 6:30pm.
- April 1st Maundy Thursday Service –service will be recorded.
- April 2nd, Good Friday Service-service will be recorded.
- Easter Sunday Celebration, April 4th at 11:00am, - We will meet in person and require reservations. **We are limited to 80 people. There will be a temperature check performed, use hand sanitizer, wear a mask, social distance.** You will be ushered to your seats. We will continue to record the service until the pandemic is over. Call Libby at the office 336-299-9643 or email Libby libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org to make reservations to attend. Flower Cross-Bring your Flowers to decorate the Cross to adorn our Cross on the Front Lawn and Celebrate Easter.



Centenary Starlight Book Club

Thursday, March 18th—Saving CeeCee Honeycutt by Beth Hoffman.

Where- TBA

When- 7:00pm

Magnolias meets *The Help* in Beth Hoffman's *New York Times* bestselling Southern debut novel, *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*

Twelve-year-old CeeCee Honeycutt is in trouble. For years, she has been the caretaker of her mother, Camille, the town's tiara-wearing, lipstick-smearing laughingstock, a woman who is trapped in her long-ago moment of glory as the 1951 Vidalia Onion Queen of Georgia. When tragedy strikes, Tootie Caldwell, CeeCee's long-lost great-aunt, comes to the rescue and whisks her away to Savannah. There, CeeCee is catapulted into a perfumed world of prosperity and Southern eccentricity—one that appears to be run entirely by strong, wacky women. From the exotic Miz Thelma Rae Goodpepper, who bathes in her backyard bathtub and uses garden slugs as her secret weapons; to Tootie's all-knowing housekeeper, Oletta Jones; to Violene Hobbs, who entertains a local police officer in her canary-yellow peignoir, the women of Gaston Street keep CeeCee entertained and enthralled for an entire summer.

A timeless coming of age novel set in the 1960s, *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* explores the indomitable strengths of female friendship, and charts the journey of an unforgettable girl who loses one mother, but finds many others in the storybook city of Savannah. As Kristin Hannah, author of *Fly Away*, says, Beth Hoffman's sparkling debut is “packed full of Southern charm, strong women, wacky humor, and good old-fashioned heart.”



March Birthdays- 1st Jim Wilson, 3rd Frazier Robinson, 7th Estelle Cranford and Jean York, 10th Meghan Whitaker and Dottie Rayburn, 11th Rachel Sheppard, 12th Marty Mikles, 15th Pat Stevenson, 16th Kristina Kinard, 19th Harold Billings, 22nd Charles Sartore, 24th Doris Pruitt, 25th Andrew Snider, 29th Cindie Sillmon, 31st Caryn Hull