



A friend of mine who is a pastor was telling me recently about his own call to ministry. He felt as if he had been called by God to be a pastor, but when he thought about it he couldn't imagine himself serving in that capacity. One night, when my friend couldn't sleep because he was wrestling with God so deeply, he simply asked in a prayer, "What would I even preach about?" The answer he felt he received was "Do not fear." My friend

admits that he still isn't sure about whether that response was meant for him or to those to whom he might preach, but he is certain that the message was clear: Do not fear.

As we continue into this second Sunday of Advent, the message that we will hear again in our scripture lesson today is the same message that my friend heard. In today's case, Joseph will be visited by an angel who will assure Joseph that it is ok to marry Mary. The angel, in this case, must have been very persuasive because Joseph did as the angel instructed: he both married Mary, and he put away his fear.

I once read a quote that said "do not fear the things that you fear in this life. They will indeed happen, but they are nothing to fear." My take on that quotation is that no matter what—no matter what—God is with us. This is the message of Advent and Christmas, that in Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with us," we have nothing to fear. So, be of good courage, good Christians! Love wins, and fear has nowhere to hide.

With love,
Scott

Coffee Ministry is this week!

December 11th-15th is Finals Week for the students, professors, and teachers with the University of New Mexico. Help us wish them a good week by volunteering with our Coffee Ministry. We will be handing out cups of coffee and offering a word of prayer and encouragement every day from **8am-10am** in the parking lot. Please contact Pastor Kelly with any questions: KellyB@centraltolife.org



Advent Happenings

This year, CUMC will be collecting gift cards for Family Promise and Saranam. The CUMC Giving Tree will be located in the Welcome Center and we will be collecting gift cards at the front desk until **Today!** Please see Pastor Kelly for more information.

An Advent Study, "Down to Earth", with Pastor Kelly will be every Wednesday **until December 20th, 11:00am-12:00pm**, at the Starbucks on Lomas and Washington. Please contact Pastor Kelly for more information.



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE



SERMON TOPIC

“JOSEPH, DO NOT BE AFRAID”

CLASSIC SERVICE

8:30am & 11:00am



CUMC Offices Will Be Closed: December 25-29th 2017, January 1st 2018



Christmas Eve Services:

8:30am and 11:00am Sunday Advent Services
8:00pm Lessons and Carols

11:00pm Candlelight and Communion



New Year's Eve Service:

8:30-10:00am – Breakfast Potluck, Life Center

2017 Potlucks at Central United Methodist Church

New Years Eve Potluck Breakfast Fellowship—December 31st, 2017 at 8:30am—10:00am

Combined service @ 10:00am in the Sanctuary (*No Sunday School*)

1/2 PRICE CHRISTMAS SALE



The Christmas sale is now half-price and being held downstairs in Room 101. The sale will continue until **December 22nd** during regular thrift shop hours.

Sunday 12-1:00pm, Thursday 12-3:00pm, Friday 9-Noon

- All funds generated by the Thrift Shop Ministry are used for repairs and improvements to the church building and grounds.

The Thrift Shop welcomes your donations of no-longer-needed items and clothing any time of year.

Thrift shop will be closed **December 24th—January 1st** and will reopen on **Thursday, January 4th.**



POINSETTIAS



Honor or remember someone this Christmas by ordering a poinsettia.

Flowers will be delivered to our homebound following the 11am service on December 17. If you are interested in delivering flowers, please contact CUMC church office. (Information in pew backs or church office)

CONDOLENCES TO...

- ◆ The Family of Mary Arnold who died on December 4, 2017
Her service is Tuesday, December 12th at 11am Central UMC, Internment to follow
- ◆ Christy Sorenson Albright and her family for the death of her husband, Robert.
His service is Monday, December 11th at 2pm, St. Stephen's UMC 4601 Juan Tabo Blvd. NE
- ◆ Jesus Valdez and his family on the sudden death of his mother, Debbie Padilla

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kelly Brooks, Executive Pastor
Michele Humes, Office Administrator
Kathy Gough, Office Assistant
Jesus Valdez, Media Coordinator

Jonathan Davidson, Interim Director of Music
Rick Wild, Organist
Ronselle Harrison, Audio Tech
Alesha Bird, ASL Interpreter



Get connected! Sign up for Central Connections, our weekly electronic newsletter, at www.centraltolife.org or send an email to Jesus Valdez at jesusvaldez@centraltolife.org.
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Services broadcast on KAZQ TV-32—Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm