



Christmas feels so close that you can almost touch it! The children in my house are on pins and needles as they try to contain their excitement and joy with the possibilities that come with Christmas.

This year, with Christmas Eve being on a Sunday, it feels close enough to touch in worship too. There is a sense that maybe we should just skip into Christmas this morning and light the Christ candle early. That’s exactly the reason why we need Advent so much. Advent teaches us to wait upon the Lord, even when the moment we’ve been waiting for is right at hand. Advent invites us to consider that the moment before the moment can be instructional for us too.

So, welcome to worship on this day filled with excitement and expectation! Welcome to this Fourth Sunday of Advent when our worship service hangs, like a breath in the air, in the moments before our Christmas celebration. Welcome to the morning when we light the fourth Advent candle and celebrate JOY! Welcome to the message shouted to the shepherds: Fear Not! Welcome to one last moment to prepare your heart for the birth of the Christ child, and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome!

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*)

You can now make a contribution to Central United Methodist Church using our Giving Kiosk!

Our new Giving Kiosk will allow you to make a contribution using your credit card. There is no signing up—all you need to do is select the Ministry you would like to give to, type in the amount and swipe your card. Central’s Giving Kiosk is located at the Front Office Counter, and our office volunteer will be happy to assist you.



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE

December 24, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE



SERMON TOPIC

“DO NOT BE AFRAID, SHEPHERDS”



CUMC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:
December 25-29th 2017, January 1st 2018

THRIFT SHOP CLOSED:

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

You can now make a contribution to Central United Methodist Church with a quick text message!

Simply send a text to **505-384-7589** with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. *Example: \$25.* Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!



“SPRING 2018 MINISTRY FOCUS” CREDO

In January we will be having an all-church retreat at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. This retreat is for all ages and will have corresponding curriculum. In some ways this retreat is like a confirmation retreat, or maybe a confirmation refresher retreat. In addition to learning a lot about our church heritage, there will be time for worship, enjoying camp, and having a great time in fellowship. The dates are January 12-15.

During Lent of 2018 Central will offer a number of small group and Bible study opportunities to dig deeper into the life of John Wesley, The United Methodist Church, and our ministry. Each Sunday worship service will have something to do with Wesley as we journey through Lent to Easter.

Finally, in May, Central is embarking on a 10-day trip to England to experience the historic birthplace of John Wesley, and what would become the Methodist movement. This trip will be an exciting and faith-growing adventure.

For more information and registration materials, please contact Pastor Kelly at kellyb@centraltolife.org

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