

CENTRAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 4, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
COMMUNION SUNDAY
ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING MUSIC **O Come, All Ye Faithful**
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing / King of Heaven

SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 11:1-5**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CONTINUING MUSIC **Who You Say I Am**

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

SCRIPTURE TEXT

Matthew 3:1-11

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

**“A voice of one calling in the desert,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”**

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

TODAY’S SERMON

God’s Peace Differs from Ours

THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION

OFFERING

CLOSING HYMN **Holy, Holy, Holy**

BLESSING

PRAYERS AT FRONT OF CHURCH **BIBLE STUDY IN WHITE ROOM**

AFTER-CHURCH REFRESHMENTS: Join us in the gym right after worship! There is also a sign-up sheet next to the white room to bring snacks. Thank you for your help.

THE WCC CHRISTMAS REDEDICATION and Gathering will be this Tuesday, December 6th, at 11:45 in the white room (after the board meeting). All are invited to this wonderful fellowship and food gathering! Debra McCoy will be the speaker. There will also be a hats and gloves collection for Helping Hand Rescue Mission.

KIDS CENTRAL meets at 4:30 this Thursday, then will resume January 12 to May 4.

DEACONS FUND: Please prayerfully consider a contribution to this ministry fund. When giving, write "Deacons" on the check memo line or on the envelope.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: Stay tuned for more information on the start date.

DEACON-ON-CALL: If you have a spiritual, physical, or financial need or know of someone who does, please contact Evelyn Brodbeck, our Deacon on Call for the weeks of December 4th and 11th, at 631-549-3514. All calls are confidential.

TRUSTEES-ON-CALL are Janet Byler and Joe Garofola. For facility questions, please call Janet at 631-327-1623 or Joe at 631-988-3638.

ELDER-ON-CALL for December is Suzanne Valerio, 631-368-5985.

YOUTH GROUP VAN DRIVER NEEDED: Our growing youth group is searching for a van driver for their Tuesday night meetings. If you would like more information, please contact the office at 631-421-3663 or at centch@optonline.net

MANY THANKS to all who set up Christmas decorations last weekend!

CENTRAL FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS

“...For we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” Romans 8:26

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

- For our church family as we worship on Sunday mornings while following guidelines
- For our church ministries, programs, and events
- For our Pastor, staff, and church leaders (Session, Deacons, and Trustees) who are doing their best to keep the church running and helping our church family with needs
- For those in our church family who have been affected by the pandemic, including those who have suffered from the virus and those who lost loved ones due to the virus
- For our church as we appeal the recent court decision with the PC(USA)

PRAY FOR OUR NATION & OUR WORLD

- For Ukraine – for the safety of its people and for the wisdom of its leaders
- For Haiti – for the nation’s healing from political turmoil, gang violence, and food and fuel price hikes, all of which have ravaged this country
- For Florida – for those who have lost loved ones because of Hurricane Ian and for the safety of those providing relief, recovery, and rebuilding
- For our government officials on all levels, as they are trying to do their best for our country through the pandemic, violence eruptions, the economy, and natural disasters
- For our military men and women stationed at home and abroad: John B., John & Bethany B., Kaitlin D., Anasia H., and Frank & Rebekah S.
- For our country and for all nations around the world that are still affected by this pandemic as well as by natural disasters and civil unrest

ONGOING PRAYER FOR INDIVIDUALS

• WHO HAVE VARIOUS HEALTH CHALLENGES including Central members and friends:

Bob E., Evelyn B., Evelyn T., Lisa B., Margaret B., Lois C., Vicki E., Doral H., Frani H., Tina H., June J., Pete M., Don M., Gladys P., Kay J., Shirley R., Claude S., Paige P., Jeanine S., Peter S., Linda T., and the many friends & family members of our church family.

• WHO ARE HOME-BOUND OR ARE IN NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING, AND REHAB FACILITIES, including Central members: Frani H. and David W.

• WHO ARE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES including the families of Don Engelhart, Mary Lou Davies.

• WHO ARE MOVING AND TRANSITIONING INTO NEW HOMES/AREAS

• WHO ARE EXPERIENCING EMPLOYMENT ISSUES including those who had their work hours cut, were laid off, or are struggling in the workplace.