

The Mission of
Central United Church of Christ is...
to be a Christ-centered community
of faithful disciples,
who are called
to GROW IN FAITH, and
to SHARE GOD'S LOVE
as we REACH OUT
to each other,
to our community
and to our world.

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* indicates please stand, as you are able

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

#105

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

God has done great things for us!

God’s love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Holy is God’s name!

God’s promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

God’s mercy extends from generation to generation.

God’s salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

***CHORAL INTROIT**

***GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)**

Loving God, your servant Mary proclaimed with faith that she would be called blessed by all generations – today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise. Make us bold enough to proclaim with faith – the coming of your kingdom, the coming of your justice, the coming of your peace. May we sing out the good news of your salvation, trusting in fulfillment of your promises. All this we pray in the name of the one who comes. Amen.

***PRAISE HYMN** “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

#89

***PASSING THE PEACE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE GLORIA PATRI (sung in unison)**
Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Advent Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (all verses) #88

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-48a

CHORAL RESPONSE

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Never Do Bells Ring More Sweetly" - arr. Carl Burkel

Never do bells ring more sweetly,
than at the Christmas time.
Then do the angels in heaven,
join in the joyful chime.
As on the night when the Christ Child was born.
Now let us join in your joyful song.
Sound the good news near and far,
Sound the good news near and far.

Ne'er stop your joyful ringing
over this old world wide.
Tell us again that our Saviour
comes on this Christmas tide.
Now let us join in our joyful song.
As on the night when the Christ Child was born.
Sound the good news near and far.
Sound the good news near and far.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on 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;
One holy and universal Christian Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting.
Amen. (Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer, 1662*)

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Chorus of Angels" - Clark

*THE DOXOLOGY (sung in unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*DEDICATION PRAYER (in unison)

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us
to be your friends,
and to know your will in the world.
Therefore, we pray in Jesus' name
that these tithes and offerings
spread your love near and far. Amen.

AND GO FORTH IN LOVE

***CLOSING HYMN** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #108

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE** "Tidings of Joy" - Bach

Our WORSHIP is ended...our SERVICE now begins.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

December 23 – 30

TODAY:	4 th Sunday of Advent	
	Adult Sunday School	8:30AM
	Coffee Hour	9:00AM
	Worship	10:00AM
	Children's Sunday School	10:15AM
TUES:	Have a Blessed Christmas!	
FRI:	Scout Lock-In	7:00PM
NEXT SUNDAY:		
	Adult Sunday School	8:30AM
	Coffee Hour	9:00AM
	Worship	10:00AM
	Children's Sunday School	10:15AM

Attendance Last Sunday: 94

Altar flowers are in loving memory of Allen and Jeannette Kassebaum, Mildred Calhoun, and our grandparents from Steve and Marilyn Bradford.

Bulletins are in memory of loved ones from Gladden and Muck families.

Please pray for our members, family and friends: Mabel Thompson, Elizabeth Klemme, Kathryn Waite, Audrey Hoelscher Bruemmer, Jacquie Howser, Tonya Berhorst, Beckett Michael Karr (parents Geoff and Lauren Karr), Jimmy Fairchild

Pastoral Care – Rev. Stoneburner has agreed to fill-in for emergency pastoral care. If you have a need for pastoral care,

please call the church office at 635-1041, and they will be in contact with Rev. Stoneburner.

Our thanks and appreciation to Rev. Dr. Judith Scott for leading us in worship this morning and delivering the sermon message.

90+ Birthdays:

(To our knowledge, there are no 90+ birthdays in December.)

Central's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service takes place tomorrow night (December 24) at 6:00PM. *Please note new start time.* Plan to attend this beautiful service as together we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Copies of the Christmas Eve Memorial/Honorarium Listing are in the narthex for those who participated.

The 2019 offering boxes (envelopes) are ready for you to pick-up in the narthex. Please do not begin using these envelopes until January 1st, 2019. After December 31st, please discard any 2018 envelopes or previous year's envelopes as the system reassigns different numbers each year.

2018 Annual Reports: If you are responsible for submitting information about your group's 2018 activities for the Annual Report, please do so **by January 1, 2019**. Rene Miserez will be gathering and compiling the information for this year's report, so please **email everything to: bellsic@aol.com**. In the subject line reference "Church -- 2018 Annual Report."

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 19, 2019 for an all-you-can-eat breakfast put on by the Brotherhood. The

community will be invited as well. Menu includes eggs, pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, and juice. More information will follow – be sure to mark January 19 on your calendar.

Incoming mail for groups within Central UCC – Mail addressed to various groups, committees, etc. at Central Church will be placed on shelves in the library across from the office until we can acquire a more permanent type of mail sorter.

It's time to sign-up for monthly 2019 Salvation Army Meals. All months are open except January and May. If you would like to volunteer, contact Mission and Outreach Ministry chair, Susan Poettgen, at 573-298-4515 or susan.poettgen@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed to prepare Communion for 2019. Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month as well as the Ash Wednesday Service and Easter Services. We're needing volunteers to help prepare the elements and clean-up afterwards. Please contact Worship Ministry chair, Mary Ann Wippermann, at 636-3685 or mlwipper@embarqmail.com.

2019 Bulletin Openings: The Sundays shown below are available for 2019. Cost is \$15 per Sunday. If interested, please contact the office at office@centralucc.com or 635-1041.

4th Sunday in April (4/28)



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 · 6:00 P.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Your presence and participation are an important part of shaping this experience of worship for all of us. Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and of faith, you are welcome here!

If you are a guest here today, we would love for you to become a regular part of what God is doing in and through this church community. If you have any questions about joining us in ministry, please contact the Pastor.

Large Print Bulletins: Large print editions of the worship bulletin are available in the Narthex and by the elevator.

Friendship Register: Please sign the Friendship Register (the blue book at the end of the pew) when it is passed around so that we have a record of your visit.

Ministers	Every Member
Director of Music	Dr. Patrick Clark
Young Youth Director/Bell Choir Director.....	Rene Miserez
Organist.....	Shirley Klein



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