

# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8237 Kenton Avenue - Skokie, Illinois 60076

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**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**10:30 am**

\* = Please stand as able

## GATHERING

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Prelude

***Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming***

*arr. by Brad Nix*

*Millete Silverio*

Welcome &  
Announcements

*Pastor David Haley*

\*Call to Worship

*Dorine Sobers, Leader*

When God restores our fortunes,  
our dreams will come true.

**We will sing "Glory!" to our God;  
we will rejoice in our Savior's birth.**

Our mouths shall be filled with laughter;  
joy shall ring from our lips.

**God has made it clear:  
those who serve are God's children.**

Then we will proclaim:

'Look what the Lord has done':

**others will know beyond doubt  
how the Holy One has blessed us.**

We wept - now we will cheer, "Joy! Joy!"

We were lost - now we will run home laughing.

**God has picked us up where we fell;  
kept the promises made long ago.**

*(Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies)*

\*Hymnal

***On Jordan's Banks,  
the Baptist's Cry***

Opening Prayer

**O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through  
all such faithful ones you proclaim the unfolding of  
future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts  
to believe your advent promise that one day we will  
walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and  
sighing will be no more and the journey of God's  
people will be joy. Amen.**

Children's Moment

*Rev. Sylvia Pleas*

## WORD

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First Reading	<b><i>Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - 11</i></b> <i>Dorine Sobers, Reader</i>
Psalm	<b><i>Psalm 126</i></b> <i>The Grail Version</i>
Anthem	<b><i>Come to the Light</i></b> <i>(A Celtic Advent Song)</i> <i>Words &amp; Arrangement by</i> <i>Joseph M. Martin</i> <i>The Chancel Choir</i>
*Gospel	<b><i>John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28</i></b>
*Hymnal 206	<b><i>I Want to Walk as</i></b> <b><i>a Child of the Light</i></b>
The Message	<b><i>Ode to Joy</i></b> <i>Pastor Haley</i>
The Prayers	
Offering	<b><i>All Good Gifts</i></b> <i>(from "Godspell")</i> <i>Words &amp; Music by Stephen Schwartz</i> <i>Katy Jacob, soloist</i> <i>Millete Silverio &amp; John Tiffin</i>

## TABLE

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*The Peace	
Great Thanksgiving	
The Giving of the Bread and the Cup	<i>(please go forward to receive</i> <i>the bread and dip it into the cup)</i>
Prayer After Communion	

## SENDING FORTH

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*Hymn	<b><i>God Almighty, We are Waiting</i></b>
*Dismissal & Blessing	
*Postlude	<b><i>And the Glory of the Lord</i></b> <i>(from "Messiah")</i> <i>G.F. Handel; arr. by Mark Hayes</i>

# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Keeping God central in hearts, minds, and lives*

## WELCOME!

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If you are a guest at Central today, we welcome you!

Here's some helpful things to know:

- **RESTROOMS** are downstairs. There is also an accessible restroom just outside the sanctuary, to the left.
- The words to the hymns, the Scripture readings, and the responses may be followed on the screen. Please silence all **CELL PHONES** before the service.
- At the time of the **OFFERING**, we realize not every one carries cash or checks; to donate electronically go to [www.skokiecentralumc.org/donate.html](http://www.skokiecentralumc.org/donate.html)
- Today as we celebrate **HOLY COMMUNION**, you need not be United Methodist or a member of Central to participate; everyone of every age who accepts Christ's invitation to his table are welcome. Our method of communion today will be to go forward, receive the bread and dip it into the cup.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by **PAM CASTANEDA** In loving memory of her mother-in-law, **VICTORIA CASTANEDA.**

The **2018 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR** is posted on the Bulletin Board by the stairs leading down to Fellowship Hall. Please choose dates when you would like to provide flowers for the altar during 2018. Thank you for your faithful provision of altar flowers, keeping the altar beautiful week-by-week!

## AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

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Following worship, you are invited downstairs to Fellowship Hall for a time of food and conversation. Today's Fellowship is hosted by **MERIUM MERYKURTHY** in celebration of her birthday.

## STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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Ferdinand Soco, Chair of Central's Staff-Parish Committee, invites you to consider a donation for Central Church Staff **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**. Checks may be put in the offering plate, marked "**Staff Gifts.**" Thank you for these expressions of appreciation!

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## ORNAMENTS OF JOY

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Thank you to everyone who donated items for the **ORNAMENTS OF JOY** to help make Christmas special for so many people. The Mission Committee - Jo Ann Faber, Lisa Jacob, Barb Smith or Kathy Tiffin - thanks you on their behalf.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of **ADVENT**; next Sunday will be both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (morning) and **CHRISTMAS EVE** (evening). We will have our 10:30 am service in the morning and two services in the evening, at 6 pm and 10 pm. It will be a holy day!

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to our annual **EPIPHANY POTLUCK** following worship. Please bring a dish to share; meat, drink, and utensils will be provided. Don't cook? Consider a donation. Contact **MAE WILLIAMS** for further information at 847-676-0798 or [hhldmaster@aol.com](mailto:hhldmaster@aol.com).

## CHRISTIAN INMATE PEN PALS

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You can make a huge difference in the life of someone incarcerated by writing to a Christian inmate. Their names and addresses from around the country are provided by Christian Pen Pal Ministry ([cppministry.com](http://cppministry.com)). You may use your first name and Central's return address. Please see Jo Ann Faber, Kathy Shine, Gerhard Mels or Cindy Barron if you would like to become a pen pal.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

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December 23- Tom Downes  
Robin Reuter  
Helen Rosales

(To add a name to the birthday list, contact the church office at (847) 673-1311 or [central\\_church@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:central_church@skokiecentralumc.org).)

## **CALENDAR**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:45 am - Chancel Choir

9:30 am - Sunday School &  
Adult Bible Study

10:30 am - **Worship**

Fellowship to follow

**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

6 pm - Chimes for Christ

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

9::30 am - Circle 8

7 pm - Boy Scouts

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

7 pm - Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Eve**

8:45 am - Chancel Choir

9:30 am - Sunday School &  
Adult Bible Study

10:30 am - **Worship**

6 & 10 pm - **Christmas Eve  
Worship**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*To add/remove someone from the Prayer List,  
contact the church office*

***Hospitals, Rehab, Assisted***

***Living & Extended Care:***

Edith Bass

Carmen Ewing

Brian Gut

Steve Winker

***At Home:***

Nancy Blaylock

Janet Casey

Lola Hessing

Wilma Odlivak

Harriet Tiahnybik

Eutopio Zamora

## **LEADERS**

Pastor.....***David L. Haley***

Today's Reader.....***Dorine Sobers***

Choir Director/Accompanist.....***Millete Silverio***

Song Leader.....***Julianne Arvizu***

Office Staff.....***Doris Bloom & Pam Castaneda***

Nursery Attendant.....***Ellen Mittman***

Lay Leader.....***Cynthia Barron***

Fellowship.....***Merium Merykurthy***

Ministers .....***The People of the Congregation***

## **MEMORIAL WINDOW**

**Message: Christ Lives Today!**

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,  
today, and forever***