

# The Vital Connection

*Bi-Monthly Newsletter—January/February 2018*

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

276 W. First Street, Denton, NC

# Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

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## **Calendar Events and Sermons**

can now be viewed on the  
church website at  
[centralumcdenton.com](http://centralumcdenton.com)

## **A Year of Time...**

As we look into 2018, we each are given a NEW YEAR with a new block of time. A New Year brings each of us 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, or 31,536,000 seconds. And all of this is a GIFT FROM GOD. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.



The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no handheld remote to slow it down, turn it off, rewind it, fast forward or re-adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count? (Steven B. Cloud, Pulpit Helps, Vol. 14, # 2)

# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## SPECIAL THANKS to the Harris Sunday School Class

for making a huge impact this year at Christmas. The church members joined their efforts in collecting over 160 blankets to be given to families in the community through South Davidson Family Resource Center. This was a great idea and one that was embraced by the entire congregation. In addition, the Harris Sunday School Class visited Mt. Vista patients just prior to Christmas to sing joyful hymns and traditional tunes to them. A great inspiration for us all!



BLANKET  
DRIVE



**OPEN INVITATION  
TO ALL WOMEN  
IN THE CHURCH AND  
COMMUNITY!**

The UMW of Central United meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the UMW Room downstairs. ALL Women are invited to come fellowship as women with a purpose in our church and community. Each month UMW provides desserts to the Open Hands Ministry, fills food bags for the Central Food Pantry, and in December collected over 40 toys for Toys for Town. Great fellowship was had by all who attended the UMW Christmas party in December. Join us today, you're sure to feel spiritually uplifted. (Meetings may be held at a member's home if they choose to host, but not required.) Join us, bring a friend.



*Women with a Purpose...faith, hope, and love in action!*

## **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

All Men are invited to attend UMM Meetings held on the Second Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the hut.



**January 14th and February 11th  
Great fellowship with one another!**



Let us remember to continue to provide non-perishable food items as much as possible to continue to keep our Food Pantry fully stocked. Please remember that many people that we serve do not

even have a can opener, so when possible, please try to purchase can foods with pull-away lids. Items may be left at the Pantry Door, church office or in the grocery cart located in the narthex.

## SPECIAL THANKS to Barbara Hogan

for coordinating the Veterans Day dinner on November 11, 2017. All sponsors who assisted in making donations to hold this event were greatly appreciated. The Lanning Sisters provided entertainment as well as others. We are thankful to have been able to recognize our community veterans.





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS



### Community Event

Sunday, January 21, 2017  
3:00 PM

Southern Theater Center

All Clergy and Laity who are  
interested in learning about security  
and safety at our church are  
encouraged to attend.



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts meet every other Friday evening in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Contact Troop Leader Carol Boice at (252) 670-4341 for exact times and more information.

### ACOLYTE AND CROSS BEARER TRAINING

There will be a very brief training session for acolytes and Cross bearers immediately following the worship service on Sunday, January 21. Acolytes (and their parents) and Cross bearers are asked to meet down front with Beth Ligon and Margaret Harris.



### CHURCH RETREAT

Central UMC is gearing up for an exciting one-day retreat at Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center to explore the needs in the community, the ways God is already meeting those needs and where God is calling Central UMC to pitch in. All members are welcomed to attend and especially those that hold offices within the church. More information with exact times will be forthcoming.



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[www.centralumcdenton.com](http://www.centralumcdenton.com)

### CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Richard Blount  
276 West First Street \* P.O. Box 126  
Denton, NC 27239 \* 336-859-3502

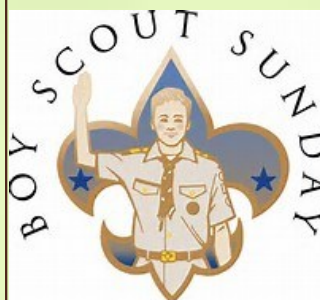


### VITALITY

Watch for upcoming  
meetings and events in  
Church Bulletins.



Next Meeting  
Sunday  
January 28th\*  
12:30 pm  
\*Unconfirmed at  
Press Time



### *Join us for* **SCOUT SUNDAY**

Sunday, February 11  
11:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

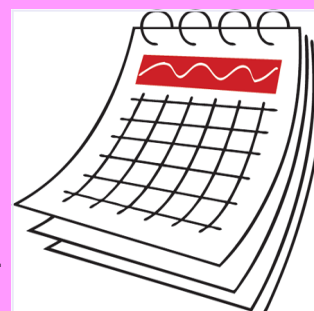


Be devoted to  
one another  
in love. Honor  
one another  
above  
yourselves.

Romans 12:10



Watch for upcoming  
news on a  
possible Valen-  
tines event to be  
sponsored by the  
youth BLAST  
group in the com-  
ing months.







## Believers Learning and Sharing Together

**B.L.A.S.T.** Youth between the ages of 6th—12th are encouraged to attend Sunday School. **BLAST** meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth room. *Bring a friend and join us for a Blast as we learn about Christ!* Teachers are Debbie Sigmon and Buddy Sexton. *Seeking ideas for our Youth BLAST Program for 2018: guest speakers, presentation, visits, activities, outings?*

## K- 5TH NEWS

Children ages Kindergarten to 5th Grade meet each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Teachers are Sarah Morris and Kitty King. There's always snacks, crafts, and a bible lesson. Come join the fun!

*"Don't forget to bring your bibles to class this will help you learn more about God's Holy Word!"*



## Children's Christmas Program

Special Thanks to Debbie Sigmon for coordinating the Children's "Unplugged Christmas" program this year! The children did an amazing job!!



## Central UMC Preschool

held "Songs, Sandwiches, Santa and S'mores" on December 21, 2017. There were 65 parents, grandparents and children. It was loads of fun with Santa dropping in for a visit. Special thanks to Ms. Crouse and Ms. Talbert for all of their love during the year and especially at Christmas.



## Run, run as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!

The preschoolers made salt dough gingerbread men. The next day the gingerbread men ran out the fellowship hall door into the parking lot. They have since been spotted in South Carolina, Vermont, New York, Canada, and Florida. We are still getting letters about the gingerbread friends being spotted. Some of the gingerbread men are still missing. Be on the look out for them! Hopefully they will return by the end of January, 2018. CUMC Preschoolers joined 65 other preschools and schools exchanging notes and letters about the adventures of the gingerbread men. It has been great fun getting mail from all over the country! Check out their bulletin board with all of the letters received so far.





# Sunday Worship Leaders — January and February, 2018

## USHERS

### JANUARY

Richard & Brenda Wilson

### FEBRUARY

Tom & Jeanette

Beanblossom

## GREETERS

### JANUARY

Gladys Decker &

Patty James

### FEBRUARY

Dale & Glenda Futrell

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 7: Larry & LaRue Cook

Jan. 14: Austin and Ann Cook

Jan. 21: Gilda & Larry Morris

Jan. 28: JT & Edna Davis Family

Feb. 4: Wilson Carter

Feb. 11: Open

Feb. 18: Ed & Dottie Roberson

Feb. 25: Esko and Addie Nopanen

*To place flowers on the altar for a special occasion or remembrance, please call Brenda Wilson at 336-250-9234.*

## ATTENDANCE

### Worship SS

Nov. 5	77	26
Nov. 12	82	19
Nov. 19	66	27
Nov. 26	78	24
Dec. 3	91	31
Dec. 10	84	24
Dec. 17	107	20
Dec. 24	102	19
Dec. 31	48	14

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Jan. 7: Pastor Blount

Jan. 14: Addie Nopanen

Jan. 21: Beth Ligon

Jan. 28: Rick Phillips

Feb. 4: Pastor Blount

Feb. 11: Ann Crouse

Feb. 18: Tina Lanier

Feb. 25: Debbie Sigmon

## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Nov. 5 \$ 6,911.00

Nov. 12 \$ 5,492.00

Nov. 19 \$ 3,380.00

Nov. 26 \$ 3,608.00

Dec. 3 \$ 4,353.00

Dec. 10 \$ 4,822.00

Dec. 17 \$ 7,761.00

Dec. 24 \$10,224.00

Dec. 31 \$ 3,614.00

## NON BUDGET RECEIPTS

Nov. 12 \$ 20.00

Nov. 19 \$ 25.00

Nov. 26 \$ 220.00

Dec. 10 \$2,645.00

Dec. 17 \$ 60.00

Dec. 24 \$ 150.00

## LAY READERS

Jan. 7: Margaret Harris

Jan. 14: Cathy Ward

Jan. 21: Kathy Baum

Jan. 28: Laura Walton

Feb. 4: Randall King

Feb. 11: Stewart Sexton

Feb. 18: Brenda James

Feb. 25: Andy Morris

## ACOLYTES

Jan. 7: Sam Parker

Jan. 14: Karsyn Layne

Jan. 21: Haven Rocchi

Jan. 28: Ellie Baldwin

Feb. 4: Zach Lester

Feb. 11: Emma Walton

Feb. 18: Olivia Parker

Feb. 25: Joseph Smith

Feb. 26: Zach Lester

Choir Fund \$ 125.00

Food Pantry \$ 45.00

Heifer Project \$ 330.00

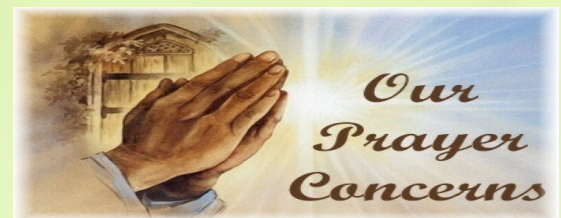
Preschool \$ 200.00

Harris Class Child \$ 25.00

Poinsettias \$ 170.00

Mission Wreath \$2,225.00

*(Mission Wreath funds divided between local and global missions.)*



## CHURCH MEMBERS

Billy Allison, Austin Cook, DeLisa Garner, Dick Getz, Ginger Martin, Rick & Addie Phillips, Ed & Dottie Roberson, Johnnie Sigmon, Ava Lea Surratt, and Peggy Wilkins

## MOUNTAIN VISTA

Bob Craven	Rm #60
Margaret Hunt	Rm #108
Diza Morris	Rm #71
George Tillotson	Rm #89

**Greeters:** If you are unable to be a greeter on the day in which you are scheduled, please know it is your responsibility to contact one of the alternates ahead of time to make arrangements for coverage:

### Alternate Greeters

Betty & Eddie Richey

336.870.1830

Janice & Don Esposito

336.859.4349

Louise Caulder

336.859.2390

*May the Glory of God Bless Each of You on the Celebration of Your Special Day!*

# **Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations**

## **January Birthdays**

1-Dottie Roberson  
2-Dick Johnson, Jean Bulakowski,  
Chad Montgomery  
3-Hannah Parker, Jody Futrell  
4-Barbara Hogan, Wendy Caudle,  
Miranda Snider, Crissie Cabrera  
5-Cathy Calhoun, Austin Pleasants,  
Beverly Poist, Dylan Gallimore, Trey Hammond  
6-Hayden Morris, Tyler Simpson  
7-Carter Terrell  
8-Panthea Pleasants, Wes Taylor  
10-Shannan Rieger, Sam Nelson, Chuck Crouch  
11-Kevin Ingold, Camden Stone,  
12-Fletcher Gallimore, Keith Jackson, Daniel Sexton,  
David Gaither  
13-Gavin Walton, Cindy Lomax, She Woodard,  
Johnathon Skeen, Deborah Behrens  
14-Nan Parker  
15-Joan Briggs, Angie Loftin  
17-Danny Carroll, Joseph Smith  
20-Anna Somers, Amber Crouch, Makayla Crouch  
21-Richard Good, Roy Morris, Celia Sexton  
22-Save Harris  
23-Trey Baldwin, McKay Luther  
24-Vickie Mitchell, Ginger Somers  
25-Amy Conner  
26-Ashley McKinney, Harper Ligon, William Clark,  
Norman Hubbard  
27-Koby Markham, Madelyn Bircher  
28-Georgianna Bircher  
29-Branson O'Hara  
30-Yuliya Skeen, Summer Bivens,  
31-Connie Sexton, Ava Mitchell,  
Cameron Ligon



## **February Birthdays**

1-Louise Dockham, Emma Bivens, Adam Crouch,  
Christina Gentile  
2-Blair Luther, Paul Mitchell, Kaitlin Morris  
3-Ben Futrell, Elwood Calhoun  
4-Sandi Johnson, Ashlyn Futrell  
5-John Alexander, Josh Smith  
6-Scotty Morris, Butch Poist, Amber Conner,  
Landon Harris  
7-Kimberly Sexton  
8-Barbara Judy, Michelle Whitlock, Matt Baldwin  
9-Emalyn Kiser, Savannah Spencer, Robyn Lofton  
10-David Skeen, Debbie Morris, Katie Clark  
11-Kathy Baum, Jacob Ellis  
12-Monnie Frank, Lib Sexton, Will Mitchell  
13-Joanna Stone, Tonya Sullins,  
Debbie McKinney, Andrew Everhart  
14-Lynn Morris, Sharon Beal, Carmen Everhart,  
Lily Alexander, Isabella Ellis, Jessa & Joey  
Caberera  
15-Roger Calhoun, Krystan Terrell, Nicholas Sofia,  
Cindy Baldwin. Allen Johnson  
16-Curt Richey, Shirley Baucom, Rebeca Loflin,  
Stephanie Lomax, Page Harrison, Caroline Clark  
17-Bob Craven, Abbey Bowman, Molly Linker,  
Roger Blake, Andrea Linthicum  
19-Joan Hammond, Paige Terrell, Carol Beck  
20-Amy Everhart, Jeremy Morris, Kirsten Watkins  
21-Lynnsay Sexton, David May, Haven Rocchi,  
Theresa Munyon, Jerrie Lomax, Landon Lester  
22-Carter Burns, Courtney Behrens, Sara Lanier  
23-Gatlin Crouch, Carrie Crouse,  
Elizabeth Russell, Tom Beanblossom  
24-Teresa Brewer, Ginger Morris, Debbie Kennedy  
25-Charles Rowell, Erin Joyce  
26-Marsha Gaither, Gary Lanier, Addie Futrell  
27-Isaiah Lawson, Emmitt Crouch  
28-Chip Futrell, Jodie Briggs, Addie Grubb



## **January Anniversaries**

2-Eric & Vickie Clark  
3-Charles & Sherry Garner  
9-Johnathon & Melissa Skeen  
13-Austin & Ann Cook  
19-Nathan & Amanda Crouch

## **February Anniversaries**

6-David & Courtney Hedrick  
13-Kim & Gay Markham  
19-Mike & Jamie Ferrell  
20-Nathan & Shawna Kinley  
25-Lawrence & Bobbie Ridge  
26—Earl & Louise Caulder

*If you have a Celebration or Praise you'd like to share with your church family, whether it is an engagement, wedding, birth announcement or special event, let us hear from you!*

*Simply email newsletter editor at  
[cumc@triad.twcbc.com](mailto:cumc@triad.twcbc.com)*



# Christmas 2017 Highlights



FB photo by Haley Morris

## CELEBRATIONS & PRAISES



### Hollis Gray Ligon

Born December 17, 2017

Daughter of Zach and Leslie Ligon

Sister: Harper Ligon

Grandparents:

Roger and Beth Ligon

Great Grandparents:

Craig and Johnnie Sigmon

Great Great Grandmother:

Edith Sigmon

## NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.





Start your year  
off on the  
right  
TRACK . . .  
*in church!*  
Stop in for a  
visit at  
Central UMC

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST**

Street Address: 276 West First Street

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 126

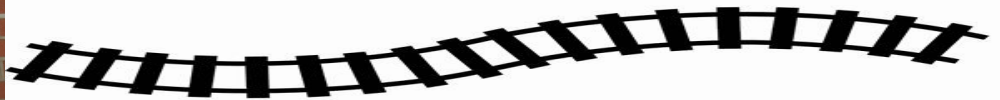
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Website: [www.centralumcdenton.com](http://www.centralumcdenton.com)



*While surfing the world wide web, be sure to visit Central's updated website at  
[www.centralumcdenton.com](http://www.centralumcdenton.com)*

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