
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADVENT
2026
Join us as we walk through one of the holiest and powerful seasons of the year.

The Invitation

Dear Church Family,
As we enter the sacred season of Advent, we are invited once again to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. During these weeks leading up to Christmas, we are reminded of the gifts God places before us: hope that steadies our spirits, peace that quiets our fears, joy that lifts our hearts, and love that binds us together.

All of these gifts find their fullest expression in the birth of Jesus Christ—the Word made flesh and God's greatest gift to the world. My prayer is that this season will draw us closer to Christ and to one another as we watch, wait, and welcome His light into our lives. In the following pages, you will discover the many ways we will celebrate and journey through Advent together as a church family. You will find important dates, special events, worship opportunities, and other ways to participate in the life of our church during this holy season. I invite you to join us as we prepare our hearts to experience anew the greatest gift ever given—Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.



Rev. Kerry Turnbow
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE
Rev. Dawn Spragg
DEACON
Rev. Rob Holifield
SENIOR PASTOR

The Invitation

SERMON SERIES: UNDERLINED
The inspiration comes from something many of us do when reading Scripture: we underline words or verses that speak to us, challenge us, or capture our attention. Each year during Advent and Christmas, we return to familiar passages of Scripture. These are stories we have heard and read countless times. We know the characters, remember the events, and can often recite some of the verses by heart. Yet, sometimes our familiarity with these stories can cause us to overlook the extraordinary truths they contain. This Advent, we are going to slow down and take a closer look. Each Sunday, we will focus on a particular word or verse from these familiar passages, exploring what God might be revealing to us. Our hope is that by looking more deeply at the Scriptures we know so well, we will discover something new about God's love, grace, and presence in our lives.

PROPHECY FULLFILLED: AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
This Advent season, we are excited to share a special devotional written by members of our church family!
A dedicated group of participants gathered for a five-week class exploring the art of devotional writing. Together, they studied Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming Messiah and discovered how God's promises were fulfilled through the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus Christ. Through Scripture study, thoughtful reflection, discussion, and prayer, each participant crafted personal devotionals to share with our congregation. The result is Prophecy Fulfilled - A Promise Foretold, a meaningful collection of 24 daily readings that connect the promises of the Old Testament with their fulfillment in the New Testament. As we journey through Advent together, may these heartfelt reflections, written by familiar faces within our church family, remind us that God's promises are never forgotten, God's timing is always purposeful, and God's greatest promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Gift of Christmas

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WITH EVERHOPE CHILDREN'S SHELTER
November 8 - December 6th
Through EverHope Children's Shelters 12 Days of Chrismtas, we can hep provide simple gifts and special treats for local children who could use a little extra love this holiday season. Make sure to choose an ornament from the EverHope tree in the Atrium or scan the QR code to help make Christmas a little brighter for a child in our community.

HOPE AT CHRISTMAS WITH SHARING AND CARING OF BENTON COUNTY
November 15 - December 3
the Hope at Christmas ensures children of Benton County experience the joy of the season - without famlies having to choose between essentials and celebration. Through partnering this program with Sharing and Caring of Benton County, families receive holiday gifts, winter essentials, and support during one of the years most financially stressful times of the year. Come pick up a tag in the Atrium

Experience the Joy of the Season

HOW TO SERIES: Make Christmas Cards
Sat, November 7th, 10am – 11:30am
Join Michelle Green and Lorna Miller to learn how to create your own beautiful cards for friends and family this Christmas. All supplies are provided and you will make three cards to get you started in being the most loved holiday greeting! Class size is limited, so register early!!

ROGERS CHRISTMAS PARADE
Fri, December 4th, 6pm – 8pm, Dowtown Rogers
Central will have a float entry sponsored by the Evangelism Committee. Join us as we share passionately during this Rogers family tradition. The parade begins at 6:30. If you want to be part of the float, please see JR Shaw for details and times.

HOW TO SERIES: Wrap Gifts like a Pro
Sat, December 5th, 9:30am – 10:30am
Just in time for Christmas, come learn from professional gift wrapper, Liz Lusk, how to create a gift so pretty folks won't want to unwrap it! All supplies are covered in the registration cost, but bring a "wrap ready" gift (or two) to practice on. Registration cost is $10.

ADVENT CELEBRATION
Sun, December 6th, 5pm – 7pm
Tonight we welcome a season of anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our evening will begin in the Chapel with a special worship service led by our Young Disciples. They will share with us the story of Christ's birth. Following the service our Youth will host a supper in the Atrium, with donations for your meal benefitting their summer mission trips. After supper our annual Advent Workshop kicks off, a time for games and crafts. Our famous Santa's Shop will also be open starting at 6pm for kids to shop for their families with a youth member (that way your gift can be a surprise). These treasures will bring a smile to your face for years to come!

CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES & BRUNCH
Thu, December 10th, 9:30am – 2pm, Atrium & NWA
Calling all Central Ladies - Invite your friends and join us for a wonderful day of fun, fellowship, brunch, and our Annual Christmas Tour of Homes! Tickets can be purchased in the Atrium on Sunday mornings between services. Childcare will be provided for a small fee with advanced notice.

CHRISTMAS RECITAL WITH BROC HITE
Sun, December 13th, 5pm – 6pm, Chapel
Tonight we celebrate an evening of festive Christmas music featuring our Chuch Pianist, Broc Hite, in his first Christmas Recital.

STUDENT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sun, December 13th, 6pm – 8pm
Students in 6th-12th grade, join us for the Student Christmas Party!

LESSONS & CAROLS PRESENTED BY THE CHANCEL CHOIR
Thu, December 17th, 6:30pm - Chapel
Fri, December 18th, 6:30pm - Chapel
The Traditional Music Ministries will be leading us in worship for this year's Christmas Special of Lessons & Carols. In addition to the Chancel Choir, we will have live instrumentation, including a String Quartet, and several guest instrumentalists. This will be a night of retracing the Christmas Story through beautiful Christmas music and the Word. What a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends and family to join us. Childcare will be provided both nights.

STUDENT MINISTREIS CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Sun, December 20th, 12pm – 1pm
You don't have to be a great singer to have a great time! Come join as we do an old fashioned Christmas caroling!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
- **CONTEMPORARY - Thu, December 24th, 2pm - Sanctuary**
  Nursery available for ages 6 weeks – 3 years.
- **TRADITIONAL - Thu, December 24th, 5pm – Sanctuary**
  Nursery available for ages 6 weeks – 3 years.
- **CHAPEL - Thu, December 24th, 11pm – Chapel**

51st ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY MEAL
Fri, December 25th, 11am – 1pm, Central Kitchen/ Atrium/ NWA Community
It's time for the annual Christmas Day Meal for the community! There will be dine-in and delivery options available for those who would like to receive a meal. There are many ways to volunteer and donate, see the form provided or go online to see how you can serve the community through this meaningful meal.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICES & HOLIDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sun, December 27th, 8:15am – 9:15am & 10:30am – 11:30am
As you join us in this first Sunday after Christmas, our church family will gather for two combined worship services. Same Service - two offerings! Each service will thoughtfully blend elements of both our traditional and contemporary styles. We are offering these combined services as a meaningful opportunity to come together in unity, worshiping as one body and celebrating the shared faith that connects us. Nursery and Children's Church will be provided at both services, so we encourage everyone to join us for this unique and unifying weekend. If your Sunday School is not meeting - There will be a combined Sunday School offered OR if you are not part of a class this will be a great option led by Rob Holifield.

Calendar

NOVEMBER

7th How to Series: Make Christmas Cards
8th 12 Days of Christmas BEGINS
15th Sharing and Caring Tree BEGINS
22nd Tour of Homes & Brunch Tickets on Sale
26th & 27th Church Office closed for Thanksgiving
29th Advent 1 Sunday Services
29th Service of Comfort and Hope

DECEMBER

3rd Sharing and Caring Gifts DUE
4th City of Rogers Christmas Parade
5th How to Series: Wrap Gifts like a Pro
6th Advent 2 Sunday Services
6th Poinsettia's Sale BEGINS
6th 12 Days of Christmas Gifts DUE
6th Advent Celebration with Student Ministries Supper Fundraiser
10th Christmas Tour of Homes & Brunch
13th Advent 3 Sunday Services
13th Christmas Recital with Broc Hite, Church Pianist
13th Student Ministry Christmas Party
17th & 18th Lessons & Carols presented by the Chancel Choir
20th Advent 4 Sunday Services
20th Poinsettia's Sale ENDS
20th Student Ministries Christmas Caroling
24th Advent 5 Sunday Services
24th Christmas Eve Services (2P Contemporary, 5P Traditional, 11P Chapel)
25th 51st Annual Community Christmas Meal
25th & 28th Church Office Closed for Christmas
27th Combined Worship - 8:15 & 10:30 (Same Service, Two offerings)
27th Holiday Sunday School -9:30a
31st New Years Eve

JANUARY

1st Church Office Closed for New Years Day
6th Epiphany