

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 24th, 2017
The 4th Sunday of Advent
10:30 am

* = Please stand as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Breath of Heaven

Amy Grant & Chris Eaton

arr. Mark Hayes

Millete Silverio & John Tiffin

Welcome &
Announcements

Pastor David Haley

*Call to Worship

Barb Smith, Leader

Into our world as into Mary's womb . . .

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the forgotten places, as into the stable . . .

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope . . .

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into our lives and longings . . .

Come, Lord Jesus.

This is the good news: Christ is coming,
and blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

Come quickly, Lord. Amen.

(Iona Community, Wild Goose Worship Group, adapted)

*Hymn 201

Angels We Have Heard on High

Opening Prayer

**God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your
servants with news of the world's redemption in
the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with
joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, as we
prepare to welcome the Christ into our midst. Amen.**

Children's Moment

Rev. Sylvia Pleas

WORD

The Gospel	Luke 1: 26 - 38 <i>Barb Smith, Reader</i>
Anthem	My Soul Glorifies the Lord <i>Words & Music by David Foley</i> <i>Katy Jacob, soloist</i> <i>The Chancel Choir</i>
*Mary's Song	Luke 1: 46b - 55
*Hymn	The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came <i>Music: Basque Melody</i> <i>Words: Sabine Baring-Gould</i>
The Message	Ave Maria <i>Pastor Haley</i>
The Prayers	
Offering	Be Born in Me (Mary) <i>Bernie Herms & Nichole Norderman</i> <i>Julianne Arvizu, soloist</i> <i>Millete Silverio, piano</i>

TABLE

*The Peace	
Great Thanksgiving	
The Giving of the Bread and the Cup (<i>seated</i>)	Away in a Manger <i>Chimes for Christ</i>
Prayer After Communion	

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn 202	People, Look East
*Dismissal & Blessing	
*Postlude	It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year <i>Eddie Pola & George Wyle</i> <i>arr. Mark Hayes</i> <i>Millette Silverio and John Tiffin</i>

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Keeping God central in hearts, minds, and lives

WELCOME!

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
- 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 receive the bread and the cup while seated.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

This morning is the 4th Sunday of **ADVENT**; this evening you are invited to one of two **CHRISTMAS EVE** services, either at 6 pm or 10 pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are poinsettias given by members of the congregation. The **2018 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR** is posted on the Bulletin Board by the kitchen in 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

Following worship, you are invited downstairs to Fellowship Hall for a time of food and conversation. Today's Fellowship will be Christmas Cookie Fun hosted by Mae Williams.

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HELEN ROSALES, 89

HELEN ROSALES, 89, a member of Central since 1959, died Monday, December 18th. Helen was an active member of Central, the United Methodist Women, the Choir, and served for many years as Central's Lay Delegate to Annual Conference. After her husband, **RALPH**, died in 2016, Helen has been living at Victory Lakes in Lindenhurst, Illinois. Our condolences to her three sons, Richard, Paul and John, and to their families. A Memorial Service for Helen will held here at Central at a later date.

CHRISTIAN INMATE PEN PALS

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). 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.

NEXT SUNDAY: EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Next Sunday, December 31st, (New Year's Eve), we will celebrate the **FEAST OF EPIPHANY; REV. SYLVIA PLEAS** will be the preacher. And - as a reminder - as the last Sunday in 2017, next Sunday will be the last day to give to Central for the 2017 calendar year.

On Sunday, January 7th, 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 hldmaster@aol.com.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

December 28 - Meriam Murykurthy
December 28 - Gerhard Mels

(To add a name to the birthday list, contact the church office at (847) 673-1311 or central_church@skokiecentralumc.org.)

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24th

**The 4th 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**

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day
(no services)

Sunday, December 31st

**Epiphany Sunday
New Year's Eve**

8:45 am - Chancel Choir
9:30 am - Sunday School &
Adult Bible Study

10:30 am - **Worship**
Rev. Dr. Sylvia Pleas,
preaching
Fellowship to follow

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.....**Barb Smith**
Choir Director/Accompanist.....**Millete Silverio**
Song Leader.....**Julianne Arvizu**
Office Staff.....**Doris Bloom & Pam Castaneda**
Nursery Attendant.....**Ellen Mittman**
Lay Leader.....**Cynthia Barron**
Fellowship.....**Christmas Cookies**
Ministers**The People of the Congregation**

MEMORIAL WINDOW

Message: Christ Lives Today!

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