

# Centenary United Methodist Church

*The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017*

**8:30 AM**

*Experience Christ's love - Grow in Christ's love—Share Christ's love*

## GATHERING OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Welcome and Announcements

*Please register your attendance in the pew pads (found at the end of the pew) and pass it to your neighbor. When it reaches the end of the pew, pass it back and learn the names those sitting near you!*

Prelude

*Away In A Manger*

\*Introit # 732

*Come We That Love The Lord (v. 1)*

\*Greeting

(from Zechariah 2:10-11)

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

**Shout, O daughter Jerusalem!**

For behold, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord;

**You will be my people, and I will be your God!**

\*Opening Prayer

**O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\*Hymn # 206

*I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light*

Lighting the Third Advent Candle-Isaiah 35:10

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.*

*May the joyful promise of your presence, O God,*

*make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.*

*O Come, O come, Emmanuel.*

Response # 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (refrain)

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## PROCLAIMING AND RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds to the power of the scriptures; silence in us any voice but your own, and grant us grace to embrace and to do what you say to us today; through Jesus Christ your Living Word we pray. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson      Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

\*The Gloria Patri # 71

\*Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

## This Week at Centenary

### Sunday

8:30 AM Worship—Chapel  
8:50 AM Xperience Worship-Sanctuary  
10:00 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary  
3:00 PM Cantata for the community

### Monday

10:00 AM GriefShare  
12:00 PM GriefShare lunch  
6:15 PM Pack 13

### Tuesday

4:15 PM Men's Ensemble  
7:00 PM NAMI Support Group

### Wednesday

6:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast @  
Country Biscuit  
12:00 PM Wednesday Worship  
4:30 PM Children's Choir  
6:00 PM Brass Ensemble  
6:00 PM Chapel Choir  
7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir  
7:00 PM Praise Team  
7:00 PM Troop 13  
8:00 PM CentYouth Lock-in

### Thursday

11:30 AM PrimeTimers lunch  
5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 4813  
5:45 PM Girl Scouts

### Friday

7:00 PM Living Nativity

### Saturday

7:00 PM Living Nativity

**Welcome New Friends!** We are glad we can worship God together this morning. As we can be helpful, we look forward to doing so. When you are ready to make Centenary your new church home, please speak with either of our ministers or indicate your desire on the pew registration pad.

✝ Invite a friend or neighbor to come to worship with you.

✝ Take a bulletin to someone who you noticed was not in church this week and let them know they were missed.



Please remember to turn off your cell phone during worship.

## Join us for Wednesday Worship Wednesday-12:00 PM—Chapel

Centenary's 11:00 worship service is broadcast each Sunday on radio station WNBB, 97.9 FM. Please worship with us on the radio if



*Centenary is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*



Telephone (252) 637-4181  
P.O. Box 1388 (309 New Street)  
New Bern, NC 28563-1388

FAX: (252) 637-5602

Office hours:

8:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM (Friday)

Rev. Susan Pate Greenwood, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Rick Moser, Associate Pastor  
Rev. David Brosnan, Pastor of Visitation  
Rev. Bill Sherman, Pastor Emeritus  
Paul Saik, Director of Music Ministries  
Amanda Kennedy, Asst. to Director of Music Ministries  
Patrick Riddick, Music Associate-8:50  
Dana Riddick, Children's Ministries

Web site: [centenarychurch.com](http://centenarychurch.com)  
E-mail: [centenaryumc@centenarychurch.com](mailto:centenaryumc@centenarychurch.com)

## Next Week's Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-10

## Attendance Last Week

Sunday School	103
8:30 Worship	65
8:50 Worship	86
11:00 Worship	203

## Giving Report

2017 Budget	\$827,646
Year to date giving	\$773,914
Balance needed	\$ 53,732

Sermon *Unrecognized*  
The Rev. Susan Pate Greenwood

\*Hymn # 247 *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

\*Affirmation of Faith # 883  
*A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada*

The Passing of the Peace  
Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People: And also with you!**

Hymn Sing  
**THANKSGIVING**

Intercessory Requests and Thanksgivings

Call to Prayer # 221 *In The Bleak Midwinter* (v. 4)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory *Come, Watch With Us This Christmas Night* Scott  
Chapel Choir

*Come, watch with us this Christmas night; our hearts must travel far to darkened hills and heavens bright with star on shining star; to where in shadowy silence sleep the fields of Bethlehem, as shepherds wake their watch to keep and we will watch with them. Who would not join the angel songs that tell the Savior's birth? The Lord for whom creation longs has come at last to earth. The fullness of the Father's love is ours at Bethlehem, while angels throng the skies above and we will sing with them. Who would not journey far to share the wisdom of the wise, and gaze with them in wonder where the world's Redeemer lies? The Lord of all the Lords that are is born at Bethlehem, and kings shall kneel beneath his star and we will bow with them. Lift every heart the hymn of praise that all creation sings; the angel host its homage pays, the shepherds and the kings. For earth and sky with one accord, O child of Bethlehem, are come to worship Christ the Lord and we will come, and we will come, and we will come with them, we will come with them.*

\*Presentation of the Offerings with the Doxology # 94

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

### **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn # 240 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

\*Benediction  
Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good; render to no one, evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit; and may the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain among you; now and forever. **Amen.**

\*Sending Forth # 204 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

\*Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High*

### **Assisting in Worship This Morning**

**Altar Guild:** Maryanne Brinson, Melissa Trask, Sheila Weibert, Beth Rankar, Julie Brinson

**Greeters:** Jim & Janet Wilson

**Ushers:** Phil Minton, Bob Whitley

**Lay Reader:** Ron Bonina

### **Prayer Concerns**

<b>Centenary Family</b>	Bob Maple	Vinnie Cusick	Mike Roed
Peggy Armstrong	Harold Marshall	Stuart Duke	Sherry Springer
Alex Burnette	Chuck Ontiveros	Mike Edwards	Judy Szychowski
Phyllis Burton	Ann Scott	Bobby Faulkner	Nancy Thompson
Ted Burton	Sam Stenger	Ronnie Gilliam	Patti Urick
George Davis	Laird Stubbings	Morgan Hartman	Stephanie Williams
Hadylene Davis	Billie Swain	Stephanie Henderson	Allison Wolfer
Ann Forshey	Karla Thompson	Deanna Jarvis	<b>Military</b>
Jim Gronosky	Jennifer Wright	Edella Johnson	John Christie, Jr.
Sue Harrell	<b>Centenary Friends</b>	David Leary	Gray Harris
Dianne Hawkins	Davey Altman	Patricia Loffredo	Kim Ontiveros
Bea Honnet	Jennifer Anderson	Bruce McLamb	
Dot Lee Jernigan	Guy Buckman	Sarah Miller	
Edwina Long	Sean Bunn	Dylan Quick	
		George Rodriguez	

### **Advent Greenery**

The wreath above the altar is given to the glory of God and in memory of Tom Ragland & Ryan Ragland by Kay Ragland.

The garlands that decorate the outside of the church are given to the glory of God and in honor of Centenary's pastors and staff by Janet & Dallas Sutton.

The wreaths that decorate the doors of the Chapel are given to the glory of God and in appreciation and honor of the Centenary staff by Larry and Treacy Cumbo.

The wreaths that decorate the doors of the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and  
in memory of Bob Armstrong by his family  
in memory of Alex & Rose Linko by Jerry & Mary Carpenter  
in memory of their parents by P.D. & Pam Scott  
in honor of Emerson Grace Faulkenberry and Marshall Reade Caudle  
by Marshall Faulkenberry

The wreaths that decorate the Education Building doors are given to the glory of God and in memory of their parents by Ted & Phyllis Burton.

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jacqueline Fritsch, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on Wednesday, December 20, by her children. Jacqueline joined Centenary Church in 2002 and enjoys living her independent life in her beloved community of New Bern. Congratulations to her on achieving this impressive milestone. Please join us, her children, Susanne Brown, Carol Hodges, Diane Pullis and Carl Fritsch, in wishing her a very "Happy Birthday!"*

**Stephen Ministry**-a new Stephen Minister Training Class will begin in early January 2018. If you have an interest in becoming a Stephen Minister or would like to discuss this opportunity, please see one of the Stephen Ministers that will meet you at the altar following each Sunday worship service. We would love to have folks join us in this wonderful ministry outreach.

**Stewardship & Electronic Giving**...If you currently make contributions to the church online, or have set up recurring transactions, your Estimate of Giving card is still needed to assist the Finance Committee in planning for the coming year.

**Designated Music Fund**-this fund was established, more than a decade ago, to defray Music Ministry costs not covered by the operating budget, such as the cost of musicians and orchestra at Christmas and Easter. Anyone wanting to contribute to this special fund is invited to make donations. Mark checks "Music Designated Fund".

**Staff Love Offering**-Every year at Christmas time the congregation has the opportunity to give a love offering to our church staff, a total of fifteen people. You may mail your offering or leave it at the church office. You may also place it in the offering plate during the regular worship services. Make your check payable to the church and designate it for the "Christmas Love Offering". Return your gift no later than Monday, December 18. Thank you for your generous gift to this Christmas Love Offering.

Larry Lovvorn, Chair  
Staff Parish Relations Committee

**Nativity Helpers are needed**-On December 22, 23 & 24, Centenary will present the Living Nativity. Volunteers are needed. Hours are 7:00 til 8:00. There are three 20 minute shifts each night. Please consider volunteering for 1 shift. This is a gift that Centenary gives the community each year and is a great experience for all who participate. Please contact Katie Saik to sign up. 208-850-9573

**Come to Primetimers** on December 21 to get in the Christmas Spirit. Smithfield chicken is the entree and Glenda and Mary Ann are the hostesses. Please bring a salad, side or dessert to accompany the chicken. Eloise Collins, pianist extraordinaire, will lead us in the singing of Christmas Carols. Please fill out the reservation form in the bulletin or call the church office so we know how much chicken to order.

**2017 Gifts that Help Children!** Our ZOE alternative gift giving fund raiser is ready! Look for the ZOE Christmas trees with book marks ranging from \$10 to \$500. Select your book mark(s) and book mark holder(s). Place a check in the offering plate, annotated "ZOE" or drop it by the church office. All proceeds support our newest Rwandan Working Group-- Twizerane Group, Muhambo, Rwanda made up of 31 households and a total of 101 children! In just three short years, these orphans become: secure, healthy, connected and prepared for life! Since beginning our ZOE partnership in 2012, CUMC has supported and graduated 133 households and 306 children. Simply amazing! Praise God! Thank you for helping change so many lives of vulnerable African children.

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*Hearing assistance devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.*