

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our children's department would like to welcome your children to our nursery, Children's Sunday school, and Children's church. Our nursery is available during Sunday school, 9 AM service and the 11 AM service. Our nursery ages range from newborn to 3 years of age. Our Children's department is for children ages 4 to grade 5. Our acolytes begin training in the grade 3. Under the direction of Candy Lokey, the children are taught to light up our 11 AM worship service by lighting our altar candles and they learn how to help during Communion. Children's Sunday School starts at 9:45 AM and ends around 10:50 AM. During the 11 AM service the children will be called to the front and will be sent to Children's Church with their leaders. Please contact Candy Lokey at 229-392-4079 for any questions or a tour of our Children's department. PLEASE NOTE: Please always remember to social distance and wear a mask. Thank you.

- **September 5** - Children's Sunday School at 10 AM. Children's church will begin after our children's blessing during the 11 AM service. Ushers will acolyte this Sunday.
 - **September 12** - Children's Sunday School at 10 AM. Children's church will begin after our children's blessing during the 11 AM service. The acolyte will be Gregory Calhoun.
 - **September 15** - PBandJaM from 6 PM to 7 PM upstairs in Children's Department. Older children will go to choir on this day.
 - **September 19** - Children's Sunday School at 10 AM. Children's church will begin after our children's blessing during the 11 AM service. The acolyte will be Banks Parrish.
 - **September 22** - PBandJaM from 6 PM to 7 PM upstairs in Children's Department. Younger children will go to choir on this day.
 - **September 26** - Children's Sunday School at 10 AM. Children's church will begin after our children's blessing during the 11 AM service. The acolyte will be Madi Shoultz.
 - **September 29** - PBandJaM from 6 PM to 7 PM upstairs in Children's Department. Older children will go to choir on this day.
- Please remember our blessing box located in front of the church. Please make sure to black out the barcodes on your items. Thank you!
Please be aware: These dates are tentative. Stay safe and God Bless.
Please always practice social distancing. Thanks everyone for all your patience and understanding. Please feel free to call, text or email me with any concerns.

Candy

Blessing Box

The Blessing Box and the blessings you put in it share the love and graciousness of Christ to those who might not otherwise be reached. If you leave non-perishables in the box, please mark out the barcode with a permanent marker. This will help us feed those who need to be fed and allow us to stretch out the love of God to those who need His blessings most.

- ♫ **Children:** Children's handbells will continue during the month of September. We will meet on Tuesdays from 4:30 – 5:00 PM in the handbell room. Please contact Karla for further information. Looking ahead: Children's Choirs will resume on Wednesday, September 15 from 6 – 7:00 PM. This will coordinate with P, B and JAM time each week.
- ♫ **Youth:** Youth handbells will meet during the month of September on Mondays from 5:30 – 6:00 PM and on Thursdays from 5:00 – 5:30 PM in the handbell room. Please contact Karla for further information.
- ♫ **Handbells:** What a joy it has been to meet again with the handbell choir! Thank you for your wonderful music on August 29. We will play again for the 11AM service on September 26. Rehearsals will be held each week on Wednesdays from 5 - 6 PM in the handbell room except for September 22 which will be held in the sanctuary.
- ♫ **Celebration Choir:** A choir lunch and clinic will be held on Sunday, September 26 immediately following the 11AM worship service. The purpose of this clinic is to rehearse our Christmas music for the December 12 program. Rehearsals will be held as usual each week from 7 – 7:30PM in the choir room. Dates for choir practices are: September 8, 15, 22 and 29. There is no choir rehearsal on September 1 and the choir will not be leading worship for the 11AM service on September 5.
- ♫ **Praise team:** Praise team will play for the services on September 12 and 19 as well as October 3. Rehearsals will be held at 9:30 each week in the sanctuary. We will also have a rehearsal on September 12 from 1:15 – 2:15 in the sanctuary.



CENTRAL

United Methodist Church

Where Christ is the Center of Our Faith

Church Office and 24 Hour Voice Mail 229-423-9381

Staff Directory

Chris Ramsey, Senior Pastor • 322-6262	B.J. Funk, Assoc. Pastor • 848-1081
Susan Hughes, Adult Ministries • 425-3068	Karla Foster, Music Ministries • 425-2106
Mary Claire Giddens, Youth Ministries • 425-4451	Candy Lokey, Children Ministries • 392-4079
Kindall Strahan, Church Secretary • 457-4717	

Website: www.centralumc.net
Email: centralumc01@windstream.net
201 West Central Avenue • P.O. Box 428

Mediacom Cable Channels:
81 (Analog) & 82.17 (HD)

September, 2021 NO. 21

Our Prayer Concerns

For immediate prayer needs contact our Prayer Chain at 425-1960 (Judy Hunter-Hill).

September Prayer Team: Don Woeltjen, Barbara Woeltjen and Anita Stafford.

There are 3 ways to keep supporting your church and its ministries financially. You can give **online** (www.centralumc.net and complete a **secure donation through PayPal**), by **mail** (PO Box 428, Fitzgerald GA 31750), or by **putting them in the plates** at the sanctuary entrance doors when you come to worship. Thank you for helping our ministries share the love and hope of Christ with others. Thank you for being a vital part of our ministries!

Central United Methodist Church
 P.O. Box 428
 Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750
 Return Service Requested

Presorted Standard
 Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Fitzgerald, GA
 Permit No. 46



Sunday, September 5	
9:00 AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:45 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Heaven Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
11:00 AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Monday, September 6 – LABOR DAY- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
Tuesday, September 7	
4:30 PM	Kid's Handbells (Handbell Room)
Wednesday, September 8	
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)
6:00 PM	Evangelism Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 PM	Celebration Choir (Choir Room)
Thursday, September 9	
5:00 PM	Youth Handbells (Handbell Room)
Friday, September 10– Saturday, September 11 – No Church Activities	
Sunday, September 12- LAITY SUNDAY	
9:00 AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:30 AM	Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9:45 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Heaven Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
11:00 AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
1:15 PM	Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM	Youth at Giddens' Home
Monday, September 13	
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship Planning Meeting (Church Staff)
4:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Parlor)
5:30 PM	Youth Handbells (Handbell Room)
Tuesday, September 14	
4:30 PM	Kid's Handbells (Handbell Room)
Wednesday, September 15	
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)
6:00 PM	PB&JAM/Children's Choir(BAC)
7:00 PM	Celebration Choir (Choir Room)
Thursday, September 16	
5:00 PM	Youth Handbells (Handbell Room)
Friday, September 17– Saturday, September 18 – No Church Activities	
Sunday, September 19	
9:00 AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:30 AM	Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9:45 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Heaven Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
11:00 AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM	Youth at Calhoun's Home
Monday, September 20	
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship Planning Meeting (Church Staff)
1:00 PM	Newsletter Items Due
4:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Parlor)
5:30 PM	Youth Handbells (Handbell Room)
Tuesday, September 21	
4:30 PM	Kid's Handbells (Handbell Room)
Wednesday, September 22	
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)
6:00 PM	PB&JAM/Children's Choir(BAC)
7:00 PM	Celebration Choir (Choir Room)
Thursday, September 23	
5:00 PM	Youth Handbells (Handbell Room)
Friday, September 24- Saturday, September 25- No Church Activities	
Sunday, September 26	
9:00 AM	Worship Service (Chapel)
9:45 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Heaven Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
11:00 AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:00 PM	Choir Clinic (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 PM	Youth Fall Craft at Church
Monday, September 27	
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship Planning Meeting (Church Staff)
4:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Parlor)
5:30 PM	Youth Handbells (Handbell Room)
Tuesday, September 28	
4:30 PM	Kid's Handbells (Handbell Room)
Wednesday, September 29	
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)
6:00 PM	PB&JAM/Children's Choir(BAC)
7:00 PM	Celebration Choir (Choir Room)
Thursday, September 30	
12:00 PM	R.E.V.I.V.E. (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 PM	Youth Handbells (Handbell Room)
Friday, October 1- Saturday, October 2 - No Church Activities	



August Worship Service Helpers

SEPTEMBER USHERS: Captain, Mike Burke; Tim McDonald, Ros Nash, Thomas Holt, Brian Braddy, Charlie Strahan and Art Anderson.

WORSHIP TECHNICIANS: David Evans, Dwain Smith, Tony Moncus and Jim Owens.

AV ASSISTANTS: Ward Burke, Thomas Holt, Cora Lee Evans, Ashley Braddy and Riley Evans.

ACOLYTES: Ushers, Gregory Calhoun, Banks Parrish and Madi Shoultz.

9 AM MUSIC AND WORSHIP: Brian Morris

9 AM MUSIC & WORSHIP: Brian Morris and Karen Snowden.

Worship services will be broadcast on Mediacom Channel 81 [Analog], Mediacom Channel 82.17 [HD], our YouTube Channel, Facebook Live, and via a link on our Facebook page.

Worship Notes & Helpers the week of September 5

Sermon: Rev. Chris Ramsey

Prelude/Postlude: Nan Lee

Children's Sermon: Leah Foster

Call to Worship: Elizabeth

Bryant-Strahan, Aubree Strahan, Elyssa Strahan

Worship Music: Mary Claire Giddens

Special Music: Nan Lee

Acolyte: Ushers

Worship Notes & Helpers the week of September 12

Sermon: Rev. Chris Ramsey

Prelude/Postlude: Donna Owens

Children's Sermon: Kindall Strahan

Call to Worship: CUMC Praise Team

Worship Music: CUMC Praise Team

Special Music: Celebration Choir

Acolyte: Gregory Calhoun

Worship Notes & Helpers the week of September 19

Sermon: Rev. Chris Ramsey

Prelude/Postlude: Betty Dyess

Children's Sermon: Mary Claire Giddens

Call to Worship: Kid's Handbells

Worship Music: CUMC Praise Team

Special Music: Celebration Choir

Acolyte: Banks Parrish

Worship Notes & Helpers the week of September 26

Sermon: Rev. B.J. Funk

Prelude/Postlude: Jay Beverly

Children's Sermon: Rev. B.J. Funk

Call to Worship: J.J. Pryor Handbell Choir

Worship Music: J.J. Pryor Handbell Choir

Special Music: Celebration Choir

Acolyte: Madi Shoultz

CUMC COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Due to the sharp increase of positive COVID19 cases in the Fitzgerald and Ocilla areas, to protect those we love to the best of our ability, the following recommendations will be effective until further notice. We will reevaluate our conditions as we move forward through this stage of the pandemic. Please remember that this temporary inconvenience is a show of love for those of us who are most vulnerable.

1. Masks are highly recommended upon entering the Sanctuary, Sunday School rooms, or any other location where people are congregating. (A mask is not required for any who are working alone, such as in an office, unless another person enters the room.)

a. The pastors will wear masks except during the times when they are speaking.

b. The choir will wear masks except during the times they are leading worship with their gifts of music.

c. We will continue to pray the Lord's Prayer together while wearing masks.

2. Hand sanitizer will be placed at the major entrances to the buildings and its use encouraged.

3. Every other pew will be taped off and left vacant during worship.

4. The sanctuary will be sanitized after each worship service.

5. The 9:00 AM service will temporarily move from the Chapel to the Sanctuary.

6. The congregation will remain in place during the Ritual of Fellowship and is encouraged to wave as a greeting.

7. Congregational singing will be limited and alternatives such as solos will be used in place of congregational hymns to reduce exposure. The doxology will be observed by the congregation but played without singing.

8. The benediction will be given by the pastors from the front of the Sanctuary; the congregation will exit the building in an orderly manner without stopping to greet each other until outside where ample air movement can provide an additional measure of safety.

9. The Wednesday night fellowship meal and Bible Study will be scheduled to begin in October rather than September.

WE CAN GET THERE FROM HERE

Do you remember when going for a ride in the family car was a form of entertainment? Before we had internet streamed movies, cable television, social media, gaming solutions, and \$3.00 per gallon gasoline, "going for a ride" made for some inexpensive quality family time. As I travel around Ben Hill County, I am blessed to enjoy the scenery along some of its county-maintained roads. This has given me the opportunity to take in the beauty of God's creation in a somewhat more pristine way than that of our interstate system of highways. I have found, while traveling to some of our more rural areas, to get "there", we must first go somewhere else, and then from that place, we can get to where we need to be. In many cases the old saying, "You just can't get there from here," is really true.



I have found this to be the case in many other ways as well. How many times have we proverbially beat our heads against a wall, getting nowhere fast, while unbeknownst to us at the time, a doorway was just around the corner. Sometimes it's necessary to step back and evaluate the path we are taking, because the way we are going just won't get us to where we need to be. The first step to getting where we need to go is understanding where God wishes for us to be; even if it means we enter new or uncharted territories.

When the Lord asks us to leave our comfort zones, we most often become anxious. Sometimes we may question God's wisdom or motives by asking, "Why me?" Instead of asking, "Why", maybe we should be asking, "Why not?" The Lord often asks us to leave our comfort zones to serve him. This not only gets His work done, but it also causes us, as His children, to rely more on Him and less our abilities. That's a Win-Win situation! We must never forget that no matter where God may ask us to go, He goes with us. Additionally, we generally find signs that tell us that He's already been there waiting on us. We have never really been alone; Christ has been with us, and remains with us, the whole time.

In Psalm 139 we read: *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast.*

Our church will be conducting our yearly Charge Conference on October 20, 2021. In preparation for the Charge Conference, we will be considering and recruiting our church's leadership for 2022. Through this process God may ask you to use your spiritual gifts to lead and grow His kingdom through Central United Methodist Church. We can take comfort in knowing that whatever God asks of us, great or small, that it is very necessary for the completion of his master plan that we all become and make disciples for Him. This is when we understand more fully that while we are serving Him, we are on a ride with Him, as He gives us guidance and wisdom. If you are asked to serve in a leadership role, please consider closely where God may be taking you. He may be using this role to lead you just where you want to be, closer to Him. **With God's help we can get there from here.**

Blessings, Bro. Chris



Save the Date! Our Trunk or Treat will be Wednesday, October 27 from 6-7 PM. If you would like to decorate a trunk, please contact Candy Lokey.

BJ is leading a Bible study on "Heaven" in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 9:45 AM. This series will be every Sunday and will go through October 3rd. If you are not a member of a Sunday school class, you are welcome to join us.



Serving God By Serving Others

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are doing well! First, I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you for the surprise baby shower. Chance and I are so humbled by your generosity. Thank you so much!

Thanks also for being patient with me the past few weeks as we've made Covid-based adjustments. I appreciate your willingness to adapt our activities so we can try to keep everyone safe.

During the month of September, we will continue to follow what the schools do. Since this information is changing on a weekly basis, you will need to make sure you are following us on Remind (text @mgidde to 81010). Currently, we are meeting virtually on Wednesdays, but this is subject to change.

As for Sunday evenings, we will continue to meet outdoors from 5:00 - 6:00 each week. See the September Sunday schedule below:

- September 5: No youth (Labor Day)
- September 12: Outdoor game/activity at Chance and Mary Claire's
- September 19: Fishing and cornhole at the Calhouns' house (bring a fishing pole if you have one)
- September 26: Fall craft at the church (under the breezeway or in the social hall/TBD)

Sunday school still meets each Sunday morning at 10:00 in the youth room. We social distance, and masks are also highly encouraged.

Thanks again for understanding. Stay well, and I look forward to an awesome September!

Love you all, **Mary Claire**



Like us on: facebook

Check out our website at www.centralumc.net.

Like us on Facebook at

Central United Methodist Church Fitzgerald GA.



WEB SITE!

- + We had a great attendance for the usher training/lunch on August 15. Pastor Chris led a short training after lunch just to update them with reminders of their duties and highlighted some very important reasons why their service is so important for our church.



Adult Ministries

- + Our adult ministries planning team met on August 15 to talk about possible changes that might need to be made to keep our folks safe during adult ministries events. One thing that was decided is for everyone to wear masks while traveling on the church van. We also talked about other ideas for possible upcoming events, keeping in mind the "Covid Surge".
- + On August 19, we had a good group go to Daphne's Lodge and everyone who rode the van wore a mask. We had a great time fellowshiping together!
- + It is so important that we provide as many opportunities as possible for our church family to grow in their faith, so one of the ideas I mentioned to our Adult Ministries Planning Team was to have a quarterly lunch featuring one of our pastors leading us in a Bible lesson. Depending on Covid, we will plan to meet for the first lunch/lesson on September 30 at 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, with Pastor Chris Ramsey kicking off our Bible lesson. We are calling this lunch and time of getting into the Word, "R.E.V.I.V.E!" R- Refresh, E-Elevate, V-Vision, I-Inspiration, V-Value, E-Encouragement. The menu will be printed in the bulletin a couple of weeks in advance. I will need a reservation from everyone by September 27.
- + A trip to the North Georgia Mountains is on the calendar for October 15-17 for our Adult Ministries department. We are carefully watching the numbers with Covid and, hopefully, we will be able to keep this trip on our calendar. Let me know if you are interested in signing up!

+

Susan