



Our Prayer Concerns

For immediate prayer needs contact our Prayer Chain at 425-1960 (Judy Hunter-Hill).
April Prayer Team: Susan Hughes, Judy Hobby, Lynn Smith, Beth Bryant and Karla Foster.

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, 9:00 AM service and the 11:00 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 grade 3. Under the direction of Candy Lokey, the children are taught to light up our 11:00 AM worship service by lighting our altar candles and how to help during Communion. Children's Sunday School starts at 9:45 AM and ends around 10:50 AM. During the 11:00 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.

- **April 11:** Children's Sunday School at 10:00 AM in the Brown Activity Room (subject to change). Children's Church will begin after our Children's Blessing during the 11:00 AM service. Acolyte will be Banks Parrish.
- **April 14:** P,B and Jam in Brown Room at 6:00 PM.
- **April 18:** Children's Sunday School at 10:00 AM in the Brown Activity Room (subject to change). Children's Church will begin after our Children's Blessing during the 11:00 AM service. Acolyte will be Laura Lee Calhoun.
- **April 21:** P,B and Jam in Brown Room at 6:00 PM.

Shocco Springs is a Christian Student Life Camp located in Talladega, Alabama. Camp dates are June 29-July 2. If you would like to sponsor a Camper, please contact Candy Lokey. The fees are \$329 per camper with an extra \$80 fee for a spirit pack.

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. Masks are mandatory for everyone. 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 Lokey, 229-392-4079, candylokey@icloud.com *Candy*

PRAYING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Each week we are praying for those in ministry in other areas of the South Central District. Our upcoming prayer focus includes:
† **Week of April 11:** Minister Andy Capshaw and the members of Campground UMC.
† **Week of April 18:** Minister James Hall and the members of the Chula/Harding Charge.



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.

CENTRAL

United Methodist Church

Where Christ is the Center of Our Faith

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

Staff Directory

| | |
|--|---|
| Rich Wright, Senior Pastor • 706-392-0433 | 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 |

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|--|--------------------------|
| Website: www.centralumc.net | Mediacom Cable Channels: |
| Email: centralumc01@windstream.net | 81 (Analog) & 82.17 (HD) |
| 201 West Central Avenue • P.O. Box 428 | |

April 11 & April 18, 2021 NO. 13

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!



Check out our **NEW & IMPROVED** website at **www.centralumc.net**.
Like us on Facebook at **Central United Methodist Church Fitzgerald GA.**




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Congratulations to Shelbi Pelham and Kerick Boone on the birth of their son, Jaxon Cade Boone, born on March 16, 2021. Jaxon is the grandson of Melissa Boggus and Ollie McCloud.



A new men's Bible study on Jonah will continue Tuesday, April 20 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Learn that you can't outrun God's grace!



- SUNDAY, APRIL 11**
9:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
1:00 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary)
- MONDAY, APRIL 12**
9:00 AM Prayer Walk (Wheeler Park)
4:00 PM Staff Meeting (Parlor)
- TUESDAY, APRIL 13**
8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Ronnie's)
9:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Chapel)
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**
5:00 PM Handbells (Sanctuary)
5:30 PM Youth W.O.W
6:00 PM PB&JAM/Children's Choir (Brown Room)
6:00 PM Minor Prophets Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 PM Youth Sunday Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- THURSDAY, APRIL 15 - FRIDAY, APRIL 16**
No Church Activities
- SATURDAY, APRIL 17**
9:00 AM Costa Rica Missions Golf Tournament (Ocilla Golf Course)
- SUNDAY, APRIL 18**
9:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:30 AM Youth Sunday Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:00 PM Youth Lunch (Vans)
12:00 PM Youth Parent Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
1:00 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Admin Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- MONDAY, APRIL 19**
9:00 AM Prayer Walk (Wheeler Park)
10:00 AM Newsletter Items Due
- TUESDAY, APRIL 20**
8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Ronnie's)
9:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Chapel)
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**
5:00 PM Handbells (Sanctuary)
5:30 PM Youth W.O.W
6:00 PM PB&JAM/Children's Choir (Brown Room)
6:00 PM Minor Prophets Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 PM Choir Cookout (Mike & Karla Foster's Home)
- THURSDAY, APRIL 22**
10:00 AM Adult Min. Senior Blueberry Picking
- FRIDAY, APRIL 23**
9:00 AM Food Box Distribution (FBC)



April Worship Service Helpers

Worship Team

APRIL USHERS: Team Captain, Lawson Owens; Mike Smith, Todd Damato, Sikes McCord, Garrett McCord and Gill Braddy.

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

A/V ASSISTANTS: Ward Burke, Haley Braddy and Riley Evans.

ACOLYTES: Banks Parrish and Laura Lee Calhoun.

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 April 11

Sermon: "A Relationship of Fellowship" – 1 Corinthians 1:9

Speaker: Rev. B.J. Funk

Prelude/Postlude: 9:00 AM: Brian Morris, 11:00 AM: Jaime Ray

Call to Worship: JJ Pryor Handbell Choir

Special Music: 9:00 AM: Brian Morris, 11:00 AM: JJ Pryor Handbell Choir

Acolyte: Banks Parrish

Worship Notes & Helpers the week of April 18

Sermon: 9:00 AM : "I Am Just A Youth" – Jeremiah 1:4-10

10:00 AM: Youth Sunday

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Rich Wright

Prelude/Postlude: 9:00 AM: Brian Morris, 11:00 AM: Dewey Tucker

Call to Worship: CUMC Youth

Special Music: 9:00 AM: Brian Morris, 11:00 AM: CUMC Youth

Acolyte: Laura Lee Calhoun

The Dying Wheat Grain

At each committal, I share John 12:24 where Jesus says, "Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." At one such committal, I had someone ask me about this wheat. I want to share it with you in this article.

After harvested, wheat grain is stored in a dry storage bin or silo. They can do nothing but sit there. While on the stalk, the grain grows but it cannot produce anything. It is only when that grain is placed into the warm soil to die unto itself that it is able to produce a harvest. In fact that one grain can produce thousands of other wheat grains.

The same is spiritually true with people. This is the scene of the greatest struggle in our lives. It's not against other people, but who is Lord of our lives. If we remain a single grain, then the lord of our lives turns out to be the things of the world. As a single grain, we can never produce anything of real substance. Unfortunately, many remain a single grain unto themselves and can never produce anything that is much larger than themselves.

But when we die to ourselves and allow Jesus to be the Lord of our lives, then we are living for something larger than ourselves. It is in this way that we are able to produce a large harvest. It is a harvest that we may never comprehend or understand, but it becomes our legacies when we go home to be with God. It is the people left behind that see the large harvest that our lives produced while we were following God in this earthly existence.

Stop being a single grain and allow your worldly self to die spiritually so that you can begin to be nurtured by the Holy Spirit as your life begins to produce a godly harvest!

Your Servant In Christ, *Pastor Rich*



COSTA RICA MISSION TEAM GOLF TOURNAMENT

Come register for the Costa Rica Mission Golf Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, April 17 at the Ocilla Country Club. This 18 hole three-person scramble has prizes ranging from \$100 to \$600 for first through third place, as well as prizes for longest drive and closest pin. Registration is \$80 per person or \$240 per team. Contact Chris Calhoun at (229) 425-6615 to sign up, or call the church office for more information.



Serving God By Serving Others

Hi everyone,

I hope you had a great spring break and Easter! Now that spring break is over, it's time to get back into our groove!

We will meet every Wednesday this month from 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM. If you do not want to eat dinner, you can wait and show up at 6:00 PM. We also resumed Sunday school on Easter Sunday, and we will be watching the series The Chosen the next several weeks. This is an awesome series that chronicles stories from the Gospel. Since the episodes are lengthy, we will start as close to 10:00 AM as possible!

Confirmands, please disregard your April 14 confirmation meeting; April 7 is your last Wednesday meeting! On April 11, confirmands need to meet at the van right after church. We will head to the Fitzgerald Pillars (formerly known as ECO/The Elks Lodge) for a mini confirmation retreat! Feel free to bring a change of clothes. You should also bring a face covering. Lunch will be served! All other youth will meet at The Pillars from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM for a movie night! Please bring a bean bag, blanket, etc. for your seat. That address is 105 East Roanoke Dr. Fitzgerald, Georgia.

April 18 is YOUTH SUNDAY! We will have a slightly scaled backed version this year to avoid large group singing and close contact, but it will still be awesome because YOU are awesome! We will be talking about the theme of Youth Sunday over the next couple of Wednesdays, so please be sure to be present. We are also having very few practices this year, so please plan to be present on April 14 after youth from 7:00 PM until 7:45 PM. We will not have Sunday school April 18, and you will need to arrive at 9:30 AM. Breakfast will be served! Please check Remind for more details.

April 25 is exciting because it is Confirmation Sunday AND our first time joining with another youth group, Arbor, in a long time! Parents of confirmands, I need to know how many family members will be at the Confirmation Sunday lunch, and I need to know your child's full name. Please text or email this information to me ASAP! As for youth that evening, we will meet at the field in front of the FHSCCA field house from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. We will play kickball, have dinner, and hear a message. Your parents can pick you up from the field house at 7:00 PM.

Remember to follow us on Instagram @centralfitzyouth, and you can stay up to date on the latest information by joining our Remind group! Text @mgidde to 81010 to join.

Love you all, *Mary Claire*



Shocco Springs Student Life Camp

Children grades 3-6 are invited to join CUMC on a trip to Shocco Springs Student Life Camp on June 29-July 2. The price to go is \$329 per person, including chaperones (must have an updated Safe Sanctuaries Certificate), which is due in full by May 5. Please contact Candy Lokey or call the church office for more information.

If you would like to sponsor a child to go to Shocco Springs, please contact Candy Lokey at (229) 392-4079 or email at candylokey@icloud.com

Children, youth, moms, dads, adults of all ages, mark your calendars for our church cookout on May 1st!

We'll begin the fun at 4:00 PM that day and it will be located off the church campus at Jimmy & Betty Lynn Johnson's farm. (Map and directions will be provided soon). We're going to grill hamburgers and hotdogs with baked beans, coleslaw, fruit, homemade ice cream, and other delicious treats!

Bring your fishing pole as we will be able to fish, ride paddle boats, and all ages will be able to participate in games such as sack races, horseshoes, corn hole, three-legged race and more! We'll also have a bouncy house/slide for the children. You are in store for a fun-filled day with your church family! Can't wait for us all to be together!



- Join us to pray every Monday morning at 9:00 AM, Wheeler Park!
- If you would like to pick blueberries, join us on April 22. We will be leaving the church for Anna's Garden at 10:00 AM. Call, email or text me to sign up.
- Our next food box distribution day is April 23. If you'd like to volunteer, call, email or text to let me know.
- Church wide cookout will be May 1. We have a team of folks who are working to make this a great event for all our church family. Watch for updates!
- Mark your calendar for our senior adult trip to Savannah, May 14-15. Watch email and bulletin for updated details.



Adult Ministries

Susan



Children: Thank you for your beautiful song during the March 28 service! It was good to hear all of you sing again. Please remember our practices during our P, B and J time on Wednesdays. We will meet on both April 14 & 21 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM in the Brown Room. Please go ahead and memorize your lines/solos. Looking ahead: Children's Sunday is May 2 at the 11:00 AM service.

Youth: Youth Sunday is April 18 and we are excited about it! Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 PM and on the morning of the service at 9:30 AM. Both rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary. Breakfast will be served following the April 18 practice.

Handbells: Handbells will rehearse on Wednesday, April 14 & 21 in the handbell room. We will play for the 11:00 AM service on April 11; please meet at 9:30 AM (immediately following the 9:00 AM service).

Celebration Choir: Thank you for your participation in the service on March 28 and on Easter Sunday. We had two wonderful services, and I am thankful for all that you did to assist! Put these two dates on your calendars: April 21 @ 6:30 PM – choir event at the home of Mike & Karla Foster. We will eat supper and discuss plans for going forward. Please RSVP to Karla (423-9381 or 425-2106). Spouses and children are welcome! Choir rehearsals will begin on June 2 at 7:00 PM. More information will be given on this at the April 21 event. I am SO looking forward to it!

Praise team: Praise team will play for the April 25 service. Please remember practice on April 11 & 18 @ 1:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Karla

UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS

April 18 - Youth Sunday • April 25 - Confirmation Sunday
May 2 - Children's Sunday • May 16 - Graduation Sunday