

**“THOUGH WE
CANNOT THINK
ALIKE, MAY
WE NOT LOVE
ALIKE?”**

JOHN WESLEY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro, NC 27403

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 17, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Call to Worship

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Call to Worship:

Leader: This week's Psalm 139 text brings home this message: we are in an intimate relationship with God. There is nowhere we go that God is not present—no state of our being that results in our being abandoned. God has knit us together, has woven us, knowing us from before our beginning. God, indeed, is holding our lives.

**People: Turn now your gaze upon the earth
Where is the One who never sleeps?
We call the One who guards you now,
Your spirit safe in holy keep.**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**

Opening Prayer:

**Dear and Near God,
you never leave our side.
Open us this day to feeling and knowing your presence deep in our hearts
so that we might show forth love with the same confidence,
offering your reign of right relationship on earth as it is in heaven.
We praise you for your close attention,
holding our lives together in care.
Amen.**

Hymn:

"I am Thine, O Lord"

UMH 419 vs. 1&2

*I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it
told thy love to me; but I long to rise in the
arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.*

Refrain

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the
cross where thou hast died. Draw me nearer, nearer,
nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.*

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine; let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine.

(Refrain)

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

Birthdays for the week: Jimmy Stanley (17), Andrea Wisekal (19), Don Stowe (22)

If you, or a loved one, have been left off the birthday list, please contact Libby Boggs at 336-299-9643. Your full date of birth, including year, is required.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

We worship with our Tithes and God's Offering

We want to thank you each week for your gifting of your monetary donations to the church for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Your faithfulness is very appreciated. The month of January we are going to have our over and above offering be designated for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Dominican Republic. Our team is saddened that we cannot physically be there to share in healing ministry, but the pandemic has changed that for us also. We can still be resources of money to help with the orphanage, buying medical needs and resourcing the clinic, as well as rice and beans. So, if God puts it upon your heart to give to the Dominican Republic, please make the check out to Centenary UMC with the DR in the memo line.

Offertory

"He Leadeth Me"

Scripture: Psalm 139 (selected verses)

Sermon:

"Where Shall I Go?"

Litany for Peace:

Ephesians 4:3 says, "Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, through the bond of peace."

As a church community we pray that you would help us deal with conflict in a way that would lead to unity and peace.

When we are tempted to take sides rather than work together...

Jesus help us live in peace

When we are tempted to hold grudges

Jesus help us live in peace

When we are tempted to gossip or be malicious

Jesus help us live in peace

When we would rather complain – then work towards a solution

Jesus help us live in peace

When we find ourselves adding to disorder or division

Jesus help us live in peace

In the inevitable misunderstandings and miscommunications we may face

Jesus help us live in peace

Give us courage to admit our wrongs without being defensive

Give us determination to assume the best about others

Teach us to imitate you, God

to be gracious

to be compassionate

to be slow to anger

and rich in love...

And to make every effort to keep ourselves united in the spirit – through the bond of peace

Amen

Hymn

“Here I am Lord”

UMH 593 vs. 1&2

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

*Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the
night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.
I have weep for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?*

(Refrain)

Benediction

Choral Benediction

"You Are Mine"

Prayer Concerns

If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.

The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people:

Ann Overbey, is at Hospice. **Phoebe Swing**, is home from Camden Place. **Ed Hennings**, has been in the hospital and is going home today (1/14). **Ann Hennings** is home. **AH**, ongoing health problems. **Lucille Crawford**, had a fall at Abbotswood. **3 friends of Suzy Swindell's back in Hertford, Donald, Helen, and Gail**, diagnosed with covid-19. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Chris Bagwell's nephew's wife and their 5 year old son and other members of the family**, tested positive for Covid; nephew had some kind of seizure last week running test to see what caused that. **Sally Goins daughter, Madonna Stamey** has tested positive for Covid. **Barbara Blackman's sister, Dorthey Wessels. Peggy Bowles. Don & Clara Ellis, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard, and Pat Stevenson.**

Please, keep all in your prayers as so many who are dealing with many anxieties over the coronavirus. Also, the troubling worries of our nation.

Our sympathies to Vanessa Skenes in the death of her mother, Deborah "Debbie" Morgan.

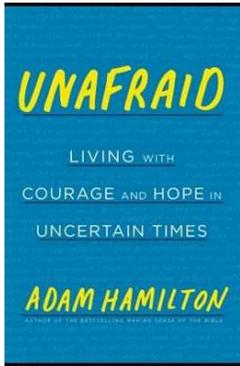
Our sympathies to Steve Puckett in the death of his wife, Christine on January 6, 2021.

Our sympathies to Mandy and Jessica Durham in the death of their father, Buddy Durham on January 4, 2021.

Our sympathies to Rick Faulkner in the death of his mother, Carol Faulkner on January 1, 2021.

Continue to lift up Centenary UMC in prayer. The leadership of the church is working on creative ways to bring smaller groups in for study and worship.

Office Closed – Monday, January 18, the office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



New Bible Study: *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton
Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

When: Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 AM and Tuesday Evenings @ 6:30 PM

Where: via zoom

Dates: January 5 – February 2 (5 weeks)

A widely admired mainstream pastor shows how people and communities can flourish as beacons of hope and serenity in an anxious age. For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety, or who wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions. Trusted pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton draws on the latest research, therapeutic insights, biblical principles, and personal experience to untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus's recurring counsel to his followers: Do not be afraid. As a leading voice in the progressive tradition, Hamilton communicates with grace and understanding to a wide and inclusive audience in accessible language that will ring true regardless of one's religious conviction. Today, December 13th at 2:00pm there will be a blessing of the Animals on the front lawn with the manger. Socially distanced, mask required, and lovable animals requested.



⇒ **Quarantine Cooking-Cookbook**

Share your favorite recipes and help with our DR fundraising, and get the entire recipe booklet for your contribution! Suggested donation of \$5/recipe included or submit 5 for \$20. You can submit your recipes to Libby in the office along with your check. Deadline 1/31/2021.