

From the 2020 staff and crew of the *Banner*



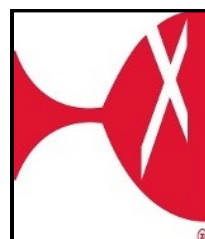
Merry Christmas



News Ya' Gotta Read!

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DECEMBER 2020



A Note from our Pastor, Rev. Bill Russell



I am disappointed that we are not going to resume Sunday worship as planned, but I am neither disgruntled nor discouraged. The time will come, very soon I hope, when we can worship together, but I feel that you made the right decision. So Advent and Christmas, as all of 2020, will be different, and I am looking forward to it.

Our Bible Study on Wednesday evenings is entitled Incarnation, a study of an Advent Book by Adam Hamilton. Its is very interesting and I am sure you will enjoy it.

There is a student's book that I will be happy to order from Amazon for anyone who wants one. Just let me know and I will get yours. The holiday season is such a special time. Let's forget what we cannot do, let's be thankful for what we can do. We can rejoice in a holy season and celebrate the coming of our Savior. I miss each one of you.

Not just yet!

Plans to reopen the church on Sunday, November 22nd were on the agenda at the November 18th Board Meeting. After much discussion and serious concerns, the Board decided to temporarily put on hold the reopening for in-person worship due to the increase COVID-19 cases in the Shelby County area as well as other concerns. However, the Central Board discussed the possibility of reopening for in-person worship on Christmas Sunday, December 20th. Let us continue to pray for our church, our church families, and for the time we can meet and worship in person again.

Editor in Chief: Diane Senger

Cub Reporter: Mark Rutledge

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Roving Photographer: George Goodnight



The Christmas season is once again upon us! Though this Christmas may be celebrated just a “wee bit” differently than in the past, traditions at Central will continue on. The Sanctuary at our church will be decorated as appropriate, the music will be outstanding, and, of course, there will be lighting of the Advent Candles.

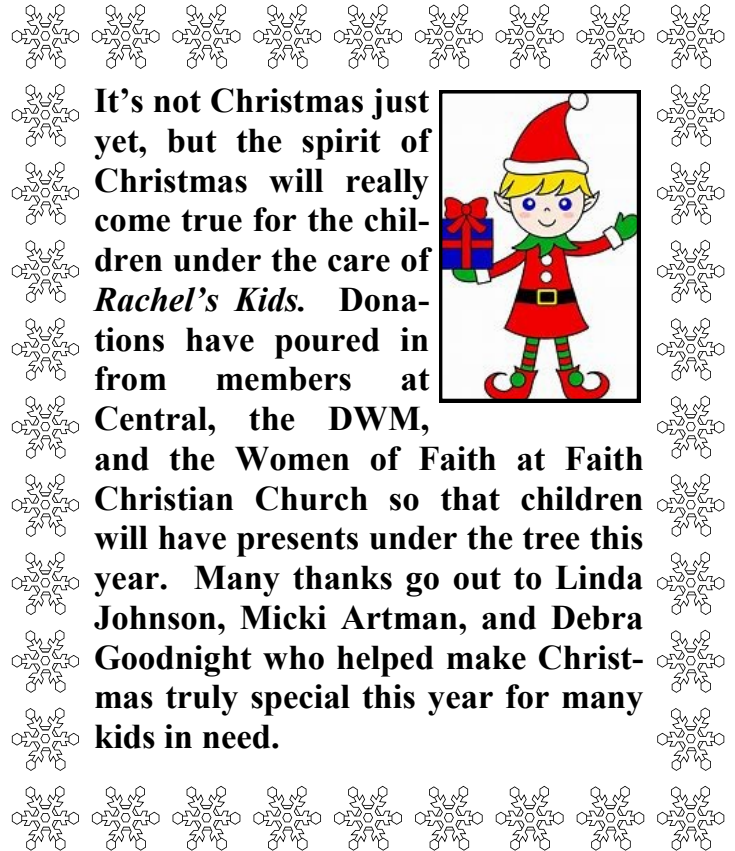
The first Sunday in Advent falls on November 29th, just after celebrating Thanksgiving. The first candle (the candle of *Hope*) will be lit during the videotaping of Sunday's worship.



In the above picture Carol Scarberry is enjoying her fireplace at her home at Snow Lake. Recently Carol underwent serious surgery to remove cancerous brain tumors, followed by physical therapy. Today, Carol is doing exceedingly well, and would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her recovery and phone calls that helped her morale and her spirit while she was in the hospital.

The *Banner* staff recently spoke to Carol by phone. Carol said: "I would want to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, and most of all the prayers on my behalf. May God bless all of you".

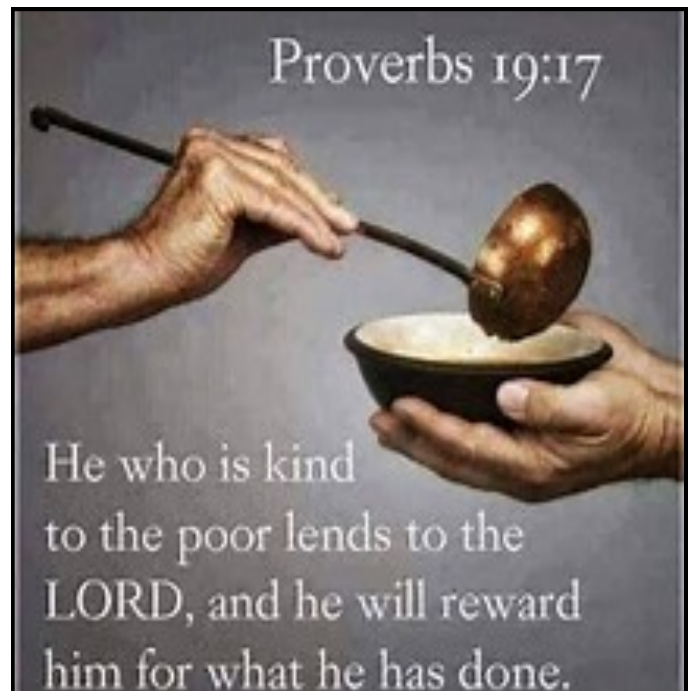
A Special Christmas For Some Very Special Kids



FILLING THE NEED

The generosity of the members and friends at Central Christian Church knows no bounds. This year, because of COVID-19 issues, the decision was made to purchase food gift cards for 10 families in the Binghamton community. A total of \$250 dollars was donated by Central's members. The money was divided equally to purchase 10 food gift cards, which will be distributed by Rachel Greer.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make this Thanksgiving a special time for families in need.



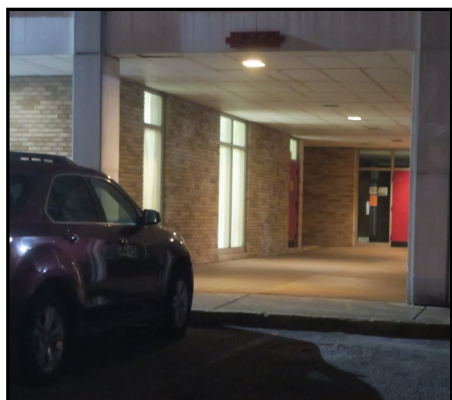
Happenings Around The Church

Editor's Note: Here are photos of various events and happenings that didn't make the November *Banner*.



Not to be discouraged, the African Violets Society met outdoors in late October along the breeze way next to the Chapel Garden.

Above, camera crew from St. Jude used Central's parking lot to make a video kicking off the St. Jude Memphis Marathon Race Week Virtual Experience.

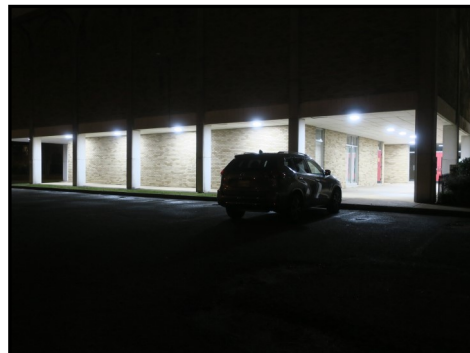


The "before" picture on the left shows outside lighting at night along the walk ways. The "after" pictures on the right speaks for themselves!

Genesis 1:3



On the left, Mark R. shows us a sample of the wonderful desserts that Connie Bennett made for those attending the Compassion Neighborhood Clinic. Everyone enjoyed the dessert and hopes to have more sometime real soon!



NOVEMBER 3RD: A VERY BUSY DAY AT CENTRAL

Central Christian Church is a voting precinct. On November 3rd this year approximately 380 people stood in line to cast their vote for this presidential election. The number “380” is actually a low number. If it had not been nearly voting, that number could have easily been over 1000 voters standing in line.

Central Christian was prepared to help those voters. In October, a “pop up” yard sale was held to raise money for water, snacks, and juice for voters standing in line.

Pictured on the upper right are John Bennett and Dorothy Feimster who volunteered to help distribute the snacks and water. On lower right is Mark Rutledge organizing the water, juices, and snacks.



“Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same” .

Luke 3:11

Thoughts From Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams

Dr. Williams is the Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church of Tennessee. In a recent letter to church families, Dr Williams made some very important and moving thoughts that should be shared with those who may have not received the letter. The following is a few excerpts from her letter:

Today, my thoughts remain steadfast. We must remain. We must engage. We must be the Torchbearers of Hope, Healing, and Reconciliation. Remembering at the end of the day, “We are the Church of Jesus Christ.” We have a role to play in the healing and wholeness of this country and our democracy.

As we head into the season of Thanksgiving and then Advent, will you join me in sowing seeds of Hope and Reconciliation? Will you join me in a quest to repair the breach? The breach is not deep enough to keep us apart. We are knitted together in and through the Love of Christ. And that is a fact.

If you would like to receive a full copy of Dr. Williams’ letter, please contact the church office.

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OUR ARTISAN AT WORK!



In the October issue of the *Banner*, John Bennett (pictured on the left), made some outstanding wooden toys from pieces of scrap wood. However, his talents go further as you can see in the picture on the right. The items were knitted as special hand-made gifts to give to family and friends during the Christmas season. When interviewed for this article, John said that he taught himself the art of knitting, along with the help of the internet. “When I

begin knitting cap and scarf sets, it takes me about two weeks”.

The photo on the right shows an up-close picture of the excellent work that John Bennet has put into his craft. John is a true artisan and a man of many talents.



December at Central

Birthdays

Amy Lindeman
12/26
Wynanda Noordermeer
12/29



Church Calendar for December

7 - Pearl Harbor Day
8 - Compassion Clinic
22 - Compassion Clinic
24 - Christmas Eve
25 - Christmas Day
31 - New Years Eve



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