

"New Life....New Beginnings"

Center Church of Welcome

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centerchurchofwelcome.org

Mitch Wilson, Senior Pastor



JANUARY 2024 CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Mitch Wilson
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Youth/Young Adult Minister

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Kaitlyn Carhart Berrier
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After School Program

Supervisor-Shaina Smith
336-619-0074

Hours 2:00-6:00PM



Leftovers

'Tis the season to clean up the house and pack away Christmas. Which means the day after Christmas for a few folk. All the Christmas stuff gets packed away. Some people spend substantial amounts of money buying storage containers to put away all those sentimental ornaments. They even have elaborate storage systems. Many of those items will never be used again are put away like buried treasure. But we cannot throw them out because they have so much emotional attachment!

We can be in such a hurry to get rid of "Christmas" that we miss another important Christian Holiday. Epiphany is always Jan 6th. It marks the coming of the Magi. They traveled a great distance at great cost to bring their gifts to Jesus. In some cultures that is when gifts are exchanged along with great festive gatherings and parades. This year take time to reflect on this important Holiday. Think about the precious gifts they brought to Jesus of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They brought fine gifts for their king! What gift are you bringing? Are you so preoccupied packing away your gifts that you no longer have time for the Lord?

In January, we will have an opportunity to discover our gifts and to pick the places God has equipped us to serve. You will be given a copy of a list of opportunities we call "Here I am Lord"! We will prayerfully discern the places we want to serve and bring our gifts to Jesus. From our children, youth, and adults, we will make decisions about the future of the church. Will we simply pack away Christmas or will we bring our Lord the best we have? You see He wants us to use our gifts for Him and Christmas is a yearlong season of love and service for our "new born King".

Center is a gift giving place. I hope to see you at the gift giving place Sunday.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mitch

Date: December 10, 2023

Center Church of Welcome Administrative Board Meeting

The board met with 13 members present. Scottie Anderson opened the meeting with scripture and prayer on preparing the way to lead others to Christ. The November minutes were reviewed. Karri Hollingsworth made the motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Marlene Wood. A vote was held, and the motion carried. Marlene Wood presented the November financial report. Jeff Mendenhall made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Deena Tolley. A vote was held, and the motion carried.

Old Business – Robert Bates reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) met. They discussed the following needs of our church: a handicapped ramp for the front entrance, a facilities manager position, and an educational space-using current space vs. modular building. The modular building is already coded for educational purposes and our downstairs area is not. The LRPC recommended the board create a building committee to research the cost of a modular building and site planning. Tina Fulcher made the motion for the board to create a building committee headed by Britt Wagner for the Center Christian

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Academy at the recommendation of the LRPC. The motion was seconded by Karri Hollingsworth. A vote was held, and the motion carried.

Committee Reports

Youth: Deena Tolley reported the youth delivered over 800 lbs of food they collected. Basketball season is in full swing. The November chicken stew was very successful. They will enjoy a progressive dinner on December 17. They also have the Extreme Winter event in Gatlinburg coming up.

Trustees: Gary Brinkley reported:

- Tire replaced on black bus
- Christmas tree and lights have been installed
- Repaired some parts on CFC tables
- Looking into hot water issue in CFC

Staff Parrish: no report

Children: Tina Fulcher reported Breakfast with Santa was a success with over 100 kids and families in attendance. Tina praised the many groups and individuals who helped with this event. The children's play is scheduled for tonight, December 10.

Missions: Pray for those who will be going on the Jamaica mission trip in January.

Evangelism: Cindy Leonard mentioned the spiritual gifts workshop is coming up. The committee is sending out cards to those who are moving into the area.

Discipleship: Karri Hollingsworth reported she has a January meeting scheduled for the elementary-age teachers.

Worship: Reida Snyder thanked the youth for their help with Lovefeast and Advent. The Christmas Cantata will be on December 17. On December 24, we will have our regular services that morning along with 4:00 PM and 11:00 PM Christmas Eve services. The Worship committee will meet January 8.

School: Jeff Mendenhall reported the committee will meet December 11. There will be a community Valentine fund raiser event on February 10. Shaina is doing a remarkable job with the after-school program.

New Business

Jeff Mendenhall stated last month we had a consensus vote for the Christmas offering. There are four other employees we need to honor: Joyce Rector, Brenda Troutman, Molly Long, and Josh York. Nathan Thanos made the motion to give the four staff members \$200/each. The motion was seconded by Karri Hollingsworth. A vote was held, and the motion carried.

Jeff Mendenhall stated we have not voted on Kaitlyn Berrier's salary as the Center Christian Academy's director. Nathan Thanos made the motion that her pay remain the same at \$1,000/month through August 2024. The motion was seconded by Karri Hollingsworth. A vote was held, and the motion carried.

Mike Craver made the motion that Mitch Wilson's 2024 housing exclusion allowance remain the same as it was in 2023. The motion was seconded by Deena Tolley. A vote was held, and the motion carried.

Mike Craver, Finance Chair, reported the documentation to set up the brokered certificates of deposit (CDs) through Charles Schwab has been sent in. Mike Craver made the motion that the board approve using Westpath as the administrator of our personal investment plan for our minister. The motion was seconded by Deena Tolley. A vote was held, and the motion carried.

Mitch Wilson stated he would like the board to use the February meeting as a planning session for all committee chairs. Mitch also asked for us all to be in prayer for our men's ministry group.

Mitch Wilson closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Scottie Anderson, Chairperson

Kathy Hamilton, Recording Secretary

Women's Ministry

December 12, 2023

Members present: Lisa Bates, Heather Noel, Deena Tolley, Karri Hollingsworth, Tanya Tennant, Stacie Michael, Marcia Craver, Molly Long, Linda Leonard, Patti Miller, Lucinda Black, Audrey Wagner, Marlene Wood, Kim Craver, Rena Meredith, Pat Simmons, Marsha Black, Laura Simmonds, Angie Leonard, Reida Snyder, Charis Thanos, Sydney May, Kay Hedrick, Elizabeth Baker, and Guest: Kaitlyn Berrier

Lisa Bates opened the meeting with prayer. She wished all the ladies with a December birthday-Happy Birthday! Dinner from Cracker Barrel was served. Thank you to Debbie and Heather for organizing the meal!! Lisa read the devotional- My favorite Christmas ornament. We live in a "broken" world and we want someone to fix our problems. She read from Revelations 21, 1-4. The battle we face will end soon, and we will have no more pain. Christ is coming soon!!

The program was given by Lisa Bates, lots of fun Christmas games were played. We did an ornament exchange and a beautiful gift was given to Lisa from the ladies wishing her a Merry Christmas!!

Last month's minutes were approved and can be filed. Last month's gift to community missions was books for children at the Genesis House in Lexington. Those will be delivered by Lisa Bates. Thank you to those who donated. Please remember it is always nice to give but not always expected. We understand that each person's situation is different and we completely understand if you cannot give each month. Thank you to each lady for all that you do!!

Heather did not have an official treasurer's report however she mentioned we made around \$3,500.00 during the last chicken pie sale. Last month we approved donating all those funds to local families in need during the Holiday season. Heather was able to help 17 people have a special Holiday. She provided items for teenagers at the Foster Care of Davidson County as well as a family here in Welcome. The country store raised over \$377.00 to go towards the After School Program.

New Business:

The Goodwill committee will meet Friday, December 15, at 2:00 PM and Saturday, December 16, at 10:00 AM to deliver goody baskets and go caroling for the shut ins.

More information will be coming in January about the "new prayer sister" program.

Christmas decorations will need to be taken down after Christmas. Lisa Bates or Rena Meredith will reach out with a date closer to time.

We will present our Gift to Missions and Women's Ministry Gift the second Sunday in January during the Traditional Service.

Lisa ended the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: January 9th

Devotion: Audrey Wagner

Program: Lisa Bates

Thinking of you cards: Audrey Wagner

Community Missions: Canned food for the blessing box at Center Church

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Bates, President
Angie Leonard, Secretary

MISSION OFFERING

First Sunday – Community Mission Offering

Second Sunday - Macaroni & Cheese and Sugar Offering

Third & Fourth Sundays - Breakfast Cereal for Greater Things Outreach Center

Fifth Sunday - Crisis Ministry Cash Offering



Pickin' & Grinnin' at Center

Come join us for an evening of Pickin' & Grinnin' in the Christian Fellowship Center on **Thursday, January 25 at 7:00 PM**

A Hotdog Meal will be sold for \$6 starting at 6:00pm

The Offering this month will be given to:

Genesis House Family Shelter

Happy New Year 2024 from Center Christian Academy!

In Matthew 5:16 the Bible states, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." The Academy's Advisory Board, faculty, and staff truly were touched by your continuous support, financial and material gifts, and volunteer efforts during 2023. The After School program under the guidance of Kaitlyn Berrier and director, Shaina Smith, has proven to be a successful ministry of our church. You can be assured that the students in the program are receiving a solid Christian based educational and social foundation daily. As the academy moves forward, a PreK four-year-old program will be added in August 2024. If you want to be a part of either of these programs as a volunteer, educational partner, or staff member, please contact Kaitlyn Berrier, Director of Integrative Education for the Academy. The Academy has planned two fundraisers for the first half of the year. Please come and join us as we partner together to meet the needs of developing a firm Christian program for the future children of Center Christian Academy. Our first fundraiser will be on Saturday, February 10, beginning at 5:00 PM. It will be a Community Valentine meal beginning at 5 then about 6:15, we will showcase the first Center Christian Feud (like Family Feud) with a special guest host. Sunday school classes and others will be pitted against one another to be crowned Feud Champions. Tickets sales for the meal will be forthcoming! So, as we begin 2024, we pray that you will continue to partner with us as we endeavor to shine our light in both our church and community. You are cordially invited!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT ROTATION FOR JANUARY, 2024

- JANUARY 7 – Warren Miller**
- JANUARY 14– Dawn Essick**
- JANUARY 21– Molly Long**
- JANUARY 28 – Tina Fulcher**

ACOLYTE

- JANUARY 7 Addie McMahan**
- JANUARY 14 Parker Brinkley**
- JANUARY 21 Ryder Tidwell**
- JANUARY 28 Lacey Pangan**

BIBLE BEARER

- Marley McMahan**
- Brinlee Michael**
- River Tidwell**
- Marley McMahan**

GREETERS FOR JANUARY, 2024

JANUARY 7 *Pete and Rita Jones; Ashley, Autumn and Isabelle Johnson*
JANUARY 14 *Michael Griffin; Larry Bailey and Hannah Bailey*
JANUARY 21 *Robert and Lisa Bates; Donald and Kathy Hamilton*
JANUARY 28 *Richard and Terri Bates; Cindy Leonard*

MEMORIALS/HONOR Through December 24, 2023

In Honor of Ed and Becky Wassum
Hymnal Fund
Jeff and Winnie McCrary

In Honor of Deron, Bethany, and Audrey Burgess
Hymnal Fund
Jeff and Martha Mendenhall

In Memory of Mardie Broadway
Youth Fund
Donese Leonard

In Honor of Dyke and Cindy Leonard
Hymnal Fund
Bud and Jean Sink

In Honor of Ryan, Kylie and Beckham Leonard
Hymnal Fund
Bud and Jean Sink

In Honor of
Adam, Hannah, Gavin and Maren Leonard
Hymnal Fund
Bud and Jean Sink

In Memory of Jim Scott
Budget Fund
Gena Chisholm

In Memory of Steve Long
Budget Fund
Pat Turner

In Honor of Rena Meredith
Cemetery Fund
Pat Simmons

In Honor of Cindy Leonard
Cemetery Fund
Pat Simmons

In Honor of Reida Snyder
Cemetery Fund
Pat Simmons

In Memory of Jeff Loflen
Budget Fund
Todd and Teresa Leonard
Kenneth and Mary Jane Leonard

TAKE TIME TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

(Any updates should be sent to the church office with a brief explanation and will be shared in our monthly newsletter)

Dawn Barker –Upcoming tests

Lynda Beck – Having neck pain, prayers for healing

Teresa Beck (Eddie Beck’s wife and Kay Beck’s daughter-in-law) – Having a lot of pain with bone marrow transplant

Andy Brown (Lynn & Sylvia Upchurch’s son-in-law) – Waiting on a kidney transplant

Gina Chisholm – Current problem with congestive heart failure

Richard Church (Patti Miller’s Uncle) – Recovering from serious gallbladder surgery

Kim Dorton – Having peritoneal dialysis

Willie Everhart – Recovering from foot surgery

Diane Henderson –Receiving injections for persistent leg pain and unspoken prayer request

Brad Hutchins – Heart issues

J. C. Johnson – Right hip replacement went well, left hip replacement scheduled for January 3

Sherry Lanier – Battling COPD

Earl Leibig (Friend of Warren & Patti Miller) – Having a hard time with recovery after heart attack & placement of pacemaker procedure.

Brenda Leonard – Moved to Lexington Health Care Center

Kenneth Leonard – Muscle spasms in neck

Rod Loffin – Results of test done last week

Kris Middleton – Eye problem requiring surgery

Bill Minter – Ill with covid

Donna Muraco – Having a lot of pain with fibromyalgia and stress

John Muraco – Recovering at home from hip replacement surgery, receiving rehab

Bruce Phillips – Long term eye condition requiring treatments

Cindy Rathbone (Sydney May’s Cousin) – Recovering from brain surgery

Charles Richardson – Prayers for healing from foot removal and rehab

Stephanie Riddle (Ann Lawson’s Daughter) – Diagnosed with breast cancer, bilateral mastectomy on October 23.

Meredith Rollins – Successful surgery to repair a hole in her heart

Linda Russ – Health issues

Faye Sambleson – Receiving rehab at Lexington Health Care Center, Room 130

Craig Shillinglaw – Received a good report on November 15 & will continue surveillance every 3 months alternating between CT scans and PET scans

Bud Sink – Receiving injections for back pain and experiencing some improvement

Jean Sink – Health issues

Martha Slabach – Metastatic cancer, treatments began November 20

Margaret and Randy Story – At home with major health problems

Karen Scott Stump – Pending hip replacement surgery, recent fall and hospitalization for stroke

Karen Tysinger – Diagnosed with diverticulitis and her son, Sandy & family, need our prayers

Martha Varner –Home from rehab and doing well

Scott Wagner – Cancer

Charlie Ward – 3 year old fighting cancer for the fourth time

Lois Weaver – In rehab at Abbotts Creek Center

Family of Walter “Kyle” Wilkes – Kyle

Eddie Williams – Cancer

Military: Dylan Coleman in Georgia

Madison Brauser – US Air Force at Spokane, Washington

Blake King (Rebecca Sadler King’s Husband) – US Army in Poland

Aaron Lineberry – Doha, Qatar

Maloy Ministry Moments

November 2023



Adilet, a strong Muslim and a young father, was out of work. What's more, he and his wife took in 3 additional children (one an infant) when his wife's sister left them behind to find work in Russia. Then, when COVID hit, Adilet was laid off from his construction job. During this time, his wife started attending a local house church led by local Cru partners and before long, came to know Christ! Though Adilet noticed a positive change in his wife, and continued to allow her to attend, he refused to even enter the home of the house church host. As the pandemic wore on, and Adilet's financial situation worsened, the house church leaders and local Cru staff visited Adilet and his family and brought much needed food and clothing, sent by Unto. One of the local Cru staff, Mirbek, also employed Adilet to help him renovate parts of his home and church. Yet Adilet remained committed to keeping these Christians at arm's length. He begrudgingly agreed to attend a meal at Mirbek's house, yet brought his own food (a severe display of dishonor in that culture). Fast forward a couple years to my visit earlier this month: we visited Adilet and his wife and brought more food and clothing for the five children under their care. After a warm welcome, Adilet and Mirbek proceeded to tell me their history together. Mirbek smiled at me and said, "Adilet is close". Then, to my astonishment, Mirbek asked if I would share my testimony. Everyone's eyes shifted to me and I said a quick silent prayer that God might help him to relate to my story, and even to use it to lead him to faith in Christ. I shared my testimony and Mirbek translated it. Though Adilet patiently listened, he didn't decide to take that last step of faith. I asked what kept him from becoming a follower of Christ and he replied that the religious teachings of his youth are still strong in him. Yet, he admitted, he's much more open to the teachings of Christ. As Mirbek relayed Adilet's response, they were both smiling. I can only hope that the Lord will use my testimony as one more step in Adilet's journey toward Christ. Thank you for enabling me to help give people like Mirbek access to people like Adilet—those who seriously consider a relationship with Jesus because of the kindness and witness of some of his followers.

Photos:

From top: Adilet (third from right) and his wife host us for lunch; Mirbek and me; A Dungan (an unreached people-group!) high school thanks our ministry for the humanitarian aid we've provided with a performance!



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Address Service Requested

In Christ

2 Corinthians 5: 17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the **new** creation has come: The old
has gone, the **new** is here!”

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JESUS LOVES

Center Church of Welcome

186 Center Church Road

Office: 336-731-6616 Church Fax: 336-731-0251

Rise and Shine Service (Parking Lot) 8:30 AM

Drive In Service; tune your radio to 93.5 FM

Centered Service (Christian Fellowship Center) 9:00 AM

Sunday School for All Ages 10:00 AM

Traditional Center Service (Sanctuary) 11:10 AM

WORSHIP WILL BE STREAMED EACH WEEK!

**CHECK OUT FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE “CENTER UNITED METHODIST
WELCOME”!**

On line giving is available for your convenience. Centerchurchofwelcome.org or
pull up the giving app “giveplus” or mail to:
CUMC, PO Box 179, Welcome, NC 27374