

Welcome!

We welcome you in the name of Christ! Our website ChristCentralPCA.org offers a lot of helpful information about our church family. For questions or to share a prayer concern, call the office at 813-774-3881, ext. 700 or email us at church@ChristCentralPCA.org.

Here are some things that might be helpful to you:

- The Welcome Center is located in the lobby. If you are a first-time guest, we would love to meet you.
- Please join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby immediately after the worship service.
- We have bible study / Sunday school classes for all ages. You can find the time, topic, and location for each class at the Welcome Center.
- We have a clean, efficient and safe nursery available for infants and toddlers in the education wing of the church. We also have a cry room in the back of the sanctuary, so please feel free to use it when needed.
- As part of the covenant community, children are invited to participate in worship. We also offer a *Children's Worship* program during the sermon for children ages K4 through 2nd grade in Room 8. The children are dismissed during the singing of the Doxology by walking to the back of the sanctuary and following the Children's Worship leader out.

Order for the Divine Service of Worship

December 3, 2017 - 9:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

Please adjust all electronic communication devices so as not to disrupt the service.

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze (Cantata #208)

J.S. Bach

Let us quiet our hearts before the Lord

Silent Reflection

Advent means “**coming**.” It is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s second coming as well as his first. The glowing flames of the candle remind us of the star of Bethlehem, and most of all, the Light of the World Jesus Christ. The lighting of the candles calls us to worship and sets this time apart as holy.

Of the five candles, **three candles are purple, one is rose, and one is white**. The purple candles represent the attitude of hope and expectation with which we anticipate His coming. Purple also represents the attitude of humility and repentance with which we anticipate His coming. The rose candle, the Shepherd’s candle, stands for God’s love and faithfulness. The white candle in the center represents Christ’s holiness and perfection.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blake and Glenda Williams

The First Candle is the **prophecy candle**. It reminds us that Christ's coming was revealed by God through the prophets hundreds of years before Christ was born.

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

****Hymn**

Angels We Have Heard On High
Hymn #214

****The Invocation**

****The Apostles' Creed**

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

****The Gloria Patri**

Hymn # 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; 2 to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, 3 to grant those who mourn *in Zion*, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. 4 Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. 5 Strangers will stand and pasture your flocks, and foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers. 6 But you will be called the priests of the Lord; you will be spoken of *as* ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. 7 Instead of your shame *you will have a double portion*, and *instead of* humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double *portion* in their land, everlasting joy will be theirs. 8 For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; and I will faithfully give them their recompense and make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Then their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring *whom* the LORD has blessed. 10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

The Confession of Our Sins

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before Thee; our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good; and all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned; in wandering from Your ways; in wasting Your gifts; in forgetting Your love. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us; who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased Thee. Teach us to hate our sins; cleanse us from our secret faults; and forgive our sins for the sake of Thy dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father; help us, we ask Thee; to live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways; according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; 20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 1:18-19

The Second Scripture Lesson

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

The Anthem

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Melody from 15th Century
Arr. John Rutter*

Choir and Congregation

O Come, O come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Choir

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come, O Israel.*

Choir

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Choir and Congregation

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height, in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty, and awe. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Choir

O come, thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

The Third Scripture Lesson

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:14-21

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

****The Offertory Hymn**

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Hymn #201

****Offertory Prayer of Dedication**

The Offertory

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

Arr. John Rutter

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and man is bless'd forevermore, Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to join his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**The Doxology

Hymn # 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Children K4 - 2nd Grades may be dismissed to Children's Church in Room 8

The Message

Rev. John K. Keen

Senior Pastor

**Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Hymn #193

(v. 1-2)

The Words of Institution & The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Wine is served in the outer most ring of the tray; Grape juice in the inner rings.
Communion bread is gluten-free.*

****Hymn**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Hymn #193
(v. 3-4)

****Benediction**

Postlude

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Arr. John Ines

Announcements

Youth Christmas Parties

Sunday, December 10th

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

- Kid Builders – Join Mrs. Lang in Room 10 for fun Christmas activities and pizza!
- MS/HS Student Ministry – Meet in the Rio Center for Christmas carols, food, games, and a gift exchange, and Fugitive! ****Bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$5 in value)***

Congregational Meeting

Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 17, immediately after the morning worship service.**

The purpose of this meeting is: 1) present the 2018 Church Budget to the congregation and entertain and address any questions not already answered previously; 2) elect new officers; and, 3) to elect and seat/reseat trustees of the corporation. No other business will be discussed at this meeting (per our *Book of Church Order*).

Cookies and Carols

Do you have a favorite Christmas carol? Are there some cookies that you bake each year and would be willing to share with your church family? Well, we have just the venue for you this season. On **Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 PM** we will be singing our favorite carols chosen by all of you. This will be followed with a fellowship time featuring delicious, homemade cookies. Don't miss this opportunity to invite family and *especially your neighbors* to this informal gathering where we will be singing the beautiful music of Christmas and have a time of fellowship to follow. **Please RSVP by December 10** on your Connection Card if you plan to attend and if you are able to provide cookies for this event.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Please join us at **6:30 pm** on **Saturday, December 24** for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

A Note from Pastor Keen

Dear Church Family,

*The Session has graciously offered me a sabbatical during the first quarter of 2018. Subsequent to some vacation time, I will be on sabbatical **January 15 - April 15** and return to the office and my normal duties on **Tuesday, April 16**. A sabbatical is a time for rest, personal prayer, study, reflection and assessment, so please pray for me while I'm away. I will not be available during the sabbatical period, but Pastor Danny Dalton and the Session will be available for all pastoral duties and related matters. Diane and I thank God for this much needed time away, and it would not be possible without a loving and supportive church, as well as an able and capable church staff, session and diaconate! Please feel free to ask me, Pastor Dalton, or any active member of the Session if you have any questions.*

— With all my heart, Pastor John Keen

New Youth Sunday School Classes Beginning TODAY

High School

Theology 101: God and Man

Teacher: Ben Lambers

This is the first of four classes as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF). They do not have to be taken in order. This class covers chapters 1-7 of the WCF. Elder Ben Lambers will help our students to understand the doctrines of Holy Scripture, God and the Trinity, God's Eternal Decree, Creation, Providence, and the Fall. This class will be a rich feast of enjoying God's awesomeness.

Middle School

Shorter Catechism- Doctrine of Prayer

Teacher: Danny Dalton (11 classes)

This class is the sixth and final installment in our journey through the Westminster Shorter Catechism. The Catechism concludes with a study of the Lord's Prayer. Prayer is one of the means of grace; in other words it is one of the things God normally uses to bring us to maturity in Christ. Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to his disciples as a model for the basic categories of prayer. In this course we will discuss these important categories of prayer.

Adult Sunday School Class Descriptions Labels



Exploring:

An “Exploring” Sunday School class caters to the new believer in that it assumes no background in the Bible or church life, but it will also benefit the seasoned believer in revisiting the timeless truths found in the Bible. This class usually provides an overview of a Bible book or topic and does not require any outside class work.



Digging:

A “Digging” Sunday School class digs deeper into the Bible or some aspect of Christian faith and practice. While this class assumes some prior background in the Bible and church life, new and seasoned believers are both welcome to attend and benefit from the study. This class might include optional outside class work at the discretion of the teacher, but it is not required to participate in the class.



Examining:

An “Examining” Sunday School class caters to seasoned believers, but is open to all who would like to attend. The class is meant to be a participatory discussion including weekly outside class work so that the class attendees can more fully share and participate with each other. This class can still be enjoyed if unable to complete all recommended outside class work.

New Adult Sunday School Classes Beginning TODAY



After Darkness, Light – Room 13

Teachers: Bryan Toenes and Randy Johnson

What is so special about the Reformation for Presbyterians (and other Christians) today? The Reformers of the 16th Century and their disciples believed that they had recovered essential truths that had long been obscured by the Church. We can sum up these truths in the so-called “Five Solas” and “Five Points of Calvinism.” Join us this winter as we search sacred scripture to find the basis for these important doctrines, and then aim to find the relevance of these truths for our lives today.



Ezra and Nehemiah – Room 14

Teacher: Gregg Quick

Why Study the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah? There’s nothing like a really good story, with characters in a setting, some sort of conflict that arises, and some kind of resolution. Ezra and Nehemiah hold the Bible’s story together - the final Old Testament episode in a story God himself began in Eden. Ezra and Nehemiah draw us to Jesus; exploring these books makes us yearn for a greater redemption. From beginning to end the books of Ezra and Nehemiah will draw you in, as each week you wonder ... what will happen next?



Befriend: Exploring Belonging in an Age of Judgment, Isolation, and Fear – Room 15

Teacher: Alex Fernandez

This class invites you to understand and adopt Jesus’ model of radically different friendship that embraces “outsiders”.

This Week at Christ Central
December 3 – December 9

- SUNDAY:** Morning Worship, 9:30 am
Coffee and Conversation, 10:30 am
Sunday School, 11:00 am
MS/HS Youth Meeting (Rio Center), 5:30 pm
Kid Builders (Room 10), 5:30 pm
- TUESDAY:** Ladies' Bible Study, 10:00 am
- WEDNESDAY:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- FRIDAY:** Adult Bible Study (Room 12), 10:00 am

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Christian Education – Adults, Youth, & Children

Class/Grade	Class Teacher(s)	Class Room
Ages 2-3/Toddlers	Bev Thomson	6
Ages 4-7 / K4/K5 -2 nd Grade	Jane Lambers & Diane Keen	3/5
Ages 8-10 /3 rd - 5 th Grade	Kelly Fernandez & Gail Chang	8
Middle School / 6 th -8 th Grade	Danny Dalton	Rio Center
High School / 9th -12 th Grade	Ben Lambers	Rio Center
Adult - After Darkness, Light	Bryan Toenes & Randy Johnson	13
Adult - Ezra & Nehemiah	Gregg Quick	14
Adult - Exploring Friendship	Alex Fernandez	15

CHRIST CENTRAL AT WORK AND WORSHIP

Last Sunday's Attendance: 134

Last Sunday's Offering: \$7,993.00

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor. 8:12

Volunteers

Greeters / Ordained Officer

	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
<u><i>Greeters:</i></u>	Bryan Toenes	Alex Fernandez Family
<u><i>Ordained Officer:</i></u>	Servy Fernandez	Alex Fenandez
<u><i>Communion Set-up:</i></u>	Ken Jackson	Donna Waugh

Children's Worship Volunteers

	<u><i>Teacher</i></u>	<u><i>Helper</i></u>
<i>Today:</i>	<i>Stephanie Williams</i>	<i>Kaleigh Williams</i>
<i>Dec. 10:</i>	<i>Liz Hickerson</i>	<i>Johnny Hickerson</i>
<i>Dec. 17:</i>	<i>Tami Pothoven</i>	<i>Bryson Pothoven</i>

Coffee Volunteers

<i>Today:</i>	<i>Glenda Williams</i>
<i>Dec. 10:</i>	<i>Brian Waugh</i>
<i>Dec. 17:</i>	<i>Ginny Bremer</i>

Nursery Volunteers

<i>Today:</i>	<i>Shannon Pothoven</i>
<i>Dec. 10:</i>	<i>Lisa Johnson</i>
<i>Dec. 17:</i>	<i>Geena Lang</i>

Fellowship Snacks

<p>Next Week Dec. 10: <i>Therese McKenzie</i> <i>Loretta Salgado</i> <i>Randa Gravanti</i> <i>Eva White</i></p>	<p>Dec. 17: <i>Andrea Cawley</i> <i>Ananta Rivera</i> <i>Ginny Bremer</i> <i>Kelly Melendi</i></p>
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