

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 4, 2024



*Indicates please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

PRELUDE	<i>I Want Jesus to Walk with Me</i> (Mark Hayes)	Monica Adams
GATHERING MOMENT		Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)
INTROIT	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i> (Lobe Den Herren)	Chancel Choir
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)
	Leader: How good it is to sing praises to our God!	
	All: How pleasant and fitting to praise him!	
	Leader: The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.	
	All: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.	
	Leader: Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.	
	All: The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Let us worship the Lord together, Amen!	
*OPENING HYMN	<i>Word of God, Come Down on Earth</i>	UMH #182
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		Mary Juarez Dalton
MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT		Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)
RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS (11:00am)		Martha Tipton

***PASSING THE PEACE** Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)
(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with You!")

All Sing: *Hymn of Promise* verse 1
In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

ANTHEM *I Waited For The Lord* Chancel Choir
(by Felix Mendelssohn) Dianne England, Michelle Miracle, Soloists

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 171) Laura Dinges (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Martha Tipton (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* UMH #139

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:21-31 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 668) Laura Dinges (8:30am)
Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. Martha Tipton (11:00am)
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "To Walk and Not Faint" Rev. Jeffrey Hall

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

PASTOR'S PRAYER Rev. Sungho Lee

THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

OFFERTORY *Lamb of Glory* Monica Adams
(by Greg Nelson & Phill McHugh) Ric Campero, Tenor

***DOXOLOGY** *For the Beauty of the Earth* verse 6 UMH #92
*For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

COMMUNION

UMH #23-24 Laura Dinges (8:30am), Martha Tipton (11:00am)

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and a good and joyful thing...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sing: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Sing: *Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Sing: *Amen, amen, amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Sungho Lee

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Let Us Break Bread Together

UMH #618

Take Our Bread

UMH #640

Eat This Bread

UMH #628

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Jeffrey Hall

*RESPONSE

Shalom to You

UMH #666

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

*POSTLUDE

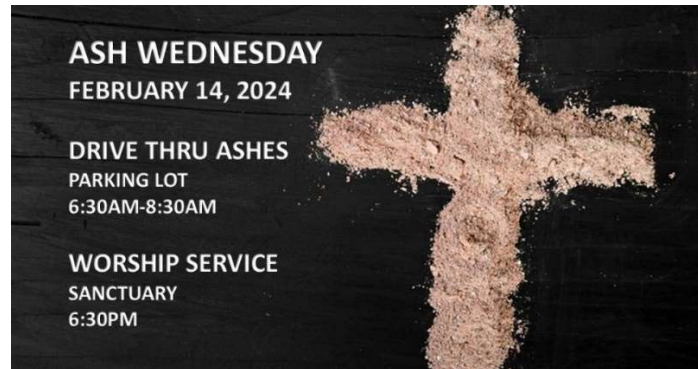
At the Lamb's High Feast
(Aaron David Miller)

Monica Adams

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee
Rev. Jeffrey Hall, Guest Minister
Laura Dinges (8:30am), Worship Leader
Martha Tipton (11:00am), Worship Leader
Mary Juarez Dalton, Children's Moment
Ric Campero, Choir Director
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
David Campero, Livestream
Steven Adams, Media
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
Rupert Cooper, Audio

CONNECTIONS



WELCOME CENTER

If you are a visitor, please use this information for your convenience!

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 am Worship Service at the Fireside Room in the Knoles Building in English
- 9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am behind the Sanctuary choir room
- 10:15 am Worship Service at the Fireside Room in the Knoles Building in Cambodian language.
- 11:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary in English.
 - Childcare (under age 5) is available in the Knoles building. A friendly caregiver welcomes you!
 - Godly Play (leave 11 am service Following Children's Moment)

3700YTH – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

3700Yth invite you to join us after church on Sunday February 18 for BBQ & a few rounds of bingo. Our new youth director, Elaine is working hard to establish a new youth program, but she cannot do it without our help! This will be an opportunity for you to formally meet Elaine, learn more about the program and provide your suggestions and insights. This would be a great Sunday for you to invite a youth or young adult to church.

Interested in volunteering at this event or donating a prize for bingo? Please reach out to Ronesha Jackson at Jackson.ronesha@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Family and friends of **Dianne Runion** will gather in the Sanctuary on Saturday, February 3 at 11:00am to celebrate her life. Dianne was a long time Central member. She passed away on December 17, 2023. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

The family of **Helen Underhill** invites you to Helen's Celebration of Life on Saturday, February 10, at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. Reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Helen (a member of Central since 1948, passed away on January 2.

PRAYER SHAWLS NEEDED!

Calling all crocheters and knitters! The need for shawls has been great in the past several months so our stock of prayer shawls has dwindled. If you feel the call to provide a shawl to our ministry, please consider making one. All it takes is 3 skeins of soft acrylic yarn, size 10.5 knitting needles or N-13 crochet hook. Once completed bring to church and we will get them blessed and packaged for delivery. For any questions, please email or call Linda Newhall 209-601-9239, L.brackin@comcast.net.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The current book group read is *Where the Lost Wander* by Amy Harmon. In this epic and haunting love story set on the Oregon Trail, a family and their unlikely protector find their way through peril, uncertainty, and loss.

The next discussion date is Feb. 11th. Questions or comments contact Elaine jbtaxe@gmail.com.

LENT: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

Lent is a 40-day period of solemn observance in the Christian calendar that comes before Easter. It's a time for reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth, commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and being tempted in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

Lent is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter, the holiest day in the Christian calendar. It's a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and a call to follow his teachings. By taking time for reflection, repentance, and renewal, Christians can deepen their faith and prepare for the joy of Easter.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and ends on Holy Saturday, March 28th, the day before Easter Sunday.

There are many ways Christians observe Lent, but some common practices include:

Prayer and reflection: Christians may spend more time in prayer and meditation, attending special church services, and reading scripture.

Fasting and abstinence: Many Christians choose to give up something they enjoy, such as meat, sweets, or social media, as a way to focus on their spiritual life. Others may choose to fast from food or drink for certain periods.

Almsgiving: Lent is a time to remember those in need and to practice generosity. Christians may donate to charity, volunteer their time, or perform acts of kindness for others.

Our church offers Adult Education Study (9:45-10:45am, Knoles Building Rm 6) and Small Group Bible Study (After 11:00am Worship, Fellowship).

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY LAUNCHED ONLINE

Our new Church Online Directory is now up and running. It includes contact information for everyone who completed the questionnaire and requested that they be included in the directory. Hopefully it will be a handy tool for communicating with other church members and friends. There is even an app for your phone that allows you to access the directory anytime and anywhere.

The directory does not currently include everyone since we need your permission to be included. The directory is only accessible by other church members and requires a password to use. If you did not sign up to be in the directory but would like to be included, contact Dick Edelstein and he can add you to the directory database. You can also contact Dick if you need assistance in accessing and using the directory: email: <mailto:richardj15@me.com> phone (209) 351-5857.

Dick will also be available after the 11:00 am service on January 28th and February 4th.

INTERFAITH TEA

Feb. 15, 2024 1:00pm at Stockton Buddhist Church

There will be 12 hosted tea tables at the interfaith tea following the 1:00pm service. Many thanks to those who have offered help. I could use 1 more person to make tea sandwiches & another batch of cookies would be a bonus.

Please contact Elaine Bradbury call/text 209-470-7382. The donations from the tea will go to Family Promise of San Joaquin County and STAND (Stocktonians Taking Action to Neutralize Drugs)

FAMILY PROMISE OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY UPDATE

Thank you to all the members of the Family Giving Club at Central. Your generosity allowed Central to give Family Promise over \$1,000 this year to help with their everyday expenses. It is my hope that you will continue to be members of the Giving Club. If you are a current giver, I ask that you continue to give throughout 2024. If you wish to be part of the Club, it is easy. You determine the amount you would like to give each month (\$1, \$5, \$10, etc.), put it in an offering envelope, and indicate the money is for the Family Promise Giving Club. Again, thank you to all the current givers.

Central also donated \$12,000 to Family Promise this year for a shade structure, patio equipment and water toys. Thanks to the generosity of Central, the children can now play outside in Spring and Summer.

Central will once again host families the week of February 11-18. It is possible we will have three families. Please sign up to help this Sunday, February 4, after the 11:00 worship service, in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking people to prepare meals, stay overnight, help set up and take down the rooms, help with laundry after our families leave on the 18th, and provide pantry supplies, as well as sheets and blankets. Glenda and I will be in the Fellowship Hall to help you sign up or answer questions.

I love that Central has embraced this program. We are truly making a difference in the lives of these families.

Thank you, Connie Edgecomb