



FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

December 7, 2023

I Will Light Candles This Christmas by Howard Thurman

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

The Advent season continues with all of the joy of preparing for the pageant. Please read on for the details:

- **9:00am - Susan and Courtney Anne mic check.**
- **9:15am - Children's and youth choirs meet in youth suite.** Doughnuts and coffee in the youth suite will be provided. Please be prompt this week if your child is participating in the pageant. After getting a doughnut, everyone will walk up to the music suite together.
- **9:50am - Pageant rehearsal!** Susan and Courtney Anne will gather children and youth for rehearsal in youth suite.
- **9:50am - Sunday School!** Children and youth not needing to be a part of the rehearsal will use this time to walk through parts of the Advent story and work on watercoloring sheep to be used on "stage" for the pageant.
- **11am - Joyful worship.** Rev. Shannon preaches! The second Sunday of advent - the focus is on PEACE.
- **12pm(ish) - 1:15pm - Rehearsal for the pageant.** Meet in the youth suite after worship for some snacks and be ready to go! Rehearsal will wrap up by 1:15pm to be able to get the sanctuary ready for the Porter memorial service.



We had a blast this past weekend at the confirmation retreat. Thank you to all that participated!! Confirmands, be on the lookout for follow-ups and next steps! We can't wait to support y'all and walk alongside you on this journey.

TO DOs FOR THIS WEEK

1. Will your youth be a rising 9th grader in the 2024-25 school year? If so, please join Central for the Montreat Youth Conference. As a reminder, the dates are Sunday, June 2nd - Saturday, June 8th. **Go ahead and let us know if you're interested by hitting reply so we can consider housing options!**
2. If you haven't, please fill out **this form** for each of your children and youth - it includes key information and permissions that we need for the year!



THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SCHEDULE!

The best Christmas pageant ever is underway! Come for the parent meeting this week to learn more. We are looking forward to a really fun and joyful Advent season preparing for this worship service. Please read on for the rehearsal schedule:

Sunday, December 10th: Rehearsal during Sunday School and following church for cast *with the exception of the youngest shepherds and angels* (snacks provided but we'll need to wrap up by 1:15pm for the Porter Memorial Service)

Sunday, December 17th: Rehearsal during Sunday School and following church for ALL (no later than 3pm, lunch provided)

Sunday, December 24th: Arrive at Central by 9:30am for final walkthrough (coffee and breakfast provided)

The pageant will be the focus of Sunday School and youth group in December. **We will have activities in the youth suite during Sunday School for kids not in the pageant including supporting stage design!**

Family Outing to the



Garden Lights: December 9th

We are ON for our trip to the Garden Lights, rain or starshine. The details have been sent to the group via email - please let me know if you did not receive it! We'll gather for dinner at the Wood family home (thank you for hosting us!!!) and then walk over together to the lights to make our viewing time of 7pm. This will be an intergenerational evening of children, youth, parents and our young adults as well! Can't wait!

SAVE-THE-DATES

Saturday, December 9th - Garden Lights Family Outing - 5:30pm dinner, 7pm viewing !

Sunday, December 24th - The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever!! (Every year is the BEST year!!)

January, 15th - MLK Service Opportunity for youth! Stay tuned for more info but go ahead and mark your calendars.

Go ahead and mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 23rd at 9:30am for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt** at Mary Lillian Walker's! We are so grateful to her for hosting and for getting this scheduled in advance!



UPDATED CALENDAR

As we head into December, we wanted to share an updated calendar with you, complete with the rehearsal schedule for the pageant AND updated overview of what Sunday School will cover week to week. Don't hesitate to let us know what questions you have!

[Download here](#)

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