

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CENTER GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Please join us for Sunday School at 9am & Worship Every Sunday at 10 am.

You Tube Live Worship Service at Center GMC-Yadkinville NC

Member(s) of the Week: Lee Groce, 433 East Hemlock Street, Yadkinville, NC 27055

Prayer Needs: Jacob Shore; Kent Mathis; Audrey Sink; Jerry Motsinger; Gale Redding; Brenda Brown; Jennifer Pruitt; Wayne & Tracey Denny; Judy Davis; Shane Stewart; Doc Lynch; Jimmy Collins; Tim Harrison; Sarah Williams; David Crook; Ricky Spicer; Chris Buelin; Peggy Brown; Mike Lawson; Emmett Winslow; Margie Sizemore; Kyle Bumgardner; Linda Church; Hilda Carlton; Jayden Adams; Dee Jones; JJ Graves; Tommie Gambill; Chris Turner; Cindy Luxe; Larry Aimes; Jim Long; Dan Kibbler; Banks Marion; Lori Evans; Penny Knowles; Azanette Cyprian; Rita Poplin; Bridget Kimmer; Halee Boggs; Shelly Logan; Taylor Kiger; Penny Rice, Sam & Mona Childress; Avery Davis; Mary Stowe; Benjamin Pruitt; Pamela & George Gillespie; George Crossman; Brandon Nichols; Alice Pickett; Iris Ledbetter; Lonnie Essick; Ann Vanhoy; Bob Portis; Ellie Marshall; Kenneth Reavis; Allen Ramsey; Martha Ann Lake; Sharon Payne; Barbara Wollet; Ryan, Maria & Cali Shumate; Roger Parrish; Hugh Weatherman; Robert & Beth Steelman; Ann Gentry; Austin & Laurel Sloan & Baby Artimas; Beth & Darrell Angell; Darry Groce; John Frazier; Beth Robertson; Jane Pendry; Carl Jenkins; Vickie Crossman; John & Susan Smith & Beverly Long.

Pray For Our Shut-ins: Sara Vestal; Evelyn Weatherman; Nina & Lee Groce; Mary Lou Ring; Mary Ann Hill; Peggy Casstevens; Kathy Whitaker Johnson.

Pray For The Family Of: Randy Baity; Ann Vanhoy & Minnie Stanley

Center Global Methodist Church

1400 Center Road, Yadkinville, NC 27055

Office Hours: Friday 1:30 pm -5:30 pm

Office Phone: (336) 679-8247

Email: admin@centergmc.org.

Please Scan Our QR Code To Be Directed To Our Online Giving Tab



Church Website: centergmc.org.

Pastor: Rev. Justin Douglass- Ph# 704-657-0557

Email: pastorjustin@centergmc.org

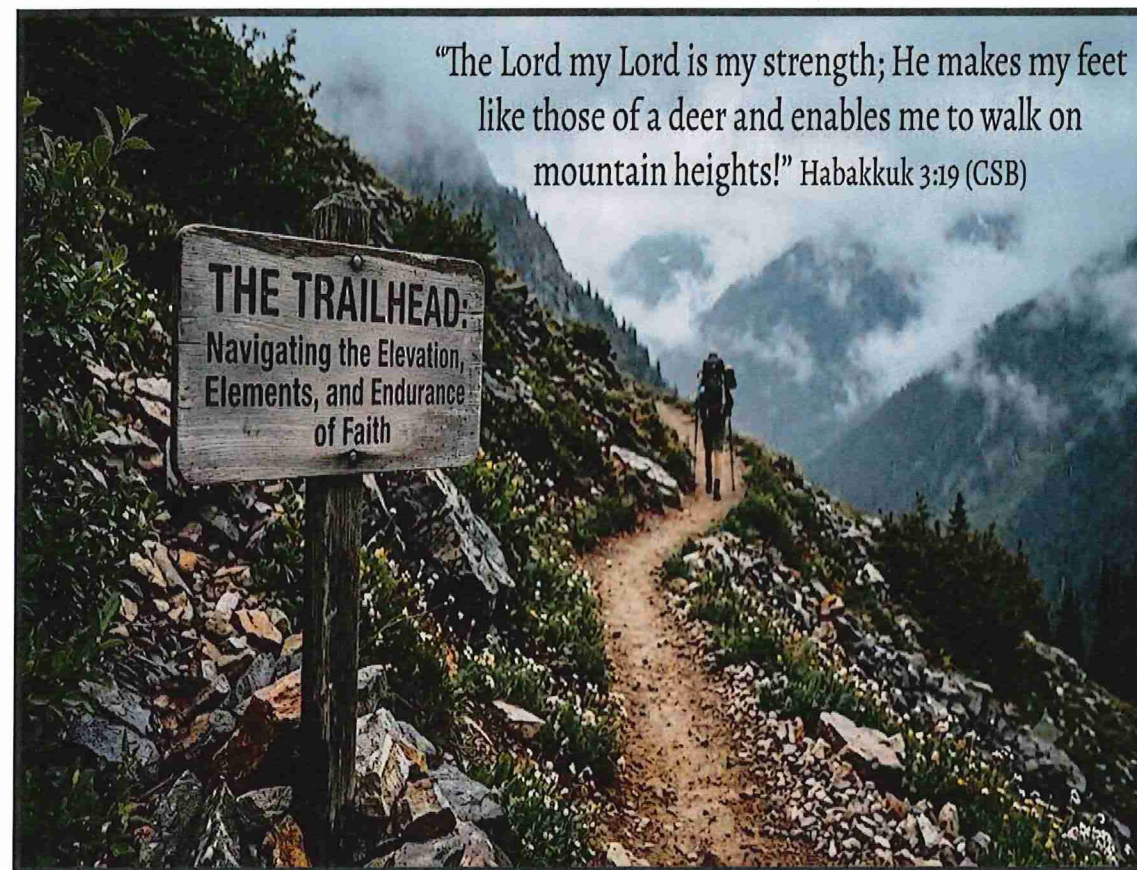
Office Manager: Crystal Sprague

Head Ushers: David Sloop

Pianist: Penny Spernoga

Center Global Methodist Church

July 26, 2026



"The Lord my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!" Habakkuk 3:19 (CSB)

WELCOME
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

CENTER GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME & PRELUDE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

LARRY LONG

✝ OPENING PRAYER

✝ OPENING SONG

“SEEK YE FIRST”

UMH #405 (VV 1 & 2)

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

ANTHEM/SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN’S CHURCH DISMISSAL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TITHES & OFFERINGS/DOXOLOGY

SPECIAL MUSIC

CENTERING OUR LIVES FOR WORSHIP

MESSAGE

“THE HARD MIDDLE”

JAMES 1:2-4 (NIV)

✝ CLOSING SONG “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY” UMH #64 (VV 1,2 & 4)

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ *Please stand (as you can)*



Children’s Church Today – Sunday, July 26th – Jackie Douglass & Deborah Gentry

No Children’s Church Next Sunday – August 2nd

Acolyte Ministry Schedule July: Kohen Drye, Eli Carter, Ian Carter, Bradley Owens & Evelyn Owens

Worship Team

Date	Multimedia	Nursery	Ushers	Greeter(s)
7/26	Jamie W.	Paul Woodruff/Kim Matthews	David Sudderth/David Nance	Sharron Sloop
8/2	Shawna P.	Rodney Owens/Lori Cranfill	Brad Sprague/Rebecca Harris	Jamie Williard
8/9	Shawna P.	Jody Shore/Sharron Sloop	David Sudderth/David Nance	Crystal Sprague
8/16	Jamie W.	Paul Woodruff/Shawna P.	Ronald/Tammy Drye	Ronald/Tammy Drye
8/23	Shawna P.	Renae Hall / Lori Cranfill	David Sudderth/David Nance	Anna Owens



Dear Members & Visitors, As you know, there are many costs associated with a church such as routine maintenance, upgrades, replacements, structural repairs and landscaping. Over the last two months due to safety concerns we have had to replace a portion of the black railings along our handicap ramp near the church office along with the outside carpet at the main entrance of the church. We still have some upcoming repairs that will need attention over the next 3-4 mths for an exterior drainage concern and repairs to our exterior steps. **If you would like to donate towards these needs, please mark your donation accordingly to our Building & Renovation Fund. Thank you!**

Calendar of Events

Today	July 26 th	VBS – Big Heart Farms Following Worship In Our New Fellowship Hall
Sun	August 2 nd	Center Global Methodist Men’s Meeting – 8 am New Fellowship Hall
Fri	August 7 th	Church Yard Sale – 8 am – 2 pm (See Bulletin For Further Details)
Mon	August 10 th	Church Council Meeting – Old Fellowship Hall – 7 pm
Tues	August 11 th	Fall Bible Study Classes – 10 am & 7 pm – New Fellowship Hall
Wed	August 19 th	Susanna Wesley Circle Meeting – 7 pm – New Fellowship Hall
Sat	August 22 nd	Blood Drive in Honor of Jacob Shore here at Center GMC - See Insert
Tues	August 25 th	Fall Bible Study Classes – 10 am & 7 pm – New Fellowship Hall
Sun	August 30 th	5 th Sunday Breakfast, hosted by the Susanna Wesley Circle – 9 am in our NFH



Scan the QR Code to give directly to our church.
Thank you for financially supporting our church!



Please make plans to join us for our upcoming blood drives in honor of Jacob Shore here at Center Global Methodist Church. Our Blood Drives are scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd and November 14th. Please sign up today at redcrossblood.org (use zip 27055) for the Center Global Methodist Church Blood Drives or call 1-800-733-2767 to sign up as soon as possible!



Our Fall Bible Study classes will begin soon! We hope you can join us! Invite your friends and family! Our morning class will be held at 10 am & our evening class will be held at 7 pm and both classes will meet in our New Fellowship Hall.

<i>August 11th</i>	<i>September 29th</i>
<i>August 25th</i>	<i>October 13th</i>
<i>September 1st</i>	<i>October 27th</i>
<i>September 15th</i>	<i>November 10th</i>

YARD SALE
ONE DAY ONLY!

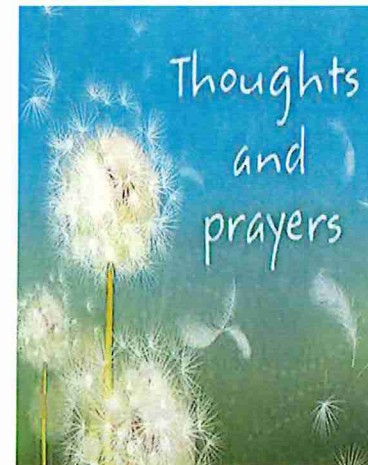
Friday, August 7th
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Center GMC
1400 Center Road
Yadkinville, NC 27055

Outside - Front Parking Lot
Parking - Back & Side Parking Lots

SEE YOU THERE!

Our Church Yard Sale will be here soon! Be sure to come by and shop and invite your friends and family to stop by also on Friday, August 7th from 8am till 2 pm!



Address for our Brother In Christ

Darry Dean Groce

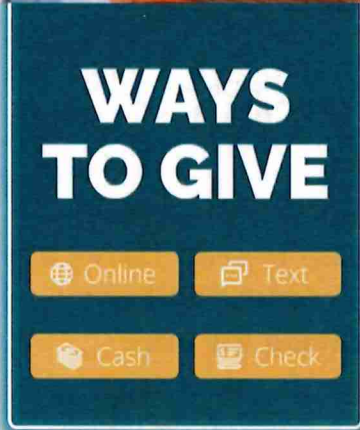
Darry would love to hear from us! Please take some time over the coming weeks to send Darry a card to help brighten his day & to let him know we are thinking of him and praying for him.

To ensure Darry receives our cards, please use standard store-bought, or simple handmade paper cards. Avoid glitter, raised cards, glue, stickers, or 3D elements, and always use plain white envelopes. Thank You!

Darry Dean Groce # 1779453
Pender Correctional Institution, North Carolina
P. O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

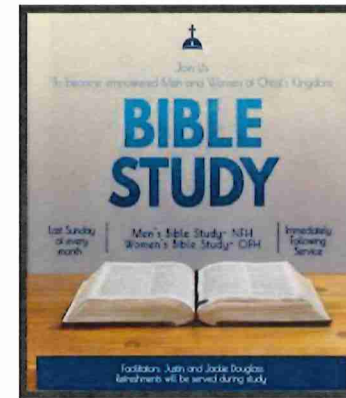


We've made it easier than ever for you to give to Center Global Methodist Church. Our eGiving allows you to give online, and through text. You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts and consider covering the processing fees, so your gifts go even further for our ministry. Check out our giving form at: <https://onrealm.org/CenterChurchYad/-/form/give/now> or visit our website at centergmc.org and go to Online Giving to be connected to our giving page. Or scan our QR code below to give and choose the ON LINE GIVING tab to be connected to give.



Your financial donations not only provide for our worship experiences, but also the daily operation and maintenance of our beautiful church grounds.

Your gifts also support our many outreach ministries that impact our community, city, state, nation, and indeed our world! During our Sunday worship services you can drop your tithe, offering, or financial gift into an offering plate or you can give easily and securely online and give a gift using your checking account, debit, or credit card. Giving can also be made through your smart phone. Text "CENTERGMC" to 73256 at any time. You will only need to register your information the first time you give. Of course, giving by mail is always available.



We hope you will make plans to join us for our Men's & Women's Bible Study Classes that will be held the last Sunday of every month! These Bible Study classes will be held immediately following worship service and snacks will be available as well. Pastor Justin Douglass will lead our Men's Bible Study and Jackie Douglass will lead our Women's Bible Study. Schedule for the next few months is listed below, so be sure to mark your calendars!

No Classes Today July 26th

August 30th

September 27th

October 25th

Please help us continue to fill the shelves at Yadkin Christian Ministries this year! If you would like to donate, we currently have boxes for donations located in the narthex and by the church mailboxes. Please be sure your donation's are in a bag for easy drop off for our volunteers at the ministry.

Current Needs: Ketchup, Canned Pinto Beans, Sweet & Salty Snacks, Canned Potatoes, Mayonnaise, Pork & Beans.

Thank you all for your support of this ministry!



Service Opportunity:
We are in need of volunteers for upcoming Tuesday nights either as an assistant or to provide a meal for our Children & Youth nights. Please contact Jackie Douglass at (704) 450-8768 if you can help and serve in this ministry. Thank you!

Worship Notes:

1. Culture is obsessed with the _____ and the _____.
2. The start gives you _____; the middle demands _____.
3. The _____ Principle: True progress feels more like repetition before it looks like elevation.
4. First, live by _____ grace, not _____ momentum.
5. When human momentum _____, divine grace _____.
6. Second, listen for the _____, not the whirlwind.
7. God _____ in the quiet spaces of the middle to pull us out of our self-sufficiency and draw us into _____ communion with Him.
8. Third, _____ the Trail Master.
9. Because Jesus was _____ in every way as we are, yet without sin, He knows what The Hard Middle feels like, and He _____ it with you.
10. The _____ are not a waste of time; they are God's intentional design to form _____ in you.



Volunteers Needed!

Opportunities To Serve!

A simple and meaningful way to serve on Sunday mornings.

We are seeking both men and women to assist with usher and greeter duties during our Sunday morning worship services. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Crystal Sprague at 336-468-0689 or Pastor Justin Douglass at (704) 657-0557.

Something To Consider:

When James commands his readers to “*consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds*,” he isn’t writing an abstract philosophical essay; He is addressing a pastoral crisis. His people had made the high-energy decision to follow Jesus – the “Trailhead” of their faith. But now, the adrenaline had completely worn off. They were scattered in foreign lands, facing a grueling, ongoing reality of economic hardship and daily persecution. They were stuck in a massive, exhausting historical “switchback” where their initial expectations of immediate kingdom victory had collided with the harsh reality of a long, painful middle. James wrote verses 2-4 right at the start of his letter as an immediate spiritual anchor. He wanted to remind these suffering refugees that their trials were not proof of God’s absence but were instead a purposeful furnace designed by the Trail Master to build an unshakable, mature endurance. First, what trials have you faced during your Christian journey? Second, when/how did you “consider it pure joy?” Lastly, how does true joy come from faithful perseverance amid trials?

The Greek word used for “joy” is *chara* and is closely linked to the word *charis* (grace). It does not mean a fleeting emotion, happiness based on good circumstances, or a superficial positive attitude. Instead, *chara* refers to a deep, abiding, supernatural gladness that is rooted in the unshakeable grace and sovereignty of God. It is a joy that exists *in spite* of circumstances, not *because* of them. James doesn’t command believers to enjoy suffering itself (masochism) or to suppress natural grief (stoicism). Instead, biblical joy reframes present pain through the lens of eternal outcome. First, why is trying to manufacture emotional “happiness” during a crisis dangerous, and how does biblical *chara* offer a better alternative? Second, how does defining joy as “supernatural gladness rooted in God’s grace” change how we read James’ command to count trials as joy?

The Greek word used for “trials,” *peirasmos*, is actually a double-edged sword in the New Testament. It can mean an outward adversity, trouble, or affliction (a trial), or it can mean an inward enticement to do evil (a temptation). As such, the context determines the angle. For example, James uses *peirasmos* here to describe external adversities that test our faith, whereas Paul uses *peirasmos* in 1 Cor. 10:13 to describe temptations. In both cases, *peirasmos* is putting one’s faith to the proof. Notice also how James says “whenever,” not “if” – implying they are an inevitable certainty on the trail of faith. Because followers of Christ are the Lord’s “scattered people” and not His “sheltered people,” believers will experience various trials. First, James notes these trials come in “many kinds” (literally meaning multicolored or diversified). Why is it comforting to know God’s Word accounts for a wide, colorful variety of suffering rather than just one specific type? Second, how can an outward trial (like financial strain or sickness) easily turn into an inward temptation (such as bitterness, anger, or greed) if we aren’t careful?

In today’s sermon, a switchback is described as a sharp, zigzagging mountain path where you walk for a while only to realize you’re just a few feet higher than before. It feels like pure repetition. Read Exodus 13:17-18. God purposely led Israel the “roundabout way” through the wilderness instead of a direct, two-week coastal route. First, why does God sometimes choose a slower, repetitive path for us rather than a straight line to our destination? Second, have you ever felt like you were pacing back and forth across the exact same personal struggles or doubts you thought you already conquered? How does knowing that “repetition builds spiritual muscle” change your perspective on that struggle?

One key word sums up today’s passage: Consider (note other biblical translations say “Count”). In James 1:2, the word “Consider” is a financial term meaning “to evaluate.” Paul also used this word in Philippians 3. When Paul became a Christian, he evaluated his life, setting new goals and priorities. Paul and James teach how we must “consider,” or evaluate our trials in the light of what God is doing. This explains why dedicated Christians can have joy amid trials – they live for what matters most. Even our Lord was able to endure the cross because of “the joy that was set before Him” (Heb. 12:2). Thus, our values determine our

evaluations. If we value comfort over character, trials will upset us. If we value the physical over the spiritual, we won’t be able to “count it all joy.” If we just live for the present and not the future, trials will make us bitter, not better (see Job 23:10). First, what does it mean to evaluate (count) our trials through eyes of faith? Second, how do our values determine our evaluations?

Today’s Scripture teaches that trials produce perseverance and perseverance produces mature faith. To be “mature” (*teleios*) means “perfect,” but not flawless. Mature means reaching its intended end, fully developed, and whole. It describes an arrow hitting a bullseye or a seed growing into a fully fruit-bearing tree. God’s ultimate goal in your trial is to bring you to full spiritual adulthood. It would be sad if our children remain infants. Parents enjoy watching their children mature, even though maturity brings dangers and delights. Many Christians shelter themselves from life’s trials, which results in them never growing up. Instead, God wants children to become young men and young men to become fathers (see 1 John 2:12-14). God builds character before He calls anyone to service because the Lord must work in us before He can work through us. God spent 25 years working on Abraham before the promised son was born. God worked on Joseph for 13 years before he led Egypt. God worked 80 years on Moses for 40 years of service. These examples detail how there must be a surrendered will for God to work through (Eph. 6:6). If we attempt to go through trials without surrendered wills, the result is immature children rather than mature adults. First, how does knowing God’s ultimate goal is your maturity rather than your immediate comfort change the way you view The Hard Middle of your current season? Second, what does a “mature and complete” Christian look like practically in everyday life compared to a spiritual infant?

Today’s passage details the difference between sanctification and instant gratification. Our culture celebrates the high-energy launch (the start) and the dramatic breakthrough (the finish line). However, God does His deepest work in “The Hard Middle” – the grueling, repetitive space where our human expectations collide with reality. When this occurs, our frustration with trials often exposes an idolatry of temporal comfort over Christlike character. The solution is unity with Christ (the Trail Master), meaning the believer is close enough to hear God’s still small voice – His whisper. Sanctification is maturing in one’s faith by continually growing closer to God to hear His whisper. God’s ultimate goal isn’t just delivering us out of the valley, but revealing Himself in the valley. Maturing in our faith (sanctification) forces us to stop running on self-sufficiency so we can listen and not lack anything. First, read 1 Kings 19. Why do you think God allowed the wind, the earthquake, and the fire to pass by before speaking in a low whisper? Second, how does our culture’s constant demand for noise, speed, and immediate results make it difficult to hear God’s still small voice? Lastly, how does Elijah’s experience in the wilderness reflect the concept of “The Hard Middle” described in James 1:2-4?

“While the exhaustion of life’s “hard middle” tempts us to quit, God uses the repetitive, challenging switchbacks of trials not to destroy us, but to strip away self-reliance and conform our character to Christ” – Rev. Justin

For further study & encouragement see: Proverbs 17:3; Matthew 5:11-12, 48; Acts 5:41; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:12-13