



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109
Office: (804) 725-2832 ♦ Parsonage: (804) 725-3332
Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

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From the Pastor's Pen

Last two Sundays brought flashes of memories, as I found myself speaking to the camera in an empty sanctuary. Trying to have a meaningful hour of worship that way takes faith. Technology has worked well enough; but can we have authentic worship with people scattered at home?



I do focus on one simple thought: We will honor God by hearing God's word. After all, hearing the word of God is authentic worship: "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams." (1 Sam. 15:22) Austere settings sometimes lead us to focus on the invisible. In the Bible everyone from Moses to Elijah to Jesus went into the desert for a time to be with God alone.

Yet at the same time, we are meant to be together. We are not meant to be in the desert permanently. "God is love"; and we are called to love one another. There is a time to be alone, and there is a time to gather.

They say that the next big thing is the so-called metaverse. It is an online, virtual world where people interact through their avatars. No doubt it has interesting possibilities. But it should not replace real world interactions any more than sodas should eliminate water. We are to meet one another as our true selves (Col. 3:9), namely, as those belonging to Christ, and that is the blessing of the church.

As we invest to seek God, so let us also gather as people of God. I hope to spend more time in meeting you in person in the coming days.

Gratefully,
John

Mission Focus of the Month: United Methodist Family Services

United Methodist Family Services is a non-profit agency that provides a comprehensive list of programs for at-risk youths and parents. These programs include foster care, adoption or residential treatment, as well as private day school for specialized care.

UMFS is not just for kids: they are a champion for children, teens, families and communities! They strive to do whatever takes to help young people overcome seemingly overwhelming odds and create bright futures for themselves. UMFS assists the child or teen by empowering the entire family to become stable, self-sufficient, and caring members of their community.

They always start with the individual's strengths, having found that it is much more effective to build on strengths than by focusing on deficit. By doing so, the staff of UMFS hopes to promote a positive social change in the life of every child they touch.

As one individual said, "Every child, regardless of circumstance, deserves the chance to succeed; UMFS welcomed them with open arms."

Linda Dalgety
M & E Chair



Hidden Opportunities

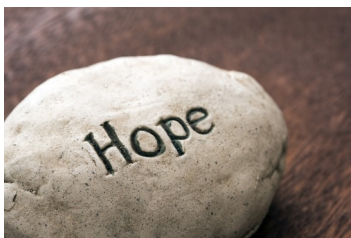
If anyone tells you that absolutely nothing good has come out of these Covid years, you can point out to them that is absolutely not true. Today (Sunday, 1/23) is a prime example here at Central. Due to the ice and snow, John called off the in-person worship service this morning. Because we have the on-line capability already in place, we didn't have to risk the chance of somebody slipping their car in the ditch or falling on the ice trying to get into the building. So what was set up as an answer to Covid has become an inclement weather back-up system. With our aging congregation (myself included), this was a great alternative to the strenuous task of clearing the parking lot and sidewalks and still risking the safety of our members. We can all thank John for his extra effort to put together the service this morning.

Along the same line, the Nancy Wroten/Faith-in-the-Now Sunday School Class met via Zoom after worship service. The two classes combined to meet on Zoom early in the pandemic and have been together ever since. Lately, most of us have been meeting in-person in the Fellowship Hall after worship with those of us unable to be there "in the flesh" joining on Zoom. Today, we imposed our "inclement weather plan" and all met on Zoom. Here is another example of something good to come out of all this.

Don't get me wrong, there is still a great deal more bad than good concerning the pandemic, but God has provided the opportunity for us to find the good in an otherwise bad situation. As is always the case, we just have to look to Him to see these opportunities that are hidden in the bad situations.

Chris Moughon

Administrative Council Chair



Bible Study Concluded

A small group Bible study on the Letter to the Colossians that began last November wrapped up on January 26 with seven participants. Once again, it was an enlightening and challenging journey through one of the lesser known but powerful books of the New Testament, a first-century letter from prison that still speaks today. We took breaks through the holidays and once met for a special Epiphany study on the star of Bethlehem. I thank the participants for sharing in the journey.



Classes such as this are a wonderful time for learning and fellowship. I invite all to look for future opportunities! "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Col. 2:6)

Pastor John



UMW Sends Hygiene Kits

Central United Methodist Women met on January 17th. to review our proposed 2022 Calendar and discuss our upcoming events such as candle burning and participation in an upcoming Church Service. Dates to be forthcoming.

We voted to continue our monthly \$50 donation to the organizations that are chosen by the Mission and Evangelism Team. We also renewed our pledge of \$10 per person per month to York River District UMW.

We reported our 2021 year-end statistics to the Church office. We have increased our membership by one member (Welcome to Janet Burgess!) and we donated to \$1,634.00 to local charitable organizations.

At our meeting, we assembled 24 UMCOR Hygiene Kits. As directed by YRD these kits were to be distributed to our local community instead of being sent to the annual conference. These kits which contain personal hygiene items such as towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, bandages, comb, and nail clippers were gratefully accepted by Lauren Oden at Mathews County Social Services.

Our United Methodist Women have offered to assist the United Methodist Men with the Art Sale that they are planning on March 26th from 9 to 1 in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be served and the UMW will have baked goods available for sale. Donations of Art Works are to be collected between March 19th through March 25th. Contact Joe Arnold at 973 714-4973 or marjoe5050@yahoo.com if you have any art work that you would like to donate. All proceeds will go to UMM.

As a reminder, we are selling Schermer's Pecans to support Wesley Community Service Center. The pecans are \$11 per bag and are available in the Fellowship Hall. And "The Good Measure Cookbook" is still available for \$12. Both the pecans and the cookbook make great gifts.

We continue to collect Non-Food items in the Fellowship Hall for HAM. There is also a need at HAM for canned vegetables and canned fruits as well as soup, cereal, pasta, and pasta sauce.

These food items can be left in the vestibule between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Martha Arnold

President UMW



Lauren Oden at Mathews Social Services pictured with Martha Arnold.



Assembled Hygiene Kits

From Finance Committee Chair

Dear Members of Central Church,

Welcome to 2022! It has got to be better than 2021! Well, maybe not according to some naysayers and prognosticators. We play the hands we are dealt!

Last year Central Methodist Church had a net loss of \$17,000+ in revenue against expenditures. The Bailey Hudgins Fund, thanks to Davenport and Company's excellent work, generated over \$38,000 in real income. But we are losing ground. Our attendance so far this year is up and so is our respected giving, but only slightly. This is a good trend but it is not good enough to make up the expectation of another tough year overall. This is based upon our provided requests from all departments and our budget reality. We are all well aware that a dollar does not go as far as it used to. Costs haven't gone down. We are a giving, loving Church looked up to by our community for leadership and survival.

I have made suggestions to our Administrative Council which will help if accepted. As a Committee, we have crunched some numbers regarding accounts and funds that can be reallocated. I am personally not a "The Lord will find a way" fan because I have found out that applies best when we all go to work to find a way to make it happen. Prayers are great when coupled with a healthy belt-tightening. Let's all look for ways that we can do things differently. Ask someone to join the Church, join a committee and think outside the box.

Spiritual guidance for financial stability and success is the goal for this year.

Thank you,
Tim Hill

Chair, Finance Committee

*Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers
go to the Families of...*



Anne Smith
Dean Hudgins
Randall Hudgins

UMM Plans Fundraisers

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, January 15. We got the new year started on the right foot with another great breakfast prepared by Bobby Hudgins and David Hudgins. We jumped right into discussion of what we hope will be two outstanding fundraisers. The first is a revival of our Brunswick Stew sale which we last did in November, 2020. Gerald Taylor will serve as our project manager for this event which will be held on Saturday, February 26, from 12 to 2pm. The cost will be \$9 per quart and tickets will soon be available from any member.

The second fundraiser is an artworks sale to be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 26. Donations of paintings, table art, sculptures, or any other "artsy" items you wouldn't mind parting with will be accepted. Joe Arnold submitted this idea and will be our project manager. More information will follow as we get closer to this event, but Joe will be glad to answer any questions you might have or arrange possible pick-up of your donations, if needed. See Joe or give him a call at 973-714-4973. I understand the United Methodist Women are discussing the possibility of a bake sale in conjunction with the art sale Stay tuned!

We look forward to these events and appreciate the support of the CUMW as well as the entire congregation.

Chris Moughon

President UM Men

UM Men Art Works Sale

On Saturday, March 26, a one-day art works sale is planned in the fellowship hall. There will be a bake sale by the United Methodist Women at the same time.

Donations are appreciated for paintings and other arts; proceeds will be donated to various community charities and mission organizations.

For questions, please see Joe Arnold or give him a call at 973-714-4973.



Tips for Recycling Plastics

Each month we will be sharing basic TIPS that each church family can use to care for God's Creation and help our environment.

PLASTICS: It is estimated that 8 million metric tons of plastic waste, including PET bottles, enter the ocean each year, and that by 2050 there will be as much plastic in the ocean by mass as there is fish.



MATHEWS RECYCLES:



Recycle # 1 or PETE most common for single-use bottled beverages because: it is inexpensive, lightweight and easy to recycle.

RECYCLE #2 PLASTICS



- # 2 plastics HDPE: High Density Polyethylene
- #2 plastic have many recycle uses, especially for packaging, toys, piping, plastic lumber and rope.



Make a difference, recycle plastics!



Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team



Central United Methodist Men's

Brunswick Stew Sale

Saturday, February 26th

Noon - 2:00 pm

Central United Methodist Church
Church Street in Mathews Court House



DONATION
\$9 per Quart

Proceeds Support Local Church
& Community Outreach!

Reserve yours in advance by purchasing tickets from any member of the Central United Methodist Men or purchase at the door while available. Call 725-8673, 815-8674 or today!

Electrical and Lighting Works Planned




Administrative Council on Jan. 26 supported the trustees' plan to update light fixtures in the classroom wing and the kitchen with more energy efficient lights. At the same time dated circuit breakers will be replaced and new outlets will be installed. The works will be funded from the Baily Hudgins Fund, a bequest that specifies its use to interior and exterior improvement to the building and its ground.

Pastor John

Central Sends Gift to SoSA

Despite two canceled in-person services in January, \$100 was received for [Society of St. Andrew](#). With the addition from the budget plus a \$50 monthly gift from the United Methodist Women, \$250 will be sent to SoSA's work of reducing hunger in America.

Thank you for taking part in this giving!

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|--|---|---|---|-----|--|
| | | 1 Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan Club 2:00 - 7:00 pm  | 2 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am— 1:00 pm | 3 Tai Chi 9:30 am | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Finance 10:30 am | 10 Paul Townsend Mem. class Lunch @ Noon | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Valentine's Day UM Women 10:00 am  | 15 | 16 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am | 17 Tai Chi 9:30 am Trustees 2:00 pm | 18 | 19 UM Men 8:00 am |
| 20 | 21 President's Day | 22 | 23 Administrative Council 7:00pm | 24 Tai Chi 9:30 am | 25 | 26 UM Men's Brunswick stew Sale Noon—2:00 pm |
| 27 | 28 | | | February 2022  | | |

Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Susan Hill | 3 | Ruth Ann Hutson | 12 | Mary Wade Smith | 25 |
| Bob Tabor | 8 | Kenneth Marshall | 13 | Frosty Taylor | 29 |
| Sherry Hodges | 9 | Bill Loving | 23 | | |

*All meeting times & dates
are subject to change.
If in doubt, contact the
committee chair.*