



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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## What Is General Conference and Why Should I Care?

Who makes decisions for The United Methodist Church if there is no one person in charge? Good question. The only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination is the General Conference.

The General Conference is an international body of nearly 1,000 delegates that meets every four years. The delegates are elected by annual conferences (at annual conference sessions) to attend General Conference. They represent all annual conferences around the world. Half of the delegates are laity (non-clergy members), half are clergy.

Bishops attend the General Conference but cannot vote. Different bishops serve as presiding officers during the conference. Other bishops cannot speak unless permission is specifically granted by the delegates.

During General Conference, delegates discuss and vote on petitions and resolutions proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences, and other groups within the denomination. These actions result in a revision of the Book of Discipline, the denomination's book of law, and Book of Resolutions, policies of the denomination on current social issues.

It is at General Conference where delegates wrestle with today's issues in light of scriptural teachings and the church's understanding of that teaching. Here is where the church's official stands and church policies are made regarding such issues as human sexuality, abortion, war and peace, as well as determination of ministries and funding.

General Conferences are held in years divisible by 4, such as 2008, 2012, 2016, etc.

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body will meet at the Oregon Convention Center (Portland), the largest convention center in the Pacific Northwest, on May 10-20, 2016.

Information Source: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/general-conference>

## April 10 to be Conference-Wide Day to Pray for General Conference

The United Methodist Council of Bishops has invited each annual conference to designate one day to hold a 24-hour prayer vigil for General Conference. These prayer vigils began on January 1 with the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and are continuing through the 131 days from January 1 to May 10, the opening day of General Conference. Because The United Methodist Church has 131 annual conferences throughout the world, each annual conference is able to take one day.

Bishop Young Jin Cho selected **Sunday, April 10**, to be the day for the Virginia Conference prayer vigil. (See Page 4.)

## From the Pastor's Pen

### How I Became A Singer

During my first several years as pastor, I rarely if ever sung by myself during a church service. Nowadays, I seem to have gained a reputation as a willing performer. I sometimes wonder: How in the world have I become something of a singer? I know it has to do with the kindness of the people here and also of me being a newcomer to the community. But there is more to it than that.

Years ago, I was deeply moved at the death of a parishioner, and I found myself offering a special song at her funeral. I had never done that before. But I sang a Billy Joel piece (*She's Got a Way*) no less, which totally came out of left field, except that it felt right at the occasion. Even then I thought it was an isolated incident.

But since then I have had numerous occasions to be with people in their last days. I had always believed in the power of worship, and every now and then I would take a hymnal and sing by the bedside—as an act of worship and ministry. What I had not anticipated, was that the families would later request that I sing at the memorial service. That was largely the beginning of my ministry in songs.

Now that I have gained an unexpected ministry, let me offer some insight as to how you might find or nurture one as well. First, follow your heart. No, let me put it accurately: Obey Christ's voice in your heart. Love can lead you in a surprising direction. Second, seek to be a servant. It is not about you! Third, rely on the grace of God. I once stepped in front of the microphone, knowing that my coughs could ruin the song. I had people praying for me! Fourth, nurture others' gifts by affirming their ministries. Ministries are often born of a community. Lastly, grow in your faith walk with Jesus, because that is what will give you peace.

You are ministers of Christ, and it is a privilege to be fellow ministers with you. May the Holy Spirit continue to empower you in the multitude of ways you witness to Christ.

Gratefully, *John*

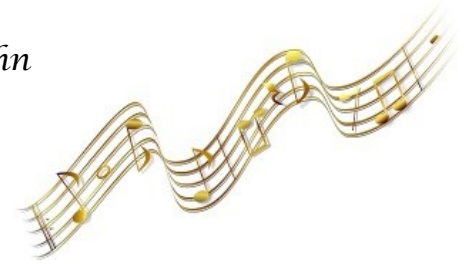


Image source: pixabay.com

### Children & Youth Ministry

Spring officially arrived on March 20. We enjoy the presentation of God's creation in the flowers, trees, grasses and much more. Our story is *He Lives*. The children are enthusiastic, inquiring and learning how Jesus is the example for their lives. Thanks so much for the leadership of Katherine Small, Janet Gomez, Brenda Lewis, Nancy Jagger, the children's parents and our congregation.


They will be sponsoring two outreach programs:

- Kettlie Jean, a 12 years old girl in Haiti with their Sunday school offering.
- The *Heifer Project* with their *Children's Time* offering during the late worship service.

The *FINS* Program will return to Central on Friday, April 15. We will be co-hosting with Mathews Chapel UMC.

Enjoy your Spring, remembering John 3:16.

*Pat Gwaltney*, Chair

	<b>Fridays IN the Spirit</b>	FINS nights include dinner, bible activities, games and FUN, FUN, FUN!!
Central UMC Friday, April 15 6:30 - 9:00 pm Ages: K-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade		

## Hospitality

Thank you to those who have been greeters and ushers and to those who provided refreshments for the Sunday fellowship gatherings.

Greeters and ushers are needed for the early service in May. Please, contact Patty Hertzler to volunteer.

### *Your Hospitality Team*

#### Greeters/Ushers for April

8:30 am service	Emily & Steve Leap
11:00 am service	
April 3	Alvin Knight & Marcia Fry
April 10-24	Friendship Class

#### Refreshments Providers for April

3	Michael & Ed Cannon and Melba & Nate Houser
10	David, Hudgins, Frosty Taylor, Eric Stewart & Elizabeth Anderson
17	Volunteer Opportunity
24	Karen & Ken Palmer

## Finance

Last month we talked briefly about apportionments and that a small portion, 0.3%, goes to support Africa University. I just received a note of appreciation from them and copy a portion of it here as it gives more insight into their mission. It is a good example of the broad outreach made possible by our apportionment contribution. Thank you Central.

*More than 6,200 alumni. Fifteen hundred full-time students from 26 African countries. More than 750 continuing education or part-time students. Students from all three United Methodist African central conferences. Graduates working in more than 30 countries. That's Africa University. For 24 years, we have nurtured principled, effective and ethically and spiritually grounded leaders for the church and the world. We are grateful for your conference's investment in the Africa University Fund in 2015. Our alumni serve their communities and the world as college and seminary presidents, faculty members, district superintendents, communicators, hospital and clinic managers, farmers and agricultural workers, peace-building advocates and much more. Your gifts are essential.*

(See the bulletin board outside the nursery door for the Winter 2016 issue of the African University Today).

## CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST MEN'S SEMI ANNUAL

# Steamed Shrimp Dinner

Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

4:00-7:00 P.M

Central United Methodist Church  
Church Street at Mathews Courthouse

Steamed Shrimp	Hush Puppies
Cole Slaw	Baked Beans
Desserts	Drinks
Hot Dogs and More!!!	

*Come out and enjoy great food, fun, and fellowship!!*

#### DONATION

Eat In - \$17.00 or Take Out - \$16.00

Children Age 5 -10 \$6.00 Under 5 FREE

Proceeds Support Local Church & Community Outreach!

Purchase tickets in advance from any member of  
the Central United Methodist Men  
or call 725-8673, 725-2488 or 725-3751 today!

## 2016 Graduates



The Paul Townsend Memorial Class will again be honoring this year's graduates. If you have a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college, please call David Hudgins at 725-6586 (ASAP) with the name, type of diploma/degree and institution attended. Please provide a photo to be included in the *Central Chimes*.

The graduates will be honored at both services Sunday, June 12.

Deadline is May 31.

Image source: pixabay.com

## Prayer for General Conference Prayer Vigil

Oh Lord, we come to offer our praise and thanksgiving for your presence and gifts, your mercy and grace. We come to ask for strength and courage as we pray for our General Conference, for the delegates and for your United Methodist Church. We pray Lord, hold your delegates in the palm of your hand. Give them wisdom, compassion and understanding and a willingness to make difficult and necessary decisions to strengthen and grow your church as we walk this journey together. We acknowledge Lord that we are a diverse people, of different cultures, understandings, biases, beliefs and desires. Instill in us a sense of the Body of Christ, that we may in our differences be one Body of Christ. Where there is division, lead us to compromise and unity and maintain our focus on your mission that you have for us in the world, to make disciples in relationship with you.

*"Give all delegates a love for your church – a desire not only to serve you as we now can but also a determination to bring unity to divided churches, that the world may more readily receive the Gospel and find in our manner of living it out the way of peace and unity. Through Christ who is the head of the body, the church. Amen."*

Except for italicized quotation the prayer is offered by Don Jamison, Chair, Board of Discipleship. Italicized quotation is selected from *This Day: A Wesleyan Way of Prayer*, by Laurence Hull Stookey, p. 146. Copyright 2004 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission for local church worship.

[60 Days of Prayer for General Conference 2016](#) has been published by Upper Room Books. It contains prayers and meditations that all United Methodists conferences can use to pray with and for the 864 delegates and leaders of the General Conference. If you would like a copy, ask the church office to print it for you.



Give the Gift of Life!  
Mathews Community Blood Drive  
Tuesday, April 5, 2:00 -7:00 pm  
Piankatank Ruritan Club

Image source: pixabay.com

## Paul Townsend Memorial Class

The class met for a meal and meeting on March 10. There were 15 members in attendance.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8. We will be accepting listings for our annual Mother's Day Tribute Bulletin. Each listing is \$1. The form can be found in the Sunday bulletin. Return the form to any member of the class. The proceeds will benefit many in our community.

We will be honoring this year's graduates at both services Sunday, June 12. If you have a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college, please call David Hudgins at 725-6586 with the name, type of diploma/degree and institution attended. Please provide a photo to be included in the *Central Chimes*. The Deadline is May 31.

The Paul Townsend Memorial Class meets every Sunday at 10:00 am. We welcome you to attend.

*David Lee Hudgins,*  
Class President



Image source: pixabay.com

[Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to the Families of...](#)

Norman Kemp	Theresa Powell
George Sandberg	Bobby South
Rev. Edwin Lockwood	Evelyn Gibson
Richard A. Grimstead, Sr.	

## Our Mission Partners: The Paiges

### A Vision Trip to Spain

The word "vision" is defined as:

1. The act or power of sensing with the eyes; sight
2. The act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be
3. An experience in the life of a person, whereby a special revelation from God was received

This is what our vision trip to Spain is all about. We are going to the country that God has placed on our hearts to physically see it for the first time, anticipating what and where our future ministry will be. Through our experience we are looking for divine revelation and discernment of the place that God is already preparing for us to serve Him.

Now that you know the **WHY**, here is the..



### When, Where, and How

**When?** March 28th through April 7th

**Where?** 5 different Christian schools / school Initiatives

1. LIFE school in Tres Cantos (Madrid area)

2. Evangelical Christian Academy in Camarma (Madrid area)
3. Synergy school in Barcelona
4. Colegio Evangelista in Pamplona
5. TIV in Seville

As you can tell by looking at the map we are packing in a lot in just 10 days!

**How?** We are flying into Madrid, then will be traveling by train to the various cities. The trip is being coordinated by Scot Musser, a missionary in Madrid that we have been conversing with over the past 2 years.

### Pray for Us

We have been blessed by a couple of families that have volunteered to keep Cora and Daniel while we are gone. This saves money and allows us to have a more intense schedule.

### Please pray for the time that we will be separated as a family!

Also, please pray for:

- Our safety
- Our health and stamina
- Divine wisdom and discernment
- A clear vision of where we are to serve

We are excited to see how God will use us to further His Kingdom in Spain. Thank you for partnering with us in ministry.

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March 6, the UM Men sang at the early Service.

Photo provided by Louise Witherspoon

## United Methodist Women

Thanks to all who joined us for our Volunteer Luncheon. (See Page 7 for photos). Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. We know that there are many more in our congregation who give of themselves to our community. We'd like to say *thank you* and hope you will join us next year.

The congregation is invited to join us on Sunday, April 24 at 3:00 pm for a wonderful concert by *The BayBells Handbell Choir* and stay to enjoy an Ice Cream Social. You will hear good music and enjoy delicious homemade ice cream with a variety of toppings. Put this date on your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. Donations will benefit the *Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic*.

Donations for *Kits for Conference* are being collected. This year we are putting together school kits. A list of needed supplies follows. If you choose to make the bag, the pattern and instructions are on the UMW bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations are also accepted. A box is in the Fellowship Hall to collect the items.

*Grace Mortimer,*  
CUMW Recording Secretary



### Ice Cream Social and BayBells Concert

Sunday, April 24  
3:00 pm

To benefit the  
Mattaponi Healing  
Eagle Clinic

Sponsored by  
Central UM Women

Image source: cliparthut.com

## School Kits for Conference Supplies List

### 1 pair blunt scissors

rounded tip only  
no plastic scissors, please

### 3 pads of paper

spiral- or top-bound pads  
150 sheets or less of loose leaf can be substituted for one pad  
combination of spiral, top bound, side bound or loose leaf is acceptable  
no composition books, please

### 1 hand-held pencil sharpener

must be at least one-inch long  
remove from packaging

### 1 30-centimeter ruler

hard or flexible  
cartoon characters are acceptable  
no advertisements, please

### 6 unsharpened pencils

no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please  
cartoon characters are acceptable

### 1 2-inch or larger size eraser

no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please  
cartoon characters are acceptable

### 1 24-count box of crayons

only 24-count boxes, please

### 1 14"x16" cloth bag

*homemade or purchased* bags are both acceptable  
heavy-duty fabric only – denim, corduroy, drapery fabric, etc.  
no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please  
closures are optional but must be buttons, snaps or Velcro sewn in middle of opening, if used

### Important notes

All items must be new.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more. DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.



Image source:  
cliparthut.com

## Photo Round-up



### UMW Volunteer Luncheon, March 14

Photos provided by Judy Moughon



Jeff Clark, York River District Director of Lay Servant Ministries presented a Lay Speaker certificate to Judy Moughon at the late service on February 14.

The Lay Speaking Ministries has changed from *Lay Speaking* to *Lay Servant* Ministries and Judy was no longer a Certified Lay Speaker until she took six required courses and then gave a sermon to the District Lay Speaking/Servant Committee. These lay servants have responded to a specific calling to be sent to preach in local churches as directed by the District Director of Lay Servant Ministries or the District Superintendent.

Photo provided by Katherine Small









### **CENTRAL NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS, SUPPORT AND HELP**

Until a Nursery Attendant is hired, we are asking for volunteers to help with our Children's Ministry. One hour or more, one Sunday a month is all that is required. Support Nancy Jagger as she teaches Sunday School and/or join one of our parent caregivers during the late service.

Please, help spread the word. The hours for a paid Nursery Attendant is 9:45 am to 12:15 pm each Sunday. Hours for 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are 8:45 am to 11:15 am.

Contact any member of the SPRC, Nancy Jagger (725-5193) or Ben Leigh (824-4957 or 725-3883).

Image source: pixabay.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.	1	2
3	4 Prayer Time 8:00 am	5 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Covenant Bible Study A		7 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	8
10 General Conference Prayer Vigil 	11 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am	12 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	13 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Finance 7:00 pm	14 P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	15 FINS 6:30 - 9:00 pm 	16 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am Church Clean-up Day 9:00 am
17 	18 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care (at the Cannon's) 9:00 am Disaster Response Study Team 2:00 pm SPRC 7:00 pm	19 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	20 Mission & Evangelism 9:00 am Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am	21 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	22 UM Men Shrimp Dinner 4:30 - 7:00 pm 	23
24 BayBells Concert and Ice Cream Social 3:00 pm 	25 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	26 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	27 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am	28 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	29	30

### Birthdays

Lisa Zerbe	4	Marcia Fry	18
Bobby Hudgins	11	Janet Burgess	20
Mark Lewis	12	Helen Lee	20
Kathy Bochau	13	Diana More	21
Christine Ulrich	14		

### Anniversaries

Ken & Karen Palmer	8
Richard & Melissa Moughon	9
Chris & Pat Moughon	18
Craig & Katherine Small	21

Image source:  
pixabay.com - praying hands, ice cream  
cliparthut.com - shrimp