

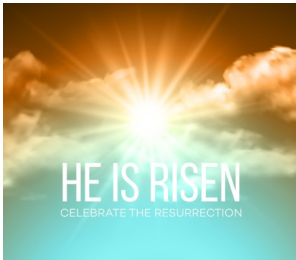


# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109  
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Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

April 2023

## From the Pastor's Pen



Holy Week and Easter are around the corner, and it feels, this year we are out of the pandemic's long shadow. Mathews Ministers Association is offering daily noon services during the next

week at Westville Christian Church (next to the library) from Monday through Friday. There will be special music as well as homily each day. On Maundy Thursday (Apr. 6) we will have a 'living Last Supper' in the fellowship hall: A cast of men will dramatize Jesus' Passover meal with his disciples in Jerusalem, and it will be followed by a quiet celebration of the Holy Communion in the sanctuary. On Easter morning we are once again gathering at the Old Field Point for a sunrise service, with the service and Sunday schools following at regular times.

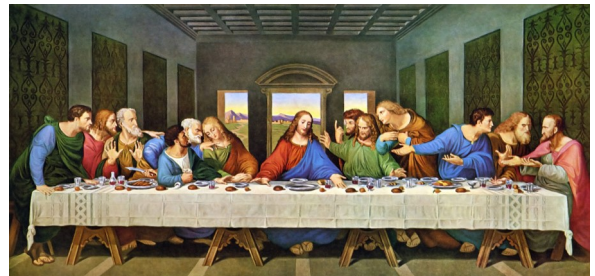
Regardless if Covid-19 may be in the rearview or not, the world does not lack threats to life. Wars have engulfed nations, and children are being killed in their schools. Tornadoes and floods have destroyed towns. Brazen attempts at lies, misinformation, and factionalism still remain. Had we not had hope that is greater than the threats of this world, this would have been a truly difficult time.

Thanks be to God, that Jesus overcame death. By his resurrection Jesus also showed that God's purposes are not thwarted by the plots of humans and society. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ..." (Mt. 28:18-19)

**Join us for Worship**  
**Sunday service—9:15 a.m.**  
**Sunday school—10:15 a.m.**  
[Service Live on YouTube](#)

I hope we will celebrate in spirit and truth the Holy Week, Easter, and our call from the risen Christ.

Gratefully,  
*John*



**Maundy Thursday Service**  
**April 6, 7:00 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
In addition to Holy Communion, this year's service will feature a drama presentation with members of the church called, "The Last Supper."

  
**April 9th at Central UMC**  
**Worship Service In-person**  
**& Online 9:15 a.m.**  
**Sunday School -10:15 a.m.**



**Easter Sunrise Service  
April 9th; 6:00 a.m.  
Old Field Point, Moon**

**Directions to Old Field Point**

- Take Buckley Hall Road (beside Hardee's) towards Moon.
- Turn left at Fitchett's Wharf Road (in sharp curve).
- Look for a large Old Field Point sign on right.
- Turn right and then make a left.
- Follow the road straight into the yard of the home.

**Central UMC  
YouTube Channel  
Join us at 9:15 a.m.  
for church services online.**

Go to:  
[www.centralumcmathews.org](http://www.centralumcmathews.org)  
and click on the YouTube link.



**Mission Focus for April:  
Hands Across Mathews**



Hand Across Mathews seeks to help local families who have suffered some crisis that puts them in need of the basic amenities of food, clothing, shelter, prescription medications or fuel. HAM has combined the efforts of 35 churches to provide non-denominational charitable aid to families, which have been evaluated and approved by the Mathews County Social Services Department. The following statistics summarize its efforts in the past year:

- The budget for our Programs exceeds \$140,000 annually;
- Between 95 and 100 families per week are receiving food;
- Approximately 70 volunteers provide over 9,000 hours of services each year.

For more information:

[www.handsacrossmathews.org](http://www.handsacrossmathews.org)

*Monthly mission focus is adopted by the Administrative Council.*



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Westville Christian Church  
261 Main Street, Mathews**

**Daily at Noon  
April 3-7**

**Presented by  
the Mathews County  
Christian Ministers  
Association**

## Mission and Evangelism Success and Plans

The members of the Mission and Evangelism committee were greatly encouraged by the success of our recent *Songs, Soups, Salads and Sweets*. The performances for the event were exceptional, the food delicious, and we raised over \$500.00 for UMCOR. (pictured below)



Tom Robinson (above left, at podium) was the latest person to testify at our *Journey with God* program. He opened with the statement, "I didn't always put God as first place on my list, but you know what? I was always number one on His!" His testimony brought tears to many of the people attending the event. If you haven't attended this program before, you don't know

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## Steps that Count

There is a lot of conversation these days about the number of steps you take and how that affects your health. There are recommendations on how fast and how far to go. We have watches and phones and key fobs that can count the steps for us. But some people argue that it's not the steps that you take but where the steps take you, the destination and/or the journey -- what kind of steps we use to reach our goals. I am thankful for all the steps that our Central Church leaders and congregation take to keep us going in a positive direction.

During Lent we reflect on the steps that Jesus took on His journey to the cross. He didn't have a watch or computer to calculate the distance or the value of His walk, but He knew He had to go and what His trip required of Him. He also knew there would be obstacles in His path that would challenge Him. But He went on. Even more amazing was that He did it, not for Himself, but for you and me. He did it so we could have eternal life. And He kept on walking with us.

As we continue through Lent and beyond, think about the steps you take and where you are headed -- not just for your physical health but your spiritual health, too. On your walk, take Jesus with you (He'll go with you anyway). Thank Him and praise Him because He is with you in every step you take... And that is AWESOME.

Easter Blessings,

*Dee Bane*

Administrative Council Chair

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

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Billy Allsbrook





what you're missing. Our next program will be in May. Please make plans to join us. Look for articles about both events in the *Gazette-Journal*.

We continue to send monthly reports and letters to our recent high school graduates just to remind them that they are always in our prayers. Judy will send them in March and Betty in April.

We are excited to once again be planning another Rise against Hunger event this November. It is expensive to raise funds to hold such a program, so we discussed various ways to raise the money needed. Among the activities discussed was a paint night and selling Krispy Kreme donuts. We will continue to look for various ways to raise funds. (Our Mission Focus for April is Hands across Mathews; for May is Avalon; and for June is 3 Rivers.)

When I attended the Mission Rivers District Launch Program, the Mission and Evangelism committees from various churches exchanged ideas for various ways to help reinforce God's love. One idea that was presented was delivering treats to various local businesses and organizations. We decided to adopt this idea. Our first organization to receive treats will be the Thrifty Spot thrift store. We will determine how many people volunteer there and arrange treats accordingly.

I recently was a guest speaker at the middle school Bible Club. Once again, I was impressed with the way the meeting was conducted. They always open with a prayer and the things that they pray about are very real and very touching.

Riverside Convalescent Center has responded to our inquiries that they would love to have visitors to the residents, and sing-a-longs. Church services are also needed. Pastor John indicated he would be available for afternoon Sunday Services. We also discussed holding an Ice Cream Social and adopting a resident.

*Linda Dalgety*

Mission and Evangelism Chair

## UM Men Brunswick Stew Success

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, March 18. The fourteen members present were treated to a breakfast that couldn't be beat prepared by James Martin and Gerald Taylor.

The recent Brunswick Stew Sale was reviewed and deemed a great success. We had about \$1250 profit which would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the congregation. We received many compliments on the stew itself such as "we really nailed it this time." We can't thank Gerald Taylor enough for heading up the project and donating much of his time and the supplies for the endeavor. Thanks again to all of you for supporting us!

We then discussed how to distribute our profits in the community and decided to donate \$200 to Heart Havens. We also decided to purchase \$200 worth of canned goods to donate to Hands Across Mathews in response to a recent request. David Hudgins and Chris Merrill are heading up this project for us. We are also checking into other possibilities for donations in the next month or two.

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Above: David Hudgins and Chris Merrill bring food donations from UMM and the church to Hands Across Mathews.

Lastly, we mentioned the upcoming yard sale to be held in conjunction with the county-wide yard sale, probably the first Saturday in June. You can be thinking of items to donate and stay tuned for more info to come.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 15, in the Fellowship Hall at 8am. Hope to see all the Central men there!

*Chris Moughon,*  
CUMM President

### UM Women: An Urgent Appeal

CUMW held our monthly meeting on March 13th in the Fellowship Hall to discuss upcoming events of the year.

On March 12th we had our annual Candle Burning Service. Candle Burning is a channel of Mission Giving offered as a means of supporting mission programs around the world. We dedicated one minute of candle burning time to honor the children of the church. Through the generosity of our congregation, we collected \$644.00 for our service. A listing of the candle burning gifts was presented in the bulletin and the candle burned for almost 18 minutes during the service in the amount of time for which donations had been given. In addition to our Candle Burning Service, we assisted Pastor John with the service, serving as greeters, ushers, liturgist, and reading of the scriptures.

We provided hospitality after the church service on March 26th. Thank you for joining us in the Fellowship Hall for some light refreshments.

We will continue our monthly \$50 donation to the organizations that are chosen by the Mission and Evangelism Team.

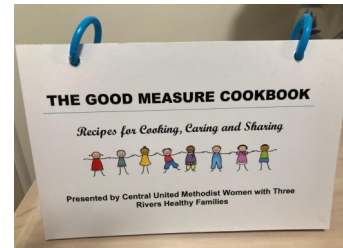
THIS IS A NEW URGENT APPEAL! Hands Across Mathews is having difficulty in obtaining food from the Peninsula food bank. They are appealing to churches and organizations to donate canned vegetables and fruits, soups, proteins such as tuna fish and chicken, cereals, peanut butter, rice, beans, pasta, etc. As well, they continue to need Non-Food items such as

toilet paper, shampoos, soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. There are bins for the food in the vestibule between the church and the Fellowship Hall and there is a bin for non-food items in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity.

"The Good Measure Cookbook" is still available for \$12. The cookbook makes a great gift.

Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

*Martha Arnold*  
CUMW President



### 2023 Graduates

The Paul Townsend Memorial Class will again be honoring this year's high school and college graduates with Bibles and books of worship.

Please drop off, mail or email the following to the church office by **Sunday, May 21st.**

*You may also call David Hudgins at 804-725-3273*

Full Name & type of diploma/degree and institution attended.

- Share your plans for the future
- Add names of parents and/or grandparents that are members of Central
- Include a photo if you like, for the Chimes newsletter (Please note if you need photo returned).

### **Give the Gift of Life!**

Mathews Community Blood Drive  
Tuesday, April 18, 2:00 -7:00 pm

Piankatank Ruritan Building  
Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for appt.  
or Call [804-725-2485](tel:804-725-2485) for appt.  
and for questions.



Image source: pixabay.com

## Creation Care Offers Classes

A relationship with God's creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist.

Central's Creation Care Team was asked again this year to give recycling classes at Mathews Thomas Hunter Middle School. We will be teaching Cindy Machen's 5TH graders, "WHY RECYCLE?". The students get 6 chances to turn trash into recycle material. At the same time, they will learn how it helps Mathews and their planet. Success at recycling will result in each student winning a prize. The classes will be on Tuesday, March 28 and Wed., March 29th.



There are 65 students participating. It takes a team to pull this off. Thanks to David Hudgins, Martha Arnold, Dee Bane, Chris Moughon, Nancy Goldman and Merle Guy!

*Michael Cannon*

Creation Care Team

*"The Earth is the Lords and everything in it."*

## From Henry Fork Service Center

*Christian Education News*



Here we are, preparing ourselves for Spring (although, around here, we didn't really have a "true" winter). Easter is just around the corner. Before we know it, school will be ending

and Summer fun will be here! In the meantime, we have lots happening in the Henry Fork Center after school program.

We concluded our Christmas study and jumped right into the life of Jesus. This year, we focused on the healings and miracles performed by our Savior. Stories included the Wedding at Cana, the Woman at the Well, John the Baptist, and Feeding the 5,000. We are now focusing on the Easter story. Students are learning about Jesus's arrest, trial, and death. Following Spring Break, we will focus on the Resurrection and Ascension before rounding the season out with some of our staff's favorite New Testament stories. It has been great so far and we are all excited about the remainder of the stories yet-to-come.

Summer is fast approaching and this year we are trying something new. The United Women in Faith have provided us with a curriculum about God's "Kin-dom". As we are reading through the curriculum guides, we are looking forward to seeing our "kin-dom" take shape at Henry Fork!

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to our programs. Your prayers and gifts of time, money, and supplies are very much appreciated. We couldn't do this without your love and support. Blessings to you all!

For the [full Newsletter](http://www.henryforkcenter.org) go to [www.henryforkcenter.org](http://www.henryforkcenter.org)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>April 2023</h1>						1
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship Service 9:15 am  Deadline for Lily orders	3 <b>Holy Week</b>	4  Book Study 7:00 pm	5  Service Daily at Noon Westville Christian Church	6  Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm	7	8
9 <b>Sunrise Service</b> 6:00 am at Old Field Pt.  <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:15 am Sunday School - 10:15 am	10  UMW 10:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm	11  Book Study 7:00 pm	12	13 Paul Townsend Class lunch 12:00 Noon  Finance 2 pm Trustees 3 pm  Choir 7:00 pm	14	15 UM Men 8:00 am
16 <b>Worship—9:15 am</b> Sunday school - 10:15 am	17	18  Blood Drive  Piankatank Ruritan Club 2:00 - 7:00pm  Book Study 7:00 pm	19  Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	20	21	22
23 <b>Worship—9:15 am</b> Sunday school - 10:15 am	24	25  Book Study 7:00 pm	26  Administrative Council 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30 <b>Worship—9:15 am</b> Sunday school - 10:15 am				All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.		

### Birthdays

Dale Robinson	9	Christine Ulrich	14
Bobby Hudgins	11	Marcia Fry	18
Mark Lewis	12	Janet Burgess	20
Kathy Bochau	13	Helen Lee	20
Janet Bowman	13	Diana More	21

### Anniversaries

Chris & Pat Moughon	18
Craig & Katherine Small	21