



# 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

AUGUST 2021

## From the Pastor's Pen: Christians, Masks, and Vaccine

The topics of masks and vaccines have generated heated debates in our society. They have been politicized in ways that divided even the people of faith. With the renewed surge of Covid numbers it appears the debates will continue.

I am not a scientist, and I am wary of political debates; but as a clergyperson and Christian I would like to offer a perspective that is often overlooked: If you are a Christian, the ultimate reason whether or not to wear a mask or get vaccinated, should be Jesus. Needless to say, we take into account what available information, and we should be aware of our rights and duties as citizens. But as citizens of God's Kingdom we are to listen to the Holy Spirit, asking, "What does Jesus want me to do?" or "How do I best honor Jesus Christ?"



Addressing sexual morality, the scripture says in 1 Cor. 6:19-20, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." Addressing whether to eat meat produced from pagan sacrifices, 1 Cor. 10:31 says, "Whether you

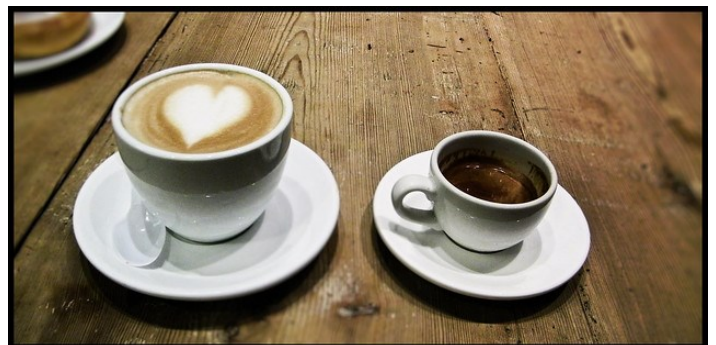
eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." We are called to freedom, because "it is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (Gal. 5:1) But our freedom is so that we may "humbly serve one another in love." (Gal. 5:13)

People do not usually consult with Jesus for which socks to wear in the morning, what to choose from the menu, or what cars to buy. That is because, as we sometimes say crudely, "God gave us the brain." The fact that we get

to make our own decisions, however, does not mean that we are free to do as we please apart from God. Indeed for Christians the love of God, and the honor of God, governs all facets of their life, including even what to wear, what to eat, what to drink—because all of those small decisions can lead to major impacts. Unlike the Taliban, however, Jesus is love, and he is the truth; and obeying the truth results in freedom. Honoring God with our bodies, for instance, does not result in loss of freedom; it results in greater freedom.

It is so easy to tailor Jesus to fit into our own agenda and wishes. But Jesus is who he is, and he must be taken on his own terms. In listening to him there is life and freedom. That is the best news for all of us!

Gratefully,  
*John*



### Sunday Fellowship Coffee Time

Join us this Sunday, August 1 at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and fellowship before the service.

## Henry Fork Center News

### Christian Education News

Time has flown and we have completed our New Testament journey in the afterschool program. Our summer program is in full swing with a new theme: The Armor of God.

This summer, our overall theme is being broken down into segments. The weeks are di-vided into characteristics of the Armor of God (the Helmet of Salvation, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Belt of Truth, the Sword of the Spirit, the Shield of Faith, and the Shoes of Peace). Stories have been selected to promote these characteristics. Some of the stories include Zacchaeus, David and Saul, Jacob and Esau, Han-nah, Noah, and Jesus Calms the Storm. The students are having a blast with the different activities so far and are excited for the rest of the summer.

Before we know it, school will be starting and it will be time for our after-school program to resume. The plans for that program are starting to take shape and we are working on choosing a theme. Many of the children are already excited to see what is in store for them in the upcoming school year. We are keeping them in suspense a little longer, but they are looking forward to seeing what we do!

[From July Newsletter]



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



## Administrative Council Chair

It is so good to see so many of your smiling faces again at Central! Whether it is at worship service, Sunday school, committee meetings, or United Methodist Men's breakfast, it is great to be back in person. In-person worship service continues to progress towards normalcy as we now sing two hymns, have a liturgist, and live special music. Yes, it seems we're on the right track.

The Post-Covid Recovery Group (PCRG) is keeping a wary eye on the Delta deviant of Covid-19. That's why it was decided to continue with pre-packaged communion, leaving the collection plate up front instead of passing it around, and with one half of the sanctuary still at half capacity. I'm sure that we all hope and pray that we don't have to backtrack and reinstate some or all of the restrictions that have just been lifted because of this deviant. Hopefully, we can weather this uptick in the virus and continue on our road to recovery and normalcy because it is so very good to see you again!

Blessings,

*Chris Moughon*

Administrative Council Chair



**Sunday School Class has a hybrid zoom meeting in the Fellowship Hall.**

## United Methodist Women

Central United Methodist Women met in the Fellowship Hall on July 12th. We discussed the new procedure for collecting UMCOR Kits. Since UMCOR is understaffed, they will not be accepting the kits this year. We have been directed by York River District to collect the items and to distribute them to our local community.



The UMW will be collecting monetary donations for school kits between now and August 14 to coincide with the local backpack program in Mathews called "No Walls". This program is already functional in Mathews and supports the same mission through the school system as the school kit collections. The money collected will provide supplies for backpacks for students in Mathews County.

A collection for health kits for Hands Across Mathews will be made at a later time. Sorry for any confusion this change may have caused.

No Walls Community Day is a joint effort among Mathews County Pastors, Churches, and Community Leaders to pull our resources together to make an impact in our community. Their first priority is to supply backpacks and school supplies to school age students.

[Please see more information on this page.]

We appreciate your support!

Please make your check to CUMW and note "School kit" in the memo. You may leave your donations in the UMW folder in the hallway or mail them to our treasurer, Dee Bane, 53 Fleetwood Circle, Moon, VA 23119.

We continue to contribute to the mission chosen each month by Mission and Evangelism and we continue to collect Non Food Items in the Fellowship Hall for HAM. Also, our "The Good Measure Cookbook" is still available for \$12 in the Fellowship Hall.

*Martha Arnold*  
CUMW President



## No Walls Community Day

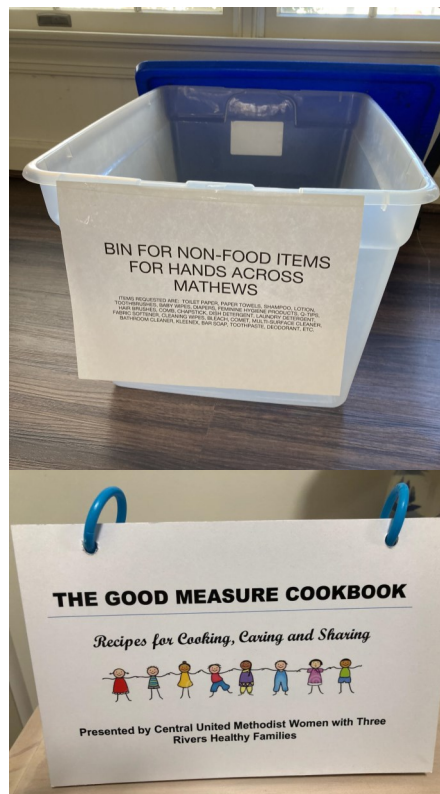
As many of you all are aware, every August a group of Mathews pastors, churches, community leaders, and others all come together for the annual No Walls Community Day event that has been happening since 2016. It is an event where we give-away backpacks and school supplies in an effort to bless the students of our county, and to help their families have one less concern at the start of the school year.

*Fr. Jason Hess*

To donate or volunteer:

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/mathewscommunityday/>

<http://www.mathewscommunityday.us/>



**Non Food Items  
Collection  
&  
Good Measure  
Cookbook**

## Creation Care

Don't miss your opportunity to keep chemicals out of our land and waters.



**Middle Peninsula Chemical Collections**  
**MATHEWS COUNTY AUGUST 21, 2021**  
**Star Fields, LLC 2905 Buckley Hall Road**  
**8:00AM – 12:00 Noon**



### Acceptable Materials:

**Household Maintenance:** Oil paint, Latex paint, Stains, Solvents, Glue, Varnishes, Adhesives

**Automotive:** Gasoline and other fuels (less than 50 gallons), Waxes, Gas/oil mixtures, Brake fluid, Engine cleaner (**Motor oil and antifreeze are ONLY accepted at events held in the City of Hampton.**)

**Lawn & Garden:** Insecticides, Weed killers, Pesticides. Fertilizers, Pest Strips

**Household Cleaning:** Oven cleaners, Drain cleaners, Floor waxes and cleaners, Metal polishes or jewelry cleaners, Bleach, Degreasers, Septic tank cleaners, toilet cleaners

**Miscellaneous:** Charcoal fluids, Dyes, Kerosene, Rechargeable Batteries, Fluorescent Light Bulbs (including CFL's)

### Household Chemical Collections:

Computer-related items accepted for recycling are limited to the following:

Desktop and laptop computers

Servers

Monitors (both LCD and CRT types)

Computer wiring

Desktop printers including multi function printers, or "all in ones"

Fax machines

Desktop photocopiers and scanners

Cell phones



*Michael Cannon*

Creation Care Team

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



## Mission and Evangelism

### Mission Focus for August: Heart Havens

*The Mission Focus of the month is adopted by the Administrative Council. You may give to it by marking your check for the mission/organization.*



Imagine for a moment that you're an adult with a developmental disability. What can you expect out of life ?

In days past, families often institutionalized children who had an impairment with physical, learning, language, or behavioral disorders and the children remain in the institution for the remainder of their lives. These institutions tended to isolate people from their family, friends, and community. Some had practices that were dangerous and by today's standards, inhumane.

But our society has come a long way since then. Experience has shown that living among family, friends, and neighbors fosters new abilities and creates communities where everyone is welcomed.

Heart Havens is a non-profit organization that provides residential support to individuals with developmental disorders. It encourages community integration through participation, using a person centered approach to empower a person to discover what they love and to pursue what they love and to try new things; and helps prepare residents to live and thrive on their communities. Whether it's getting involved in community theatre, conducting a pet food drive, or having a party with friends, Heart Havens provides support as people with developmental disorders strive to reach their goals and make their dreams come true.

Heart Havens was originally founded by the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, however since 2004, it has been a

separate institution that works in partnership with the local community support board, the United Methodist Church, and other organizations. It operates homes in Richmond, Stuart's Draft, Lynchburg, and Virginia Beach. All of the homes have the capacity to house 5 residents who are fully supervised at all times by dedicated and supportive staff.

But to the people who live in one of these homes, it is more than just a roof over their heads or a place to sleep at night, it's where dreams become reality.

If you'd like to help support our mission focus for this month, please make your check payable to Central UMC, with a notation for *Heart Havens*.

*Linda Dalgety*

Mission and Evangelism chair

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



## Finance Chair

Dear Church Members,

Welcome to a very hot start to a Mathews summer! The financial health of our beloved Central Methodist Church is indeed well, thanks to prudent spending and all the voluntary efforts of our members. We do, however; have one major expense coming up that was totally unexpected. The HVAC system in the parsonage is on its last legs. This is horrible timing, but so necessary for John's comfort. This must be corrected now!

From my perspective, it is so rewarding to watch the giving by Church members. Just when we have a dip in giving one month, from out of nowhere comes a special gift. This is incredible! God does take care of those who take care of him.

The loss of some members' contributions is missed but so far we have made corrections or adjustments. Our investments continue to grow exponentially as the market has continued its steady growth. Thank you Jay Black and Davenport Investments!

I wish each of you a safe and cool, if possible, summer. Please remember if you see a need where our Church may be of assistance, please let John know.

Yours in service,

*Tim Hill*

Finance Chair

---

## United Methodist Men

The Central Church United Methodist Men met on Saturday, June 26. A wonderful breakfast was prepared by Bobby Hudgins and David Hudgins and was enjoyed by all. This was the first time the group had met since last fall.

Since there had been no president since then, it was decided that vice-president Chris Moughon should become president. The group decided that the most important thing at this time was to just continue as a group and discuss possible projects in the future. We will meet again on Saturday, August 21.

*Chris Moughon*

CUMM President

August 2021

## From the Pastor / Post Covid Re-Entry Group

1. We return to celebrating the Lord's Supper indoors this Sunday. As was with the outdoor service, prepackaged elements will be given before the service.

2. Coffee and table fellowship on Sundays used to give us chances to share our time and our gifts with one another. We will incrementally resume Sunday fellowship time, and this Sunday (Aug. 1) coffee will be available in the fellowship hall starting at 8:30 a.m. You are invited to come a little early and meet, greet and catch up with one another. You will be giving the gift of yourself and your time!



Going forward, fellowship time will be ordinarily with simple offerings of mostly coffee and juice. Volunteers will have a chance to offer something more on an occasional basis. We are moving one step at a time. In all things let us look to Jesus, our true North Star, and seek his ways.

In Christ,

*John Choi*



---

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

Jeanette Armstead    Howard Broaddus

Jimmy Callis        Dale Forrest

Roland Gauthier    John Brown

Martha Ashberry    Archie Lee

Robert Marble

Virginia Lee Trask

## Children's Ministry

We had a very successful Bible School here at Central, June 21-25 from 6:30-8:30 pm each evening. Our theme was KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE. There were a total 11 children attending and God surely moved in their hearts.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the following:

Greg Lewis - Games

Linda Dalgety - Bible School Lesson Teacher

Mary Marshall and Cheryl Wheeler - Registration

Betty Stewart - Refreshments

Pastor John - music

Michele Evans - Flyers

And a big shout out to Rebecca Love for the Castle Backdrop and decorations.

*Nancy Jagger*

Children's Ministry chair



Rebecca Love



Top Left: Game time, Top Right: Snack time



Bottom Left: Bible Lesson, Bottom Right: Praise music

Photos by John Choi & Greg Lewis



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Bible Study 7:00 pm	4 Central Village Homemaker 9:00 am - 1:00pm	5	6	7
8	9 UM Women 10:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm	10 Bible Study 7:00 pm	11 Finance 7:00 pm	12 Paul Town- send Mem. Class 5:30 pm	13	14
15	16 PCRG 2:30 pm  Trustees 7:00 pm	17 Bible Study 7:00 pm	18 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	19	20	21 UM Men 8:00 am
22 Central Chimes Submis- sions Due	23	24 Bible Study 7:00 pm	25 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	26	27	28
29	30	31		 <b>AUGUST</b>		

### Birthdays

Sandi Morgan	4
Joice Davis	12
Steve Eley	18
Rebecca Love	18
Jack Ward	21
Frances Ward	24
Jean Sutton	26

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



### Anniversaries

Kenneth & Mary Marshall	9
Steve & Emily Leap	11
Ben & Peggy Leigh	24
Richard & Rebecca Love	28