



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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AUGUST 2022

Moving Forward

Familiar sights are returning around the church: the choir singing, offering during service (from Aug.), church picnic (8/14), and more to come. It feels at times as though we are inching back to the pre-pandemic times. In my view, however, we are not necessarily 'going back' but are moving forward. We do not merely want to recover traditions; we want to do what it takes to follow Jesus today.

A church can do many things, but Jesus taught his disciples above all to love one another. Being a church begins with knowing that 1) Christ has loved us, that 2) as God's beloved we can love one another, and that 3) we can share God's love with the world. This should be our way forward. As it says in Paul's Letter to the Colossians:



*As God's chosen ones, **holy and beloved**, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and **with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God**. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:12-17)*

What could we do in response to God's love in Christ? May our songs, our giving, our sharing, all flow from Christ who is in our midst. May we move forward by following after Christ.

Gratefully,
John

Join us for Worship!
Sunday Worship—9:15 a.m.
Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

Church Picnic



Behind the Parsonage
Sunday, August 14th, 5:00 pm

- Bring a favorite dish to share.
- Fried chicken, drinks & tables & chairs provided.
 - Invite a friend.
 - Enjoy the fellowship!



Journey with God
Sunday, August 7th, 5:00 pm

Join us for an uplifting evening with fellow believers listening to faith stories together. Enjoy music, testimony and prayer. Michele Evans will speak about her faith journey.

All are invited.

Come and bring your voices!

**Join us for monthly Choir practice!
Starting Thursday, August 18 at 7:00 pm**

Every 3rd Thursday practice then sing on
the following Sunday.



We will sing selections that are
familiar or can be easily
learned.

Things I learned From Avalon's Open House

Let me preface this with article with the understanding that abuse can happen to anyone. It is not limited to people in lower socio-economic classes; it is found among people of all religions; of all nationalities; of all sexual preferences and identities.

Imagine for a moment that you're a 17 year old girl in the midst of your first "real" relationship. You're so in love and think you've found the man of your dreams. Until your dreams turn into a nightmare. Slowly but surely, you've been isolated from your friends because spending time with them means they're more important than he is. If he sees you talking to another guy, he goes ballistic and accuses you of cheating on him. He's even told you that if he sees you with another guy, someone's going to get hurt. What do you do? What choices do you have?

Now imagine you're a middle aged mother of two. You've had a long exhausting day at the office where you're a senior executive in charge of a major marketing campaign. All you can think about now is a long hot shower and bed, but first you have to take care of your family.

As soon as you come in the front door you hear your husband demanding, "Where's my dinner?" And immediately the thought of that shower and bed is replaced by angry, shouted words and pain as he grabs your arm and twists it. Your kids have seen and heard this before and quickly run to their rooms. What do you do? What choices do you have?

What if you're in a gay relationship but haven't yet told your parents because you're

afraid of what they might say. Your partner is making more and more demands for your time and threatens to expose your relationship if those demands are not met. What do you do? What choices do you have?

On my recent visit to Avalon's open house, I was presented with several scenarios similar to these. (Each scenario was based on real life experiences.) After each one, you are given two choices. Take for example, the middle aged mother. She can choose to complain to her parents or talk to her priest. If she decides to talk to her parents, they urge her to leave her husband. If she talks to her priest, he advises her that the marriage sacrament is holy and urges her to stay with her husband and to pray for her marriage.

For each scenario, whatever option is taken, you are again given two more choices. And two more after that. And you never find out how the problem is solved. What you are given is the opportunity to put yourself in real life situations and experience for yourself all the conflicting emotions of an abused person. You need to make hard decisions, often not only for yourself, but for others as well. And sometimes with little or no resources.

The first day I visited Avalon, I was amazed by different groups of people who came to the open house. These groups included guidance counselors, clergy, teachers, social workers, as well as a large number of police officers, sheriffs and deputies, and state troopers who stopped by to thank the staff for the amazing work they do. Some of their roles include meeting abuse victims in hospital emergency rooms at any hour of the day or night, providing shelter for the victim and dependents, offering counseling, providing Christmas gifts for the children in shelters, offering ears to hear and hearts to care. And not judging.

The visitors at the open house not only came to thank the staff, but to learn from them. We all left with new resources, new understandings, and brochures to share, an opportunity to volunteer, and admiration for these amazing people and the work they do.

Linda Dalgety

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.



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 in 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, Stuarts 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.

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

UM Women Have Rewarding Event

Central United Methodist Women are taking the summer off. We will reconvene on September 12th.

We held our Three Rivers Healthy Families Picnic at Port Fun on Friday, June 24th. We provided chicken, drinks, chips, fruit, and cookies. A big thank you to all the ladies who helped that day. Debbie Lancucki organized games and a scavenger hunt for the children and their families. As always, we had a very rewarding event. It is wonderful to see the children and families thrive from year to year. A good time was had by all.



Pictured Nancy Goldman, Dee Bane, Judy Moughon, and Grace Mortimer

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

As a reminder, we continue to collect Non-Food items for HAM in a bin in the Fellowship Hall 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.

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

Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful and blessed summer.

Martha Arnold
CUMW President

What to do with Old Hearing Aids

Is it safe to throw your hearing aid batteries in the trash?



The first step is to review the original packaging from your batteries: If your hearing aid batteries package states: 'mercury-free' or Hg 0%, then it contains no mercury and can be thrown in the trash. Otherwise they must be saved and thrown in with the Household Chemical Collection.

(This year, the collection event nearest to Mathews is scheduled for Saturday, August 20, from 8 AM – 12 Noon, at Middlesex Elementary School (823 Philpot Road, Locust Hill, VA 23092).

What to do with your old hearing aid?



Don't toss it. Every day, millions struggling with hearing loss face the harsh reality of the rising cost of hearing aids. Thankfully, the Hearing Aid Project is able to eliminate the financial barriers that hold many people back from this life-changing technology. Hearing aids of any type, age, or condition are accepted and those that can be refurbished and given to recipients of the Hearing Aid Project. Hearing aids that cannot be reconditioned are used for repairs- meaning every donation can and will make a difference in the life of someone who needs it.

For more information, please go online at <https://hearingaiddonations.org/recycle-hearing-aids/> and follow simple directions listed by Hearing Charities of America.

Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team



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

Join the Team

Central Church is looking for a treasurer to join the ministry (7.5 hrs/wk). For more information please contact Pastor John at johnchoi@vaumc.org or (804) 384-3521.



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/>



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

Rita Savage
Leon Owens (Kilmarnock)



Sojourners in Spain



Summer Update from Mission Partners

Preparing for a Harvest

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up—Galatians 6:9



The picture to the left is of a field in Camarma, the town where Cora's school is located. It is a timely reminder of the reason we are here in Spain. In a country that is less than 1% Christian, however, forming relationships and sharing the Gospel has been a slow process. After a year and a half, we have just started to feel more accepted in the community where we live.

Last Sunday the pastor at our church started a series of messages on Evangelism. At the end of his message, he asked everyone who was from our city to stand up. ONE young man stood - and he was a visitor that day!

Our congregation is diverse with the majority coming from Latin American countries such as Venezuela, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia. The pastor pointed out that the young man represented the 1% of Spaniards who are in the church and exhorted us to leave our comfort zones to share the Gospel in Alcalá de Henares.

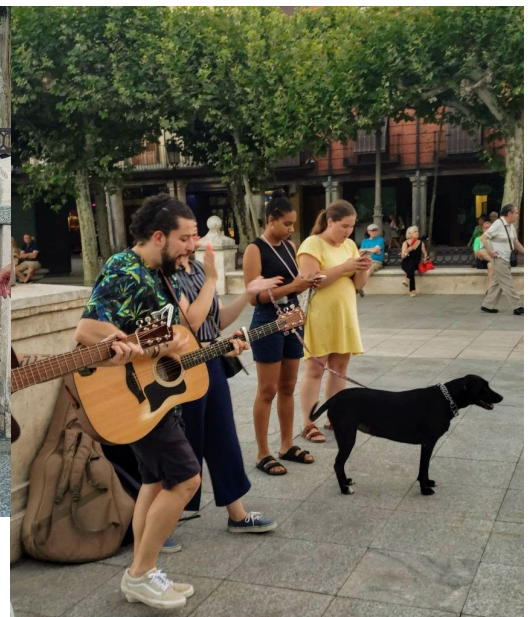
On Saturday the church had its first Evangelism Workshop, and afterward, we headed downtown to share the Gospel message in Plaza Cervantes. We shared through music, brief messages, and talking with those around us. Many were not interested, but just as many were open to conversations and prayer.

It was such a blessing to see young and old sharing Jesus without fear and extending a message of relationship over religion to the community. As parents, it gave us a special joy seeing Cora and Daniel reaching out as well!

LIFE International School

There are now 75 students enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year (an increased enrollment of 25)! We are also adding both 8th and 9th grades in the Fall. Larger enrollment means a need for more space. The school rented another floor of the building and renovations are being done over the summer. Even though we are intentionally taking some time to rest during the summer, Carol is also working with the administrative team in planning for the next school year.

PLEASE PRAY—There is still an urgent need for elementary, preschool, and secondary math teachers for the Fall. If you are interested or know someone who is, contact Carol at carolp@lifeschool.es



The Paige Family

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Central Village Homemaker 9:00 am - 1:00pm	4	5	6
7 Journey With God 5:00 pm	8	9	10 Finance 10:00 am	11	12	13
14 Church Picnic 5:00 pm	15 NAACP 6:00 pm	16	17 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	18 Choir 7:00 pm	19	20 No Walls At Port Fun park 2:00 to 5:00 pm 
21 <i>Central Chimes Submissions Due</i>	22	23 PCRG 3:00 pm	24 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	25 Trustees 2:00 pm	26 	27
28	29	30	31	AUGUST		

Birthdays

Sandi Morgan	4
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
Ben & Peggy Leigh	24
Richard & Rebecca Love	28