



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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December 2020

## From the Pastor's Pen

As the year draws to an end, I want to thank those who served the church's ministries through this challenging year. In particular, committee chairs, team leaders, presidents of Sunday schools, United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, and members of the Administrative Council: Your leadership continued the work of the church, and they touched peoples' lives. Thank you for your ministry.

Some of our works were more affected by all things pandemic than others, but that is because they centered around the things that we miss most these days, i.e., close personal contacts. There is a time for everything, and our wise 'Lord of the harvest' (Mt. 9:38) above will continue to guide us as we look for his direction.

I ask that we pray for the church. Please pray that we will chart a course of ministry that answers God's call. Pray that we will become more Christ-centered. In all things God is our hope and strength. He makes a way in the wilderness.

## Shoe Boxes for Christmas

Deadline to bring wrapped and filled boxes to the fellowship hall is  
**Sunday, December 6th**

Thank you from  
the Mission and Evangelism  
Team



This year came with its shares of joys and sadness, and as always we deal with an uncertain future. Across the world people are hurting, and they are grieving. But they are also learning to stand on hope. Our hope comes from God, who gave us his only Son to be with us in this troubled world.

During this Advent may we rediscover the things that deeply matter, even the things of God.

Gratefully,  
*John*



*Christmas Eve  
Communion Service  
at Central UMC*

*5:00 pm*

*&*

*7:00 pm*

## Mission and Evangelism

While the Missions and Evangelism committee did not meet this month, we'd still like to remind everyone that the holidays can attribute to a feeling of loneliness for many people. And since we've been asked to celebrate Thanksgiving only with the people in our homes this year, it rules out celebrations like we've had in the past.

To help alleviate this feeling of loneliness, don't forget each week to talk to two people of our congregation that you don't normally talk to. You'll be surprised what a simple phone call can do.

We'd also like to remind everyone that there is a definite need for food in our community. Don't forget to check the Food Pantry. If you are in need, please use it. If you can contribute, bless you.

Have a happy Thanksgiving.

*Linda Dalgety*

Mission and Evangelism Chair

### Special Offerings Update

As of Nov. 21, we received \$520 for UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response offering.

Scholarship offering this month has so far totaled at \$255, bringing up the fund total to \$455 including previous gifts. Your taking part in these special gifts is greatly appreciated.

### The Upper Room for January/February 2021

The Upper Room hard copies will be available on the last week of December on the Fellowship hall steps during office hours beginning Dec. 29th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Tues, Wed., & Thurs.).

A digital copy will be available at that time.

Email or call the office for a copy to be sent to you.



**Mathews County  
Blood Drive**  
Piankatank Ruritan Club  
Tuesday, December 1  
2:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Must make appointments at  
[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or  
call 804-725-2485

Check website often to see if  
your time is available.

### 2021 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are ready for pick-up. They are in alphabetical order and in the Fellowship hall.

Please pick up yours during office hours, Tues, Wed., or Thurs., or on any Sunday.



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

Vonnie Bohannon  
Katherine Arnold  
Bonnie Breland



## From Administrative Council Chair

Well, the weirdest year of our lives is entering its final month and for most of us, it can't come quickly enough. On one hand, 2020 seems like it will go on forever, but on the other, it went by too fast; I guess because of all the things that I didn't get to do this year. Last year at this time, zooming referred to the way our dog ran across the yard at suppertime and this year it is how we conduct church meetings and Sunday School. Last year the only time you wore a mask was at Halloween or if you were robbing a bank; this year you'd better have one on in a public place. Like I said, a weird year.

As we enter Advent and the Christmas season, we must do what we can to make it as "normal" as possible. Oh, I know that it can't be completely normal without Christmas programs and concerts, parties and get-togethers and such. There will be less store shopping and visiting Santa and more on-line shopping. I expect that there will be fewer packages under the tree, but more envelopes with checks in them. I think that people will really decorate their houses this year since there won't be much else going on. We can then ride around in the safety of our cars to see all the decorations like we used to do when we were kids.

All these things are a part of the Christmas season, but they're not what is really important. If we really try to focus on the fact that Advent and Christmas is about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the other stuff won't seem as big of a deal. If we spend more time thinking of Him and what he means to us, the other things will tend to take care of themselves one way or another. And, if they don't, does it really matter? No, celebrating



Jesus's birthday is what it's all about!

It is my prayer that each and every one of you has a wonderful Advent and Christmas season and that you are safe and healthy. That's better than things being "normal" after all!

*Chris Moughon*

Administrative Council Chair



### Christmas Cards



This holiday season will not be the same as we are used to. Thanksgiving will have fewer gatherings, Christmas

shopping will most likely be virtual, and Santa Claus might drop his packages off the sleigh as he passes over the rooftops. But the holiday will still be celebrated.

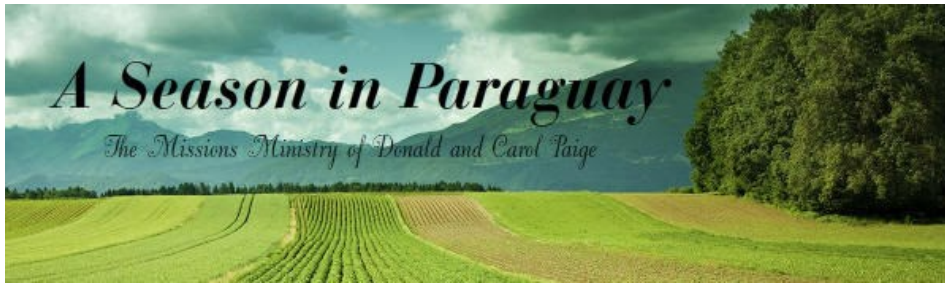
It's time to give the shut-ins a little more cheer. As you ruffle through your old Christmas cards, please think about donating them to our Meals on Wheels decorations as we do every year.

I need clean card fronts only- no personal writing on the backs. Just cut, not tear, the covers off of the cards and deposit them in the box on the table in the fellowship hall. I will bundle them and take to Nelda Gibbs so that she can attach them to the meal boxes.

Thank you for sharing the scenes of Christmas with the shut-ins!

Blessings,

*Janet Burgess*



## **An update from Donald and Carol Paige:**

### **The Borders are Open!**

The reopening of government offices in September and the Paraguayan borders in October has finally allowed us to gather the final documents needed to apply for our visas for Spain. After almost 2 months of emails, medical exams, standing in lines, legalizing, and apostilling, we finally turned in all of our visa paperwork to the Spanish embassy last Tuesday (November 17th).

Now . . . We wait . . . again!

We were told by the embassy that it can take up to a month, but it can also happen much sooner. Please join us in praying for a favorable and quick decision. We are hoping to visit friends, family, and churches in the States in December before going to Spain in the first week of January. However, we can't buy plane tickets until we get the visas.

### **Looking Toward Spain**

The Second Semester of school starts on January 11th, 2021 for both Cora and Daniel's schools in Spain. That means that we are aiming to arrive in Madrid by the first week of January. We are still in need of financial support to make that a reality.

### **End-of-the-Year Giving**

We are thankful for everyone who has joined us in ministry over the past 15 years. Together we have made a lasting impact for the Kingdom of God. Many of you reading this have partnered financially with us in the past. As you consider your end-of-the-year giving, we ask that you prayerfully consider partnering with us again to reach Spanish children and their families for Christ during this critical time in history.

Our current needs are:

New Laptop Computers - Our current ones are 5 and 8 years old and are showing their age!

Monthly Support - people and churches willing to partner with us for a year or more

Set-Up Costs - one-time gifts to help us in our transition (to put toward plane tickets, visa fees, furniture, rental deposit, etc.)



*Donald & Carol Paige are Central's mission partners.*

**Thank you, The Paige Family**


**Hymns & Gospels (11/01)**



Photos by  
Michael  
Cannon



**Beautiful Harvest Table**  
by Mark Lewis  
Photo by  
Louise Witherspoon

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Mathews Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 2:00-7:00pm 	2  Administrative Council 7:00 pm	3	4	5
6 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>  District Conference 7:00 pm Zoom	7	8	9  Finance 7:00 pm	10	11 12 <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><b>Year-End Giving</b> The last day to make a contribution in 2020 is Sunday, December 27. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.</div>	
13 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	14 UM Women 10:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm	15	16 Intercessory Prayer 7:00 pm	17	18	19
20 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	21  Trustees 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Office Closed <b>Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm &amp; 7:00 pm</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 	26
27  <b>December</b>	28	29	30 	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>		

December Birthdays

Shirley Snow	5	Richie Hogge	10	Jonathan Lewis	18
Linda Dalgety	8	Jack Kloke	10	Anne South	18
Jerry Jagger	8	Betty Stewart	11	Evelyn Mountford	24
Nita Carter	9	Pat Moughon	15	Bert Burroughs	28
Charles Edmonds	10	Jill Moughon	18	Neena Putt	30

December Anniversaries

James & Dale Martin	10
Jonathan & Mandy Lewis	19
Gerald & Frosty Taylor	20