



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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December 2021

## Advent Invitation

I recently received an invitation to join a trip to Israel. After some thought I decided to yield to those who have not had the opportunity yet. But I remember what a powerful experience it was when I toured Israel, West Bank, and Gaza some twenty years ago.

This month you are invited to a spiritual pilgrimage to Bethlehem. We will not physically travel to Bethlehem, Israel; instead, we want to see Christ himself. Would you like to meet Jesus in a new and fresh way? If then, the following are our daily acts of faith ("walking" in biblical terms) on our roads to Bethlehem:

- Do not be anxious about anything (Mt. 6:34; Phil. 4:6)
- Pray about everything (Phil. 4:6)
- Give thanks in all things (1 Thess. 5:18)
- Think about the right things – Meditate on God's word (Psalm 1; Mt. 4:4, Rom. 8:5)

I will be preaching on those subjects on upcoming Sundays. My invitation is for us to take up the above acts of faith during Advent. For instance, I read this morning Jesus' words, "Ask and it will be given to you;

## Shoe Boxes for Christmas

Deadline to bring wrapped and filled boxes to the fellowship hall is

**Sunday, December 5th**

Thank you from  
the Mission and Evangelism  
Team



*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight & Communion Service  
at Central UMC*

*5:00 pm*

*You are invited to worship with hymns and  
carols, Scriptures, candle lights,  
and the Lord's Table.*

seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Mt. 7:7) Standing on this word ("Think about the right things"), I will try to look to God for my needs instead of anxiously scouring for deals online. I will try not to be anxious; I will pray about my needs; I will give thanks once again that God is our Father in Heaven, according to Jesus.

Our journey through the Word of God will culminate with "Living by God." After all, our God is "Immanuel," "God with us." I hope you will mark your calendar for the communion service on the Christmas Eve and the first Sunday after Christmas Day. By our worship we solidify our spiritual life, or our life in God.

I wish each of you a Spirit-filled Advent and Christmas.

Gratefully,  
*John*

## December Mission Highlight

After praying about our final mission focus of the year, the Mission and Evangelism team decided on the Gloucester- Mathews Care Clinic.

The Gloucester-Mathews Care Clinic is committed to providing community based healthcare coverage for residents of Gloucester and Mathew Counties as well as select surrounding areas who lack health insurance or who are covered by Medicaid. This is accomplished through the efforts of volunteers, paid professional and support staff, and contributions from community members who share common values and concerns. The Clinic ensures that everyone from our counties have access to basic healthcare, including medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and educational services.

During the past year, the Clinic served over 600 patients and provided over 10,000 prescriptions. Physicians, nursing, interns and other volunteers donated 7287 hours to the Clinic and patients.

Please pray about this Clinic and if you feel lead by the Holy Spirit, support the Gloucester-Mathews Care Clinic.



*Linda Dalgety*

Mission and Evangelism Chair

[Website Link Here](#)

## Children's Ministry



FUN SUNDAYS at Central UMC -Jesus' Birthday is coming soon! Come & see the Christmas story!

**Meeting next on Dec. 12th,  
4:00 to 6:00 pm**

A children's Sunday school for ages 5 to 12, including a lesson with crafts, music, games and snacks. Masks will be required.

For more information contact Nancy Jagger at [nmjonthebay@gmail.com](mailto:nmjonthebay@gmail.com)/804-694-7017.



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



*Sponsored by,  
Mathews Women's Club &  
American Legion Post 83*

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

Masks are required!

Type O is urgently needed!

***Come out and give the gift of life at  
Christmas time!***

## Mathews Christmas Store Help

If you are interested in volunteering with the set up, running, and clean up for the Mathews Social Services Christmas Store beginning, Dec. 8th, please contact Bernadette La Casse with any questions at [bclacasse@gmail.com](mailto:bclacasse@gmail.com).

## Thanks-giving Packing Party (Nov. 22)

On November 22, many church members joined us for a "packaging party" where we boxed up individual family meals for 27 families and delivered them to Social Services where the meals were distributed. Just think of all the people who were blessed by your generosity. And think how blessed we were to be called to do this! "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Me".



## Dwelling on What We Can

As we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons here at Central, we find ourselves in a "good news/bad news" situation. The "good news" is that we're a lot more normal than we were last year at this time. The "bad news" is, of course, that we are not nearly as normal as we thought we'd be by now. On the "good news" side, we've finished our budget and nomination process which has been approved by the Charge Conference. Most, but not all committees are back up and running. Sunday School classes are in full swing now that the kids are starting up again. However, on the "bad news" side we still aren't able to have coffee hour, Fellowship luncheons, or shrimp dinners. These things aren't absolutely vital, but I think that we all miss them and the fellowship they provided.

I wish that I could just snap my fingers and everything would be as they once were, but I can't. So, instead of dwelling on what I can't do, I'll do what I can, and that is to wish each one of you a wonderful, safe, healthy, and happy Advent and Christmas season. After all, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is much more important than anything else.

Merry Christmas!

*Chris Moughon*

Administrative Council Chair

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## Envelope Numbers to Change

Friends,

As a cost-cutting measure, only 50 boxes of offering envelopes have been ordered. Therefore, your 2022 envelopes will be a new number to you. Using your envelopes is encouraged, as it not only makes counting proceed more efficiently, it also provides a way to look back if you have questions concerning your donations.

This has been a year in which expenses have far exceeded income. Please consider giving a little extra in December to help Central Church meet its budget.

Yours in Christ,

*Marcia Fry*, Financial Secretary

December 2021

## From the Finance Chair

Dear Central Church Members,

As this challenging church year comes to a close, we all need to be grateful for the position our church is in. Not only are we sustaining ourselves fairly well financially, but the Covid-19 effect is moderate. With the normal increased giving so very necessary at this time of year end, we may only be down as little as 6% to 8% in our giving. Please remember, all year end giving MUST be received by December 26, 2021 to have positive tax implications. Our Baily Hudgins and Vanguard funds continue to grow thanks to Davenport's attention and the overall continued market growth. We all hope that continues, but watch out for 2022.

I find it very encouraging that even with a church population reduced by Covid, an aging population, moves out of the community, and a modification in attendance in all denominations, we find ourselves with a promising financial and spiritual vision.

As you see any folks looking for a warm, new church home, invite them to come and share our vision of serving God and our community.

Yours in Christian Giving,

*Tim Hill*

Finance Committee Chair

2022 envelopes will be ready for pick up  
in the coming days!

Look for them soon in the back pew  
in the sanctuary. Thank you!





## UMW Gives Mission Recognition

Central United Methodist Women hosted a Special Mission Recognition luncheon on November 8th to honor our special friends and volunteers who have contributed so much to our organization, to our church and to our community. At the luncheon, Rev. John Choi, Linda Dalgety, and Dee Bane were presented with Special Mission Recognition Pins and Certificates in appreciation for all they have accomplished. In addition to these awards, at the church service on November 21st, Anne South and Louise Witherspoon were likewise presented with Special Mission Recognition Pins and Certificates for their contributions to our church and community (pictured below).

*Congratulations to all our honorees!*



Our UMW donated to Mission and Evangelism's special Thanksgiving Program as well as some of our members assisted in assembling the Thanksgiving Dinners for the families. This is in addition to our ongoing monthly contribution to the Mission chosen by Mission and Evangelism each month.

For our December 13th meeting, we are planning a Christmas get together/sing-along with the members of Janet Bowman's

Mathews Baptist Women's group. We will be doing a cookie exchange and will be making extra cookies to take to our shut-ins.



As a reminder, we will once again be selling Schermer's Pecans to support Wesley Community Service Center. The pecans will sell for \$11 per bag. We will let you know when the pecans are available. And "The Good Measure Cookbook" is still available for \$12. It makes a wonderful Christmas present or stocking stuffer.

We continue to collect non-food items in the Fellowship Hall for HAM. There is also a need at HAM for canned vegetables and canned fruits as well as soup, pasta, and pasta sauce. These food items can be left in the vestibule between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

Thank you for your support.

*Martha Arnold*

UMW President

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## United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met on Saturday, November 20. The thirteen members in attendance enjoyed a breakfast prepared by Tim Hill and Steve Eley.

We decided to make year-end contributions to the Christmas Store, Christmas Blessing Fund, and Avalon Center. It was also decided to revisit fund raising possibilities at the next meeting on January 15.

Hope we can get 2022 started off on the right foot!

*Chris Moughon*

UMM President

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

Lorraine Ingram

Cameron Dickerson

Cindy Munn

Janis Slaughter

Linda Turner

Ray Barrett

Karen Dufault

Alvin Knight





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

### From Henry Fork Service Center

It does not seem possible that we are already almost halfway through the school year. Before we know it, Christmas will be here, then Easter, and we will be back around to summer again. Time is flying by fast and we are doing our best to make the most of each day.

This fall, students have been studying the Old Testament. We began with Creation and have moved through Genesis and Exodus. The last few weeks, the focus has been on Gideon, Solomon, and Elijah. Some of the activities included painted swords (made out of cardboard, of course), raven snack pouches, and tissue paper torches. Each of the activities allowed students to be creative and they had a blast with it.



*PreK-1st students used marshmallows and toothpicks to build the Tower of Babel (and then ate the leftover marshmallows).*



*2nd & 3rd grade students built individual Jacob's ladders.*



*Older elementary & middle school students selected & painted Prayer Rocks to share with loved ones.*

Topics have now moved to Thanksgiving and Christmas. The focus has been on why we are thankful and the real reason for the season. As we move through this time, it will be fun to see what activities the teachers have in store. Following the holiday season, we will be studying the healing and teaching stories of Jesus. Plans for those are just starting to take shape and we are excited to see the outcome.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your gifts of time, monetary support, and supplies.

Thank you for your prayers and love. It is your kindness and generosity that helps us continue our ministry. You are vital to our success and we appreciate you!

**Our Mission is to share God's love with the children, youth, and adults in the Henry Fork community by nurturing and transforming the mind, body, and spirit.**

#### **New Mailing Address:**

**Henry Fork Service Center  
71 Sandridge Rd.  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151**

For more information:

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

#### **Items we can use:**

Postage stamps  
White copy paper  
Mailing labels  
Envelopes  
Paper towels  
Toilet paper  
Paper cups, plates, napkins  
Plastic forks, spoons  
Birthday gifts for all ages  
Trash bags (13, 30, 39 gallon)  
Tape refills



# Sojourners in Spain



## The Missions Ministry of Donald & Carol Paige

*Thanking God for some Good News!*

We have some exciting news that happened since Donald's above video update. After months of hard work, last week we had our virtual ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) and MSA (Middle States Association) accreditation visit.

The team decided to recommend LIFE International School for accreditation! It is the first Christ-centered school for the Spanish population in all of Spain to be accredited!

This is a very important step in the school's development as it allows us to continue to grow our secondary program and puts us in a good position to be a model school for others to replicate.



Thank you for joining us during this exciting time. We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

We are looking for partners to join us in furthering the vision that God has for Spain. We are in need of monthly, yearly, and one-time gifts. Your contribution will help us reach generations for Christ. In order to give online, find our page on [tms-global.org](http://tms-global.org).

[Central UMC will continue to support the Paige Family in 2022.]

**Thank you, The Paige Family**

[Click here for a video update.](#)

## Creation Care

Millions of Americans wrap, ship and unwrap presents in the month of December. We generate about 25 percent more waste than usual during the holidays, according to the EPA, equating to an extra 1 million tons of waste in landfills per week.



**Recycling your leaning tower of Amazon Prime shipping boxes is surprisingly impactful.\***

However, it's crucial to break down cardboard boxes before they get tossed in the recycle cardboard bin. Compact boxes take up less space in crammed recycling trucks, meaning fewer trips for trucks which gives Mathews County more revenue.

This holiday, help your children and grandchildren know the value of recycling boxes.



**\*Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees!**

*Michael Cannon,*  
Creation Care Team




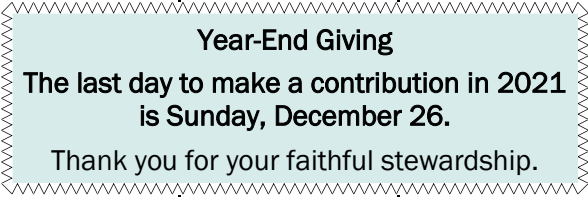


**Beautiful Harvest Table**

**by Mark Lewis**

Photo by

Louise Witherspoon

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<h1>December</h1>			1 Central Village Homemakers 9:00am—1:00pm  Bible Study 1:30 pm	2 Tai Chi 9:30 am	3 	4	
			5 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>  Deadline for Christmas shoeboxes	6  SPRC 7:00 pm	7 Mathews Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 2:00-7:00pm  	8 Finance 10:00 am  Bible Study 1:30 pm  Administrative Council 7:00 pm	9 Tai Chi 9:30 am
12 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	13 UM Women 10:00 am  Trustees 7:00 pm	14	15 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am  Bible Study 1:30 pm	16 Tai Chi 9:30 am	17	18 UM Men 8:00 am	
19 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	20	21	22	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> 5:00 pm	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 	
26  <b>Year-End Giving</b> The last day to make a contribution in 2021 is Sunday, December 26. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.			27	28	29 Bible Study 1:30 pm	30 Tai Chi 9:30 am	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>

### December Birthdays

Shirley Snow	5	Jack Kloke	10	Jonathan Lewis	18	James & Dale Martin	10
Linda Dalgety	8	Betty Stewart	11	Anne South	18	Jonathan & Mandy Lewis	19
Nita Carter	9	Pat Moughon	15	Evelyn Mountford	24	Gerald & Frosty Taylor	20
Richie Hogge	10	Jill Moughon	18	Bert Burroughs	28		
				Neena Putt	30		

### December Anniversaries