



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

December 2022

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

From the Pastor

Let me express my heartfelt gratitude for your giving during November. The offering was just over \$18,000, exceeding our monthly average by 80%. Your giving of all sizes puts the church on solid footing and enables us to focus on ministries in Christ's name.



Let us continue praying for the church that we may be faithful and fruitful to all that God has called us to do; that we will become a true community of Jesus Christ. The greatest resource that we have is none other than the Lord Jesus in our midst. Let's turn to him with all our heart during this season of Advent as well as Christmas.

Speaking of Christmas

To the extent that we are followers of Christ, our celebration of Christmas must be different from that of the society. If we merely enjoyed the festivities and the holiday gatherings, then what more would we be doing than those who do not know Christ? As is sometimes said, good is the enemy of the best.

This is a prime opportunity to reflect on the stupendous news that God came into our world as one of us. How can we respond to this awesome truth? May God help us receive Christmas as a genuine celebration of God's gift in Jesus Christ. Let us be in God's presence like those who came to Bethlehem; let us

prayerfully reflect on our ways, and let us grow in our love of God and of our neighbors.

Q&A with Pastor and Annual Conference Delegate (12/11, 2:30 p.m.)

We are hearing news of churches discussing or voting to leave the United Methodist Church. If you would like to hear your pastor's thoughts on it and have questions that I might be able to answer, please come to an informal meeting on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Dee Bane, our Annual Conference member, will be there to help me as well. Please look for me to share some of my perspective next week in the weekly news.

Gratefully,

John



Christmas Eve
Candlelight & Communion Service
5:00 pm

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

Christmas Day / Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m.

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.



[Website Link Here](#)

Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering, which will also be the December mission focus, will go to three places: Hands Across Mathews, Gloucester-Mathews Care Clinic, and the Christmas Blessings Fund (for heating assistance set up by Mathews Ruritan Club). Thank you for helping to make a difference in people's lives.



Christmas parade from years past.

Shoe Boxes for Christmas

Deadline to bring wrapped and filled boxes to the fellowship hall is **Wednesday, December 7th**

See page 5 for details.

Thank you from
the Mission and Evangelism
Team



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.

Christmas Parade and More

At our November meeting we focused on several topics. The first was for the float we will make for the upcoming Mathews Christmas parade. The theme for the parade this year is "Fishing you a Merry Christmas " and our float will feature church members dressed to portray Biblical people fishing. A sign will say "I will make you fishers of men".

We will meet on December 7 and 9 to work on the float. If you'd like to be on the float or help in the construction, please contact Pastor John or Linda Dalgety.

Secondly, we discussed purchasing a new sign to replace the old sign near the intersection of Glebe and Church Streets.

Next we discussed planning for the 4 S's program in February. We will confirm the date when we determine the availability of several performers.

Finally, we discussed speakers for our Journey with God programs. If YOU would like to tell the impact God has had on your life , how you became a believer or give your testimony, please let a committee member know.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism chair

Looking Forward to 2023

Yes, another year has come and gone (nearly) and we're already well into preparations for next year. The Finance Committee has prepared the 2023 budget and the Nominations Committee has filled most of the positions for 2023. The Admin Council and the Charge Conference have approved the work of both committees, so hopefully, we won't miss a beat as we begin the new year.

2022 has been a year of transition as we eased some Covid restrictions and inched our way back toward pre-pandemic norms. Isn't it great to be able to hear the organ, pass the offering plates, sing the Doxology, have a cup of coffee, and share a meal again? I didn't realize how much I missed all these things until we started doing them again. I'm sure that you share my prayer that in 2023 we can refer to the pandemic in the past tense and really concentrate on Central becoming the best church that we can be. In the meantime, I also pray that each and every one of you has a joyous and meaningful Advent and Christmas Season and that you get to share it with family and friends.

Merry Christmas from the Admin Council!

Chris Moughon

Administrative Council Chair

**2023 envelopes are ready for pick up
on the back pew in the sanctuary.
Thank you!**



Year-End Giving

**The last day to make a contribution in 2022
is Sunday, December 25.**

Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

Annual Community Christmas Sing-a-long

**Today, December 4th
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Central**

*Sponsored by the
Central Village Homemakers*

This is our gift to the community.
Please come and bring a friend!
We thank you for your support.



Empty Bowls Fundraising Event, Sunday, December 11

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

To Benefit Hands across Mathews

Empty Bowls, a fund raiser for Hands across Mathews, will be held at the Bay School on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 11-1:30. Tickets will be sold at the door. \$15 includes the choice of a pottery bowl, soup, bread and dessert. All the bowls are donated by local potters. Half of them will be set out at 11 and the other half at 12:15, so a beautiful selection will be available throughout the event. This is a fun community event that benefits our community members in need.



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

Susan Eley



UMW Hosts Three Rivers Picnic

Central United Methodist Women hosted a picnic for Three Rivers Healthy Families on November 8th at Port Fun. The weather was blustery so although the children and parents did enjoy some play time and crafts at Port Fun, the actual picnic was served in the Fellowship Hall. We provided fried chicken, fruit, cookies, and drinks to 30 adults and 22 children. Each child was given the opportunity to choose a book to take home. As always, this annual event is very rewarding. Our relationship with Three Rivers continues to grow and flourish. Thank you to all our ladies who worked so hard to pack and serve the lunches and stayed to clean up. A special Thank You to Louise Witherspoon who provided the children's books, took pictures (along with Bev Childress), and always assists with our event.

Three Rivers Healthy Families event:

Bottom left: Enjoying the picnic

Bottom right: Hope Merrill helping young man with his choices.



We met on November 14th for our monthly meeting having missed our October meeting. We had much to discuss. Each church in the Mission Rivers district has been requested to provide four UMCOR Flood Buckets. Each bucket cost approximately \$75. In the past we have asked the congregation to donate to our UMCOR projects. However, this year we will be asking the Sunday School classes and the United Methodist Men along with United Methodist Women to each sponsor a Flood Bucket to make up the four buckets. This can be in the form of a monetary donation. This

would allow our church to reach our goal of four buckets without requesting donations from the congregation.

We voted on officers for the coming year. Martha will remain as president, Grace will continue as Vice President, Nancy Jagger will continue as Secretary, but we need a new Treasurer. Dee is taking on more church responsibilities and will be assuming the role as Chairman of the Church Council in the new year. She has graciously agreed to stay on until we can find someone to take the treasurer's position.



Our Christmas Giving will be donations to Hands Across Mathews, Meals on Wheels, Social Services, and The Christmas Blessing Fund. Since

Covid, we have been unable to visit the nursing homes and our shut-ins. In the past, we have taken them a small gift and then serenaded them with their favorite Christmas Carols. We have decided this year we will be sending them Christmas Cards which will be prepared at our December 12th meeting. We will gather at Grace Mortimer's house in the evening to enjoy our Covered Dish Christmas Dinner. Husbands are invited to attend.

We were recognized in the Mission River District quarterly newsletter, "The Bridge". Pictures of our October 23rd Birthday Luncheon were highlighted in the articles about the District Units in Action. A copy of the article will be posted on the bulletin board.

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. We will not be selling Schermer Pecans this fall. This fund raiser which was

Continued on page 5

supported by Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth has been suspended this year.

Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Martha Arnold

UMW President



**Mathews County
Blood Drive**



**Piankatank Ruritan Club
Tuesday, December 6
12:30 pm to 6:00 pm**

Sponsored by the Mathews Women's club and the American Legion

redcrossblood.org or
call 804-725-2485

Type O is urgently needed!
Come out and give the gift of life at

A Tree for Remembrance

Each year we have a beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary thanks to Mark and Brenda Lewis. This year there will be another, smaller tree in the sanctuary. You are invited to hang an ornament on it in memory of a loved one who went to be with the Lord. We will together remember them in the light of Christ's love.

- Pastor John



United Methodist Men

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, November 19. The eleven members in attendance were treated to a delicious breakfast provided by James Martin and crew. After some more discussion, we decided to not fund a scholarship at Mathews High School since our fundraising capabilities are not what they need to be in order to support it. We decided instead to donate \$250 to the scholarship already in place at Central. We also decided to send \$250 to Hands Across Mathews, \$150 to Heart Havens, and \$100 to the Christmas Blessing Fund to complete our year-end donations.

The 2022 slate of officers was re-elected by acclamation for 2023. This slate includes Chris Moughon as president, Joe Arnold as vice-president, Greg Lewis as secretary, and Steve Eley as treasurer.

This was our final meeting of the year and we hope to hit the ground running in 2023. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 21 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Central United Methodist Men!

Chris Moughon

UMM President

**Paul Townsend Memorial Sunday school
class Lunch & Meet
Thursday, December 8 at Noon
Join in the fellowship!**

**December Choir practices
Thursday, Dec. 8th & 15th
Let's make a joyful noise!**



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.

From Henry Fork Service Center
Christian Education News

For more information:

henryforkcenter.org



It's hard to believe we are almost through with 2022 and gearing up for 2023, but here we are! Another year has flown by and we are getting ready to start all over again. Where does the time go? It seems like we were just getting ready to celebrate the beginning of the year and now it's almost over.

Programming at Henry Fork Center is going very well. For the fall, students studied several of the Old Testament prophets. Some of these included Hosea, Jeremiah, Obadiah, and Ezekiel, just to name a few. Although the stories proved challenging, the children seemed to enjoy the lessons and the activities that went along with them. This just goes to show that easy is not always best! They rose to the challenge and learned something new about the prophets each week that they could share with their family and friends.

We are now focusing on Thanksgiving and the Christmas story. Students and staff alike are looking forward to all the holiday happenings and activities. It is looking like we will have many fun-filled days ahead. The excitement grows each day and the building is a happy place each afternoon. The children are anticipating all the good things that the holidays bring and the time to spend it with their loved ones.

Thank you so very much to everyone who has offered resources, time, and prayers. Your generosity and Christian love help keep our ministry going strong. We are so thankful for each of you and for all you do for us throughout the year.

**Central church supports HFSC with a monthly gift.*

Beautiful Harvest Table
by Mark Lewis
Photo by
Brenda Lewis



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>December</h1>				1 Bible Study 10:00 am	2	3
4 Second Sunday of Advent Central Village Homemakers Hosts a Sing-a-long 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	5	6 Blood Drive Piantatank Ruritan club 2:00-7:00pm Deadline for Christmas shoeboxes Bible Study 7:00 pm	7 Central Village Homemakers 9:00am—1:00pm Finance 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm On Zoom	8 Bible Study 10:00 am Paul Townsend Mem. Class Luncheon 12:00 Noon Choir 7:00 pm	9	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent Pastor/ Delegate Q&A 2:30 pm Empty Bowls (p. 3)	12 SPRC 7:00 pm UM Women Covered dish meal	13 Bible Study 7:00 pm	14 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	15 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	16	17
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent	19 NAACP 6:00 pm	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm
25 Service at 11:00 am 	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

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