



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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December 2023

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

From the Pastor

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Homes are being decorated with tinsel and lights. The sanctuary is transforming this week from Ordinary Time to Advent. The advent wreath is taking its place in the chancel area of the sanctuary. Our thoughts are turned to memories of Christmas' past. Our hearts are still invited to make room. For what, you may ask? We are invited in the busyness and often filled to capacity calendars, to make room for Christ.



Speaking from experience, it is much easier typed or said than done. How are we going to add another thing in our lives when we are trying to make memories that will stay with us from generation to generation? I was reminded just this week that if it weren't for the birth of Jesus, I wouldn't have the occasion to celebrate this time of year, the one thing that should matter the most. If it weren't for the birth of that baby boy who was laid to rest in a borrowed feeding trough, all the "stuff" of the season would take first place in my priorities.

All of the Christmas "stuff" is beautiful and helps us make those core memories. The carols sung, the trees decorated, the cards sent and time spent are important but do they take first place in our personal priorities? It is hard but necessary for us to choose what holds most importance in our lives.

I am looking forward to Central's Christmas traditions this Advent and Christmas seasons. Christmas decorations, the Village Homemakers sing along, Sunday School gatherings and so much more. My prayer for each of us is that in the midst of these busy seasons, we may make room for the birth of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. As we make memories, may the act of making room in our lives for Jesus, be our top priority along with preparing for his promised return. There's no time like the present to prepare him room! The birth of Jesus truly changed the world some 2000 years ago. Thank God, the birth of Jesus is still changing the world today; one heart at a time!

It's worth pondering! May you each have a blessed Advent and Holy Christmas!

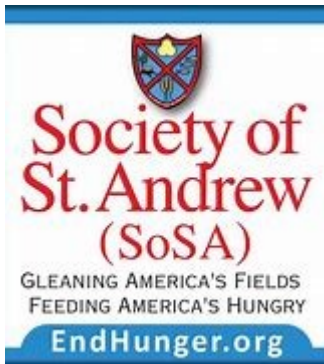
Pastor Rebecca

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight & Communion Service
6:00 pm*

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



**Mission Focus for December:
Society of St. Andrew**



In 2023, through October, SoSA has gleaned, gathered, and distributed 18,116,822 pounds of fresh produce in 5,189 events, with 17,835 volunteers. Food donated by 808 farmers has been distributed to hungry people through 1,659, feeding agencies. That's a total of 72,467,288 servings of fresh food shared.

By choosing to work with SoSA, you're partnering with tens of thousands of farmers, donors, volunteers, churches, community organizations, and even large national movements. The strength of the SoSA network is found in its partners—in each individual that makes a commitment to harvesting and sharing good food with their neighbors in need.

Your financial support to The Society of St. Andrew feeding ministries, reflects Jesus' own concern for the least, the last, and the lost.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please make your check payable to Central UMC and write "St. Andrew" on the memo line. Look into your heart and ask the Lord's blessing on your gift.

Thank you,

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism chair



Shoe Boxes / Stockings for Christmas Store

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

This Sunday, Dec. 3rd

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. Please contact Bernadette La Casse with any questions at bclacasse@gmail.com.



**Mathews County
Blood Drive**
Piankatank Ruritan Club
Tuesday, December 5
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm



redcrossblood.org or
call 804-725-2485

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

**December Choir practices
every Thursday night at 7:00 pm
leading up to Christmas Eve.**

***Let's make a joyful noise this
Christmas season!***



UM Men Supporting Mathews County

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, November 18. The 16 members present enjoyed a breakfast prepared by Tom Robinson with assistance from Bobby Hall and Ken Childress.

We set a date for our Brunswick Stew fundraiser which will be on Saturday, February 24. We also discussed the Art/Yard Sale a little, but haven't nailed down a date for that yet. You'll be hearing more about both of these events in the coming new year.

We spent the bulk of our meeting on the distribution of funds to the various organizations that we have supported in the past, as well as a couple of new ones. We donated to the Christmas Store (Mission Focus for November), the Kiwanis Club (to support the MHS Key Club), the Christmas Blessing Fund, Heart Havens, Avalon Center, the Rescue Squad, the Fire Department, Mathews TRIAD, and Meals on Wheels. Last month we donated to Hands Across Mathews. In all we sent \$2150 to these worthy causes in hopes of making Mathews a little better place.

The Methodist Men could not have made these donations without the support of the rest of the members of Central, as well as the members of the community that supported our fundraisers. We can't thank you enough!

Our next meeting will be on January 20, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall at 8 am. The Central United Methodist Men wish you and all of yours a blessed Christmas and the Happiest New Year!

Chris Moughon
UMM President

Year-End Giving

The last day to make a contribution in 2023 is Sunday, December 31.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

2024 Offering envelopes will soon be ready for pick-up on the back pew in the sanctuary. Please look for the coming announcement!

Thank you!



**Annual Community
Christmas Sing-a-long**
Sunday, December 10
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.*

Beautiful Harvest Table (11/19)
by Mark Lewis

Photo: Brenda Lewis



Frances Ward
August 1931—
November 2023

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

Frances Ward
Nate Houser
Robert Dillehay
Bob Voth
Maude Freeman



UMW Hosts Thanksgiving with 3 Rivers Healthy Families

The CUMW met on November 13th in the Fellowship Hall. There were 9 members present.

We proudly wore our new aprons on November 3rd at our Three Rivers Healthy Families Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. The guest speaker was Jean Howard of CA & J Farms. Jean conducted a 30-minute positive drumming session for the children and their families which was enjoyed by all. We served a Thanksgiving feast with turkey and all the trimmings. Everyone had a great time, and the meal was delicious. Some of the leftovers were taken to the Mathews Rescue Squad.

In recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month, we presented Rebecca with a gift certificate to Southwind Pizza restaurant.

Many of us participated in the Rise Against Hunger and enjoyed the bountiful Thanksgiving meal that was served afterward.



Pictured from left: Martha Arnold, Nancy Jagger and Judy Moughon

The nominating committee is hard at work and new officers will be announced next month.

At our next meeting, we will prepare Christmas cards and take poinsettias to our shut-ins. We will sing their favorite Christmas carols and then we will gather at Grace's house for a pot-luck dinner.

We have purchased two adult-sized bicycles (one men's and one women's) to donate to the Christmas store. These will be taken to the store in time for Christmas.

We continue our monthly \$50 donation to the

organizations that are chosen by the Mission and Evangelism Team

WE CONTINUE WITH THIS URGENT APPEAL! Hands Across Mathews is still having difficulty in obtaining food from the Peninsula food bank. They are appealing to churches and organizations to donate canned vegetables and fruits, soups, proteins such as tuna fish and chicken, cereals, peanut butter, rice, beans, pasta, etc. As well, they continue need Non-Food items such as toilet paper, shampoos, soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. There are bins for the food in the vestibule between the church and the Fellowship Hall and there is a bin for non-food items in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

UM Women President
Martha Arnold

Three Rivers Healthy Families Thanksgiving celebration

Top: United Methodist Women model their new aprons.
Bottom: Jean Howard from CA&J conducting drum circle.



Photos:
Martha Arnold & Bev Childress



Rising Against Hunger Packing Event (11/19)



50 volunteers attended a successful event! 5000 meals were packed up for Rise Against Hunger!

Photos by Linda Dalgety



Three Rivers Healthy Families Thanksgiving Celebration (11/3)

Children enjoying the activities. Photos: Martha Arnold





www.henryforkcenter.org

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.

"Thanksgiving is a joyous invitation to shower the world with love and gratitude." - Amy

Leigh Mercee

From the Henry Fork Service Center

A Few Thoughts From Jessica (Nov. 2023)

It's that time of year again when we really look at our lives and realize how blessed we are. We've made it another year; we woke up each morning. We may not always have everything we want but God sees to our needs. It's amazing how He always knows just what we lack and provides for us. We have so many things to thank our Lord for!

At Henry Fork Center, we have finished our Old Testament study and are moving to Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is a daily reminder of the little things in life as we hear the children talk about the things in their lives that they are thankful for. Family is usually one of the top answers, but faith, food, friends, and a home are mentioned often as well. Of course, we always hear things like pets and toys, but that's to be expected with children. But that also serves as a reminder to us that even the small things in life, like toys, are important for our well-being. Children have a unique way of reminding us adults that we should be thankful for everything, regardless of the size, grandeur, cost, or value to others. It is the value to ourselves that makes anything in life important to us and those are the things to thank God for daily. When we are thankful, it is easy to spread love and gratitude, as mentioned in the above quote.

One of the many things we are grateful for at Henry Fork Center are our many supporters. Your generosity in spirit and love keeps us striving each day. As we are in a season of giving and receiving, we hope you won't forget about us. The economy is hurting us and we need your financial gifts, support, and prayers to help keep our programs going strong and providing for God's children. We are thankful for any help you give, no matter how great or small.

May your season be blessed with all the joy and memories this time of year brings. May you have new memories to share. May you be thankful so you are able to go out and shower love and gratitude in abundance to the world. Blessings to each and everyone of you as you celebrate the holidays and move into a new year with new opportunities!

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



Bay School, Empty Bowls Fundraiser

On Sunday, December 10, 11:00-1:30 pm, the event will be LIVE throughout the building with handmade bowls and soup-to-go. Please enter through the gallery. Eat here or take your soup to go!

To keep things simple again this year, we will NOT be pre-selling tickets. Bring cash, credit card, or check made to Hands Across Mathews. Each bowl is \$15. If you don't have exact change, you may be asked to donate the difference.

We will have two "shifts" of soup and bowls, with all the favorites spread across both sets. So you don't all need to arrive right at the start. New bowls will be set out around noon.

You can make a donation at any time, on this website, or send a check! Please make checks out to Hands Across Mathews.

Thank you for supporting Hands Across Mathews!!!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>December</h1>					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent	4 Mission Rivers District Conference 7:00 pm On Zoom	5  Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 2:00-7:00pm	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00am—1:00pm	7 Choir 7:00 pm	8 Frances Ward Funeral Reception at Central	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Central Village Homemakers Hosts a Sing-a-long 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	11 Finance 8:30 am UM Women 10:00 am then 5:30 pm Caroling	12	13 SPRC 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm On Zoom TBD	14 Paul Townsend Mem. Class Dinner 5:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent	18 NAACP 6:00 pm	19	20	21 Choir 7:00 pm	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm	25 Christmas Day! 	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

December Birthdays

Shirley Snow	5	Jack Kloke	10
Linda Dalgety	8	Betty Stewart	11
Dan Reno	8	Pat Moughon	15
Nita Carter	9	Jonathan Lewis	18
Richard Hogge	10	Jill Moughon	18

December Anniversaries

18	James & Dale Martin	10
24	Jonathan & Mandy Lewis	19
28	Gerald & Frosty Taylor	20
31	Bobby & Jamie Hall	30