



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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## From the Pastor's Pen

### *Do Not Get This Vaccine*

I hear more and more of you getting vaccines, and I am encouraged. Let's hope that the rollout will expand steadily. I am thankful for all who must navigate the logistical challenges to bring it to the people. Mike Witherspoon tells me that this is the first time in history where we are trying to turn around a pandemic with vaccine. Every time we get a shot, we are helping not only ourselves but our fellow citizens.

I once heard Billy Graham describe vaccine this way: You get something dead that is similar to the real thing in order to keep from getting the real thing. Then he proceeded to say that many today have something similar to real Christianity that keeps them from actually getting it. One can be inoculated against the real Christian faith!

What is real Christianity? We know the answer: Jesus Christ. Jesus is the constitution of the Kingdom of God. But it may be possible to get just enough of God to miss out on the life-giving truth. In their book, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (2005), sociologists Christian Smith and Melinda Denton came up with the following list of a widespread beliefs among the American youths (termed 'moralistic therapeutic theism').

- A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.

## Hands Across Mathews Non-Food item collection

Donations accepted from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm on Fridays in the Church of Francis de Sales parking lot at 176 Lovers Lane. Contact there is Barbara Churray. If you cannot make the drop off with Barbara, contact Martha Arnold at CUMC and she can meet at Central to pick up.

Please wear your mask for the exchange.

Items that are not covered by social services are: toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. A more complete list is available at request. This is an ongoing project.

*Thank you!*

- The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
  - God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
  - Good people go to heaven when they die.
- It is not even easy to disagree with them. But compare them to Jesus, who calls for authentic repentance and a new life in the Spirit. "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) It is a life that is not always easy or happy but in the end full of joy. Author Kenda Creasy Dean argues that it is not the case that the church has done a poor job of

teaching the youths; instead, we may have done a exceedingly good job of teaching them what we really believe.

I am someone who speaks in the name of Jesus all the time, but that does not mean that I automatically am following Jesus. I am either following Jesus, or I am not. I try to remember for myself the words of Jesus: "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." (Mt. 15:8-9)

We are headed for the great seasons of Lent and Easter. It may be a great opportunity for all of us to re-orient ourselves in the words of Jesus Christ. True Christianity is life that is truly life. Let's not get vaccinated from it.

Gratefully,  
*John*



### **Administrative Council Chair**

As the new Admin Council year begins, I would like to thank once again all the council members for continuing to meet and conduct business on Zoom this past year, and for putting up with me. Unfortunately, it looks like you'll have to keep on Zooming and putting up with me for at least a while longer.

The make-up of the council is the same as last year with the notable exception of the secretary. Grace Mortimer has served as secretary the last few years and did a great job--always accurate and complete--which isn't easy to do with everyone talking fast and sometimes all at the same time. This year has been even a bigger challenge since her internet isn't the best and she would actually participate on Zoom in the Fellowship Hall so she could do her job. So while the rest of us got to stay in the comfort of our homes, she came to church for the meetings to try and keep up with all that was going on during the meetings while on Zoom. I don't know how she kept up with it all, but she did. Thank you so much, Grace. We'll miss you on the Admin Council, but we all hope that you don't retire from singing in the Sunday service any time soon. You and Janet Bowman are a wonderful part of our worship time and we all look forward to your song every week. It takes a special effort to come in and record it and I want you both to know that it is appreciated. Thank you both! Thanks, also, to Charlene Small for playing for us every 4th Sunday.

The only new member of the Admin Council is Greg Lewis who will be taking over for Grace. Greg has been secretary of the United Methodist Men for several years, so now he'll be lending his expertise to the Admin Council. I look forward to working with him and I know he'll pick right up where Grace left off in doing a great job. Welcome, Greg!



The focus of the Admin Council became to just survive in 2020. This year, with the help of God, we can not only survive, but actually thrive. Hopefully, when we wrap up 2021, we'll be able to talk about how we took advantage of the opportunities God placed before us and became better Christians and a better Church.

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Thanks for the opportunity to serve you,

*Chris Moughon*

Administrative Council Chair

### United Methodist Women

We are excited to announce that our cookbook is being printed and should be ready for sale in the middle of February.



The recipes in the cookbook are favorites from our members, our Church family, Three Rivers Healthy Families, and the children. Copies will be available for \$12. As always the proceeds will go toward supporting our community.

We have partnered with Three Rivers Healthy Families and they will be providing financial support to help offset the cost of the publication. They will be including our cookbook in their welcome package to new clients as well as distributing the cookbooks to their existing clients. Again, a very special thanks goes to Dee Bane who has diligently and patiently designed, drafted, and edited the cookbook from beginning to end. And thanks to Christine Ulrich for helping with the proofreading.

As we prepared 2020 Annual Reports for the Church and for York River District UMW, it came to our attention that our "Small but Mighty" UMW unit contributed a total of \$1,501.35 to our local charities and to worldwide special missions supported by YRD UMW such as Wesley Community Service Center (Pecans), Kits for UMCOR, and World Thank Offerings. We would like to thank our Church family for their generous support of all our endeavors.

Just to make you aware, a friend of mine, Barbara Churray is collecting non-food items for Hands Across Mathews. She is accepting

donations from 12 to 1 on Fridays in the Church of Francis de Sales parking lot at 176 Lovers Lane. These are items that are not covered by social services such as: toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. A more complete list is available if you are interested. If you cannot make the drop-off with Barbara, I can meet you at our church for an exchange. This is an ongoing project so if you miss a Friday donation, there will be more opportunities. Just a reminder, please wear your mask for the exchange.

The officers of CUMW attended the YRD UMW Annual Training Day via Zoom on Saturday, January 23rd. Although we could not attend in person, we received some valuable information for this upcoming year.

We participated in our Annual Candle Burning Service on Sunday, January 31st. Seconds were purchased for 60 cents per second in honor of and/or in memory of loved ones. Total proceeds will be reported in next month's Chimes. As we continue into 2021 with the Pandemic still raging, we hope and pray that you and your family will remain safe and healthy. May God bless our nation, our church, our congregation, and our members.

*Martha Arnold*

President UMW

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

Pearl Renell Kennard

Vikye Shifflet Kress

Charles Shaw

Sandy Hinman

John Wade Stewart

Robert Turner Davis

Elizabeth Hill Sainio

Larkin Duvall Jr.

Robert Steely Bennett



## Finance

Dear Folks,

Welcome to 2021! What a year of turmoil we went through in 2020. Let's hope and pray that 2021 is less volatile. Regardless of your political leanings, I do hope for some sensible stability.

As we suspected from this past year of sickness and loss of friends, we fell a little short of our projected budget. However, that was somewhat offset by our not having to disburse some line items that we usually expend. We paid all of our bills and our obligations within our church region. Thank you all for stepping up so generously.

Our church budget for 2021 reflects our anticipation of needs to not only support our church, but our community as well. We were able to support *Hands Across Mathews* above our normal level of support in December. This was badly needed.

As we all look forward to 2021, we must look at our individual budgets and make sure to set up our contributions to our church to enable it to maintain its guidance and support for Mathews County. Please take good care, and stay safe.

*Tim Hill*

Chair of Finance Committee

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## Creation Care

Farmer Trey Hill trying a new climate solution:



(photos) (Farmer Trey Hill stands in a field of cover crops at Harborview Farms along the Chesapeake Bay in Rock Hall, Md.) Hill believes the healthier soil will eventually translate into higher yields of the crops that provide his income: corn, soybean and wheat. Hill has planted rye, turnips, clover and other cover crops. Such "regenerative" farming methods have been endorsed by soil scientists.

But just as importantly, they will pull down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the ground. Hill is at the cutting edge of what many hope will provide not just a more nature-friendly way of farming, but a powerful new climate solution.

Hill, who farms 10,000 acres, admitted he got into cover crops purely because the state paid him. "We had no intent of doing it for climate," he said.

Cover crops, whose roots and stalks add organic matter to the soil, have become hot items. In December, it was announced that the USDA transition team has called for setting up a "carbon bank" that would pay farmers, ranchers and forest owners for climate-friendly practices. (A carbon bank is where companies pay per acre to offset their carbon activities that they produce.)

Hill connected with one of those markets. Credits representing carbon stored in some of Hill's fields went on sale in October 2019 at \$16.50 a ton. Buyers included the e-commerce company Shopify and Arizona State University.

There are still many challenges including using special equipment, but still, between emerging carbon markets, a potential federal program and consumers waking up to the climate costs



of food production, Hill is confident that he's making a move that will be good for both the planet and his bottom line.

Michael Cannon  
Creation Care



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## Mission Highlight of the Month: UMFS

*Mission and Evangelism Team will present a mission focus each month, as approved by the Administrative Council March - UMCOR; April - Hands Across Mathew. If you wish to give to the mission focus of the month, make your gift to the church and designate it to the mission.*

### United Methodist Family Services

A few years ago, at the United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting at a church in Richmond, I attended a workshop presented by a staff member of UMFS. She was very enthusiastic about UMFS and her job there. Then at one of our church's Four S Musicals, Jill Gaynor, another staff member of UMFS, gave a talk on this remarkable program. Our good-will offering that night went to UMFS. Jill, too, was filled with enthusiasm about the UMFS.

This worthwhile program of our denomination began as an orphanage in 1900 when the Virginia Annual Conference was granted a charter from the VA. Legislature to build an orphanage at 3900 West Broad Street in Richmond.

**From 1910-1920** the orphanage flourished as a farm community and included a school, a print shop and a dairy.

**From 1920-1930** during the beginning of the Great Depression, many children were placed at the orphanage due to financial hardships. Peak number of orphans was 365.

**From 1930 -1940** the need for funds arose. Farm income and special church collections provided

the necessary funds. Also proposed was taking 10% from pastors' salaries.

**From 1940-1950** the number of orphans declined due to the Social Security Act providing more financial help for families in crisis.

**From 1950-1960** the name of the orphanage changed to the VA Methodist Children's Home, now serving more children on a temporary basis seeking to return them home.

**From 1960-1970** Farms were closed and sold and together with the sale of other property in Richmond and a VA Annual Conference fund drive, the program was able to expand on Broad Street and to build new cottages for residents.

**From 1970-1980** a Charterhouse School was opened to provide special education for residential youth.

**From 1980-1990** the VA AC changed the name to United Methodist Family Services of VA. Special emphasis was placed on working with the whole family to help meet the children's needs. Adoption and foster care and a residential treatment program for youth were added. New centers were opened in Tidewater and NoVA.

**From 1990-2000** New regional centers opened, offering foster care and mentoring services. Construction began on enlarging the charterhouse school.

**From 2000-2020** the UMFS celebrated 100 years. More regional centers were opened and a national grant was awarded to UMFS, creating a regional Quality Center of Adoption. A regional center opened in Centreville to provide intervention and stabilization for children and teens.

The Charterhouse School expanded programs and buildings. Career and technical education are added to the school's curriculum.





Therapeutic treatment in public school was added, as was Project Life in collaboration with the VA Department of Social services.

The UMFS continues serving high-risk children, teens and families from 9 locations in VA, providing residential treatment and specialized education, as well as foster care, adoption and community-based services. - Judy Moughon

*UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES – 120 YEARS OF CARING*

*UMFS TODAY*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan Club 2:00 - 7:00 pm 	3	4	5	6
7	8 UM Women 10:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm	9	10  Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am  Finance 7:00 pm	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day  	15	16	17  Ash Wednesday Online 8:00 am  	18	19	20
21	22  Trustees 7:00 pm	23	24  Administrative Council 7:00pm	25	26	27
28			 <h1 style="color: red; margin: 0;">February 2021</h1>			

### Birthdays

Peg Kava	1	Ruth Ann Hutson	12	Mary Wade Smith	25
Susan Hill	3	Kenneth Marshall	13	Frosty Taylor	29
Bob Tabor	8	Bill Loving	23		
Sherry Hodges	9				

### Anniversaries

Richard & Carey Hogge 24

*All meeting times & dates  
are subject to change.  
If in doubt, contact the  
committee chair.*