



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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February 2023

From the Pastor's Pen

Central had a series of meetings in December and in January, some informal and others more official, on the topic of the recent disaffiliation movement in the United Methodist Church. I thank those who came to the ones that Dee Bane and I hosted. There was also a joint meeting between the Administrative Council and the Trustees on January 11. In all of them those present shared their thoughts and asked questions in a largely respectful way.

I had not necessarily anticipated for a consensus to emerge from these meetings, but in the end it did: We ought not to engage with a formal discernment process for possible disaffiliation at this point. The reason frequently mentioned was that there was too much uncertainty for us to contemplate such radical steps. After all, the General Conference hasn't met since 2019, and we do not know what will come to pass in the 2024 General Conference. At the same time, it was clear that we were of diverse opinions on the issues. We are not a church that leans overwhelmingly to either side of the debate. We are united in our desire to follow Christ.

I came away from these meetings, thinking that we must strive for the most faithful and fruitful church we can be. Nothing keeps us from doing so, as long as the Holy Spirit is with us. Renewal in faith and obedience to Jesus Christ will set us upon the rock even in the midst of the changes around us.

I ask that we pray for a fresh anointing of God's Holy Spirit upon our church and on the churches everywhere.

Gratefully,
John



We welcomed new member, Dan Reno (on right) on January 22nd. Pictured with Joe & Martha Arnold
--photo by Martha Arnold

Friendship Class to Host Luncheon Sunday, February 5th

The Friendship Sunday school class will host a fellowship luncheon on Sunday, February 5th, immediately following the Sunday school classes. All are invited!



Worship Service
February 22
5:00 pm

From Administrative Council Chair

This time of the year, we think about new beginnings. I am happy to be starting a new beginning as head of the Administrative Council.

I have learned already that this is not a job for the faint of heart. I have also realized I stepped into some enormous shoes worn by Chris Moughon over the last few years. Hats off to Chris for his outstanding work, serving the diverse population of our Church, working closely with Pastor John during the evolution of a pandemic -- he showed courage, perseverance and faith.

I admire Chris for his "let's DO this" attitude. Calm and patient, he led us safely forward through some crazy months with little upheaval or complaint.

The trend of challenges seems to be continuing in 2023. We began this year with a special called meeting of the Administrative Council and Trustees to discuss issues of disaffiliation. This resulted in productive discussions and a consensus.

As we ease out of Covid restrictions, we will revisit our policies for social events and gatherings. The Friendship Sunday School class is getting us off to a good start with their luncheon scheduled on February 5th. I hope you will share your ideas and thoughts about how we can make our Church stronger and more welcoming.

There will be more challenges.

The good news is -- the resolve of the members of the council to face these challenges with the same faith and love that they have shown in the past remains steadfast.

I look forward to working with all of you. I know we will make our Church the best it can be in supporting our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Dee Bane

Administrative Council Chair



Above: United Methodist Men meet on Jan. 21 during their monthly meeting to discuss plans for 2023.

(Join them every month on the 3rd Saturday at Central.)

United Methodist Men Plans Fundraisers

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, January 21. There were fifteen of us who chowed down on a delicious breakfast prepared by David Hudgins with assistance from Gerald Taylor.

We collected \$151 for UMCOR Flood Buckets which would cover two buckets, not just the one that we were asked to provide. We also voted to do a Brunswick Stew fundraiser as we have in the past. The tentative date of February 25, and the tentative price of \$14 per quart were set, so stay tuned for the exact details in the coming weeks. Gerald Taylor will be our project manager once again and we thank him for heading up this important fundraising event.

The last item of business that we decided upon was to join the Central Village Homemakers in a yard sale to be held this spring. More details will follow on this, but you can start setting aside items to contribute now.

Our next meeting will be February 18, at 8am, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be finalizing plans for the Brunswick Stew and hope to see a good turnout!

Chris Moughon

UMM President

UMW Leads Flood Bucket Donations

Central United Methodist Women met on January 9th to discuss and plan the activities for the upcoming year. We will again be hosting Three Rivers Healthy Families for a spring picnic and a fall event. We be reviving our Volunteer Luncheon and will also once again host our annual Birthday Luncheon.

We are proud to announce that in 2022 our CUMW donated \$1,070 to various local charitable organizations, such as: Hands Across Mathews, The Christmas Blessing Fund, Meals on Wheels, etc. This also includes our monthly contributions to the organizations chosen by the Missions and Evangelism Team.

As was mentioned before, each church in the Mission Rivers District was requested to provide four UMCOR Flood Buckets. Each bucket cost approximately \$75. This year we requested that the Sunday School classes and the United Methodist Men along with United Methodist Women each sponsor a Flood Bucket to make up the four buckets. We are extremely grateful for the generous donations we received for this project. Our church not only reached our goal of four buckets, but we also collected enough money for six Flood Buckets. Thank you so much for your support.

On January 15th, the CUMW presented David Hudgins with a Special Mission Recognition Pin and a Certificate of Appreciation for his helpfulness and many kindnesses he shows not

only to our group but to our church. He is a man of many talents who is always willing to help with everything from teaching classes, serving as Chairman of the Trustees, lighting the candles, making the coffee, checking the boilers, taking out the trash, locking the doors, and turning out the lights, among other things. David is most deserving of this award, and we are extremely lucky that we have him in our congregation. Thank you, David, for all that you do.

We will 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.

Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

Martha Arnold
President UMW

David Hudgins receives a Special Mission Recognition Pin and a certificate of appreciation from Central United Methodist Women on January 15.

(photo by Martha Arnold)





Friendship Sunday school class (1/22)

**Mission Focus of the Month:
United Methodist Family Services**

United Methodist Family Services is a non-profit agency that provides a comprehensive list of programs for at-risk youths and parents. These programs include foster care, adoption or residential treatment, as well as private day school for specialized care.

UMFS is not just for kids: they are a champion for children, teens, families and communities! They strive to do whatever takes to help young people overcome seemingly overwhelming odds and create bright futures for themselves. UMFS assists the child or teen by empowering the entire family to become stable, self-sufficient, and caring members of their community.

They always start with the individual's strengths, having found that it is much more effective to build on strengths than by focusing on deficit. By doing so, the staff of UMFS hopes to promote a positive social change in the life of every child they touch.

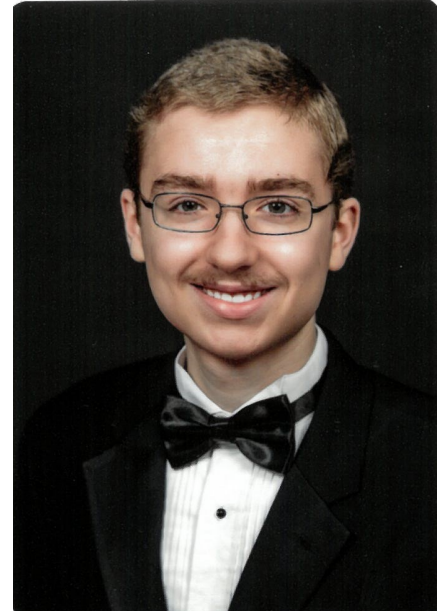
As one individual said, " Every child, regardless of circumstance, deserves the chance to succeed; UMFS welcomed them with open arms. "

Linda Dalgety
M & E Chair



Scholarship Honor

Joshua Brian Bennett will be awarded the Central UMC Scholarship Honor. Joshua is attending Virginia Tech and is the son of Joy and Brian Bennett and the grandson of Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins.



**Paul Townsend Memorial
Sunday school class
Supper
February 9th, 4:30 pm at Central**

Sharing with Community

The **Good News Pantry** is for non-perishable food gifts and Christian Literature. It is a take-what-you-need, give-what-you-can storage.

Located in the back left side of Central's parking lot.



Creation Care

About 10 years ago Creation Care was asked if we could create a program that would let Mathews' young people know why it was so important to recycle. We researched information from the web and also from VA Peninsular Public Service Authority (VPPSA). We then developed a fun PowerPoint with activities.

Through the years, many different members of Central have helped as we presented to Jerry Ligon's 4th grade classes. Later the school asked us to present to Leslie Hudgins' 6th graders which we have done for several years. We also presented to the Boys and Girls Club and the youth at two churches as well as several adult groups.



This month we have been asked to present to Mathew's PATH group on January 26th. The set up will be our most challenging. We also do not know if we will have 20 people or 50 people. Thankfully, the Creation Care Team is extremely creative and flexible. This is an excellent opportunity to let many in our community know what Central is doing for the environment and how they can help their planet plus how they can also save their County of Mathews money.

Helping this time will be David Hudgins, Dee Bane, Martha Arnold, Cindy Klote, Nancy Goldman and Chris Moughon.

Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team



From Mission Rivers District: Chats with Charles

Do you have a burning question that you'd like answered? Do you want to meet the DS one-on-one? Do you just want to introduce yourself or say hello?

DS Charles Ledlum-Bates will be scheduling time around the district for anyone who would like to meet with him. It can be clergy or laity - if you have something you'd like to discuss or ask him about, he is available for you.

On Monday, February 6, he will be at Trinity Poquoson all day. Trinity Poquoson is located at 1294 Poquoson Avenue , Poquoson VA 23662.

If you'd like to talk with him, please contact the office with the email below and we'll set a time for you to drop by to chat.

Missionriversdistrict@vaumc.org

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



Jeanette Hancock
Raymond Shackelford
Robert Morgan
Leonard Jenkins

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am			1 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am— 1:00 pm	2	3	4	
5 Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Fellowship Luncheon following Sunday school	6	7	8	9 Finance 1:30pm Trustees 2:00 pm Paul Townsend Mem. class Supper 4:30 pm	10	11	
12 Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am	13 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	14 Valentine's Day 	15 M and E 10:00 am	16	17	18 UM Men 8:00 am	
19 Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am	20 President's Day NAACP 6:00 pm	21	22 Ash Wednesday 5:00 pm  Administrative Council 7:00pm	23	24	25 Brunswick Stew Sale	
26 1st Sunday Of Lent Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am	27	28	<h1>February 2023</h1>				

Birthdays

Susan Hill	3	Ruth Ann Hutson	12	Bill Loving	23
Bob Tabor	8	Kenneth Marshall	13	Mary Wade Smith	25
Sherry Hodges	9	Elizabeth Anderson	16	Frosty Taylor	29

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