



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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January 2023

From the Pastor's Pen

Since September we have been reading the Sermon on the Mount on Sundays. We took a break from it in the latter part of December, and we will look into Jesus' baptism on the upcoming Sunday (Jan. 8). Afterwards we will return to the powerful discourse from Jesus, beginning with Matthew 7.

It is worthwhile seeking a path back to Jesus. How did, for instance, your Christmas celebrate Christ? Looking back I am thankful for the worship experiences of the season: the songs, the candles and other visuals all pointing to Christ. Yet part of me wishes I had been less occupied and more focused on the Lord; I wish I had welcomed the birth of Jesus with greater simplicity and faith.

This new year I hope to 'give back' some of the works of the church from my plate to the people of the church. Not that I should ever exempt myself from serving, but some things I do, can be done much better by others. After all, it is Christ who empowers us all. Meanwhile I will do my best to continue lifting up the Word of God.

INVITATION

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

I invite you to another round of conversation on the topic of the recent events regarding denomination disaffiliation on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. I seek to have a prayerful talk regarding 'What is happening with the Church' and 'How did the Church come to this point.' Those who came to the Dec. 11 meeting are welcome to come as well.

The Administrative Council along with the trustees are set to have an early discussion on Jan. 11 on whether the church should enter into a formal discernment process on the issue. There is a possibility that, depending on the suggestions from the meeting, the above-mentioned talk on Jan. 22 may be postponed and replaced with something more structured. I should keep you posted on the church's weekly newsletter.

I trust that you will join me in praying for the church. May we remain in Christ, and his word remain in us.

Gratefully,

John



Join us for Worship

Sunday service—9:15 a.m.

Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

[Service live on YouTube](#)

**Mission Focus of the Month:
Central UMC Scholarship Fund**



Offerings will be received for Central United Methodist scholarships awarded to students in post secondary education. For checks, please note, "scholarship" in the memo.

Mission & Evangelism Team



Janet Burgess looking festive during the Central Village Homemakers Sing-a-long on Dec. 4th.

Photo by Bev Childress



Upper Room

Jan/Feb Upper Room is available in the Narthex.

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

Charles Griffin
Jeannette Hancock
Raymond Shackelford



Christmas with UM Women

On December 11th, Central United Methodist Women hosted a hospitality reception for Jurah, John's new wife. Jurah was able to visit for a short time before Christmas. We were all delighted to meet her and to welcome her to Central. Her time here was too brief, but we look forward to seeing her again soon.

On December 12th we held our annual covered dish Christmas dinner at Grace Mortimer's house. We invited husbands and guests to join us. The food was delicious, the fellowship was delightful, and a good time was had by all. Thank you, Grace for your wonderful hospitality!



Photo by Martha Arnold

For our Christmas Giving, we made donations to Hands Across Mathews, Meals on Wheels, Social Services, and The Christmas Blessing Fund. Once again, because of Covid, we were not able to visit the nursing homes and our shut-ins. However, we sent many Christmas cards to members of our congregation and to our shut-ins to let them know we were thinking about them.

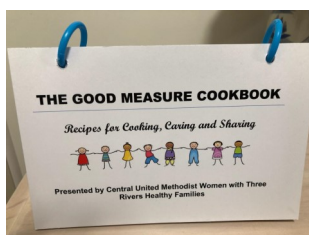
As mentioned before, each church in the Mission Rivers District has been requested to provide four UMCOR Flood Buckets. Each bucket cost approximately \$75. This year we have requested that the Sunday School classes and the United Methodist Men along with

United Methodist Women each sponsor a Flood Bucket to make up the four buckets. This will be done in the form of a monetary donation and will be donated in January. This has allowed our church to reach our goal of four buckets without requesting donations from the congregation.

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.



Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

We hope each of you had a Blessed and Merry Christmas! And we wish you a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Martha Arnold,
UM Women President

Another Year Goes By

It's hard to believe, but another year has gone by and it's even harder to believe (at least for me) that my three years as Administrative Council Chairperson is over. To me, it seems more like three months instead of three years.

I would like to thank all the members of the Council for making my job easy and enjoyable. I honestly looked forward to each meeting knowing that everyone was prepared and anxious to do what was best for Central UMC. I also like to thank our Treasurer, Walt Matthews, and our Administrative Assistant, Michele Evans. The two of them take care of the "business" of the church and keep John and me straight. Of course, I would like to thank Pastor John for his guidance and leadership. I don't know how we would have made it through the pandemic without him. Last but not least, I want to thank all of the members of Central UMC for your support. I hope that I didn't disappoint you.

I know that you all will join me in giving your full support to our incoming Admin Council Chairperson, Dee Bane. I can't think of a better choice to lead us. As for me, I'll be returning to chair the Finance Committee and therefore remaining on the Admin Council. I look forward to being part of both again in 2023.

Thanks for the honor of serving as your Admin Council Chairperson and Happy New Year to one and all!

Chris Moughon
Outgoing Admin Council Chair



**Paul Townsend Memorial
Sunday school class
December 12**



Christmas at Central



Photos by Bev Childress, Martha Arnold and Michael Cannon




Tree of Remembrance



Top: Central's Choir
Middle left: Paul Townsend class prepares gift baskets for homebound.

Middle right: Reception (12/11)
Bottom left: Pastor John with shoeboxes for Mathews Christmas store.
Bottom right: Hal & Patty Hertzler during reception (12/11).



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday Worship—9:15 am Sunday school—10:15 am Happy New Year!	2	3 Bible Study 7:00 pm	4 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am to 1:00 pm	5 Bible Study 10:00 am	6	7
8	9 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	10 Bible Study 7:00 pm	11 Trustees with Admin Council 2:00 pm	12 Bible Study 10:00 am Paul Townsend Mem. class Lunch 12:00 Noon Finance TBD	13	14
15	16 NAACP 6:00 pm	17 Bible Study 7:00 pm	18 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	19 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	20	21 UM Men 8:00 am
22 UMC Talk 2:30 pm	23	24 Bible Study 7:00 pm	25 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	26 Bible Study 10:00 am	27	28
29	30	31 Community Blood Drive 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm  Bible Study 7:00 pm	<h1>January 2023</h1>			

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

January Birthdays

Martha Arnold	3	Dickie Burroughs III	24
Billy Snow	13	Audrey Knight	25
Hal Hertzler	17	Jennings Haynes Jr.	27

