



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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JULY 2020

From the Pastor's Pen

Central is now a Stage 2 Pioneer Church, meaning that we now resume in-person service and meetings under appropriate protocols. We held a service in the sanctuary last Sunday (Jun. 28) with fourteen people present. Everyone spread out, as pews were cordoned off, and we became used to wearing masks fairly quickly. We missed being able to sing, but all in all we had a time of worship together.

Even though we now hold services at the church, I do not necessarily ask everyone to come back to it at this point. We are not out of the woods yet with the coronavirus, and I encourage those with higher health risks to err on the side of caution. For those who do attend in person, we are abiding by protocols that promote safety. There is something special about being physically present with one another, and in-person service will continue as we look forward to the days of greater safety.

To have traveled out of state is not an automatic reason not to be allowed to attend. However, it may be wise for those who have traveled to areas where COVID is rising and have visited public places to wait a couple of weeks before attending service at the church.

We are all hoping and praying for the day when we will together sing, shake hands, and embrace one another. We are taking small steps forward. Meanwhile, let's not merely aim for returning to the former routines. What can

we do today as church that serves Jesus Christ? Individually, how can you and me cultivate our walk with Jesus? Let's look for the new ways. If someone had told me six months ago that I would be putting up YouTube videos weekly I would have laughed. With God's help and a spirit of openness (and sometimes with a bit of pressure) we can do new things to serve Christ.

Please continue to pray that Central Church may be led by the Holy Spirit. It is the very best thing that we could ask for the church.

Gratefully,

John

Give the Gift of Life!

Mathews Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 21, 1:30 -7:00 pm
Piankatank Ruritan Building

Must call for an appointment!
Individual appointments only

Go to [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) for appt.
or Call [804-725-2485](tel:804-725-2485) for appt.
and for questions.

Check the website often to see if
your time becomes available.
Temperatures will be checked upon
arrival and masks and sanitizer will
be provided.



Image source: pixabay.com

Administrative Council Chair

After missing 15 Sundays, we finally got back into our sanctuary for a worship service. We had 14 people including Pastor John and Janet Bowman on the piano. We played by the rules set forth by the Conference, such as wearing our masks, sitting at least six feet apart (except for couples), no singing (Grace did have a pre-recorded solo), and no hugging or handshakes. No, these aren't ideal conditions by any means, but it wasn't that bad. Once John began the service, I really didn't think about the mask that I thought was going to annoy me. It was so good to see everybody that none of the inconveniences mattered.

If you're on the fence about attending church in person, I can honestly say that I had a positive experience and would recommend that you come. But, if you're not comfortable with the rules or concerned in any way about the health risks, please do not feel pressured to come. The health and well-being of every member is the main concern here. Our on-line service will continue so you won't miss any of John's wonderful words. But if you're so inclined, just remember to fill out the health questionnaire and let John know that you're coming by Wednesday afternoon. Then just show up Sunday by 9:15 with your mask and we'll guide you the rest of the way. Hopefully, this phase won't last very long and I will be looking forward to seeing all your smiling unmasked faces soon!

Chris Moughon

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



Phyllis Lewis

Paul Blanock

Carl Bochau

Jeff Sutton

Edward Renner

Gerald Hudgins

Steve Brownley

In-Person Services at Central United Methodist Church

Stage 2 Reminders (6/25/2020)

• **Register 4 days ahead.** Please call or email church office (725-2832, office@centralumcmathews.org) or pastor (384-3521)

• **Complete Health Acknowledgment Form,** also by Wednesday.

It can be done online (Go to www.vaumc.org -> Admin -> EVC -> COVID Health Acknowledgment Form. Central is in York River District) or by calling pastor (804-384-3521).

• **Check temperature** Sunday morning. Please stay home if feeling sick or have fever (100.4°F)

• **Wear a face covering.** Mask or bandana to be worn during worship and on the church premise, including during restroom visits.

• **Keep physical distance** of at least six feet, exception given to those living in the same household. Some pews will be marked off.

• **Please no hugging or hand-shaking.**

• **Enter by the front doors.** Exit through the door in the front of the sanctuary.

The above protocols except for the last item apply to non-worship meetings.



Sunday Worship
register to attend in-person
9:15 am

Online service-9:15 am
YouTube link at
www.centralumcmathews.org

Graduation Recognition

Kyle Robert Anderson



Kyle is the son of Jason and Cheryl Anderson, the grandson of Durward and Liz Anderson and Robert and Sharon Seifert. He graduated from Lee Davis High school in Mechanicsville, VA.

Kyle took German for 5 years and was President of the German honor society at Lee Davis. He swam competitively all 4 years, both on the school team and with the Hanover club year round swim program. He competed at states 3 times, placing in 2 relays and in the 500 meter freestyle. Kyle completed the Advanced College Academy program, graduating with 62 college credits, and will attend Old Dominion University School of Engineering in the fall.

Correction:

In the June *Central Chimes*, the correct full name for Brandon Fry is **Brandon Roberts Fry**.



Thanks for Your Perseverance!



From the Bishop

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

These are certainly challenging times – and there is also a great deal of positive news for our church. Through faith, flexibility, and hard work we are returning to in-person worship in a safe and responsible manner.

Virginia is on track to enter Phase Three of Governor Northam's reopening plan this Wednesday, July 1, 2020, as the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline in the Commonwealth. The Conference has been carefully monitoring events at the state level and the transition to Phase Three by Governor Northam was expected. It does not impact our return to worship plans.

Our churches continue the return to in-person under the Stage 2 criteria that went into effect for the Conference on June 21, 2020. The Conference will remain in our Stage 2 for the foreseeable future as we are being rigorous about the safety of our members and guests. Face coverings and social distancing are essential at all in-person gatherings.

I encourage all churches to return to in-person worship, even if it is with a modest number of church members, while continuing to provide online or telephonic worship services. We will continue to monitor and evaluate events. As trends are expected to continue to improve in Virginia, we will likely loosen some of the requirements for in-person worship.

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Creation Care

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL COLLECTION



and COMPUTER RECYCLING EVENT:



August 15, 2020

At Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department,
3309 Twiggs Ferry Road
Hartfield, VA (about 14 miles from Mathews)
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

If you have any questions, please call us at 757-259-9850 or go to our website at www.vppsa.org.

NEWS IN RECYCLING PLASTICS

Our Convenience Center in Mathews, run by VPPSA, has had to make a major change in recycling plastics. It can only recycle plastic bottles and jugs that have the numbers #1 or #2 (They can no longer recycle plastics with the #s 3-7.)

INSTRUCTIONS: Rinse and remove all residue from #1 or #2 bottles or jugs. Remove and throw away lids. Check VPPSA 'S website for additional information.

New recycling guidelines for plastics:



Only plastics marked with a



can be recycled



Creation Care Team is trying to notify schools and other organizations that are involved in recycling. Please help by passing the word along.

Michael Cannon

Creation Care



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men have ceased meeting until August 15th. At that time, we plan to establish the date for our 2020 Shrimp Dinner and also the date for our second Brunswick Stew.

Blessings and stay safe,

Steve Leap




UM Men President

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Thank you to the hundreds of churches that have returned to in-person worship and other church activities, and thanks to those that are making plans to do so soon. Even though the services are smaller than before the pandemic, you are providing important, essential ministry to help the well-being of the Body of Christ. Every church that is comfortable can have in-person worship by following the Technical Assistance Manual on the Conference website.

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
J U L Y			1	2	3	4 Independence Day  pixabay.com
	5 Sunday service 9:15 am	6 UM Women 10:00 am	7	8 Finance 7:00 pm	9	10
12 Sunday service 9:15 am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Sunday service 9:15 am <i>Central Chimes Submissions Due</i>	20 Health Church Team 2:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm	21 Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 1:30 - 7:00pm 	22 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday service 9:15 am	27	28	29	30	31	
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair. </div>				 pixabay.com		

Birthdays

Betty Lewis	1	Emily Moughon	20
Tom Robinson	6	Tim Hill	26
Mary Marshall	8	Alvin Knight	27
Judy Moughon	20	David Hudgins	29

Anniversaries

Jim & Linda Dalgety	10
Audrey & Alvin Knight	14
Richard & Deborah Robertson	17
Betty & Jimmy Stewart	23