



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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JULY 2021

From the Pastor's Pen

It has been a month since we as the local church assumed authority for major decisions regarding COVID-related safety measures. We have moved in a deliberate pace, but now we gather for worship and other meetings with few restrictions. We do have some pews cordoned off in the sanctuary, and the service is still about 45 minutes or less. Food and drinks are being served indoors, though approval is required on a case by case basis.

At this point our primary question is larger than merely ensuring safety. It is how we can grow in our worship, discipleship, fellowship and mission. With the approval of the Administrative Council, the former Healthy Church Team is now Post-Covid Re-entry Group (PRG) and will serve to consider broader issues for the church's direction.

Now is the time to remember that the church is of Jesus Christ. We are not just another fraternal organization. Whereas Central Church is deeply meaningful to each of us, it is so because it belongs to Jesus. He is the Lord of the church. Our CEO and largest stockholder has his office in heaven ("in the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead"). I pray that the Holy Spirit will help us discern what our Lord wants for his church, for whom he gave his life.

What Jesus wants from his church is not secret. To name but a few: "Love one another, as I have loved you." (John 13:34) "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15) "Do this in

remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." (Matthew 18:5) "Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness." (Mt. 6:33)

Our way forward is Jesus Christ. After all, he said, "I am the way." That means that each of us should take care to listen and follow the Spirit of Jesus and the word of Jesus. Thank you for having walked with the Lord Jesus in your faith and love, seen and unseen, especially during this pandemic time.

Through worship, fellowship, and service, we will focus on remaining in Jesus, and the Spirit of Jesus will lead our way.

Gratefully,

John

Drive-In Church

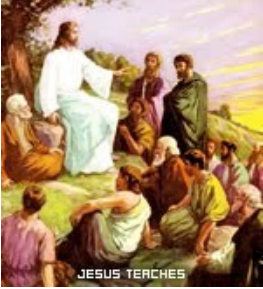


Outdoor Communion Service

July 4th, 9:15 a.m.

- ⇒ Those attending may bring chairs and sit in the open or remain in the vehicle.
- ⇒ Service will be broadcast on FM 87.9 on the church premise.
- ⇒ Prepackaged communion elements and bulletins will be given as you arrive.
- ⇒ Coffee will be available afterwards.

Summer Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.



Pastor John will offer a series of sessions on Jesus' parables in July and August on Tuesday evenings, starting on July 13. The classes will be in the fellowship hall with an option to join via Zoom.

For questions please contact John at johnchoi@vaumc.org.

Drive-In Church (6/06)

photos by Michael Cannon



Annual Conference Lay Member's Report

The 239th Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church took place virtually June 18th thru the 20th with some events on June 17, 21 and 22 as well.



The theme of this year's conference was "United As One". The conference Scripture was John 17:20-23.

The conference accomplishes the administrative objectives necessary to officially install committees, make executive appointments, make pastoral assignments, acknowledge opening and closing of churches, and adopt a conference budget for the year 2022.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the session to order at 9:30 a.m. on June 18 and welcomed clergy and lay members to the virtual session. She gave thanks to the many people who helped make the session possible.

Other aspects of a normal annual conference session were planned for different times with prerecorded services:

- Service of Ordering of Ministry, Mon., 6/14
- Retirement Worship Service, Thurs., 6/17
- Laity Celebration Worship, Sunday, 6/20
- Service of Remembrance, Sunday, 6/20
- Service of Licensing of Local Pastors & Deaconess Commissioning, Mon., 6/21
- Eight churches were voted on and discontinued: Arlington Forest UMC, Arlington District; Browns Chapel UMC, Farmville District; Early's Chapel UMC, Lynchburg District; Fieldstone UMC, Roanoke District; Jollett UMC, Harrisonburg District; Mount Clifton UMC, Harrisonburg District; Mount Hebron UMC, Harrisonburg District; and Pamplin City UMC, Farmville District.
- Browns Chapel UMC voted to amicably exit the denomination and, at the conference, they were also voted on and discontinued.

- Four new faith communities launched this year: Thalia UMC Microchurch Network, Elizabeth River District; The Mission at Washington Street UMC, James River District; NOVA Missional Hub, Rappahannock River and Alexandria Districts; and Indian Church RVA, Richmond District.
- The 2022 budget that was presented to the conference body included upcoming expenditures for recommendations related to the District Alignment Team (DAT) and Implementation District Alignment Team (iDAT). A motion was made to remove this spending from the 2022 budget. The motion was approved, and the 2022 budget was approved without these expenditures included.
- A Closing Worship Service was held on June 19 to end the Annual Conference session. Bishop Lewis preached on the theme "United as One."
- "Even though we are not united on human sexuality issues, the question remains today," she said, "What does unite us? Does God not give humanity the grace to feel passionate about certain life issues? Does God expect us to agree on all matters? She said she believes "God is calling us now more than ever to be one with Christ."
- Fifty-seven clergy retired at this year's retirement service. Their combined hours of service was approximately 1,225 years.
- Ten clergy were ordained during the June 14 Service for Ordering Ministry.
- Thirty-two individuals were licensed as local pastors.
- There were some 1,121 professions of faith and over 600 baptisms.
- The conference offering was taken online and through mail. The offering will be collected through August 2021. The total will be shared at a later date. Some 50 percent of this year's Annual Conference offering was designated to Virginia area food pantries and 50 percent to Virginia Partnerships of Hope International

Ministries—formerly called Initiatives of Hope. The Virginia Conference Partnerships of Hope ministries are Methodists in Brazil, Cambodia, and Mozambique. Central Church Administrative Council voted to contribute \$200 to the Conference offering.

You can view the conference and services live-streamed at: <https://vaumc.org/united-as-one-virginia-annual-conference-2021>

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Bane

Lay Member of Annual Conference

Mission Focus for July: Mathews Volunteer Fire Department

Mission Focus of the Month is adopted by the Administrative Council. You may give to it by marking your check for the mission / organization.



The Mathews Volunteer Fire Department Inc is the outgrowth of the former Mathews Fire Protection formed in 1921.

The first piece of equipment was a hand drawn two wheeled cart with two small soda and acid tanks with a small hose. It was used primarily to protect the courthouse area. Property owners outside of the courthouse area were charged for calls when services were needed. The first Fire House was built that year (1921) on the same site as the Mathews Station is today.

In 1946 a group of civic minded individuals got together to form the Mathews Volunteer Fire Department. Still using the old soda and acid truck until 1948, when the first drive was held to solicit funds from the citizens of Mathews to purchase an up to date fire truck. The new fire truck would be used to protect the entire county.

From this tiny fire house, Mathews County Volunteer Fire Department with donations

from the citizens of Mathews County, has grown to five fully equipped stations.

Mathews Station #1 - The courthouse station is staffed with 30 volunteer firefighters, 2 engines, 1 mini pumper, reserve truck and 1 brush jeep.

Bohannon Station #2 - Was built with volunteer labor and donated materials in 1949. This station is staffed with 15 volunteers and 1 engine.

Gwynn's Island Station #3 - In 1956 additional fire protection for the county was added with a station being organized on Gwynn's Island. This station has 15 volunteers and 1 engine.

Cobbs Creek Station #4 - In 1964 again with volunteer labor and donated materials a new station was started at Cobbs Creek. Cobbs Creek station has 20 volunteers and 1 engine.

New Point Station #5 - In 1985 volunteers in the New Point area of the county organized to build a fire station at the site of the old New Point School. The new station was opened in 1986. New Point is staffed with 15 volunteers and 1 engine.



More information on the Fire Departments history can be found at www.mathewsvfd.org. If you or someone you know would like to be a volunteer contact the department or check out "join our team" on the web site.

Donations can be made at anytime to the Mathews Volunteer Fire Department Inc. and mailed to P O Box 1130, Mathews VA 23109.

The Mathews Volunteer Fire Department has been an important part of my family for many years. This past April my husband, Jimmy Stewart, was honored for serving as a volunteer for over 60 years. My son, Kevin Stewart was honored for 40 years of service and my granddaughter's husband, Jason Powell, with 15 years of service.

Betty Stewart

July 2021

Administrative Council Chair

Welcome to Summer and welcome back to Central United Methodist Church! I have to agree with Linda Dalgety when she said in worship service this past Sunday (6/20) that Summer was her favorite season, but I also have to agree with Pastor John when he said that we are blessed to have four distinct seasons here in Mathews. Summer would not be special if that were the only season we had. We would tend to focus on the less pleasant aspects of Summer such as humidity and mosquitoes instead of all the great outdoor time in God's creation.

Summer is usually a time of slowing down and backing off of some activities, not only in our everyday lives, but also in our church lives as well. I'm glad to say that this Summer is going to be a little different at Central. Instead of seeing less of each other in worship service due to increased Summer vacations and family get-togethers, we're seeing more people all the time as they get more comfortable with the in-person worship. The United Methodist Men usually take a summer break, but instead this year will be getting back together this Saturday (6/26) after a long Covid break. The Nancy Wroten/Faith in the Now combined classes will meet for the first time ever in person this Sunday (6/27). Vacation Bible School returns this week (6/21-25). Hopefully, there will be announcements of other resumptons forthcoming.

As I've said before, the pace of returning to normal may seem a little slow, but it is the feeling of the Post-Covid Reentry Group (formally known as the Healthy Church Team) that it is better to take it slow and reintroduce things one or two at a time and see how it goes as opposed to opening the floodgates and having to backtrack later. After all, we have a most patient God guiding us, and as I also have said before, we're on His time, not ours.

Blessings,

Chris Moughon

Administrative Council
Chair



VBS at Central (6/21 - 25)



Photo by: Greg Lewis



Photo by: John Choi



Photo by: John Choi



**July/August Upper Room
are available in the Narthex**

Disciples Engaging in Mission 2021



Sheets are now available at both doors on clipboards. Please place a check mark beside your name in the quarter column that you engaged in outreach at any time this year.

United Methodist Women

The Central United Methodist Women did not meet in June but we were not idle. Our contributions to our community continue.

In the past we have prepared or collected donations for health/school/cleaning kits. These kits were taken to the the Annual Conference and donated to UMCOR. This year we have been notified that UMCOR can no longer handle the Kits. Each church has been asked to identify a local mission willing to accept kits. When we meet in July, we will get in touch with Hands Across Mathews and/or Social Services to determine which type of kit they will accept. Once the type of kit is determined, we will begin collecting for these kits and they will be distributed locally.

In the meantime, we continue to contribute to the mission chosen each month by Mission and Evangelism. Our "The Good Measure Cookbooks" is still available for \$12 and we continue to collect Non Food Items in the Fellowship Hall for HAM.

Thank you for your contributions.

Martha Arnold
CUMW President

Giving to Community and Beyond

We received and sent \$365 to Avalon Center, our mission highlight for May. The total includes \$50 from the United Methodist Women, who have pledged to give each month to the church's Mission Focus.

On June 23 the Administrative Council voted to send \$200 to Virginia Annual Conference Offering. This year's annual conference offering will support food ministries within Virginia as well as Partnerships of Hope (our conference's long standing partnership in three places: Mozambique, Brazil, and Cambodia).

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

Alan Callis
Harry Ward
Elliott Bromley
Roland Gauthier



Creation Care



Secrets from trees: Older is better!

Trees store carbon dioxide. Through their lives, trees store carbon dioxide up to 22 tons in their trunks, branches and root systems.

A sweeping study of forests around the world finds that the older the tree, the greater it's potential to store carbon and slow climate change.

Old trees not only store carbon and prevent it from escaping into the atmosphere, but actively convert CO₂ in the air into their trunks, branches and leaves.



Unlike humans and other animals that stop growing once they mature, trees grow faster the older they get. Once trees reach a certain height, they do stop getting taller, but instead of slowing down as the centuries add up, **old trees** speed up their growth, according to a study published in the journal Nature.

"It's as if, on your favorite sports team, you find out the star players are a bunch of 90-year-olds. They're the most active. They're the ones scoring the most points. That's an important thing to know." Because, in the world of trees, that means the oldest members of the forest are doing the most to pull carbon dioxide out of the air and to store it as carbon in their wood. That's another argument for preserving old-growth forests.



YEWS: MORE THAN 600 YEARS OLD

Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team



"The Earth is the Lords and everything in it."



Mathews County Blood Drive
Piankatank Ruritan Club

Tuesday, July 20 , 1:30 pm - 7:00 pm
call for appt., 804-725-2485

**Please help prevent a summer shortage
and save a life!**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<h1>July 2021</h1>			1	2	3
4 Drive-In Communion service 9:15 am Independence Day	5	6	7 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	8	9	10
11	12 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	13 PRG 2:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm	14 Finance 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18 <i>Central Chimes Submissions Due</i>	19	20  Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 1:30 - 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00 pm	21 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	22 CHKD Lunch & Meeting 11:00 am- 2:00 pm	23	24
25	26	27 Bible Study 7:00 pm	28	29	30	31
				All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.		

Birthdays

Betty Lewis	1	Emily Moughon	20
Joe Arnold	2	James Martin	21
Tom Robinson	6	Tim Hill	26
Mary Marshall	8	Alvin Knight	27
Judy Moughon	20	David Hudgins	29

Anniversaries

Dickie & Bert Burroughs	10
Jim & Linda Dalgety	10
Audrey & Alvin Knight	14
Jimmy & Betty Stewart	23

pixabay.com

