



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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JULY 2022

From the Pastor's Pen

The June 16-18 annual conference marked the "fixing" of the clergy appointments, and I am grateful to continue at this wonderful church for another year. While we have much room for growth, our seven-year partnership would not have been possible apart from the grace of God. I am convinced that God is personally responsible for the life of the church more than we realize. If we can together grow in listening to the Holy Spirit, God can give good fruit (1 Cor. 3:6).

There may have been an extra interest in this year's annual conference since the launching of a new breakaway Methodist denomination in May. Our conference at this time did not deal with the matter officially. It will be addressed by a special called conference in October, where clarification will be sought for how congregations choosing to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church may do so.

There are all kinds of organizations in our society, but the church stands on Jesus Christ. We do not always obey or follow Christ as we should, but we can never give up faith in what Christ has done and what he means for us. As the scripture encourages us, let us live in Christ, rooted and built up in him (Col. 2:6-7). Let our thought, word and deed be obedient to Christ; let him break any strongholds (2 Cor. 10:5). If we so remain in him and his words in us (John 15:4), he will give us growth and fruits.

Gratefully,

John



Join us for Worship!

Sunday Worship—9:15 a.m.

Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

July Sermon Series: "Freedom Within"

7/3: "Remove Lies, Replace with Truth."

7/10: "Rewire Brain, Renew Mind"

7/17: (Guest preacher)

7/24: "Reframe Mind, Restore Perspective"

7/31: "Revive Soul, Reclaim Life"

Messages will be under the theme of "Freedom Within" and from the spring spiritual formation class based on the book by Craig Groeschel called, "Winning the War in Your Mind". The series is inspired by the book as well as based on scriptures.



Make a Joyful Sound

Grace Mortimer and Pastor John invite you to sing in a choir once a month. Anyone interested please come to the half-hour rehearsal: For July it will be Thursday the 21st at 7 p.m., and we will sing on the 24th. We will sing selections that are familiar or can be easily learned.



Annual Conference Lay Member's Report

This is a summary of the events of the Virginia Annual Conference as well as significant actions and accomplishments:

The theme for the 2022 Virginia Annual Conference, held June 16-18, 2022 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Va., was "United as One in Worship." The conference theme was based on John 4:24.

By an overwhelmingly majority vote, the Rev. Tom Berlin, pastor of Floris UMC, Herndon, was endorsed for the office of bishop.

Church and District Changes

There was a discussion of discontinuance or abandonment of churches -- eight churches were discontinued in five districts. An additional three churches were closed under Paragraph 2549.3. Two new faith communities and their pastors were introduced.

Clergy and lay members approved the District Initiative which was a motion to create eight new districts from the current 16-district structure. The new structure will begin on July 1, 2022. The new districts and their superintendents are as follows:

- Northern Virginia District – The Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert
- Three Notch'd District – The Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee
- Mountain View District – The Rev. Denise Bates
- Coastal Virginia District – The Rev. Cecelia Brooks

- Living Waters District – The Rev. Jay Carey
- Shenandoah River District – The Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez
- Mission Rivers District – The Rev. Dr. Charles Bates (our new district)
- Valley Ridge District – The Rev. Doug Forrester

Mission Service

A Mission Service, highlighting the many areas the Virginia Conference is in mission throughout Virginia, the country and the world was held.

Retirement Service

Forty-two persons were part of the 2022 Retirement Class. These individuals have a combined total of 1,154.5 years of service. The Rev. Clarence Brown, representing the retiring class, used the Scripture Philippians 4:1-9 as a basis for his sermon.

Service of Remembrance

The Rev. Grace Han, pastor of Trinity UMC, Alexandria District, preached for the Service of Remembrance in which 77 conference clergy and laity who died since the last Annual Conference were remembered.

A Service for the Ordering of Ministry

This year's Service for the Ordering of Ministry began with Bishop Sharma Lewis recognizing the classes of 2020 and 2021 that were licensed, commissioned, ordained during the pandemic.

Twenty-two persons were licensed. Three persons were commissioned provisional deacons. Fifteen persons were commissioned provisional elders. Two persons had recognition of orders. One person was ordained as a deacon in full connection. Seven persons were ordained elders. A full list of names is available at: <https://vaumc.org/ac-2022-friday-evening-june-17-2022/>.

5K Walk/ Run

The conference hosted a 5K Walk/Run on June 18.

Awards

The Virginia Annual Conference also confers awards during its meeting.

The Harry Denman Awards are named for Dr. Harry Denman, founder of The Foundation for Evangelism. The Board of Discipleship presents this award to individuals who impact their lives and ministries have on those around them.

The clergy Denman award went to the Rev. Betsey Davis, director of Journey Community Center, James River District. She took over as lay pastor when her husband, the Rev. Mike Davis died in February 2019. Betsey was licensed as a Local Pastor in 2021. Laity award went to Earl and Geneice Kemper.

The Green Church Award is presented by the Caretakers of God's Creation team, a branch of the conference Board of Church and Society, for a church or churches who are answering God's call to be caretakers of God's creation. 2022 Green Church Award went to Ivey Memorial UMC, James River District. The first inaugural Sustaining Green Church award went to Bethlehem UMC, Lynchburg District.

The Francis Asbury Award, from the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, was presented to the Rev. Deborah Lewis, once a student involved in the same Wesley Foundation of which she has been director for 21 years at the University of Virginia.

Wrap-up statistics

UMCOR Kits totals as of Friday, June 17 were 18,560 total kits valued at \$298,724. Some 12,611 pounds have also been collected for food banks across the conference.

Over 2,000 people were welcomed on professions of faith, an increase, along with an increase in baptisms. Over 1.3 million people were reached through missions.

Churches spent more on mission and less on administration this year. The report of the conference treasurer showed apportionment receipts were \$22,451,085.

The 2023 budget was approved for \$27,730,000, a reduction from the 2022 budget.

\$66,200 was pledged toward supporting youth services during the conference.

At last count, \$122,000 was collected for the Annual Conference offering.

*If you have any questions about the Annual Conference, or would like to know more about the Conference, please contact me at deebane2@gmail.com or by phone at 804-384-8098.

Dee Bane

Lay Member of the Annual Conference

Men's Fellowship Breaks for Summer

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, June 18. Breakfast was served up by David Hudgins, Joe Arnold and Peggy Leigh. The 12 in attendance included newcomers Bud Fulcher and Kenny Childress. It was great to have them and we hope that they become regulars.



We again discussed how we wanted to distribute our profits from the Brunswick Stew and the Art Sale.

Several good ideas were brought up and will require further research before we make a decision on them. We did, however, decide to send \$500 to the *Hands Across Mathews* Back to School Program right away so it can be used this summer before school starts.

After our summer hiatus, we hope to get back full swing with a good turnout for the September 17 meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 8am. We hope everyone has a great summer and that we can hit the ground running this fall!

Chris Moughon

CUMM President

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

Brenda Belvin Hudgins

Melvin Callis

Mark Lauer

Joice Davis

Dennis Gillikin



UMW Collaborates with District, TRHF

Central United Methodist Women in Faith met in the Fellowship Hall on June 13th.

On June 4th, Dee delivered 48 Hygiene Kits for the Annual VA Conference to Susanna Wesley Methodist Church in Gloucester.

On June 5th Peggy Newsome of Mathew Chapel UWF invited us to view the video of the Opening Session of the United Women in Faith Assembly in Orlando with her group. Dee, Nancy Jagger, and I attended. It was very nice of her to include us in her program and for the ladies to provide us with refreshments.

On June 11th, Dee and I attended the Pre-Annual Conference Brunch via Zoom with York River District. The rebranding and name change of United Women in Faith was discussed and a new purpose was proposed. Several subjects and decisions are still up in the air and may be partially resolved after the Annual Conference. We were given a choice and we voted to continue being known as Central United Methodist Women until such time as the dust settles and our direction is made clearer.

We have been invited, along with the other UWF groups in Mathews County, to attend a meeting with Sylvia Rumsey, our York River District President. This meeting was to be held in June. However, the date for this meeting has not been set. Sylvia will be discussing the rebranding of our new UWF organization and the impact that the reorganization will have on our local groups and the YRD in the future.

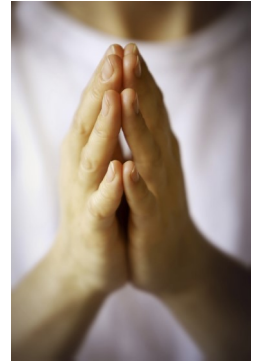
We are preparing for our Three Rivers Healthy Families Picnic at Port Fun on Friday, June 24th. We will provide chicken, drinks, chips, fruit, and cookies. Debbie Lancucki is organizing games and a scavenger hunt for the children and their families. As always, we invite you to come and participate in this very rewarding event. It is wonderful to see the children and families thrive from year to year. A good time is always had by all.

We continue our monthly \$50 donation to the

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Start by Praying

I never thought I'd see the day that it would cost \$100 to fill my pick-up, but sure enough, my last trip to the gas station set me back \$108. Inflation, led by gas prices, is running rampant. Every trip to the grocery store costs more than the last time for the same amount of goods. The war in Ukraine shows no sign of letting up, there seems to be a mass shooting nearly every week, and the divisiveness in the county, in the state, and in the country is getting worse almost daily.



What as Christians can we do? Well, we can start by praying. We can pray about anything and everything. It may seem like a trivial thing to do when things are going badly, but don't just pray for things to get better. Pray for others who are worse off than you and when you pray, thank the Lord for all He has done for you and all that He will do for you. He never promised that life would be easy, but He did promise to be with us when we call on Him in prayer. We have so many things to thank Him for, like the fact that we still live in the best country in the world despite its faults. The pandemic is much better than two years ago.

We have a wonderful pastor and a loving congregation that we're a part of. And who knows, maybe while we're in prayer, maybe something will be revealed to us that can make life a little better for someone. Let's give it a try...only something good can come out of all of us praying.

Blessings,

Chris Moughon

Administrative Council Chair



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

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 are greatly appreciated.

Martha Arnold
CUMW President

**Mission Focus for July:
Mathews Community Foundation**



This Foundation was the result of a conversation among a small group of county residents in 1999. The mission of MCF is to improve the quality of life of those living and working in Mathews County by actively and effectively encouraging local philanthropy. It works with donors and local nonprofit organizations to achieve its goal.

www.mathewscf.org

Give the Gift of Life!

Mathews Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 19, 2:00 -7:00 pm
Piankatank Ruritan Building

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



VBS at Central (6/20 - 24)

Thank you to all who helped make it a success!!



Mary Marshall & Nancy Goldman in the "Food Truck"



"We had a great week and averaged 6/7 children. Our theme was God is great, God is good, Let us thank him for our food."
Pictured above with the children: Greg Lewis & Grace Mortimer
Photos by Linda Dalgety

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<h1>July 2022</h1>				1	2
3	4 Independence Day 	5	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Finance 10:00 am	7 Tai Chi 9:30 am	8	9
10	11 UM Women 10:00 am	12 Office Closed	13 Office Closed	14 Office Closed Tai Chi 9:30 am	15	16
17 <i>Central Chimes & Report Submissions Due</i>	18 PCRG 4:00 pm NAACP 6:00 pm	19 Community Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 2:00 - 7:00pm 	20 Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	21 Tai Chi 9:30 am Trustees 2:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Tai Chi 9:30 am	29	30
31	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair. </div> 					

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Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Dickie & Bert Burroughs	10
Jim & Linda Dalgety	10
Jimmy & Betty Stewart	23