



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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June 2021

## See You at the Church on June 6

With the Covid vaccines proving remarkably effective and the case numbers going down, we are blessed now with greater opportunities to be together for worship. If any of you have been preparing to attend the service in-person after staying online for a long time, the celebration of Holy Communion should offer a special invitation.

Weather permitting, we will have an outdoor communion service on Jun. 6 on the field west of the church building. I invite you to join our holy gathering that day. One can 'drive-in,' remain in the vehicle and listen through FM radio, or bring a chair and sit in the open. Prepackaged wafer and juice will be provided at the beginning. If the weather looks less than optimal, then we will go ahead and gather in the sanctuary.

By gathering around the Lord's Table, we reaffirm who we are as church at this uncertain time. If we gather and remain in Jesus and practice his law to love one another, then we will be ready to move forward to the next phase of our shared life. We want to make the most of the extraordinary challenge we have faced by seeking even more to be about Jesus and his word.

Before Covid we were an active congregation. We were also an imperfect church. We were decreasing in number and strength. Now that we have traveled in the wilderness and lived on the Word of God, it is time to hold on to it. I believe we need to focus on growing in Jesus Christ, loving one another, and making disciples of Jesus Christ. The grace of God that has brought us this far will lead us forward.

I hope to see as many of you as possible on June 6, if not before.

Gratefully,  
*John*



## Drive-In Church

### Outdoor Communion Service June 6, 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.

### Conference, Healthy Church Team Update Guidelines

The following reflects the latest guidelines for in-person worship and meetings:

- Face covering is voluntary. It is recommended that those who are not fully vaccinated wear masks.
- It is no longer required to send in Health Acknowledgement Form.
- One side of the sanctuary will have all pews available for seating. The other side will have every other pew cordoned off.
- Individually wrapped food may be served outdoors.
- No special surface cleaning is required.



Joice Small was this year's recipient of the Harvard Book Prize. Mike Witherspoon presented the award on May 19.

Photo by Louise Witherspoon



**IT'S SUMMER!**

### Scholarship Offerings

*Give the gift of education!*

Central UMC Scholarships are awarded yearly to students returning for the spring term, and finalist(s) among applicants will be publicized in November.

Offerings to this fund are received throughout the year. Thank you for giving the gift of education! Scholarships are

administered by the Administrative Council.



### Mission and Evangelism

The topic of our next mission focus was discussed at our May 19th meeting. Linda suggested that we adopt two missions, one for June and one for July, since we have less than a week to research and write a report for the Chimes newsletter. We decided to adopt the Three Rivers organization for June and the Mathews Volunteer Fire Department for July. Judy will write the June article and Betty will write the July one.

Finally, we discussed our mission to home bound or ill adults. We agreed that we would check the Chimes newsletter to determine who each committee member would be responsible for and report back at our next meeting.

*Linda Dalgety,*

Mission and Evangelism Chair

**Vacation Bible school will be June 21 - June 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Central.**

*Nancy Jagger,*

Children & Youth Ministry





## United Methodist Women

The Central United Methodist Women hosted a picnic for Three Rivers Healthy Families on Friday, May 21st at the Port Fun playground by Mathews High School. We packed and prepared 50 plus lunches with chicken, fruit, veggies, chips, fruit boxes or water for adults and children. We purchased tomato plants and requested donations of 12" pots from our members and congregation. Food Lion gave us a \$30 gift certificate toward the purchase of the chicken and M & M donated pots and discounted the price of the potting soil for our project. The idea for our program was to have each child plant their own tomato plant and to take it home and care for it. Christine Ulrich prepared a step-by-step planting and care guide for each plant and each child was to give their plant a name! Ingenious!

As it turned out, there were only a few Three Rivers families with children that attended. Possibly Covid? School conflicts? Transportation issues? We aren't sure. BUT, we did discover that the Three Rivers Staff of Case Workers (of which there were many in attendance) had not seen each other in over a year! They had only been able to meet via Zoom. They were delighted to actually see each other and visit. They were able to relax and enjoy a peaceful lunch with their coworkers. So our picnic turned into a very successful Three Rivers Staff Picnic.

Never fear, no food went to waste. The Case Workers were on their way to visit their clients after the picnic so we sent the leftover lunches with them. The Case Workers planted tomato plants and took the plants to their clients also. All in all it was a good day! Thank you to all of our members who contributed and to our special volunteers, Joe Arnold, Susan Hill and Louise Witherspoon, who are always on hand to help.

Just a reminder, we continue to sell our "The Good Measure Cookbooks" for \$12 and we are also continuing to collect Non Food Items in the Fellowship Hall for HAM. Thank you for your contributions.

*Martha Arnold*  
UM Women Chair

## Drive-In church (5/02)



Photos by  
Michael  
Cannon



## Mission & Evangelism

### Mission Focus for June:

#### Three Rivers Healthy Families



Three Rivers Healthy Families is an affiliate of Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board. The organization has served families throughout the area since 1999. Three Rivers Healthy Families' programs are designed for improving outcomes for young children and their families in the areas of development, social supports, health, safety and bonding and attachment.

Central United Methodist Women is a group of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

From its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with women, children and youth.

In 2009 CUMW in Mathews, led by Christine Ulrich, and Three Rivers Healthy Families began a relationship to link our respective organizations and its many families together. When Christine and her pastor husband, Rev. Carl Ulrich, moved to another church, Dee Bane stepped up to the plate and continued to lead our involvement in Three Rivers. We came together to share our mutual love of children and our respect for families and the difficult task of raising children in this complex and challenging world.

We have shared knowledge and meals together that have been prepared by both groups, bonding together at a common table. We have learned together how to - prepare a turkey for a holiday meal, but we also shared concerns on how to handle holiday stress. We learned together how to

grow and cultivate nature's bounty and prepare for the future in a healthy and sustainable way.

We shared new skills to prepare blankets; we learned to make music together with bells, we played games and made desserts to share. From these activities over the last 12 years, it seemed only natural that we should find a way to share these good things with others and document in some way how much it has meant to be a part of this relationship. From this, "*The Good Measure Cookbook*" came to be.

The title is from Luke 6:38: "*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*"

Since the beginning, each minister at Central Church has whole-heartedly supported the relationship with Three Rivers Healthy Families. There has been acceptance, yet mindful inclusion of the Church and the role it plays in the lives of our members and support for the mission of both the United Methodist Women and The Three Rivers Healthy Families. We have all grown to be better by having know and worked with each other.

Below are some quotes from the Moms, the TRHF Staff, Rev. John Choi and members of the UMW.

Dashonda Fagins: "*Everyone has been amazing and I couldn't have asked or a better experience with the women I came in contact with at the church.*"

Courtney Pollard: "*It's an awesome gathering and every time I felt loved, welcome and at home.*"

Staff: "*We would get so excited when a parent group was held at CUMC because it was a guaranteed positive experience: good food, good company, good times.*"

"*I always feel so respected as the women served homemade food on real plates with silverware. How respectful was that!*"

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Christine Ulrich: "It seems to me that one of the best things is seeing friendships develop among the women who bring their children."

Rev. John Choi: "I am thankful for the partnership between Three Rivers Healthy Families and Central Church, as it has allowed us to find concrete ways to serve and to grow together with each other."

Martha Arnold, UMW President: "Our CUMW group is small but it increases exponentially in number when we have a Three Rivers event. The women of our congregation, as well as the staff of Three Rivers all gather to help with the food preparation, the child care and projects. When we meet, we create this wonderful fellowship which always makes these events so special."

Information courtesy of Dee Bane

*Judy Moughon*

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## Creation Care



You may have at least one tree in your yard that you love, while some have many. Besides their lumber, shade and beauty, there are some astonishing facts about their interaction that most of us never knew.

Trees communicate with each other constantly through what some call the "Wood Wide Web"

or Tree Internet.

Creation Care will share a few facts each month. Great information to share with our children and grandchildren and perhaps....there are lessons for us too.



Just like a human community, trees help each other to survive. Some trees that might have fallen around five hundred years ago still live with the aid of surrounding trees of the same species. They do it by surrounding their roots at the stump, then pump sugar into it to keep it alive.

Trees send out warning signals to other trees. One amazing study on the savannah of Africa proved that trees watch each other's back. When giraffes feed on the umbrella thorn acacia trees, the trees started to pump toxic substances into their leaves, which caused giraffes to move away from them. The animals have to back out a hundred yards before starting to nibble on other trees. It's because the neighboring trees of the same species got the signal and pumped up toxic substances in their leaves too to prevent the giraffes from eating them.

Trees work together to establish a sustainable ecosystem. It's quite impossible for a tree to protect itself against the wind and weather when it's alone. But when they work together, sharing their own food and looking out for each one, they can create an ecosystem where all of them survive and thrive.

Together, they can stand against the changes in temperatures, store enough water for the dry season, generate much humidity, and may even withstand floods and strong weather. Trees that grow in this kind of environment have the possibility of growing very old.

*Michael Cannon*  
Creation Care Team





**Greeters/Ushers for June**

6/06	Michael Cannon
6/13	Chris Moughon
6/20	Dee Bane
6/27	Hal & Patty Hertzler



**VA Annual Conference  
2021 Virtual**

The VA Annual Conference this year is virtual and is held on June 18 & 19.

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

Sam Forrest  
Richard Lee Stewart



**Administrative Council Chair**

Well, friends, we are slowly climbing out of the hole that the pandemic dropped us in. Last month I left you with a lot of questions to be answered in the coming weeks, or maybe months. I only can answer one of them so far and that is, at least for the time being, we will continue with the single in-person service which is also available on-line.

The protocols that some of you may have found to be too restrictive have been loosened quite a bit. Starting last Sunday (5/23) face masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated people. Seating is unrestricted on one side of the sanctuary with the other side still at half capacity for those not fully vaccinated or not yet comfortable with sitting too close to those outside their household. It no longer matters which way you enter or exit the building and the Health Acknowledgement Form is no longer necessary. Maybe some will be more comfortable in coming back to in-person worship with the loosening of the restrictions.

As you can see, we've come a long way, but we have a long way to go and a lot of questions still to be answered. We just need to remember that these answers will come in God's time, not our time, even if that is not at the pace we would like.

Blessings,  
*Chris Moughon*

Administrative Council Chair

**Central Village Homemakers**

Will participate in the  
*Mathews Community Wide Yard Sale*

**Saturday, June 5th  
8:00 am to 1:00 pm**





## 2021 Graduates

### Annabelle Elizabeth Duncan



Annabelle is the daughter of Sarah and Ryan Lewis and her grandparents are Mark & Brenda Lewis. She will graduate from Mathews High school this June.



### Graham Reeves Hardiman

Graham is the grandson of Mike and Louise Witherspoon and his parents are Kathy and Eric Hardiman. He lives in Delmar, New York, near Albany. He is graduating from Bethlehem Central High School and will be attending The University of Maryland where his other grandfather played varsity basketball.

Graham played trumpet in the school orchestra and the jazz ensemble and was on the varsity soccer and tennis teams. He also participated in the Bethlehem Youth Court, an alternative legal program to sentence first time youth offenders who committed and plead guilty to non-violent crimes.

He has not decided on a major, but is interested in literature and criminal justice. During the pandemic he has become interested in hiking and climbing in the Adirondacks.

### Haley Austin Harris



Haley is a 2021 graduate of Mathews High school. She is the daughter of Jennifer Fry and Chuck Harris, the granddaughter of LaDonna Fry, and the great-granddaughter of Marcia Fry.

While in high school, she was on the newspaper and yearbook staffs.

Haley plans to attend The University of Lynchburg and major in biology. Her ultimate goal is Physical Therapy.

**Congratulations to all 2021 Graduates!**

### Abigail Dawn Hudgins

Abigail is the granddaughter of Kenneth and Mary Marshall and Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins and her parents are Heather and Robert Hudgins.

She is graduating from Mathews High School with an Associate Degree from The University of Virginia.



## 2021 Graduates Cont.

### Emma Samantha Hudgins

Emma is the proud granddaughter of Kenneth and Mary Marshall and Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins. Her parents are Heather and Robert Hudgins.

Emma will graduate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



### Ella Jean Mortimer

Ella is granddaughter to Grace Mortimer and her parents are Randy and Kathy Mortimer.

Ella is graduating from the Center for Leadership, Government, and Global Economics at Douglas Freeman High School, and plans to attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

Ella is very passionate about the environment and hopes to major in Environmental Science and Chemistry at UVA. She has been swimming since she was a child, and will continue to swim at the club level at UVA.



*Graduates will be presented a gift Bible or a book of daily scripture by the Paul Townsend Memorial Sunday School Class.*

### Adeline Laird Witherspoon



Adeline is the granddaughter of Mike and Louise Witherspoon and her parents are Jeff and Laura Witherspoon. Adeline is named after her great grandmother and lives in Raleigh, N.C. She will graduate from Enloe High School and will attend North Carolina State University in Raleigh. She has already taken several math classes there.

In high school she was on the varsity swim team all 4 years and tutored students in math.

She plans to study mechanical engineering and will live in a dorm housing called *Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)*.



*For surely I know the plans I have for you,  
says the Lord, plans for your welfare  
and not for harm, to give you  
a future with hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>June 2021</b>		1	2 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	3	4	5 Mathews High school Commencement
	6 Drive-In Church 9:15 am	7 Trustees 7:00 pm	8 District Orientation 7:00 pm Zoom	9 Finance 7:00 pm	10	11
13 Graduation Sunday	14 UM Women 10:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm	15 Office Closed	16 Office Closed  Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am	17 Office Closed	18	19 UM Men 8:00 am  <b>Annual Conference</b> Virtual Online 18 - 19
20 Happy Father's Day   shutterstock - 113876377	21 Central Chimes Submissions & Reports Due	<b>-----Vacation Bible School-----</b> <b>21st - 25th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</b>		24 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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



### Birthdays

Richard Moughon	5/30
Frances Ellis	6/13
Nancy Jagger	6/15
Ken Lee	6/25
John Choi	6/27
Danny Hogge	6/27
Betty Lewis	7/1

### Anniversaries

Judy & Jennings Haynes	2
Elma & Allen Moughon	5
Phyllis & Bobby Hudgins	13
Ken & Helen Lee	17
Tom & Dale Robinson	17