



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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Centering Prayer - An Introduction

Saturday, March 7

10am - 12pm

Wellspring UMC, Williamsburg

Rev. Kiok Cho, ordained deacon and wife of Bishop Young Jin Cho, is hosting an introduction to centering prayer here, on the York River District. Do not miss this opportunity for a low tech, cozy time spent with others striving for quiet, contemplative prayer.

It is Lent. We are busy. We are overdone. We need connection with God. Come, gather with others as they seek the great I AM.



Prayer is relationship with God. Contemplative prayer leads us into intimate relationship with God. Contemplative Prayer is the pure gift from God. Centering Prayer is one of the most frequently used prayer forms that facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer.

[Click here to RSVP](#) or call the district office at (757)596-3476.



A Prayer for the Beginning of Lent

Lord, at the beginning of this Lenten season,
I sense my need of you,
yet, I am not quite sure how to reach you.

I heard someone say, "Read your Bible."
But too often the words are like
bullets that ricochet off my brain.

I heard someone say, "Pray."
But my prayers, hurled heavenward,
Fall back to earth like lifeless stones.

I heard someone say, "Meditate."
But my wandering mind was lost
in a desert of random thoughts.

Lord, speak to me through your Word,
and let it penetrate my mind and my heart.

Lord, speak to me through prayer,
And turn the lifeless stones to bread.

Lord, speak to me in my meditation,
That I may see, amid life's wilderness,
The way, the truth and the life.

~ Robin E. Van Cleef, *Alive now!*, March/April 1980
<http://umrelay.org/GospelLessons/L-100216-Done.pdf>
Image Source: <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-MPhWAewGR4w/UL9Edcr17pl/AAAAAAAAAJvU/fqDYQwub4g0/s1600/>

From the Pastor's Pen

Same Situation, Two Interpretations

(Read Numbers 13-14)

February marked a significant milestone for me: forty years ago I preached my first sermon at a church in Blacksburg, Virginia. I was a 19-year-old college student testing God's call on my life. That experience confirmed my call and set me on the road that eventually brought me here to Central Church!

I still recall that sermon; its message helped shape my journey. The story, from the 13th chapter of Numbers, illustrates what happens when leaders in the faith community struggle to grow in their faith – or not. In this situation, the children of Israel have left Egypt's bondage and are traveling through the wilderness of Paran, bound for the Promised Land. The Lord tells Moses to send a dozen leaders of Israel to spy out the land of Canaan, which God has promised to give them. They are to find out everything they can about the land and its people, and bring back a full demographic report, along with some agricultural produce of the land.

The spies go, search out the land, and return to Moses with a mixed report. Everything about the land itself is great: it truly is a land flowing with milk and honey. They brought back figs, pomegranates and grapes – one cluster of grapes was reportedly so large that it took two of them to carry it (v. 23). But the people were another matter: they were more, bigger, taller, stronger, and better fortified than the Israelites, who seemed like grasshoppers by comparison.

The spies were divided as to the prospects of inhabiting the new land. One of them, Caleb, said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." Fellow spy, Joshua, agreed. But the other ten spies maintained that, "We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we."

As so often happens, the negative report made all the people afraid and nearly caused a revolt. Picture the congregation crying and Moses and Aaron on their faces before God and the people. Picture Joshua pleading God's cause with them, saying, "The land that we went through as spies is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only, do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land ..."

"We can..." "No, we can't." Two responses to the promise of God and the perceived challenges that lay before them. God's response to this debacle was to keep the Israelites wandering in the wilderness long enough for the entire generation of nay-sayers to die before allowing the people to enter the Promised Land.

I wonder how often we in the local church fail to see the direction God wants to lead us. Plans to expand ministries and mission, plans to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ – these often fail just because a few people say no! May God grant our leaders the courage of Joshua and Caleb and enable us all to see God's vision for what Central might become and do for the glory of Jesus Christ! May our hearts be led by lives of prayer, generosity, spiritual willingness and divinely given courage, now and in the years ahead. Amen.

On the journey together, *Suzanne*



Olive wood carving of Joshua and Caleb, bearing grapes from the land of Canaan, made in Israel.

Hospitality Ministry

The Greeters/Ushers and Communion assistants serving for March are Dave and Grace Mortimer at the 8:30 service and Tom and Marilyn Tucker at the 11:00 service. The 5th Sunday (3/29) will be served by the Tuckers.

As a reminder, please send all card requests to Louise Witherspoon.

Refreshments following the 8:30 service for March will be provided by Ken and Karen Palmer, Dee Bane, Steve and Emily Leap, Jean Sutton and Mary Wade Smith. Many thanks to all who contribute to making this an enjoyable (& delicious) time of fellowship. If you are an 8:30 worshiper and have not signed up yet, please check out the calendar in the kitchen – there are three Sundays open in April (no refreshments Easter Sunday)! We appreciate your generosity in serving our church family through hospitality.

Emily Leap and Jean Sutton, Hospitality

Central United Methodist Men

The next meeting of the Central United Methodist Men will be on Saturday, March 21. We are inviting all the women of the church to join us at 8:00 am for breakfast. The Rescue Squad has been asked to join us and provide a refresher on the proper use of the automated external defibrillator (**AED**) device. Also, Nelda Gibbs will be on hand to give us an update on her cafeteria fund that helps school children who cannot afford meals.

Our next fundraiser, the spring **Shrimp Dinner**, is right around the corner. It will be on **April 24, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**. Tickets this year will be \$16 for take-outs and \$17 to eat-in. The men will have tickets available for sale later in March. The money raised from our dinners is used to support the mission outreach of the UMM. Following our fall shrimp dinner, we were able to make contributions to Hands Across

Mathews, Nelda's Cafeteria Fund, Mathews County TRIAD, the Society of St. Andrews, and the Christmas Blessing Fund. Thank you for your continued support!

Central United Methodist Women

The members of UMW visited with shut-ins during Valentines week to share love and goodies. Thanks to Nancy Jagger and Judy Moughon for making up goodies to share. All that participated enjoyed visiting and the visits were much appreciated.



Our March meeting will be a coffee with speakers addressing hunger in Mathews. David Adams from Hands Across Mathews and Rhoda Jo Stress from Mathews County Resource Council will address this topic. The

meeting will be Monday, March 9, at 10:30 am. All women of the church are invited to join us. Contact Dee Bane for further information, at 384-8098 or deebane2@gmail.com.

Grace Mortimer,
CUMW Recording Secretary

Image Source: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mathews_County,_Virginia

[Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to the Families of :](#)

Nancy Dicus	Gary English	Tommy Childress
Mason Pugh	Ken Smith	Edward Hugate
Isabelle Kensler	Chris McCann	Billy Brown
Claus Geyer		

One Great Hour of Sharing: UMCOR Programs

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides humanitarian relief and [disaster response](#) in the [United States](#) and [internationally](#). Our efforts are targeted in places where natural disasters, war, or conflict have done so much damage that communities are unable to recover on their own. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, we stand ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery, until they are well on their way to establishing a “new normal” after a crisis.



In addition, UMCOR helps communities in the United States and abroad prepare for emergencies and to reduce the risk of disasters through a roster of [training programs](#).

UMCOR's [International Development](#) Unit works through its field offices and its extensive partner network to facilitate long-term community development and empowerment in areas of great need. Many development issues and opportunities are interrelated, so UMCOR uses integrated solutions to address root causes, working alongside local communities to develop assets in [water, sanitation, and hygiene](#); [sustainable agriculture](#) and food security, [nutrition](#); and [community-based primary health care](#).

Our work is informed by global initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 development goals (in process), Sphere Standards, and best practices with regards to facilitating sustainable solutions,

measuring impact, and evaluating approaches. We seek to alleviate human suffering without regard to race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. We believe all people have God-given worth, dignity and a right to assistance when in need.

Sunday, March 15, is **One Great Hour of Sharing**. A special offering will be taken up to help with UMCOR's programs. Envelopes are in the pew racks.

<http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs>

Kingston Episcopal Parish
invites you to



Soup with Love

Wednesdays at Noon

370 Main Street, Mathews

Sponsored by the Kingston Parish Women

There will be a short service beginning at Noon led by Fr. Gary of Kingston Parish with homilies given by the following clergy:

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|-----------|---|
| March 4: | Rev. Dede Parrish, Beulah UMC and St. Paul UMC |
| March 11: | Rev. Jeongin Kim, Emmanuel UMC and Grace-Providence UMC |
| March 18: | Ralph Satter, Pastor, Bethel UMC and St. Matthew UMC |
| March 25: | The Rev. Gary Barker, Kingston Parish Episcopal Church |

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

For our February class gathering, our men prepared an amazing special Valentine's dinner for all the ladies in attendance. The menu included: Crab cakes, sirloin beef roast w/sauce & gravy, spiral hams, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, string beans, salad, homemade bread, a special decorated cake and ice cream. Our men are wonderful cooks and the 40 people who attended this event will agree that we were fortunate to have them share their talents with all of us. The fun evening ended with laughter, prizes and gift boxes of chocolates for each lady present.



Photos provided by Phyllis Hudgins

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our Sunday School Class: Betsy Duff, Dale Smith, James Martin, and Hal & Patty Hertzler. We continue to have good class attendance and participation in our lessons. Come join us any Sunday at 10:00 am.

Our next regular SS Class meeting will be on Thursday, March 12 in the church Fellowship

Hall at 6:00 pm. We will have a covered dish supper at 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting. Bring a favorite dish and join us.

Phyllis Hudgins, Class President

Membership Secretary Opportunity

For many years Mary Marshall has faithfully served as Central's Membership Secretary. For her dedicated service, we are most grateful! Following last October's Charge Conference, Mary asked to step down from the position, leaving an opportunity for someone else in the church to step up and serve in this important role.

The Membership Secretary works under the direction of the pastor to "keep accurate records of the membership and shall report at least annually to the church council." (2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, ¶1234). This role is not demanding or time-consuming, but needs a careful soul to keep a record of baptisms, new members, transfers and deaths.

If you think you might be interested in serving your local church in this way, please contact Pastor Suzanne. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS

Sally Thompson	1	Brenda Lewis	20
Bill Hutson	3	Michael Cannon	21
Dennis Gillikin	6	Ellie Tolbert	21
Eric Stewart	6	John Hodges	22
Sarah Moughon	13	Gregory Lewis	22
Cloe Griffith	15	Elma Moughon	24
Joice Small	17		

ANNIVERSARIES

John Robert & Peggy Pierce	6
Nate & Melba Houser	26
Jack & Frances Ward	30

Saturday, March 21, 2015
 Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Ave.
 Richmond, VA 23229

Both laity and clergy are invited to attend (450 limit).
 Registration Cost: (\$10 – includes lunch)
 Registrations will be received at www.vaumc.org
 Deadline is March 16.
 Contact: MarcBrown@vaumc.org



Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, and currently serves on the West Ohio Conference's executive staff as the Director of



SCHEDULE

9:30 – 10:00	Gathering
10:00 – 11:00	Plenary
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:15	Workshop Groups
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Plenary
2:00 – 3:00	Worship with Eucharist

"Leadership for Ministry" course each year. Sue's greatest passion is "Breakthrough Prayer," which has been the heartbeat of the Missional Church Consultation Initiative and beyond. Her newest book published by Abingdon Press, "Flood

BISHOP'S CONVOCATION ON PRAYER

Missional Church Initiatives. Sue leads the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI), a rigorous 360-degree coaching and training effort for select congregations and their pastors who have been invited to participate as a way to jumpstart a new life cycle of ministry fruitfulness. In the four-plus years of its development, more than 50 congregations across three different United Methodist Conferences have moved off plateau/decline and forged forward through the intensive work of the MCCI.

Sue's local church ministry service has included ten years as the Executive Pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio, partnering with lead pastor Mike Slaughter to engage and expand the congregation's missional involvement to include deep discipleship

The Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, Director of Missional Church Initiatives in the West Ohio Conference UMC, will be the plenary speaker. There will also be small group learning opportunities in the areas of prayer and Wesleyan spiritual disciplines.

and global impact.






Sue is the creator of "Ministry by Strengths," which utilizes the Gallup StrengthsFinder to help unleash and deploy church members to actively serve out of their strengths and unique areas of passion. She has authored four books, including "Ultimately Responsible: When You're In Charge of Igniting a Ministry" which is used in seminaries, United Methodist Conferences and congregations across the country. Sue's speaking, training, coaching and consulting includes pastors, churches, bishops, and United Methodist conferences.

She is an adjunct faculty member at United Theological Seminary, and teaches the master of divinity

Gates," is scheduled for release in fall 2015 – and will feature detailed content on this theme.

Convocation Participants may attend one of these workshops.

- Creative Breakthrough Prayer
- Pray to Live & Live to Pray
- Journaling
- Living Into the Shalom of Creation
- Prayer Practices of Korean Churches
- Centering Prayer
- Intro. Silent Prayer in Worship
- How to Pray with Children & Youth
- Wesleyan Spiritual Disciplines
- Prayer Covenant Congregations

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 2 nd Sunday in Lent	2 Prayer Time 8:00 am	3	4 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Soup With Love Noon - Kingston Parish	5 Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	6 Spring Forward Saturday!	7 Centering Prayer at Wellspring UMC, Williamsburg 10:00 am - Noon 
8 3 rd Sunday in Lent	9 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:30 am	10	11 Soup With Love Noon - Kingston Parish Finance 7:00 pm	12 P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	13 Brownies 2:45 - 4:15 pm	14 Exploring Contemplative Prayer at the parsonage 9:00 am
15 4 th Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing	16 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care 9:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	17	18 Soup With Love Noon - Kingston Parish Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	19 Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	20 Brownies 2:45 - 4:15 pm FINS at St. Paul/ Beulah 6:30 - 9:00 pm	21 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am Bishop's Convocation on Prayer at Trinity UMC, Richmond 9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
22 5 th Sunday in Lent	23 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	24	25 Soup With Love Noon - Kingston Parish Administrative Council 7:00 pm	26 Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm Nominations/ Lay Leader Training at Wesley UMC, Hampton 7:00 - 9:00 pm	27 Brownies 2:45 - 4:15 pm	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</div>
29 Palm Sunday 	30 Prayer Time 8:00 am	31		<h2 style="color: green;">March 2015</h2> 		
5 th Sunday Joint Service 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 2:30 pm Song Service at Riverside Convalescent Center						