



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

March 2019

## Volunteers Luncheon

Monday, March 11 at 11:30 am  
at Central UMC

To our church family volunteers,  
Volunteer Rescue Squad  
and Volunteer Fire Department:

We welcome you to a Volunteers  
Luncheon recognizing your service to  
our church and community.

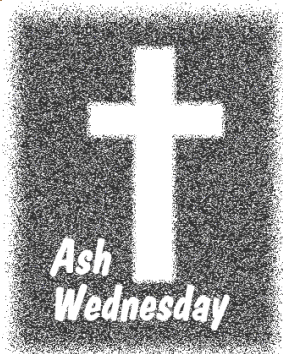
Please mark your calendars.

You will be contacted by  
a member of the UMW.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 6th  
to the member contacting you or  
*Martha Arnold*

*(marjoe5050@gmail.com)*

*We look forward to thanking you  
for your talents and gifts!*



**Service**  
**March 6th**  
**7:00 pm**

## From the Pastor's Pen

### *The Joy(!) of Fasting*

Recently I took some time for fasting and prayer, and I was reminded why so many have used this particular discipline. I had hoped to hear from God a bit more clearly. But to my surprise I also felt more focused, de-cluttered, and empowered. During those couple of days I accomplished things that had been sitting on my to-do list for a long time. I was afraid (?) that I might resort to fasting more often in the future!

As one prayer reads, God is "more ready to hear us that we are to pray." The challenge may be for us to be more focused in our seeking God. I encourage you to try fasting and praying, so long as your health allows it, especially if you are "hungering" for God strongly. Fasting usually means abstaining from food, but you can also do acts of mercy and justice for your neighbors (Isaiah 58:6-11). If you fast for more than a day, make sure to break it carefully with fruit and vegetable juices and raw fruits.

People have traditionally adopted some form of self-denial during Lent, when we remember Jesus' suffering that led to his resurrection. The paradoxical message of the season is that, when we die, we live! We could ask ourselves this Lent, "What in my life needs to die so that I might become fully alive to God?" The Scripture says in Romans 8:13, "If you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live." During this year's Lent, we

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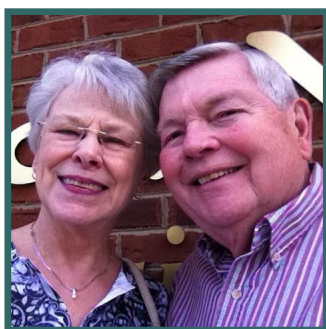
could locate and isolate an area of pride, unbelief, or disobedience in our life and “put it to death” by the Spirit. We could so unite ourselves to Christ. We will then wait for the resurrection morning with eager hope.

During the Lent I hope to preach a sermon series titled, “The Righteous Will Live by Faith.” It is based upon the Letter to the Romans, and we will explore faith as the key to spiritual living. I also invite you to an Ash Wednesday service on March 6 at 7 in the evening, where we will hear the Scriptures and reflect on the meaning of the season.

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The Special General Conference during Feb. 23-26, after much emotional and at times rancorous debate, narrowly passed a plan that maintained the current stance on the same sex marriage and ordination (now subject to judicial review). The result was not unpredictable due to the growing strength of the international block among the delegates, but I suspect the debate is by no means over. While the works of our conferences matter, and the topic is deeply personal to many of us, my hope is that we will continue defining ourselves ultimately by the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

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Blessings on Tom and Marilyn as they begin a new journey of life in Michigan.

**New Address:**

Tom and Marilyn Tucker  
6230 S. State Street, Apt. 218  
Saline, MI 48176

## Creation Care

The Creation Care Team was able to bring the importance (and fun) of recycling to the Thomas Hunter Middle School for about 85 sixth graders.

Our challenges were many: we had never worked in a school auditorium before and we had to rely on the schools equipment (passwords, etc.) In addition, there were only 5 minutes between classes so we had 4 minutes to transform about 400 recycle items—to trash items. Our team was literally running across the auditorium!



The students were excited and eager to have a chance to race to recycle after each of the six “Secrets of the Dump.”



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### *Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers*

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Walter Sampson

Aaron Lenz

Kay Olson

Molly Painter





Associating prizes with recycling is always a happy conclusion! The School contacted the Gazette, and Central got a picture of its environmental team and Thomas Hunter students in the Church Section.

I am grateful that we have such a dedicated team!

*Michael Cannon*  
Creation Care Chair



### Order Lilies For Easter Sunday

Honor or remember someone with a beautiful pot of Lilies on the altar Easter Sunday. Order forms are available in your weekly bulletin or in the Narthex. Lilies are \$6 a pot.



Orders must be received by the close of the 11:00 am service on Palm Sunday, April 14.

## Hospitality and Visitation

February was a busy month for Central. Please continue to keep our sick and shut-ins in your daily prayers. We're thankful that the surgeries went well for our members and that after convalescing several members have returned to church.

Fellowship and refreshment time is going well and Cookie Sunday, the first Sunday in each month, has been well received. Again, thanks to all who take part in this. We continue to have good attendance for this special time to be together. Everyone is invited and we welcome all to join us in the Church Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – 10:00 am each Sunday morning.

Those who served as refreshments hosts in February are as follows:

- Feb. 10—Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins
- Feb. 17—Michael and Ed Cannon, Nate and Melba Houser
- Feb. 24—Nancy Jagger and Miriam Cromwell

Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins were also February Hospitality hosts. Our March Hospitality host will be Peggy Leigh.

- March refreshments host are as follows:
- Mar. 3—everyone bring cookies or a snack
  - Mar. 10—Karen and Ken Palmer
  - Mar. 17—Mary Wade Smith, Dee Bane and Pat Moore
  - Mar. 24—Martha and Joe Arnold and Louise Witherspoon.

Thanks to each of you for your faithful service.

Blessings to All,

*Phyllis Hudgins,*  
Hospitality/Visitation Committee Chair



Hospitality Host for March

Peggy Leigh- 725-3883

## United Methodist Women

In our February 11th meeting we discussed our participation in both services on February 17th. Both services were well attended. Judy Moughon lead the service, Dee Bane read the scriptures, and Nancy Jagger helped with the Communion. Martha Arnold and Dee Bane were the greeters and did the collection. Everything went as planned and was well received. Pat Gwaltney was awarded a Past President's Pin for her invaluable service to CUMW as Past President. Thank you, Pat, for your dedication.

We discussed our upcoming Volunteer Luncheon, which will be held on March 11th, from 11:30 to 1:00. The menu has been agreed upon and the women will bring the delicious meal. The UMW members will contact the volunteers from Central United Methodist Church and the Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Volunteer Fire Department. If you have received an invitation please be sure that you R.S.V.P. either to the person that sent you the invitation or to Martha Arnold, 201 232-5890 or marjoe5050@gmail.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

It was reported that at the end of 2018, the CUMW consisted of 12 members. This number has dropped to 10 as if the beginning of 2019. Although we are small, we did manage to give \$872.50 back to the community in 2018. This is quite an accomplishment for a group as small as we are. This number was helped by the CUMM donation from the Shrimp Dinner and the Yard Sale.

Dee Bane has been working diligently on a CUMW cookbook. We reviewed the prototype and made suggestions for improvements. . We are delighted to share our recipes along with some Three Rivers Healthy Families Recipes. We

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### Greeters/Ushers for March

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8:30 am service	John & Sherry Hodges
11:00 am service	Kenneth & Mary Marshall

hope to have the cookbook ready for sale in the next couple of months.

In May, we will be preparing Kits for Conference. We have decided to do the Hygiene Kits. We are requesting monetary donations as well as donations of supplies. The list of items that make up a hygiene kit will be announced in the weekly bulletin and in the Chimes. The deadline will be May 12th. Thank you for your generosity.

*Martha Arnold,*  
President UMW



## Kingston Episcopal Parish invites you to



## Soup with Love

Five Wednesdays, beginning

March 13th 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 area clergy :*

March 13:

Rev. John Choi, Central UMC

March 20:

Rev. Thomas J. Bunting, New Point Friends Church

March 27:

Rev. Bertina Westley, Salem UMC

April 3:

Rev. Dede Parrish, St. Paul's/Bethel UMC

April 10:

Rev. Gary Barker, Kingston Episcopal Parish

*Donations will benefit the Mathews community.*

## Finance Committee

We ended 2018 essentially even on deposits and expenditures in the general fund thanks to good year-end donations. Your Church thanks you!

However, 2019 is off to a rocky start. Due to a combination of an oversight on our part and one by the Virginia Conference, as well as several annual and quarterly expenses, we had a larger than usual deficit in January. The good news is that we have the rest of the year to catch up. Don't forget that the Church expenses go on even when you can't be here, so I encourage you to "make up" your giving when you can. Thank-you for remembering your Church even while you're away.

The committee voted to close the Vanguard account and transfer the balance to a money market account at Chesapeake Bank which will earn twice as much interest. We also voted to take about half of the regular checking account (which was earning only a few cents a month) and put it into this same money market account where it will also earn 2%.

*Chris Moughon,*  
Finance Chair

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## Financial Secretary

Again I want to thank all those who served as counters during the month of February. Giving of your time to CUMC is very much appreciated. If you are willing to assist with counting, please contact me. All that is required is opening offering envelopes, handing the checks to the computer operator or the check reader operator and count the loose cash. It's that easy! No real financial knowledge is required!

*Marcia Fry,*  
Financial Secretary

## Mission and Evangelism

At our meeting on February 20, we discussed several ideas for community outreach, including placing church brochures at various locations around the county. Ideas for increasing church involvement in mission services included a paint night and participating in a Rise Up Against Hunger event with other UMC churches in the area. Stay tuned!

*Linda M. Dalgety,*  
Mission and Evangelism Chair

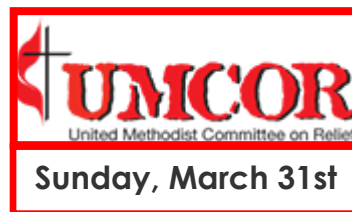
### United Methodist Men HOTLINE

The **HOTLINE** contacts: – please put the numbers someplace you can get to quickly if needed:

**Nate Houser** [804 380-7820](tel:8043807820)

**Steve Leap** [804 794-4601](tel:8047944601)

**Ben Leigh** [804 725-3883](tel:8047253883)



### Anniversaries

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

### Birthdays

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

## UM Women UMCOR Hygiene Kit Drive

Central's UMW will be assembling hygiene kits to send to UMCOR. Hygiene kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Hygiene kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes. Below is a list of items for each kit. If participating, please place the items in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Contact Martha Arnold at 1-201-232-5890 or marjoe5050@gmail.com for questions.

### Hygiene Kit Materials:

#### 1-Hand towel (15 x 25—17 x 27 inches)

No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels.

#### 1-Washcloth

No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels.

#### 1-Comb

Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth.

No pocket combs or picks.

Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth.

#### 1-Toenail or fingernail clipper

No emery boards or metal nail files.

#### Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)

No Ivory or Jergen's soap.

Do not remove from packaging.

#### 1-Adult Toothbrush

Do not remove from packaging.

Personal advertising not acceptable.

#### 10-Adhesive bandages (3/4 by 3 inches)

Common household bandages acceptable.

#### 1-One-gallon size re-sealable bag

### Assembly Instructions

1. Lay hand towel flat on a table.
2. Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
3. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
4. Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
5. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
6. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

### Important notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.



(Value: \$12 per kit)



Image source: creationswap.com

### 5th Sunday, Joint Service

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, March 31



2:15 pm Song Service

at Riverside Convalescent Center

(Continued from page 2) Here also I heartily share the words from the bishop of our conference.

Dear Virginia Conference,

Before our live stream event on March 4, I wanted to share how much I've missed each one of you, my Cabinet and the work of the annual conference. I want to thank those in the conference for the prayers and the expressions of love during my hip surgeries.



Like many of you I watched the last four days of General Conference with anticipation, uncertainty but, ultimately, hope for the future for The United Methodist Church. I was even so bold to believe that maybe a "miracle" could happen on the General Conference floor that would finally unite us to be the body of Christ called United Methodist.

Well, that didn't happen. Instead, I saw deep pain from many delegates, tears that rolled down cheeks and the anger that once again "human sexuality" was the main issue of the denomination.

I know that some of you are pleased with the outcome and others are deeply saddened and hurt by the results. Human sexuality, if we are really honest with ourselves, is a topic that we will never agree upon as evidenced by the votes at General Conference. We must understand that the beauty of our beloved denomination is that we are a global church and in some places the topic of human sexuality is life or death.

Our reactions to the 2019 General Conference legislative proceedings and decisions are as diverse as the theological perspectives of the Virginia Annual Conference. Our reactions and perspectives cross spectrums from convictions that God's will was done to a belief that we've moved farther away from God's will.

As your Bishop, I want to affirm that ALL people are valued and of sacred worth. To the brothers and sisters of the LGBTQIA+ community, know that you are loved and accepted in our local churches. I can't imagine how you must feel once again.

As your Bishop, I want to affirm the evangelical community that often times feel their beliefs are misunderstood and driven by animosity, instead of their deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

I want to assure you that I will live my life consecrated as a Bishop to lead the whole Church in claiming its mission in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (BOD, ¶ 403).

Remember my brothers and sisters in the Virginia Conference that the shared work we do in the Virginia Conference is vital. The work we do as The United Methodist Church is life-giving.

Though our hearts are bruised and our souls have been affected by this General Conference, we remain the Church. We still have a mission, and there are still so many hearts and lives that can be transformed through the work of God.

Let us work together as One. Let us turn to God in these unsettling times. Let us encourage one another and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. Let us stay "United" as the body of Christ called Methodist.

Peace and Blessings,  
Bishop Sharma Lewis



### Scholarship Offerings

\$435 was received for Central Church Scholarship, bringing the total fund to \$620. Thank you for your gifts that support the education of a student.

