



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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

March 2021

From the Pastor's Pen

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Prov. 3:5-6)

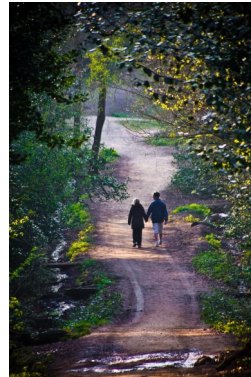
March will mark one year since we first canceled service and moved to online worship. We began holding in-person services again in June, with a large part of our congregation continuing to take part in online worship. It is far from a perfect arrangement, but we have continued to be a worshipping community.

Launching into online broadcast, as well as establishing in-person worship and meetings with safety protocols in place, could not have been done apart from the grace of God. Looking back, I see his hand of provision. Nor would it have happened without your patient support. I thank God for bringing us this far, and I thank you for persevering through this wilderness together.

Now we face uncertain times again. Vaccines are trickling in, and thankfully the number of COVID-19 cases are dropping. The picture is far from simple—the pandemic is not disappearing in one day. Yet the anticipation is growing for return to normalcy. We will soon face the task of responsibly accommodating changes. Even more importantly, we will have to wrestle with how to be a faithful church.

This is where I ask you to join me in praying for the church. God has to lead our steps. During the weeks and the months ahead, let us together pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us. We were facing questions for our future even before the pandemic, and we need to turn to our Shepherd more than ever. When Isaac

asked his father, "Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham replied, "God himself will provide." (Gen. 22:7, 8) God provides; and I pray he will make a way for this church as he sees fit.



When in the wilderness, we travel on the way that God makes for us (Deut. 8:3); and that path is his Word, even Jesus Christ. Let each of us seek Jesus and his words, and we as a church will find our way. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Many false prophets have arisen, and the evil one is on the prowl (1 Pet. 5:8-9), but Christ and his word will protect us. I encourage you to prayerfully spend time in the Bible, and I invite you to read the Gospel of Mark during this Lent with me. I will post reflections on our Facebook page for those of you who are on it.

May God's peace be with each of you.

Gratefully,
John



UMCOR Sunday: March 14

Special offerings for United Methodist Committee on Relief during March will support UMCOR's administrative expenses, allowing special gifts throughout the year to go entirely to disaster relief projects.

Members of the United Methodist Women will lead the service.

A History of UMCOR

UMCOR was founded in the 1940s by Bishop Herbert Welch. The Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief begins its work following the onset of World War II. It is the global humanitarian and development of the United Methodist Church.

During the 1950s MCOR helps settle refugees in more than five different countries and distributes \$80,000 per year for refugee-assistance programs.

In the 1960s MCOR addresses the root causes of hunger and poverty and works with communities in need to achieve self-sustaining livelihood opportunities.

During the 1970s MCOR met the goal of \$1,000,000 set by bishops to provide help with relief efforts following the 1971 famine in Bangladesh.

Following the 1972 merger of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren, MCOR's name changes to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and is at work in 62 countries on 5 continents.

1980s- UMCOR brings relief aid to Ethiopia and 25 other African nations suffering from famine and drought.

1990s – UMCOR Sager Brown Depot opens for volunteers to help assemble relief supply kits. Our kits go there until needed. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19, the warehouse is closed as there are not enough volunteers to handle the kits. Donations are accepted this year.

2000s- UMCOR responds to disasters caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

UMCOR opens offices in DRC, Sudan, Philippines, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

Today UMCOR responds to ongoing crises to different programs addressing famine, resettlement, and drought in the Horn of Africa. Today, UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries, including the USA and its territories.

In August 1992 Hurricane Andrew, a category 5 Hurricane hit Florida and the Caribbean area with 174 mile per hour winds. UMCOR was the

only NGO to receive an award for its relief work. Indeed, UMCOR has won awards over the years for its outstanding disaster relief work.

UMCOR's budget for 2021 is \$20,000,000. All donations given to a disaster go straight to the disaster, as all administrative costs are met by a special offering taken during Lent.

UMCOR's mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering – whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster – with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugees and immigrant concerns, global health issues and transitional development.

Judy Moughon

UMCOR Photos

Pictured below: Haiti



Continued on page 3

UMCOR Photos



Hurricane Isaac - Gulf



UMCOR Work in Banda Aceh, Indonesia following a Tsunami



Kits in Sager Brown Depot, in Louisiana



UMCOR 2008



World Malaria Day April 25



Floods in North Dakota



Spring Storms 2011

From Finance Chair

Dear Members of Central Church,

Susan and I so miss seeing you each Sunday as we carefully work our way through these challenging times. We pray that everyone will exercise the utmost in caution.

During these times, little stays static, and that includes the funds necessary to sustain our obligations not only to the maintenance of our church and its guiding hands, but also to the community at large that depends on our help. Please continue your stewardship as you have been doing in so generous a fashion. I encourage each family to please continue your financial support so desperately needed by our church to maintain its responsibility to the work of our ministry in Mathews. Our own members depend on us for sustainability through these emotionally trying times. Thank you so much for all you are doing, and for your financial patronage.

Yours in Christian giving,

Tim Hill

Chair of Finance Committee



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 News. Lilies are \$7.00 a pot.

Orders must be received by the close of the 9:15 am service on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Administrative Council

As you all know, the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 17. While John's email message was inspiring, I would much rather have heard it in person at a traditional Ash Wednesday service and I'm sure he would rather have delivered it that way. It just wasn't the same. We can now add Ash Wednesday to the ever growing list of cancellations of services and events that we have taken for granted in the past.

Lent has always been known for "giving up something" in order to concentrate more on our faith. When somebody asks me what I'm giving up for Lent, I usually jokingly reply that I'm giving up brussel sprouts, which is an easy thing for me to do since I can't stand brussel sprouts! Seriously, we've already given up so much the past year that we don't really need to give up anything else.

Instead, we need to do something extra, such as help a friend in a jam or run errands for a neighbor. I'm not going to try to name specific things we should be doing, but when the opportunity presents itself, hopefully we'll recognize it and act accordingly. I feel sure that the Lord would prefer that we "take on" something helpful to someone else rather than "give up" something that we probably don't need anyway.

Blessings,

Chris Moughon

Administrative Council Chairman

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

Larkin Taylor Duvall Jr

Amanda Taylor

Clarence Collier

Bill Hudgins

Peg Kava

Jay Metzger

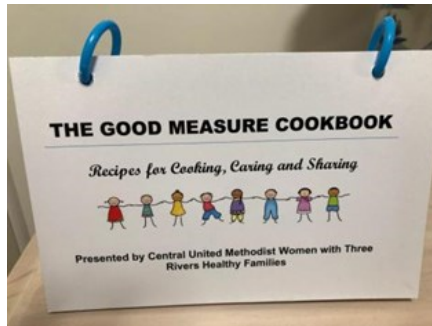
Lonnie Dewitt Edwards



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women Cookbook

The Central United Methodist Women are proud to announce that "The Good Measure Cookbook" is now available for sale at \$12 each.



There are many wonderful recipes inside to enjoy. Please contact Martha Arnold: 201 232-5890 or marjoe5050@yahoo.com, Dee Bane at 804 384-8098 or deebane2@gmail.com, Grace Mortimer at 804 335-7297 or davegracemortimer@gmail.com, or Judy Moughon at 804 725-8965 or judymoughon73@gmail.com to obtain your copy of the cookbook. Copies will be available each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall or by calling the members above. The proceeds from the sale of these cookbooks will go toward helping our community. Thank you for your support!



Non-Food Items for Hands Across Mathews

The community is grateful to Central UMC for its continued support of those in need. Food donations are important, but so are household

items not covered by SNAP. Paper towels, dishwashing liquid, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, and shampoo, etc. are also appreciated. There is a collection bin in the Fellowship Hall along with a list of items requested.

Candle Burning Ceremony

We collected \$437 with our Candle Burning Ceremony. Thank you for your support of this wonderful way to remember our loved ones.

UMCOR Kits for Annual Conference

Each year we choose a type of UMCOR Kit to collect and take to the Annual Conference. This year we have chosen the Cleaning Bucket. Each Cleaning Bucket has a value of \$75. However, we have recently learned that no kits are being sent overseas and all depots are closed due to lack of personnel to process the kits because of the Covid-19 virus. Therefore, the conference is requesting that only financial donations be given. As such, we will be collecting financial donations for the UMCOR Kits in the near future.

Valentine's Day Cards

Many of you may have received homemade Valentine's Day Cards from CUMW. This was just our way of telling the members of our congregation who have not been able to attend services, that we are thinking of them and we are missing them.

Participation in Church Services

CUMW will participate in the Church Service on March 14th. We will serve as greeters, read the scriptures and liturgy, and sing. Hope to see you there.

Martha Arnold

President UMW

**UMCOR Sunday
is March 14.**

**United Methodist Women
will lead the service
at 9:15 am.**



Mission and Evangelism

Each month the Mission and Evangelism team will present a missional awareness of an organization to publicize what it does. The M&E team will contribute to each organization an amount determined at their monthly meeting. Judy wrote a Chimes article on the organization featured for February, the United Methodist Family Services. Mission and Evangelism will contribute \$100 to UMFS.

Linda reported that Nancy Jagger is contemplating a virtual Bible study for children and perhaps tie it in to the weekly children's message. John suggests we clarify our target audience. Doing so would determine our next step. The study would require 100% parental support.

We decided that we needed to reach out to the youths of the church to make them feel that they are a valued part of our congregation. Our first step in building a personal relationship with the children will be writing a note to them each month. We will alternate writing the notes, with Betty doing the first month.

John expressed concern that the pandemic has caused added stress on parents and children. He will contact Pat Moughon to see if she knows of anything the church can do on their behalf.

John closed the meeting with a prayer.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair



Image source: creationswap.com

Guide for Food Donations to *Hands Across Mathews*



What do "sell by dates" mean?

Sell by dates provide users information on the estimated period of time the product (cans, bottles, or boxes or packages) will be of best quality and tells stores how long the product can be displayed for sale. The date does not mean that the food is unsafe to eat after the date. High acid canned foods (tomatoes and some fruits) will keep their best quality for 12 – 18 months. Other canned foods will keep for 2 – 5 years. Rusted, leaking or bulging cans should be thrown away.

Can shelf stable and perishable food be donated or used after the date passes?

Yes. The quality of perishable products (bread, cakes, fruits etc.) may go down after the date passes, but the products are still safe to eat if they do not show signs of spoilage.

Hands volunteers collect food from donating stores and other suppliers every day and bag food before the pick-up day. Perishable foods are refrigerated or kept frozen until picked up. Some fruits and vegetables may not look good by the time they are picked up. Please throw these away and know that we are doing our best to provide a wide variety of healthful food.

More information can be found on the USDA (US Dept. of Agriculture) website by googling "sell by dates" or "date labeling."

Information provided by,

Louise Witherspoon

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Bible Study Online 7:00 pm	3 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	4	5 World Day of Prayer	6
<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block;"> <p>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p> </div>						
7 Begin Lilies Orders 	8 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	9 Bible Study Online 7:00 pm	10 Finance 7:00 pm	11	12	13 Turn clocks forward 
14 UMCOR and UM Women Sunday Daylight Savings Time begins	15 Healthy Church Team 3:00 pm	16 Bible Study Online 7:00 pm	17 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	18	19	20
21	22 Trustees 7:00pm	23 Bible Study Online 7:00 pm	24 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday  Lilly orders Deadline	29 Holy Week ----->	30 Bible Study Online 7:00 pm	31	 <h1 style="color: #800080;">March</h1>		

Birthdays

Sally Thompson	1	Joice Small	17
Bill Hutson	3	Brenda Lewis	20
Dale Martin	5	Michael Cannon	21
Eric Stewart	6	John Hodges	22
Victor Vega	6	Greg Lewis	22
Sarah Moughon	13	Elma Moughon	24

Anniversaries

John Robert & Peggy Pierce	6
Joe & Martha Arnold	9
Jack & Cindy Kloke	16
Tim & Susan Hill	25
Nate & Melba Houser	26
Jack & Frances Ward	30