



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109
Office: (804) 725-2832 ♦ Parsonage: (804) 725-3332
Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

March 2022



Image source: creationswap.com

Christians and Repentance

Lent begins on March 2, and the yearly celebration of Easter approaches. Easter of course followed Good Friday. We want to welcome these holy days authentically, which means remembering Christ's sacrifice and living out its message.

Now is the time for us to make amends in our life, not in order to earn forgiveness, but to live fully in the grace of Jesus Christ. Jesus suffered and died in becoming our atoning sacrifice for our sin (1 John 4:10). We respond best to this truth when we repent and seek to love God with all our heart, love our neighbor as ourselves, forgive others as we have been forgiven, and love one another as Christians.

Repentance is becoming a forgotten word, but it is at the center of the gospel. "Do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,'" said John the Baptist to the religious leaders of his days. "The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Mt. 3:9-10) Jesus said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand"; "Unless you repent, you too will all perish." (Lk. 13:3)

Peter, on the Pentecost Day, said, "Repent, and be baptized." (Acts 2:38) When he reported his historic visit with Cornelius to the

church leaders in Jerusalem, they said, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." (Acts 11:18). Apostle Paul described his message as "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus." (Acts 20:21) Once again Jesus made it clear: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." He also said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 18:3)

There are two kinds of repentance. One is a once-in-a-life decision to turn from evil and turn to God. Christians, however, do need to regularly make a decision that submits their lives to Jesus Christ. As Jesus to Peter: "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet." (Jn. 13:10) That was after he had said, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

When it comes to genuine repentance, confession is our friend. Make a truthful confession to God, and God will help us. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9)

You are loved by God, and Jesus offers life that is truly life. Repentance often requires a courageous decision, and Lent is a good opportunity to make such a decision. When we so welcome the gift of new life from God, we will welcome Easter with genuine joy.

Gratefully,
John

UMCOR Sunday: March 27

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. Look for envelopes in the pew racks in March.

Link for more info:

[What is UMCOR?](#)

UMCOR.
Multiplying
Hope.

Thoughts on Small Groups

In the Central UMC Weekly News last week (2/17/22), Pastor John pointed out that the Post-Covid Reentry Group (PCRG) recommended that we not have large meal gatherings just yet, but that smaller such gatherings were probably okay. John went on "to encourage and support shared meals for smaller groups in lieu of churchwide food fellowship at this point." This got me thinking of how important small groups are in the church. Whether it be a Bible study group, an appointed committee, United Methodist Men or Women, Sunday School, or practice for a church program, a small group is where you really get to know your fellow church members. I know that personally, I have enjoyed every small group that I have been a part of at Central and have gotten to know the other participants better as well. I hope I can make the time to be a part of more such groups in the future.

Central has several opportunities for joining such groups. Just check any of the weekly bulletins, newsletters, or of course, the Chimes, for the next meeting or start-up date of the small group you wish to be a part of. Also, if you're asked to be on a committee, give it a try. If you find it half as rewarding as I have, you'll be glad you did!

Blessings,

Chris Moughon

Admin. Council Chair

March 2022

Candle burning Sunday, March 13 United Methodist Women will lead the service at 9:15 am.

A listing of all the candle burning gifts will be presented and the candle will burn during the service for the amount of time for which donations are given.

Information and order forms will be in the Sunday bulletin.



UM Men Artworks Sale & UMW Bake sale Saturday, March 26, 7:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Fellowship hall.

Coffee will be served and the **UMW will have baked goods available for sale between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.**

Donations of Art Works, paintings, table art, sculptures, or any other "artsy" items you wouldn't mind parting with will be accepted and will be collected between March 19th through March 25th.

Contact Joe Arnold at 973 714-4973 or marjoe5050@yahoo.com if you have any art work that you would like to donate.

All proceeds will go to UMM.



United Methodist Men

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, February 19. The 12 members present enjoyed a breakfast prepared by Gerald Taylor who was assisted by Bobby Hudgins and David Hudgins. Final plans for the Brunswick Stew Sale were discussed and a crew was appointed to help our project manager, Gerald Taylor. We are all looking forward to good fellowship and a successful sale to be held on February 26, from noon to 2pm.

We also discussed our artworks sale fundraiser to be held Saturday, March 26, from 7am to 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Joe Arnold is serving as our project manager for this event. See Joe or give him a call at 973-714-4973 if you have questions or need to arrange a pick-up for your donations. Any artwork that you no longer have use for (not limited to just paintings) would be welcomed. The United Methodist Women will be conducting a bake sale to go along with the art sale from 9am to 1pm, so mark your calendars for March 26, and support our ministries for the community and enjoy some good fellowship as well!

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 19, at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. I would love to see all the men of Central there and you don't have to be an official member of the church to attend. Just show up for a good breakfast and a good time!

Chris Moughon

CUMM President

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

Terry Dobson

Nelson Buchanan

William F. Smith

Harry E. Trailer

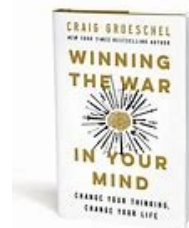
Jean Benson



Spiritual Formation Class Begins in March

You are invited to a weekly meeting during Lent while reading the book, "Winning the War in Your Mind" by Craig Groeschel. While it is not a traditional Bible study, Pastor Groeschel offers solid biblical teaching (plus exercises) for reshaping our thought patterns according to God's truth.

If you are interested in attending, you are welcome to purchase the book on your own, or please let Pastor John know at your first opportunity. Tuesday meetings will be at 7 p.m., and Wednesday meetings will be at 10 a.m. First meeting will be March 8/9.



From Finance Committee Chair

Greetings from the Finance Committee to all our Church Members.

We do sincerely hope that each of you are staying warm and safe in God's hands. As we enter 2022, it seems from all indications that the cost of living has not stopped its upward spiral. Your church is also feeling this pinch with so much of what we do. We have fixed costs and very few variables. The community we serve so willingly feels the same pinch, especially the needy families. Your church is so appreciative of your continued support of all our endeavors as we continue our leadership in our community.

When making your contributions, please remember that we missed 2 Sundays in January due to Covid and the bad weather. Every little bit extra is put to good use! Please take good care and we look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Yours in Christian giving,

Tim Hill

Chair of Finance Committee

My Preparation for Easter

Lent remembers Christ's sacrifices while looking forward to his resurrection. I make the following commitments to discipline and growth for the next six weeks:

(Check the ones you desire or feel prompted to do; circle the ones you then decide to do.)

Inward and Personal Disciplines

- Spend time in solitude and prayer each day.
- Attend a Bible Study Class
- Read through either the Gospel of Luke or the Gospel of John
- Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.
- Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
- Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
- Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
- Go to Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.
- Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
- Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.
- Forgive someone who has hurt me.
- Join a Sunday School Class
- Other promptings:

Outward and Social Disciplines

- Take on some loving task:
- Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.
- Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
- Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service:
- Go to coffee or dinner with someone I want to know better.
- Begin to recycle waste from my home and workplace.
- Give blood.
- Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- Pray to God to help me resist racial prejudice and to give me courage in opposing it.
- Rebuke the spirit of criticism and my own tongue out of control.
- Reach out to someone outside of my usual circles, city, or country.
- Other outward and social promptings:



United Methodist Women

Central United Methodist Women met on February 14th to discuss our upcoming participation in the March 13th Church Service. We will also be celebrating our Annual Candle Burning program on that same day. We are lifting up the children of the church by giving to Candle Burning in their honor for one minute. We offer you the opportunity to honor or memorialize someone at the Candle Burning Ceremony. The cost is 60 Cents per Second. Your donations will also be represented in the District Candle Burning Service that will be held during the York River District United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting. Order forms will be available in the Weekly Bulletin and in the Weekly Newsletter. Thank you for your support of the UMW's worldwide mission programs.



We would like to welcome our three newest members: Frosty Taylor, Hope Merrill, and Nita Carter. It is wonderful to see our organization grow. Welcome, ladies!

We continue our monthly \$50 donation to the organizations that are chosen by the Mission and Evangelism Team.

We mailed Valentine's Day cards to show our love to the some of the members of our congregation who we don't always get to see and who we appreciate. At our meeting we created over 25 Valentine's Day cards. These cards were taken by Grace to the Riverside Convalescent Center for the residents to enjoy.

Our United Methodist Women will have baked goods available for sale during the Art Sale the United Methodist Men are having on March 26th from 9am to 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds from the bake sale will go to UMM. Donations of Art Works are to be collected between March 19th through March 25th. Contact Joe Arnold at 973 714-4973 or marjoe5050@yahoo.com if you have any artwork that you would like to donate.

As a reminder, we still have a few bags of Schermer's Pecans to sell. The pecans are \$11

per bag and are available in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the sale of the pecans will be sent directly to the Wesley Community Service Center. "The Good Measure Cookbook" is still available for \$12. Both the pecans and the cookbook make great gifts.

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. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Martha Arnold
CUMW President



UM Women showing the Valentine's Day Cards they created for the Convalescent Center.

Shown from left to right: Nita Carter, Judy Moughon, Grace Mortimer, and Nancy Goldman

Photo by Martha Arnold

Creation Care

Does it really matter if I toss that glass bottle in the trash? How long does it take to decompose in a landfill?



A glass container will spend a million years in a landfill before it will even begin to decompose.



The Good News:

- Glass containers from food and beverages are **100 percent recyclable**.
- Your glass can be recycled endlessly without loss in quality or purity.
- Recycling glass: **Saves energy needed to create new glass**. Making products from recycled glass consumes 40% less energy than making new glass. Less energy used

means reduced emissions of nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide, both greenhouse gases.

- **For every ton of glass recycled, over a ton of natural resources are saved! Pitch in and recycle all your glass bottles.**

NOTE: April 21 and 22 School Recycle Program

Michael Cannon

Creation Care Team

“The Earth is the Lords and everything in it.”



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 the Weekly email & bulletin. Lilies are \$7.00 a pot.

Orders must be received by the close of the 9:15 am service on Palm Sunday, April 10.



Vacation Bible School is coming to Central this Summer!

Dates to be announced!
Likely Mon-Fri (6:30 to 8:30 pm)
Volunteers are needed!
Contact NancyJagger at 804-694-7017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March		1 	2  Ash Wednesday Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	3 Tai Chi 9:30 am	4 World Day of Prayer	5
	6 Begin Lilies Orders 	7	8 Spiritual Formation Group 7:00 pm	9 Spiritual Formation Group 10:00 am Finance 10:00 am	10 Tai Chi 9:30 am Paul Townsend Mem. class Lunch & Meet Noon	11
13 <i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i> UM Women Candle burning	14 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	15 Spiritual Formation Group 7:00 pm	16 Spiritual Formation Group 10:00 am Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	17 Tai Chi 9:30 am Trustees TBA	18	19 UM Men 8:00 am
20	21	22 Spiritual Formation Group 7:00 pm	23 Spiritual Formation Group 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	24 Tai Chi 9:30 am	25	26 UMM/UMW Art Work/ Bake Sale 7:00 am - 2:00 pm
27 UMCOR Sunday	28	29 Spiritual Formation Group 7:00 pm	30 Spiritual Formation Group 10:00 am	31 Tai Chi 9:30 am	<i>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</i>	

Birthdays

Bill Hutson	3	Brenda Lewis	20
Dale Martin	5	Michael Cannon	21
Eric Stewart	6	John Hodges	22
Victor Vega	6	Greg Lewis	22
Joice Small	17	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