



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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March 2024

Pastor's Pondering

I recently received our District Newsletter and was immediately reminded that the month of March is a very busy time in our lives and the life of the church. Before the month's end we will have experienced the changing of seasons, the changing of daylight savings time, Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We will have come face to face with the cross of Jesus Christ and we will have experienced the joy of Easter Sunday morning!



That's a lot of change! So many things in addition to what I mentioned already have the potential to take place as well. We live in ever changing times, don't we? Are we ready for all of these things? Have we prepared as best as we can for the changes that are sure to happen this month? Better yet, are we prepared for the events that lead us to the cross? I believe it is no coincidence that this year, Holy Week and Easter are in the midst of such a busy and changing time. In this time leading to Easter we have the gift of Lent! Lots may strive to pull our attention away from God but Lent brings us right back to the cross.

We have the privilege, in these remaining days of Lent to be very intentional about preparing our hearts, minds, and selves for the hard and yet grace filled acts of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Whatever we may face, may God's grace be sufficient for the journey. Change is sure! The saving grace of our Lord and Savior is

Join us for Worship
Sunday service—9:15 a.m.
Sunday school—10:15 a.m.
[Service Live on YouTube](#)

even more sure, for those who believe and profess Jesus as Lord. May we be bold enough to stay the course to the cross, even in these busy and ever changing times. We must face the cross before we can celebrate Easter!

Pastor Rebecca



“The Lord’s Prayer”
Small Group Bible Study
This exciting study continues on
Tuesdays in March, except Holy week.
Join Us!
March 5th, 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.
Let's journey together!



Contact Rev. Rebecca for more information.

UMCOR Sunday: March 10

Special offerings for United Methodist Committee on Relief collected on March 10 will support UMCOR's administrative expenses, allowing special gifts throughout the year to go entirely to disaster relief projects. Please place gifts in envelopes in the pews with "UMCOR SUNDAY" in the check memo.

Link for more info:

[What is UMCOR?](#)

UMCOR.
Multiplying
Hope.

During This Time of Lent

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. Lent is a period of preparation. It is a time of solemnity and self-reflection where Christians confess their failings and resolve to live a better life.

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays. The word lent comes from the old English word



lencen that means lengthen – referring to the season of spring and longer daytime. The length of Lent represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning His ministry. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation of observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus, and celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus.

Lent offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from, bringing our need for a Savior to the forefront. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Good Friday and Easter come, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing graces God has to offer.

Prayer is a significant focus during Lent. During the 40 days, we seek God's forgiveness, accept His love and mercy, and repent or turn from our sins. Fasting is abstaining from something like our

favorite food or activity, and not only gives us time to pray but reminds us of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. We could pray Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

By the Rev. Tommy Herndon

Images: Greg Rosenke, Slava Stupachenko, Katherine McCormack & Ahna Ziegler, courtesy of Unsplash

I wanted to share this insightful piece from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation about Lent.

Blessings to you and your family during this thoughtful season.

Dee Bane

Admin. Council Chair

Save the Date!

Journey with God

Sunday, March 17th, 5:00 pm

Our next Journey with God will be held on March 17 and we decided to change things up a little this time.

We are having a hot dog dinner at 5:00 pm before the service. And instead of a speaker, this time we are tentatively planning to show an episode from *The Chosen*.

If you haven't seen the show, you don't want to miss this. And if you have seen it, come watch it again.

Linda Dalgety

M & E Chair



**March Mission Focus is...
United Methodist Committee on Relief**



As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR – assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

UMCOR and its partners are responding to disasters across the globe every day. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR and support these efforts.

Your gift of any size will:

- ◇ Empower more than 200 United Methodist missionaries in 60 nations to share the Gospel.
- ◇ Bring medical care, prevention and healing through our global network of partnering hospitals and clinics.
- ◇ Provide safety and shelter to the displaced.
- ◇ Restore communities devastated by war and natural disasters.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please make your check payable to Central UMC and write, "UMCOR" on the memo line. *Thank you!*

www.umcor.org

The Mission Focus of the month is adopted by the Administrative Council.

Henry Fork: Help Them Reach their Goal

Hello, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Henry Fork Center has an exciting giving opportunity coming up!

On March 13th, SMLGives is hosting an all-day giving fundraiser and Henry Fork Center is one of the local nonprofits who are selected as recipients. Donation is easy! Simply visit www.SMLGives.org on March 13th and select the local charity you would like to donate to.

Henry Fork Center has set a goal of \$500 for 2024 and you can help us reach our goal!

Henry Fork Center provides afterschool and summer programming to children in Franklin County, Virginia. The primary focuses are Christian education, academic enrichment/homework help, arts enrichment, nutrition, and recreation. Children have the opportunity to explore the Word of God and the world around them while developing lifelong friendships and relationships.

Don't forget to visit www.SMLGives.org on March 13th to help us reach our \$500 goal!

Blessings to you all,

Jessica Hunt, Executive Director

Paige Family Update

Dear Church family,

LIFE International School has an urgent need for a Christian teacher to teach high school Algebra 1 and Geometry classes from April 2nd through the end of the school year (June 19th). No visa is required and housing can be provided. This is a great opportunity to see first hand how God is moving here in Spain!

If you or someone you know is interested please reply to this post or contact Carol Paige at carolp@lifeschool.es.

Thank you for lifting this need up in prayer!

Blessings,

Donald and Carol Paige

Missionaries to Spain

TMS Global

www.tms-global.org

[Link for updates](#)



Maundy Thursday Service

March 28, 7:00 pm

in the Fellowship Hall

In addition to Holy Communion, this year's service will feature a drama presentation with members of the church called,

"The Last Supper."

All are invited!



HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Westville Christian Church
261 Main Street, Mathews

Daily at Noon
March 25—29
Presented by
the Mathews County
Christian Ministers
Association



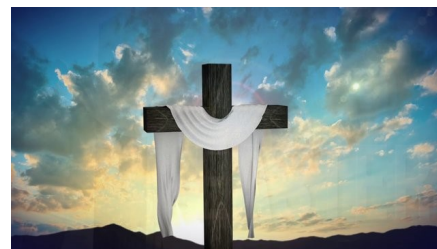
Lilies For Easter Sunday

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 \$10.00 a pot.

Orders must be received by the close of the 9:15 am service on Palm Sunday, March 24



Image source: creationswap.com



Easter Sunrise Service
March 31; 6:00 a.m.
Old Field Point, Moon

Directions to Old Field Point

- Take Buckley Hall Road (beside Hardee's) towards Moon.
- Turn left at Fitchett's Wharf Road (in sharp curve).
- Look for a large Old Field Point sign on right.
- Turn right and then make a left.
- Follow the road straight into the yard of the home.



March 31 at Central UMC
Worship Service In-person
& Online 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School -10:15 a.m.

Mission and Evangelism and 4S Success



Pictured above: top left, Ebenezer Men's Choir, top right, Hunter Owens (photo, Bev Childress)

At the February 21 M&E meeting, team members were congratulated on the success of our recent Soups, Songs, Salads and Sweets (4S's) event. The performers displayed amazing talent which was enjoyed by all. An added bonus to the evening was Alice Fay, the reporter from the Gazette-Journal who sampled from the array of soups, salads, and sweets. She took the recipes we provided. Look for an article featuring our recipes to soon appear in the paper. We collected a little over \$100.00 in love offerings.



We discussed purchasing 2 cement benches for the back area in the grassy parking lot. This would not interfere with parking since this area already has vegetation there. We would like to make this area into a place for meditation, reflection, and prayers. It would be a place for friends to sit and talk. We discussed planting seasonal flowers there to make the space even more beautiful.

There is an old, faded United Methodist Church sign on Route 198 that is overgrown with grasses and bushes. We will look into replacing it. Gloria will contact VDOT to see who is responsible for maintaining the area around the sign and if need be, ask if it was alright for us to do so.

The Mission Focus for March will be *UMCOR* and the business we will be honoring will be the *Thrifty Spot*. As a reminder, our Mission Focus changes the first of every month. All donations made during the month will be credited to that month's Mission Focus. This will greatly help the people counting money.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Team



Sunday Fellowship is once again enjoyed every 2nd Sunday each month just after the service
Join us on March 10.



A Time for Change

To every season, there is a time for change. The United Methodist Women finds itself going through such a season.



For the first time in many years we are acting as an independent unit. While there is sadness in making this transition, there is also excitement in beginning a new chapter of the Central United Methodist Women. We will be able to put our time and energy into focusing on our commitment to our church and the needs of our own community.

Another change is that Martha Arnold has decided to step down after leading the group for 4 years. Years that were full of challenges as well as rewards. She has been tireless and creative in her devotion to our group. She is greatly appreciated for her wisdom and experience and will continue to be a valuable source of guidance as we go forward.

The Central United Methodist Women are a team. We will work together as one to uphold the integrity and Christian values that we have always embraced.

As we enter this season of change, we pray for God's wisdom and guidance to lead us forward.

Nancy Goldman

CUMW President



United Methodist Women meet (2/12)
photo by Bev Childress

Stew Sale Success

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, February 17. We had 20 present, including Pastor Rebecca and Charles, all who enjoyed the hearty breakfast prepared by James Martin and Gerald Taylor.

Most of the meeting was devoted to finalizing plans for the Brunswick Stew sale which was held last Saturday, February 24. Gerald Taylor, our project manager, assigned the necessary tasks and put us through our paces in the proper order to get the job done. Many thanks to all who cut ingredients and got all the supplies ahead of time so we could put it together Saturday morning. Thanks also to those who stirred the pots and filled the containers. It was a team effort and the fellowship was great, also. Including donations, we took in over \$1500. I don't have the expenditure figures yet, but hopefully we'll have \$1000 or more to distribute to the various causes that we have supported in the past. Thanks especially to all of you who supported our efforts with your purchases and donations. We couldn't do it without you!

Our next meeting will be on Saturday March 16, in the Fellowship Hall at 8 am. We'll begin discussion on distributing some of our profits and on the Art/Yard sale this spring. Looking forward to seeing everyone then!

Chris Moughon

CUMM President



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

Lillian Hudgins

Kathleen Cala

Debbie Downs

Sally Howland

Captain Arnold Ripley

Keith Preston

Lucinda Crittenden

Creation Care

CENTRAL'S CREATION CARE TEAM TAUGHT 120 STUDENTS THIS YEAR

In January Creation Care taught 63 5th graders from Cindy Machen's Science Classes. We didn't give them lectures—we just gave them simple facts with great pictures to show how they can be heroes and help wildlife, and their planet and also... win a prize. We asked if they wanted to take on the Recycle Challenge. Their enthusiasm was heartwarming.



In February we had a bigger challenge. We were teaching Jerry Ligon's 7th grade Science classes and Jerry would be away. The Creation Care team worked very hard, sometimes having only 4 minutes between classes.



Which Prize?

Thanks to David Hudgins, Nancy Goldman, Chris Moughon, Dee Bane, Martha Arnold, Merle Guy, John Lee Callis, Eric Stewart and Nancy Jagger our Central's Creation Care classes helped over 120 students learn how simple it is to do our part and take care of God's planet.

Michael Cannon

Creation Care Team

"The Earth is the Lords and everything in it."



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 UM Women Lead service Worship - 9:15 am Sunday school - 10:15 am	4	5 Bible Study 6:45 pm	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am—1:00 pm Soup with Love 12:00 noon	7 Choir 7:00 pm	8	9 Turn clocks forward 
10 UMCOR Sunday Worship - 9:15 am Sunday Fellowship Sunday school - 10:15 am <i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i>	11 Finance 8:30 am	12 Bible Study 6:45 pm	13 SPRC 10:00 am Paul Townsend Mem. class Lunch @ Soup with Love—Noon Soup with Love 12:00 noon	14 Choir 7:00 pm	15	16 UM Men 8:00 am
17 Worship - 9:15 am Sunday school - 10:15 am Journey with God 5:00 pm	18 UM Women 10:00 am	19 Bible Study 6:45 pm	20 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am Soup with Love 12:00 noon	21 Trustees 9:00 am	22	23 <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</i></div>
24 Palm Sunday Worship - 9:15 am Sunday school - 10:15 am 	25	26	27 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	28 The Last Supper Drama 7:00 pm	29	30
31 Easter Sunday Sunrise service- Old Field Pt, 6 am Worship - 9:15 am Sunday school - 10:15 am 	<h1>March</h1>					

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Bill Hutson	3
Dale Martin	5
Jamie Hall	6
Eric Stewart	6
Victor Vega	6
Sarah Moughon	13
Merle Guy	15

Joice Small	17
Brenda Lewis	20
Michael Cannon	21
John Hodges	22
Greg Lewis	22
Elma Moughon	24

John Robert & Peggy Pierce	6
Joe & Martha Arnold	9
Jack & Cindy Kloke	16
Tim & Susan Hill	25