



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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May 2020

From the Pastor's Pen

Different Questions

One question on our minds these days, is when we will have services again in the church. It was at the end of March when in-person services were canceled through April, and the situation has not significantly improved, not to mention the stay-at-home order that remains effective until June 10. At this point, there is simply no easy telling when we will meet again in the church for worship and Sunday schools.

Moreover, it appears less likely that we will have a grand re-opening day. When services do resume at the church, they are likely to be done in phases. Initially we may cordon off some pews, and offerings plates may not be passed around. Once we have people in the same space, however, we are there together for better or worse; there is no eliminating all risks. Until an effective vaccine or drug comes along, we will to some degree live with them, and that is why we want to wait until the risk is low.

We are between the rock and a hard place, but we know that God opens the way. Meanwhile, we can ask another question now: "How can we continue being the church?" You have been visiting with one another through phone calls. Sunday Schools have been 'meeting' via emails and video conferencing. Last week the administrative council had its first try on an online meeting. You have sent offerings by mail, and we have

paid salaries and bills, and we continue to support our mission partners. We continue to proclaim and hear the Word of God.

Now is the perfect time to keep asking the fundamental question: "How can we follow Jesus Christ?" We remember Christ's promise that he is with us till the end of the age (Mt. 28:20). Let's be led by the Spirit of Christ during this time. When we are thrown off our routines, we can sometimes better ride the wind of the Spirit.

Gratefully,

John



2020 Graduates

The Paul Townsend Memorial Class will again be honoring this year's graduates. If you have a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college, please call Ben Leigh at 804-725-3883 or another member by May 24th with the name, type of diploma/degree and institution attended. Please provide a photo to be included in the *Central Chimes*.

Central United Methodist Church - Mathews Facebook page

The facebook page is now active at www.facebook.com/CentralUMCMathews.

This is another way to find information and announcements concerning our church. Look for *Devotionals* under the Notes Tab. Please "like" this page as it helps to make it more accessible.

Central UMC Mathews Private Group

This is a private group created on Facebook where members can share encouragement, prayer requests and be more connected to one another.

Please join us and invite your friends to join (on the right side of the group page, type in friend's names in the "invite members" box.

Search for Central UMC Mathews to locate the group.



Upper Room Devotionals

PDF Download:

The May/June Upper Room is available to download in PDF format at the following link:

<https://www.upperroom.org/news/1151>

Paper Copies:

Paper copies will be available outside the Fellowship doors in a box on Tuesdays and Thursdays during office hours from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Mail:

If you would like a copy of the Upper Room mailed to your address, please email or call the office.

Administrative Council

We've now missed seven Sundays at Church and we'll likely miss seven more (give or take). I at least would like to think that we're half way through our time apart, but I realize that it could be much longer. As much as I miss being with everyone, it would be a tragedy if we went back too soon and somebody got sick because of it.

Some of the business side of the Church is continuing in a modified form. The Trustees, SPPRC, Finance Committee, and Admin Council have been meeting by Zoom in order to try to keep up. Pastor John and I have been in contact with each other several times a week and we meet about every other week to count offerings that have been mailed in or dropped by the Church and make a deposit so we can pay the bills. Walt Matthews our Treasurer and Michele Evans our Admin Assistant continue to do their usual good jobs either from home or limited office hours. Pastor John continues to produce great sermons on our You-Tube site and even had help from Linda Dalgety, Grace Mortimer, and Janet Bowman the last two weeks. The Devotionals that Judy Moughon, Janet Burgess, Hal Hertzler, and Ben Leigh have shared with us are an inspiration. I'm sure that there are others working behind the scenes to keep our Church going that I have overlooked or am unaware of. In any case, thanks so much to each and every one who has contributed in any way.

Speaking of counting the offerings, I have been so pleased, but not surprised, by the level of giving that continues to come in. So far, we've nearly kept up with our traditional levels of giving, thanks to a couple of large gifts. Please keep up the good work so that when this is all over, we can hit the ground running!

It is my sincere hope that you and your family stay healthy and that we each become a little

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closer to God as we struggle through this together in spirit, if not in person.

Chris Moughon,
Administrative Council Chair

Join Us Live For Worship on Sundays

Sunday services are streamed live on the church's YouTube channel at 9:15 am.

Find the YouTube channel on the church's website.

Rise Against Hunger meals put together by Central volunteers shipped

Nick Lattanzio, who directed our RAH meal packaging event in November, recently informed Pastor John that the meals were sent in mid-February to ORPHANetwork of Nicaragua.

Check out their work at
<https://orphanetwork.org/>.



Our Sympathy and Prayers to the Families of

Pat Mantel
Maymie Lambert
Dolores Lyle
Richard Sadler



Note from the Paige Family

Dear Central UMC,

I just wanted to drop you a line to thank you for your gift this month.

In this time of fear and uncertainty, the children of God have something unique to offer the world. The same world that thought that it could do without a god giving it rules and regulations now finds itself in need of a loving father who understands their fear and pain. Our God is a Father who is able, and will walk with them through the darkest valley. However, they do not know Him. They can't know Him unless we tell them. Romans 10:15 says, "and how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!"

Thank you for being a passionate sender.

Love,
The Paige Family



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>May 2020</h1>					1	2
3 Online Service 9:15 am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> Online Service 9:15 am	11	12	13 Finance 7:00 pm	14	15	16
17 Online Service 9:15 am	18 Trustees 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 Online Service 9:15 am	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 <i>Central Chimes Submissions and Administrative Reports</i>	27 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	28	29	30
31 Online Service 9:15 am						

Birthdays

Elaine Campbell	2	Phyllis Hudgins	13
Miriam Cromwell	2	Jean Hall	15
Bri'onna Taylor	2	John Robert Pierce	15
Ed Cannon	3	Daniel Moughon	20
Melissa Moughon	3	Karen Palmer	22
Sherrard Pugh	4	Donnie Hall	24
Katherine Small	4	Richard Moughon	30
Dee Bane	12		

Anniversaries

Ed & Michael Cannon 4

