



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

May 2021

From the Pastor's Pen

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but
to do justice, and to love kindness, and to
walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)*

As we move into a world of less COVID-related restrictions, we must take with us the lessons we learned during this time. What have we learned? What essentials did we turn to during this time? What has been life-giving?

Likewise we as a church can be focused on our calling. It is time for us as the church to answer the call of God. We are called to live by the Word of God; to be God's holy people; to love one another; to be witnesses of Jesus Christ and his gospel. Because our foundation is Jesus, we can remain in God, be there for one another, and reach out to the world.

The pandemic has highlighted the fault lines in our society, the many differences among us. On many matters we disagree. Since we are the church, however, we must seek the things of God. If we focus on serving Jesus Christ and his mission, the Holy Spirit will lead and empower us.

Indoor Singing to Resume

Starting in May, we will sing as part of worship during the service, albeit with face coverings and social distancing when indoors. Healthy Church Team and I had agreed on it, when the conference COVID work group also revised its guidelines (4/26) accordingly.

Here is our chance to seek true worship. The scripture reminds us that God seeks those who worship "in spirit and truth." (John 4:23)

Continued on page 2

Drive-In Church

Drive-In/Outdoor Communion Service

May 2, 9:15 a.m.

- Those attending may bring chairs and sit in the open or remain in the vehicle.
- Service will be broadcast on FM 87.9 on the church premise.
- Prepackaged communion elements and bulletins will be given as you arrive.
- Face covering not required for those fully vaccinated or remaining in the vehicle.

Upper Room Devotionals - May/June

Paper copies will be available outside the Fellowship doors in a box during office hours.

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



People look at the appearance, but God looks at the heart. (1 Sam. 16:7) "To obey is better than sacrifice," (1 Sam. 15:22) and God "desires mercy, not sacrifice." (Mt. 9:13) It is all about Jesus, and in bowing to him there is freedom.

Outdoor Communion Service (5/2)

On the first Sunday of May you are invited to a service on the field west of the church building. Holy Communion will be celebrated, as you will be given prepackaged bread and juice as you arrive. You can sit in the open, or you can remain in the vehicle and listen through the FM radio at 87.9. If necessary, please feel free to park on the parsonage grounds!

Gratefully,
John



2021 Graduates

The Paul Townsend Memorial Class will again be honoring this year's high school and college graduates with Bibles and books of worship.

Please mail or email the following to the church office by **Sunday, May 23rd:**

- Full Name & type of diploma/degree and institution attended
- Share your plans for the future
- Add names of parents and/or grandparents that are members of Central
- Include a Photo if you like, for the June Chimes Newsletter (if photo is mailed, note if you need it returned)



Administrative Council Chair

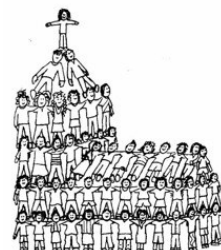
As I announced during the worship service on April 18, it was Pat and my 40th anniversary. On that date in 1981, we were married right there in the sanctuary by Rev. Bob Woodfin. Boy, the changes that have taken place since then! Our Fellowship Hall didn't exist; we had our reception in a room that is now the nursery, the Friendship Classroom, and the choir room. We've had many pastors since then, and the fact that Pat and I aren't a couple of kids in our twenties anymore are the most obvious changes since then.

Yes, there have been many changes in the history of Central United Methodist Church over the years. No longer sharing a pastor with Salem UMC was a huge and welcome change. The pandemic has forced us into changes as we all are aware of. How many of these changes will become permanent and how many will prove to be temporary? For example, will we go back to having two in-person services every Sunday? Will we continue the on-line service? Will everyone come back to in-person services at least some of the time or have we lost some people forever, or will we gain some new members that have followed us on line? Will all of our committees and the United Methodist Men become active again? Will the combined Nancy Wroten and Faith in the Now Sunday School Classes continue on Zoom or find a way to meet in person? And what of the Friendship Class? These aren't all of the challenges that we're facing, but they're some of the biggest.

As you can see, we all need to prayerfully consider all these questions and offer any input we might have. Only God knows the answers, but with his help, we'll find our way and become the church that He would have us to be.

Blessings,

Chris Moughon,
Administrative Council Chair



Mission Focus for May is:



By Linda Dalgety

Many people think abusers are crazy, unpredictable, or out of control, however, that isn't necessarily true. Anyone, man or woman, can be an abuser. It results from a batterer's need to exert power and control over their victim.

Domestic violence occurs when one partner in an intimate relationship controls the other through force, intimidation or the threat of violence. The abuse escalates over time and follows a typical pattern of behavior, including "the honeymoon"; tension, which includes emotional abuse, intimidation, threats, and possible violence or the threat of violence; and actual violent episodes that include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.

Another form of abuse is financial abuse. This may take the form of accounting for money spent, demanding paychecks, interfering with the victim's work or preventing the victim from working.

Children and teens often see and hear more than we may be aware of. They don't however always understand what is happening or why it is happening. Domestic violence hurts a child's self-esteem. They may not participate in school activities, have fewer friends, get in trouble more often.

While the United States is a very diverse country filled with different ideas about domestic violence, it is important to realize that culture cannot be used as an excuse for domestic violence.

Avalon center works to end domestic and sexual violence by breaking the cycle of abuse through prevention, education, shelter and support services in the Middle Peninsula and Williamsburg areas. By offering avenues

for safety, self-sufficiency, and empowerment Avalon seeks to break the cycle of abuse. This can help build a stronger, healthier community for all of us.

Avalon Center provides free and confidential shelter and support services to all survivors of abuse including adult and youth counseling, case management, legal advocacy, supervised visitation and custody exchange. It collaborates closely with law enforcement, local and state agencies, and schools.

All Avalon services are provided in confidence and without charge. The recent pandemic has heightened the need for Avalon services as families are spending more time together in confined spaces.

If someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, let your friend know that you care and are willing to listen. Don't try to force the issue, but allow your friend to come you to talk when they're ready to confide in you. Try to keep an open mind as you lend a sympathetic ear. Don't blame or criticize you friend for what's been happening. Don't underestimate the risk for potential danger. Remember that you friend must make their own decision about their life.

Realize that a battered person's ties to their abuser are complex. Finances, economic hardship, the belief that children need both parents, hope that the situation will change, fear that if he/she leaves, if He/she could lose custody of the children will all factor into the decision to stay or go.

When your friend asks for advice on what to do, guide them to community resources like the Avalon Center.

Here in Mathews the phone number for the Avalon Center is (804) 725-0400.

A 24 hour helpline is also available at 757-258-5051 or Toll-free: 833-537-0970

Help is confidential.

www.Avaloncenter.org



Easter Sunrise Service
Photo by:
Michael Cannon

Vacation Bible school

Vacation Bible School is coming to Central UMC this Summer!

VBS will meet the week of June 21 - June 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Volunteers are Needed!
Contact Nancy Jagger for more information at 804-694-7017.



United Methodist Women

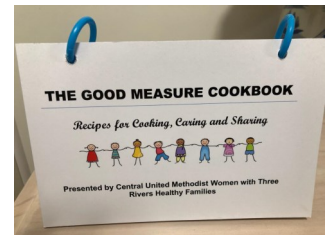
The Central United Methodist Women did not meet in April. However, we delivered approximately 100 of "The Good Measure Cookbooks" to Debbie Lancucki, our contact at Three Rivers Healthy Families. She was thrilled to receive them and has already begun distributing them to their families.

Hope everyone was able to see the wonderful article about our cookbooks in the *Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal* (April 15th) written by Betty Wrenn Day.

We are hoping to schedule a group picnic at Port Fun on May 21st. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will go toward funding this picnic. Details will be worked out at our monthly meeting on May 10th. We continue to collect Non-Food items in a bin in the Fellowship Hall for Hands Across Mathews.

We appreciate your generosity. Thank you!

Martha Arnold
CUMW President



Paul Townsend Memorial Sunday school class meeting from April



Grounds Work Day (4/3)



Our Sympathy and Prayers to the Families of...

Timmy Sutton

Raymond Forrest

Sally Ann Thompson

John Faith

Ray Kern

Jerry Jagger

Cheryl Lamport

Delores Munn

Miranda Holljes

Benjamin Fitchett



Jerry Jagger
12/8/1944-
4/9/2021

Mission and Evangelism

At our 4-21-21 meeting a lot of our discussion centered around our "mission awareness" project. Our church's gift to UMCOR was \$1600. This included a generous gift of \$1200.00 from one individual. Although it may appear that participation is relatively slow to start, it may grow in the future. A good point to remember is that everyone who gives to the church has participated in the giving.

We voted to give \$100.00 from the M&E budget to Hands across Mathews, our April mission focus. This will be given in addition to any gifts to HAM from the congregation.

Since Mother's Day is in May, the committee decided to choose Avalon Center for Women and Children as our mission focus for May. The Center works to end domestic and sexual violence through prevention, education, shelter, and support services in our area. Avalon is open 365 days a year providing safety and shelter for women, men, and children who are fleeing domestic or sexual violence.

Nancy Jagger volunteered to write the May letters to the youth of our church. The purpose of these letters is to remind the young people of our church that they are valued members of our congregation.

Realizing that many people still feel lonely, and alone, we wondered what we could do to alleviate this feeling of isolation. We agreed to send letters and make phone calls to the church's shut-end list and to any other individuals that we know who are in nursing homes or in need of encouragement. We will pray about other ways God can use us His instrument.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair

Greeters/Ushers for May

05/02	Ben Leigh
05/09	Chris Moughon
05/16	Dee Bane
05/23	Michael Cannon
05/30	Ben Leigh

Creation Care



Many of you are starting to clean out your sheds and garages. Please keep in mind, if you throw toxic chemicals in to the regular trash these products end up in **landfills** or incinerators. This results in pollution to the air we breathe and the water we drink. Please set them aside for when Mathews has its Middle Peninsula Chemical Collection in August.

Below is the information that you will need.

Mathews County Chemical Collection

August 21, 2021

Star Fields, LLC

2905 Buckley Hall Road, Cobbs Creek

8:00AM – 12:00 Noon

They will accept:

- Computers: Desktop and laptop computers, servers, computer monitors, cell phones, computer wiring, desktop printers including multifunction printers or "All in Ones", fax machines, and desktop photocopiers and scanners
- Household Maintenance: latex paint, oil based paint, stains, solvents, glue, varnishes, adhesives
- Automotive Products- limited to: gasoline and other fuels (less than 35 gallons), waxes, gas/oil mixtures, brake fluid, engine cleaner, and tar remover
- Lawn & Garden: insecticides, weed killers, pesticides, fertilizers, pest strips
- Household Cleaning: cleaners for oven, drain, toilet, septic tank etc., floor waxes, metal polishes, bleach, degreasers
- Miscellaneous: charcoal fluids, dyes, kerosene, pool chemicals, fluorescent lights up to 8 feet, all compact fluorescents (CFLs), and rechargeable batteries.

Michael Cannon

Creation Care Team



"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it"

From the Paige Family

*Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill? Psalm 15:1
(NKJV)*

Easter week is upon us, giving us time to reflect upon the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us. Through His death and resurrection, all barriers have been removed for a personal relationship with our heavenly Father. We are free to abide in Him and He in us.

In January the word ABIDE was impressed on our hearts as a spiritual practice to be renewed. Through abiding in Christ during this time of transition, we have found unexpected strength and peace within the whirlwind of cultural adaptation, house hunting, government paperwork, and jumping straight into ministry.

A fitting description of this new season in our lives is that of sojourning in a new land. A common definition of sojourn is "to dwell temporarily; to live in a place as a temporary resident or as a stranger." However, it can also mean "to delay or tarry in a place; abide." In fact, the ESV version of Psalm 15:1 asks the question, "O Lord, who shall SOJOURN in Your tent?"

As sojourners in Spain, we want to tarry or abide in this place to learn from and build relationships with those around us. And, through those relationships that many will also come to know the One who abides in us.

- He is Risen!!

Our Arrival

We arrived safely with ALL of our luggage on January 28th!

We also received an outpouring of love, prayers, and financial blessings from so many from around the world!

An Apartment

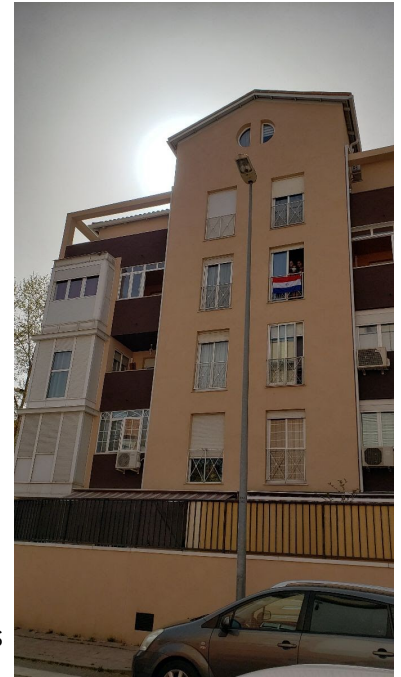
After a month of looking, we finally have a place to call home in Alcala de Henares, a city in the northeast of Madrid. We are now city dwellers in a cozy 90 m2 furnished apartment!

Donald likes the size because it is easier to clean. It is also centrally located and close enough to ride our bikes to church (once we get them).

Transportation

We bought a reliable vehicle (Volvo S90) - Even with visas, we could not buy a car here before having our paperwork in the system. However, a missionary leaving the field sold us his car, allowing us to work around this rule.

Car in hand, we then found out that we could not get insurance without this same paperwork. Again, there was another missionary who had a contact who sold us insurance.



Cora

Cora is in 10th grade at Evangelical Christian Academy (ECA), a school for missionary kids. Even with the academic challenges of switching schools mid-year, she is adjusting well. She has made friends quickly and has a busier social calendar than anyone else in the family!

We were unable to find a home to rent in Camarma, the small town where ECA is located, so she has an 18-minute walk to a bus stop to take the city bus every day. She has a pass that allows unlimited travel within the Community of Madrid. This has allowed her to gain more independence and to explore new places with her friends.

Daniel

Daniel is in 4th grade in the school where we serve, LIFE International School in Tres Cantos. It is about a 40-minute drive from where we live. Like Cora, he has made friends very quickly and looks forward to Carol's after-school meetings so he can stay and play with them. Even though he is the only native English speaker in his class, he is learning and growing in his new environment.

Daniel also loves the chance to visit historical sites like castles and all the cool parks that are around. He cannot wait to get a bicycle to explore the trails around where we live.



A New Ministry

We received a warm welcome from the staff, board members, parents, and students of LIFE International School.

Carol has fit nicely into her role of curriculum coordinator and is already helping the school to prepare for its upcoming accreditation.

Donald has been helping the school in several areas including physical education, small group work, recess duty, and running errands. He is looking forward to being involved with the discipleship of some of the older boys in the near future.

Prayer Requests

In addition to our continued cultural adjustment, we have 2 big prayer requests:

- Resolution for Cora and Daniel's Residency Status - to receive our residency cards, we had to make individual appointments to turn in paperwork and register our fingerprints. Donald and I were able to

register and will pick up our cards in mid-April. However, at their first appointment, we discovered that the kids were not registered in the government's system. With the help of a lawyer, we turned in more paperwork and waited 2 weeks to get them registered. Last Friday we went back to do their fingerprints and were told they only had permission to be in the country until May. Thankfully one of the workers at the police station took it upon himself to help rectify the situation. He called on Tuesday morning to tell us that the kids can come back in on April 9th. Please pray that everything is in order and that appointment will go smoothly!

- Donald and Carol's Driver's Licenses - Spain has an agreement with Paraguay that allows for a direct exchange of driver's licenses. We have all our paperwork done to present to the Spanish DMV, but it has been very difficult for us to get an appointment to turn it in. After 3 weeks of trying we were finally given appointments for the first week of August. Please pray that we can get this resolved at a much sooner date!



Would You Like to Help?

We are looking for partners to join us in the vision God has given us for Spain. We are in need of monthly, yearly, and one-time gifts. Your contribution will help us reach generations for Christ.

Go to:

www.tms-global.org/give



Our ID # is: 0480

We are grateful, for your prayers and financial support!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>May 2021</h1>						
2 Drive-In /Outdoor Communion Service	3	4	5 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 - 1:00 pm	6	7	8
9 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	10 UM Women 10:00 am	11	12 Finance 7:00 pm	13	14	15 UM Men 8:00 am
16	17 Trustees 7:00 pm	18	19 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	20 <i>Central Chimes Submissions and Administrative Reports</i>	21 UMW and Healthy Families at Port Fun	22
23 <i>Deadline for Grads Info</i>	24 SPRC 7:00 pm	25	26 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>				<i>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</i>	

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Ed & Michael Cannon 4



shutterstock · 143921503