



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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May 2023

From the Pastor's Pen



Earlier this year we had a series of discussions on the future of the church, including a joint meeting between the Administrative Council and the Board of Trustees. To be specific, they were conversations concerning potential

disaffiliation from the denomination. But there was passion and longing for the beloved church go in the right way. I recall saying that we should focus on becoming the best church we can be for now.

As was announced on the April 23 Sunday, Central is set to welcome a new pastor on July 1. While pastoral transition requires time, it is also a time for fresh energy—sort of like how it was in the aftermath of the pandemic. I hope we will take whatever energy, excitement, and hope we have this time and channel it to listening to Jesus Christ for the church: "Jesus, what do you want us to do?"

On April 26, the Administrative Council met with Dr. Clarence Brown, District Director of Connectional Ministries (a newly created district-level position to resource pastors and churches), to explore long-term strategic planning for the church. It is safe to say we were quite inspired by the possibility. Your prayers will be appreciated for fruitful progress of this work.

We believe that God's grace often goes before us, preparing the way. A year ago I thought I was done with Korea, but a lot has changed since then: I married someone who lives there, and now I am taking a leave of

absence to temporarily move to Seoul. My hope is that this is part of God's grace making all things to work together for his good purpose, including a time of renewal and growth at Central.

Gratefully,
John

Sunday Fellowship May 14th, following worship service

*Sponsored by
the Paul Townsend Memorial class*

Visit with one another
in the fellowship hall with light snacks
immediately following the service.

All are invited!



Join us for Worship

Sunday service—9:15 a.m.

Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

[Service Live on YouTube](#)



Find us on:
facebook®

www.facebook.com/CentralUMCMathews

Introduction

Appointed by Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, the Rev. Rebecca Rumburg will serve the Central Church beginning on July 1.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! My son, Charles, who is 11 years old, and I are looking forward to meeting each of you. This is our first move in a decade and so there are many emotions and feelings that we are becoming acquainted with as days go by. I understand that you are experiencing a flood of emotions and feelings even now as you read these words of introduction. May we honor these emotions and feelings as we prepare to meet in a few months.

I am grateful for your prayers for both my son and myself as we prepare to join you in ministry, especially in light of my recent (Easter Sunday morning) stroke. My thankfulness and gratitude also extend to your pastor and SPRC who have so graciously welcomed and prayed over us all.

From the lines of one of my favorite hymns, "may our God of grace and God of glory on his people pour his power!" I am recovering well and do look forward, perhaps at a slower pace, to what God has in store for us, as we partner in ministry together!

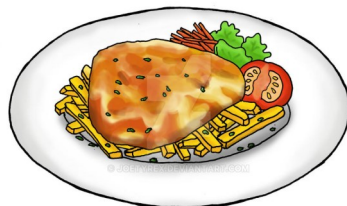
My boyfriend of nearly 3 1/2 years, Todd, his daughters, Lily, Kara, my son, Charles and I are excited to meet you and get to know you more. Bear with us, hold us in your prayers, and know we return the same for each of you!

Until we meet in person...

May God continue to bless and keep each of us!

Pastor Rebecca

**Paul Townsend Memorial
Sunday school class
Dinner and Meeting
May 11, 5:00 pm**



Beautiful Easter Cross
arranged by Mark Lewis
(Photo by Brenda Lewis)

From Administrative Council Chair

I want to express my profound gratitude and thanks to Pastor John for all he has given to this Church during his tenure at Central. I know this sentiment is shared by all those who have served and worked with him during his time with us.

The times have been good, yet some have been difficult. John has navigated the uncharted waters of a pandemic. He has created "community" where there was no blueprint to follow and no history to learn from.

He has blessed us with gifts of impactful sermons. He has shared his outstanding musical talents with us. He has come to the assistance of so many in need of counsel and support.

John has taught us Christian values and ideology through Bible studies and classes, and he has enhanced our understanding of these principles by living the same life himself.

Through him as a role model of this devotion and dedication, we have seen first-hand, those Christian principles in action.

I am sure he would protest the accolades I've

Continued on page 3

written here. That is his way. But through his leadership, his loyalty to our congregation and the Lord, and his consistent effort to nurture our spiritual growth, we have grown as a Church. We have weathered the storms of separation, illness, and sadness to remain a worshipful community, intent on doing good and sharing this good with others.

We have looked to Pastor John for guidance to help us express our faith and he has shown us many ways to do this with peace and love.

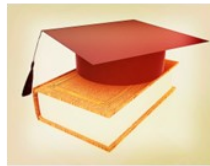
We will miss him, and we wish him so much joy and happiness. We will remember the foundations he has helped us build here at Central Church. These building blocks of faith will remain to help us make the best of the future.

Blessings,
Dee Bane



2023 Graduates Honored

The Paul Townsend Memorial Class will again be honoring this year's high school and college graduates with Bibles and books of worship on Graduation Sunday, June 4.



Please drop off, mail or email the following to the church office by **Sunday, May 21st**.

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 Chimes Newsletter and/or Sunday bulletin. (Please note if you need photo returned).

For questions call the church office at 804-725-2832 or call David Hudgins at 804-725-3273.

United Methodist Men Plan Yard Sale

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, April 15. A delicious breakfast prepared by Joe Arnold and Steve Eley with assistance from Tim Hill was enjoyed by the twelve members present.

The new battery and pads for the defibrillator finally arrived and were installed after the meeting. This brings us up to date and is good until December 2025. We are paying the \$340 cost out of our Brunswick Stew profits so there is no cost to the church. We also discussed other possible donations but took no action at this time.

The date for the yard sale has been set for June 17. Be sure to look for more information in the June Chimes and the newsletter as we approach that date. We'll be collecting donations at the church the week leading up to June 17, so you can be setting stuff aside yourself until then.



A special thanks goes out to David Hudgins and Chris Merrill for going to Food Lion, purchasing \$250 worth of canned goods (we only paid \$200) and taking it to Hands Across Mathews. The CUMM is thankful to all of you who supported our stew sale which allowed us to be able to help out in our community.

The next meeting will be Saturday, May 20, at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us for some good food and great fellowship!

Chris Moughon
CUMM President

A Note of Thanks

Dear Pastor Choi & the cast of the Maundy Thursday presentation,

I attended your service with some friends from your congregation. Thanks to all who put so much time and effort in the lovely rendition of the Last Supper.

The readers' theater was impressive and I was spirit filled as I received communion with Jesus and his disciples looking on.

Blessings to all,
Deanne Congrove

Mission and Evangelism News

The Mission and Evangelism team opened our April 20th meeting by thanking the Lord for the glorious Springtime weather we have been experiencing, for our church family and the fellowship we share. God is so good!

We so enjoyed our last Rise against Hunger event that we began planning the next early. The anticipated date will be November 19. Linda mentioned at the District Launch meeting, she learned that grants are available for mission projects through the District. John will determine who to contact for information. Since it costs about \$4,000.00 to package 10,000 meals, we looked at other sources for income. Another paint night, the sale of Krispy Kreme donuts, a change jar, and making it a mission focus of the month were suggested.



Photo: Pastor John and Linda Dalgety pack during Rise Against Hunger 2019

We continue to write notecards to our recent high school graduates. Nancy Jagger will write the cards for May.

The Mission Focus for May is Avalon and for June will be 3 Rivers Healthy Families.

At our last meeting we decided to celebrate a local organization and surprise them with treats. Linda brought cupcakes and a Thank You card to The Thrifty spot this month. Gloria will honor the Rescue Squad for their contributions to the county in May with a special treat. The reasoning behind this is twofold: it gets the name of the church out in

the community and by doing so, it may attract new members.



Durwood Anderson's grandson and his wife recently attended Sunday Services and expressed appreciation for the way they were welcomed. Linda suggested that cards be sent to first time visitors or church members who haven't attended church for a while. She shared with the team a card she received from Suzanne following her first visit to Central. It was suggested that cards be sent to church members who haven't attended services recently. John noted he routinely sends cards to visitors.



We are looking for someone to share on our next *Journey with God*. Not all of us have the same experiences with their relationship with the Lord. Some have known Him their whole lives; others have known him, fallen away for a time and come back to the fold; others have just started their journey. Where do you fit in? We would like to hear from you.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism 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. This can also be in the form of financial abuse.

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.

You may give by making your check out to Central UMC with "Avalon" in the memo and placing in an envelope in the pews on Sunday or mail to the office. Thank you for the support!

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

Community Sharing Good News Pantry

For non-perishable food gifts and Christian Literature. Take what you need, give what you can storage.

Located in the back left side of Central's parking lot.



United Methodist Women Plan Events

CUMW held our monthly meeting on April 10th in the Fellowship Hall to review our events in March and to discuss upcoming events of the year.

On March 26th we presented Ben and Peggy Leigh with Special Mission Recognition Pins and Certificates of Appreciation for their many years of service to our church and our community. The presentation was recorded, and Pastor John took the pins and certificates to Ben and Peggy and showed them the presentation. We received a lovely thank you note from Peggy which was read at our meeting and is now posted on our bulletin board. After the church service on March 26th, we provided hospitality in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for joining us for the light refreshments.

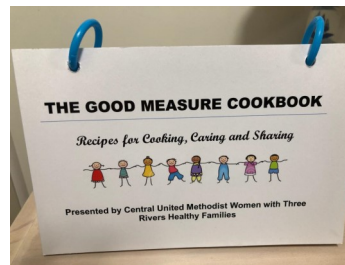
We are excited to announce that we are reviving our Annual Volunteer Luncheon on May 23rd. The list of Volunteers is being prepared and the menu is being set. Invitations are forthcoming. Our guest speaker will be Nancy Yarborough who has for many years been involved in the United Methodist Women at the district level and has been on several missionary trips to Cambodia and beyond.

On June 17th, Central United Methodist Women will be holding a Bake Sale in conjunction with the HUGE Yard Sale that the United Methodist Men and the Central Village Homemakers are having in the church parking lot. There will be lots of great bargains and delicious baked goods. The proceeds for the Yard Sale will be split between the UMM and CVH and will be given back to Mathews County. So, come and support your community. Watch for the advertisement.

Also, on June 23rd, CUMW will be hosting our annual picnic with the children and mothers of Three Rivers Healthy Families at Port Fun. Details to follow.

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

WE CONTINUE WITH THIS URGENT APPEAL! Hands Across Mathews is having difficulty in obtaining food from the Peninsula food bank. They are appealing to churches and organizations to donate canned vegetables and fruits, soups, proteins such as tuna fish and chicken, cereals, peanut butter, rice, beans, pasta, etc. As well, they continue need Non-Food items such as toilet paper, shampoos, soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. There are bins for the food in the vestibule between the church and the Fellowship Hall and there is a bin for non-food items in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity.



"The Good Measure Cookbook" is still available for \$12. The cookbook makes a great gift.

Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

Martha Arnold
UWIF President

Our Sympathy and Prayers to the Families of...

Christopher Dehoux
Victor Miller
Virginia Lewis
Justin Gibson
Kevin Lester

Herman Sweeney
Kenneth Lee
Kathy Bartley
Audrey Albertson
Robin Sadler



**Remembering
Kenneth E. Lee
(6/25/1950 -
4/15/2023)**

Creation Care Teaches Recycling Is Fun

Central's Creation care team taught recycling to 5th graders at Thomas Hunter school.



Students learned what to recycle in Mathews. Everyone volunteered for the recycle races!



Beating the clock to recycle trash was exciting! Afterwards each student eagerly picked a prize.

In a fun positive manner, Creation Care Team introduced 64 students to the importance of recycling. Cindy Machen, their teacher, told each of her classes that this wonderful program was sponsored by Central United Methodist Church.

Thanks again to the team that made this happen: David, Martha, Joe, Dee, Chris, Nancy and Merle.

Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team

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



Maundy Thursday (4/6)

Photos by Jamie Hall



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <h1>May 2023</h1> | | | Sunday Worship: 9:15 a.m. Sunday school classes: 10:15 a.m. | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 - 1:00 pm | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 UM Women 10:00 am | 9 | 10 | 11 Finance 2:00 pm Trustees 3:00 pm Paul Townsend Memorial class Dinner 5:00 pm | 12 | 13 Memorial Service of Kenneth Lee 11:00 am |
| 14 <i>Mother's Day</i> Fellowship time after the service | 15 SPRC 7:00 pm | 16 Book Study 7:00 pm | 17 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am | 18 Choir 7:00 pm | 19 | 20 UM Men 8:00 am |
| 21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Deadline for Grads Info</div> | 22 | 23 Volunteer Luncheon 11:00 am Book Study 7:00 pm | 24 Administrative Council 7:00 pm | 25 | 26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Central Chimes Submissions and Administrative Reports</div> | 27 |
| 28 | 29 <i>Memorial Day</i>  | 30 Book Study 7:00 pm | 31 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</div> | | |

Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Miriam Cromwell | 2 | John Robert Pierce | 15 |
| Bri'onna Taylor | 2 | Bev Childress | 19 |
| Ed Cannon | 3 | Daniel Moughon | 20 |
| Sherrard Pugh | 4 | Karen Palmer | 22 |
| Katherine Small | 4 | Cindy Kloke | 24 |
| Dee Bane | 12 | Richard Moughon | 30 |
| Phyllis Hudgins | 13 | | |

Anniversaries

Ed & Michael Cannon 4

