



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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May 2024

Pastor's Pondering

Grace and Peace To You!

Time has a way of flying doesn't it? We look at the date and another flip of the calendar is due. We are beginning the journey through the month of May. I recently attended a Senior Recognition Night. This was a time for graduating students to be recognized with scholarships from various organizations and people. Each award came with criteria and the presenters congratulated the applicants while sharing the meaning behind why each gift was being made available.

Students who had studied and learned together for years were celebrating a completion of one step and beginning of another. It was exciting and yet sadness was present as well, simultaneously. How could both joy and sorrow happen in the same moment? Hard work, dedication, determination, endings and new beginnings all wrapped in memories of years past and hope for the future all existed in one place at the same time.

This is similar in the life of the church. Years of hard work, dedication and determination that are mingled with endings and new beginnings are all wrapped in memories of years past and a hope for the future filled with possibilities. The United Methodist Church is meeting until May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC and is also doing the same thing, simultaneously.

It is an interesting thing which God is doing, isn't it? May is an exciting time as we remember and look ahead with some sadness and excitement as chapters begin and end and possibilities lie before us which need a little explanation. Why are we experiencing

this new thing? How can we find our place in it all? What is our place as we stand looking back and looking ahead at the same time?

At the conclusion of Senior Recognition Night, a slideshow was presented with a slide prepared by each graduate, some with pictures and future plans explained in a few brief sentences. You know what happened as the images and words were displayed before us? There was simultaneously laughter and tears. Images of young adults beside baby pictures flanked with hopes and plans for the future brought a strange mix of emotions at such a moment because growth is not pain free. Some would claim this truth and say but what a journey to this point.

This is where we are as we wait in this season of excitement and trepidation of what will be for us. It's not the first and I truly believe it won't be the last time we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in our lives. In the midst of it all, may we remember, and live into the words we sang this last Sunday. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak but HE is strong!"

As we experience the joy and the pain may we also remember the sorrow and love that flowed, mingled down for exactly such a time as this. I feel it is worth pondering.

Praying for you,
Pastor Rebecca



Long-awaited General Conference Begins

This is a busy season for the United Methodist Church. The long-awaited General Conference began on April 23, 2024 and continues until May 3rd. (As a historical note, for information: On April 23, 1968, The Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church. Both Churches followed Wesley theology.)

Follow the progress of the General Conference at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/live-stream>.

Follow legislative progress of the conference at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/legislation>.

Read about news from the General Conference at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/news>.

Type this link (<http://conta.cc/4aKG905>) and get easy access to all the links listed above.

The links above are only 3 specific ways to keep up with the General Conference news.

Those interested in keeping up with General Conference can stay informed via a live video stream, daily reports from UM News delivered in several languages, a special daily edition of the UM News Digest e-newsletter, high-resolution photographs, video recaps, updates on social media, a new United Methodist News Facebook Messenger Bot and a UM News

channel on WhatsApp. UM News also will provide breaking coverage on X (formerly Twitter) and full reports on Facebook. People also can sign up for the UM News RSS feed to see the latest stories.

Regionalization is a key topic of discussion for the Conference. Proposals on regionalization focus on giving conference locations more autonomy in certain areas of management.

It is important to remember that there will be much more than legislation happening during this conference. There will be musical celebrations, prayer services and devotional events as well.

Blessings,

Dee Bane

Administrative Council Chair



Paul Townsend Mem. class meets for a monthly luncheon and celebrates Bobby Hudgins and Chris Merrill's April birthdays. Photo by Patty Hertzler.

(pictured to the right)

The United Methodist Women presented a Special Mission Recognition to Greg Lewis with a pin and a certificate of appreciation for his service to Central church.

(4/7)

photo by Michael Cannon



United Methodist Men

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, April 20. Tom Robinson headed up the breakfast detail with assistance from Bobby Hall and Joe Arnold. The fourteen members present enjoyed and appreciated their efforts

The Art Sale, scheduled for Saturday, June 15, was discussed. Our project manager, Joe Arnold, said collections were going smoothly so far with many more expected as we get closer. We'll nail down final details at our next meeting. More info below on this page.

We voted to give \$100 to the Mathews High School Key Club and \$200 to the Scholarship Fund here at Central. We also voted to renew our charter with the National United Methodist Men for another two years. We will discuss what other organizations to donate to at future meetings.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 18, at 8 am. We'll be finalizing things for the Art Sale and hopefully will have a good turnout to do so!

Chris Moughon
CUMM President



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.

Sunday Fellowship

May 12th, following the worship service

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

All are invited!

Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee
for this special time!



Save the Date!

Saturday, June 15 | 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Central

Sponsored by Central United Methodist Men

Please Note! Now accepting donations of art prints, paintings, table art, sculptures or any other "artsy" items.

Call Joe Arnold at 973-714-4973 for more information.

United Methodist Women will have baked goods for sale!

Recent fundraisers have supported Hands Across Mathews, Heart Havens, Mathews TRIAD, Avalon Center, Meals on Wheels and the Mathews High School Key Club.

M and E Envision a Quiet Place

At the April meeting of the Mission and Evangelism team there were two main topics discussed; our Christmas in July dinner and the Meditation Garden.

Christmas in July

Betty Stewart will head up a Christmas in July dinner and will purchase the needed turkey breasts. We will ask church members to bring side dishes and desserts.

What would Christmas be without presents? This year we will be "gifting" the Mathews County Social Services program Christmas Store. We all know what a wonderful blessing this for the less fortunate members of our community! Gifts should not be wrapped.

Meditation Garden

Pending Administrative Council's approval, we envision this garden to be a quiet place where people can come to reflect, pray, or visit and chat with friends. Initially, it will have seasonal flowers, two stone benches, and a bird bath. Nancy Jagger would like to donate a bench in memory of her late husband, Jerry and the M&E committee will purchase the other. The bird bath has already been anonymously donated by a church member.

We will begin working on the garden on April 27 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone with a small tiller who could lend a helping hand would really be appreciated. Anyone interested in helping make this dream become a reality is welcome to join us. Bring your shovels, rakes, and gardening gloves!

In time, the garden can be enlarged and church members can help support it by dedicating a paving stone in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

Focus in May

Our Mission focus as well as our Business focus for May will be *Hands Across Mathews*.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair

Mission Focus for May is: Hands Across Mathews



Hand Across Mathews seeks to help local families who have suffered some crisis that puts them in need of the basic amenities of food, clothing, shelter, prescription

medications or fuel. HAM has combined the efforts of 35 churches to provide non-denominational charitable aid to families, which have been evaluated and approved by the Mathews County Social Services Department. The following statistics summarize its efforts in the past year:

The budget for our Programs exceeds \$140,000 annually;

Between 95 and 100 families per week are receiving food;

Approximately 70 volunteers provide over 9,000 hours of services each year.

For more information and a list of their programs: www.handsacrossmathews.org

Monthly mission focus is adopted by the Administrative Council.

2024 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 9th.

Please drop off, mail or email the following to the church office by **Sunday, May 26th**.

- 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 Sunday bulletin. (Please note if you need photo returned)

For questions call the church office at 804-725-2832 or Dee Bane at 757-788-9713.

Reaching Out to Members and Friends

The Central United Methodist Women are continuing to grow and find our way during this new and exciting time. We are planning ways to reach out to members of the congregation in need and let them know we are thinking of them and praying for them. They are not forgotten. We are planning cards, visits, gifts and assisting them with needs they may have.

We donated \$100.00 to UMCOR and continue to look for organizations that may need our support.

We were pleased to present Greg Lewis with a Service Recognition Pin. (*pictured on page 2*) He has been so generous with his time and skills. His technical ability has been invaluable, especially in bringing church to those who cannot attend, but he is also dedicated to serving the church in many other ways as well. He is patient and kind. It was an honor to recognize him for the wonderful person he is.

We also recognized Michele Evans on Administrative Professionals Day. She is incredibly helpful in so many ways and seems to be the one who keeps us all on track and keeps the church running smoothly. She is efficient, organized and patient. We are all grateful to have her!

Our Three Rivers Healthy Families picnic will be in June at the farm of Mike and Louise Witherspoon. They are looking forward to having us and it is a great place for the kids to have fun.



We will join the United Methodist Men at their Art Sale on June 15th. We will have baked goods for sale, so come shop and keep your energy going with our treats!

Other ladies in the church are welcome to join the CUMW. We are a dedicated, fun group who work together as a family to make great things happen!

Nancy Goldman
CUMW President

May 2024

From Our Finance Chair

The Finance Committee has been working on obtaining access to the funds we had invested with Vanguard. These funds (\$40,000) weren't accessible for a while since the people listed on the account were either deceased or no longer in the area. We filled out the necessary paperwork, obtained access, and withdrew the funds. The money will be invested in a fund with Davenport, similar to, but separate from the Bailey Hudgins Fund. The Finance Committee felt that this was the best option for growth, and at the same time, giving us the liquidity we need.

Our Financial Secretary, Marcia Fry, and our Treasurer, Carolyn Rowe, two of the most dedicated people that we are blessed to have at Central, are working on updating the list of designated funds. This will help the weekly counters and give some guidance to you, the donors. More information about this will be coming.

As always, if you have any questions concerning these or other financial matters, feel free to contact me or another member of the Finance Committee.

Blessings,
Chris Moughon
Finance Chair



Our Sympathy and Prayers to the Families of...

Bobby Fergus
Rachel L. Koffa
Judy Hudgins
Janice South

Christy Haywood Love
Kelsey Latimer

Creation Care in God's World

Take a moment to reflect on this proverb: "*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we have borrowed it from our children.*"

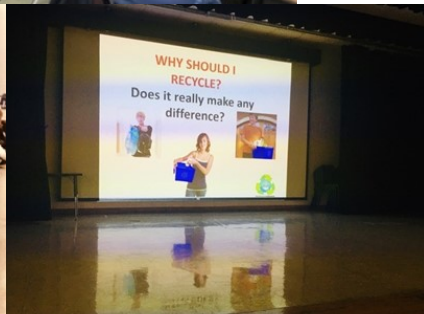
As we face the reality of our world today, we must consider what kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us: What are we passing on to our grandchildren who are just now being born and growing up? Can we inspire these children with their energy, their creative spirit, to care and love God's world, our earth?

That is the main reason that Creation Care Team has spent many years teaching recycling at the public schools and to parents and grandparents.

**Remember when
our Team did
classes in our
Fellowship Hall?**



**Then we started
getting requests
from adult groups
like Homemakers
and Path?**



Now Mathews' public schools invite us to teach recycling to their Science classes.

The land that our churches inhabit is holy land. The seeds we sow—both literally and metaphorically—can flourish into beautiful hubs of life and diversity long after we leave. In a time of climate crisis, our church can be a powerful force of encouraging youth to value our planet.

Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team

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



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>May 2024</h1>			1 Central Village Homemakers 9:00am - 1:00 pm	2 <i>National Day Of Prayer</i>	3	4 May Faire MG Car show, Central Parking lot
5	6	7	8 SPRC 10:00 am	9	10	11
<p>Join us for Worship Sunday services—9:15 a.m. Sunday school—10:15 a.m. Service Live on YouTube</p>			<p>Paul Townsend Memorial class Lunch, Noon at Mathews Grille & Deli</p>			
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> Hospitality Fellowship time after the service	13 Finance 8:30 am	14	15 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	16 Trustees 9:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	17	18 UM Men 8:00 am
19	20	21 UM Women 10:00 am	22 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	23	24	25
	<p><i>Central Chimes Submissions and Administrative Reports</i></p>					
26	27 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	28	29	30	31	
<p><i>Deadline for Grads Info</i></p>				<p>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p>		

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Ed & Michael Cannon 4

