



# 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

November 2020

## From the Pastor's Pen

This extraordinary time has given us an opportunity to examine the following.

### What consists my life?

We fill our days with any number of things—work, friends, family, school, volunteer work, community activities, reading, gardening, etc. And yes, church, scripture, prayer. We lost our footing on some of these dramatically this year. How vulnerable, temporary, or meaningful, have been the building blocks of our life?

*But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Lk. 10:41-42)*

### Who are those with whom I can share a meal?

I have friends and neighbors I went six months face to face without sitting down over a coffee. I am content to meet them over Zoom. My parents and I, on the other hands, have met more frequently. On occasion I sat at table with those who I was reaching out.

*"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, Jesus said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." (Mt. 12:48-50)*

### What consists of my relationship with God?

Our regular contact with the church used to be a big part of our relationship with God. God was there in all those things—in worship, singing,

## Sunday Service on YouTube

Link found at:

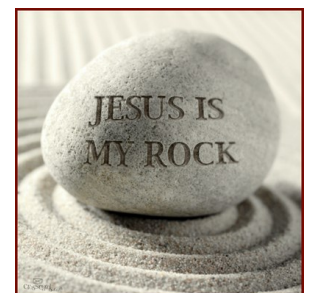
[www.centralumcmathews.org](http://www.centralumcmathews.org)

meetings, meals, studies, services. But we have missed out on them. How is my relationship with God continuing?

*"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." (Mt. 7:24)*

May this be a time of renewal and transformation for us as individuals and as church.

Gratefully,  
*John*



## Hymns & Gospels II

**Sunday, November 1st at 4:00 pm**

Join us once again for a time of joyful music in the field beside the church, presented by John Choi and Grace Mortimer. Park on the paved parking lot. Bring a mask and your own chair.

If you wish to remain in the vehicle, you are welcome to park west of the building.



Hymns & Gospels (Oct. 4th), photos by Michael Cannon



November 2020

Central United Methodist Men's

## Brunswick Stew

**Saturday, November 7th**

**Pick-up time is**

**12:00 Noon to 2:00 pm**

Central United Methodist Church  
Church Street in Mathews Court House



### ***DONATION***

**\$8.00 per Quart**

Proceeds Support Local Church  
& Community Outreach!

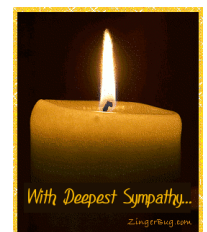
**Reserve yours in advance by  
purchasing tickets from  
any member of the  
Central United Methodist Men or  
purchase at the door while available.  
Call 725-8673, 725-3751 or  
794-4601 today!**



**2020 Charge Conference  
Sunday, November 10,  
via Zoom, 6:30 pm**

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

Rachel Cannon Dukes  
Tom Wallace  
Eugene Jones  
Doris Mikelborough



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## Mission and Evangelism

The Mission and Evangelism Committee met on Oct. 21. A discussion about ways to invite new people to our church developed. It was noted that this was particularly difficult during this period because of the Covid 19 virus, including the fear of transmission and the need for preventative measures, including social distancing and masking.

One suggestion would be initiating a Bible Club at Mathews High School when classes resume full time at the school. Another would involve welcoming new home owners in the county and invite them to worship with us. We can ask Nancy Jagger if there was a central realtor listing of new buyers.

Our recent Prayer Meeting was met with a lot of enthusiasm. Thank you to Pastor John for conducting it. There was a suggestion that we do this on a regular basis.

We received a lot of favorable comments about our recent outdoor hymn concert and requests for an encore. As such, Pastor John and Grace Mortimer have agreed to hold another on November 1 at 4:00. Please bring a chair, wear a mask, and come prepared to enjoy old favorites and contemporary hymns. If you would prefer to remain in your car, there is parking available.

Pastor John received a letter from Donald Paige. In it, Donald said that his family hopes to move to Spain the end of November and that they will be in the States sometime before their move. John asked for more information about their ministry in Spain.

The Church has been supporting the Henry Fork Center. We should let them know of our commitment to them if we plan to continue supporting their ministry.

Mathews County Social Services will once again conduct the Christmas Store and the Shoebox Program. If you would like to participate in these programs, you can volunteer or provide

Continued on page 4



## Shoe Boxes for Christmas

The Mission and Evangelism Team continues its sponsorship of the shoebox ministry for needy children in the Mathews Community. The boxes will be distributed through the Mathews Social Services Christmas Store.

**Bring filled boxes to the fellowship hall by Sunday, December 1st.**

Shoe Box: Use any empty, clean box. Attach a separate piece of paper to the box and label it for a boy or girl and age category: 2-4, 5-6, 7-9 or 10-14 years. Fill with a variety of all **new** items. Wrap in Christmas paper. Pray for the child who will receive the box.

Toy Suggestions: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, playing cards, stickers, puzzles, games, etc.

School Supplies: Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, colored markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, blunt pointed scissors, or regular ones for older children, glue, colored craft paper.

Hygiene Items: Tooth brushes, tooth paste, mild bar soap in wrapper, combs, washcloths, hand towels, and small shampoo.

Other items: Candy appropriate for age of child, T-shirts, socks, gloves, adjustable ball caps, hair clips, jewelry, flash light (extra batteries), Christmas mugs, hot chocolate packets, gift certificates to Hardee's, McDonald's, etc.

Thank you for your support. *M & E Team*



financial support. It is so much fun to fill shoeboxes and imagine the look of delight on a child's face on Christmas morning! If interested in taking part, shoeboxes should be wrapped and at the church by December 5.



Many people have expressed concern as to an appropriate way to provide help in response to the recent natural disasters. A donation to UMCOR is an excellent choice. We will have a church announcement about this.

In spite of all the tragic events associated with this year, we have so very much to be thankful for. Jesus is still Lord, God still reigns, and the Holy Spirit still provides us with comfort. Love never ends.

Let's remember to count our blessings this Thanksgiving. Amen.

*Linda Dalgety*

Mission and Evangelism Chair

### **United Methodist Women - Collection to benefit UMCOR**

The United Methodist Women will be collecting the pull tabs from aluminum cans and canned foods.



The tabs will then be sent to Fox Hill UMW and they in turn will take the tabs to a metal recycling center where they are weighed and converted to cash. The cash is then donated to UMCOR. This is an ongoing effort.

The container is in the Fellowship Hall and any contribution is welcomed.

## **Administrative Council**

I didn't have anything in particular to write about this month, so I decided to share some random thoughts, the kind of thoughts I'm sure we all have from time to time.

I have always thought of November as a month of change, the first of which is the time change back to standard time. While it will be nice for Pat and I to walk our dog, Ollie, in the morning light instead of darkness before Pat heads to school, now we'll have to hustle to get our evening walk done before it gets dark. There are always trade-offs. Another change will be a welcome one--the end of the election season. No matter which side of the political fence you're on, I think we all can agree that it will be nice to be able to watch an hour of TV without 10 to 12 minutes (or more) of campaign ads. The biggest change, I guess, is the weather. The cool temperatures should become the norm instead of the exception with a few actual cold days thrown in there.

November is home to the two most underappreciated holidays, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Veteran's Day is really just an observance, not a holiday. Thanksgiving, instead of standing on its own merits, has become more of the start of the Christmas Season. We can do our part to help right these two wrongs by thanking a veteran every chance we get, not just on Nov. 11, and to give thanks to God every day for all our blessings, not just on Nov. 26.

I'll end my rambling thoughts in the spirit of Thanksgiving by saying thank you to each one of you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Admin Council Chairperson this year.

May God continue to bless you and to bless Central United Methodist church.

*Chris Moughon*

Administrative Council Chair

## Creation Care

### A FEW GOOD STORIES

The news is filled with all the disastrous environmental stories. Creation Care thought it would start to share a few positive environmental stories that don't make the daily news.

#### Shell Pledges \$300 Million to Reforestation



Oil and gas companies are not exactly top of mind when thinking about businesses who give back to the environment, but **Royal Dutch Shell** is at least trying to make a difference. Over the next three years, the massive oil producer will spend **\$300 million** on planting trees and regenerating forests around the world. One such project is to plant more than **5 million trees in Spain and the Netherlands**.

The initiative and others by Shell are aimed to offset the carbon emissions produced when customers consume the fossil fuels that Shell produces.



#### NYC Puts Fighting Climate Change Into Law

New legislation in the Big Apple known as the "**Climate Mobilization Act**" was passed in April to radically change what the city is doing to fight climate change. At the center of the legislation, the bill requires buildings larger than 25,000 square feet to cut their emissions **40% by 2030 and over 80% by 2050!**

This is by far one of the most ambitious efforts by a major metropolis to reduce the impact cities have on climate change. "We are on the precipice of climate disaster, and New York City is acting," City Council Speaker Corey Johnson said in a statement after the bills passed. "I hope other cities follow suit."

*Michael Cannon*  
Creation Care Team



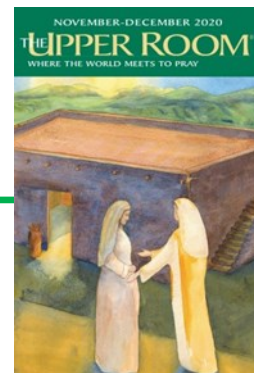
#### **November/December Upper Room**

The Upper Room hard copies will be available next week on the Fellowship hall steps during office hours beginning Nov. 3rd. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Tues, Wed. & Thurs.).

For a digital copy, click here:

[https://destination-site-production.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/URE\\_November-December2020.pdf](https://destination-site-production.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/URE_November-December2020.pdf)

Or email or call the office for a copy to be sent to you.



## United Methodist Women

The Central United Methodist Women did not meet on October. We will meet on November 9th in the Fellowship Hall.

Our two cases of Schermer's pecans are almost gone. If you are interested in purchasing one or more of the remaining bags, please contact Martha Arnold at [marjoe5050@gmail.com](mailto:marjoe5050@gmail.com). Each one pound bag sells for \$11 per bag. The proceeds of this sale will benefit the Wesley Community Service Center (WSCS).

Our future events continue to be determined by the length of time that we are quarantined by COVID-19. At our November meeting we will be looking into ways of how we can help our community as well as how we can continue to stay involved with Three Rivers Healthy Families.

I am extremely proud to announce that our Central United Methodist Women unit has once again been recognized by the York River District UMW for achieving Level III – Gold "Living Into Our Purpose" Certification. In addition, the York River District UMW has awarded us a Six Star Unit Certificate for participating in the Six Channels of Undesignated Giving. Both of these awards represent the highest levels of achievement that can be awarded to a UMW Unit. It is an honor to be the president of our "Small but Mighty" group. Congratulations, CUMW!

Once again, Congratulations to Judy Moughon on receiving the York River District UMW "Lifetime Commitment Award". We are so glad that she belongs to us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Please stay safe.

*Martha Arnold*

UM Women President



## Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Honor or remember someone with a poinsettia on the altar this Christmas.

Please email or mail the following information by November 29th:

The name of the person(s) you wish to give in memory / honor of, and the number of flowers being ordered.

[office@centralumcmathews.org](mailto:office@centralumcmathews.org).

Mail your payment (\$7 each)

to:

PO Box 297, Church St.,  
Mathews, VA 23109



## Special Offering for Disaster Response

Many lives have been affected by the repeated storms in the gulf coast and fires in the west, to name a few.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR - <https://www.facebook.com/UMCOR>) continues to respond. During the month of November Central Church will receive special offerings towards the UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response Fund.

Please mark your gift as "UMCOR."

Thank you.



## Finance Committee

Dear Church Members,

Through all the trials and tribulations during the Covid pandemic, we are very much current on our core budget projections. Your commitment to your church and its responsibility to you, our community, and its mission is so impressive. You should be very proud!

As we do every fall prior to Christmas, would each of you please check your financial position and increase your giving so that we may make Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate. A good number of our citizens who, even in good times are hard pressed, find themselves ever more strapped with diminished assets. Poverty does not take a holiday nor does God's commitment to his people.

*Tim Hill*  
Finance Chair

## Hands Across Mathews

The community is grateful to Central church for its continued support.

Food donations are important, but so are household items not covered by SNAP. Paper towels, dishwashing liquid, tooth paste and toothbrushes, soap, and shampoo, etc. are also appreciated.

*Louise Witherspoon*



## Staff-Parish Relations Committee

The committee met this month via zoom. The proposed employees Policies and Procedures for Covid 19 will be presented to the Administrative Council for approval.

The committee will meet in November and discuss the committee's responsibilities:

- 2021 church goals
- the January appointment review process (due January 10)
- long range pastor/staff continuing education
- SPRC self-evaluation
- clergy CEUs

We will approach these responsibilities as though life is "normal".

*Patty Hertzler*  
SPRC



## Mathews Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 1st

2:00 to 7:00 pm

Piankatank Ruritan Building

Must Call for appointment

at 804-725-2485 or go to

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

Check website often to see if your time is available.



**October 27, 2020**

**Prayer and Fasting for the Healing of the Nation**

Dear Virginia Annual Conference,

As I type this letter, I write it with an urgency to call the entire conference to join me and the Call to Action Work Group for Racial Justice and Reconciliation for a three day period of “Prayer and Fasting for the Healing of the Nation” from **October 31 - November 2, 2020** from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

I encourage everyone to commit to fasting and praying during these three days that we might be more aware of Christ’s presence in our personal lives, the Commonwealth, and the nation. Prayer is essential to sustain our faith and fasting calls us to refocus our attention and listen for God.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

We can no longer pretend and turn a blind eye that our nation is in the midst of trouble. We are witnessing the tension between party lines coupled with our anger that governs our speech. We are fighting two pandemics—COVID-19 and systemic racism— that have taken the lives of individuals and forced us into a world of pain and suffering.

How are we as Christians called to act in this unprecedented time? How are we as Christians called to live out our civic duties? I believe God is calling us to a time for deeper soul searching, reflection, and repentance that leads us to daily prayer and fasting. Our *United Methodist Church Social Principles* state, “we hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of people to free and fair elections.” I encourage all of you in the Commonwealth to exercise your right to vote as we seek God’s direction for our country.



In the designated twelve-hour period, I encourage you to pray, fast, and spend time with God. You may choose a total, water, partial or juice fast. Please fast only if your 2 health allows it at this time. If you can’t restrict your food or liquid intake abstain from something else – like social media, watching television, fast foods, desserts, etc.

I pray as an annual conference we will experience the power and presence of God in an extraordinary way as we commit ourselves from October 31 to November 2, 2020 to pray for the healing of the nation.

Peace and Blessings,  
*Bishop Sharma D. Lewis*





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <b>All Saints Sunday</b>  Hymns & Gospels 4:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6	7 Brunswick Stew sale 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm
8	9 UM Women 10:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm	10 Charge Conference 6:30 pm on Zoom	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>   Finance 7:00 pm	12	13	14
15	16 Healthy Church Team 3:00 pm  Trustees 7:00 pm	17	18 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	19	20	21 UM Men 8:00 am
<b>Sunday School classes</b> Paul Townsend Mem. Class, Fellowship Hall, 10:15 am Faith in the Now & Nancy Wroten classes, via Zoom, 10:30 am			<i>All meeting times &amp; dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</i>			
22 <i>Central Chimes Submissions Due</i>	23	24	25	26 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Office Closed 	27	28
29 <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>  <i>Poinsettia Deadline</i>	30	<h1>November 2020</h1>				

### Birthdays

Peggy Leigh	9	Emily Lewis	16
Tom Tucker	11	Jimmy Stewart	18
Gabrielle Lewis	13	Leeah Taylor	20
Grace Mortimer	14	Leigh Lewis	29
Melba Houser	15	Ken Palmer	30
Ron Bowman	15		

