



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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October 2023

From the Pastor's Pen

I was planning on writing this last week. There was a big storm coming up the coast and here I was in it's direct path. Not only could it affect me, but my son, cats, and each of you! I had not been this close to the impact zone (if you will) of an impending tropical storm before. I came here from the Northern Neck but in the scheme of things, I was hunkered down during storms well inland. It was a journey last week. I found myself in full anticipation mode! I would look forward to the local weather reports, I would look at the sky to notice any change indicative of a brewing tropical storm. I recall there were some winds that arrived on Wednesday or Thursday. I felt as though I needed to prepare. I didn't know what that meant this time around, however.

You see, I was now in a new location which just happens to be close to the water. I recall during my SPRC, ZOOM Meet Your Pastor meeting, someone saying "in Mathews, you are never far from water!" It was being presented on all fronts as a substantial storm. One thing I noticed was that few longtime residents of Mathews seemed bothered at all. Last week it rarely came up in conversation as I spoke with some of you and out in the community it wasn't even spoken about. It got me to thinking. Should I be concerned about this? Where am I located in relation to water? How much preparation should I be doing, if any? For those with us in worship this past Sunday, you know I ended up going to Food Lion on Friday. Need I say more? There were more people there than I have ever seen. It was very busy!

The rains and winds came and the power

Join us on Sundays!

Sunday Worship—9:15 a.m.

Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

[Live stream on YouTube](#)

stayed on for most of us. There were a few dock boards that were washed away and some on the water had a little damage but Ophelia wasn't that bad of a storm for us.

We are faced with storms in this life more than we'd like to admit. From the moment we are born, we are aging. We go through some storms of life where our aging process is more prominent. We try to prepare the best we can but are not certain if we've planned enough. Sometimes, we find ourselves preparing for the storm of uncertainty. We know that things seem to be changing and we aren't sure of the direction or how it may impact us. We face storms that we can't explain, expect or control and we are left to wonder.

In John's gospel, Chapter 16, verse 33 we read "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!" What exactly are "these things?" Turn with me back to John 16. I invite you to read it from the beginning. Let us be reminded in these ever changing, storm filled times that yes we indeed may grieve, even anticipatory grief but it doesn't have the final word! Praise God! Whatever the storm, even though we grieve we will experience joy and in Jesus, we have peace!



Praying For You,
Pastor Rebecca

Rise to the Challenge

I wanted to share some information with you about Rise Against Hunger. I wanted to let you know that your efforts to support this worthwhile event will make an impact on the lives of people around the globe.

The literature reads: "By packaging nutritious meals, responding to crisis, or supporting a sustainable initiative, you are making a real difference for the 720+million (emphasis added) people who experience hunger on a daily basis. In their literature, they also provide a weekly hunger reflection study guide which references passages of the Bible that speak to feeding the hungry.

One passage from Isaiah stood out to me and made me think of our congregation.

Isaiah 58:10 . . . and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. NIV

The model that this organization uses to feed the hungry seems to bypass bureaucracy and go straight to the people who need assistance. Plus, the spirit of giving that motivates this church gives comfort to all of us when we make it happen. It is a great combination. We feel fulfilled when we help others as God has directed us. You will not regret your time or money donated to this worthy cause. The numbers are overwhelming, but the effort will be felt.

When our Mission and Evangelism team comes calling on you, be open to helping them meet their goals.

Blessings,

Dee Bane

Administrative Council Chair



October Mission Focus: Rise Against Hunger

From droughts to floods, conflict zones to transitioning political situation's, food is often the most immediate need. When every day access to food is destroyed because of emergencies, Rise against Hunger (RAH) is there to help address those needs. They try to make sure the food is received by communities where it is needed most.

But the Rise against Hunger organization can't do it by themselves. They need our help; and we can help by holding another packaging event such as we did a couple of years ago. The Mission and Evangelism committee plans to host another meal packaging party on November 19.

In addition to your financial assistance, we will need your help with packaging the meals.

Will you please pray and ask God how He wants you to participate and partner with us? Will you Rise to the Challenge?

See below for how to sign-up to help!

Linda Dalgety,

Mission and Evangelism chair

Rise Against Hunger Sign-up Sheet

There is a volunteers sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the Rise Against Hunger event planned Sunday, November 19. This will be a fun time that will bless many people! Note a special need for at least 6 strong hands to set up at 11:30 am that day. More hands needed for packaging that begins at 1:00 pm.

Many hands make light work!



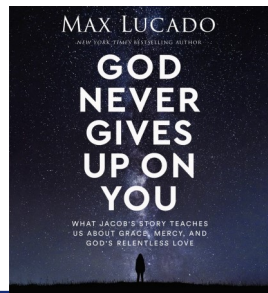
2019 Rise Against
Hunger packing event

God Never Gives Up On You! New 5-Week Bible Study

God Never Gives Up On You! Max Lucado reminds us of this great truth! Please plan now to join Pastor Rebecca for this 5 week Bible Study that will begin on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00p.m. I will be offering a day class as well as an evening class so you may come to the one most convenient for you! The same study will be offered on Wednesdays each week at 1:00p.m. beginning October 11.

Over the course of five weeks we will dive into God's Word and see "what Jacob's story teaches us about grace, mercy and God's relentless love." Max Lucado

Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested so she may order enough books. The cost of the study is \$19.79 for the book. Let us journey together and for such a time as this, be reminded that indeed God never gives up on us!



UM Men Give to Worthy Causes

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, September 16, ending our summer break. James Martin treated us to a wonderful breakfast, with some assistance from David Hudgins, to get our fall started off on the right foot. Eleven members were present.

We discussed what to do with our profits of about \$1000 from the June yard sale. We already sent \$250 to the Backpack Program in August as previously decided. After some discussion, we decided to give \$250 to TMS Global, which was Central's September Mission Focus for the Paiges. We then decided to try to fund all the same charities that we have in the past year. Our treasurer, Steve Eley, will furnish us a list at our next meeting so we don't leave anybody out. We'll distribute our donations before the end of the year.

Our next meeting will be October 21, at 8am. It is hoped that we have a large turnout in order to discuss how to distribute our donations to these worthy causes.

Chris Moughon,
CUMM President



**Paul Townsend Memorial Sunday school class
next Luncheon and meeting is on October 12
at 12:00 Noon at Central.**

Members of Paul Townsend Memorial
Sunday school class pictured above.
(Photo by Bev Childress)



**World Communion Sunday
is October 1st**

Donations will be collected during the month of October, for those who feel led to give. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or donations can be mailed to the church office.

Your generosity provides scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development.

[\(Click here for more info\)](#)

UM Women Hosted Annual Birthday Lunch

The CUMW met on September 11th in the Fellowship Hall. There were 11 members present.

A prayer was read in remembrance of the victims of September 11th, 2001, and a moment of silence was observed.

Preparations were finalized for our Annual Birthday Luncheon which was held on September 24th. Everyone was invited to partake in the bountiful offerings which included fried chicken and many delicious side dishes prepared by our congregation. For dessert we had birthday cake as well as some other sweet offerings. Charles lit the candles, and we sang Happy Birthday as he blew them out. (pictured below, photo by Bev Childress)



As in the past, there were 12 tables, one for each month of the year. Everyone was invited to grab their food and sit at the table designated for their birth month. There was some shifting of tables going on because in some cases there was not a full table for each month, but all was well. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to sit with folks who they may not have previously visited with. The chicken was a near thing but although Food Lion prepared it, I am sure God had a hand in making sure it was provided!

We voted to order new Central United Methodist Women aprons. There are a few existing aprons but now that we have new members, we need to have several on hand to wear when we have special events.

We will be attending the Mission Rivers District Annual Meeting on September 30th via Zoom. Details to follow.

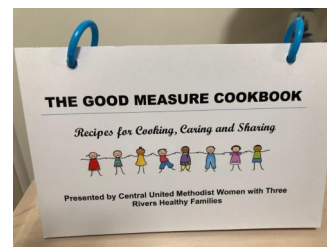
Our next event is our Three Rivers Healthy Families Thanksgiving luncheon on November 3rd. We will make plans at our next meeting.

We continue our monthly \$50 donation to the organizations that are chosen by the Mission and Evangelism Team. In addition, we voted to send \$200 to Andrew Soon Lee and his wife, Janice who are missionaries serving in Cambodia.

WE CONTINUE WITH THIS URGENT APPEAL!

Hands Across Mathews is still 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,
CUMW President

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

Audrey R. Mitchem (Knight)



Blessings of Hat, Blankets, and Crayon Boxes

All items this year will be donated to children who are cancer patients at Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters (CHKD).



Dee Bane, Phyllis Hudgins, Anne South and Nancy Goldman with the display. (l to r)
(photo by Dee Bane)

2022-2023 Contributors:

Martha Arnold—donated yarn
Janet Bowman—donated yarn
Peggy Leigh—made & donated 10 hats
Mark & Brenda Lewis—donated yarn
Grace Mortimer—made 8 crayon boxes
Jill Moughon—donated yarn
Mathews Baptist church—donated yarn, delivered by Janet Bowman
Patty Hertzler—made 6 blankets and 4 hats

~Many Thanks, *Anne South*

*"The things you do for yourself, they are gone when you are gone;
but the things you do for others, become your legacy."*

Special thanks go to Phyllis Hudgins and Nancy Goldman for their artful display of these beautiful handmade items and Thanks to Patty and Hal Hertzler for transporting them to the church.

As always, Many thanks go to Anne South for her many years of service in this remarkable ministry that blesses countless people. ~Dee Bane

Generous contributions have made possible:

30 crayon boxes, 30 coloring books, 111 hats,
52 blankets and 30 boxes of 24 crayons

Anyone wishing to help with this worthy ongoing project by knitting, crocheting, making crayon boxes, or contributing to the purchase of material, please call Dee Bane at 757-788-9713



September Events

Birthday Luncheon (9/24)



Photos by
Bev Childress



Knitting Display (9/24)



Photo by Dee Bane



Photo by Bev Childress



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>October 2023</h1>				 October is <i>Pastor Appreciation Month</i>		
1 World Communion Sunday  Service, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am	2	3	4 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	5	6	7
All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.						
8 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am	9 Finance 8:30 am	10 Bible Study 7:00 pm	11 SPRC 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Trustees 3:00 pm	12 Paul Townsend Mem. Class Lunch, Noon Choir 7:00 pm	13	14 UM Men 8:00 am
15 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am (Choir sings)	16	17 Bible Study 7:00 pm	18 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm	19 Trustees 2:00 pm	20	21
22 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am <i>Central Chimes Submissions Due</i>	23 UM Women 10:00 am	24 Bible Study 7:00 pm	25 Bible Study 1:00 pm Administrative Council 7:00 pm	26	27	28
29 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am	30	31 Bible Study 7:00 pm				
						2023 Charge Conference Saturday, November 4 1:00 p.m., Lower UMC

Birthdays

Kate Small	5	John Lee Callis	18	Soles Small	23
Marilyn Tucker	9	Pat Gwaltney	20	Patty Hertzler	27
Craig Small	13	Nate Houser	21	Allen Moughon	30
Gerald Taylor	14	Peggy Pierce	23		

Anniversaries

David & Nancy Goldman	23
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