



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109
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Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

United Methodist Men Hotline

The **HOTLINE** contacts: – please put the numbers someplace you can get to quickly if needed:

Nate Houser [804-380-7820](tel:804-380-7820)

Steve Leap [804-794-4601](tel:804-794-4601)

Ben Leigh [804-725-3883](tel:804-725-3883)

For possible stopgap measures until a qualified professional gets there to resolve the issue. A few examples:

–You have an important appointment in Gloucester and you discover that your car won't start or you have a flat tire and need a ride.

–You are temporarily homebound and need someone to send and/or pick up your mail, groceries, or pharmacy.

–You have a tree limb down across your driveway or snow piled up and cannot get out

–Your well pump is broken or you have a pipe leaking and you need containers of water or assistance until a plumber can get there to resolve the problem.

From the Pastor's Pen

"On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the Hades will not prevail against it." (Mt. 16:18)

Years ago during my travel to Israel I visit many of the historic biblical sites. They included places that were prominent in Jesus' life: Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Capernaum, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, to name but a few. And I marveled at how Christianity had grown from one man who once walked upon those dusty roads (Jesus of course did not stand apart from tradition; he was the culmination of God's grace that began with creation and continued with the law and the prophets).

The church have existed, and now exist, in many forms. For centuries they were gatherings at someone's house and in catacombs. They had cathedrals with spires and log cabins for Sunday Schools. In places of persecution many were and now are incarcerated. Songs and traditions are different just between denominations, let alone language and culture. But one real foundation they share is none other than Jesus Christ himself.

By the grace of God, Central United Methodist Church will continue to be about Jesus Christ. We must focus on the essentials these days, and if we focus on Christ, our offerings of five bread loaves and two fish will share life with many.

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One way we share the life of Jesus is simply remembering his commandment: "Love one another." On the night of his arrest Jesus gave his disciples two directives: "Abide in me," and "Love one another." As the Spirit leads you, connect with two persons each week in addition to your ordinary, regular contacts. You will be a channel of God's blessing, and you will be blessed.

In Christ you are known, loved, and remembered.

Gratefully,
John

CWTEW (Connect with Two Each Week)



Service of Prayer

Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 pm

Live-streamed on the church
YouTube channel

Join us as we prayer for our
communities and for one another.

Virginia Annual Conference

The Annual Conference will be held virtually, by Zoom, on Saturday, September 19



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

- Joe Lewis
- Virginia Kerns
- Doug Ashberry
- Albert Foster
- Lois Hudgins
- Wanggyun Kim



Finance Committee

I hope all of you are well and remaining as healthy as possible. Thanks again for all your generosity as the Church remains on sound financial footing. Some normal expenses are not being incurred for obvious reasons, while others may expand as our position in the community dictates. Each of us needs to keep an eye out for those people or organizations in need within our own community that, because of the pandemic, need our support. Please stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Hill,
Finance Chair

Attention All Committee Chairpersons:

It's that time of year again when each of you need to assess your needs for the coming year.

Please submit your **budget requests for 2021** to me either through the church office or at my email: Tim.Hill@longandfoster.com or mail to me at 1046 New Point Comfort Hwy, Mathews 23109.

Please, when you read this, simply sit right down and attend to it so I won't have to hound you! Deadline will be Tuesday, September 15. Many thanks!

Stay safe,
Tim Hill
Chair, Finance Committee



**Knitting Display for Peninsula Cancer Institute & CHKD & Sons - Gloucester
September 13th**

Items for the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters and Sons and the Peninsula Cancer Institute will be on display in the sanctuary Sunday, September 13th.

Please take the time to view the display and, as you do, say a prayer for the baby, child or cancer patient who will receive them.

Generous contributions have made possible:

48 crayon boxes	211 hats
48 coloring books	97 blankets
48 boxes of 24 crayons	

The following were delivered to family or friends:

12 hats
2 blankets
2 crayon boxes with color book and crayons

Special thanks to *Janet Bowman* and *Grace Mortimer* for this display, and *Pastor John* and *David Hudgins* for bringing the items to church for display on Sunday, September 13, 2020 and then loading my car for delivery on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Many Thanks, Anne South



Give the Gift of Life!

Mathews Community Blood Drive
Tuesday, September 15,
2:00 -7:00 pm
Piankatank Ruritan Building
Must call for an appointment
at 804-725-2485 or go to
redcrossblood.org

Check the website often to see if your time becomes available. Temperatures will be checked upon arrival and masks and sanitizer will be provided.



2019
Display

Contributors:

Kitty Arnold, New Jersey	donated yarn, crocheted 11 blankets, & 26 hats
Martha Arnold	donated yarn
Janet Bowman	donated yarn
Central UM Women	donated \$50
Pastor John Choi	donated yarn
Louise Owens Diggs	crocheted 29 blankets
Ronald Gauthier	donated yarn & needles
Patty Hertzler	crocheted 2 blankets
Melba & Nate Houser	donated yarn & needles
Nancy Jagger	donated \$25 Michaels gift card
Lois Faye Jenkins	donated yarn
Peggy Leigh	made 29 hats
Mildred Lockwood	crocheted 8 blankets
Mathews Baptist church, Hudgins	donated yarn
Judy Moughon	writes beautiful thank you notes to non-Central members
Karen Palmer	made & donated a blanket
Mary Wade Smith	donated \$20
Anne South	knit 47 blankets, 156 hats & made 45 crayon boxes
Norma Turner	made & donated 3 crayon boxes
W.M.U. of Mathews Baptist church	donated \$100 for yarn purchased by Janet Bowman
Cheryl Wheeler	donated \$30

Administrative Council

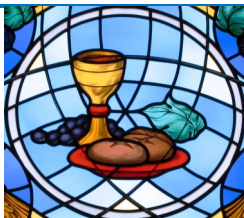
If anyone thinks our pastor hasn't been working hard just because things aren't back to normal yet at church, then they are quite mistaken. He has had to step up in many ways since this whole thing started. For example, John and I just got together this afternoon to count the offerings that you all so generously continue to send into the church. We usually do this every other week. Most committee meetings have continued via Zoom the last several months. John has to set up and send out the links for each meeting to every member of the committee, and then, of course, be available to participate in the meeting when the time comes. He also is in contact often with the conference and district as he tries to decipher their ever-changing directives. Then he reports the info to the Healthy Church Team, which is an additional meeting for him. On top of that, he acts as recording secretary and sends out minutes for the Team as well as the Finance Committee. And don't forget the extra hoops he has to jump through just to have an on-line service and an in-person service. Good thing he's as tech-savvy as he is, or we would never be able to pull all this off. John has just started the process of contacting members who we have lost touch with the last few months. Oh yeah, there's also the weekly newsletter and monthly Chimes.

As you can see, John has and continues to keep the ball rolling. Yes, we are truly blessed to have him, and I hope that every one of us takes a moment to tell him how much he is appreciated!

Chris Moughon

Administrative Council Chair

**World Communion Sunday
is October 4, 2019**



WATCH FOR THE BIG TENT!!!

September 27th - October 2nd

**Gates open at 5:30PM, services begin at 7PM
and will conclude around 8:30PM**

Churches are coming together as the Body of Christ in the field in front of the Moose Lodge. (Rt. 17, Gloucester) Bring a chair or blanket.

If you want to feel safe by staying in your car, the Revival will be simulcast on FM 102.3 or AM 1420.

Praise and Worship

Testimonials

Presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6

Good News Gloucester
7319 Martin Street, Suite 2
Gloucester, VA 23061

www.GoodNewsGloucester.com

Mission and Evangelism

There were Spirit filled discussions about the community of God at our August 19th meeting.

It was noted that the *Good News Pantry* at our church is fully stocked. This pantry is open to anyone in need- you don't have to be a member of our church. You do not need an appointment. The pantry box is located at the upper corner of the paved parking lot. During this time, many people are out of work and money is tight. Please help pass along the word about our Food Pantry so that those who

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September 2020

are in need can avail themselves. Nancy Jagger is going to periodically check the box to make sure it is good condition.

It was noted that many of us had received a phone call from a church member just checking on us. As a group, we felt while this was nice, but we would like to do more.

During this period of the coronavirus, we have been asked to stay at home and if we do see others, to socially distance and not congregate in groups larger than ten. For many people, this has led to increased loneliness and to less caring for others. Those whom have a medical condition that makes them more susceptible to the virus are particularly feeling the effects of social isolation. Children, too, have noted that friendships are different now! Betty Stewart noted that she had recently attended the birthday celebrations for one of her great grandsons. It was very different from past celebrations. There were only adults at the party; no young friends were there to help him celebrate, no children playing games and running around. Betty remarked it really tore at her heart strings.

It doesn't matter how technologically sophisticated we are. Being connected emotionally is an essential part of being human. We still need each other! This need is essential to our psychological existence.

So how can we, as a congregation, help each other? We ask each of us to make two phone calls a week. Go to your church directory and chose someone that you don't know very well and call them. Just chat for a few minutes. Maybe make a new friend. You'll brighten someone's day.

We also discussed that our country is in turmoil- the wildfires in California have displaced hundreds of people, racial tensions are high, rioting is prevalent across the land, and we are in the midst of a pandemic! What can we do to restore our country?

It was suggested that we hold a day of prayer. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people who are

called by my name would humble themselves, would pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and restore their land."

This was truly a meeting that was influenced by the Holy Spirit.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair

Creation Care



Household Chemical and Computer Recycling went well and there was a good turnout, many from Central. The staff and the chemical contractors took extra precautions at the drop off event ensuring that residents did not have to leave their vehicles during the process. There were a total of **111 vehicles** that came to recycle materials which is really good, considering the current pandemic. VPPSA thanks us for spreading the word especially about the change of location.

The new recycling of plastic with a #1 or #2 at our Convenient Center (The Dump) is also going extremely well! VPPSA stated that their drivers are taking pictures of the materials as they **unload at the new processing plant** and there is very little contamination from plastics #3 -- #7. Again, they are thankful for Central's Creation Care for spreading the news, especially at the schools!



Michael Cannon

Creation Care Team



United Methodist Women

The Central United Methodist Women will meet on Monday, September 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Social Distancing will be observed and masks are required.

Our future events continue to be determined by the length of time that we are quarantined by COVID-19. Since this year the Annual Conference will be Virtual, we are collecting monetary donations for the UMCOR School Kits instead of collecting actual supplies. Each Kit cost \$11.00. We have committed to making a donation to UMCOR for at least 30 kits. We are once again asking for your support. Thus far, we have received donations to cover about half of the kits and are hoping for more. If you would like to donate to the School Kits, please send a check made out to CUMW either to the church office or to *Dee Bane, 53 Fleetwood Circle, Moon, VA 23119*. Our final date for collection will be our September 14th meeting.



We have ordered two cases of the Schermer's pecans; each case consists of 24 one pound bags which sell for \$11 per bag. The proceeds of this sale will benefit the Wesley Community Service Center (WSCS). The pecans are being harvested now and should be available in early September. We are offering them for sale to the congregation. If you are interested in purchasing the pecans, please contact Martha Arnold at marjoe5050@gmail.com. We will announce the arrival of the pecans in the Weekly News.

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

Martha Arnold,
CUMW President

United Methodist Men

Central UMM met August 15th in the social hall. We practiced social distancing and all wore face masks. There were several decisions made that will affect our financial performance for the year.

First, the bad news - we decided to have no shrimp dinner in 2020 due to the Covid19 Virus. We could not have a sit down dinner in our crowded dining areas and, although "take-out only" sounded possible, we could not assure our ability to cook shrimp, hush puppies and man the serving line while maintaining social distancing. There were other factors as well but these were the main reasons.

Now some good news. We have decided that we can have our Brunswick Stew and set a date of Saturday, November 7th. We are planning to once again cook two pots of stew which will yield about 115+ quarts. We are hopeful that the community and church family will consume all that we can make!

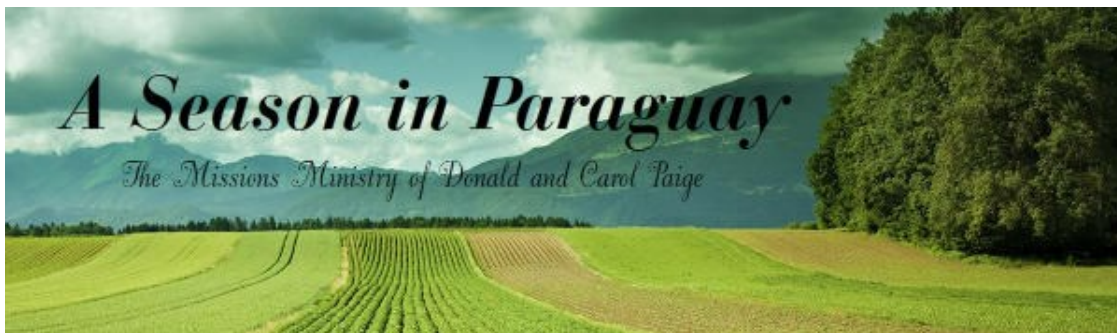
CUMM will not meet in September We will meet in October (17th) to plan for the Brunswick Stew execution. In our November 21st meeting we will disburse what funds we have to those charities we customarily support. Additionally, we will vote on a new slate of officers for the 2021 year.

Stay Safe and Stay Happy.

Blessings,
Steve Leap
CUMM President



Photo by John Choi



A Paige Family Update:

We ended our last newsletter with these words: *"We are trusting in the Lord for His guidance and provision. As we step out in obedience, He is faithfully opening doors in Spain and directing our paths."*

Four months later we are still in Paraguay, but this is still true.

Paraguayan borders have been closed since March 14th with no definite date for reopening. School campuses closed at the same time with online-schooling projected until December. Government offices in both Spain and Paraguay have also been closed, and are slowly beginning to reopen. This means we are stuck in Paraguay until paperwork can be done for our visas and flights resume.

This has been a disappointment, but we have also experienced it as a blessing. Paraguay still has relatively few cases of COVID-19 as compared to both the U.S. and Spain. Living in the apartments on the closed school grounds has also given Cora and Daniel a safe place to play and socialize with the other families living here.

The shutting down of churches and schools has also provided us with more family time. Balancing life in a small apartment that has become both office and school room has been stressful and hectic. However, the added benefit of working closely with our children and sowing deeper into their lives by far outweighs the inconveniences.

Quarantine Life

There was no grocery store mayhem or toilet paper shortage around here. The quarantine has been strictly enforced and the general population has been compliant. The strict shutdown has kept the virus from spreading quickly, but the livelihood of many has been negatively impacted.

At the school, several families are unable to pay the tuition.

At our church, many cannot afford a decent meal.

As a Christian school, we are taking this opportunity to reach beyond academics and minister to our families' emotional, spiritual, and economic needs.

As a church body, we are keeping people connected through virtual services and small groups and delivering provisions to those in need.

As We Wait . . .

Carol:

With the shutdown, she has continued to serve Asuncion Christian Academy as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and covering the vacant Secondary Principal position.

She finished her coursework in May with a 4.0 GPA, and is officially in the dissertation phase of her Ph.D.

She has maintained contact with Life International School in Spain and is providing some curriculum help.

LIFE still has a need for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. If you or someone you know is interested, let us know. This video shows more of what the school is like:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oa73d4wlcgk&feature=youtu.be>.

Donald:

The decrease in church activities has allowed Donald to support Daniel in his online schooling during the day.

He has also been freed to attend a weekly virtual Bible study at our home church, New Town UMC.

In the afternoons he has been connecting with our ministry partners, raising new support, and making preparations for Spain.



Looking Toward Spain

Many people have asked us in light of current circumstances if we are still going to Spain. The answer is a resounding, YES!

Right now we are taking it a day at a time as we wait for government offices to open to complete visa requirements. We are also monitoring travel restrictions and COVID-19 status in the United States and Spain.

Please pray:

That we find favor in the eyes of men in Paraguay and Spain during our visa process

For the timing of our arrival in Spain.

About partnering with us financially to reach Spanish children and their families for Christ during this critical time in history.

Our current needs are:

New Laptop Computers - Our current ones are 5 and 8 years old and are showing their age!

Monthly Support - people and churches willing to partner with us for a year or more

Set-Up Costs - one-time gifts to help us in our transition (to put toward plane tickets, visa fees, furniture, rental deposit, etc.)

Car Fund - one-time gifts to help us purchase a vehicle in Spain (already provided!)

To donate go to:

www.tms-global.org/give

Our Missionary ID # is: 0480

Your contribution will help us reach generations for Christ!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>September 2020</h1>						
6	7 Labor Day	8	9 Service of Prayer 7:00 pm	10	11	12
13 Knitting Display for CHKD & PCI Cancer Patients  pixabay.com	14 UM Women 10:00 am Healthy Church Team 3:00 pm	15 Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan Club 2:00 - 7:00pm 	16 Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am Finance 7:00 pm	17	18	19 VA Annual Conference via Zoom
20 Central Chimes & Report Submissions Due	21 Trustees 7:00 pm	22 York River District Conference via Zoom 7:00 pm	23 First Day of Fall  Administrative Council 7:00 pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
<p>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p>						

Birthdays

Judy Haynes	1	Mildred Stillman	10
Carey Hogge	2	Ben Leigh	11
Cheryl Wheeler	2	Jim Dalgety	24
June Hudgins	4	Randy Miles	30
Chris Moughon	9		

Anniversaries

Tom & Marilyn Tucker	7	John & Sherry Hodges	21
Hal & Patty Hertzler	9	Jerry & Nancy Jagger	24
Mark & Brenda Lewis	12	Greg & Leigh Lewis	27
Billy & Shirley Snow	19		