



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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August 2024

Pastor's Ponderings

Christian author Elizabeth Braswell recently wrote the following:

"If we're looking at the world through a lens of offense and not a lens of love, then we haven't fully grasped the gospel or the heart of God. If we're looking at others with disdain instead of compassion for their souls, we haven't fully grasped the gospel or the heart of God. If we spout off our opinion easily and quickly then we aren't exhibiting the fruit of the spirit, but rather, the fruit of the flesh. There's a ton of stuff going on that makes you wonder. There's a reason every time you turn around to shake your head. But, if we want to align with God's heart, we will have more compassion for those who are lost, not less."



Her words have stuck with me since they were shared with me this week. What lens are we looking at the world through; offense or love? Are we looking at

others with disdain or with compassion for their souls? Are we speaking our opinions or are we exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit?

The Apostle Paul writes to the church at Galatia (which found itself in the midst of difficult days) about the fruits of the Spirit. He says in Galatians 5:22

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Join us for Worship!

Sunday Worship—9:15 a.m.
Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

[Live stream on YouTube](#)



Central Church Annual Picnic August 11, 5:00 pm

Our Annual Church Picnic will be on August 11, 5:00 pm at the church parsonage under the big shade tree.

Bring a dish to share. Fried chicken and drinks provided with Homemade ice cream!

All are welcome...Invite family & friends!

Don't miss a great time of fellowship!

Sponsored by Nancy Wroten Mem. / Faith in the Now SS class.



This is how we as Christians should live! Even in these surely complex times. We daily, must choose how we will live.

Jesus says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets".
Matthew 7:12

It's worth pondering!

Praying For You,
Pastor Rebecca

United Methodist Women Present Award

Yikes! It's been a hot month! I love summer, I love the sunshine, but I also am grateful for the air conditioner!

The CUMW did not meet formally this month, but we have been busy.

We watered and maintained the Witherspoon garden which is flourishing. We have tomatoes, radishes, green peppers, squash, okra and herbs. The work of many hands created this garden from weeds, and we helped it grow to produce vegetables for Louise and Mike to enjoy.



We celebrated July 4th by giving congregation members American flags and patriotic pens. We hope everyone enjoyed them and had a wonderful and safe holiday.

It was an honor to present Brenda and Mark Lewis with Recognition Pins and certifications. They quietly go about meeting many of the needs of the church. They are humble, dependable and give generously of their time. They are kind, welcoming and don't hesitate to help others in need. They are truly a gift to Central.



Mark and Brenda Lewis pictured on the left are presented with Recognition Pins and certificates by members of the UM Women with Pastor Rebecca.

(photo by Michael Cannon)

Several of us visited Anne South. We picked up her favorite Subway sandwich and had lunch together. It was a joy to see her and spend time together. She is a special lady!

Next month we will resume our monthly meetings to begin planning activities for the rest of the year as we focus on the needs of the Church and the community.

Stay cool but still enjoy the gifts summer can bring!

Nancy Goldman
CUMW President

Photo by Martha Arnold



Mission and Evangelism Upcoming Events

First of all, we'd like to thank you so very much for your generous support of our Christmas in July program. Social Services will receive your cash donations as well as toasters, bedding, assorted clothing, diapers, and assorted toys. Can you believe 6 bicycles were donated? You are an awesome group of people who will ensure many families in our community will have a very Merry Christmas.



We all enjoyed the beautiful Christmas decorations, the cool temperatures in the Fellowship Hall that allowed us to enjoy a delicious holiday dinner, Christmas carols, and a reading of the real Christmas story. Thank you to everyone who participated in this wonderful evening, including committee members Betty, Judy, Nancy, Gloria, and Ruth Ann; to John (new committee member) and Merle for music and caroling; and to Pastor Rebecca for asking the blessing and reading Scripture. And for everyone who gave gifts from their heart.

If you have not made your donation, we will still be accepting donations through the end of July. Again, thank you!

We will suggest to the Admin Council that Avalon be our August Mission Focus.



The Mathews Fire Department, will be our Business Focus for August. They will be the recipient

of a tasty treat from the M&E committee to show our appreciation for all the good they do for our community.

At an informal meeting, we voted to adopt a local family for our "Second Mile" program. Remember how Christ said "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them a second mile." By doing so, His disciples would be reflecting the very character of Christ. This is an opportunity for us to also reflect His character by assisting people going through extraordinary circumstances. For example, a family driving to Richmond weekly for medical help may receive a gift card for gas for their car.

If any of you aware of someone in the community going through circumstances that need a little extra help, please let a member of our community know.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair



**Christmas
In July**

All photos by
Linda Dalgety



Christmas in July (7/17)



Photos by Linda Dalgety

The Paige Family

For updates on our covenant Missionaries, [The Paige Family](http://the-paige-family.epistle.org). Please click on the following link:
<http://the-paige-family.epistle.org>



Left to Right— Daniel, Donald, Carol and Cora Paige

From Administrative Council Chair

We all can recite the golden rule "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This comes with the reminder that we should treat others with love and kindness. Luke 6:35 says "Love your enemies, do good with them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

Those few words are a tall order. We are human, we have moments when that desire to be kind lapses -- and the need to fight back is overwhelming. How do you know when to protect yourself or turn the other cheek? Remember Luke's words.

God created each of us; poor and rich alike. He has given us so much that we do not deserve. If we always remembered this, we would take time to appreciate the great and the small. We would live in wonder of the community that Christ has given us, the good and not so good, hoping always to eventually link arms in joy and victory. We make a great team because of who made us.

Blessings,

Dee Bane

Administrative Council Chair

Choir

Come and bring your voices!
Join us for Choir practice!

Thursday, August 8 & 15
at 7:00 pm.

For questions, please
see Grace Mortimer.



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

Mildred Hudgins

Glen Morgan

Norma Pugh



Mission Focus for August: Avalon



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.

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.

If you would like to give, please make your check out to Central UMC with "Avalon" in the memo and placing it 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.

The Mission Focus of the month is adopted by the Administrative Council.

www.Avaloncenter.org

Hands Across Mathews Special Request

Recently a food bank in Portsmouth, a source of meats, has closed and there is a limited amount of protein foods from other sources. Please consider purchasing some extra **cans of potted meat, tuna fish, can chicken or beans** for donation to the HAM food box.

You can find our donation boxes in the breezeway between the sanctuary & the fellowship hall.

Personal care products are also always welcome as these are not covered by special food programs.

Thank you for supporting those in need!



Find us on:
facebook®

www.facebook.com/CentralUMCMathews

Creation Care, Recycling Plastics

SINCE THE RULES CHANGED, ARE YOU CONFUSED ON WHICH PLASTICS CAN BE RECYCLED IN MATHEWS?

HERE'S A GUIDE TO MAKE IT SIMPLE: #1 OR #2 , CHECK THE NECK.



- **Plastics must have a #1 or #2 on the bottom.**



- **CHECK THE NECK: #1 OR #2 Containers need to be shaped as a bottle or jug, with a narrow neck or pouring spout:**

YES:



NO:



Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team

Central's Women lift up their voices (7/7)




Ladies Birthday Group

The ladies' birthday group meets the third Thursday of each month to celebrate those of us having a birthday that month. If you would like to join us (even just occasionally), let me know and I will add you to our email list. Everyone is welcome for this very casual event.

Susan Hill

timandsusan.hill@gmail.com
or 804-384-3835



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>August 2024</h1>						
 pixabay.com						
4 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school 10:15 am	5	6 UM Women 10:00 am	7 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	8 Choir 7:00 pm	9	10
11 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school 10:15 am Church Picnic 5:00 pm 	12 Finance 8:30 am	13	14	15 Trustees 9:00 am Central Ladies Birthday lunch Group Choir 7:00 pm	16	17
18 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school 10:15 am	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Service, 9:15 am Sunday school 10:15 am	26 <i>Central Chimes & Report Submissions Due</i>	27	28 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	29	30	31
All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.						

Birthdays

Charles Rumburg	9
Steve Eley	18
Rebecca Love	18
Jean Sutton	26

Anniversaries

Ken & Mary Marshall	9
Richard & Rebecca Love	28