



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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Pastor Rebecca Rumburg ♦ Pastor's E-mail: rebeccarumburg@vaumc.org

December 2024

Join us for Worship
Sunday service—9:15 a.m.
Sunday school—10:15 a.m.
[Service live on YouTube](#)

Pastor's Ponderings

This month is busy! Our church calendar is full of opportunities to celebrate and be involved in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ right here in the Mathews community! I understand that along with church, many of us have community and family commitments as well. While this is a joyous season, it can quickly become overwhelming. We often want things to be just so and strive for the Norman Rockwell version of Christmas. It may be a bit unrealistic for us to think we can duplicate an artists rendering of an ideal Christmas. Unknowingly, we sometimes put more stress on ourselves than we should.

The first Christmas was less than ideal to say the least. No warm and sterile delivery room, nor any exacted birth plan was in place. It truly was a strange and imperfect way for the Savior of the world to come to us. Taxes were needing to be paid and the world was not at peace. Then into the chaos of this world entered the Prince of Peace in of all places, a manger. No bassinet was available. A borrowed feeding tough would have to do for God's own son.

Whatever may be happening in your life as Christmas day draws near, may you know that it is ok. Despite the state of the world or the state of your life, may you find a way to simply make room for your Savior who came and dwelt among us even in our imperfectness.

"O come to us..., abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel."

It's worth pondering!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Rebecca

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service 5:00 pm

You are invited to worship with hymns and carols, Scriptures, candle lights, and the Lord's Table.



Annual Community Christmas Sing-a-long

Sunday, December 8
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Central

Sponsored by the
Central Village Homemakers

This is our gift to the community.
Please come and bring a friend!
We thank you for your support.
Or watch on Central's Youtube channel. Just type in "central united methodist church, mathews Va" on YouTube.
We thank you for your support.



Mission Focus for December: Christmas Store

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

This program started more than 40 years ago to provide support for County residents in need. This year the Store is expected to serve over 650 members of our community. Imagine that, over 650 people who are able to share in the Christmas spirit, in part, because of our generosity!

This year, you again have a choice of filling and wrapping a traditional box or you may choose a stocking for the children in Mathews county. For some of these children, our boxes or stockings are the only Christmas gifts they will receive. Imagine the delight on a child's face when they receive YOUR generous gift to them.

Financial contributions can be made payable to Central UMC and have "Christmas store" written on the memo line of your check, and mailed to Central office. *Thank you!*



Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism chair

Mathews Christmas Store Help

If you are interested in volunteering with the set up, running, and clean up for the Mathews Social Services Christmas Store. Please contact Bernadette La Casse with any questions at bclacasse@gmail.com.

Mission and Evangelism Christmas Float Planned

Mission and Evangelism will sponsor a float in the Mathews Christmas parade. with a work day scheduled for

Friday, Dec. 13 at 10:00 am at Central.

A couple things are needed for this float:

- Hands to help assemble the float
- a battery operated boom box
- Mathews Christmas parade is on December 14 at 1:00 pm-



Mission and Evangelism Deliver Meals

The Mission and Evangelism team had the pleasure of packaging and delivering 25 complete Thanksgiving dinners to Mathews County Social Services. They will distribute them to members of our county who are having a touch time and struggling to provide for their families. We'd like to thank Pastor Rebecca, her son Charles, Katherine and Kate Small, and Richard Moughon for their help packaging the meals, and the members of our congregation whose contributions helped make this blessing become a reality.

Linda Dalgety, Mission and Evangelism chair

Photos:
Linda Dalgety



United Methodist Men

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, November 16. The seven men and Rebecca and Charles enjoyed breakfast picked up by Tim Hill.

We reviewed our donations that we made last month to various organizations. We were disappointed to learn that the Ladies' breakfast fundraiser planned for December 7, with several United Methodist Women's groups, had been cancelled. Hopefully, we can try again this spring to host them.

We re-elected our same officers for next year. This includes Chris Moughon as president, Joe Arnold as vice-president, Greg Lewis as secretary, and Steve Eley as treasurer.

This was our last meeting of 2024 as we'll take December off for Christmas. Our next meeting will be January 18, 2025, at 8 am. We hope that all the men of Central will make it a New Year's resolution to be there and to make as many meetings as possible in 2025.

The Central United Methodist Men wish all of you and your families a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Chris Moughon
UMM President

**December Choir practices
every Thursday night at 7:00 pm
leading up to Christmas Eve.**

**Let's make a joyful noise this Christmas
season!**



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

Catherine Morgan
Paul Morris
Pat Owens



Year-End Giving

**The last day to make a contribution in 2023
is Sunday, December 29.**

Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

2025 Offering envelopes will soon be ready
for pick-up on the back pew in the
sanctuary. Please look for the coming
announcement!

Thank you!

From Finance Chair

Yes, 2024 is just about history and 2025 is nearly upon us. It has been a tough year for the United Methodist Church as a whole and for us at Central as well. It has been hard to say goodbye to some of our members, but it has been nice to welcome some new faces, too.

It is no secret that the loss of these members has adversely affected our weekly collections. Although we're looking at ways to save some money in some areas in 2025, we will have to dip into our reserves shortly after New Year's.

In the past, our year-end giving has helped make ends meet and hopefully, this year will be no exception. If you have had a good year and need to reduce your tax burden, please make Central your first priority and help out as much as you can. Or if maybe you have just realized that you haven't been giving as much as you had planned to give, now would be the time to adjust for that. In any case, there is no better organization to donate to than your own church. If you are able to make a year-end donation, please just make it to the general fund. This is where it will do the most good since most of the designated funds are in pretty good shape. I thank each of you for your generous donations in the past and I thank you in advance for all your future giving.

The Finance Committee wishes all of you and your loved ones a blessed Advent and Christmas seasons and a prosperous New Year!

Chris Moughon
Finance Chair



UMW Hosts Thanksgiving Celebration

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and your turkey was not frozen in the middle, your gravy was lump free and all the food was warm at the same time! Most importantly, we hope you were able to share a meal with family, friends or neighbors and spend time thanking God for the blessings in your life.

The UMW were able to provide a Thanksgiving meal for Three Rivers Healthy Families. The fellowship hall was filled with laughter and the sounds of running feet as the children played games and made fun arts and crafts while the adults tried to keep sticky fingers from the dessert table! It was a wonderful time of fellowship and spending time together.

We hope you enjoyed your mini pad and pen. It fits easily in a pocket or purse for all your important notes and lists. Maybe we will see some of them come out while at Food Lion!

We are continuing to sell one pound bag of pecans for \$12.00. They are in the fellowship hall along with the framed prints of the church for \$20.00. We will be making donations from the proceeds to help make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.



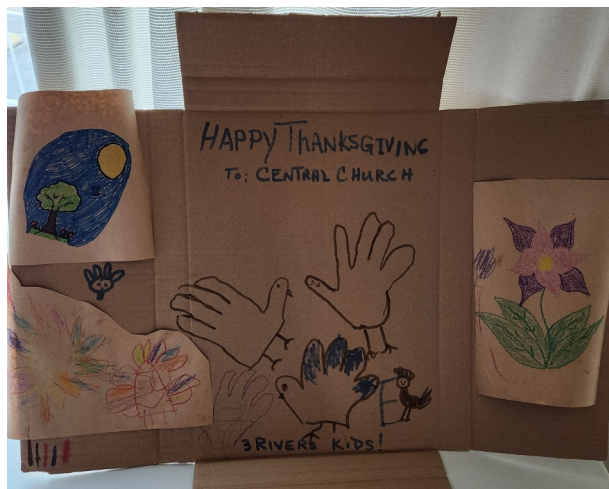
In December we plan to go caroling and bring along a special gift for several congregation members who are unable to attend church.

For many, the holidays are not a joyous occasion. Let us take time out of our busy schedules that may include shopping, wrapping, cooking, parties, visits from relatives, children or grandchildren to remember those who may not be as fortunate. A visit, invitation, baked good or small gift can mean so much to those who may be alone. Central United Methodist Church is a church that takes care of each other and the community and that is a wonderful gift.

We wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday!

Nancy Goldman
UM Women President

December 2024



Three Rivers Healthy Families Thanksgiving celebration

Top: Thanksgiving card made by the children for Central
Below: So much fun had by all. Photos by Judy Moughon



From Central's Hospitality Committee Chair

This has been an amazing year for Central church with all the changes. However, through all of this, we were united with love and fellowship for each other.

Several of our membership went to be with our Lord through age or sickness this year. We assisted each family with a meal choice for all their needs for food on the day of the funeral service. This was chaired by the month's hospitality chairperson. Central members assisted with serving, set-up and bringing side food choices. Also flowers and cards were sent to the sick and shut-ins by church members and committee members.

I want to thank the following members of our Hospitality committee for the wonderful job they have done to serve Central's membership by providing delicious food for our Fellowship time, most second Sunday's, between preaching and Sunday school each month. We all appreciate you showing your many talents.

The following members served as our Hospitality chair this year, 2024.

January: Judy Moughon
February: Phyllis Hudgins
March: Jamie Hall
April: Dale Robinson
May: Betty Stewart and Mary Marshall
June: Pat & Chris Moughon, John Lee Callis and Merle Guy
July: UM Women
August: Ruth Ann Hutson
September: Pat Moughon, John Lee Callis and Merle Guy
October: Phyllis Hudgins
November: Phyllis Hudgins & Nita Carter
December: Phyllis Hudgins, Dee Baine and Nancy Goldman

A big "thank you" to all who participated in any way this year, whether big or small, it was greatly appreciated.

A special "thank you" to David Hudgins, who kept the supplies in the kitchen available for use as needed. Also, a "thank you" to Michele for getting the information to you, our membership, each week as needed.

It has been my pleasure to work with each of you this year.

Phyllis Hudgins
Hospitality chair



**Central's Annual
Thanksgiving Meal
(11/17)**

Photos: Linda Dalgety



Thanksgiving at Central



Beautiful Harvest Table (11/24-top) by Mark Lewis
Photo: Michael Cannon

Annual Thanksgiving Meal (11/17)
Above & Below
Photo: Linda Dalgety



Beautiful Flowers/Mark Lewis arrangement (11/17—on left)
photo by Brenda Lewis
Bill Loving sings during Offertory (11/3—bottom left)
photo by Michael Cannon
Central Women sing (11/3—bottom right)
photo by Michael Cannon



Judy's Devotional

Christmas is coming! And December first is the first day of Advent. Advent is the first season in the liturgical year. Advent comes from an old Latin word, *Adventus*, meaning coming or arrival.

It was chosen to represent the time when Christ was not known to us. With His birth, the beginning of our faith was founded.



Scholars believe that during the fourth and fifth centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of Magi to the Baby Jesus.

Advent is a two-fold celebration: we not only celebrate the birth of Jesus but we look forward to His return—His “Parousia” —a Greek word that means when Christ returns again.

The primary liturgical color for Advent is purple, which symbolizes Christ's sovereignty, penance, sacrifice, and preparation.

Our celebration of Advent consists of an Advent wreath and five candles with four candles being lit each Sunday and the fifth Candle—the Christ candle being lit at the closet Sunday to Christmas Day. There are three purple candles and one pink candle. One is for hope, one for preparation, one for joy and one representing love.

Advent is a time of great anticipation, leading up to the birthday of Jesus, our “Messiah”. Messiah comes from a Hebrew name meaning, “Anointed”. The messiah was supposed to be a king and He was to deliver the Jews from the domination of the Romans.

For us, Jesus was born to save from sin, all who would believe in Him and follow His teachings. He was a gift from His heavenly Father: John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, would not perish, but have everlasting life.”

No greater gift as ever been given than this!

I'm saddened by the way the birth of Jesus is being pushed away in today's world. May we, as Christians, never forget what God has done for us by giving His Son to save all of us from our sins. There is no greater love than this! Jesus' sacrifice was no “walk in the park”. Did any of you see Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of Christ*? I did and it had a profound effect on me. We have no idea of the great suffering He endured on our behalf. May we always celebrate the “true” meaning of Christmas: “Jesus is the reason for the season!”






Judy Moughon

Bay School, Empty Bowls Fundraiser

On Sunday, December 10, 11:00-1:30 pm, the event will be LIVE throughout the building with handmade bowls and soup-to-go. Please enter through the gallery. An incredible assortment of handmade soups, breads, and cookies will be served during the event. Eat here or take your soup to go!



To keep things simple again this year, we will NOT be pre-selling tickets. Bring cash, credit card, or check made to Hands Across Mathews. For a \$20 donation, you will receive a hand-crafted bowl to be treasured or given as a gift, a simple lunch of soup and bread that can be eaten at the gallery or taken to go that will nourish and remind you of all the empty bowls in the world, and the warm fuzzy feeling of having helped fill your neighbors' empty bowls here in Mathews. Extra soup may be purchased for \$5 a serving, and additional donations are of course welcome and appreciated. You can make a donation at any time, on this website, or send a check! Please make checks out to Hands Across Mathews. Thank you for supporting Hands Across Mathews!!!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 First Sunday of Advent	2 Serenity Garden Work Day 10:00 am	3 UM Women 10:00 am Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 2:00-7:00pm 	4 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am—1:00 pm VA Conference Treasurer Guest Speaker 6:00 pm	5 Choir 7:00 pm	6	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Central Village Homemakers Hosts a Sing-a-long 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	9 Finance 8:30 am	10	11 SPRC 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	12 Choir 7:00 pm	13 Parade Float Work day 10:00 am	14 Mathews Christmas Parade 1:00 pm
15 Third Sunday of Advent <i>A Christmas Journey</i> 	16 Finance 8:30 am UM Women 10:00 am then 5:30 pm Caroling	17	18 Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am	19 Choir 7:00 pm	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent	23	24 Christmas Eve Communion Service 5:00 pm	25 Christmas Day! 	26	27 	28
29	30	31				

December Birthdays

Shirley Snow	5	Jack Kloke	10	Anne South	18
Linda Dalgety	8	Betty Stewart	11	Evelyn Mountford	24
Dan Reno	8	Pat Moughon	15	Bert Burroughs	28
Nita Carter	9	Jonathan Lewis	18	Billy Hudgins	31
Richard Hogge	10	Jill Moughon	18		

All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.