



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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

November 2024

From the Pastor's Pen

There is so much for us to be thankful for today; for health and healing, for hope and joy. For family and friends and our place in the family of God, we truly are grateful. As I type these words, I feel the warmth of my home and have the joy of electricity. Some people find it hard to be thankful given the circumstances that surround them. Perhaps you have struggled with giving thanks amidst the changes in your life. If this is the case for you, my prayer is that in the midst of your struggles, you may receive glimpses of the goodness of God. There will be struggles that we face and challenges that may seem insurmountable but God's grace remains and will enable us to face any hurdle no matter the size.

If this writing meets you in the midst of a difficult season of life I pray you will know that God's presence with you and his love remains steadfast. Likewise, if you read these words during a particularly blessed season of your life, give thanks! Give thanks to God for all of your blessings, both realized and yet to be.

As we enter this time of Thanksgiving, I want you to know how thankful I am for your partnership in ministry. Echoing the Apostle Paul's words to the church at Philippi:

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work

until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:3-6 NLT

Thankfully,
Pastor Rebecca

Turn back
clocks on
Saturday,
November 2



All Saints Sunday is November 3rd



Central Thanksgiving Meal

Sunday, November 19, 11:30 am
Sponsored by the Friendship class
Join us after Sunday school classes
Turkey and ham will be provided.
Please bring a side dish or dessert.



Join Us for Worship

Sunday service—9:15 a.m.

Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

Sunday worship on YouTube

www.centralumcmathews.org

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Honor or remember someone with a poinsettia on the altar this Christmas. Please email, mail, or use the form in the Sunday bulletin when posted, with the following information by Sunday, December 8th.

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

Poinsettia's are \$9.00 each.

Mailing address: PO Box 297, Church St.,
Mathews, VA 23109
Email: office@centralumcmathews.org



Ladies Birthday Lunch Group

The ladies birthday group meets the 3rd 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



Offering Thanks

When disaster strikes, United Methodists have a long legacy of helping their neighbors and communities. They respond in the US and around the world. For more than 80 years, UMCOR has alleviated the suffering of individuals, families and communities affected by both natural and human made disasters. With a "communities own their recoveries" philosophy, UMCOR supports local efforts to accomplish immediate and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters.

In partnership with disaster response ministries and coordinators in the U.S. annual conferences (this includes the Virginia conference), UMCOR journeys through the disaster's cycle – including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation. UMCOR partners with the 54 conferences in the church for short- and long-term strategies. How blessed we are to have an organization dedicated to bringing hope when there is little foreseeable hope.

Thank you for your generosity to UMCOR this past month in the wake of disasters in our country and elsewhere around the world. This truly represents the spiritual side of spending money in a most uplifting way. It is also representative of the strength and unity of our congregation. I am thankful to be part of it.

Thanksgiving Blessings to you and your families,
Dee Bane

Admin. Council Chair

Hospitality Fellowship on November 10th, after the service in the Fellowship Hall

Visit with one another with light snacks
immediately following this service.

All are invited!

Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee
for this special time!



Mission and Evangelism, Mission Giving

Would you like to help provide Thanksgiving dinners for 25 Mathews families who would not be able to prepare the meal without our assistance? All families have been vetted by Social Services. The Mission and Evangelism team will provide a turkey and pie for each family. We are asking for your assistance with the rest of the meal. You can contribute financially or by contributing food for the meals. The menu for each meal is turkey, stuffing, mashed and sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, and pie. Please leave your food contributions toward the meal in the Fellowship hall by 10:00 am on November 24. (Note-we are looking for 5 pound bags of white potatoes and cans of sweet potatoes) Financial contributions should be made payable to Central UMC, have "meal" written on the memo line of your check, and placed in the offering plate.

We are also in need of large, sturdy cardboard containers for boxing up the meals for each family. If you would like to help assemble the meals and deliver them to Social Services, please join us at 9:00 am on November 24th in the Fellowship hall. Help make the idea of a true Thanksgiving come true for a family in need. This will be part of our Mission Focus for November. The other part of our Mission Focus will be stockings for the Social Services Christmas store.

This year, you again have a choice of filling and wrapping a traditional box or you may choose a stocking. The decorated stockings will be sorted by age and sex. Both can be filled with age appropriate toys, hair ties, kid's toothpaste and brush, funky bath time soaps, crayons, coloring books, and colored pencils. Small amount gift cards to local fast food restaurants can also be included. But please, NO cash.

These shoeboxes and stockings are for children of Mathews County. (Other Shoebox programs are sent worldwide.)

For some 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.



For additional information on filling boxes or stocking, please see the next page.

We have purchased the Bible study book for season 1 of The Chosen and will use it as a guide to decide if we should go ahead with plans for this study. Please let Pastor Rebecca or a member of the committee know if you are interested.

In addition to UMCOR's help for victims of hurricane Helene and Milton, we have also learned of two additional Christian organizations also providing assistance. Both can use volunteers as well as financial help. The organizations are: Operation Blessing, which is part of the Christian Broadcasting Network and works closely with the 700 Club, and Samaritan's Purse, which is affiliated with Franklin Graham's Ministry. The contact information is:

Operation Blessing
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463 and

Samaritan's Purse
PO Box 3000
Boone, NC 28607

As you can see, there are many opportunities to be God's servants here on earth.

Our Business Focus for November is Sentara Physical Therapy. Nancy will be surprising them with a delicious treat and a card thanking them for their service to the people of Mathews county.

The theme for this year's annual County Christmas parade is Blue Crab Christmas. We will inquire at the Administrative Council meeting if there is interest in participating with a float and will let you know when you can help with assembling the float and when you'll have the opportunity to ride on the float.

We adjourned our meeting to begin work on the Serenity Garden. Please stop by the Garden at your convenience, rest a while and feel the peace there. Maybe pray or meditate a bit. (Remember, this is a work in progress).

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair



Shoe Boxes or stockings for Christmas Store

Bring filled boxes or stockings 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.

Each box or stocking becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. Be a part of God's special miracle in a child's life.

Thank you,
M & E Team

United Methodist Men Giving

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, October 19. Breakfast was prepared by Bud Fulcher, who filled in at the last minute. The ten members present all appreciated Bud for stepping in on short notice.

We spent the bulk of our meeting discussing the distribution of our profits from the Brunswick Stew and the Art Sale. I'm very proud to announce that we are sending \$500 to UMCOR (through Central for hurricane relief), \$500 for the Christmas Blessing Fund (which goes to needy families in Mathews for heating costs this winter), \$250 each to Mathews Triad (for Lifeline) and Hands Across Mathews, and \$100 each to Avalon Center, Heart Havens, Society of St. Andrews, and the Mathews Rescue Squad, and Mathews Fire Department. All of these are very worthwhile organizations that do great things.

We also began discussion on the fundraiser breakfast that we are going to prepare for the Central United Methodist Women and four other UMW groups on December 7. We'll nail down the details at our next meeting on Saturday, November 16, at 8 am. This will be the last regular meeting for 2024, so we hope to see all the guys then for some good food and good fellowship!

Chris Moughon
UM Men President

LIFT (Living in Faith Together) Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 9: LIFT Mathews will host our first Movie Night at the Putin Park Pavilion from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Rain Date is Sunday, November 10 same place and time.

Saturday, November 16: LIFT Mathews is holding our first LIFT Mathews Retreat at Grace Providence UMC in Mobjack from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.

Judy's Devotional

RUTH 2:5-13

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE – GOD'S LOVE

As I was looking for a subject for this devotion, I chanced upon a devotion in Our Daily Bread for September 3 by Xochitl Dixon. She entitled her devotion "Rooted in Love."

Interestingly enough, yesterday in our Sunday School lesson, someone asked the question, "Why were the Moabites and the Israelites such mortal enemies?" I knew that the two nations hated each other because the Moabites refused to allow the Israelites passage through their country when the Israelites were asking for permission to travel through Moab on their way to the promised land. But I didn't know why.

So, I "Googled it." Here's what I found out: The nation of Moab was named after the first child born to Lot's daughter by her father. Lot was the nephew of Abraham. Lot's father was Haran, Abraam's deceased brother. When God called Abraham to go to Canaan and made a covenant with him, Lot and his family went along with Abraham and Sarah. The Ammonites came from the same source, as Lot's daughter had a son named Ammon by her father Lot. Moab led the Israelites into Baal worship on their way into Canaan. A king of Moab Sihon, refused to allow the Israelites passage through his county as he feared that the Israelites would attack Moab.

Another coincidence occurred as Ruth's story provided the subject of my first message as a lay speaker more than thirty years ago.

If you know the story of Ruth, you will remember that Ruth was a Moabitess, an enemy of the Israelites, yet she ended up as the great-grandmother of King David. And she was included in the genealogy of Jesus. Ruth loved her mother-in-law Naomi and left her family in Moab to go to Israel with Naomi, following the end of a famine in Bethlehem. The famine was so severe that Naomi, her husband Elimelech and their two sons Mahlon and Kilion, left their home in Bethlehem and traveled to Moab, seeking food. Eventually, the two sons married Moabite girls. Sadly,

Elimelech and the two sons died, leaving Naomi and the two daughters-in-law destitute.

Naomi learned that the famine had ended so she decided to return home to Bethlehem. Her two daughters-in-law traveled with her until Naomi tried to persuade them to return home. One daughter-in-law, Orpah, did go back home, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi. Ruth took care of herself and Naomi by going into the fields of Boaz, a relative of Elimelech, to glean grain during the barley harvest. Boaz heard how good Ruth was to Naomi and told her to stay in his fields and warned the young men who were harvesting the grain not to molest Ruth.

Ruth and Boaz eventually married and had a son whom they named Obed. Obed became the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. So, Ruth, a Moabitess, a Gentile, became the great-grandmother of King David.

This marriage was caused by God's plan to include a Gentile woman in Jesus' lineage, making a way for Gentiles to become a part of God's kingdom. They were welcomed into God's family and were recipients of God's great agape love – a great, rich love, so undeserved by all of us who are sinners. But in His infinite love, God, through the tremendous sacrifice made by His only begotten son, Jesus who died on a cross for all mankind, made it possible for us to have forgiveness of all of our sins.

Ruth, through her love of her mother-in-law and her love of Naomi's God, became part of God's plan for the redemption of the whole world. Ruth's love, like God's love, made a difference to all of us who are sinners.

PRAYER: Gracious and loving God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we give You thanks for loving us so much that you gave Your only begotten son, so that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life. Praise be to You, our loving heavenly Father. AMEN.

Judy Moughon



United Methodist Women News

As I sit in my comfortable home with everything I need knowing my family is safe and well provided for, I thank God for my many blessings. I think about so many people who are going through terrible challenges – hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, war, famine ... the list goes on and on and I feel a little guilty for all that I have. Although I cannot physically help those in need, I can donate to causes that do provide for them and most importantly, I can pray for them. As can all of us.

The Central United Women went shopping and bought lots of supplies and took them to Roane's who was coordinating with others for distribution to North Carolina.

We are continuing our visits to those members who cannot come to church. We take lunch or a gift and bring a little church to them. Lunch was provided for Louise and Mike Witherspoon and it was a good visit in the warm sunshine.

We sponsored the Annual Birthday Luncheon on October 13th. What a great combination of good food, fellowship and an opportunity to talk with those who share your birth month!

We hope you do not need the fall tissue packs we handed out, but if you do, they are there for you!

Community Sharing Good News Pantry

For non-perishable food gifts and Christian Literature. Take what you need, give what you can storage. Located in the back left side of Central's parking lot.



We are providing a Thanksgiving meal for Three Rivers Healthy Families on November 15th. We will begin at Port Fun and end in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal.

We are continuing to plan an Advent Breakfast for other local United Methodist Women Chapters. It will be December 7th, and the United Methodist Men will be preparing and serving the breakfast! This will be followed by a speaker and special music.



We are selling framed prints of Central for \$20.00. They are in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like one, just let one of us know.



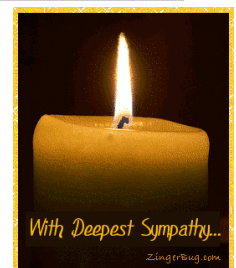
We will also be selling pecans again this year. A one-pound bag will be \$12.00. We will let you know when they are available.

As we head into the busy holiday season, instead of being overwhelmed by our "to do" list, I hope we all take time to be quiet, reflect on our blessings and realize that we have a reason to be busy. This means we have family, friends, church and fellowship.

Nancy Goldman
UM Women President

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

Paul Rawls
Helen Busick
Billy Godsey
Nancy Hudgins



Creation Care: You Can Make a Difference

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE AS INDIVIDUAL CHURCH MEMBERS, charged with taking care of God's creations, can do to help our planet? Actually, they seem so simple, but they can make a difference.

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. For each person who builds this new habit, four gallons of water a minute is saved. That's up to 50 gallons of water per person per week –or 200 gallons a week for a family of four!

(Source: NC State Sustainability Blog.)



When your lightbulbs burn out this year, replace them with new, more energy efficient options, i.e.: ENERGY STAR–qualified products.



(Energy Star certified lights are lighting products that meet the US Environmental Protection Agency's strict energy efficiency guidelines.

They are designed to be efficient and high quality, and they can help you save money on your energy bills while also protecting the environment.) By replacing your five most frequently used light fixtures or light bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified products helps the environment and can save you up to \$70 a year on energy bills. ENERGY STAR lighting provides bright, warm light; generates 75% less heat; uses about 75% less energy than standard lighting; and lasts from 10 to 50 times longer.

Use a reusable water bottle.

Reusable water bottles can help your health, the environment AND your bottom line. You will save money, not to mention the hundreds (or thousands!) of disposable plastic bottles it will keep out of the landfills.



Run your dishwasher only with a full load.

Waiting until the load is full makes the most efficient use of your dishwasher's energy and water consumption. It can also prevent 100 pounds of carbon pollution and save you \$40 on your energy bill every year. (The EPA Blog, //bit.ly/2EuKzgz)



Washing your clothes with cold water cuts laundry energy by up to 90%.

(Source: GlobalStewards.org)



Avoid soaps and toothpaste with microbeads. Microbeads are tiny pieces of plastic, and they aren't filtered out by waste water treatment plants. This means they end up polluting the ocean and are a threat to marine life. How do I know if my toothpaste or soap has microbeads? Check the ingredient list on the packaging for words like "polyethylene" or "polypropylene," which are the most common plastic microbead ingredients; if these are listed, the product likely contains microbeads. Once in the water, they can be eaten by fish, birds, and other organisms, and they can also attract pesticides and motor oils. (Confession: For years I have used exfoliating soap. Now I find they are made of plastic microbeads, which are a major pollution problem. Ouch, didn't know that!)

Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team



"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it"

Mark your calendars now!

**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.



October at Central



**Annual Birthday Lunch
Hosted by UM Women**
(Top photo by John Lee Callis)
(photo on right & below by
Tim Hill)



The Trio Sings (10/13)
(photo by Michael Cannon)



**Flower
arrangement (by
Mark Lewis)
for Breast Cancer
Awareness (Rt)
and
Serenity
Garden
at Central (left)**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>November 2024</h1>					1	2 Fall Back One Hour Daylight Savings Ends 
3 All Saints Sunday Charge Conference 3:00 pm Lower UMC	4	5 UM Women 10:00 am	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am— 1:00 pm	7 Choir, 7:00 pm	8	9
10 Hospitality Fellowship After worship service	11 Veterans Day Finance 8:30 am	12	13 SPRC 10:00 am	14 Choir 7:00 pm	15 UMW 3 Rivers Healthy Families Thanksgiving Celebration	16 UM Men 8:00 am
17 Thanksgiving Sunday Central Thanksgiving Meal 	18	19	20 Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am	21 Choir 7:00 pm	22	23
24 Mission and Evangelism Thanksgiving meal packing 9:00 am	25 Central Chimes Submissions Due for Dec.	26	27	28 Office Closed 	29 <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</div>	30

Birthdays

Peggy Leigh	9	Jimmy Stewart	18
Norfleet T'Pol Lewis	13	Leeah Taylor	20
Grace Mortimer	14	David Goldman	23
Emily Lewis	16	Leigh Lewis	29

Worship with us!

Sunday service—9:15 am
Sunday school—10:15 am

Sunday worship on YouTube
Link for online service:
www.centralumcmathews.org