

February 2024

Issue #8

Under THE DOME



LETTER FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

In my high school psychology class, I learned of a phenomenon called highway hypnosis. In its more benign forms, a driver's body can go into a sort of autopilot. A driver carries out the physical activities of driving without the consciousness of where he or she is. Perhaps you have had the experience of driving on an interstate and suddenly not knowing quite where you are or whether you have missed an exit. After a few minutes of uncertainty, you see a directional sign or pass a familiar landmark. You reorient yourself mentally, and the trip continues.

A similar concept can be applied to our spiritual lives. We may need to pause to ensure we are on the right track, truly paying attention to God with us, and not merely going through the motions. The Season of Lent, which begins this month, comes to us each year as an invitation to spiritual reorientation.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of 40 days (not counting Sundays) that invites us to fast, repent of our sin, and carry out acts of devotion. These spiritual practices are part of the Church's preparation for the celebration of Easter. Think of Lent as a time to intentionally look Godward, asking God to show us our shortcomings and empower us to do the things that help us feel God's activity in the world.

During Lent, many people choose to forgo a luxury or habit as a reminder to focus on God's presence. Others may take on some act of devotion, such as a new prayer routine or volunteering in a community ministry. One of the ways we seek God's presence as a church is through special Lenten worship opportunities. You will find these detailed in the body of this publication, but I invite you to be part of one of our Ash Wednesday services on February 14th and take part in our special services each Wednesday at noon. As we approach Easter, we end Lent with services remembering Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, on which Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples, was arrested, crucified, and buried.

Even with its themes of penitence and critical introspection, Lent is a gift. I urge you to accept that gift and seek God's presence through these and other special opportunities. As the Bible says in James 4:8, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a stylized "h" and "o".

Messages FROM OUR CLERGY

Rev. Ann Kovan

Associate Pastor

"Waternotgivingupferlent?" This was a question I heard every year as a child. It ranks with "Verge and Mary" and "but deliver us some e-mail" as religious phrases that blur in kids' ears. Annually I answered, soft drinks, or candy, or ice cream. Which, ironically, were rarely found to begin with in our home, except for Daddy's Pepsi stash.

I know now that our Lenten goal is to root out and let go of things that obstruct our relationship with God and others, and claim things that connect us to God and people. That's a very simple way of defining penitence, because the things that hinder our walk with Jesus are sin: cravings, compulsions, me-first things that rob our time with God and distract us from spiritual practices given by Christ that, with the Holy Spirit, bond us to God.

It's not always about giving up something. Sometimes we clear our path to God by adding spiritual practices: get up earlier for daily Bible reading and prayer; join a Bible study; attend a midweek Lenten service; participate in a Sunday School class; keep a gratitude list; serve on an outreach ministry; smile at strangers; attend Ash Wednesday and all Holy Week services. These are just a few. Pray for discernment and feel God's Spirit leading you to your Lenten commitment. In Christ,

Ann Kovan

Rev. Meg Bryce Jiunnies

Pastor of Faith Formation & Discipleship

Dear Church Family,

Let's talk about love. Not the once a year, idealized, canned romantic view of love, but the Christ-like, heart-overflowing, self-sacrificing, caring, joy-filled love that is evident all around us here in this Christian community.

The kind of love that prompts people to prepare this house of worship and ministry so that those who are grieving will be comforted by small things. The kind of love that jiggles a tired, cranky baby on your hip so a parent can take a few bites of food. The kind of love you see in the faces beaming up at your child when they read from scripture for the first time, or the collective sigh of relief when the candle is lit without incident.

The kind of love that overflows into the community so that people have safer places to live, or animals don't suffer. The kind of love that unceasingly offers a comfortable place and stories of witness so that people will continue to give the gift of life through blood donation. The kind of love that practices forgiveness, and cries with you, and remembers your joys.

The kind of love that is included in our vows of baptism and our collective confessions.

Happy Valentine's Day, and Blessed Life in Christ,

Rev. Meg

SUNDAYS ∞ CENTRAL

All Sunday School classes meet from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings. If you need help finding a classroom, please visit our Welcome Center in The Commons or ask a greeter at any entrance and they will be more than happy to show you the way.

CHILDREN

PRESCHOOL

3K – Malambri Rm 147

4K – Malambri Rm 145

ELEMENTARY

5K – Malambri Rm 231

1st Grade – Malambri Rm 227

2nd Grade – Malambri Rm 225

3rd Grade – Malambri Rm 221

4th & 5th Grades – Malambri Rm 219

YOUTH

6th-12th Grades – Youth Rm 206

ADULT

Sunshine Class – Room 164/165

Spiritual Journeys – Room 276

Christian Discussion – Room 277

New Horizons – Room 279

New Beginnings – Room 272

Searching Disciples – Room 275

Sarah Blanton-Philathea – Room 174

Wesley Fellowship – Room 170



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: PRESCHOOL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Central UMC Preschool is one of the largest ministries of Central UMC! We serve approximately 100 families each year by providing high-quality, Christ-centered early childhood education for children ages 3 months to completion of 4K. We also provide over 30 jobs to the community. Over the past two years, the preschool, through grant funding, has repainted all of the classrooms on the preschool hall, replaced all furnishings, and replaced the carpets. These renovations benefit both the preschool and children's ministries of CUMC by providing more up to date, safe, and aesthetically pleasing rooms for all of our children.

Ash Wednesday Services

**February 14, 2024
12:00 PM & 6:30 PM**

We will begin observing the 40 days of Lent with two Ash Wednesday services.

Both services will include the traditional imposition of ashes and will be led by Rev. Thomas Smith, Rev. Ann Kovan, and Rev. Meg Jiunnies.



Midweek Lenten Services & Lunches

February 21 - March 20

Each Wednesday in Lent, Central will hold a worship service at 12:00 PM in the Sanctuary, featuring either a guest preacher or a musical program. Prior to worship, a brief service of Holy Communion will take place at 11:30 AM in the Ingram Chapel. Lunch will be served in Spears Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. The cost is \$8.00 per person, and you may register in advance or pay at the door.



LEAD CENTRAL 2024

Church Council Updates:

Bryant Sansbury has been voted in as the Chair of Finance, and Jay Campbell will serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Coming later this month: Lay Leadership page on the Central website

The Body of Christ in Action!

Central's Teams and Committees began an exciting new year of ministry as they came together on January 21st to share information and envision our dreams. All in all, over 120 people and 18 Teams participated. Lead Central consists of the lay leadership, program, clergy, and administrative staff coming together to be very intentional about our mission for 2024.

All of Central's ministries have had their beginnings with someone's vision, with prayer, and with planning. One of the things this church family does very well is combine our spiritual gifts, experience, and knowledge. We are also willing to experiment and be fully in partnership with the Holy Spirit to let God lead us.

An example of a ministry like this is the BEDS (Better Education Demands Sleep) program. Envisioned and researched by one person – Art Justice – this ministry now has many people involved in making it so effective. People who source materials, build the beds, and transport them. People who partner with local schools to identify needs, a coordinator of the donations of bed linens, and even a certain well-known artist, Mills Brown, who created the logo!

Please prayerfully consider participating in a ministry area. If you have not yet joined a ministry area, if you have questions about a ministry, or if you are feeling called to begin something new, please contact Rev. Meg Jiunnies.



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Education and Spiritual Growth Team

Sunday, February 4
9:00 - 9:30 AM

Preschool Board Meeting

Monday, February 5
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Visitation Team

Tuesday, February 6
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Congregational Care Ministries Team

Tuesday, February 6
4:00 - 5:00 PM

Adult & Family Ministries Team

Monday, February 12
5:30 - 6:30 PM

The Well Design Team

Monday, February 12
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Faith-Sharing Team

Monday, February 19
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Outreach Committee

Wednesday, February 21
8:30 - 9:30 AM



DONATE **BLOOD** SAVE LIFE

Red Cross Blood Drive Announcements

During the past several years, many of our regular blood donors have been in ill health or are reaching the age where certain blood components are no longer reliable enough to ensure a donation is possible. Due to these factors, we are seeing lower blood drive turnout than in previous years. The Red Cross Blood Drives we hold are an important part of our Outreach ministries, and we would like to extend our welcome to anyone who might be interested in donating. We will be holding our next Blood Drive on Thursday, March 14, and we invite anyone who would like to observe or have questions answered to attend. If you would rather have questions answered via email, you may contact Kathryn Velicky at kvelicky@centralmethodist.net. We also welcome your friends and family from the community who may be interested in donating.

If you are already a donor, or are interested in giving blood, our next three scheduled drives are Thursday, March 14, Thursday, May 16, and Thursday, July 18. These drives will take place in the Davis CLC from 1:30 to 6:30 PM. Sign-ups are open in The Commons. You can also call the administration office at 843-662-3218, email kvelicky@centralmethodist.net to reserve a spot, or sign up on the Red Cross website with our donor code *CentralUnited*.

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

MEET OUR LACY CHORAL SCHOLARS

Established in 2013, in part through a generous donation from the estate of Wes Lacy, this program provides choral section lead positions typically filled by college or high school students.



Dianna Wilson is a Francis Marion University Alumni with a bachelor's degree in music industry with a focus on Vocal Performance. She is currently working as Central's receptionist and plans to pursue her Master of Music Therapy degree. She is blessed to be able to continue to share her love for music with those who share the same passion as she does.

Ashlei Jones, a native of Columbia, SC, has been a Lacy Choral Scholar for four years. She attended Francis Marion University, where she studied music with Dr. Fran Coleman. She has sung at venues such as The Koger Center and Carnegie Hall, and has performed with the Florence Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Terry Roberts.



Sary Jackson is currently a senior at South Florence High School. She is a member of the Chamber choir and the South Florence Choraliers.

Jackson Huiet is a junior at South Florence High School. A member of the Chamber choir, he is also a member of the South Florence Choraliers.



Gabriel Smallwood

Harpsichordist in recital

in a program of keyboard music from Naples at the beginning of the 17th Century

February 18, 2024

3:00 PM

Free Admission



YOUTH SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 4
10:30 AM • Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to Youth Sunday on February 4th! This year, our church family will all be together for a combined service in the Sanctuary as our young people lead worship. Each year, Central's youth learn about creating a worship service, study a lectionary scripture, plan together with staff, choose the music, and take on different serving roles in order to become familiar with our Christian traditions.

Youth Sunday is a very meaningful service and longstanding tradition here at Central, and is an opportunity for our youth to grow their faith and discipleship as they continue to be leaders in our church. We hope to see everyone on February 4th and thank you for supporting our youth!

WORSHIP IN THE WELL



What's New in The Well?

Can you spot something new in the photo? We now have a backdrop for our worship space! The landscape mural installed on the stage behind the band was painted and donated by Allison Slice.

Thank you, Allison, for using your gift for glorifying God and enhancing our sacred worship space.

A Message from Lance Hatchell, Worship Director of The Well

Psalm 150:3-5: Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

As we continue to add to the worship experience in The Well, we have added drums and will soon have a pianist more frequently. Feel free to talk to Pastor Ann or me about anything else you want to see. We want everyone who comes through our doors 1) to know that we and our Heavenly Father love them 2) to have a wonderful worship experience regardless of age or musical preference. I'm excited for a new year to worship with everyone as we continue to grow in our faith.

CENTRAL UMC PRESCHOOL

We look forward to growing with you!

Registration for the 2024 Summer Day Camp Program and the 2024-25 School Year Preschool Program is just around the corner!

Important Dates:

Jan. 29-Feb. 4: Existing students and siblings register

Feb. 5-11: Central UMC members may register

Feb. 12: Registration opens to the public

Registration may be completed online through the Central Website. Please do not attempt to register prior to the appropriate date, as that may result in the loss or oversight of your application.

The waitlist and the registration process start over every year. To be considered for the upcoming programs, you must apply during the appropriate week even if you are already on the current waitlist.

'24 Summer Day Camp

Ages 3 months to rising 3rd graders

June 3-July 11, 2024

6 weeks

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

EDO (7:30 a.m. available)

Lunch Bunch (12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. available)

'24-25 School Year Preschool Program

Ages 3 months to 4K

We follow the Florence One

School District's calendar

with breaks and intersessions.

Monday-Friday

Full Day

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Half Day

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

EDO (7:30 a.m. available)

Lunch Bunch (12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. available)

Aftercare (2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. available)

Information:

Need more information?

Email: Jennifer Walters, Director
jwalters@centralmethodist.net

Phone: (843) 664-0056



NURSERY & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Let's Roll!

Thursday, February 15

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Join your Central friends for fun and fellowship at Skateland USA! We'll have a devotion, skate, play games, and enjoy a pizza party. There are going to be lots of opportunities to win and buy things with your BibleBucks. Don't miss this exciting event!

The cost is \$6 per child. Parents, you must register and pay in advance in order for your children to attend. Register today!

It Takes a Village

Volunteer teachers and helpers in Elementary Sunday School are needed. Having adults, in addition to their parents, consistently invest in our children's lives gives them a sense of belonging. Being a consistent presence in a child's life makes them feel loved and like they matter. If you are interested in knowing more about helping with a Children's Sunday School class, please contact Brandie Love, Director of Children's Ministries.

Tips for Reading the Bible with Your Children

• Set a reading routine and read in a comfy spot • Don't rush • Explain difficult-to-understand words or concepts • Spend time looking at illustrations • Let your child ask questions • Find the feelings in the passage • Pray together • Demonstrate respect for the Bible • Talk about what the Bible is

Children's February Sunday School Lessons

How to Love Like Jesus

February 4: Children will study how to **Witness** by seeing examples of Jesus' love in their daily lives. 1 John 4:9-11

February 11: Children will study how to **Demonstrate** Jesus' love through their daily interactions with others. Ephesians 4:32

February 18: Children will study how to **Communicate** Jesus' love in their own words. Romans 5:8

February 25: Children will study how to celebrate Jesus' love through **Worship**. Psalm 136:1

MEMORY VERSE: "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." John 13:34 (NLT)

Library Books for Children and Parents

Central is blessed with a wonderful library. The Schofield Library includes a great children's and parenting section. Families are encouraged to browse and check out books. Additionally, a satellite station for books is offered in The Commons. Please stop to look at the book selections and encourage your child to borrow a book. These parenting books are suggested: *Raising Emotionally Healthy Kids* - Eliza Huie, *Raising Kids in a Screen-Saturated World* - Eliza Huie, and *Established in the Faith* - John Kwasny.

Where's Mrs. Brandie?

During February, children are invited to find Mrs. Brandie and tell her the February "Word of the Week." Look for her before and after Sunday School and during Bible Blast. Once you find Mrs. Brandie and give her the "Word of the Week" (the words of the week are listed in BOLD with the Sunday School lessons), you'll receive a prize!

Happy Birthday!

Mary McEachern Lucius - February 2
Anna Reaves Yarborough - February 2
MarthaAnn Johnson - February 3
James Wade Timms - February 8
Cate Murrell - February 14
Elizabeth England-Plisiewicz - February 18
Wesley Seif - February 20
Anna Caroline Campbell - February 26

Save the Dates!

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24

More information will be coming soon!

VBS Summer 2024

Monday, June 3 - Thursday, June 6
Be sure to mark your calendars!

NURSERY & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Children's Choirs to Sing at The Manor

The Preschool, Elementary, and Junior Choirs will sing at The Manor on Sunday, February 4, at 3:00 pm. The residents at The Manor love it when the Children sing for them, and the children are learning that this is a wonderful way to bless others while praising the Lord through praise and worship.



BibleBlast Stretches into the New Year

2024 begins with healthy mindsets on how to calm our bodies and minds and focus on God. Special thank you to Mrs. Catherine for leading us with some fun yoga stretches and games.



Shrove Tuesday Youth Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 13

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Davis Christian Life Center

Our youth will once again host a Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday. The cost of the meal is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, and all proceeds will go to the Youth Fund. You may either eat in or take out. Register now at onrealm.org/centralmethodist/Registrations.

Menu: Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Eggs, Fruit, and a wonderful pancake toppings bar!



YOUTH MINISTRY



UMYF had a blast at Defy!
Thank you to Adam Slice, Ryan Steele, Sally Carringer, and Lyles Gardner for chaperoning.

Happy Birthday!

Wells Morgan & Andrew Grantham - February 1
Derrick Campbell - February 6
Caroline Peebles - February 7
Clayton Folse - February 12
Laura Crosson - February 17
Alek Reynolds - February 27

Upcoming Events

February 4 – Youth Sunday – No UMYF
February 11 – Super Bowl Sunday – No UMYF
February 13 – Shrove Tuesday – Youth Fundraiser
February 14 – Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day
February 18 – Intersession – No UMYF
February 22–25 – Ski Trip – No UMYF

ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Wednesday Night Dinner & Programming

Our Wednesday Night Dinners continue in February! Please register by Sunday of each week so that we can plan accordingly. You may register in Realm or by calling the church office. Cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children.

February 7 - South Florence Choraliers
February 14 - Ash Wednesday Worship Service
February 21 - No WND (Florence 1 Intercession)
February 28 - Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby

Veterans Breakfast

Our monthly breakfast for veterans will be held Thursday, February 15, at 8:00 AM in Spears Fellowship Hall. Tasha Short of the South Carolina National Guard will serve as our guest speaker. As always, there is no charge for breakfast, and guests are welcome to attend! Please register on Realm or by calling the church office.

Scouting Ministry

In the United Methodist Church, Scout Sunday is traditionally observed on the second Sunday in February. This special day is set aside to recognize the contributions of youth and adults to Scouting. Please join us for worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 11, as several of our scouts assist with the service.

Pictured below is Malliciah Goodman, Troop 475 Life Scout who was inducted into the Florence Athletic Hall of Fame on January 6, 2024. A former West Florence standout and Florence School District 1 Male Athlete of the Year, Goodman played for the Clemson Tigers before being drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the fourth round of the 2013 NFL Draft. He played professionally for four seasons during his career with the Falcons, Seattle Seahawks and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Movie Matinee

Every Tuesday at 2:00 PM, a group of friends gather in Room 232 (upstairs on the Children's Hall) for a movie matinee! We would love to have you join us! For more information, contact Til Morisey or Kathy Flowers. February movies are as follows:

February 6 – *A Perfect World*
February 13 – *O Brother, Where Art Thou*
February 20 – *Anastasia*
February 27 – *The Great Santini*



Happy Travelers

Our Happy Travelers will head to Columbia on Thursday, February 29, for a visit to the South Carolina State Museum and possibly the South Carolina State House. As always, we'll enjoy a delicious meal, too! Be on the lookout for more details in Realm.



FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The concept of Sunday school has been around for many decades. This is not an out-of-date idea, or simply a gathering for study. These small groups are ways in which you find support and nurture. You will often find members of our classes socializing together, working or supporting a common ministry, or rallying around someone who needs extra care during times of grief or stress. This is where you find lasting relationships of holy friendship.

In addition to classes and activities for our children and youth, Central offers options for small group discussion in our Adult Sunday School Classes. All classes meet from 9:30 am until 10:15 am. You are welcome to visit any class, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Meg Jiunnies for more information. *Also, check out the Sunday School bulletin board in The Commons!*

ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES

Courtney Graham Women's Bible Study

God of Freedom – A Study of Exodus 19-40 by Jen Wilkins

Mondays, from 9:15 to 11:00 am in Spears Fellowship Hall

Led by Ginny Hill and Beth Ann Owen

Journey through the story of how God shepherds His newly-liberated children into an understanding of what their freedom means: lives consecrated for service to God and to one another. Revisit familiar stories and, with a fresh perspective, ask what these stories teach God's children today about how to live as those set free.

27:17 Central Men's Study

Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 8:00 am in Spears Fellowship Hall

Led by Johnny Crouch, Hank Leeke, and Art Justice

Join the men of Central and friends in this ongoing Bible Study named after the Proverbs 27:17 passage, "Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another."

Mothers' Coffee & Conversation

First and Third Thursdays, from 8:45 to 9:30 am at F.E. Pops

Led by Rev. Ann Kovan

Moms, join us every first and third Thursday at F.E. Pops (1811 Cherokee Road) for a casual discussion on the devotional Bible Study, *Walking with God in the Season of Motherhood*. Friends are welcome to join at any time!

SCHOFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Did you know that you can search the library catalog from home?

There is a wealth of information on the shelves! Find the newest titles in our library on the website (centralumc.library.site) or search for your desired topic – reference materials on the Bible, devotions, parenting books, books on Christian life, hymns, the Methodist church, Christian women, prayer, adult, youth and juvenile fiction, and much more. Just check out what you want to read using the card in the back of the book and leave it in the designated area. Please return the book when you are finished.

The library also places a display of books in The Commons where checkout and return can be done easily. For more info, contact Margaret Cox, Librarian.

FAITH-SHARING

Be Invitational for Lent

Your Faith Sharing team is once again providing you with an easy way to share your faith through the simple act of invitation. This Lent, we will provide cards listing the dates and times of our many Lenten services and events for you to invite friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors. You'll be sharing Good News to those who need to hear it the most.

Love a Greeter

Our greeters work hard to greet visitors and Central family every Sunday with a smile and readiness to help. They make sacrifices to be in position at the right times and many of them miss Sunday School to greet. When you see a greeter, return the smile and thank them for their important service. Want to serve as a greeter? Contact Pastor Ann.

Connecting with Our Guests

If you worship in the sanctuary, you may have noticed new cards have appeared in the pockets of the blue friendship pads, behind the attendance pads. We are inviting our first-time guests to fill out these "Connect Cards" and return them to the Welcome Center where they will receive a gift from Central. The Connect Cards can also be found on the Greeters' tables in The Well. We want to connect our guests to the wonderful life of this church, and we can only stay in touch with them if we collect their information. If you meet someone who is visiting for the first time, please encourage them to fill out a card and point them in the right direction for The Welcome Center, located in The Commons in front of the parking lot entrance.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serve on Congregational Care!

Central has a dedicated group of church visitors and Stephen Ministers, people who write cards, send booklets on navigating grief, and write notes. This is all in partnership with the pastors here at Central. It is very important that if you or your loved one has a need for any of these ministries, or for a pastoral visit or prayer request, you communicate those needs by calling the church office (843-662-3218). If you would like to serve on Congregational Care or begin a new Care ministry, please contact Rev. Meg Jiunnies for a one-on-one conversation.

OUTREACH

The Manna House in Need of Volunteers

The Manna House needs 4 volunteers to assist in the kitchen from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Mondays and Thursdays. You can contact Melinda Waddell (Director) at 843-327-0663 for more information. Youth volunteer needs have been fulfilled until summer break.

Save the Date
BEDS Build Day
March 26





COSTA RICA MISSION PROJECTS

JUNE 1-8, 2024

TRIP DETAILS

The Outreach and Advocacy Committee of Central United Methodist Church is once again sponsoring the annual Costa Rica Mission Trip. All ages are welcome to attend, but a parent must accompany children younger than 14 years of age. Central UMC works with missionary Wil Bailey and the Costa Rica Mission Projects (CRMP) organization.

Departure:
Saturday, June 1
Meet at the Florence Airport

Arrival:
San Jose, Costa Rica
Ride the CRMP bus to San Isidro

Return:
Saturday, June 8
Return to the Florence Airport

Trip Leader:
David Coker
843-230-3188
david@cokerdirect.com

Trip cost includes airfare, meals on-site, housing, transportation, construction materials, local labor, and insurance.

TRIP COSTS

Youth (age 18 or under): \$925
Adult: \$1,495

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required for all participants to secure a spot.

The FINAL deadline to register is April 15, 2024, but space is limited so go ahead and register today! Please contact project coordinator David Coker if you are interested in this trip or have any questions.

****You will need to upload a scanned copy of your passport as part of the application process. Please have this file ready to upload before you begin the application.****

TYPICAL WORKDAY

6:00 a.m. Up & at'em

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Worksite

Noon Lunch break

1:30 p.m. Return to work

5:00 p.m. Return to CRMP Center

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Worship w/ local congregations & free time

9:00 p.m. Be back @ CRMP Center

10:00 p.m. Fall into bed



COSTARICAMMISSIONPROJECTS

CRMP TRIP APPLICATION

The application can be completed online by visiting www.centralmethodist.net/crmp or by scanning the QR code to the right. If you require assistance with the online application, please contact the church office during regular business hours.



SCAN ME

OUTREACH

Parking Lot Ministry

Our team of disciples from Central prepares and serves a hot breakfast to the homeless and hungry at the Parking Lot Ministry in the parking lot of HopeHealth on East Palmetto Street. Parking Lot Ministry Prep begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, February 16, and the Parking Lot Ministry Event is at 7:30 AM on Saturday, February 17. If you want more information or would like to serve in this ministry, contact Bobbie Stricklin at wstricklin@sc.rr.com

House of Hope Tiny Houses Collard Harvest

CUMC has a longtime relationship with the House of Hope. One of the many activities we have with them is to manage the planters in front of the Tiny Houses area. The idea for this project was conceived about three years ago and a CUMC member stepped up and contributed a significant sum to fund the endeavor.

The CUMC "work team" constructed the planters and filled them with sand clay and topsoil. A group of five church members and a member of the Forget Me Not Garden Club volunteered to plant and manage the planters. We're now in our second winter season and have recently harvested a good mess of collards for Chris Brian, the HoH chef!



If you're interested in helping us plant the spring crop, please contact the church and we'll be in touch.

BAPTISM



Hutchinson Pierce Shumpert
Baptized on January 14, 2024

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The pastors, congregation, and staff express their sincere sympathy to the family of **John Orr**, who passed away on January 11, 2024.

The pastors, congregation, and staff express their sincere sympathy to the family of **Mike Ballenger**, who passed away on January 17, 2024.

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 One Faith Promise 6:30 AM Moms Coffee/Convo 8:45 AM Pickleball 12:30 PM Basketball Practice 5:30 PM	2	3
4 Youth Sunday Combined Worship First Sunday Fellowship Pickleball 12:45 PM Cub Scouts 2:30 & 4:00 PM Basketball Practice 4:30 PM	5 Courtney Graham 9:15 AM MBK Meal Packing 12:15 PM Basketball Practice 5:30 PM Men's Basketball 6:45 PM	6 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Movie Matinee 2:00 PM Pickleball Clinic 12:30 PM Basketball Practice 5:30 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM	7 Service of Prayer & Holy Communion 12:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM SF Choraliers Performance 6:00 PM	8 One Faith Promise 6:30 AM Pickleball 12:30 PM Basketball Practice 5:30 PM	9	10
11 Ministry Spotlight Scout Sunday Pickleball 12:45 PM Beads Workshop 4:00 PM Basketball Practice 4:30 PM	12 Courtney Graham 9:15 AM MBK Meal Packing 12:15 PM Help4Kids Packing 2:00 PM Basketball Practice 5:30 PM Steph. Min. Cont. Ed. 6:00 PM Men's Basketball 6:45 PM	13 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Movie Matinee 2:00 PM Pickleball Clinic 12:30 PM Basketball Practice 5:30 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM	14 Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM	15 One Faith Promise 6:30 AM Veterans Breakfast 8:00 AM Moms Coffee/Convo 8:45 AM Pickleball 12:30 PM Skating Party 5:00 PM Basketball Practice 5:30 PM	16 Parking Lot Ministry Prep 3:00 PM	17 Parking Lot Ministry Event 7:30 AM
18 Scrapbooking 12:00 PM Pickleball 12:45 PM Cub Scouts 2:30 & 4:00 PM Harpsichord Recital 3:00 PM	19 Courtney Graham 9:15 AM MBK Meal Packing 12:15 PM Men's Basketball 6:45 PM	20 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Pickleball Clinic 12:30 PM Movie Matinee 1:30 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM	21 Midweek Lenten Service 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch 12:30 PM UMW Board Meeting 3:30 PM *No Wednesday Night Dinner*	22 Pickleball 12:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 6:00 PM	23	24
25 Pickleball 12:45 PM CUMC Book Club 4:00 PM	26 Courtney Graham 9:15 AM MBK Meal Packing 12:15 PM Help4Kids Packing 2:00 PM Men's Basketball 6:45 PM	27 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Pickleball Clinic 12:30 PM Movie Matinee 2:00 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM	28 Midweek Lenten Service 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch 12:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM Pinewood Derby 6:00 PM	29 Pickleball 12:30 PM Happy Travelers Trip		

Sundays

Sunshine Class - 9:30 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship (Sanctuary & The Well) - 10:30 AM
Stephen Ministry Training - 12:45 PM
Cub Scout Den Meetings - 2:30 PM & 4:00 PM

Wednesday Nights

Preschool Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 PM
Elementary Choir Rehearsal & Jr. BibleBlast - 6:00 PM
Disciple I Bible Study - 6:00 PM
Financial Peace University - 6:00 PM
Poetry of Hymns Study - 6:00 PM
Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 6:15 PM
Junior Choir Rehearsal & Elem. BibleBlast - 6:30 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 7:15 PM

Circle Meetings

Monday, February 5
Christian Women Circle, 4:00 PM
Tuesday, February 6
Erin Glenn/Mary Motte Circle, 10:00 AM
Pearl Jones Circle, 10:00 AM
Glenn/Epps/Moody Circle, 10:00 AM
Joy Anderson/Sarah Blanton Circle, 2:00 PM

CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor

Thomas Smith, tsmith@centralmethodist.net

Associate Pastor

Ann Kovan, akovan@centralmethodist.net

Pastor of Faith Formation & Discipleship

Meg Bryce Jiunnies, mjiunnies@centralmethodist.net

Pastor Emeritus

Tom Pietila

Retired Pastors

Dannye Bragdon, Mel Flail, Alice Hocking, Julian Lazar, Leon Wagnon, DeVere Williams

Director of Music/Organist

Don Grice, dgrice@centralmethodist.net

Worship Director of The Well

Lance Hatchell, lhatchell@centralmethodist.net

Music Associate/Director of Handbells

Beverly Hazelwood, bhazelwood@centralmethodist.net

Director of Children's Choirs

Jaime Martinez

Director of Preschool Choir

Kristen Hardaway

Director of Nurseries

Catherine Lucius, clucius@centralmethodist.net

Director of Children's Ministries

Brandie Love, blove@centralmethodist.net

Director of Youth Discipleship

Julie Knight, jknight@centralmethodist.net

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Jennifer Walters, jwalters@centralmethodist.net

Kitchen Manager

George Hicks

Caretakers

Jason Taylor, Charles Beaufort, Ben Nettles

Housekeeper

Nicole Shaw

Safety Officers

Marilyn James, Johnny Spears, Billy Brown, Chris Benjamin, Freddie Williams, Terry Singletary

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone:

843-662-3218

Pastoral Emergency Care:

843-662-3206

Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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