

January 2024

Issue #7

Under
THE DOME



LETTER FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I am grateful and excited to walk with you into 2024. The new year will bring us fresh opportunities to fulfill our mission of following Jesus by loving God and loving our neighbors.

In the past year, we have celebrated God's blessings and weathered storms together, but through it all we have experienced the unwavering faithfulness of God. As we reflect on the year gone by, we can move into 2024 excited for new opportunities to join God in mission and ministry.

Thinking about new beginnings can cause both excitement and anxiety. When I was a young child, my best friend was my backdoor neighbor. He was a year ahead of me in school, and for an entire school year I was both jealous and fascinated by his experience in kindergarten. I would pepper him with questions and looked forward to beginning kindergarten with excitement. All was well until I attended my friend's kindergarten graduation. Each student sat in a chair on the stage. I was horrified to see taped to the back of each chair a student's name so he or she would know where to sit. I was aghast because I could not yet read! How would I know where to sit when it was my turn to graduate from kindergarten? My mother lovingly assured me that I would be able to read by the end of kindergarten, but I was not convinced. My nervousness came and went through the summer. But, sure enough, I was able to read my name when my kindergarten graduation came.

As we look to the promise and uncertainties of a new year, the words of Romans 8:28 come to mind, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Come what may, we can be confident that God works through us to advance God's mission and for our benefit. Let us move forward into 2024 confident that God is with us to lead and sustain us. If we strive to be faithful in serving and following God, we can trust that God will be faithful to us.

Together, as we face the new year with hope and expectancy, may we be a faith community that truly seeks to be in mission with God. May we *truly* be people who follow Jesus by loving God and loving our neighbors.

I am excited about the possibilities that the new year holds for us. Let us journey forward hand in hand, knowing that God is faithful. May the coming year be a testament to God's faithful love as we continue to live out our calling as disciples of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

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

Messages FROM OUR CLERGY

Rev. Ann Kovan

Associate Pastor

Ouch! The spiritual sound I make when God is stretching me in discipleship. But like the ouch of a needle prick, that profound discomfort quickly passes and gives way to the joy and satisfaction of being shaped in the likeness of Christ. Ephesians 2:19-22 teaches that we all have gifts to make God's kingdom on earth real. That mission is only achieved when we are collectively using our gifts for God's glory.

There is a plan for your life, and God has already sown into you the gifts you need to be faithful to that plan. But like seeds sealed in a box, they will lie dormant until they are exposed to the light. What seeds are hidden and inactive in you? Into what ministry is the Master Gardener trying to plant you?

In this season of new beginnings and resolutions, do something in ministry you've never done before. Welcome the momentary "ouch" of God planting you in a new field. Be Spirit-led. You may experience God's call as a holy hammer or gentle nudge. I pray you will discern that push and follow Jesus along this new growth edge. Whether it's traveling 2,000 miles to Costa Rica (June 1-8, 2024), or walking next door to meet your new neighbor, whether it's sanding at a BEDS build or breaking eggs for the Parking Lot Ministry casseroles, or any other of the hundreds of serving opportunities available through Central, put following Jesus out of your comfort zone at the top of your New Year's resolutions.

Say, "Yes!" to God!

Ann

Rev. Meg Bryce Jiunnies

Pastor of Faith Formation & Discipleship

Dear Church Family,

When I was younger, I believed that the whole reason for a new year was the New Year's Celebration. I spent countless hours planning how our family would begin the new year. Now, with the wisdom of some age and a number of pretty wonderful New Year's Celebrations behind me, I am convinced that there is some wisdom in starting the new year off in a good way. Intentionally planning to renew ourselves, grow in our relationship with God, and earnestly seek fellowship in Christian community is the best way to begin this new year!

Central has begun many years with the Covenant Prayer first adapted by John Wesley in 1755 from Richard Alewine who wrote it in the 1600's. And now, Greg Johnson will be leading **One Faithful Promise**, delving deeper into this prayer and its significance to present day Christians. Greg is offering this study at 6:30am on Thursday mornings. Come and join in if this is a good time for you!

While we are contemplating spiritual renewal, take a look at the other studies being offered as well. From the poetry – and theology – of hymns to putting our theology to practical use in **Financial Peace**, these small groups are so important to keep us engaged and nurtured in our faith. You are invited to add your thoughts, personality, spiritual gifts, and presence to enrich these groups.

New years and new things can be daunting, but I am truly excited about the new year and the renewal of God's church. You only have to open the pages of this booklet to see the myriad of ways in which our church family and friends are engaging in ministry.

I give thanks to God every day for each of you!

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: YOUTH MINISTRY SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Central's Youth Group is for youth in grades 6-12.
We meet most Sunday nights from
5:30 PM to 8:00 PM for fun, food, and fellowship.

Please join us for this Ministry Spotlight
in The Commons to see a slideshow of
our youth participating in the 2022
Santahatchie Mission Project.

LEAD CENTRAL

Sunday, January 21
immediately following worship

At this important event, we will enjoy a meal together, Pastor Thomas will cast vision for the new year, and most committees and ministry teams will have their first meetings of the year. Please mark your calendars and make plans now to attend.

And we cannot talk about leadership without giving every person a chance to serve...

And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. Whoever speaks should do so as those who speak God's word. Whoever serves should do so from the strength that God furnishes. Do this so that in everything God may be honored through Jesus Christ. To him be honor and power forever and always. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

When we join a Christian Community, we vow to support that community with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These are also the ways we form and grow in our faith. Central UMC uses the *Every Member in Ministry* (EMIM) forms to make signing up for some of our ministries easy. These forms are not our entire listing of ministry opportunities but include many one-time service or team opportunities. Here at Central, we encourage every member to join in, no matter their age or stage in life. When you get your form, either online at our website or a hard copy available in The Commons, you can check one or two areas (or more) in which you would like to serve for 2024, and either place the form in the offering plate or submit one through our website.

Contact Rev. Meg Jiunnies if you have any questions or would like to talk about your participation.

CENTRAL'S 2024 LAY LEADERSHIP

Church Council Chair: Marvin Owen

Co-Lay Leaders: Frank O'Shea (2024); Beth Ann Owen (2025); Eileen Blackwell (2026)

Board of Trustees

Class of 2024
Class of 2025
Class of 2026

Chair 2024: To Be Elected by Board (Thomas Smith, clergy; Dan Rogers, staff)

Charles Howard, Jim Peterson, Molly Lee
Bobby Floyd, Jay Campbell, Renae Chadwick
Catherine Sanderson, Art Justice, Gary Brown

Finance Committee

Class of 2024
Class of 2025
Class of 2026

Chair: John Orr (Thomas Smith, clergy; Tara Ballenger, staff)

Blake Branham, Bryant Sansbury, Rose Mary Parham
Elizabeth Jones, Jeff Payne, Michael Morgan
David Sanderson, David Alderman, Jane Huggins

Nominations for Lay Leadership

Class of 2024
Class of 2025
Class of 2026

Chair: Senior Pastor Thomas Smith (Ann Kovan; Meg Jiunnies, contact)

Audrey Cooke, Frank O'Shea
Jordan Johnson
Mary McDougal, Patty Howard, Trisha Caulder

Staff Parish Relations

Class of 2024
Class of 2025
Class of 2026

Chair 2024: Stewart Jones; Chair-Elect: Sheila Barnes (Thomas Smith, Ann Kovan & Meg Jiunnies)

David Stone, Sheila Barnes, Stewart Jones
Katri Skinner, Rick Knight, Karen Hill
Ben King, Jim Sandlin, Helen Holland

Endowment Fund Committee

Class of 2024
Class of 2025
Class of 2026

Chair 2024: Clary Rawl (Thomas Smith, clergy)

Nicole Hupfer, Bill Hester
Billy Garey, Britton Yarborough, Clary Rawl
John Chase, Jane Miley, Maggie Gause

Stewardship Committee

Andy Arthur, Cathy Baxley, Audrey Cooke, Faith Gressette, Jan Hursey, Mac Lucius, Til Morisey, Karen Munn, Amy Sansbury, Catherine Thompson, Kathy Wilcox (Thomas Smith & Meg Jiunnies, clergy)

Chair 2024: Nicole Hupfer

Adult & Family Ministries

June Baird, Sheila Barnes, Lynn Clary, Betty Hinline, Barbara Holladay, Wayne Jackson, Gail Onley, Robin Payne, Jim Sandlin, Norma Sandlin, Elise Walker (Meg Jiunnies, clergy; Adriane Reynolds, staff)

Chair 2024: Bebe Frank; Chair-Elect: Ann Binnarr

Children's Ministry

Amanda Allen, Ann Binnarr, Rebecca Campbell, Cameron Capotosti, Lane Davis, Leigh Dawson, Cayce Granger, Kristen Hardaway, Ginny Hill, Allana Hilley, Jordan Johnson, Catherine Lucius, Britton Yarborough (Meg Jiunnies, clergy; Brandie Love, staff)

Chairs 2024: Kelsey Ward/Mary Wallace Moore; Chairs-Elect: Betsy O'Shea/Kathryn Abbott

Congregational Care

Ministries: Jennifer Ervin, Patsy Harris, Connie Lee, Frances McIntosh, Jody Parker (Meg Jiunnies, clergy)

Visitation: Carol Allen, Ann Binnarr, Susie Brown, Judy Bywater, Elizabeth Campbell, Becky Crawford, Elvie Eaddy, Peggy Eaddy, Van Fraley, Ron Garner, Billy Griffin, Ansley McGinnis, Frances McIntosh, Jody Parker, Mincy Peterson, Beth Propst, Bryant Stokes, Carolyn Wagon (Ann Kovan, clergy; Shay Justice, staff)

Chair 2024-25: Missy Brown; Chair-Elect: Bobbie Collins

Education & Spiritual Growth

Meg Brunson, Teresa Brunson, Jim Canup, Margaret Cox, Ivan Eaddy, Judy Floyd, Jim Harris, Ginny Hill, Joy Poole, Frank O'Shea, Beth Ann Owen, Cathy Swartz, Britton Yarborough (Meg Jiunnies, clergy; Program Staff)

Chair 2023-24: Charlie Abbott; Chair-Elect: Frances King

Faith Sharing Ministry Team

Teresa Brunson, Rick Clowney, John Frank, Madeline Gregory, Emily Griffin, Jeanette Jackson, Aruna Sagar-Pulukuri (Ann Kovan, clergy; Philip Maenza, staff)

Chair 2023-2024: Beth Jones; Chair-Elect: Susan Powers

Library Ministry Team/Archives

Joanne Anderson, Sandra Craddock, June Jenkins, Ansley McGinnis, John Frank (Meg Jiunnies, clergy)

Librarian: Margaret Cox

Outreach & Advocacy Ministry

David Alderman, Norman Boatwright, Lynn Clary, David Coker, Salley Davidson, Karen Hill, Rick Knight, Jay Lee, Hank Leeke, Lynn Liebenrood, Steve Liebenrood, Mac MacDougal, Dody Phillips, John Rabun, Julie Sisco, Gilliam Skinner, Katri Skinner, Bryant Stokes, Elizabeth Stokes (Ann Kovan, clergy)

Chair 2024: Jim Harris; Chairs-Elect: Seth Sherard/Curt Derrick

Preschool Board

Class of 2024
Class of 2025
Class of 2026
Ex-Officio

Chair 2024: Mindy Taylor (Ann Kovan, clergy; Jennifer Walters, staff)

Katherine Yurek, Jennifer Anderson, Kelsey Ward
Mindy Taylor, Doug Poston, Judy Bywater
Audrey Cooke, Natalie Merzlake, Pam Maloy
Catherine Lucius (Dir. Of Nurseries), Ursula McGee, Betsy O'Shea

Recreation Team

Chair 2024: Jeff Gregory; Basketball Leader: Phil Jones (Adriane Reynolds, staff)

Worship Team

Tara Ballenger, Eileen Blackwell, Susie Brown, Julie Coker, Mary Falcone, Betty Hester, Nicole Hupfer, Heather McCown, Cynthia Morgan, Karen Munn, Larry Orr, Jody Parker, Elizabeth Rabun, Hal Rowan, Kim Turner, Susan Williams, Sandra Willis (Thomas Smith, clergy; Don Grice, staff)

Chair 2024-2025: Jennifer Peebles

The Well Worship Team

June Baird, Cameron Capotosti, Rick Clowney, Warren Coker, Emily Griffin, Philip Maenza, Grace Page, Doug Poston, Jennifer Powers, Mike Wright (Ann Kovan, clergy; Lance Hatchell, staff)

Chair 2024: Til Morisey

Youth Ministry Team

Ed Love, Martina Love, Grace Page, Anne Stone (Meg Jiunnies, clergy; Julie Knight, staff)

Chair 2023-2024: Joy Higgs; Chair-Elect: Allison Slice

Youth Council: Morgan Emanuelli, Nathan Gause, William Grantham, Allie Clyde Higgs, Chandler Hyman, Elizabeth Sawyer, Annabelle Slice, Kirksey Smith

UNDER THE DOME

Why the change?

In June 2023, I initiated a "holy experiment" with Central's weekly bulletin, realizing the challenges of creating fresh content every week. Exploring alternatives, I found the concept of a monthly publication adopted by other churches. Despite initial hesitation, the staff embraced the idea.

The initial editions of *Under the Dome* were experimental, focusing on gathering and presenting information. With patience, organization, and grace, we successfully produced informative editions. However, we recognized the importance of design.

By October 2023, *Under the Dome* underwent a complete redesign, adopting a more colorful and visually appealing format. The clergy and staff unanimously agreed to continue the monthly publication. Several factors contributed to this decision. A monthly schedule allows better planning for both the staff and the congregation. It provides a broader view of the church's ministries weeks in advance, benefiting members and reaching beyond Central's immediate community.

Moreover, the monthly publication offers a cost-effective solution compared to the previous weekly bulletins. Reduced production, paper, and ink costs and decreased wear on leased machines contribute to financial efficiency.

We hope you find *Under the Dome* a valuable tool for staying connected with the church. Over 200 copies are distributed to home-bound members, those with children and youth, and college students. If you wish to receive a mailed copy, contact the church office. Physical copies are available during Sunday worship, and an email with Orders of Worship and *Under the Dome* is sent weekly. To receive these updates digitally, contact me, Philip Maenza, via email.

How do I get events and other information in *Under the Dome*?

Although a lot has changed with our new publication, the process for getting information published has not changed. We still ask that if you would like your ministry, Sunday School, or any other event included in *Under the Dome*, you reach out to the staff liaison for that ministry area. Please contact them via email or phone with all the necessary information for what you want added to *Under the Dome*. They will then follow the appropriate in-office channels to get that information to me so that way it can be added correctly and in a timely manner. If you are unsure whom to speak with, please call the church office. We will be able to direct you to the right person to ensure that everything that needs to be completed occurs.

Please contact your staff liaison no later than the 10th of each month in order to ensure that your content will make the deadline.

Even more content coming your way!

Starting in February of 2024 we want to include more information about our congregation! We would like to start recognizing major life events such as marriages and births. To do this successfully, we ask that you contact Shay Justice in the church office so that she can collect that information for us.

In the coming editions, we will also begin to include recognition of our new members and baptisms, as well as listings of those members who have passed away.

Contact Information for Employees in the Church Office

Philip Maenza - Director of Media - pmaenza@centralmethodist.net
Shay Justice - Office Manger - sjustice@centralmethodist.net
Dianna Wilson - Receptionist - dwilson@centralmethodist.net

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

*Bats in the Belfry?
Oh no! It's...
Bells in the Balcony!*

We are blessed to have a very accomplished handbell group of thirteen ringers, led by Beverly Hazelwood, who play during the worship hour several times throughout the year.

Rehearsal takes place on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 PM for one hour in the Howard Starks Handbell Room on the second floor near the sanctuary. We have five octaves of Schulmerich Bells, and each ringer may play 4 or 5 bells while playing a piece of music. We also have 5 octaves of hand chimes, which create a distinctly different timbre.



Change bell ringing (using ropes in church towers) has long been a tradition in England. Tower bell ringing, especially in the small villages of England, presented a problem during rehearsal times, as the villagers became annoyed with the "noise." Robert and William Cor of Wiltshire, England developed the modern handbell between 1696 and 1724 so that ringers could practice without bothering their neighbors. Handbells were introduced in the United States from England by Margaret Shurcliff in 1902.

*Handbell Concert
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
6:15 PM
The Sanctuary*

WORSHIP IN THE WELL

What is Connect and Refresh, and why do we do it in The Well?

The Well is not a purely modern worship service. It is a modern interpretation and application of our Methodist worship customs in a casual setting. The Well team is always looking for ways to recast and continually evolve the service with the desire to give God our very best in worship.

The worship elements are a combination of new ideas and reimagining—without abandoning—Christian tradition. Some of the spins on tradition are very recognizable: we include a singing version of the Apostles Creed; we have an altar table with candles and a cross draped in the appropriate color of the Christian calendar; we sing hymns and follow the basic pattern of worship (Entrance/Gathering, Proclamation and Response, Thanksgiving and Communion, and Sending Forth) that has its roots in the first-century church.

Recently, someone asked me why we have Connect and Refresh. Greeting one another, or “Passing the Peace,” is an ancient Christian tradition. Eating or breaking bread in worship is also an ancient Christian practice as well as the centerpiece of Methodist worship that dates back to the Wesleys, who called it a “Love Feast” service (borrowing from the Moravians), which is still in our United Methodist Book of Worship. So, every Sunday we have a time of Passing the Peace and breaking bread together that gives people a time to meet friends they don’t yet know. Connect & Refresh isn’t an intermission, but a continuation of worship that links the Entrance period of worship to Proclamation (sermon) and Response (confession, prayer, and commitment to Christian discipleship).

If you have never worshipped in The Well, I encourage you to try it at least once and discover both the old and new elements that have been inspired for that service. ~ Rev. Ann Kovan

The Well Band Seeks Your Input

Lance and The Well band want to play songs that enable you to connect even more deeply to God and God’s people through worship. If you have any song/hymn suggestions, or any feedback that can improve the overall worship experience in The Well, please contact Lance Hatchell by email at lhatchell@centralmethodist.net.



Lance Hatchell, Worship
Director of The Well,
led the music for
the Children’s Nativity.

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 is done 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

An Angel, a Star, and a Baby!

The Nativity Play performed by the children of Central on Wednesday, December 6, was a beautiful start to the Advent Season. This is sure to become a new tradition at Central. Special thanks to Catherine England-Plisiewicz, Jordan Johson, and the many other parents who helped bring this performance back after a hiatus of 17+ years. Thank you to our friend, John Frank, for the set design and construction. Finally, thank you to everyone who gave to the special offering that was collected by the children following the program. This money will be used towards ministry opportunities such as VBS and Mission Camp.



Welcome Back to Bible Blast and Choir in 2024

We are looking forward to an exciting semester learning about Jesus, and how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in Florence. We are also going to have "Moments with the Ministers" during Bible Blast where we will get to spend time with and learn from Pastor Thomas, Pastor Ann, and Pastor Meg. Which Pastor do you think tells the best jokes?



Summer Camp at Asbury Hills

With different types of camps—*Core, Drenched, Eclipse, Express, Altitude, and Adventure*—there is something at Asbury Hills for everyone! Campers will:



- Form new friendships with cabinmates and counselors
- Participate in a variety of age-appropriate activities
- Deepen their faith with small-group devotions
- Experience powerful worship led by the worship team

Central will pay a scholarship fee for campers and would like to send a group of campers to camp the same week. For more information and/or if you are interested in camp, please contact Brandie or visit www.asburyhills.org.

Happy Birthday!

January 5 – Ruby Hilley

January 10 – Layla Jordan

January 11 – Ashby Claire Campbell

January 22 – Arthur Williams

January 28 – Thomas Eldridge

Please contact Brandie Love,
Director of Children's Ministries,
with any questions!
blove@centralmethodist.net

An Angel, A Star & A Baby!



YOUTH MINISTRY



A Night in Little Italy was a great success! Thank you to everyone who supported the youth ministry. Hats off to our youth for hosting such a fun night!



Youth Council lighting the first Advent candle, the Candle of Hope.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7th
Secret Destination – 5:30 pm for all youth

January 14th
UMYF: Jr. High – 5:30 pm; Dinner – 6:30 pm; Sr. High – 7:00 pm

January 21st
UMYF: Jr. High – 5:30 pm; Dinner – 6:30 pm; Sr. High – 7:00 pm

January 26th
No UMYF

January 26th – 28th
Revolution for grades 7 -12

Contact Julie Knight, Minister of Youth Discipleship, for more information! – jknight@centralmethodist.net

ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Wednesday Night Dinner

Join your Central family for a delicious meal as Wednesday Night Dinners resume on January 10 at 5:30pm. It is vitally important that you register by Sunday, January 7, so that we can plan appropriately. To register, you may either sign on to Realm or call the church office.

Veterans Breakfast

Our monthly breakfast for veterans will be held Thursday, January 18, at 8:00 AM in Spears Fellowship Hall. Army veteran, author, and CEO of *Living Proof* organization Bob Skelton will serve as our guest speaker. As always, there is no charge for breakfast, and guests are welcome to attend! Please register on Realm, by emailing Adriane, or by calling the church office.

Scouting Ministry

Central's scouts helped with the Wreaths Across America service project at the Florence National Cemetery on December 16, placing live wreaths on the headstones of our fallen heroes. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

In January, our Cub Scouts will start working on their Pinewood Derby cars for the races which will be held on Wednesday, February 28, in the Davis CLC.

Happy Travelers

Our Happy Travelers have had a busy couple of months, traveling to Mepkin Abbey in November and Saluda Shoals Park in December. Our next adventure will be Thursday, January 25, as we embark on another Mystery Trip. Stay tuned for details!

Movie Matinee

Every Tuesday, 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 in! On January 2 at 1:30 PM, historian Wallace Bird will share with us some interesting information on the music of WWII, followed by a showing of *The Glenn Miller Story*. All other Tuesdays we'll meet at 2:00 PM, and the movies are as follows:

January 9 – *A Perfect World*

January 16 – *Julie & Julia*

January 23 – *Tuesdays with Morrie*

January 30 – *Walk the Line*



Contact Adriane Reynolds, Director of Adult & Family Ministries,
for more information!
areynolds@centralmethodist.net

FAITH FORMATION

NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace Classes

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, January 10 through March 13, 2024

Room 172, led by Doug Poston

Financial Peace University is a financial planning system based on the Bible and an excellent resource for families to help encourage open discussion between spouses and those who may be sharing financial responsibilities for family members. This is a terrific class for young adults heading off to the workplace or college! Please register before the class begins.

Enrollment may be completed online at the Financial Peace University website – <https://www.fpu.com/BOA90C>. Each “family unit” will need one kit. If you would like more information, please get in touch with Doug Poston (doug@drpjcpa.com) or Rev. Meg Jiunnies (843-662-3218, mjiunnies@centralmethodist.net).

Fast Track Disciple I: Old Testament

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm, January 10 through April 3, 2024

Room 173, led by Renae Chadwick

Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original Disciple Bible Study, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text. Fast Track groups meet for 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Central will offer the first part from January 10-April 3, 2024. Participants read 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes. A brief illustrated review video enables participants to recall important facts and ideas; lively and engaging video presenters then offer insights into the current week's session. Please register and order your book before the class begins.

The Stories and Poetry of our Favorite Hymns

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm, January 10 through February 7, 2024

Room 232, led by Missy Brown

During this casual and discussion-oriented short study, we will read the scriptural references for some of our most-loved hymns and learn when and why these hymns were written. Then we will study the hymns' texts and take a look at how they incorporate poetic devices that deepen their beauty and meaning. Enrollment in this class is limited to 15. Please register as soon as possible.

***One Faithful Promise: The Wesleyan Covenant for Renewal* by Magrey Devega**

Thursdays, 6:30-7:30am, January 10 through February 15, 2024

Room 173, led by Greg Johnson

As we prepare for the beginning of a new year, come and join this small group to explore the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer. John Wesley introduced this message, the prayer, and the liturgy in 1755 as a call for the renewal of our commitment and passion as disciples of Christ. As relevant to life application in this present day as in 1755, this is a guide for what that commitment means, as well as a traditional focus for a new year. This is also an excellent study in preparation for the season of Lent, and concludes the Thursday after Ash Wednesday. Please register by January 8 and order your book (found at several online distributors) before class begins.

ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES

Courtney Graham Women's Bible Study

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

Mondays restarting January 22 from 9:15-11:00am 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. Please buy your book before class begins.

27:17 Central Men's Study

Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00am 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 8:45-9:30am 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! Next meetings are January 4 and January 18.

Coming in February 2024: Lenten Study with the Pastors

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.

Called to Share?

The Daily Scripture Readings are the most read and shared of all our online communications. I think what makes them so endearing to so many people is that they are shared from the heart of different individuals' unique experiences and perspectives, and not from the pen of professional writers or spiritual leaders. Disciples just like you contribute each week to our devotional offering, many feeling unequal to the task. Yet, with God's help, their reflections on Scripture come alive in the hearts of all our readers. This is not a calling to write, but a calling to share from the heart. As Methodists – borrowing the phrase from John Wesley – we refer to the spiritual discipline of engaging with the Bible, "searching" the Scriptures, rather than "reading" the Scriptures. Our DSR's are a tool that activates that deeper search. We are always looking for new people to add to our line-up. Consider if God is calling you to share in this way and contact Philip Maenza in the church office for more information. If you aren't receiving the Daily Scripture Readings currently, please visit centralmethodist.net and subscribe when the window pops up.

~ Rev. Ann Kovan

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Become a Stephen Minister! Last chance to register for training for 2024!

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to train and nurture caregivers in a church setting. Stephen Ministry provides high-quality, one-to-one Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and community experiencing life's difficulties. Training begins in February! Please contact Rev. Meg Jiunnies, Rev. Tom Pietila, or Missy Brown if you would like to learn more about this ministry. If you know someone who could benefit from a trained caregiver, please contact us.

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, that 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 (mjiunnies@centralmethodist.net).

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Hunger Awareness Vienna Sausage Drive

To support Childhood Hunger Awareness week, we are collecting Vienna sausages for the month of January for Help 4 Kids, a nonprofit organization that feeds hungry children through weekend food bags and school food pantries. It takes 8,800 cans per month to feed the 1 in 5 children in Florence County who suffer hunger. Look for collection bins starting the first of January. Scan the QR code to be taken to the Outreach section of our website where you can find additional instructions and links to purchase Vienna Sausages.



SCAN ME



Costa Rica Mission Project Trip

Our dates are set for June 1-8, 2024. This is a wonderful trip that you won't soon forget! Join us as we help further the Kingdom of God with missionary Wil Bailey and the Costa Rica Mission Project (CRMP). All ages are welcome to attend. A parent must accompany children younger than 14 years of age. No skills are required. The cost is \$1,495 and includes airfare, meals, lodging, transportation, construction materials, local labor, and insurance. Scholarships are available! Register now by going to centralmethodist.net/CRMP. An informational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21 at 9:30 AM. Contact David Coker at 843-230-3188 for more information.



MORE OPPORTUNITIES!

Central's January Blood Drive

Central's first Red Cross Blood Drive of 2024 will be held on January 18 in the Davis Christian Life Center. We are also taking sign-ups for our March 14 and May 16 drives. You can sign up in The Commons, call the church office at 843-662-3218, or email kvelicky@centralmethodist.net to reserve a space. You may also sign up on the Red Cross Website with our donor code *CentralUnited*. Some time slots have been set aside for Central members. If you are not able to register in your preferred slot, please contact Kathryn or call the church office.

Central and the Red Cross would like to congratulate Dan Rogers, who passed the 100 unit milestone with his last Power Red Donation! Dan has given 101 Units over 75 donations and has made an amazing contribution to those in need. Thank you Dan!

CUMC Book Club ~ Sunday, January 28 from 4:00-5:00pm

Start off the new year by joining the CUMC Book Club on Sunday, January 28, at the home of Sharon Tanner. Discussing what you read is an easy, enjoyable way to get to know people better and expand your thinking and faith. The CUMC Book Club typically meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. Our book for January is *Dopesick* by Beth Macy. Newcomers are warmly welcomed at any time. Come join the conversation! To be on the mailing list and receive reminders, contact Ellen Smith at ellenharper@yahoo.com.



Volunteers from the Spiritual Journeys class rang the bell for the Salvation Army on December 9.

JANUARY 2024

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	<p>1 Church Office Closed for New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Movie Matinee 1:30 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM</p>	<p>3 Service of Prayer & Holy Communion 12:00 PM</p>	<p>4 Moms Coffee/Convo 8:45 AM Pickleball 12:30 PM Florence Needs 6:00 PM</p>		
<p>7 First Sunday Fellowship & Ministry Spotlight Pickleball 12:45 PM UMYF 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 2:30 & 4:00 PM</p>	<p>8 Courtney Graham 9:15 AM MBK Meal Packing 12:15 PM Men's Basketball 6:45 PM</p>	<p>9 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Movie Matinee 2:00 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM</p>	<p>10 Service of Prayer & Holy Communion 12:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM</p>	<p>11 One Faith Promise 6:30 AM Pickleball 12:30 PM Florence Needs 6:00 PM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Pickleball 12:45 PM UMYF 5:30 PM</p>	<p>15 Church Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p>16 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Movie Matinee 2:00 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM</p>	<p>17 Service of Prayer & Holy Communion 12:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM</p>	<p>18 One Faith Promise 6:30 AM Veterans Breakfast 8:00 AM Moms Coffee/Convo 8:45 AM Blood Drive 1:30 PM Florence Needs 6:00 PM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Lead Central 11:45 AM UMYF 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 2:30 & 4:00 PM</p>	<p>22 Courtney Graham 9:15 AM MBK Meal Packing 12:15 PM Help4Kids Packing 2:00 PM Men's Basketball 6:45 PM</p>	<p>23 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Movie Matinee 2:00 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM</p>	<p>24 Service of Prayer & Holy Communion 12:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM</p>	<p>25 One Faith Promise 6:30 AM Pickleball 12:30 PM Happy Travelers Trip</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Pickleball 12:45 PM CUMC Book Club 4:00 PM</p>	<p>29 Courtney Graham 9:15 AM MBK Meal Packing 12:15 PM Men's Basketball 6:45 PM</p>	<p>30 27:17 Bible Study 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 AM Movie Matinee 2:00 PM BSA Troop 475 7:00 PM</p>	<p>31 Service of Prayer & Holy Communion 12:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 PM Handbell Concert 6:15 PM</p>			

Sundays

Sunshine Class - 9:30 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship (Sanctuary & The Well) - 10:30 AM
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

Tuesday, January 2
Glenn/Epps/Moody Circle, 10:00 AM
Joy Anderson/Sarah Blanton Circle, 2:00 PM
Monday, January 8
Christian Women Circle, 4:00 PM
Tuesday, January 9
Erin Glenn/Mary Motte Circle, 10:00 AM
Pearl Jones Circle, 10:00 AM

