



THE CENTRAL SENTRY

January 2016

Central United Methodist Church

17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott NY 13760

Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost

www.centralumcendicott.org

(607) 754-6060

Pastor's Notes:

It's a new year... Already.

As I write, we're still trying to find Advent peace in the whirl of preparing for Christmas. It's hard to see past the season that overwhelms us through December. But the new year comes, and more quickly than we expect, and suddenly it is here, and we ask, "now what?" The task for the faithful is to keep the meaning of Christmas past the shopping and the wrapping, the trees and the parties, the post-holiday leftovers and Christmas carol fatigue.

I believe the key to accomplishing that task is to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus as Emmanuel, which literally means "God-with-us." When we can remember that, and when we can integrate into every aspect of our lives the truth that God is with us, *we* become what Christmas is meant to be. It stops being a holiday and becomes a way of living.

The love of God, born into us, means that we are never alone. The presence of God, woven into the fabric of our lives, means that there is nothing in the world that can undo us. The life of God, breathing in and out of our own souls, means that we are God's people, always.

This is the wonder and joy that we can carry into the new year: the gift of the life and love and presence of God. This means that it's not really over, even when the tinsel and the lights are packed away, when the last gift is opened and the last party thrown. When God is with us, there is no after-Christmas letdown, no post-holiday blues. God is with us! Thanks be to God! That is a celebration with no end. Hallelujah!

Still in One Peace,

Pastor Michelle



January Events

- Jan 3 – Holy Communion
– Epiphany Party
- Jan 9 – Blood Drive
- Jan 15 – Men's Group Kickoff
- Jan 16 – UMW District Meeting
- Jan 17 – Martin Luther King Service
- Jan 23 – District Workshop
- Jan 24 – Contemporary Worship
- Jan 31 – Dinner with Friends Kickoff

Sunday School Update Change for January 3

We will have Sunday School for all ages on January 3, 2016.

Our Adult class will meet in the lounge to start the first of a series entitled Homeland (Portraits of Native Action). We have added a week to include Native Action in NYS. This class will be led by Joan Fitch, HB King and Wyatt Roberts. (Jan 3 - 31)

All youth and children are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall for an Epiphany Party to celebrate the birth of the Christ. There will be crafts, a storyteller or two and of course, cake! Come and celebrate with us! Where else can you get cake at 9:30 in the morning? Teachers are welcome to come but it is not a required class. Please let Kelly Devine or Pat Hansen know if you would like to help.



Rev Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Sunday, January 17 3:00 pm

At 3:00 pm on Sunday January 17, Central Church will host the annual Celebration of the Life and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Beverly Hosten Dorsey will deliver the keynote address drawing from her long career as a physician and an active citizen of the triple cities. To name a few of the participants in the program, Sean Stafford will provide piano and organ music. Rev. Andrew Morrison will sing 2 solos and Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost will offer prayers and lead the touching candle light ceremony to end the service. After the service, the celebration will continue with a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. This promises to be a fitting celebration of the recognition of the national King Holiday.



Sunday, January 24 7 pm

January's evening contemporary service will be on the January 24th, the 4th Sunday of the month. We will celebrate the Martin Luther King day just past and the upcoming Black History Month in February with an evening of spirituals. This always makes for a great night of singing, and we welcome singers of all ages to join Living Water for the night! Just come for one rehearsal, Monday, January 18 at 6:30pm, or come at 5:30pm on the night of the service. We hope to see you there!



Dinner with Friends Kick-off Sunday, January 31 Noon

Dinner with We've called it Dinner for Eight, Dinner with Friends. Whatever we call it, it's a great opportunity to get to spend time with others in our Central Family. Many participate in it each year and have found this a terrific way to get to know each other better. But many haven't. Please accept this as an invitation to join in this year. We're also inviting families with children as we'll look to put families together.

A brief description on how this works - in our initial meeting on January 31 we will establish groups. These groups will meet once a month for dinner and fellowship.

This year there's a twist. We will leave space in each group to invite others to join. The more the merrier!! The Initial meeting will be Sun Jan 31 following the 11:00 service. A meal will be provided as we are introduced to our Dinner friends. Any questions contact the Church office.



Circle Meetings

Deborah Circle Tues, January 19 at 7 pm at Phyllis Cousin's home-89 Coventry Rd, Endicott
Contact: Martha Petrush, 754-7494

Elizabeth Circle Mon, January 11 at 6 pm in the church lounge
Contact: Kelly Devine, 754-9240

Grace Circle Wed, January 20 at 1 pm at Judy Zwick's home (46 Frederick Dr, Apalachin)
Contact: Pauline Witt, 748-4142

Sarah Circle Tues, January 19 at noon in the church dining room. Please bring a bag lunch.
Contact: Carole James, 757-2629



Men's Group Kickoff

Friday, January 15 6:00pm

Calling all Men !! All men are invited to the initial meeting of the Men's group at Central. We will have a program featuring Kevin Crane of Gannett Publishing to describe what goes on inside the publishing building in JC. Pizza and wings will be served, we will ask for a donation to cover the expenses. We will discuss what it would take to become a recognized United Methodist Men's group. Hope to see all of you men there. Any questions - contact Knud Hansen (754- 0882 -khansen3@yahoo.com)

Finance Update

When this was written in mid-December, we didn't know how we will finish the year, but usually the Central family is generous in December. If that occurs again, we should start 2016 with a positive balance. We are thankful for the spiritual giving of the Congregation, as such Central is able to provide a strong ministry with programs that help so many. As of mid-December we have to report the results of a successful Stewardship campaign. While we haven't received all the commitments yet, the financial commitments for 2016 exceed 2015. If we continue to receive all the commitments we expect, giving to Central could increase even more going into 2016. This will put us on a firm financial footing for 2016 and allow Central to continue the strong Christian ministry and programs. Thank you all for your continued spiritual stewardship and support of Central's Ministries, enabling us to make real the love of Christ in so many ways.

The Finance Committee

Blood Drive

Saturday, January 9 8am-1pm

Central will be hosting a blood drive on January 9th from 8am to 1pm in Fellowship Hall. Please call 1-800-RedCross or sign-up on the web at www.redcrossblood.org. Donors will enjoy a free breakfast.



Haiti Mission Trip

March 10-20

There are currently a few openings for the Haiti mission trip leaving on March 10th. If you are interested in going on a mission trip to Haiti, please call the church office or Pastor Michelle. Team dates and more information are available at www.haitipartnership.com.

Hospitalized:

Jeanine Cristelli
Ray Frederick
Bill Garrett
Sylvia Gutowski
Alta Hawley
Marion Heiss
Barbara Reynolds



Sympathy extended to:

Barb Olevano on the death of her mother, Bernice

A Heif-ty Thank You

The youth and children of Central would like to thank all who donated to our Christmas "Frankie the Sheep" purchase. Together we raised \$278 for Heifer International to purchase 2 Sheep for a family and three shares (\$10/share) of an additional sheep. We thank you and hope that you all have a safe and happy Christmas holiday.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to the many people who contributed to December's Blue Christmas service. Together we created some holy moments for those who attended, serving as another example of how Central makes real the love of Jesus Christ for all. Jeff Heald

I wish to express my "thanks" for the prayers, cards and visits while I was in the hospital or recovering at home. Our church is certainly a caring congregation. Bob Oney



Do you have trouble hearing during the Sunday service? There may be a solution if you wear hearing aids. Central has a "loop" or **Telecoil system** that works with some hearing aids. Call your hearing aid provider to see if your hearing aid can be used with a Telecoil system. Once enabled, it is a simple adjustment to hear the service through your hearing aid! Central also has simple headphones that many people like. Ask at the TV ministry booth for the headphones.

If you have any questions, call the church office.

Monday Night Book Study

Pastor Michelle will be leading the following book studies this coming year at the Friendly's restaurant. The books are available on Amazon. Come and try it out sometime as your schedule allows. Some come early and eat supper, some eat as we talk, some just talk, and some just listen.

The Good Life by Peter Gomes

Jan 4-Feb 2 (5 weeks)

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich

Bonhoeffer - Feb 8-Mar 7 (5 weeks)

Help, Thanks, Wow by Anne Lamott

Mar 14-Apr 4 (4 weeks)

Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World

by John Shelby Spong

Apr 18- Jun 13 (9 weeks)

Reaching Out by Henri Nouwen

Jun 20-Jul.11 (4 weeks, breaking for July 4)

Binghamton District Workshop

The District Leadership Team will be providing a learning opportunity to members of our churches here at Central UMC on

Saturday, January 23rd

Registration beginning at 8:00 am

Sessions 9:00am to 1:00 pm

This year the sessions will include:

Streamlining Church Administration

Social Media uses in church work

Transformational Leadership

We have an exciting group of leaders to help us lead our churches in ways they may not have thought of before. **This year we are asking for pre-registrations, please call Central's office (754-6060) by January 15th to register.**

The Mercy House of the Southern Tier

212 North McKinley Avenue, Endicott NY 13760

"A Home for the Terminally Ill"

Mercy House provides a home and a supportive family to people with terminal illnesses who can no longer stay at home. Residents spend their final days surrounded by their loved ones, and the love of Mercy House staff and volunteers. The values of Mercy House are to unconditionally accept each resident and ensure that they are treated with dignity, respect and compassion.

Residents receive quality care in a home-like environment that includes:

- 24-hour care as an alternative to nursing home, hospital or at-home care
- Holistic care to resident's physical needs while serving the spiritual, emotional and social needs to them and their families
- Private bedrooms with cable TV and telephone
- Home-cooked meals
- Open visiting hours for family and friends

Help Us

You can support Mercy House of the Southern Tier through:

- Support of Time
- Support of Talent
- Support of Materials
- Support of Food Donations
- Making a Monetary Donation



Please make checks payable to:

Mercy House of the Southern Tier

And mail to:

Mercy House of the Southern Tier

c/o Church of the Holy Family

3600 Phyllis Street, Endwell NY 13760

Mercy House is located at
212 North McKinley Avenue
Endicott, NY 13760
(formerly St. Casimir's Church)

607.321.1857
mhst@holymfamilyendwell.com
www.MercyHouseSouthernTier.com

**Opening in
2016**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

---Our sister church--- by MaryBelle Mitten

In our October Newsletter, you saw a picture of the fire escape built at our sister church, First UMC , McKinley Ave, Endicott, in order for them to have a jail reentry housing program in their upper floor , within the next year. It will be sponsored by the Cornerstone Group, chaired by the Rev. Dr. Greg Johnson. That will be income-generating for First Church. Central money unrelated to our budget funded the fire escape.

Other income generating programs are listed below and are essential since First United Methodist Church membership is low.

The District Superintendent's office on the 1st floor, the Conference Media Resource Center is housed in their lower level , along with Little Learners Preschool, 5 AA groups meet 7 days a week.

SAFETY NET Ministry includes: computer access books, diapers, blankets and coats available , daily noon meal , Sunday morning breakfast, , CHOW pantry(twice a week-Wed. and Fri 10-11am), Third Saturday night light supper at 5:30 with CHOW again open from 3-5 pm and lastly, a Christmas day meal. Every Saturday lunch, a Fellowship Meal is provided by other churches.

We can be very proud of our sister church. Thank you First United Methodist Church members and friends, for your outreach ministries!



301 Nantucket Drive, Endicott

Absolut Care is looking for people to volunteer in 2016. On the Guest Services Team you would work for 1 to 4 hours, one time per week. Volunteer Opportunities include:

Guest Service Volunteer- assisting in the resident lounge, answering questions, help setting up for an event or a little time to help residents get to a meal.

Layman Companion Volunteer – work with residents to develop positive relationships designed to increase a positive sense of hope, purpose and contribution.

Contact Curtis Newsome, Director of Social Services at 754-2705 ext. 322 if you wish to volunteer.

Newsletter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Epiphany 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 WORSHIP - Usher #3 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Epiphany Party 11:00 WORSHIP	4 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Book Study	5 8am Men's Breakfast 10-12 Clothing Center 1 pm Companions 2 7:00 pm Program Councils	6 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 1:30 pm UMW Leadership 7:00 pm A.A.	7 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	1 New Year's Day Office Closed 7:00 pm A.A. <hr/> 8 7:00 pm A.A.	2 <hr/> 9 8am-1pm Blood Drive
10 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 WORSHIP - Usher #4 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 WORSHIP	11 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:00 pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Book Study	12 10-12 Clothing Center 10 am Parish Visitors 10am-7pm WIC 7:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm Van Committee	13 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Companions 2 7:00 pm A.A.	14 8:30 am Wesley Class Bkfst 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:00 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 pm United Methodist Men 7:00 pm A.A. 	16 10:00 UMW District Meeting
17 Human Relations Day 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 WORSHIP - Usher #1 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 WORSHIP 3:00 MLK Service	18 Martin Luther King Office Closed 8am-4pm WIC 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:15 pm Reconciling 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:00 pm Allocations 7:30 pm Book Study	19 10-12 Clothing Center Noon Sarah Circle 1:00 pm Companions 2 7:00 pm Deborah Circle 7:00 pm Staff Parish 7:30 pm Sierra Club	20 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 1:00 pm Grace Circle 7:00 pm A.A.	21 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	22 7:00 pm A.A.	23 9-1 District Workshop
24 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 WORSHIP - Usher #2 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 WORSHIP 7:00 Contemporary Worship	25 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 7:30 pm Book Study	26 10-12 Clothing Center 7:00 pm Church Council	27 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Companions 2 7:00 pm A.A.	28 10:00 am Newsletter Mailing 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	29 7:00 pm A.A.	30
31 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 WORSHIP - Usher #3 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 WORSHIP 12:00 Dinner with Friends Kickoff						