



Pastor's Notes

January again. How did this happen? This year has brought some incredible changes to my life, some welcome, some not. I know it is the same all over. Economic uncertainty, health and sickness, a change in government, all underline the truth that nothing ever stays the same.

Change is the only constant in the universe—besides God.

It is my hope and prayer for all of you in this congregation that you find a way to find God in the midst of the changes you will certainly face this year. God is waiting for you, hoping to walk with you through everything you face—if you are willing. And so, as a matter of fact, is your family of faith, this congregation at Central UMC.

I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone say, "Things are too tough for me right now; I just can't go to church." You've heard me say it before, and I'll say it again: That is precisely what church is for. You see, "Church" is not really a hotel for the happy---it's a hospital for the hurting, whether it be the members of that particular congregation, or those outside its doors. It is a place of healing and wholeness, comfort and grace. When we have received those gifts, we become strong enough to hear Christ's challenge to go out and share them with others who are also hurting and in need of them. It's a wonderful cycle of strength and caring, and it is God's gift to the world. May we open our hearts and our minds to receive it as we begin this new year together.

Still in One Peace, *Pastor Michelle*

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

January Events

- Jan 1 – Holy Communion
– One service at 10am
- Jan 8 – Un-Decorating
- Jan 15 – Martin Luther King Service
- Jan 20 – Men's Group
- Jan 28 – District Workshop
- Jan 29 – Dinner with Friends
kickoff



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Sunday, January 15 3:00 pm

At 3:00 pm on Sunday January 15, Central Church will host the annual Celebration of the Life and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dorollo Nixon, an attorney in Endicott, will deliver the keynote address.

Inspiring music will be provided by Central's Living Water chorus led by Jeff Heald. Soloists Emma Brunson, Rev. Andrew Morrison, and Kathye Arrington will share their musical gifts, and Sean Stafford will provide accompaniment.

The celebration will include a free-will offering for our MLK Scholarship fund.

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 for the national King Holiday. Please plan to attend this annual community event.



Living Water will be providing the music at the Martin Luther King Jr. service on January 15. The next contemporary worship will be held Sunday, February 19th.



Un-Decorating Sunday, January 8 Noon

We need lots of helping hands to take down the decorations in the sanctuary and around the church. Just an hour would be a huge help! Stay after the 11am service and meet in the sanctuary for the various tasks. All ages can help! Pizza will be provided in the dining room for helpers.



Dinner With Friends Kickoff Sunday, January 29 Noon

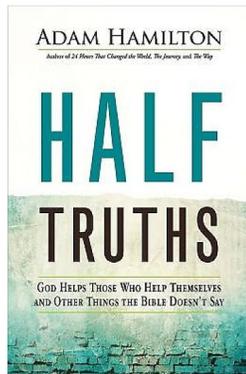
Time for a friendly, warm get-together during the bleak midwinter. On Sunday, January 29, we will have a "spud lunch" aka baked potato bar in the downstairs dining room after the second service. This is something we plan each year so members can get to know others they don't usually have contact with during activities and services. We will make up groups of 6-7 so invite your friends. Many of us look forward to meeting and getting to know other people in the church. The group you get together with will plan to meet once a month for dinner and fellowship through the winter and spring. So plan on coming and having a good time with your church family. Sign-up sheets will be in the bulletin or call the church office (754-6060) to register by January 22.

Adult Sunday School



Jan 8 – Electronics Help

The Senior High Youth will be leading a class about electronics on January 8th at 9:30am in the dining room. Come learn something new about those new-fangled electronics! You are encouraged to bring your devices like phones, tablets and/or laptops. An inter-generation time to learn!



Jan 15 & 22 – Half Truths

led by Pat Breneman

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them.

They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.

Join Adam Hamilton in searching for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus. The clichés include:

Jan 15: Everything happens for a reason.

Jan 22: God helps those who help themselves.

Feb 12: God won't give you more than you can handle.

Feb 19: God said it, I believe it, that settles it.

Feb 26: Love the sinner, hate the sin.

From the Reconciling Task Force . . .

Jan 29 & Feb 5 – Identity Youth Center

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am Sunday, January 29th and February 5th, for a two-part series on transgender and gender non-conforming identities. Speakers from Identity Youth Center will discuss LGBTQ identities and related terminology, and assist participants in building trans-ally skills. Identity is a youth center for teens age 13-24, located at 206 State Street in Binghamton, NY. Founded in 2008, Identity is a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ+) teens, but also welcomes all youth regardless of their sexual identity, orientation, or gender identity. For more information on Identity Youth Center, please visit idyouth.org.

Star of Peace

by Muriel Wright

Once a brilliant, shining star

Led the wise men from afar

Sparkled with a shining light

Upon a cold and silent night.

In a manger bed of hay,

There a newborn baby lay,

And a mother proudly smiled

Upon this little Holy Child.

Once more we rejoice and sing

As the bells of Christmas ring,

In remembrance of that night

As the star of peace shines bright.

Epiphany Sunday will be January 8th when we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men.





Circle Meetings

Deborah Circle Tuesday, Jan 17 at 7 pm at Pat Breneman's home (1200 Domenica Dr) Nancy Jones will be leading the study. Contact: Martha Petrush, 754-7494

Elizabeth Circle Thursday, Jan 19 at 6 pm in the church lounge. Contact: Kelly Devine, 754-9240

Grace Circle Wed, Jan 18 at 1 pm at Pauline Witt's home (124 Pineknoll Rd, Endicott) Contact: Pauline Witt, 748-4142

Sarah Circle Tues, Jan 17 at noon in the dining room. Please bring a bag lunch. Contact: Carole James, 757-2629



United Methodist Men Friday, January 20 6 pm

Come on guys come out on Friday, January 20 at 6:00 pm for a fun evening of food, fellowship, devotions and a special program by John Obusek. John will describe many aspects of food preparation. If you haven't been to the CUMC Men's group, this would be a good month to join us. Hope to see you there!!

Wesley Class Breakfast Thursday, January 12 8:30am

The Wesley Class will be meeting for breakfast at 8:30am at the Blue Dolphin in Apalachin. Please call Bonnie Harvey (785-8996) for reservations for the breakfast. The class would like to thank Ann Dorio for her many years of service as the organizer for the breakfast.

District Workshop Saturday, January 28 9am-1pm

Central will once again be hosting the District Workshop on Saturday, January 28 from 9am to 1pm with registration starting at 8am. The district offers this workshop to share information about the various committees that keep our churches functioning. This year the focus will be on the Staff Parish committee.



Spotlight on Staff Parish

The primary responsibility of the staff/parish relations committee (SPRC) is to work with Central's staff so that the mission of our church is realized. The SPRC is responsible for all personnel activities involving the church's paid staff members. This includes such duties as interviewing and hiring staff members, developing job descriptions, facilitating performance reviews, addressing interpersonal issues, and requesting the annual staff salary budget. The SPRC also works to anticipate future staff needs.

Hospitalized:

Janet Bouton
Paul Lewis



Sympathy extended to:

Family & friends of Betty Butterworth and
Carol Hemenway

Congratulations!

Tyler Wolford & Maggie Cude were engaged in
December!

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - THANKS

Thanks to all who braved the elements this year to help support the Salvation Army's annual Kettle Bell fund raising effort. This is the Salvation Army's main fundraiser for the year, and the money we raise stays to support needs in the local area. We had many 'veterans' who had rung in the past, and we also had some new faces ringing this year...All in all we donated 22 hours. Thanks to all!!

Clean Water Mission Challenge

Thank you Central! \$1556 was raised in December for the Clean Water Mission Challenge. The first \$1000 is being matched by an anonymous donor.



Confirmation Class Bottle Drive

The Confirmation Class would love to have your cans and bottles after all of the holiday parties to support their upcoming mission trip and activities. A collection box is in front of the office and in the Union Street entrance of the sanctuary. Or bottles and cans can be dropped off directly to Roma's Bakery on Nanticoke Avenue and tell them it is for Central United Methodist. Thank you for your support.



Starting
Jan 9th

Monday Night Book Study

Pastor Michelle is leading the following book studies at Jonathan's restaurant (534 Hooper Rd) 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.

Everything Must Change by Brian McLaren

Jan 9 – Feb 20 (7 weeks)

The Last Week by Borg & Crossan

Feb 27 – Apr 17 (8 weeks)

Interior Castle by Theresa of Avila

Apr 24 – May 15 (4 weeks)

Zealot: The Life & Times of Jesus of Nazareth

By Reza Aslan

May 22 – July 10 (8 weeks)

Human Relations Day Sunday, January 15th

An offering is collected the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs. More information can be found on the web at <http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/human-relations-day>.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

by MaryBelle Mitten

Years ago, after their move to Colorado, Marilyn Decker shared with me a story about a Denver minister, Rev. Peter Sawtell, Ex. Director of “**Eco-Justice Ministries.**” He is deeply committed to educating folks by being involved in politics and writing a weekly email column/essay, along with speaking and other writings. The weekly e-essay has been important reading for me. (Marilyn’s husband Bill Decker, along with Mel Livingston and Bob Labbe started our TV ministry following Central’s radio ministry.)

Below are a few excerpts from Rev. Sawtell’s essay following the presidential election. He refers to the pipeline in North Dakota that Native Americans have protested and want diverted from their sacred land and to avert possible pollution of area waters. The Obama administration has put a temporary stop to the pipeline but time will tell what the final outcome will be. Rev. Sawtell offers two questions for us, as Christians, to ponder. I wonder what I will be willing to do or work for.

“Hope is about placing yourself firmly and passionately on the side of what you believe to be ultimately good and right. Hope, then, also requires us to stand firmly and passionately against other values, other purposes, other realities. Christian hope is not a passive confidence that God will fix it all, someday. Christian hope is an unshakable commitment to God’s purposes, right now.

Vaclav Havel called hope “an ability to work for something because it is good” even when it may not succeed. Paul Loeb wrote of “resistance and defiance” and “joy in the struggle” when there is dissonance between the world as it is and the world as it should be. By those criteria, I look to the folk at Standing Rock as profound examples of what it means to live and act in hope. I am both humbled and inspired by their clarity of purpose and their committed courage.

“... , where do you find the greatest dissonance between what you believe is most good and true, and what you experience as the way of this world? Where do your faithful principles come into greatest conflict with our culture’s “business as usual”?”

You might be interested in this paragraph from the Christmas letter from Rev. Gary Doupe (retired UMC Clergy in our Conference) and wife Elaine. ---Used with permission---

“Having been reading Naomi Klein’s remarkable book: *This Changes Everything—Capitalism vs. The Climate*, Gary was struck by events taking place at Standing Rock, N.D. In early November he flew out there for two significant days, joining with about 500 other clergy in support of the water-protectors. We rejoice that the pipeline project has been placed on hold, and we hope it is never completed. Each time a new piece of fossil fuel infrastructure is built we sacrifice opportunities to invest in renewable energy, and add heat-trapping gases to our atmosphere—already altering earth’s climate, increasing sea levels, and creating refugees from low-lying regions. A special gift of Standing Rock was seeing a beautiful form of social democracy in action as both Native and non-Native people prepared three meals a day for the hundreds encamped there, provided counseling and support, chopped firewood, built structures, and prayed together around the sacred fire—asking that their water be protected from pollution. *Mni Wiconi*—“Water is Life.” Prayers continue that Earth may be honored, water protected, and the life of the Lakota Sioux – and all earth’s peoples – respected. In such manner we honor both Creator and Creation.”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 8 am Worship Ch 4 9:00 Café Central 10:00 WORSHIP - Usher #3	2 Office Closed 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:30 pm Praise Band	3 8am Men's Breakfast 10-12 Clothing Center 7:00 pm Program Councils	4 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 3:30 pm UMW Leadership 6:30 pm Companions 7:00 pm A.A.	5 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	6 7:00 pm A.A.	7
8 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 WORSHIP - Usher #4 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 WORSHIP 12:00 Un-Decorating	9 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Book Study New book begins 	10 10-12 Clothing Center 10 am Parish Visitors 10am-7pm WIC 7:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm Van Committee	11 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Companions 7:00 pm A.A.	12 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	13 7:00 pm A.A.	14
15 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	16 Martin Luther King Office Closed 8am-4pm WIC 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:15 pm Reconciling 7:00 pm Allocations 7:30 pm Book Study	17 10-12 Clothing Center Noon Sarah Circle 6:00 pm Sierra Club 7:00 pm Deborah Circle 7:00 pm Staff Parish	18 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 1:00 pm Grace Circle 6:30 pm Companions 7:00 pm A.A.	19 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:00 pm Elizabeth Circle 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	20 6:00 pm United Methodist Men 7:00 pm A.A. 	21
22 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 WORSHIP - Usher #2 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 WORSHIP	23 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Book Study	24 10-12 Clothing Center 7:00 pm Church Council	25 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Companions 7:00 pm A.A.	26 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	27 7:00 pm A.A.	28 9-1 District Workshop
29 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	30 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Book Study	31 10-12 Clothing Center				

CENTRAL STAFF

PastorRev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost
Education Director..... Kelly Devine
Administrative Secretary ... Pat Breneman
Music Director Connie Lamando
Chancel Choir Carolyn Stanford
Bell Choir DirectorDenise Johnson
Living Water Director..... Jeff Heald
Organist..... Sean Stafford
Treasurer Larry Jackson
Custodian Gregg Wood
Parish Visitors Nancy Jones, Carole James
Web Master..... Jeff Heald

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Phone: 754-6060 Fax: 785-4676
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**“LIKE” CENTRAL ON
FACEBOOK!**

The Central Sentry is published monthly

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Our Mission Statement

Central UMC is a fully inclusive church that seeks, embraces, educates, worships, and serves, all in God’s love.



Central United Methodist Church
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