

THE CENTRAL SENTRY



2015

May 1 – Church Women United

May 2 – Road Rally

May 3 – Holy Communion

May 13 – Women’s Retreat

May 17 – Contemporary Service

May 24 - Pentecost

May 30 – Blood Drive

May 31 – Confirmation

June 5 & 6 – Garage Sale

June 6 – Car Wash & BBQ



Do you know the story of Pentecost? You can find it in the second chapter of Acts.

Jesus’ disciples are gathered together after he has ascended to God, as they wait for the promised gift of the Spirit of God. They have no idea what is coming.

What an amazing day that Pentecost must have been... The faithful gathered together, waiting for some sign from the one who had been crucified, yet who had come again to visit them and breathe peace into their troubled lives. And here, into this room, comes a hurricane and an inferno; wind and fire, breaking loose into their lives, changing them, giving

them languages they’d never spoken before and the breath to speak them. And even more than that: This onrush of God’s spirit gave them an audience. Folks from all over the known world, in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, were there at the doors to witness the chaos of the Spirit let loose.

This is absolutely my favorite story from scripture; this is the story of the birth of the church. This is the moment when the gathered community of the faithful realize that their call is to be more than a support group for each other in times of distress. This is the moment when they realize that together, they have something to share with the world. This is the amazing moment when they realize that it really is true that with God, all things are possible, even the impossible things. This is the moment when they realize that God really is loose in the world, and that the world will never be the same. What would happen if we all let God’s Spirit loose in our lives? I wonder about that for myself sometimes. Actually to let God take over? What might be different? What might change? What things might I do? What things might I not do? Interesting questions, and much food for thought and prayer. Perhaps we can do that together, as a community of faith. I pray this for you this month as we celebrate Pentecost, and wish you a full measure of God’s Spirit in your life!

In Christ’s Peace, *Pastor Michelle*

CHURCH NEWS



Ladies Retreat

Wednesday, May 13 9am

Everyone occasionally needs some time for refreshing and spiritual renewal. This year's Central United Methodist Church's ladies retreat is approaching fast....**A Day Away...A Time for Renewal and Fun for every woman and her friends.** at **Sky Lake** on Wednesday, May 13 starting at 9am led by Pastor Michelle. Rachael Leonard will facilitate a meditation session. Rachael has trained extensively and facilitates "Everyday Mindfulness Groups" at Binghamton University. Our art craft will be led by our very own talented Kathye Arrington She plans to teach us how to do her amazing mud art. Meet at the church at 8:15am to carpool.



[LabelsForEducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com)

Please continue to save UPC Labels for Education for the Children's Home. They may be placed in the chest in front of the office. For a complete list of products go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com> or <http://www.labelsforeducation.com>.

Blood Drive

May 30 8am – 1pm

Central will be hosting a blood drive from 8am to 1pm on Saturday, May 30. A delicious breakfast will be served.



Car Wash

Saturday, June 6 10-1

The annual car wash will be held Saturday June 6 from 10am to 1pm in the Liberty Street parking lot of the church. The proceeds of the event will support the Central Van "Operating Fund". "Wet" car washes asking price is \$4 and will be performed by members of the Confirmation and Senior High classes as well as members of the Central Van Ministry Team.



United Methodist Night at NYSEG Stadium

June 25, 2015 6:30pm

Let's enjoy some sunshine and fellowship with our own Binghamton Mets! Tickets will be available at the church office. Please call 754-6060 to order. The church van will be available if anyone needs a ride. We will leave the church at 5:30 pm; game starts at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$8 per person. Please contact Amber Bost at 621-1190 if interested in doing a tailgate party beforehand!

Central's Road Rally

May 2, 2015 3pm

Come one come all! Get your thinking caps on and your driving/riding eyes ready for a fun-filled Amazing Race style event called Central's Road Rally! We will start at the church, drive around looking for clues and/or answering trivia questions, and the team who finishes with the least amount of miles driven and/or most questions answered correctly wins! After the game is over there will be a potluck dinner in the Fellowship hall so please bring a dish to pass. Utensils, dessert and beverages will be provided!



Contemporary Worship Sunday, May 17 7pm

Join Living Water on Sunday, May 17 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall for our last contemporary service of the year! We'll celebrate another great year by featuring a set of our favorite worship songs! Join us for an evening of great worship and fun, with refreshments to follow!

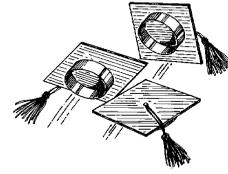
Help Wanted

Central is seeking a loving, caring individual who has a heart for helping our most senior members who may be hospitalized and/or homebound. Our Parish Visitor program trains and sends caring people to visit these members of our congregation, in coordination with the Pastor. They monitor members' needs and progress, and offer love, short visits, and prayers to the lonely and ill. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Visitor, please contact Pastor Michelle. There is a small stipend for the work, furnished to cover fuel costs and cards and stamps.



Wesley Class Retreat at Sky Lake October 16-18

The Wesley Class Sky Lake Retreat is October 16 - 18. The Rev. Steve Heiss will lead the retreat on "The Parables of Jesus from Several Points of View". Don and Nancy Schoeps will be leading us in joyful and meaningful music. The reasonable cost is \$121 per person. For a retreat flyer contact the church office.



Calling All Graduates

Is a member of your family graduating from high school or college? We will be honoring graduates in June. Please call the church office (754-6060) so we can honor your graduate.

United Methodist Women

Circle Meetings

Deborah Circle Tues, May 19 at 7 pm
at Jan Layer's home.

Contact: Martha Petrush, 754-7494

Elizabeth Circle Mon, May 11 at 6 pm
in the church lounge.

Contact: Kelly Devine, 754-9240

Grace Circle Wed, May 20 at 1 pm at
Carolyn Stanford's home.

Contact: Pauline Witt, 748-4142

Sarah Circle Tues, May 19 at 12:00 at
Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and drinks
are provided. We will put together
Heath kits for UMCOR.

Contact: Carole James, 757-2629



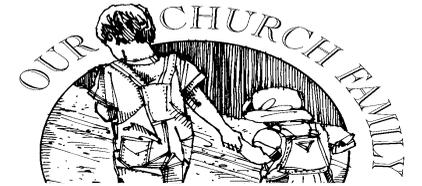
Suzette and I send our thanks for the cards, prayers, and good wishes sent to us upon my mother's passing. Mom lived a long and full life. Her church in Williamstown, Massachusetts helped us offer a fitting and meaningful Memorial Service. We are grateful for her and for all who helped us remember and honor her. We have been and remain blessed. In Christ, Mark Marino

Thank you to everyone who prayed for me, sent a card, called or visited me during my recent illness. So much caring helped me to be well again. I do thank you. Charlotte Shults

Thank you to my church family for the singing at Christmas and for the beautiful lily at Easter. I enjoyed both as well as having you remember me while I am here at Hilltop. Cindy Wetjen

Thanks to Millie Jones for the donation of the new water cooler in Fellowship Hall. Millie purchased the water cooler in loving memory of her husband Morgan Jones. And like Morgan, it is sure to be a blessing to his church family for many years.

We would like to thank the congregation for your support, encouragement, cards, and prayers following Tom's surgery. Tom and Phyllis Cousins



In Sympathy:

Friends & family of Russell Clark

Hospitalized Last Month:

Sylvia Gutowski

Pat McVannan

Bill O'Brien

Gail Scott

John Wesley Study

May 3, 10, 17

Pastor Michelle will lead a 3-week study on John Wesley at 9:30am on the Sundays in May in the church lounge off the back of the sanctuary.

Sky Lake Events in May

Volunteer Work Day – May 2 8:30am

Open House – May 17 1:30-4:30

Spring Fling – May 22-25

For details go to www.skylakecenter.org



Bridge Run Sponsors Requested

I will be running in the Binghamton Bridge Half Marathon on Sunday, May 3rd, and I'm hoping to raise money for Central's Shepherd Supper and Clothing Center. While any donation would be appreciated, it would be fitting to donate in increments of the distance of 13 miles (eg \$13, \$26, etc). Checks can be made payable to Central UMC, referencing the Bridge Run. Thanks in advance for your support, Knud Hansen.



UMCOR's Response to Nepal Earthquake

Donations to support the response to the earthquake in Nepal and other international disasters can be made through UMCOR Advance #982450. Checks may be made payable to Central UMC, referencing UMCOR. Or you can donate directly to UMCOR at the UMCOR's website → www.umcor.org



Create Your Own Planter Friday, May 22 at Noon

The UMW is sponsoring a day at M&Z Greenhouse in Owego to create your own planter. Please meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 to carpool. Bring a bag lunch. M&Z will provide dessert and drinks. You may bring your own pots or buy a pot at M&Z. The cost is quite reasonable and will depend on what plants you choose for your planter. The women had a wonderful day last year and encourage more people to attend this year.



Would you give up your bed for 1 night ... if it could change a life?

Central's youth held a Box City Event on April 18 in the churchyard on Nanticoke Ave. A group of 10 teens and 2 adults spend the night in boxes but the event turned out to be so much more than that.

Each teen was given an "identity" in exchange for the pledge money that they raised for the event. Next they had to follow a circuit to simulate homelessness and getting assistance. The circuit included a social worker, housing assistance, a job interview and several health agencies. Lessons were learned through exercises in food insecurity, sleeping outdoors and household budgeting with limited resources.

The event kicked off Saturday with Mike Ross from The Rescue Mission Shelter in Binghamton speaking to the group. WICZ, Channel 40 came to do interviews late in the afternoon. The group spent some time reflecting and shared this experience as well as the activities over the last few months leading up to Box City at both of Central's services on April 19.

The event raised \$884 for the mission but the lessons learned are lasting ones on how we can be more sensitive toward those who have less. Our group agreed that the words in Matthew 25:35-40 ring true. We learned not to judge people on looks alone because you never know how a person gets to the place they are now and even the smallest kindness is appreciated.
~ Kelly Devine



Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

There is a unique opportunity coming in May!

Our Monday Night Book Study has begun to read Dr. Levine's book *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. You are welcome to join us any Monday night at 7.30pm for this fascinating look at Jesus in his first-century context.

There is a unique opportunity to interact with Dr. Levine on May 11-12, as she will be in Schenectady, NY, hosted by the Capital Region Theological Center (CRTC) at a Reception and Conversation with an optional dinner on Monday the 11th; and by Union College for their lecture series on Tuesday the 12th. Our own Pastor Michelle will be hosting the Monday evening conversation with Dr. Levine. Information about the Monday event can be found at <https://crtc.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=518>.

Costs are: 5.30pm Reception - \$25, 6.30pm Conversation - \$25; both - \$35

If you are interested in a dinner with Dr. Levine following the Conversation, it is a fundraiser for CRTC, and costs \$100—please contact Pastor Michelle for details and to request a space.

A carpool could be arranged if there are enough interested participants—please contact the church office if you'd like to try to get together for that.

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. Her authorship is extensive, and includes *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, the edited collection, *The Historical Jesus in Context*, and the thirteen-volume edited series, *Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings*. Her most recent book is *Short Stories by Jesus: the Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. A self-described "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt," Professor Levine combines historical-critical rigor, literary-critical sensitivity, and a frequent dash of humor with a commitment to eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist, and homophobic theologies.

Why Reconciling

News from the Reconciling Task Force:

Each month, we will feature a piece written by a member of the Task Force; we hope to share with you why we are so committed to this work.

Throughout history, discrimination and superiority have often reared their ugly heads, targeting races, religions, sexes and now sexual identities and orientations. There is an air of superiority that is adopted by some for anyone who differs from one's self. This, in actuality, reflects persons who question their own value and need to find someone they consider lesser than themselves to feel a sense of worth.

My life experience has enabled me to, vicariously, experience a small taste of what being homosexual means. Most have to live a lie in order to be accepted. If you live your life openly as a homosexual, you risk being abandoned by family and friends and being labelled a sinner. You may be taunted, bullied, even tortured or killed, merely because of your homosexuality. Whatever else you have done with your life may be totally negated. Despite the fact you may be a brilliant and inspiring teacher, doctor or pastor, you may lose your position simply because you are homosexual. Your self-worth becomes extremely diminished. You search for a faith community where you can be open and loved. You want to feel the strength and love of a church family to help strengthen you and to restore your sense of worth, as well as to offer your talents and treasures to help others. Too many times, although the church lets you sit in the pew and accepts your treasure, that is where it ends. You are, again, labelled as a sinner, with somehow a deeper degree of sin than the rest of us sinners. This leads to severe despondency, and, too often, suicide.

Didn't God create us in His own image? Current research now points to some biological differences in brain structure and DNA markers in homosexual versus heterosexuals, indicating homosexuality is not a choice. Do we really want to substitute our own judgement for God's? If God walked into our church wouldn't He be looking at how we reflected His love, rather than if we were homosexual or heterosexual?

God created us all differently; no two are exactly alike. We have different political views, family compositions, values and beliefs. God commands us to "love thy neighbor as thyself". Let Central United Methodist Church be among those to "draw the circle wide" and encompass all God's people. We are living our faith when we can become a beacon of love and hope for all God's children.

May God guide us on our journey, Mary Ann Sacharov

You can be a missionary right where you are

By Libby Shelp

You don't have to go to Nicaragua, you don't have to go to Africa, and you don't have to go to India to do mission work. You can do mission work every day when you make your pot of coffee. You were doing mission when you ate a piece of chocolate that we recently sold. This was made possible through Equal Exchange.

Equal Exchange founded the U.S. Fair Trade movement in 1986 and continues to be a 100% fair trade Food Company. Equal Exchange is where the chocolate was purchased and in May we'll offer coffee, teas, and fruit & nut bars for you to buy and become acquainted with this mission. What happens to proceeds from Equal Exchange?

What would you pay to have running water, rather than spending your day walking back and forth from a stream miles away carrying 5 gallon pails of water? (Many fair trade groups are putting in wells.)

How much would it be worth to you to know your children can go to school for free and help end the cycle of poverty? (Many fair trade groups have created schools for artisans and their children.)

How much would you pay to have an ongoing job and free child care? Many of these people are disabled and their only other option is to beg on the street? (Fair trade groups, like leper colonies, provide homes and protection from a society that has rejected them.) Why not be a missionary whenever you can by buying fair trade products; they are available in all of our grocery stores. Chocolate and coffee can also be purchased at First Methodist and Vestal Methodist Church or you can contact Equal Exchange directly.

UMW women were doing mission when they gifted palm crosses on Palm Sunday; a simple cross becomes a source of income and humanitarian aid in Africa. The crosses are made throughout the year in seven mud villages in Massassi, Tanzania. Proceeds are returned to Africa for basic needs in areas of healthcare, education, water supply, disaster and refugee relief. Do you have gifts to purchase? Log on your computer to Trades of Hope or Ten Thousand Villages. There you'll find everything from rugs to jewelry and more, all handmade by artisans who are working their way out of poverty. There is also a Ten Thousand Village store in Ithaca, NY.

"In this life we may not do great things but we can do small things with great love".

Mother Teresa

Social Issue – Mental Health Awareness

These events provide HOPE and awareness of recovery from mental illness.

FRIDAY, MAY 1: “Seen” – A NIGHT OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION AND PERFORMANCE

On May 1, from 6 PM – 8:30 PM, the Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier (MHA ST) will host “Seen” - A Night of Creative Expression and Performance Art at their offices at 153 Court St., Binghamton. Local actors will offer dramatic readings and others will share personal accounts of their journeys to recovery. An original drama will be performed. Local author Janet Russo will share excerpts from her newly published book “for Love. Walking in Darkness” and will conduct a book signing at the conclusion of the night. This event is free and open to the public; however, donations are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6: DAY OF RECOVERY 2015 - JOURNEYS

In collaboration with the Broome County Dual Recovery Project, MHA ST will co-host Day of Recovery 2015 – Journeys on Wednesday, May 6 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the State Office Building, 44 Hawley Street, 18th Floor, Binghamton. This event will celebrate recovery and increase awareness that recovery is possible. Nationally recognized speakers include Gina Calhoun from Copeland Center and Recovery Coach Patty Powers. A local panel will share personal experience, strength, and hope. This event is open to the public. Advance registration is free and required as seating is limited. Register at <http://yourmha.com/event-registration/>

TUESDAY, MAY 12: MORE THAN JUST THE BLUES

The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier in its ongoing efforts to provide accurate information on mental health will be presenting “More Than Just the Blues” on May 12 from 6 PM – 7:30 PM at 153 Court Street, Binghamton. Guest speakers Jill Van Pelt, LCSW-R, a local therapist, and Kim Taro, Director of the Sunrise Wellness Center for Recovery at MHA ST, will share information on Major Depressive Disorder. There will be a question and answer period following the presentation. The community is invited to attend this free event. For reservations please call 771-8888 ext. 394. Seating is limited.

The mission of Central Church is to make real the love of God through Jesus Christ and to empower people to share that love with others.

CENTRAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost
Education Director..... Kelly Devine
Administrative Secretary Pat Breneman
Chancel Choir Director..... Heather Worden
Bell Choir Director Denise 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!

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