



Central United Methodist Church

17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott NY 13760

Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost

[www.centralumcendicott.org](http://www.centralumcendicott.org)

(607) 754-6060

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Dear Friends,

It's almost Christmas! While we love to think of Christmas in warm, soft imagery, the reality of the coming of Jesus is much more stark. Born into oppression, his people subjects of the Roman Empire and its version of "peace," Jesus comes to right the wrongs, turn over the tables, and change the world from what we know into what God wants it to be. If you're dubious, I refer you to the Magnificat (Mary's song) in Luke 1.47-55.

What the message of Christmas says to me, beyond the glitz and the glitter, the carols and the shopping, the warm fuzzy feelings, is that God comes into our lives and transforms them. Through sorrow and joy, sadness and celebration, God comes to us as we are, where we are, sometimes in spite of our attempts to avoid that coming. That is a thought pregnant with hope. May we all experience this coming, whether we are looking for it or not. My gift to you is a poem from one of my favorite liturgical poets, Ann Weems, who writes this in her collection called *Kneeling in Bethlehem* (Westminster Press: Philadelphia. 1980. p 13)

**The Coming of God**

Our God is the One who comes to us  
    in a burning bush,  
        in an angel's song,  
            in a newborn child.  
Our God is the One who cannot be found  
    locked in the church,  
    not even in the sanctuary.  
Our God will be where God will be  
    with no constraints,  
    no predictability.  
Our God lives where our God lives,  
    and destruction has no power  
        and even death cannot stop  
            the living.  
Our God will be born where God will be born,  
    but there is no place to look for the One  
    who comes to us.  
When God is ready  
    God will come  
        even to a godforsaken place  
            like a stable in Bethlehem.  
Watch, for you know not when God comes.  
Watch, that you might be found  
    Whenever, wherever God comes.

May God enter your life anew this Christmas...  
In Christ's Peace, Michelle

**December Events**

- Dec 4 – Holy Communion  
    – Christmas Tea
- Dec 10 – House Tour & Bazaar
- Dec 11 – Blue Christmas Service
- Dec 14 – Advent Night
- Dec 17 – Clothing Center Party
- Dec 18 – Caroling (2-4 pm)  
    – Contemporary Worship
- Dec 24 – Eve (4:30 & 10:30pm)
- Dec 25 – One service at 10am
- Jan 1 – One service at 10am
- Nov 27, Dec 5, 10, 12 & 19  
    - Ring the Salvation Army Bells!

## Advent Night 2016 Wed, December 14 6pm

Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, December 14 at 6pm!

We will gather in the Dining Room for a special Advent program, with a delicious soup supper provided by your Program Councils, and for some wonderful service as we prepare Christmas Cards for our homebound members and wrap presents for the Clothing Center Christmas Party.

It will be a wonderful evening as Central's Family of Faith gathers to take an evening out to remember the reason for the season.



## Caroling

Sunday, Dec 18 2-4pm

Come share the spirit of Christmas with our homebound as we go caroling at the nursing homes and private homes. We will meet at the church at 2pm and then use the vans and cars to carpool to the various homes. Please bring a plate of cookies to share after caroling.



**4:30 pm** Family Service with Children's Choirs  
**10:30 pm** Candlelight Service with Communion and Adult Choirs

### Need a Ride To/From

4:30pm Christmas Eve Service?

No problem! Contact Bruce Bishop (748-6150, [bbishop@stny.rr.com](mailto:bbishop@stny.rr.com)) by 2pm on December 24. Merry Christmas from the Sunday Van Drivers!



Sunday, December 11 7pm

For some, Christmas is not always "the most wonderful time of the year." Whether it's the first Christmas without a loved one, the pain of a broken relationship, or the stress of everyday life - Christmas can be a very difficult time for some people. If you or someone you know is a little down this season, we invite you to take part in Central's Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 11 at 7pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend, whether for yourself or to support those in need of our love and prayers. There will be reflective music of the season featuring Emily (Sorber) Riley, scriptures, and a time of prayers for healing - all in a beautiful candlelit setting. A time of fellowship follows the service. Come, bring a friend, and allow the Holy Spirit to lift you up this season.



Sunday, December 18 7pm

Celebrate the season with a special evening of praise, joyful song, and spirited fellowship as we worship together at our next contemporary service. We will have a service of lessons and carols in our beautifully decorated sanctuary, sharing the Christmas story through scripture with Living Water leading us in carols and other festive music. Living Water also extends a warm invitation to "alumni" and friends to join us in singing for this service (rehearsal at 5:30pm that evening). As always, a time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.

Come, join us!

## Christmas Day Worship

Sometimes Christmas comes on a Sunday morning and churches everywhere face the perplexing question: what do we do?

Here at Central, we will have one worship service at 10am, with a Café Light fellowship beforehand. Our worship will be informal and casual with lots of Christmas carols and stories—feel free to wear your slippers and your holiday comfy clothes!

Come celebrate the reason for the season as we worship together on Christmas Sunday.

## Adult Sunday School

Nov 27-Dec 18 – Lounge  
Advent Study by Pastor Michelle

No classes on Dec 25 and Jan 1

Jan 8 – Electronics help by the Youth

New Year's Day Worship  
9am Café Lite  
10am One Service



If you shop online, please consider adding the UMC market support button to your browser. As you shop at participating retailers, a percentage is donated to Central UMC. To sign-up please go to <https://umcmarket.org>



#StartWithaSmile at [smile.amazon.com/ch/15-0563255](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/15-0563255) for your holiday gifts and Amazon will donate to Central United Methodist Church.



Ring Those Bells  
Mondays, Nov 28, Dec 5, 12 & 19  
Saturday, Dec 10

Once again CUMC will be supporting the Salvation Army's major fundraising effort by ringing the bell at their Christmas Kettles. We will be ringing each Monday evening at the Vestal Walmart Grocery Door from Nov 28 to Dec 19 and Saturday, Dec 10. Signup times are for an hour, although you can ring as long as you want. We need new volunteers this year. It's a rewarding activity and a great way to support a wonderful local charity. All of the money raised by the Salvation Army supports needs within the local community. Sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center.

## Van Route "Assistant" Riders Wanted

In order to be fully compliant with Central's "Safe Sanctuaries" policy, the van drivers would like to have an individual to ride along on the Sunday route. Commitment is to: a) go through Safe Sanctuaries training; b) pass road test driving one of the church vans; c) be in the van driver schedule to ride along on about 6 or 7 Sundays in a calendar year. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center if interested.

## Did You Know?

Copies of the Upper Room are available in front of the office. This is a daily devotional book that is printed bi-monthly. Large print copies are also available. You are welcome to pick-up a copy to read or to share with someone.





### Circle Meetings

All Circles are attending the Christmas Tea and will meet again in January



### United Methodist Men

There will be no Men's Group meeting in December. Instead men are encouraged to participate in the December activities

- Serve at UMW Christmas Tea - Dec 4
- Advent Dinner - Dec 14 at 6 pm, (Program, wrap presents, send cards to shut-ins)
- Bell Ringing for Salvation Army at Vestal Walmart - any Mon evening during Advent, also Sat Dec 10.
- Clothing Center Christmas party - Sat. Dec 17.
- Christmas Caroling - Sun Dec 18 from 2 - 4 pm

### Clothing Center Christmas Party Saturday, Dec 17 2:30 pm

The annual Clothing Center Christmas party will take place December 17th at 2:30 with a snow date of December 18th at 2:30. We will have a sign up sheet for volunteers in the welcome center and a Christmas tree in front of the office with items needed for the Christmas party. We were blessed with a large donation of toys for this event so we are in need of \$15 gift cards for the older children. Please see Kelly Crane for more information.



Home for the Holidays

### Christmas House Tour Saturday, December 10

Bazaar 11-4 House Tour 3-7 pm

Christmas is many things to many people. With our home tours, we are trying to generate feelings of love and peace for all and to remember the reason for this holy season, the birth of Christ. Home is where love resides, memories are created, friends are welcome and family is forever. Christ's family has room for everyone. At the church, there will be a bazaar and bakery in the Welcome Center. Tickets for the tour are \$15. All monies benefit local and global mission projects of the United Methodist Women. Tickets will be available after the services or at the bazaar on December 10<sup>th</sup>.



### Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 4 at 2:30 pm

The United Methodist Women's Christmas Tea will be Sunday, December 6 beginning at 2:30 pm in fellowship hall. We begin with punch at 2:30 followed by a musical program. We'll end with a dessert buffet. All women are invited. Come, and enjoy an afternoon with friends as we celebrate the holiday season together. Please call Carole James (757-2629) if you wish to attend the tea.

**Hospitalized:**  
Bob Armitage  
Betty Main



**Sympathy extended to:**

Sue Hughes on the death of her mother, Joann  
Sue Obusek on the death of her cousin

The History Display for December is Christmas at Central.

**Thank You!**

Thank you to everybody for their concern during my recent surgery. Thank you for the cards, concerns and prayers. It is always a blessing to know that people care especially by the extended church family. Carl Northrup

**Record Donations for Harvest Home Sunday!**

1,110 lbs of food (about 925 items) for CHOW and 450 lbs of food for Shepherd Supper were donated on Harvest Home Sunday. Also, \$317 was donated to CHOW and \$718 to Shepherd Supper on Harvest Home. The Harvest Home service can be viewed on Central's website at [centralumcendicott.org](http://centralumcendicott.org). Click on the Video link on the left hand side of the homepage to view the amazing parade of food. Central is blessed to have so many people participate in this annual tradition. WAY TO GO CENTRAL!



**Central's All Stars for Unicef**

With a total of \$17.17 raised through Trick or Treat for Unicef, we had four young ladies go the extra mile to collect during Halloween. Please acknowledge for their efforts; Charlotte Bigsby, Iyanna Gleen, London Gleen and Samatha Cooley-Baine. Thank you girls!

**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.

First Christmas by Borg & Crossan  
Oct 24-Dec 19 (9 weeks)

Everything Must Change by Brian McLaren  
Jan 2 – Feb 20 (8 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)

**Trunk or Treat was Fun  
for Everyone**

With a total of over 200 children alone, families from the congregation, the surrounding neighborhood and just all over the place came to our October 29th event. It was a wonderful clear evening so it was not too cold and the families enjoyed Trick or Treating around the almost 20 cars who graciously handed out candy and treats for over an hour. Additionally, there was pumpkin painting in the dining room involving glitter (lots and lots of glitter). We are looking forward to next year! I would like to give a shout out to the Cider Mill, Progressive Dental and Central's congregation for their generous donations and efforts that help us to make this event happen each year. Thank you~ Kelly Devine and the Education Council



## From the Reconciling Task Force...

Thank you to all who stopped by Café Central and took part in our letter campaign to the Commission that is addressing a “Way Forward” for the United Methodist Church. There are 32 members and 3 moderators. We sent each of them 6 letters – that’s a total of 210 letters. It’s great to see the dedication our members have for our LGBTQ children, brothers, and sisters.

Please continue to keep the Commission in your thoughts and prayers as they work over the next months (years) for a solution.

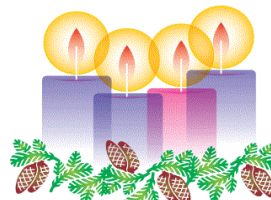
## Stewardship Update

The Central Congregation are such generous givers who always step up when the need arises. Evidence of this is the overwhelming support this year for Harvest Home.

Thanks to all who have submitted your pledges to support Central's Ministries and Programs for 2017. We have received 103 of an expected 140 commitments, so we're still expecting 37 more. If you haven't submitted your pledge yet, please do so we can make our Financial plans for 2017. Of those who have made a commitment to Central, 36 have increased their giving and we have 6 new givers, which is wonderful. We hope that the total giving will increase year to year as it has in the past. One last reminder, as December is the final month in 2016, please stay current with your financial commitment to Central this year. Thanks again to you all for supporting Central not only financially, but with your time and talents as well. It is through all of us that Central can continue to serve Christ in so many ways.

## Scripture Readers Wanted!

If you would like to join the rotation of those who read 1 of the scriptures during the 11am service in the January – June 2017 time period, contact Bruce Bishop (748-6150, [bbishop@stny.rr.com](mailto:bbishop@stny.rr.com)) by December 18. Your commitment is to participate in 2 or 3 services.



## Advent Candles

If you would be interested in participating as an Advent Candle lighter/reader on any of the Sundays from November 27-December 18, or on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm or 10:30pm, please call the church office. You can do it by yourself, or with a friend, or with your family! Sign up now to be a part of Central's Advent Celebrations!

## Mission Challenge

The Mission Council has issued a challenge to the congregation to support Church World Service for Advent. They are encouraging people to donate to provide clean water for a community that is in need. If we can raise \$1000 this Christmas season, it will mean a community will have access to safe water for drinking, cooking, bathing and more. Checks may be made out to Central UMC. On the envelope put CWS or Water Challenge.



Youth Missions for this Holiday Season.... Please help as you can!

## Humane for the Holidays

One of the greatest gifts that you can give is unconditional love and acceptance. Animals give us this very special brand of love when we keep them as pets. Caring for them as they cannot care for themselves is the right thing to do. This year, Central's Sr. High Class has chosen to provide support items to the BC Humane Society Animal Shelter. If you wish to help, there will be a box outside the office for donations from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The class will deliver the items after Christmas.

Website: <http://bchumanesoc.com/>

### **We are collecting:** (\* indicates high use)

- \* **Monetary Donations (check to CUMC with Humane on the memo line)**
- \* **Canned Cat & Kitten Food (Ground/Pate Style), Purina Cat Chow (Blue Bag)**
- \* **Purina Kitten Chow (Yellow Bag)**
- \* **(Pedigree) Canned Dog Food, Dry Dog Food (Yellow Bag), Adult, Small Breed & Puppy**
- \* **Paper towels, 39 gal. garbage bags, Bleach**
- \* **Postage stamps "Forever" size**
- \* **Laundry detergent (we use both HE style and regular)**
- \* **Gift cards to Lowe's, PetSmart, Creature Comforts or Petco**
- Dog collars (metal buckles!), all sizes, but highest use of 18-22"
- Large Dog treats, Nylabone chewable dog toys, Chain dog leashes, Catnip
- Windex refills, Dishwashing soap (Dawn), Liquid hand soap, Toilet paper
- Clean blankets/towels
- Plastic bristle brooms/dustpans/scrub sponges
- New washer & electric dryer (or electric dryer < 15 yrs old if used)



## Youth Helping Youth

**The Identity Youth Center** is a safe and confidential space in downtown Binghamton at 206 State Street for young people (ages 13-24) who identify as LGBTQ. LGBTQ youth and their allies are invited to come and be themselves, receive support and education, and meet new people. Central's MYF has chosen to support the center by taking up a collection of items that they use on a regular basis. If you would like to help, please take a slip and put the items into the box outside the office. Website: <http://idyouth.org/>

### **We are collecting:**

Microwave Bowls/Cups of soup (chicken noodle or creamy soups)  
Ready-to-eat or just-add-water shelf-stable microwave meals (like Chef Boyardee, Hormel, Easy Mac)  
Single Serve cups of Applesauce or Fruit  
Granola bars, Individual boxes of cereal  
Beef jerky, Nuts or Trail mix  
Cheese/peanut butter sandwich crackers or pretzels.

(must be packaged in individual-sized packages)



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

By MaryBelle Mitten

Please consider the excerpts below from an email received recently from Rev. Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

*“We pray the words and teachings of Jesus that he (Donald Trump) has heard will manifest themselves in him a gentle and loving spirit. We desire for Mr. Trump to be a successful president and help move our nation forward. Yet, like many others, we have observed the presidential campaign with a sense of dismay and disbelief. Now is the time for Mr. Trump to cease employing racist, misogynist, and xenophobic rhetoric. Great responsibilities rest on his shoulders. He will be ever most in our prayers in the weeks and months ahead.”*

And as an activist I say we must ACT on our convictions in whatever ways we are able. It never has been and certainly is not now, a time for idly standing by if our faith in Jesus Christ “tells” us something is not fair, loving and just.

Peace, MaryBelle Mitten, in the significant state of FL.



### Altar Guild Poinsettia Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of:      \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of:

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\$12 (or more) for a Poinsettia Plant Please make all checks payable to **Central UMC**. The names above will be recognized in the December 18th Sunday bulletin. Listing deadline – December 11. For more information call Carla Wood (748-3189) or the church office (754-6060).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>4 2nd Sunday in Advent</b> 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 <b>WORSHIP - Usher #3</b> 9:00 Café Central - Youth Center 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 <b>WORSHIP</b> 2:30 Christmas Tea	<b>5</b> 5-9 pm Bell Ringing 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Book Study	<b>6</b> 8am Men's Breakfast 10-12 Clothing Center 7:00 pm Program Councils	<b>7</b> 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 3:30 pm UMW Leadership 6:30 pm Companions 7:00 pm A.A.	<b>8</b> 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	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm A.A.	<b>10</b> 9-3 Bell Ringing 8-1 Blood Drive 11-4 Bazaar 3-7 House Tour 
<b>11 3rd Sunday in Advent</b> 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 <b>WORSHIP - Usher #4</b> 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 <b>WORSHIP</b> 7:00 <b>Blue Christmas Service</b> 	<b>12</b> 5-9 pm Bell Ringing 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4 7:30 pm Book Study	<b>13</b> 10-12 Clothing Center 10 am Parish Visitors 10am-7pm WIC 7:00 pm Finance Committee 7:30 pm Sierra Club	<b>14</b> 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm A.A. 	<b>15 Newsletter Deadline</b> 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm A.A.	<b>17</b> 2:30 pm Clothing Center Christmas Party 
<b>18 4th Sunday in Advent</b> 8 am Worship Ch 4 8:30 <b>WORSHIP - Usher #1</b> 9:00 Café Central 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 <b>WORSHIP</b> 2-4 Caroling 7:00 <b>Contemporary Worship</b> 	<b>19</b> 8am-4pm WIC 5-9 pm Bell Ringing 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4	<b>20</b> 10-12 Clothing Center 7:00 pm Staff Parish	<b>21</b> 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 11am-1pm Clothing Center 1:00 pm Grace Circle 6:30 pm Companions 7:00 pm A.A.	<b>22</b> 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper 5:30-7pm Clothing Center 6:30 pm Cappella Ringers 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm A.A.	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 4:30 pm <b>Family Service</b> 10:30 pm <b>Candlelight Service</b> 
<b>25</b> 8 am Worship Ch 4 9:00 Café Lite 10:00 <b>WORSHIP - Usher #2</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 5:30 pm Worship Ch 4	<b>27</b> <b>Office 9-12</b> 10 am Newsletter mailing 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>28</b> <b>Office 9-12</b> 8am-4pm Sanctuary Open 6:30 pm Companions 7:00 pm A.A.	<b>29</b> <b>Office 9-12</b> 5:00 pm Shepherd's Supper	<b>30</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 

**CENTRAL STAFF**

Pastor .....Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost  
Education Director..... Kelly Devine  
Administrative Secretary ... Pat Breneman  
Music Director ..... Connie Lamando  
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  
Email: [centralumc@stny.rr.com](mailto:centralumc@stny.rr.com)  
Web Page: [www.centralumcendicott.org](http://www.centralumcendicott.org)



**“LIKE” CENTRAL ON  
FACEBOOK!**

*The Central Sentry is published monthly*

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– Contemporary Worship
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- Dec 25 – One service at 10am
- Jan 1 – One service at 10am

**Our Mission Statement**

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



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17 Nanticoke Avenue  
Endicott, NY 13760

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