

THE **Central** SENTRY

United Methodist Church

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PASTOR TERESSA'S NOTES:

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4



This passage from Philippians has come to my mind many times over the past few months. Coming to Central Church is such a joy. The drive to and from Central Church each day is breathtaking. It is wonderful to see the season change. I am enjoying becoming familiar with the area and spend a little time each week exploring. But my greatest joy has been the way in which all of you, here at Central Church have welcomed me and made me feel a part of your faith family. I rejoice that God has called me here to serve with such an amazing church and surrounding community! I also see this same joy in you as you all gather together. In your worship, fellowship, and ministry I witness the rejoicing in community that Paul calls the Philippian church to embrace in his letter from prison.

Paul's letter to the struggling church in Philippi urges the people to live a high calling. Paul implores them to live in joy, free from worry, fully reliant on God. That is a tall order for any church at any time, but especially for mainline protestant churches in America today, seeing a decline in membership and financial resources, and in the United Methodist Church with a drastic change in resources, leadership and structure with 25% of congregations leaving to form a new denomination. Yet Paul tells us how to live beyond the worry and stress—through prayer and lifting our needs to God, for God is near. Paul preaches in Acts 17 (verse 27-28) that God is very near to us. In God, "we live and move and have our being." That is why we rejoice always!

What wonderful ways we witness the nearness of God here at Central Church! From my first Sunday, I have been awestruck by the musical gifts lifted in praise to God in our worship together. There is so much joy Sunday mornings when people gather in the Welcome Room, Lounge, sanctuary and the hallways, visiting and laughing and sharing. The joy continues as adults gather in study, all ages gather for fellowship and food, and people move about their work of service—ushers, worship leaders, TV ministry, cafe hosts, counters, and our awesome staff. What cause for rejoicing! And I haven't touched on all the beauty that happens during the week!

Yet, like many churches, Central Church struggles with the financial resources to meet our needs. In order to be a fully inclusive community in our great location with our beautiful building full of ministry and worship, we need the generous giving of our church family.. Together, we can give of our financial resources, and just as important, our time, gifts, and skills, to follow where the Spirit leads and to offer compassion and love to the world. Rejoice in the Lord always! Rejoice!!

Grace and Peace surround you!

Pastor Teressa

GRAB A FIRST-SUNDAY RIDE IN CENTRAL'S VAN!

Central offers a monthly First-Sunday van route to the Hilltop and Good Shepherd Village to pick up any who would like a ride to church. Invite a friend and come for Communion Sunday! There will be only one stop (the main building) on each campus. Riders will need to be present at the main building on each campus and ready to board at the listed times.

Good Shepherd Village residents can sign up at the front desk in the Village Center, and Hilltop residents should speak with Reverend Lea Harding.

Van Schedule: Sunday, November 3rd - All Saints' Day

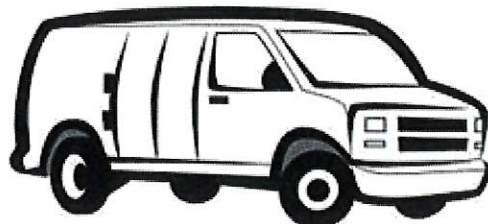
Arrive Hilltop at **10.05**, boarding for 10 minutes

Depart Hilltop at **10.15**

Arrive Good Shepherd Village at **10.26**, boarding for 10 minutes

Depart GSV at **10.36**

Arrive at Central prior to 11.00 service



MISSION NEWS

Thank you all for the support of our mission program. I am always humbled by the response for the mini-projects. Our "Undie-Sunday" collection was great; underwear was given to the Clothing Center, Charles F Johnson, George F Johnson and Thomas J Watson elementary schools. Our "Socktober" collection also went very well! Thanks for the support.

In November we will have our "Harvest Home Collection" with empty grocery bags being handed out the first Sunday in November. Filled bags will be collected on November 24. The groceries will be given to Shepherd's Supper and CHOW for distribution.

December's collection will be hats, gloves, and scarves. We would like donations brought in on Christmas Eve and placed in a manger during our Christmas Eve worship times. These articles of clothing will be distributed to the Clothing Center and the U-E schools.

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church and Central UMC have joined forces to sponsor, along with the Girl Scouts of America, a Mobile Food Pantry. This once-a-month mobile pantry will be staffed with volunteers from the two churches plus other agencies and be held at the Girl Scouts of America offices on Rt 26 in the Town of Maine. We are working on details for the days (possibly first Wednesday of the month); time frame will be 9AM until 11AM. There will be a call for volunteers to help pack boxes as the details are smoothed out. Contact Pastor Paul.

FINANCE UPDATE

This year has been a giving roller coaster so far. We had strong giving in the beginning of the year, enabling us to maintain a positive balance. However, as previously written, the summer months were very low, so we had to use some money from our Endowment to support all the ministries and programs as Central. We did have a strong September which is wonderful

As we enter the last few months of the year, we expect giving to be strong based on our past experience. We will be conducting our Stewardship campaign for next year. You either have received or will receive a letter on that. We ask that you prayerfully consider your giving for 2025 to enable Central to maintain its strong programs, ministries and missions.

The generosity of the Central congregation has always been amazing. It's only with the contributions of all of us that we can continue to maintain the excellent programs, ministries and missions of Central

Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD)

If you're over 70 1/2 you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation directly to Central from your IRA. There should be information on how to do this on your IRA website, or ask your financial advisor. Also if you over 73 a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can be a great way to reduce required minimum distributions (RMDs) and optimize the tax benefits of giving.

-Finance Committee

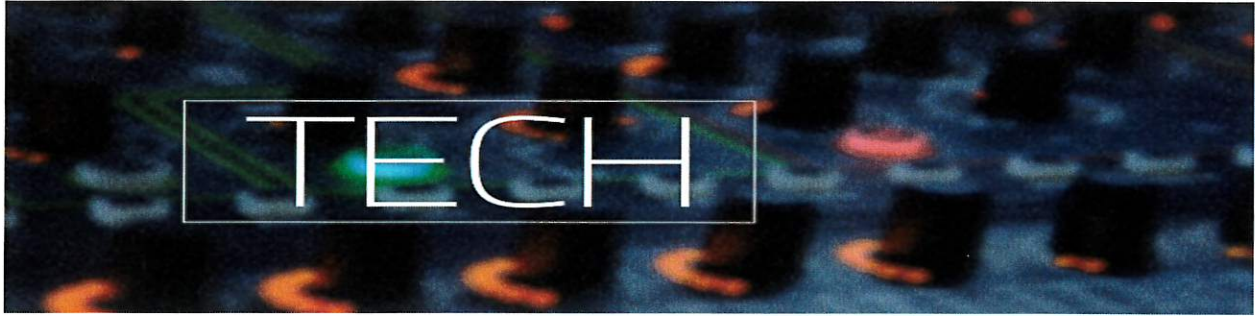
WESLEY CLASS

Thursday, November 14 at noon at Good Shepherd Village (GSVE) for lunch.

A Word of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with, and ordered food from the UWF Fall Take-Out Luncheon. You are all truly appreciated, and we couldn't do it without you. Proceeds from the luncheon will support: Church Women United Haiti Project, VINES, RISE-NY, Lukens-Jackson Camps and the Binghamton District United in Women in Faith.

Blessings, Shelley



TV MINISTRY

The relocated microphone cables are working well. The area below the Lectern looks better without the clutter of cables and wireless microphone receivers. Trip hazards have been removed and cables are less subject to wear, tear, and damage.

The next step is to improve the aesthetics and cumbersomeness of the microphones and stands used for the handbells. This should be an easy and inexpensive project.

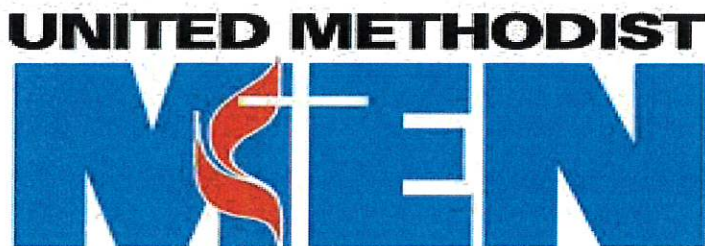
We had a problem recently with the streamer- the device that sends worship services' audio and video to YouTube. We had planned to upgrade this 2019-vintage unit in 2025, but, because of its importance, have moved the time line up. We hope to have it online and working by the time this newsletter goes out.

The Youth/Young Adult Tech Intern Program continues to go well. However, recent Sunday morning illnesses among the interns and a shortage of adults to help with a mid-week service illustrates the need to have a cadre of trained adults who can work alongside them.

We emphasize again that no prior training is necessary. Newcomers are always paired with experienced persons so they can learn step-by-step. Contact me through the office or at the booth on Sunday mornings to find out more.

Conversations about funding for 2025 are underway so that TV Ministry's work can continue uninterrupted. We are grateful for the Shalom Fund, the Board of Trustees, and congregation members and friends who undergird this support and outreach ministry of the Church.

-Mark Marino



Men's Group ZOOM info:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81530597732>
Meeting ID: 815 3059 7732
Passcode: 491318

All Men Invited! Men's Group – Friday, November 8th - 6:00 PM

We're always looking for men to join in the monthly fellowship gathering. We meet in person in the lounge for a meal at 6:00. At 7:00 we open Zoom to meet with our out of town friends, or local ones who prefer to meet via Zoom. Please plan on joining us.

Deborah Circle Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 pm in person (Church Library) and also on ZOOM. Contact: Pat Breneman 607-748-3430

Grace Circle Wednesday, November 20 at noon in the Library at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Pauline Witt 607-748-4142

Sarah Circle Tuesday, November 19 at 12:00 in the Community Room at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Carole James 607-757-2629



United
Women
in Faith

All women are invited to attend one of the United Women in Faith Circles. Please contact the leaders for more information about each circle.

Musical Christmas Program – Save the Date 12/8

Everyone is welcome to attend a Christmas program on Sunday, December 8th at 2:00PM at Central. The event is sponsored by the United Women in Faith and is open to the entire congregation. Bring your family and join us. Rachel Helgeson will be singing Christmas music accompanied by Sean Stafford on the piano. The special program will conclude with carol singing followed by refreshments in the lounge.

Sunday Readings for November

November 3-All Saints' Sunday—John 11:32-33

November 10: James 2:1-9

November 17: Luke 5:1-11

November 24-Havest Home Sunday—Matthew 25:31-46

A Sneak Peek at Advent

Our worship theme for the Advent season is “Calm and Bright,” adapted from the amazing work of the Rev. Dr. Marcia Mcfee and her ministry, Worship Design Studio. 2018 marked the 200th anniversary of the debut of “Silent Night.” This hymn has become the best-loved worship moment of many Christians on Christmas Eve. Something miraculous occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of “all is calm, all is bright.” This Advent we will celebrate the carol's message over the entire season and highlight its call for our lives, a call that can guide us all through the coming new year.

All Saints' Sunday, November 3rd

All Saints' Day is celebrated every year on the first day of November. In the church, we mark All Saints' Day on the first Sunday of November. As we come to the table of Holy Communion, we lift up the names of all our beloved church family who have died in the past year. We speak their name aloud, light a candle in their memory, and toll a bell in their honor. It is a time to also remember all those who have died; in our church family, in our more

immediate families, and in our network of friends. On All Saints' Sunday, we pay particular attention to the 'great cloud of witnesses' who are always around us. **November 3rd is also Daylight Savings Time! Don't forget to 'fall back.'**



The Annual Church Conference-Saturday, November 16 at 11:00 am Vestal UMC

Every year each United Methodist Congregation must hold a church or charge conference. This conference is the primary governing meeting of the church and empowers the Church Council to govern on its behalf on the day-to-day decisions and tasks of the church. All members of the church have vote on the church conference as it decides the pastors' salary package, leadership roster for the coming year, and other administrative and ministry topics assigned to this yearly meeting. All are encouraged to attend. We will be gathering at Vestal UMC with other congregations in our area which gives us an opportunity to meet other United Methodists and witness to our commitment to inclusivity and welcome.



Blood Drive – Saturday, November 23

Central Church 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Volunteers and donors needed

Volunteers are needed for check-in and to serve snacks to the donors. Central's tradition is to provide bagels and pastries (which is a bit more than the snacks that the Red Cross provides). Please consider if you'd be willing to volunteer for a few hours on Saturday, November 3rd. The time slots are only 2 3/4 hours - 7:45 - 10:30 or 10:15 to 1:00. Contact Knud Hansen if you're able to volunteer (khansen3@yahoo.com – 607.754.0882).

Blood Donors Needed - Emergency Need

The recent hurricane disasters have greatly increased the need for blood donations. There has been a national shortage all year and now the shortage is even worse. Please consider donating blood.

Sign up to donate blood by searching the Red Cross website for the drive at Central on November 23- <http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Harvest Home-Sunday, November 24

Grocery bags with suggested items for donation will be available on November 3rd. Bring your filled grocery bags back to Central on Sunday, November 24th for Harvest Home Sunday.

Advent Challenge

Advent begins December 1, 2024. This season is a time of spiritual preparation for the birth of Jesus. Many people use Advent as a time to reflect and meditate on what exactly the birth of the Messiah means to them. This year, your pastoral team will be working on a sermon series focused on the hymn "Silent Night".

The challenge for you is to compose a devotional/reflection, related to the theme of "Silent Night". You can include a prayer to begin, some words of reflection or thoughts, maybe a drawing, maybe a song, maybe a poem...it is up to you! There are several scriptures listed below to help you in your writing.

Deadline for submission is November 24 so material can be compiled and printed for distribution on December 1. Please submit either handwritten or emailed (preferred) devotions to Pastor Paul (cualum86@gmail.com). Drawings can be scanned and sent via email (come to the office and one of us can help you with that).

I am excited about this and I look forward to receiving some great submissions!

Focus scriptures:

- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:2-3
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Matthew 1:19-25
- Matthew 2:1- 12
- Luke 2:7
- Luke 2:15-20
- John 1:1-5, 14

Christmas Decorating Sunday, November 24th

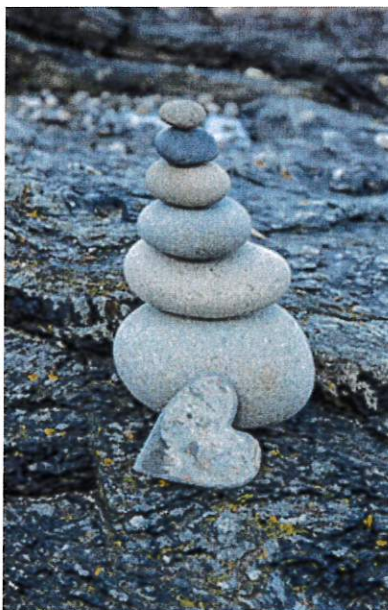
Join us after the 11am worship service on Harvest Home Sunday November 24th for a lunch provided by the pastors. Following the shared meal, we'll decorate the sanctuary and church for the Advent and Christmas Season. All ages are welcome to help put up the trees, candles, wreaths, nativity and Advent wreath.

Central Shirts and Hats

Would you like a shirt with the Central UMC logo? A variety of items may be ordered including denim shirts, polos, t-shirts, or ladies V-neck shirts. The shirts come in various colors. Samples and order form will be on display in the Welcome Center. All items must be pre-ordered by November 11th. For any questions, contact Pat Breneman (748-3430).



Are you interested in joining Central Church? We will hold an information gathering on **Sunday, November 17 in the Library at 9:30 am** with Pastor Teresa to talk more about what membership entails, how and when joining the church happens, and to answer any questions you have about membership and Central Church. Even if you are unsure if you want to join, please come and learn more about the church. Let Pastor Teresa know if you are able to make it, or if you are interested and not available that day. (pastorT@centralumcendicott.org or 607-434-9888).



Grief Support Group

Central UMC will be hosting a grief support group monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Our first gathering will be Thursday, November 21 at 1:30 pm in the Library at Central Church. Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome. Pastor Teresa will serve as host for the meeting. Please feel free to speak with her if you have any questions. If you are interested in the group but cannot make the scheduled time, please let Pastor Teresa know (pastorT@centralumcendicott.org or 607-434-9888).

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	4 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	5 noon Clothing Center 7:00p Van Committee	6 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 1p UWF Leadership 7:30p AA	7 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	8 5:30p Girl Scouts 6:00p Men's Group Dinner 7:00 Men's Group 7:30p AA	9
10 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	11 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	12 10:00a Parish Visitors noon Clothing Center 5:30p Ministry Night 5:45p Girl Scouts	13 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club – Library 7:30p AA	14 noon Wesley (GSVE) 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	16 ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE 11a Vestal UMC
17 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 9:30a Membership Class 11a Worship	18 8:00a WIC Clinic 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7:00p Ahwaga Canoe	19 noon Clothing Center noon Sarah Circle TOGETHER FOR YOUTH 7:00P Deborah Circle (HYBRID/Library)	20 NEWSLETTER LAYOUT 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center noon Grace Circle 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 7:30p AA	21 1:30p Grief Group 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	22 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	23 8:00a Blood Drive
24 HARVEST HOME SUNDAY ADVENT CHALLENGE DEADLINE Normal Sunday schedule CHRISTMAS DECORATING	25 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	26 noon Clothing Center	27 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 7:30p AA	28 THANKSGIVING Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30



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

Pastor: Rev. Teresa M. Sivvers
Associate Pastor: Paul Reed
Web & Media: Martina DiRose
Bell Choir Director: Denise Johnson
Organist: Sean Stafford
Music Director: Jaron Johnson
Treasurer: Teri Mahonski, CPA
Parish Visitors: Nancy Jones,
Carole James, Ron & Elaine Platt

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 754-6060 Fax: 785-4676

Alicia Howard, Admin Secretary
office@centralumcendicott.org

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