REV. TERESSA M. SIVERS

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## **PASTOR TERESSA'S NOTES:**

I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness, the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed. I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—the feeling of hitting the bottom. But there's one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope: God's loyal love couldn't have run out, God's merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over).

--Lamentations 3:19-23

The Book of Lamentations is not an often-read part of scripture by most followers of Jesus. Lamentations has the reputation of being only doom-and-gloom. What is often not realized is that the poet of Lamentations moves back and forth between lament and praise in such a way that it gives the reader hope and offers healing.

One of my mentors early in my ministry career shared this particular passage above with me. I commented to her, shortly after September 11, 2001, that it was so hard to find hope in the midst of such darkness. The community I served, and where my mentor was living in early retirement, had been particularly hard hit in the collapse of the twin towers. The



community was less than two hours from New York City. Many residents commuted into the city for the week, returning home on the weekends. The vast majority of firefighters in the local department were professionals from the city. After September 11<sup>th</sup>, we had so many funerals all the local clergy lost count. Many families could not bury their loved ones as their bodies were never recovered. We, as a community, were exhausted and struggling with any thought of moving forward.

My mentor had experienced two terrible tragedies in her life, so I turned to her, seeking how she navigated such grief and projected such beautiful hope. She sat down next to me on the couch in my office, opened a bible from my shelf, and read the passage above aloud...several times. This passage, from that day forward, has been my anchor when life becomes difficult. I am grateful to say that there have been few times when I felt I had 'hit the bottom.' However, reading the poet's words lifts my heart and soul, refocuses my mind, and helps me greet the day with hope and thanksgiving.

I pray that you have few days when you feel you have 'hit the bottom.' May this passage be a gift to you on days that are filled with joy and days when joy seems far away. God's merciful love NEVER dries up! God's loyal love NEVER runs out! God's mercies, God's compassion is renewed every morning, and so is our hope! How great is God's faithfulness! Praise God! Amen!

### PASTOR PAUL'S NOTES

"The important thing is not to think much but to love much; and so do that which best stirs you to love." (Teresa of Avila)

Ministry and mission is an active and full-time opportunity! Sometimes it is messy, sometimes it is complex, sometimes it is unpleasant—but it is always rewarding and fulfilling. Central UMC is full of mission and ministry opportunities. There is always something going on as we reach out in Christian love to our community and our neighbors. There is always an opportunity to find a niche that fills your spirit and nourishes your soul (How is it with your soul?).

With that, there are probably some mission/ ministry opportunities that do not fit your niche for action– and that is fine. Teresa of Avila reminds us to find something that stirs us to love more and stirs us to action!

Also understand that "offering love is tricky. You can't give what you don't have. An empty glass pours no water unless you fill it. So love yourself first." (Jason Versey, head football coach at Lewiston ME). Is your soul being satisfied? Are you loving yourself? Are you filled enough so that you can pour out to others? Tough questions and thoughts as we approach the season of gifts and parties and stress and anxiety and...

Where do you want your action to be focused? What ministry or mission areas do you have a longing for? What needs do you see in our community that need to be addressed? How is it with your soul? What do you need to have a full spirit? Do you feel God's love? How can we help your "cup runneth over" so you can share God's love? If there is an area that you'd like to see us concentrate on, an area that stirs you to love, an area that you need help with, please let Pastor Teressa or me know and we can work with you to help fill your need to serve!

## **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

I would like to thank all the wonderful people that volunteered at the Welcome Back to School event. The volunteers were on point getting things set up and organized and we were blessed with amazing weather. We did not have the large turnout of people that we have had in past years, but we did provide a nice afternoon for those who came.

The Jack-o-Lantern Jamboree, Central's Halloween event, is right around the corner on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00PM. Volunteers are needed for this event. We will also need candy donations. Candy must be peanut and tree nut free and not pose a choking hazard – no jawbreakers. Candy can be dropped off at the Church Office. Check the Weekly Sentry for up-to-date information about the event and to learn more about how you can be involved.

Please contact me at (607) 427-3684 or call the Church Office (607) 754-6060 if you'd like to volunteer for an event or join the Faith Formation Committee. We would love to have you join us. Thank you and God bless.

Faith Formation Coordinator Donna Miller-Kross



# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This group meets at 9:30AM and all people are invited to join us!!

The Adult Sunday School class will continue with the "Do Unto Others" sermon series that Pastor Teressa and Pastor Paul are working through. Once that is completed, we will turn our attention to a study by Matthew Skinner called "Acts: Catching Up With the Holy Spirit". The Acts of the Apostles is a unique and crucial book that chronicles the story of God's grace flooding out to the world through the lives of the apostles in the decades immediately following Christ's ascension into heaven. The study will focus on six themes in Acts and ignite our understanding of the Christian message.

Contact Pastor Paul if you have comments or questions.

## 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.

#### 2 Worship Service Van Schedule:

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



## **WESLEY CLASS**

Thursday, October 10 at noon at Good Shepherd Village for lunch.



## MISSION NEWS

Thank you for all the support with our "Undie Sunday" collection. Your donations will be sent to the U-E elementary schools and to our Clothing Center. I hope you know how much you have impacted the lives of children in our community!

Our next mini-mission project is donating new socks. Socks are one of the most requested needs in our Clothing Center and urgently needed by un-housed people, yet they are one of the least donated articles of clothing. Donations will be accepted in our Nanticoke entrance in the clothes basket. Socks will be provided to our Clothing Center and the U-E schools.

Our November mini-mission project will be "Harvest Home" our annual food drive for Shepherd's Supper and CHOW. Please listen for details!

If you have an idea for a mini-mission project, please contact Pastor Paul.

## **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); the 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

We have some not so good news to report. This summer giving was significantly down from previous months this year. It has also been the lowest giving summer in many years. Our hope is that once we get back into the swing of things this fall, giving will pick up as in previous years. The giving in October, November and December has typically been very strong and we're counting on that again this year. You will be receiving your 3rd Quarter Statement in October, if you are behind in giving we ask that you make efforts to get back on track. If you are on track or ahead, we thank you for your support of Central. It is only through the generous stewardship of all of us that we can maintain the excellent programs, ministries and missions that Central provides.

-Finance Committee



### TV MINISTRY

The removal of microphone cables and receivers from the floor below the lectern is complete. Doug Breneman and Knud Hansen moved the 32-channel "snake" and related equipment into an adjacent unused closet. From there, new cables run under the floor and terminate at two floor boxes- one under each set of bell tables.

Tech Team member Carol Chandler helped lay out the cables and connected and tested them- as well as worked on debugging the floor monitor speakers and adjusting them so they can be more easily used.

Tech Intern Kai Glydon spent <u>many</u> hours cleaning adhesive from microphone cables that for several years had been taped to the sanctuary carpet, measuring and color-coding them by length, and looking at ways to better organize them in the accordion door closet.

Because of these efforts we have a more adaptable, easier to use audio system that intrudes less in the sanctuary, removes multiple trip hazards, and increases equipment service life.

The Tech Team Youth/Young Adult Intern Program continues well. The young people improve their skills and gain new insights each week.

Conversations have begun about funding in 2025 so TV Ministry's work can continue uninterrupted. As always, we thank the Shalom Fund, Board of Trustees, and congregation members and friends who undergird this support and outreach ministry of the Church.

-Mark Marino

## A Word of Thanks

For the last three years I have been blessed to serve as a part-time supply pastor for St. Peter's UCC in Tatamy, PA. It has been an amazing experience, and has led me to initiate the process to become a licensed UCC pastor as I continue to serve there. While I have been supporting Central in parallel during this time, I have decided to resign my positions as Lay Leader and Living Water praise band leader. I know the congregation will benefit from having these roles filled by someone who will be physically present consistently. I plan to continue my involvement with Soul Care and the TV ministry team, and hope to worship with you on occasion. Central has been my church home for almost 40 years, and I want to thank the pastors, leaders, and the congregation for the guidance, encouragement, and support you've given me. Your kindness has impacted me deeply, and I will carry the lessons I've learned here with me wherever I go. It's been a privilege to be on this faith journey with all of you, and I pray that God will continue to richly bless the ministry of Central

In Christ, Jeff Heald **Deborah Circle** Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 pm (HYBRID/Library) in person in the church library and on zoom. Contact: Pat Breneman 607-748-3430

**Grace Circle** Wednesday, October 16 at noon in the library at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Pauline Witt 607-748-4142



**Sarah Circle** Tuesday, October 15 at noon in the community room at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Carole James 607-757-2629

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



Men's Group ZOOM info: Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81530597732

Meeting ID: 815 3059 7732

Passcode: 491318

#### Men Wanted - Men's Group - Friday, Oct. 18

All men are welcome to be part of our monthly fellowship group. We're inviting new participants to join the fun! We meet at 6:00PM for a brief meal with dessert! At 7:00PM we link into Zoom for a devotional and program. We always have a good time with some corny jokes and spiritual sharing. If you haven't been to Men's Group before please come and be part of the fellowship. It doesn't matter whether you come in person or join via Zoom.

## Sundays in October

- October 6 (World Communion Sunday)—Matthew 22:34-40
  - Last Sunday of the Do Unto Others Series
- October 13— Ephesians 4:7-16
- October 20—1 Peter 4:7-11
- October 27— Mark 10:17-31



# Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 6th

St. Francis of Assisi is known for his love of animals. He often preached to the birds of the air and the animals of the forest. His saint-day is October 4<sup>th</sup> and many places offer a blessing of the animals in honor of him and his passion for nature. Central UMC Endicott will hold a blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the church parking lot. Feel free to bring either your beloved animal family member or a picture of them for a brief time of blessing.

### UWF Fall Take-Out Luncheon - Saturday, October 12th

"Pre-Order, Park and Pick Up" 11:00am - 1:00pm

Support our community through the church missions by placing a PRE-ORDER for the wonderful foods that will be made for just for you. Menu and Pre-Order forms are available in the Welcome Center and the Church Office.

### Mark Your Calendars for All Saints Sunday-November 3rd

Every year, on the first Sunday of November, we spend time remembering all the saints of Central Church who have died since last All Saints Sunday. It is a sacred moment to speak each name aloud and light a candle in their memory as the bell tolls in their honor. As we remember our beloved church family, it calls to mind others we cherish who are no longer with us. There will be All Saints cards available in worship where



you may write the names of all those you are remembering this All Saints Sunday. During Communion, you are invited to place your card on the Communion Table and light a candle to honor those you are holding in your heart. "Thank you, Lord, for these your servants."

### Harvest Home-Sunday, November 24th

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

<u>Deadline for submission is November 24</u> so material can be compiled and printed for distribution on December 1. Please submit either handwritten or emailed (preferred) devotions to Pastor Paul (<u>cualum86@gmail.com</u>). 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

## UWF Fall Take-Out Luncheon 2024 Saturday, October 12th, 2024 11am - 1pm PRE-ORDERS Recommended

Good day to all. Yes, our Fall Take-Out Luncheon is coming up again very soon. So, plan your schedule around **Saturday, October 12th, 2024 from 11am - 1pm** here at CUMC for our 'park and pick-up' pre-ordered food items. Then, enjoy with friends or family.

Enjoy our wonderful items of food that we are preparing for you, featuring the famous chicken salad (by the pint), Hearty chili (by the pint), Sandwiches (turkey and ham - white or wheat bread); pasta salad (by the pint), potato soup (by the pint), tossed or chef salad (by the quart); deviled eggs (2 halves per order), and last but truly not least, the delicious homemade cookies sold by the HALF dozen. (molasses, chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, and snickerdoodles).

In order for this luncheon to be a success, we would be thankful for any monetary donation you can provide. Please leave the money in a sealed envelope with Alicia in the office - LABELED "Fall Luncheon Donation - Shelley Lobevero".

We're doing it the same as last year - in order to place a PRE-ORDER, you have different options: please either call/text Shelley Lobevero at 607-624-1984, email Shelley at shelley.lobevero@gmail.com, or leave your information with Alicia in the office. PRIOR TO Sunday 10/6/24 10:00am. (If it's after 10/3/24, please email Shelley - do not leave in office). It would be appreciated that if you plan on ordering, you do it as soon as you can. EVERYTHING you can do to help will assist UWF in making money for our wonderful missions.

Thank you....Your UWF Fall Take-Out Luncheon Team

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ITEMS: Chicken Salad (PINT) Chili (PINT) Sandwiches:     *Turkey (white)     *Turkey (wheat)     *Ham (white)     *Ham (wheat)	<b>Price</b> \$ 8.50 \$8.00 \$6.00/ea	Quantity         Qty         Qty         Qty         Qty         Qty         Qty         Qty	Total per Line Total
Tossed Salad (Quart) Chef Salad (Quart) Pasta Salad (PINT) Potato Soup (PINT) Deviled Eggs (2 halves) Cookies: (bag of 6)  *Molasses *Choc Chip *Oatmeal Raisin *Snickerdoodles	\$7.00 \$7.50 \$6.50 \$7.50 \$1.00 \$5.00/ea	Qty	Total
	TOTAL Qty's	-	TOTAL

EMAIL

October 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		L noon Clothing Center	<b>Z</b> 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 1p UWF Leadership 7:30p AA	<b>3</b> 4p VINES share pick up 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	4 5:30p Girl Scouts (dining room) 7:30p AA	r <b>u</b>
<b>7</b> 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	p cable1301 outs	8 10:00a Parish Visitors noon Clothing Center 5:30p Ministry Night	9 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club (Library) 7:30p AA	10 noon Wesley Class (Good Shepherd Village) 4p VINES share pick up 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	5:30p Girl Scouts (dining room) 7:30p AA	12 11a Fall UWF take-out luncheon Park and pick up
14 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	S PEOPLE SE CLOSED p cable1301 outs	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE noon Clothing Center noon Sarah Circle (Community Room) 7p Deborah Circle (HYBRID/Library)	16 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Glothing Center noon Grace Circle (Library) 7:30p AA	47 4p Dining for Dollars 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 4p VINES share pick up 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	18 NEWSLETTER LAYOUT 5:30p Girl Scouts (dining room) 6p Men's Group Dinner 7p Men's Group 7:30p AA	19
<b>21</b> 8a WIC Clinic 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	p cable 1301 outs	<b>23</b> noon Clothing Center	<b>23</b> 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club (Library) 7:30p AA	24 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 4p VINES share pick up 5p STCC Halloween Event 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> 5:30p Girl Scouts (dining room) 7:30p AA	<b>26</b> Jack-o-Lantern Jamboree Halloween Event
<b>28</b> 5:30p Worship cable1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7p Ahwaga Canoe	p cable1301 outs anoe	29 noon Clothing Center	<b>30</b> 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	31 HALLOWEEN 4p VINES share pick up 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir		



Pastor: Rev. Teressa M. Sivers Associate Pastor: Paul Reed Web & Media: Martina DiRose Bell Choir Director: Denise Johnson

Organist: Sean Stafford

Treasurer: Teri Mahonski, CPA Parish Visitors: Nancy Jones, Carole James, Ron & Elaine Platt Central UMC is a fully inclusive church that seeks, embraces, educates, worships, and serves, all in God's love.

#### **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

www.centralumcendicott.org



Central United Methodist Church 17 Nanticoke Ave. Endicott, NY 13760

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