

THE Central SENTRY

United Methodist Church

REV. TERESSA M. SIVERS

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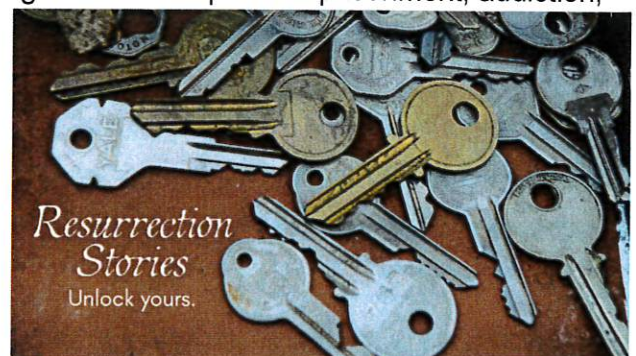
Pastor's Note

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ...¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look^[a] into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ~John 20:1-2, 11-15 NRSVUE

Resurrection morning begins in the wilderness. The followers of Jesus are lost, overwhelmed with grief, afraid...their world has collapsed into chaos. Mary of Magdala goes early to the tomb as soon as the Sabbath is over. Other gospel accounts tell of several women accompanying Mary so that together they may grieve and finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. On finding Jesus' body missing, panic joins the horrible emotions filling the women, and soon the other followers of Jesus. Who would take his body? What are they going to do? Have they truly lost everything? Is it any wonder Mary fails to recognize Jesus' newly resurrected body? The wilderness she finds herself in is dark, maybe even darker than the seven demons Jesus pulled her away from. Stumbling in the darkness of grief and loss, pain and panic, she perceives through all her tears a possible gardener tending the area and seeks any help she can get in locating the body of her beloved teacher.

In the midst of such a wilderness, the last thing Mary or any of Jesus' followers expected was a resurrection story! New life, resurrected life greets Mary in her wilderness and shines the light of hope into the gloom surrounding her.

As we move from the wilderness of Lent, we spend 50 days in the glorious season of Easter—the Great 50 days—which ends at Pentecost. We know that the wilderness of our world does not cease on April 20th. However, the Easter season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives even in the midst of the wilderness. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness and oppression—not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? Perhaps our Easter Celebrations will help us find the key to unlock joy, to reclaim our glory(!), and help us shine the light of hope in a wilderness world. The Great 50 Days! Resurrection Stories: Unlock Yours! This worship series was designed by Dr. Marcia McFee, founder of Worship Design Studio and a lifelong United Methodist offering her worship expertise to churches around the world.



Pastor Teresa

Pastor Paul's Note

"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

— Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*

All journeys have to end; there is a finish point that we all come to. For me, one of the most important aspects of hiking is how I get to the end.

Sometimes, when I'm not really feeling it, it feels like I am just trudging through the woods, looking for trail markers and anticipating the end. I get tired and the walk seems monotonous. Last weekend was an example of that. I was in Mariposa State Forest (south of Deruyter area). There was still quite a bit of snow in the woods and I post-holed quite a bit and fell a few times. The first mile or so was straight up a hill, and I wasn't really ready for that. My feet were wet and getting cold; I honestly couldn't wait until I got to the end of my section so I could turn back and get to my truck. This walk was only 4.5 miles, but it seemed to take me forever.

More often though, I let the woods engulf me and feel the presence of trees and wind and birds and life. The journey can be long and arduous, but I don't mind the walking and it becomes a rhythm for me. I get into a cadence and escape the reality of the world. It is in those moments that I really begin to feel the presence of God and allow myself to open my mind and my soul to the Spirit. Some of my walks have been close to 10 miles, and the time seems to go by so quickly, although several hours may have passed.

The journey matters. How I look at the journey matters. What my mindset is when I start the journey matters. The goal that I have for the journey matters.

I think those thoughts are true for all of us. How do we look at our journey? What is our mindset beginning the journey? What is the goal?

Our journey through Lent is coming to a close. For some, I bet this journey may be like my experience a few weeks ago— can't wait for it to be over. But, I know for many, the journey through Lent has been like many of my walks— lovely and beautiful and spiritual.

But, is the journey really over? Is there really an end to this journey we are on? Yes, Easter is the end of our Lenten journey. Yes, my (almost) weekly hikes end— but as soon as I get home and unpack, I begin looking for my next journey! Our journey doesn't end at Easter; Easter is but a pause— a joyous and beautiful pause— but the journey continues! Where will our next journey take us? What post- resurrection stories will we see and be part of? What sightings of the resurrected Christ will we have? In what direction will the resurrected Christ point us?

Are you ready for more journeying? I am. And I know Pastor T and I will journey with you.



Attention Children!!

Each week in worship, we will have a special time during the service called "**New Life Happens!**" We will use a special key to unlock something wonderful that helps us experience the bible message for that Sunday. We will also start growing some vegetables for our new garden! Each Sunday, we will watch new life grow as our seeds sprout and push up through the soil, and we will unlock a new life message from our box! Come and join in the fun!!

Easter Sunday! April 20th

On April 20th, we celebrate resurrection, even in the wilderness—New Life! As we launch our new worship series—Resurrection Stories: Unlock Yours—we will have a different worship schedule:

6:00 am—Sunrise Service (in-person only) at Highland Park

9:00 am—Easter Brunch in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 am—Resurrection Service in the Sanctuary
(in-person and online)—full of music, glory! and joy!



Resurrection Stories Guided Journal

Dr. McFee designed this journal as a companion to the Worship Design Studio worship series, “Resurrection Stories”. There are video clips on the first page every week for us to watch and to witness a powerful testimony of someone who faced challenges and underwent a journey of transformation to unlock new life after hardship. We will place links to these videos on our website if you are unable to use the QR code. After watching the video, we will let the journaling prompt inspire us to write our own stories of living with courage and resilience. And remember: change is not easy or quick. It takes time. It is hoped that we will be inspired with visions for a hopeful future and take the small steps today that will bring us closer to life resurrected.



Worship Schedule for April:

April 6: 5th Sunday of Lent—Ezekiel 37:1-14

April 13: Palm & Passion Sunday—

Walking with Jesus during Holy Week: a Service of Scripture, Readings and Song.

Readers needed

—let the office know if you would like to read!

April 17: Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm—

the Last Supper and the Night in Gethsemane.

April 18: Good Friday—Walking the Stations of the Cross—

Available all day in the Sanctuary and online, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Art pieces depicting scenes from Jesus' final hours and

crucifixion will be placed around the sanctuary with a devotional guide to walk us through the art and scripture passages they are based on. Images and devotional will also be available online via the livestream.

April 20: Easter Sunday:

Sunrise Service at 6:00 am—in-person only at Highland Park

Easter Brunch starting at 9:00 am

Resurrection Service at 11:00 am—in-person and online

April 27: Camping Sunday! With special guest Matt Williams from Sky Lake!



Six-Week Book Discussion Group via Zoom

For the Easter Season, we will have a book discussion group meeting on Zoom each Monday night at 6:30 pm, starting on Monday, April 28. Our book will be Brene Brown's Rising Strong: How the Ability to Reset Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead. The book is very inexpensive if purchased through Thriftbooks.com, with shipping and tax it is just over \$7.00. Let Pastor Teresa know if you would like to join and she will send you the Zoom link. (pastorT@centralumcendicott.org or 607-754-6060 or text at 607-434-9888).



Faith FORMATION

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

©LP

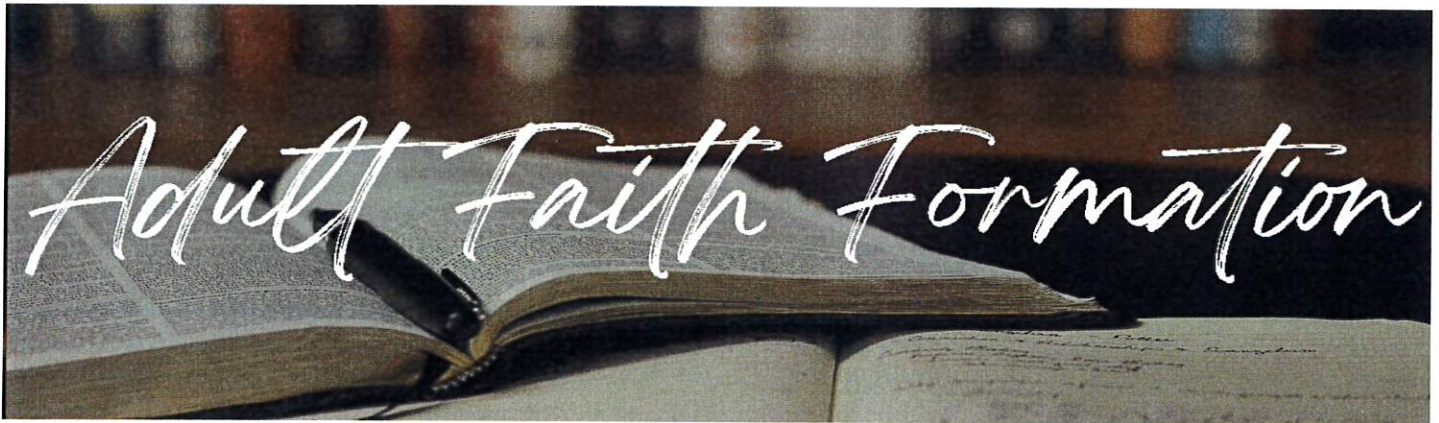
We are reminded of summer as the weather is getting warmer and the flowers begin to bloom. Summer will bring some fun community events for Central and our neighbors.

Before we talk about upcoming events I would like to take a moment to express with great gratitude how thankful I am for all who volunteered for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. It was a huge success! It was so nice to have everyone come and sit inside for dinner and fellowship. All of that was made possible by our great and hard-working volunteers. Thank you again for all your help and dedication. You truly are a blessing.

Faith Formation's Easter Event is right around the corner. We are happy to announce that we are hosting a tasty spaghetti dinner on Saturday, April 12th from 4:30-6:00pm. The event is FREE for everyone. Please RSVP by contacting the Church Office. Our neighbors and local community members will be joining us. We hope that they feel blessed by the church as we extend the love of Christ. Mr. Rabbit will be present for photo opportunities and fun.

As always, this event will not come together without many volunteers. Please contact the church office if you'd like to volunteer for the dinner. We are also collecting a few bags of candy to distribute at the meal. Remember: candy must be individually wrapped, peanut and tree nut free and not present a choking hazard. Watch for upcoming events and additional ways to be involved at Central over the next few months. May you have a wonderful, blessed, and happy Easter. Thank you and God bless.

-Donna Miller-Kross, Faith Formation Coordinator



We are continuing our Adam Hamilton study on "John- The Gospel of Light and Life" This will end on Easter Sunday. Our next study is called "Resurrection Stories- Unlock Yours". Each session will begin with a brief video and then we will read and discuss scripture related to the video and resurrection.

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 need to be present at the main building on each campus and ready to board at the listed times.

Central is also offering the van route on Easter Sunday. Come celebrate with us!

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, April 6th and Easter Sunday, April 20th

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

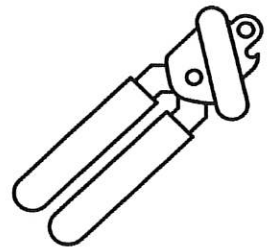
Depart GSV at **10.36**

Arrive at Central prior to 11.00 service



What do you call a can opener that doesn't work?..... A can't opener!!

Our April mini-mission project will be donations of simple can openers. These can openers will be given out at Shepherd's Supper, the Clothing Center, the UE Food Pantry, and the Southern Tier Food Bank- Western Broome Initiative (a group of people working on decreasing food insecurity in western Broome County. Ask Pastor Paul for more details if you'd like to learn more). Can openers can be deposited in the Donation Station in the Nanticoke entrance to the church.



Mobile Food Pantry

Wednesday April 2, 9AM until 11AM, NYPENN Girl Scouts Building (Maine). Talk to Pastor Paul if you would like to help with this program.

Garden Project

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." -Margaret Atwood, Canadian poet and novelist

Spring brings gardening to mind! I can't wait to get out in the dirt! I love the smell of fresh, warm dirt. We have a great opportunity for all of us to smell like dirt!

Central is working with Broome County Cooperative Extension to build 8 raised bed gardens on the parsonage lawn. The gardens will be 4 feet x 8 feet. The materials will be dropped off at Central and we will work together to build and place the boxes. Soil will be delivered and then we will begin planting seeds and seedlings. The produce from these garden beds will be used for Shepherd's Supper and given to the Clothing Center to distribute to their guests.

We are so excited about this opportunity to help feed our neighbors!!



We continue to tweak, optimize, and adjust from week to week to improve the reliability and longevity of the current components. Two instrument microphones have been added to the inventory providing optimal and simultaneous use of four microphones for the bells, one microphone for the trumpet when recording and one microphone for Livestreaming.

The Tech Team Youth/Young Adult Interns persist in sharpening their skills and becoming more proficient as do the adults that work with them. Several volunteers ensure that post-editing the service for broadcast on Spectrum cable goes well.

One drawback is that there is only one person practiced at collating and organizing the service information used by the Tech Team to prepare for services. This preparation requires no technical expertise and can be done from home. Feel free to contact me through the office or at the booth on Sunday mornings to learn more about how to assist the Tech Team with service preparation.

As always, TV Ministry is grateful to the Shalom Committee for undergirding this ministry and appreciates the support from Central's members and friends so that this vital outreach can continue.

-Mark Marino



Men's Group ZOOM info:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82631320966>

Meeting ID: 826 3132 0966
Passcode: 092623

Men's Fellowship Group – All are Invited

The Men's group has added a monthly breakfast meeting to our schedule. Meet us for breakfast on the first Tuesday of the month. The monthly breakfasts have been well attended and some new men have joined. We continue our monthly evening meetings on the 2nd or 3rd Friday of the month.

April breakfast: Tuesday, 4/1 at 8:00 AM Broadway Diner, Watson Blvd, Endwell

Friday evening fellowship: Friday, 4/11 at 6:00PM in person in the Lounge for a meal and dessert. 7:00 PM in the Library or on zoom. We're looking forward to having some new attendees join us.

Circle Meetings - April

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

Deborah Circle Tuesday, April 15th at 7:00pm in the church library and on zoom..
Contact: Pat Breneman 607-748-3430

Grace Circle Wednesday, April 16th at noon in the church library. Please bring your lunch with you.
Contact: Pauline Witt 607-748-414

Sarah Circle Tuesday, April 15th 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

REMINDER: Please place your orders for the take-out luncheon by April 2nd.

SAVE THE DATE: United Women in Faith will have a retreat at Sky Lake on Tuesday, May 13th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The cost is \$25 per person and includes breakfast and lunch along with tea and coffee. Scholarships are available – please contact Lisa Richards 607-761-8169. Registration forms are in the church office. The registration deadline is April 30.



Order Easter Flowers for the Altar Order deadline – April 13, 2025

() In Honor of: _____

() In Memory of: _____

By: _____ Phone Number _____

() Tulip Plant (\$18 or more)

() Donation to purchase artificial Easter lilies for the sanctuary
so all may enjoy an allergy-free Easter.


() I will pick up the flowers by April 27th.

Those named above will be recognized in the Easter bulletin. This form along with remittance may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please make all checks payable to Central UMC. Thank you.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00a Men's Breakfast noon Clothing Center	2 <i>Luncheon orders due</i> 9:00a Mobile Food Pantry 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 1p UWF Leadership 7:30p AA	3 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	4 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	5 11a Spring UWF take-out luncheon Park and pick up
6 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	7 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	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 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	11 5:30p Girl Scouts 6p Men's Group Dinner 7p Men's Group 7:30p AA	12 4:30p Spaghetti Dinner with the Easter Bunny
13 PALM SUNDAY <i>Flower Orders Due</i> 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	14 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE noon Clothing Center noon Sarah Circle (Community Room) 7p Deborah Circle (HYBRID/Library)	16 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center noon Grace Circle (Library) 7:30p AA	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 1:30p Grief Group 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service	18 GOOD FRIDAY Stations of the Cross 7:00am - 7:00pm 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY 6:00 Sunrise service at Highland Park 8a Worship cable 1301 9:00 Easter Brunch 11a Worship	21 8a WIC Clinic 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	23 noon Clothing Center	23 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club (Library) 7:30p AA	24 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	25 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	26
27 CAMPING SUNDAY 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	28 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 6:40p Book Discussion 7p Ahwaga Canoe	29 noon Clothing Center	30 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	31 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir		

Central

 United Methodist Church

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



**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

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Central

 United Methodist Church

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