

May 2025

THE Central SENTRY

United Methodist Church

REV. TERESSA M. SIVERS

17 NANTICOKE AVENUE, ENDICOTT NY 13760
WWW.CENTRALUMCENDICOTT.ORG
607-754-6060

Pastor's Note

The Message is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn't diminish or weaken over time. It's the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger, just as it has in you. From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you've been hungry for more.

~ Colossians 1:5-6, *The Message*



The Apostle Paul opens his letter to the church at Colossae with wonderful words of praise and thanksgiving, for the congregation and for the work God in Christ is doing through them. At the same time, Paul seeks to give the congregation encouragement and motivation to continue to move forward in exploring all that Jesus lived and taught, and the call God is placing on their lives. Paul seeks to build a community of faith explorers, those who want to learn more and more about the wonders of God and what faith means for their day-to-day lives.

Paul's words are also for us, 2000 years later in North America. Paul urges us to be a community that is constantly learning, constantly deepening their faith and understanding, and constantly putting that faith into action in serving our community and world. Pastor Paul's Sunday School class is a great source of learning and I hear weekly of the wonderful conversations and exploration that happens in that space. Some have even suggested that Sunday School not take a break for the summer. Paul the Apostle would be thrilled to hear such news!

For our summer months when we come together in one service at 9:30 am (June, July & August), let's go on an adventure! One that the Apostle Paul would be overjoyed to hear about. But Pastor Paul and I need your input. What do you wish we could explore as a church together? What topics have you wanted to hear addressed in the congregation? What theological issues would you like to explore? Let Pastor Paul and I know. Write it in the pew pad on Sunday, drop it on the slips of paper available at the tech booth, send one of the pastors a text or email, call the office or drop on by. Pastor Paul and I will take all these topics and suggestions and develop worship for the summer months. After worship each week, we will have a time of discussion in the lounge for anyone who would like to explore further.

We cannot promise to have all the answers. No one does. But we will lift up your topic, spend time exploring scripture, and come together in conversation each week. Pastor Paul and I echo the Apostle Paul's words to the Colossian Church:

Our prayers for you are always spilling over into thanksgivings. We can't quit thanking God our Father and Jesus our Messiah for you! We keep getting reports on your steady faith in Christ, our Jesus, and the love you continuously extend to all Christians. The lines of purpose in your lives never grow slack, tightly tied as they are to your future in heaven, kept taut by hope.

~Colossians 1:3-5, *The Message*

Pastor Teresa

Pastor Paul's Note

"When we open our eyes to the little miraculous events all around us, life becomes a story of many little resurrections, one after the next." (Laurie E Smith)

After our journey through the wilderness of Lent and the darkness of Holy Week, celebration comes! With song and music and fanfare and joy, we celebrated Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. And then it is back to the grind of life again. Or is it?

The Easter season lasts 50 days and ends on Pentecost Sunday (June 8 this year). This Easter season, I challenge you (and me) to be aware of the signs of resurrection and new life around us. We can get bogged down with the challenges of life; we can get sidetracked by negativity; we may feel like we are still in the wilderness. And by "we" I mean "me".

Seeds will be sprouting, lambs are being born, lawns will be greening up, flowers will be blooming, summer birds are returning. All these signs are reminders of resurrection— rebirth, new life. But, there is so much more to see. Small acts of kindness, positive changes in our physical and mental health, our homes, our families— more reminders of life and miraculous events. Take some time to sit outside in the sun and feel its warmth, take a walk in the woods and feel nature and all that surrounds us. Gifts from God.

Let us continue to celebrate Easter through the Easter season by looking for the small miracles in our life. May we be aware of the ways God is with us and let us acknowledge that daily. My goal for this Eastertide is to write down one positive experience, one small miracle each day and thank God for that. Maybe you can do something similar and let me know!

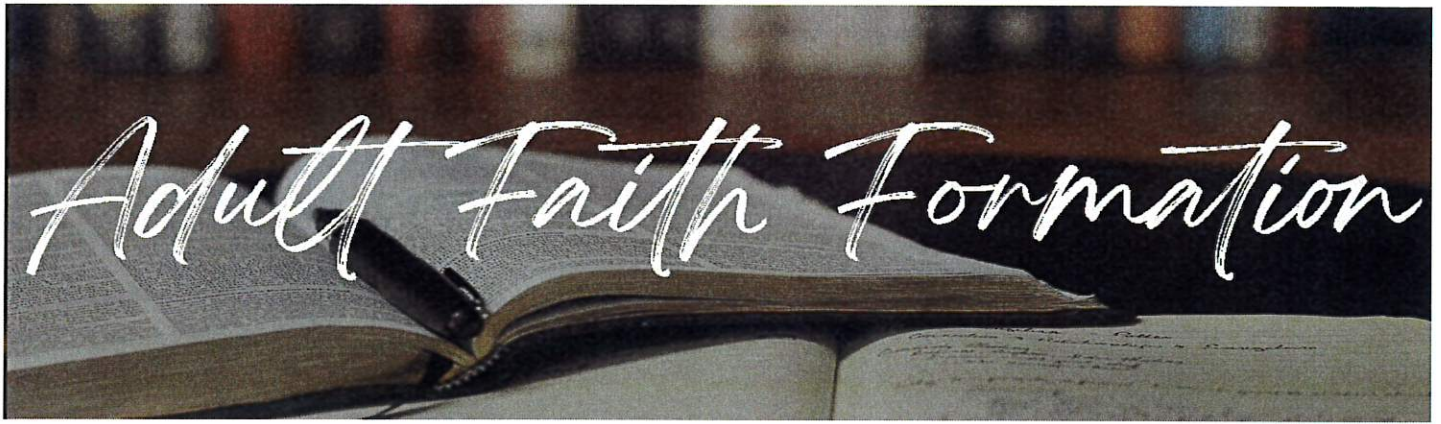


Our spaghetti dinner with the Easter Bunny was a success thanks to all the dedicated church volunteers that served dinner, washed dishes, and did whatever else that was needed. A big thank you to everyone that volunteered. The event included a visit from the Easter Bunny that hopped in to take pictures and spread joy to the children. It was a lovely evening with people young and old having a wonderful time together. Seeing people file into the dining room to sit down to dinner reminded me of the apostles sitting with Jesus at the last supper. Jesus' sacrificed His life for us and we gather to celebrate the season with a meal together in remembrance of Him.

Faith formation will be using the month of May to discuss our upcoming summer events. Stay tuned for next month's newsletter for details and dates about these fun community events. We welcome new faces and new ideas so please feel free to come to next month's meeting if you are interested in joining the planning committee.

Thanks again to all that give of their time to serve and reach out to the community. I wish everyone a wonderful May filled with lots of happiness and blessings.

-Donna Miller-Kross, Faith Formation Coordinator



Our Eastertide discussions will focus on Resurrection stories. Easter is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. We will be using a study guide and information from "Worship Design Studio" as well as a few other outside sources. I am excited to work through this study with you.

This will be our last study until the fall. Start thinking of ideas for studies that you'd like to work on next.

-Pastor Paul

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.

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, May 4th

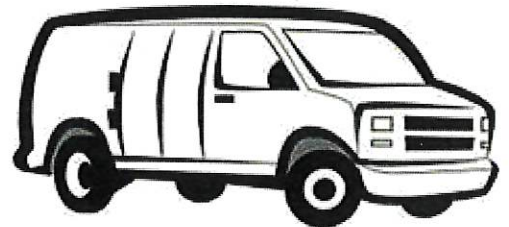
Arrive Hilltop at **10.05**, boarding for 10 minutes

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





Meet Central Church's Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

This important team of church members works closely with the pastors and staff concerning their relationship with the congregation and the entire work of the church. This committee is in essence the personnel committee of the pastoral charge. The committee is to be sensitive to the opinions and concerns of the congregation concerning the pastors and staff. It is to confer

with the district superintendent or the bishop concerning the appointment of the pastors for the church. The committee recommends the salary for the pastors and staff to the Finance Committee and Charge Conference. Our team is available if you have any questions, comments or concerns. Here is Central's Team!

- David Brunson
- Pat Chandler
- Cheryl Davis
- Renee Sersen
- Carolyn Stanford
- Kelly Devine

2025 Annual Conference of the People of Upper New York

The annual gathering of the Upper New York Conference (UNY) of the United Methodist Church (UMC)—our conference—will be held in Syracuse at the Oncenter from Thursday, May 22-Saturday, May 24. Central Church is represented by both our pastors—Teressa and Paul—and by two members of the congregation—Beverly Cosimano and Sarah Hungerford. All UMC conferences must be made up of equal numbers of clergy and laity. While we are gathered at the Oncenter, we will worship, learn, fellowship, and vote. Here a little of what we will be doing.



2025 Upper New York Annual Conference

The 2020-2024 General Conference passed several proposed amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. These unique pieces of legislation only become official once they are ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate majority of members to the annual conferences across the global denomination. Four items of business relating to General Conference will be presented to the 2025 Upper New York Annual Conference, and each one will be handled as four separate ballots/votes. They may be debated but cannot be amended. To learn more about these amendments visit- <https://www.unyumc.org/news/article/annual-conference-2025-constitutional-amendments>

Along with these amendments, the UNY Conference will also vote on membership of the many conference teams and committees, clergy salary minimums, pensions and benefits for clergy and conference staff, the budget for our conference, churches that have closed, missional goals for the conference, and several resolutions on such topics as welcoming migrants, apartheid in the Holy Lands, and much more.



May Mission Project

We will be collecting camping equipment for youth going to Sky Lake. The Lukens-Jackson Fund is sponsoring close to 20 youth this summer and there are many others from across the area that will be attending camps. Youth sometimes forget things or just don't have what they need to fully experience camp. This is a great way for us to help our youth. I'll publish and post a list of needed supplies in the Welcome Center as well as the Weekly Sentry. Donations can be dropped off in the clothes basket in the Donation Station in the Nanticoke entrance to the church.

-Paul Reed



TV Ministry replaced an aging microphone to help ensure trouble-free operation and smooth worship experiences. The electronics' software is continually monitored and upgraded when needed.

The breadth and depth of the church's electronic outreach continues to grow. When we began LiveStreaming in 2019 it was a stretch to secure 100 subscribers so we could meet YouTube's requirements for a reliable channel. We now have 429 subscribers. This is a remarkable achievement and one that has happened without "campaigning" on our part.

In addition to LiveStreams of weekly worship services, a recent funeral received over 200 views, including some from Europe. In the past we have had worshipers from Turkey, the Caribbean, and the African continent as well. Central is doing its best to fulfill the call to spread the Good News.

This is a testament to the Youth and Young Adult Interns who operate the equipment on a regular basis and to the adults who support them and care for pre- and post-service responsibilities. And it is possible because of the support and encouragement of the Trustees, Shalom Fund, and the Central's members and friends. We are grateful.

--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 Breakfast - May 6

All men are invited to join in the fun and fellowship for breakfast at the Broadway Diner, Watson Blvd, Endwell at 8:00 AM on Tuesday May 6.

Men's Group Dinner and Zoom - Friday May 16

This meeting is back to meeting on the third Friday in May. All men are invited to attend.

Meal at 6:00 at the church, followed by devotions and more fun and fellowship at 7:00, in person and on Zoom.



The circles will be attending the UWF Spring Retreat led by Pastor Teresa at Sky Lake on May 13th from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The individual circles will not meet in May.

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

Deborah Circle Pat Breneman 607-748-3430

Grace Circle Pauline Witt 607-748-414

Sarah Circle Carole James 607-757-2629

Potluck

Maggie and Tyler Welford will be with us at Central for worship on Sunday, May 18th. Join us after the 11 o'clock service for a potluck lunch and fellowship with your church friends and family. Bring a dish to pass. Sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center.

Concert

Spend an afternoon in the sanctuary at Central enjoying Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light: A Requiem*. The concert begins at 4:00pm on Sunday, 5/18 and features the choirs of Central, Nimmonsburg and Tabernacle UMC. A free-will offering will be taken to support outreach.

Notes of Thanks and Appreciation

I could never express enough gratitude for such a caring, loving church family! Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers and support.

Faithfully, Jan Layer

We wish to extend gratitude and special thanks to our Central Family for all the cards, well wishes, warmth and expressions of care and concern that we've received in response to the death of Gladys Hansen. The Central congregation is truly our extended "family" in the way that it responds with such love. We appreciate you all.

The Hansen Family

Thank you to everyone for a very successful UWF take out luncheon.

Lisa Richards

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

We often forget the radical roots of Mother's Day. Far from being an intimate celebration of family life, Mother's Day had its origin in work for justice and peace.

It all started in the 1850s, when West Virginia women's organizer Ann Reeves Jarvis held Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions and try to lower infant mortality by fighting disease and curbing milk contamination, according to historian Katharine Antolini of West Virginia Wesleyan College. The groups also tended wounded soldiers from both sides during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865.

In the postwar years Jarvis and other women organized Mother's Friendship Day picnics and other events as pacifist strategies to unite former foes. Julia Ward Howe, for one—best known as the composer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"—issued a widely read "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, calling for women to take an active political role in promoting peace.

Around the same time, Jarvis had initiated a Mother's Friendship Day for Union and Confederate loyalists across her state. But it was her daughter Anna who was most responsible for what we call Mother's Day—and who would spend most of her later life fighting the limitation and sentimentality of what it had become.

This service was originally written for a year when Mothers' Day fell on the Festival of Pentecost; its prayer to the Spirit seems appropriate for any time!

On the day of Pentecost, followers of Jesus gathered, including many women:

Mary, the mother of Jesus,
Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha,
Salome, Susanna, Joanna,
the Canaanite woman and her daughter,
the Samaritan woman, Philip's four daughters,
Peter's mother-in law,
women who had been healed or touched by Jesus
and many, many more.

As the Spirit fell upon them, all hearts were opened and they began to prophesy: Some used the utterance of wisdom, another the gift of knowledge, others became healers and interpreters of tongues. All used their gifts for the common good. In the presence of the Spirit, in the power of Pentecost love, they proclaimed a vision of God's shalom.

Today, we remember the women of history who have been moved by the Spirit to proclaim and live out God's vision of peace with justice:

(Lift up the names of women who have worked for justice and peace to honor on this Mother's Day)

On this Mother's Day, let us lift up the names of people in our own lives who have mothered us and witnessed to us the power of love and the Spirit:

(Lift up the names of people who have nurtured your life and educated you in faith)

As it happened on the day of Pentecost, let the Spirit come upon us as we go about our ministry together, today and always. Amen.

Radical Mothers' Day was written by Ann L. Hanson, formerly Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice, Justice and Witness Ministries, UCC.

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May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	2 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	3 11a Church Women United Friendship Day
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY Reconciling Ministries Special Sunday Offering 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	5 5:30p Worship cable 1301 6:30p Book Discussion	6 8a Men's Breakfast Broadway Diner noon Clothing Center 7p Van Committee	7 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	8 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	9 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	10
11 MOTHERING SUNDAY 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	12 5:30p Worship cable 1301 6:30p Book Discussion	13 9:00a Women's Retreat at Sky Lake 5:30p Ministry Night noon Clothing Center	14 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club -- Library 7:30p AA	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1:30p Grief Group 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	16 5:30p Girl Scouts 6p Men's Group Dinner 7p Men's Group Meeting 7:30p AA	17
18 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship noon Potluck 4p Music Concert	19 8a WIC Clinic 5:30p Worship cable 1301 6:30p Book Discussion	20 NEWSLETTER LAYOUT 10:00a Parish Visitors noon Clothing Center	21 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	22 ANNUAL CONFERENCE 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	23 ANNUAL CONFERENCE 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	24 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
25 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	26 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 5:30p Worship cable 1301 6:30p Book Discussion	27 noon Clothing Center	28 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club -- Library 7:30p AA	29 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	30 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	31



Pastor: Rev. Teressa 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

office@centralumcendicott.org

www.centralumcendicott.org



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

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