

# THE **Central** SENTRY

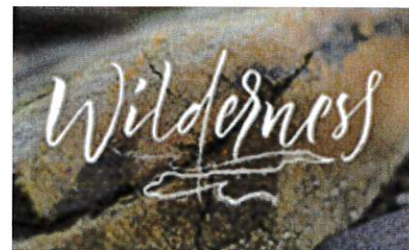
United Methodist Church

REV. TERESSA M. SIVERS

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

## Pastor Teresa's Note

*Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. <sup>2</sup> There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. - Luke 4*



Wilderness... We are all very acquainted with wilderness. Wilderness is where the wild things are, where the day-to-day rules don't apply, where life feels out of our control. To be in the wilderness is to speak of a sense of being lost, to have no markers for our path, to be uncertain of which direction we should go. It is frightening, especially when night comes and the darkness is intense. No street lights. No buildings to escape into. No vehicles passing by. Empty. Vast. Hostile, at times. We are left feeling vulnerable and alone.

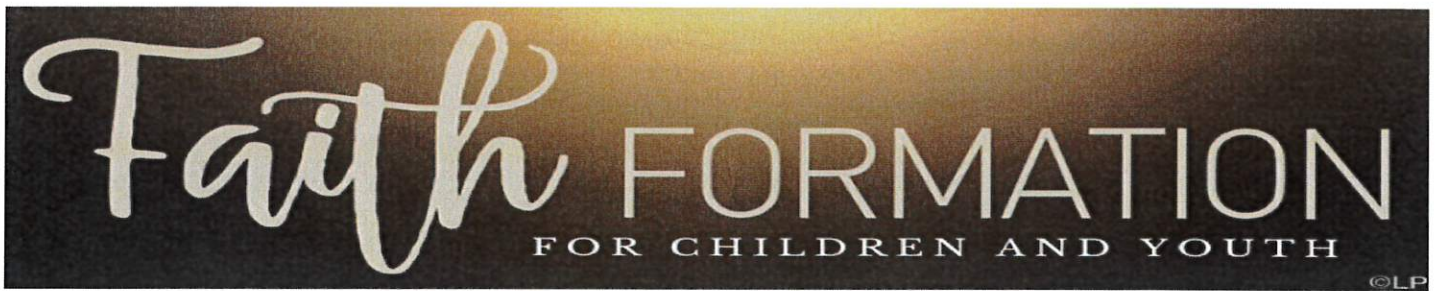
However, wilderness is also the place where transformation occurs, where new beginnings are born, where God's grace abounds like bread from heaven. Through the wilderness, slaves from Egypt became God's partner people. In the wilderness, the people of God were washed by John and started a new journey of faith. Embraced in wilderness, Jesus proclaimed boldly his trust in God's way, not the easy ways offered. Wilderness can be that for us too, individually and communally.

This Lent, we are invited into the wilderness together for 40 days of prayer, contemplation and scripture. Together we can face the wildness in our world and in our own lives, facing our vulnerability and fears that are natural in wild places, while also embracing the wild and wondrous Spirit who journeys with us there, who transforms us there. Let us be reminded that we are never alone in the wilderness.

As part of our wilderness sojourn, we will add a new ritual each Sunday, the lighting of the Candle of Peace, Hope and Justice. Much of my ministry was deeply influenced by the Rev. Dr. Peter Storey, the former Bishop of the Methodist Church of South Africa. Rev. Storey worked alongside Bishop Desmond Tutu and was Nelson Mandela's chaplain when he was imprisoned on Robben Island. In 1999 and 2000, Dr. Storey was a visiting professor at Duke Divinity School where I was attending seminary. Peter shared that during the latter years of apartheid rule in South Africa, the Central Methodist Mission in Johannesburg created a candle encircled in barbed wire, modeled after the symbol for the global human rights organization, Amnesty International. Each week, during worship, members of Central Church would light the candle and list the names of those who had been harassed, wounded, imprisoned, tortured or killed the previous week. As they lit the candle, they would pray the powerful scripture from John 1- "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome the light."







Hello Faith Formation Friends,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all healthy, well, and warm. It has been very cold outside here lately and I am longing for the spring and summer months.

All are welcome to attend our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on March 4th from 4:30-6:00pm in the Dining Room. This sit down dinner is free of charge (donations will be accepted). Bring your family and friends for warm fluffy pancakes, sweet syrup, and delicious homefries. This dinner is a great time to come together and share fellowship with one another.

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter and we are thankful that he gave his life so that we can have eternal life. Most people will have a family dinner to reflect and celebrate. Central wants to give a delicious, hearty spaghetti dinner to our local community. It's a great opportunity for us to share a meal and build connections. Let's strengthen bonds with our neighbors and show them what love looks like. The Easter Bunny will be hopping by to greet our dinner guests with music, dancing and fun activities.

All ages are welcome to attend the spaghetti dinner with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00pm in the Dining Room. We ask that you R.S.V.P for this event so we can accommodate everyone that wants to attend. Please call the church office to add your family and friends to the list.

We will need lots of volunteers for the spaghetti dinner. These events would not be possible without the amazing volunteers that we have at Central. There will be a volunteer sign up sheet in the Welcome Center closer to the time of the event. I am so grateful for all of you. You make a difference not only in the church but in the community. May God Bless you all.

-Donna Miller-Kross, Faith Formation Coordinator

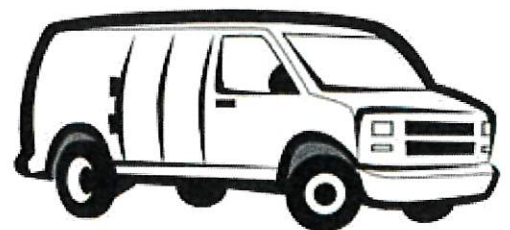
## GRAB A FIRST-SUNDAY RIDE IN CENTRAL'S VAN!

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, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025***

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





On Sunday, March 2, following the 11:00 am service, all are invited to the fellowship hall for lunch and to help create the artwork for our Lenten season. The theme is Wilderness. We will build pieces like this picture--made of sand, rocks, moss, sticks and glass vases and jars. We will place these on altars and windowsills around the sanctuary--and even throughout the building if we have enough. You are welcome to bring rocks, sticks and glass vases/jars from home as a donation.



## Sunday, March 2, after the 11:00 service-Lenten Artwork Party!

Sandwiches, chips, veggies and drinks  
Building artwork for the sanctuary.

Those of our church family who worship remotely, you too can create this beautiful art piece for our Lenten journey. Simply gather those items listed above—sand, rocks, moss, branches and a glass vase or jar. Write hopes, dreams and prayers on the rocks with a sharpie marker and build your art piece. Place sand in the bottom, hold the branches in place as you place the rocks in the vase around them and top with moss.



## Lenten Devotional Opportunities

Wilderness booklet and  
Words for the Wilderness  
Meditation Cards—  
choose 1 or both!

For our Lenten journey, we have resources for daily devotions. The office can print for you a devotional booklet or a set of meditation cards (or both). The devotional booklet is filled with daily readings that also feature artwork and poetry. The cards are designed with a word for meditation each day. Each morning, center yourself with the wilderness word for the day. Take it with you. Take moments throughout the day to pray with it. We will also share these resources digitally in the Weekly Email Sentry on Mondays in March.

## Worship in Lent

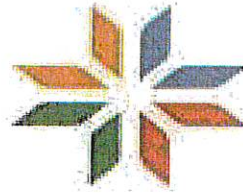
- Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: Service at 7:00 pm in-person and online.
  - Psalm 103:1-18 & Joel 2:1-2, 12-17.
- Lent 1, March 9<sup>th</sup>: Luke 4:1-13 (**Daylight Savings Time Starts-Spring Ahead**)
- Lent 2, March 16<sup>th</sup>: John 3:1-17
- Lent 3, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: John 4:3-15, 39-42
- Lent 4, March 30<sup>th</sup>: John 9
- Lent 5, April 6<sup>th</sup>: Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Palm & Passion Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>—a Service of Palms, Poetry & Song
- Maundy Thursday, April 17: Worship at 7:00 pm in-person and online. A service of footwashing, Holy Communion and stripping of the sanctuary.
- Good Friday, April 18: Stations of the Cross available in the sanctuary all day and through video online. Sanctuary will also be livestreamed for any who wish to 'drop in' for quiet prayer remotely.



## Circle Meetings - March

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, March 18<sup>th</sup> will meet in the church library and on zoom at 7:00pm.  
Contact: Pat Breneman 607-748-3430



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Grace Circle** Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at noon in the library at church. Please bring your lunch with you.  
Contact: Pauline Witt 607-748-4142

**Sarah Circle** Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 in the community room at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Carole James 607-757-2629

## **American Red Cross Blood Drive: Saturday, 3/22 8:00am - 1:00pm**



SHARE YOUR  
LUCKY CHARM.

Give blood for those in need.



**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 the Red Cross provides). Please consider if you'd be willing to volunteer for a few hours that day. The time slots are only 2 3/4 hours: 7:45 - 10:30 or 10:15 to 1:00. Please contact Knud Hansen (khansen3@yahoo.com – 607.754.0882) if you'd like to volunteer.

**Blood donors** There was a national shortage last year and now the shortage is even worse. Please consider donating blood.

Sign up to donate blood by searching for the March 22<sup>nd</sup> blood drive at Central Church on the Red Cross website - [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive)

## **Soup, Salad, and Snacks Fellowship Event: Saturday, 3/22 5:30pm**

We are having a "Charcuterie Celebration" fellowship time on Saturday, March 22, beginning around 5:30PM. A beautiful celebration of flavors and textures that will be as diverse as the congregation at Central! Expect an evening of fellowship, food, and meaningful conversation, where everyone has a seat at the table. Whether you're a longtime member or visiting for the first time, you are welcome just as you are! There will be a sign up list for items such as cheeses, cured meats, veggies, soups, chilis, desserts, snacks, and other foods. Contact Martina DiRose or Bill Finch for more information or to help plan this event.

**UWF SpringTake-Out Luncheon 2025**  
**Saturday, April 5th**                      **11am - 1pm**  
**PRE-ORDERS** Recommended



Good day to all. Yes, our Spring Take-Out Luncheon is coming up again VERY SOON. So, plan your schedule around **Saturday, April 5th from 11am - 1pm** here at CUMC for our 'park and pick- up' pre-ordered food items. Easy-peasy as usual.

Enjoy our wonderful items of food that we are preparing for you, featuring the famous chicken salad (by the pint), potato soup (by the pint), deviled eggs (2 halves per order), and the delicious homemade cookies sold by the HALF dozen. (molasses, chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, lemon pizzelles 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 "Spring Luncheon Donation".

To place a PRE-ORDER, please drop off the order form in the church office with Alicia or email Pat Breneman at [pbrenema@stny.rr.com](mailto:pbrenema@stny.rr.com) PRIOR TO Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. It would be appreciated that if you plan on ordering, you do it as soon as you can. All proceeds will go to the UWF missions. Thank you....Your UWF Spring Take-Out Luncheon Team



<b>ITEMS:</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total per Line</b>
Chicken Salad (PINT)	\$ 8.50	Qty _____	_____ Total
Potato Soup (PINT)	\$ 7.50	Qty _____	_____ Total
Deviled Eggs (2 halves)	\$ 1.00	Qty _____	_____ Total
Cookies: (bag of 6) *Molasses	\$ 5.00/ea.	Qty _____	_____ Total
*Choc Chip		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Snickerdoodles		Qty _____	_____ Total
* Oatmeal Raisin		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Lemon Pizzelles		Qty _____	_____ Total

TOTAL Qty's

TOTAL

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



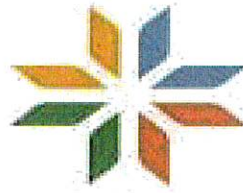
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## Poem on Wilderness

The Wilderness is Somewhere We've Been Before  
by Sarah Are  
Sanctified Art Wilderness Devotional

I'm not the first.  
That's what I tell myself when I  
wake up in the wilderness—  
Big sky, worried heart,  
wondering which way to start.  
I have been here before.  
We have been here before.  
For as long as there has  
been creation,  
There has been wilderness.

First it was an endless void,  
Until God and God's paintbrush  
painted the sky gold.  
And then it was all that lies  
east of Eden,  
Which is everywhere that our  
story unfolds.

So like a child memorizing  
their home address,  
You'd think I'd learn my way  
out of this wilderness.  
But like the Israelites who  
wandered for forty plus years,  
I think I'll spend most of my  
day to day here.  
For the wilderness is  
everywhere that I start  
to grow.  
Cracks in the sidewalk, daisies  
take hold.  
And the wilderness is every  
single place of unknown,  
Or when shame and fear move  
into my home.  
And the wilderness is where  
dusty feet tread,  
Familiar with the truth that we  
have days left.

So where is God, you ask?

God is in the big sky and in my  
worried heart.  
God is the sidewalk cracks  
where new life starts.  
God is in the realization that I  
am not the first.

So may we take these limited  
days left  
And remember that we've been  
here before—  
God and I and this untamed  
world.  
God and the Israelites and the  
gathered assembly.  
God and the horizon and the  
new day beginning.



### **Come to the Sky Lake Lukens Jackson Summer Camp Pizza Party!**

Wednesday, 3/26 at 5pm in Central's Dining Room

Pizza is free and provided by Sky Lake

Come get your camp questions answered.

Come sing some camp songs.

Come sign up for camp!

Central UMC has scholarship money available for  
any camp aged youth or special needs adult that  
would like to attend.

See you there!

# MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>FIRST SUNDAY VAN</b> 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship noon Lunch & Lenten artwork	<b>3</b> 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	<b>4</b> <b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b> 8a Men's Breakfast (Broadway Diner) 12p Clothing Center 4:30p Pancake Dinner	<b>5</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 7p Ash Wednesday Service (in-person & online) 7:30p AA	<b>6</b> 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	<b>8</b> <i>Remember to change            your clocks...Spring            ahead.</i>
<b>9</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> <b>TIME STARTS -</b> 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	<b>10</b> 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	<b>11</b> 10:00a Parish Visitors 12p Clothing Center 5:30p Ministry Night	<b>12</b> 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 6p Lions Club 7:30p AA	<b>13</b> 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:00p Wesley Class (zoom) 7:30p Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	<b>17</b> 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	<b>18</b> 8a WIC Clinic 12p Clothing Center 12p Sarah Circle 7p Deborah Circle (ZOOM only)	<b>19</b> 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 12p Grace Circle 7:30p AA	<b>20</b> 1:30p Grief Group 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 5:30p Girl Scouts 6:00p Men's Group Dinner 7:00p Men's Group Meeting 7:30p AA	<b>22</b> 8a Blood Drive 9a Lay Servant Class 5:30p Charcuterie Celebration
<b>23</b> 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	<b>24</b> 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7p Ahwaga Canoe	<b>25</b> 12p Clothing Center	<b>26</b> 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 6p Lions Club - Library 7:30p AA	<b>27</b> 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	<b>29</b> 9a Lay Servant Class
<b>30</b> Regular Sunday schedule	<b>31</b> Regular Monday schedule					





**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  
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

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



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Endicott, NY 13760

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