

THE CENTRAL SENTRY



The winter cold has arrived, at least for a time. Even those who relish outdoor winter activities such as hiking, skiing, and sledding enjoy a comfortable sanctuary at day’s end. We appreciate a place where we can hunker down and stay warm. These winter “sanctuary times” are opportunities to slow down, ponder, and meditate on who we are; whose we are; and what we should do; how we could or should live in light of it.

It’s the same at church. Central continues its journey of self-discovery. All that we shall be and all that we shall do is not yet revealed to us. Yet when we pause for a winter moment to ponder and reflect, we see signs that we’re on the right path. Excitement reigns amidst children, youth, and adults in Sunday School each week. The Worship Council and our choirs bring us experiences that touch the soul and lift the spirit. Persons new to leadership step forward and lend their gifts and graces to keep Central’s programs, missions, and ministries strong in their service.

And we do not stop there. Our boards, committees, councils, and teams are always looking for the “next thing” God is calling us to be and to do. Building on Central’s traditions of generosity, caring, and– yes– risk-taking!, each team explores ways to improve what we do well and move in new directions in new ways so we can call more people to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Lent will be upon us in February, and we will begin the six-week prelude to Easter and celebration of the resurrection. May we relish the journey, and may we be ever open to the Spirit leading us along unexpected paths to unexpected and holy places!

-Mark

February 4 – Blood Drive

February 12 – Valentine’s Day Cookie Sale

February 17 – Movie Night – Soul Surfer

February 19 – Contemporary Worship Service

February 21 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service

February 26 – Dinner With Friends Kick-off

February 29 – Lenten Dinner & Programs begin

CHURCH NEWS

Blood Drive Saturday, Feb 4 8am to 1pm

Sign-up on the Red Cross website at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/> or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767. Your donation is greatly needed!



Cookie Sale Sunday, Feb 12

A sweet for your sweet?

The Youth Group is taking orders for their annual Valentine's Day Cookie Bake! You can surprise that special someone with Valentine's Day cookies and support your youth all at the same time!

Cookies are \$3.00 a dozen and will be available for pick-up on February 12th. Please place your orders with a youth ahead of time. Extra cookies may also be available for purchasing on the 12th but supplies will be limited.



What? Soul Surfer
When? Friday, February 17
Where? Central UMC Dining Room
When? 7:00 pm
Who? Adults and youth alike!

Soul Surfer is a great family film, but is not suitable for younger children. Parents, please use your discretion about whether you think this movie is appropriate for your child

“A champion surfer loses her left arm in a terrifying shark attack, but summons the determination to make an incredible comeback in this inspirational sports drama based on an incredible true story. A lifelong surfer who always felt at home in the sea, Bethany Hamilton honed her surfing skills in Kauai, and went on to compete in numerous surfing competitions. Then, one fateful Halloween morning, the teen was taking part in a national surf competition when a tiger shark emerged from the depths and changed her life in the blink of an eye. But just when it started to look like she would never ride a surfboard again, young Bethany used her faith and determination to reclaim the title of champion”(http://www.fandango.com/soulsurfer_v530938/plotsummary)

Contemporary Worship February 19 at 7 pm

Our February contemporary service will be held on February 19 at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Chase the winter blues away with an evening of great music, fellowship, and worship! All are welcome, and we hope to see you there!

Dinner with Friends Kickoff Sunday, February 26 Noon

Once again it's time to kick-off our annual Dinner with Friends activities. This is a great way for Christian Fellowship, to meet some new people, or to get to know some people you already know better. Last year's Dinner with Friends was the largest we've had, and we're hoping to build on that. The kickoff dinner will be Sunday February 26 in the Dining Room following the 11:00 service. Whether you've participated in the past or would like to be part of a group to meet new people, we'd love to have you join in. A little info on how it works. We get split up in groups of 8-10 people, which will be done at the kick-off. From that point on the group decides how and where it wants to meet over the following months, either at someone's house, or meet at a restaurant. The members of the group take turns 'hosting' which means they pick where the group will meet. It's a lot of fun. Hope to have you join a group this year. Signups will be in the bulletins in February.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Feb 21 5-7pm

Before the sacrificial journey of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, enjoy an evening of indulgence at the Confirmation Class Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! The supper will be in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday the 21st from 5 to 7pm.

It's a delicious meal of pancakes and sausage, fun masks, and surprises to celebrate the last day before Lent begins the next morning. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 10 and under, and free for children under age 5.

Tickets will be on sale before, between and after Sunday services a week or two ahead, so please stop in the Welcome Center to purchase yours. They will be available at the supper as well!

This long-standing tradition at Central provides key financial support for the Confirmation Class's annual trip during spring break. This year the class will go to New York City to visit the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, the Church Center at the United Nations, and some churches where exciting urban ministry is happening; and they will do some traditional site-seeing, too!

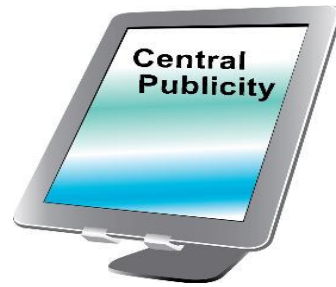
Please come and support our youth as they grow in their wisdom, faith, and stature!

Church Photo Directory!

We're updating the Church Photo Directory again. Say "CHEESE". Yes, It's that time again. We are updating Central's photo directory and we'd like to get as many members of the congregation as possible to have their pictures taken to be included in the new directory. The dates are March 22, 23, 24 as well as May 17, 18, 19. There is no fee for the sitting and day and evening times will be available. Each family will receive a free 8x10, 5x7 or 12 wallets with their sitting. No purchase is necessary but additional photos may be purchased at an additional cost. Check the bulletins and posters around the church over the next several weeks for more details. SMILE!

Custodian Position Available

Central Church is receiving applications for the position of Custodian. This is a full-time position. Salary is commensurate with experience. For the full job description, please go to centralumcendicott.org, or you may pick up a copy in the church office between 9am & 2pm Monday-Friday. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please send a resume to the church office, c/o Custodian Search Committee, 17 Nanticoke Ave., Endicott NY 13760 or an e-mail to centralumc@stny.rr.com. Resumes must be received by February 10.



Central Publicist Wanted

How would you like to help tell Central's story and spread the word about the life-changing work our congregation does for our community and the world? Central is looking for a volunteer to serve as our "publicist." The person in this role would keep church members and friends abreast of our missions, ministries, activities, and special worship services using the church's web site, Facebook page, and e-mail. Our publicist would obtain photographs from church events and write news stories about them, post them on Facebook, and coordinate with the secretary and webmaster to publish them through e-mail blasts and the web site. The publicist could also help advertise upcoming events, too.

We have some examples of these types of postings on Facebook and web site page today, but we need help to keep those stories coming. The publicist could work from home using software that is standard on most recent computers. Contact Mark if you're interested!

Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camperships

Thank you Central Church for your support of the Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camperships. A lot of the money for camp came from individuals in the church and a large amount also came from the Shalom Fund at Central Church. Some money came from organizations in the church. This year we had 34 children attending camp on Camperships. One mother said their teenage son never would have been able to experience Sky Lake Camp if it weren't for the campership.

In addition, 3 church children received a discount of \$80 to attend camp. One child had her way paid to SNAP Camp. SNAP camp trains youth (15-17 years) to assist counselors at Special Needs Camp. This money came from the Allocations Fund.

This year the fees at Sky Lake Camp went up 11%. The cost of the classic Sky Lake Camp is \$398. So we will need more money in order to send the same number of children to camp.

Thank you to Claire Labbe, Carla Wood, Phyllis Beach, Shari Garris and Bonnie Cole who serve on the committee. They recruit campers, raise money, and make slide shows to encourage church children to attend camp.

Barbara Jones, Chair of Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Committee



February 22 at 7:00pm

Lent begins with a call to death, remembering "You are dust and to dust you will return." "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." The ashes represent spiritual dying, but also a spiritual new beginning. Ashes mean there was once a fire and there can be fire again. It's the promise of the warm glow rekindled that keeps us coming and keeps us going. Let's begin the journey of Lent together.

Lenten Dinner & Programs

February 29 – March 28
6:00 pm

The Lenten season will soon be starting. Ash Wednesday will be on February 22 and on the following five Wednesdays there will be a dinner held in the dining room with a program to follow. The theme for the Lenten programs this year will be Missions and we have arranged for speakers to inform us about projects in Haiti, in our own communities and around the world. The final Lenten program will be a drama performed by our own Central drama group. Come and enjoy good food, good friends and informative programs.

A NOTE OF



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Again, our Central family was kind and generous. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped with the Martin Luther King Celebration. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated.
Sincerely, Donna W. Spearman

Wesley Class

Is collecting \$12.50 per person from class members as we do each year in place of money-raising projects. Monies are voted on each year to help support church programs that are not covered in the church's budget as well as community needs. Checks should be written "Wesley Class-CUMC" and forwarded to Bob Oney, Treasurer.

Email Addresses Wanted

Periodic emails will be sent to church members and friends from Pastor Mark. If you would like to receive these emails please let the church office know. An email blast was sent at Christmas so if you did not receive it, we need your email address!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Happy Birthday! to:

Emma Gates 2-5
Shawna Good 2-18

In Sympathy:

Family & friends of Sandy Johnston
Mary Velie on the death of her
sister, Connie Corderly

Hospitalized Last Month:

Betty Boettger
Mark Tripp
Joan Van Vestrout

Joy!

Olivia Kathryn Hess born December 19
to Kate & John Hess

Meals on Wheels

We encourage seniors to participate in this program to stay healthy and independent as long as they possibly can. Home delivered meals help to control and can even eliminate many of the chronic illnesses that effect seniors. To Order Meals on Wheels call 754-7856. Volunteers are also needed to deliver these meals. Consider helping out one day a week to deliver meals to homebound seniors.

Church Women United

World Day of Prayer sponsored by Church Women United will be on Friday, March 2nd at 9:00 am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Breakfast will be served for a donation. Please call Nancy Jones 754-4717 for reservations.

TRI M'S LUNCHEON

Tri M's will meet on Wednesday, February 15th at 12:00 noon at the Blue Dolphin. Please call Dick Sprague 748-6683 by Tuesday, February 14th for reservations. Anyone who is a Miss, Mrs. or Mr. is welcome to join us.



UW NEWS

Executive meeting will be Wednesday, February 1 at 3:30pm. Please note the new day and time.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Elizabeth Circle – Mon, February 13, 7 pm in the church lounge. We are reading Faithful Women & Their Extraordinary God by Noel Piper. Books are available at Amazon. Kelly Devine, leader 754-9240

Deborah Circle – February 21, Tuesday 7 pm at Deb Henderson's house. Debbie Fisher, leader 754-0360

Grace Circle – February 15, Wednesday 1 pm at Shirlenn O'Brien's house. (103 Beckwith Ave Endwell) Pauline Witt, leader 748-4142

Sarah Circle – February 21, Tuesday noon in the church dining room. Please bring a bag lunch. The program will be a pledge service. Call Carole James, leader (757-2629)

Clothing Center

The Clothing Center provides a vital service to our community, serving over 75 families a month. The volunteers have dedicated themselves to this great ministry, working long hard hours several days a week. We are truly blessed to have such loving, dedicated and compassionate people! What you may not realize is that the Clothing Center provides more than just clothes. Clothing Center volunteers have handed out: walkers, canes, crutches, braces, band-aids, ace bandages, school supplies, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, Q-tips, deodorant, greeting cards, playing cards, stationery, shoes, slippers, winter boots, ice skates, baby formula, diapers and wipes, cribs, strollers, blankets, sheets, towels, pans, glassware and silverware, puzzles, games, books and toys, TVs, disc players and radios, movies, DVDs and CD's, appliances, craft supplies, lawn equipment, gardening supplies and hand tools. Well, you get the idea. You bring it in and we hand it out!

We collect old eyeglasses for the Lion's Club, can tops for the Children's Home and wire hangers for our local dry cleaners. We even give out your surplus garden vegetables!

We use cash donations for Bibles, lollipops, batteries and plastic bags. (Our greatest expense: 600 bags a month!) We also like to have cash available to give to the clients for their medical co-pays or maybe to get something to eat.

We would love to give you a tour of the Clothing Center so you can get a better idea of what we do! Just give us a shout and we'll show you what we are all about!

The Clothing Center hours for business are:

Tuesday: 10-Noon

Thursday: 1-3pm

and **The first Thursday of the month 4-5pm** (This allows the Shepherd Supper clients to enjoy a bit of shopping before they eat). Donations can be dropped off at the church Monday-Friday from 7am to 3pm in the first room by the ramp door.

The Clothing Center clients are extremely grateful for the things you have provided for them. They believe that Central United Methodist Church is a kind, thoughtful and generous church, which supports their community endlessly!

MaryAnn Briggs

**The mission of Central Church is to
make real the love of God through
Jesus Christ and to empower people
to share that love with others.**

CENTRAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Mark B Marino
Education Director.....Erica Heier
Administrative Secretary Pat Breneman
Chancel Choir Director.... Heather Worden
Bell Choir DirectorDenise Johnson
Living Water Director Jeff Heald
Music Coordinator/Organist Tat Baine
Treasurer..... Larry Jackson
Parish Visitors Nancy Jones, Carole James
Web Master Jeff Heald

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Phone: 754-6060 Fax: 785-4676
Email: centralumc@stny.rr.com
Web Page: www.centralumcendicott.org

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