

# THE CENTRAL SENTRY



**March 11 – La Cucina Bella Dinner**

**March 16 – Movie Night**

**March 18 – Contemporary Worship Service**

**March 22,23,24 – Portrait Appointments**

**March 25 – Lukens Jackson Sunday**

**March 31 – Blood Drive**

**Wednesdays – Lenten Dinners & Programs**

Central is a faithful church, giving church, and a generous church. I was reminded of this at our February staff meeting when we looked ahead to the March calendar and saw that three successive Sundays of special offerings were coming up. Three! Some grumble at any special offering. Many scoff at two in a row. Here we were looking at three!

Perhaps one or more could be re-scheduled, or even cancelled? Probably so, but that would delay or block ministry, and that is not Central’s way. Central’s way is to celebrate the creative, resourceful, and imaginative faith-work in our midst; to lift it up; and to let the Spirit guide our responses to the ones that speak to our souls. How blessed we are to have servants among us who answer God’s calls in creative ways! How blessed we are to have members with the means and the passions to respond!

- On March 11 from 5p.m. to 7p.m. the Senior MYF will have a La Cucina Bella Dinner. The money they raise will help fund local missions, like the mens shelter in Binghamton. Watch and listen for announcements from the youth with details about this opportunity to support them in their mission outreach.
- March 18 will be the annual special offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief– UMCOR. We know this offering well. UMCOR provides both immediate emergency disaster relief and on-going rehabilitative support. UMCOR is unique in that faithful payment of our annual ministry shares to the annual conference cares for all of the administrative support and oversight. This means that 100% of the offerings received are used for emergency relief work. Some Central members saw UMCOR vehicles and personnel in their neighborhoods during last year’s flooding. Whether for causes here or abroad, Central has always been a strong supporter of UMCOR.
- March 25 will be a special day recognizing 40 years of Lukens-Jackson ministry to our church and our community. In conjunction with Sky Lake, this camping program dared to cross racial boundaries in the turbulent 1970’s. It did not just “talk-the-talk” of God’s love and yearning for justice for people of all races, it also “walked-the-walk.” The continued financial support of Central’s members and friends has equipped the Lukens-Jackson ministry to adapt to the changing needs of this new day and keep that witness strong and vibrant.

Watch for more information about each of these ministries as March unfolds. May the Spirit be our guide us as we lift them up and support them.

-Mark

# CHURCH NEWS



## La Cucina Bella Dinner Sunday March 11 5-7pm

On March 11th the Senior High MYF is having a Ziti Dinner, called "La Cucina Bella". Tickets will be \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids under 12 and children 3 and under will be free.



## Binghamton District Youth Mystery Night Friday, March 16 7pm

All 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend the Youth Mystery Night at Sarah Jane Johnson Church in Johnson City. The cost is \$6. Contact Erica Heier if interested in attending the event.



## Contemporary Worship March 18 at 7 pm

Our March contemporary service will be held on March 18 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!

## One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 18

Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing on March 18th. This offering supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people everywhere.

You can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain. Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project-not on home office costs.

## Lenten Dinner & Programs February 29 – March 28 6:00 pm

Our Lenten dinners and program will be starting on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Dinners will be held each Wednesday through Lent. This year the theme for the programs will be Missions. We have scheduled guest speakers to let us know the work being done, and the needs, in Haiti, in our local area, through the Susquehanna Conference Mission Warehouse and through the United Methodist Women Organization. At this time, Diane Alexander, Greg Forrester, and Reverend Rob Visscher have scheduled evenings with us. Please plan on coming to enjoy good food, good friends and wonderful presentations by our guests and church members

## Lenten Devotions

Lenten Calendars and devotions are available in the Welcome Center. You are encouraged to take one per family for your devotions at home.

## Kitchen News

You will see a coffee/tea area set up by the coffee maker. Coffee/tea/filters/sugar packets have been placed in containers there for All to use. just replace what you have used. Donations of regular and decaf coffee are always welcome. Also would like everyone to try to "go green" if you can. Thanks, Maggie Hungerford

## Lenten Drama - March 21

After the March 21st Lenten dinner, Central's new theater group will present a Lenten Drama called Compelled. This spare and thoughtful drama includes the seven last words of Christ coupled with fascinating parallels from Psalm 23. Though the Lord is our Shepherd, he first became the Lamb through His crucifixion. Even those who wanted to be bystanders at that time, like Simon of Cyrene, were compelled to take part in his story-as are we. Nobody is a bystander! Moments of silence, haunting music, shadowy darkness, and the holy solemnity of a pounding gavel pronouncing irreversible judgment will challenge you.

## Church Photo Directory!

We're updating the Church Photo Directory again. Say "CHEESE". 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. 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. Sign-up in the Welcome Center on Sundays, February 29, March 4 & 11 or sign-up online at [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com). For the March appointments, you must sign-up by March 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Sky Lake Camp

This past summer was a busy one for Lukens-Jackson campers at Sky Lake from 2nd to 12th grades. So many children on Lukens-Jackson camperships told us how excited they were to go and what a wonderful time they had. One of our elementary campers went for the first time and didn't want to leave! The Sky Lake experience combines exploring the beauty of God's world, living in Christian community with caring directors and counselors, and enjoying fun activities for lots of young people from diverse backgrounds. The result is a sense of belonging and joy for all who have the opportunity to be there!

As we celebrate 40 years of Lukens-Jackson campers this month, let's keep this ministry strong and encourage and support as many as possible to participate by giving to the Lukens-Jackson Campership Fund.



## Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camperships

Last year we continued the dream of Bob Lukens and Ev Jackson and sent a diverse group of 34 children to Sky Lake Camp. The parents are very appreciative of your making it possible for their child to attend a wonderful Sky Lake Camp. In 2012 the classic camps at Sky Lake will cost \$398, which is an 11% increase from last year, and music camp will be \$423. Your support is needed once again! Any amount is helpful, and you might even want to consider giving \$398 to send one child to camp. Checks may be sent to the Lukens-Jackson Committee at the church office, preferably in March or April. Donations may also be put into the Lukens-Jackson pledge envelope dated April 22 and placed in the offering plate on March 25. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Display Cabinet

The Lukens/Jackson Camps are celebrating a 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in March. In the display cabinet in the Lounge are camp pictures and lists of the camping staff. Many of our present congregation were there at the beginning of this important outreach ministry.

## Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camp Sunday - March 25

Don and Nancy Schoeps, who were co-directors of the first Lukens-Jackson Day Camp in 1973, will speak at both services about what inspired our church to begin this special camp. They will also talk about how two unique men, Rev. Bob Lukens and Ev Jackson, helped to create the Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camps. Rev. Don Anderson, who was director of the Resident Camp in 1974 and minister at Central 1971 to 1975, will talk about the vision of faith and courage of commitment. The Praise Band will lead the music and the New Testament and Cherub Choirs will sing at the 11 am service. Don Schoeps will play the piano at the 8:30 am service just as he did in the 1970's.

Everyone will want to attend these exciting services to learn about how a number of people worked together to bring about this amazing camp. The purpose of the camp was to bring a diverse group of people together to promote understanding of each other and to experience the love of God and each other at beautiful Sky Lake.

We especially would like families of elementary children to attend church that day to be a part of this special Sky Lake Service and to learn more about the opportunities for them at Sky Lake Camp.

We encourage everyone to attend on March 25 who was a counselor, aide, family friend, or camper at Sky Lake or people who served on the Lukens-Jackson Task Force. E-mail memories of Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camp to the church office. Wear your Sky Lake Camp T-shirt to the service. Please invite your adult children, who attended or helped at Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Camp, to come to the service too.

We hope you will attend the reception at Cafe Central to view albums of Lukens-Jackson Camp photos and documents, slides and videos of camp, and to visit with Rev. Don Anderson, Don and Nancy Schoeps and other people associated with the camp.



## Video on Central's Web Site

Videos of messages from recent services at Central are now available on our web site ([www.centralumcendicott.org](http://www.centralumcendicott.org)). Just click on the "video" link in the left column of the home page and choose a message to watch. Special thanks to Carl Muldner for his efforts in creating these videos for us!



### Good Friday Prayer Vigil

will be from 7am to 7pm on April 6<sup>th</sup> this year. This long standing tradition at Central UMC attempts to have 2 individuals praying in half hour shifts constantly through the vigil's time period. The main sanctuary will be available but you can pray where ever is convenient for you during your shift. A sign-up sheet is posted in The Welcome Center if you would like to participate. Our Lord always listens...we just need to talk to him!

### Good Friday Community "Witness Walk"

will start at Noon on April 6 in the Seton Middle School parking lot (near corner of Broad and Jefferson Streets in Endicott) regardless of weather conditions. This event takes approximately 1 hour and follows the "Stations of the Cross" format while walking through the downtown Endicott area. Each year, more and more Central members have participated in this moving event. No sign-up necessary, just show up dressed for the weather, ready to walk, and contemplate the meaning of the day!

### Music Appreciation Breakfast Egg-Bake Donations Wanted!

Between the Easter Sunday morning services, Central honors its choir members and musicians with a breakfast as a token of our appreciation for their time and talents which grace our worship services. The main fare for the breakfast is "egg bake". If you would like to donate an egg-bake, contact Bruce Bishop (748-6150)...a disposable pan and easy to follow recipe and directions will be provided.



### Looking For Easter Sunday Outside Greeters.

A Central UMC tradition during high attendance Sundays like Easter is to have worship attendees be "over welcomed". Your participation starts about 30 minutes prior to either the 8:30 or 11am Easter Sunday service and you would greet worshippers at one of the 3 main entrances to Central. Individuals, families and groups of friends are encouraged to be greeters. If interested, contact Bruce Bishop (748-6150) for more information and to sign-up.

### Calling All Singers!

Do you like to sing in a choir but can't commit to every week? Well join us for Easter! Rehearsals will start in March. Please contact Heather if you are interested. (heather.worden@gmail.com)

### Spring Ladies of the Lake March 10-12

Ladies of the Lake will be held March 10-12 at Sky Lake hosted by Rev. Jan Clark and Jean Grube. Various activities from mild to wild will be offered. For more information go to [www.skylakecenter.org](http://www.skylakecenter.org).

Binghamton District  
Lay Speaker Classes  
Tuesday and Thursday evenings  
May 8, 10, 15, and 17, 2012  
6:00 to 8:30 pm

#### At Endwell United Methodist

The United Methodist Church depends upon its laity to carry out its missions and purpose of making disciples for Jesus Christ in order to transform the world. This introduction to Lay Speaking Ministries will familiarize you with the **caring, leading, and communicating ministries of Lay Speaking** and give you a chance to explore each one. Upon completion of this course you will be a **Local Church Lay Speaker** and we hope that you will see the area God is calling you to pursue. **Deadline for registration is Friday, April 27, 2012.** For more information contact the church office.



Thanks to all for your hospital and home visits, calls, cards, prayers and food at the time of my surgery. And for remembering my birthday. God Bless. Sylvia Gutowski

### Altar Guild Lily Fund Deadline is March 30

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of:  
\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Lily Plant (\$11 or more)
- Give to a Shut-In
- Donation to Altar Guild
- I will pick-up by April 12.

The above will be recognized in the Easter Bulletin. This form along with remittance may be mailed to the church office. **Please make checks payable to the Altar Guild.** For more information call Carla Wood (748-3189) or the church office (754-6060).

## 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.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Happy Birthday! to:

Kyle Obusek 3-7  
Lauren Obusek 3-15  
Brooke Melby 3-25  
Klarissa Jobmann 3-31

### In Sympathy:

Carol Horton on the death of her sister  
Family & friends of Ray Angevine

## Church Women United

World Day of Prayer sponsored by Church Women United will be on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. The donation for the breakfast is \$5. Please call Nancy Jones 754-4717 for reservations by Sunday, February 26.

## Ladies Luncheon

will meet on Tuesday, March 6 at noon at the Rose Garden, Main St. Endicott. Please call Millie Jones, 754-2869 for reservations.

## TRI M'S LUNCHEON

will meet on Wednesday, March 21 at 12:00 noon at the Blue Dolphin. Please call Millie Jones 754-2869 for reservations. If you are a Mr, Miss or Mrs. you are invited to come.

### Rerun Shoes Mission Project

Are you getting ready to spring clean your closet? **SAVE THE SHOES!** Central's United Methodist Women's Executive Board is hosting the Rerun Shoes mission project. It will take place during the Wednesday night Lenten dinners. You bring the shoes and we will package and ship them. It's that easy! These are the requirements:

- No worn out shoes
- No holes or rips
- No rain boots, flip flops and Cross
- Shoes are enroute to the tropics where winter boots/women's fashion boots above the ankle are not useful

Thanks for your participation in this program. Your efforts make the world a better place. Please contact Deb Fisher at 754-0360.

## UMW Binghamton District G.E.M. Meeting

"Getting to know you....."

Now that this song is stuck in your mind, you will want to attend the annual Greet, Eat and Meet district UMW meeting. Networking with friends, old and new, renewing and sharing our passion for mission together, and yes, even having fun (!) are waiting for you. Please join us for the festivities at the Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church, (across from BCC) on Saturday April 21 at 9:30am We will greet each other, eat a light meal, have a brief business meeting, and end our morning with shared workshops that will include make and take mission project ideas, craft making for possible bazaar items, as well as Social Justice and Membership information.

In order for this to be a success WE NEED YOU! If your unit would like to participate and would like to reserve a full or partial table to display your mission project(s), and/or instruct a mini-workshop (craft idea, knitting project, handouts, etc.) please contact Deb Fisher @ 754-0360.

See you there!



## Labels For Education

United Methodist Women continue to collect Labels for Education, which are then donated to the children's Home. You only need clip the scan code label and place them in the cabinet drawer outside the office. Some of the participating products are Bic, Campbell's Soups, Splash and Pepperidge Farms.

## UMW News

### Save The Date!

Central's United Methodist Women will be hosting a day long retreat at Sky Lake on **Wednesday April 25** at a cost of \$10. More information to come!

## Circle Meetings

**Elizabeth Circle** – Monday, March 12, 7 pm in the church lounge.  
Kelly Devine, leader 754-9240

**Deborah Circle** – Tuesday, March 20, 7 pm at Deb Fisher's house.  
Debbie Fisher, leader 754-0360

**Grace Circle** – Wednesday, March 21, 1 pm at Jean Oney's house.  
(274 Ridgefield Road, Endicott)  
Pauline Witt, leader 748-4142

**Sarah Circle** – March 20, Tuesday noon in the church dining room. Please bring a bag lunch.  
Carole James, leader (757-2629)

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

--The United Methodist Church in our world—  
By Mary Belle Mitten

In the Tampa Bay area, where we have spent half our lives for the past 8 years, the headlines are all about an event the area will host 6 months from now, in August; the GOP National Convention! Another event to convene in Tampa in a few short weeks (April 24-May 4) is the **General Conference** of the UMChurch, which will bring delegates from all over the world. I saw an on-line list of women who will be attending from our Upper New York Conference and Rev. Becky Sweet was the only person I knew. She will be one of the approximately 1,000 delegates to this year's General Conference.

## What is General Conference?

*General Conference is the top legislative body of The United Methodist Church. Delegates elected from regional annual conferences and jurisdictions, participate in prayerful dialogue on issues of concern in the church and society, financial budgets for general church agencies and ministry programs, structural and administrative changes to clergy and lay leadership, and general ministry initiatives of the church. Legislation passed at General Conference becomes part of The United Methodist Book of Discipline and/or Book of Resolutions. General Conference is held every 4 years in different locations.*

Although only one of the many *hundreds* of issues that will be discussed at General Conference the issue of homosexuality will likely get the most press, this is the only part of our Social Principles *that I disagree with*. To paraphrase our Social Principles they say homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching and self-avowed homosexuals are not permitted to be UM clergy. I hope that in my lifetime these statements will no longer exist. What is your opinion? **John Wesley's quadrilateral** uses four tools: **scripture, tradition, reason and experience** to help in analyzing difficult issues from a faith perspective.

## What are the Social Principles?

*The Social Principles, while not church law, do represent the current positions of the denomination. They provide a start for groups or individuals wanting to delve into some of the most difficult and complex issues. Such discussions can help shift the church's approach away from partisan loyalties to prayerful, studied issue analysis, strengthening both the faith community's understanding of issues and its public witness.*

**Text of the Social Principles can be found at:**

<http://www.umcsc.org/PDF/boards/SocialPrinciples.pdf>.

**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 Director .....Denise Johnson  
Living Water Director ..... Jeff Heald  
Music Coordinator/Organist ..... Tat Baine  
Treasurer..... Larry Jackson  
Parish Visitors Nancy Jones, Carole James  
Web Master ..... Jeff Heald

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