



THE CENTRAL SENTRY



April 9 – Blood Drive

April 10 – Young Adult Group begins

**April 17 – Palm Sunday
- Contemporary Worship Service**

April 21 – Maundy Thursday Service

**April 22 – Good Friday Prayer Vigil
- Community Witness Walk**

**April 24 – Easter
- Easter Egg Hunt**

April Worship

	SERMON	THEME	SCRIPTURES
Apr 3	Living in the Light	Communion One Great Hour of Sharing	1 Sam 16:1,6-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-7,39-41
Apr 10	Alive Again	5 th Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-10 John 11:1-4,38-44
Apr 17	Running on Empty	Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11
Apr 21	Remembrance & Renewal	Holy Thursday Communion	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Apr 24	That's News to Me	Easter	Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10

WORSHIP TIMES
Sunday – 8:30 & 11:00

TV WORSHIP (Ch 4)
Sunday – 8 a.m. and Monday – 5:30 p.m.

The 8:30 service is less formal and seldom includes special music

On Easter, Café Central Lite will be held in the Lounge.



Central's Envisioning/Renewing Process (ERW) has been underway since the fall. The 12-member Task Force overseeing the program began meeting soon after the September-October listening sessions concluded. Following the Envisioning/Renewing Week-end in November, the Task Force formed five Study-Action Groups (SAGs) and invited six or seven people to serve on each of them. Training for the Task Force and SAGs was held in January.

Since then the five SAGs have been meeting at least monthly to study the issues related to their areas and develop strategies to address them. Task Force members meet with the SAGs and have their own monthly meeting to facilitate and coordinate the SAGs' work.

The process is designed for the SAGs to move ahead thoughtfully and carefully, getting input from interested parties as it proceeds. This process of seeking overall visions for the church and the people we serve takes time, conversation, and a lot of listening. We are indebted to the SAG and Task Force members for their hours of work and the care and good humor they bring to it. They are serving us well now, and we will benefit from their gifts well into the future.

I asked the SAG conveners to share what they have been doing thus far. I hope you find their summaries helpful. Feel free to contact the conveners if you want to know more. Please express your thanks to them and hold them in your prayers as they engage in this important work on our behalf and on behalf of Central's missions and ministries.

-Mark

Administration & Communication

The Administration and Communication Study Action Group has made some headway into examining the issues before us. We have already approached the Trustees with a plan to improve the working and cleanliness of the kitchen. We have also broken down the issues brought up during the ERW weekend into different categories that we are currently discussing. They include the communication between staff and congregation, and vice versa, the communication between the church and those outside of it, such as

advertising special services, and role clarity for individual positions, volunteer or paid, in the church. We've made progress, and hope to continue bringing ideas and solutions to any issues we've been asked to address.

-Chris Breneman, Convener

Nurture

We completed review of our crunch list, and the major issues we found were communication and social interaction. Therefore, a survey has been created for the congregation that will determine what type of small groups they may be interested in participating in (i.e.: bereavement, divorce, widow, craft, other). Installation of a Hurt/Crunch Box will be coming. This box is for people to voice their concerns confidentially and is for those who may feel they have been hurt by the church/church member. In Café Central a review of the arrangement of the tables (i.e. round vs long) is underway to encourage interaction with visitors, new and existing members to ensure that all feel welcome and that no one sits alone.

-Lynn Heckathorn, Convener

Outreach

The SAG Outreach team is currently addressing two main ideas involving prospective new members to the church. For future projects, we will pursue ideas to improve existing programs in the church. We are truly dedicated to the Lord's Work!

-MaryAnn Gottschall, Convener

Worship

The Worship SAG has been spending a lot of time looking over and reacting to many of the crunches and pinches relating directly to the content of the worship services. This will be a challenging process, but we are working together to make it happen.

--Katy Northrup, Convener

Youth

The Youth SAG committee has spent the last month interviewing the Junior and Senior High classes to find out what things they think are working and what types of things they are interested in doing in the future. Both the Senior High and the Junior High have expressed interest in having ownership of their respective programs. It is our hope in the next several months to help the youth create a forum where they can plan activities and establish what they would like their programs to look like.

-Sarah Cosimano, Convener

CHURCH NEWS

Who's Cross Is It, Anyway

Lenten Wednesday Dinners

April 6 – April 13

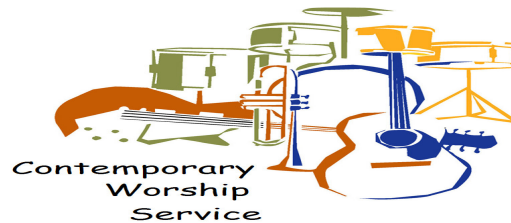
Dinner 6pm - Program 6:45 pm

Our Lenten Program this year is a series of sketches speaking to just that! “The on-going saga throughout the weeks of this Lenten series deals with a cross being delivered by a JPS (Jerusalem Parcel Service) man. Though the cross makes its rounds to many people, only one accepts its delivery. By blending Biblical familiarity with contemporary society, these weekly scenes reveal how people across all generations make excuses for not wanting Jesus in their lives” The program is kid- friendly and we are encouraging families to attend! We will have activities for younger children during the discussion portion of the evenings. Please bring your families and join in!!



Calling all Central Young Adults! April 10 at 9:30am

Single, Married, Parents, Professionals, Students... we all have different stories, but we've got one thing in common: We want to find our “place” in Central Church! A kickoff gathering will be held on April 10th during Sunday School in the Library. During this gathering, we'll hold introductions, discuss our hopes for the group, and set future meeting schedules. Building a stronger community of young adults within Central is going to be extremely exciting – please join us! If you're interested in joining us, but won't be available for this meeting, please contact Rachel Cosimano at rachel.cosimano@gmail.com.



New Beginnings April 17 at 7 pm

Join Living Water on the evening of Palm Sunday, April 17th at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall, as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, then begin to reflect on the last week in his life leading to his crucifixion. The service will close with visuals of Jesus' last hour along the “Via Dolorosa.” You are invited to make this service a part of your personal Lenten journey.

SPOT- LIGHT Staff Parish

Chairman: Shirley Arthur

The primary responsibility of the SPRC (Staff/Parish Relations Committee) is to work with Central's staff so that the mission of our church is realized. The SPRC is responsible for all personnel activities involving the church's paid staff members. This includes such duties as interviewing and hiring staff members, developing job descriptions, facilitating performance reviews, addressing interpersonal issues, requesting the annual staff salary budget, establishing a Church profile and a Covenant with the Pastor.

Central is blessed with a staff that works diligently to provide a place of worship where people can learn about God's love and continue their journey of faith. The congregation can help by expressing appreciation for the work that they do... e.g. kind words or a short note. The SPRC also works to ensure any concerns related to the church staff are handled quickly, and with the love, care and respect that is exemplified by Jesus Christ.

Members of the SPRC are:

Shirley Arthur, Bonnie Cole, Kelly Devine, Jeff Heald, Linda Holly, Denise Johnson, Paula Russell, Rawn Spearman, and Gregg Wood. We usually meet with the pastor on the third Tuesday of the month.

Welcome Matthew to Central!

The Staff/Parish Committee is pleased to announce that Matthew Vavalle has agreed to be the new director of our Chancel Choir. Matthew is a graduate of the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Music and has worked for the past fifteen years as a music director within the Syracuse Catholic Diocese. He has worked as a substitute teacher in the Johnson City School District and has directed and conducted school plays. His talents also include accompaniment on the piano and organ. We welcome Matthew to the Central Church family.



Sub Sale And Car Wash May 7 - 10am to 1pm

This annual event to support the “Central Van Operating Fund” will be held 10am to 1pm in the Liberty Street parking lot on Saturday, May 7. Jim Roma-made turkey and ham subs are being offered. Pre-orders are preferred using the sign-up sheet posted in the Welcome Center. The Confirmation Class members will be helping members of the Van Committee wet wash your car. So, please mark the date and bring all your

winter weary cars in need of some spring cleaning!

Wesley Class Sky Lake Retreat October 21 to 23

The retreat will be on the book and DVD titled "When Christians Get It Wrong" by Adam Hamilton. Gayle Wylie, a former member of Wesley Class, will be leading the retreat. Don and Nancy Schoeps will be leading the music. Why are growing numbers of American young people choosing not to affiliate with churches? These include Christians judging others; science and Christian practice; how believers relate to those of other faiths; how to understand God's role when tragedy strikes; and what happens when the church focuses on such issues as homosexuality. "When Christians get it right they love and give, they work for justice and demonstrate kindness," asserts the author.

This retreat, sponsored by the Wesley Class, is open to everyone in the church. Come join us at Sky Lake for a weekend of spiritual growth, good times, great songs, a walk in the colorful fall woods, and a little time to grow closer together. The cost is \$113 per person for two nights lodging, six good meals, inspiring music, and a meaningful program.



Altar Guild Lily Fund

Deadline is April 15

_____ 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 28.

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).

Grace Adventure

Community Service and Dinner
Every Sunday night Grace Adventure arrives at Brothers Two Restaurant in Endwell to come together as a community, eat some really good food, sing, talk, pray and listen. Our community services include pizza from Brothers Two, a thought provoking and interactive message, a child-inclusive atmosphere, and really great modern music from our band. Service begins at

5:00 and ends around 6:15. We hope to see you there! Rev. Annette Snedakar



Good Friday Prayer Vigil

will be held 7am to 7pm on April 22nd. The goal this year, like every year, is to have at least two individuals praying in 30-minute increments throughout the vigil's time period. Prayer suggestion topics and the sanctuary will be available to participants, however, any location can be used to pray. Please use the sign-up sheet in The Welcome Center if you would like to participate. Our God is always listening, and we need to talk to him.

Community Witness Walk

April 22 12:00

begins at Noon on Good Friday, April 22nd. Organized by Our lady of Good Counsel Church, Central members have participated in increasing numbers over the last several years. The Walk begins at the Seton Middle School (corner of Jefferson and Broad Streets in Endicott) regardless of the weather. It takes approximately one hour to walk through the downtown Endicott area, stopping every so often along the way for a brief meditation per the "Stations of the Cross" tradition. No sign-up is necessary, just show up. This is a wonderful

expression & reminder of the sacrifice of our Lord for each of us.

Egg Bake Donations For Music Appreciation Breakfast.

Once again this year, between the Easter services on April 24 we will honor our musicians and their immediate family members with a breakfast featuring "egg bake." This is a small token of appreciation for all their time invested in enhancing Central's worship services. Egg bake is a simple recipe which will be provided along with a pan to prepare it in. It needs to be prepared uncooked 24 hours ahead of time. If you would like to donate an egg bake, please contact Bruce Bishop.



Easter Sunday Greeters Needed!

Central's tradition for the last several years is to "over welcome" worshipers to each of our Easter services. Greeters will be stationed outside each of the three main entrances to Central 30 minutes prior to each Easter worship service's start. This is a great way to demonstrate and share the love of our risen Christ on this our highest holy day! If you would like to participate, please contact Bruce

Bishop (bbishop@stny.rr.com, 748-6150) by Sunday April 17th.



“Happy Birthday!” to:

Liam Shelp	4-19
Tara Roberts	4-19
Amber Donahue	4-23
Ashley Donahue	4-23

Youth Group

April 3 & April 10 12:30-2:00

Attention all youth in 7-12 grade! We will be having regular youth group meetings twice a month beginning in April! Our meetings will be in the dining room on Sunday afternoons from 12:30-2. We will meet on April 3rd and 10th to play games, do devotions, and go over any business we may have. Please contact Erica Heier at 765-8971 or email erica.heier@yahoo.com if you have any questions or concerns. See you at youth group! -Erica Heier



Thank you so much for your prayers, get well wishes and cards as well as visits. It really meant a lot to me when I had to go through my surgery and I hope to be back soon. Beth Moffitt

Dear Church friends the last two months I have been in dialysis three times a week. It is going well. Thank you for your cards and prayers. Bob Ritter

Thank you to the congregation for your support of UMCOR. \$2050 has been raised for the Pacific Disaster Relief!

Our Church Family

Hospitalized Last Month:

John Irving
Norma Livingston

In Sympathy:

Bonnie Cole on the death of her father,
Donald McClarin.
Family & friends of David Lambert
Family & friends of Arlene Phillips
Family & friends of Koleen Wright

Congratulations! To Denise Johnson on winning the “Nursing Home Administrator of the Year” award.

Church Women United

will meet on Friday, May 6th at Central for lunch at Noon. (Donation \$6) We invite all ladies of Central to join with others from many other local churches. Please call Millie Jones, 754-2869 for reservations by Monday, May 2nd. Hope you will be able to come.

Ladies Luncheon

We will meet on Tuesday, April 5th at 12:00 at the Red Lobster. Please call Millie Jones 754-2869 for reservations by April 4th. All ladies are welcome.

Tri M’s Luncheon

Tri M's will meet for lunch at Noon on Wednesday, April 27th at the Blue Dolphin, Apalachin. Please call Millie Jones 754-2869 for reservations. Everyone who is a Miss, Mister or Mrs. is most welcome to join.

United Methodist Women

UMW is sponsoring a spring plant sale. A variety of hanging baskets, combination containers, herb gardens and perennials will be available to order from M&Z Flowers. Gift certificates can be purchased. As you begin to think about getting your spring flowers, please

plan to support our fundraiser. Details to follow. Contact Shirleenn O’Brien (724-2546).

Friendship Dinner & Fashion Show

Friday, May 13

All women are invited to bring a friend and celebrate friendship. Dinner will be catered and a free will offering taken. Christopher & Banks will present the fashion show.

Circle Meetings

Elizabeth Circle – April 18, Monday, 7pm in the church lounge. We are reading Max Lucado's *Traveling Light* Chapters 11-12. Contact Kelly Devine 754-9240 for information or to provide a snack.

Sarah Circle – April 19, Tuesday, 11 am in fellowship hall. We will have the program, “Gifts, Tithes & Offerings” first and then lunch. Contact Nancy Jones (754-4717) for more information.

Deborah Circle – April 19, Tuesday 7pm at Debbie Fisher’s house (420 E. Main St) 754-0360

Grace Circle – April 20, Wednesday 1 pm at Sharon Carmine’s house (305 N. Duane Avenue) 239-4454.



SOCIAL JUSTICE
Social Principles of the UM Church: Health Care

From the beginning, Methodists have understood the Gospel to be both personal and social. *The Social Principles* provide the denomination’s most recent summary of stated convictions that seek to apply Christian vision of righteousness to social, economic, and political issues. They were officially adopted in 1972 and have been revised by each General Conference since then.

The Social Principles have evolved over time in light of new information, new Biblical and theological insights, and the changing world. They allow the light of the Gospel to shine upon parts of society we think about and the parts we tend to ignore. Most social issues are not black and white. They are complex. It is important for us to look beyond the surface and our biases– to look deeply within, with prayer.

Regarding health care, the Social Principles- in part- say the following: “Health care is a basic human right. Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril.”

Copies of The Social Principles are available from Jim Scott, other members of Missions and Social Concerns, and Pat in the church office.

On Tuesday, April 26th; 7p.m. at the Vestal Library the League of Women Voters is having a Health Care Panel Discussion. Consider attending and learning more about this important issue.

“and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8



**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.**

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CENTRAL STAFF

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

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*The Central Sentry is published monthly
by Central United Methodist Church
for its members and friends.
The deadline to submit articles is
the 15th of each month.*

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Endicott, NY 13760

Return Service Requested