

THE CENTRAL SENTRY



OCTOBER
2011

October 1 – Blood Drive

October 2 – Sky Lake Fall Festival

October 8 – Youth Overnight

October 16 - Contemporary Worship Service

October 28 – Trunk or Treating

8:30 and 11:00 Worship Services
9:30 Sunday School
9:00 – 10:30 Café Central (lounge)

Jim Winkler is the General Secretary of the United Methodist Board of Church & Society, the agency of our denomination that helps us connect our faith and our practices with the lives of the communities in which we live. Recently he spoke at a meeting of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges & Universities. An excerpt of his remarks is below. I found his comments thought-provoking and helpful. I hope you do, too.

-Mark

“The aim of the Methodist movement as conceived by John Wesley was not to generate a prosperous and successful denomination, or even several of them,” Dr. Ted Jennings wrote in his book *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley’s Evangelical Economics*, “but ‘to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land’ ... The success or failure of this project depended not on increase in numbers and influence, but on an increase in faithfulness ...

“Despite all that may and must be alleged to its credit, [Methodism] has, as a movement, become a mirror and an instrument of the reign of mammon. In spite of the intentions of its founder, it has basked in the upward socioeconomic mobility of its members, making the middle class the object of its solicitous regard, the norm of the efficacy and relevance of its programs. It has made itself hostage to the dream of denominational success and influence, perverting stewardship into a temple tax and appropriating the management and organizational models of institutional maintenance and growth.”

Not only those terrible words speak to our present condition, as Mr. Wesley would say, but Jennings goes on: “The concern for the destitute and oppressed has not been silenced, but it has been marginalized, placed not at the center but at the periphery of institutional life and commitment.”

Bishop Ken Carder writing in *Rethinking Wesley’s Theology for Contemporary Methodism*: “The poor are absent from most local churches and denominational structures; and whenever they are visible, the poor tend to be treated as objects of charity more than as special friends of Jesus Christ and persons with whom God closely identifies.”

The median wealth of a white family in 2009 was 20 times greater than that of the average black family, and 18 times greater than the average Hispanic family. In other words, the average white family had \$113,149 in net worth, compared to \$6,325 for Hispanics and \$5,677 for blacks.

That's the largest gap since the government began collecting the data a quarter of a century ago, and twice what it was before the start of the Great Recession.

It is said one of the gifts John Wesley gave to the people of England was that of teaching them how to live in a rapidly changing industrial society. Through our Social Principles we encourage people not to drink, smoke or gamble: not so as to deny them pleasure, but because we believe it is unhealthy and denies God's will for us.

We urge people to avoid falling prey to consumerism and materialism: not to deny people an abundant life with adequate shelter, food and clothing, but because we understand that for a new creation to be a reality through God's work in Jesus Christ, God's true people are those who obey God's will, not merely boast about themselves and their own goodness.

We express concern about the need for higher fuel economy standards and oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife refuge: not because we believe Sport Utility Vehicles are inherently sinful or because we support any political party, but for the reason that we cannot focus solely on individual salvation when God's very creation is in peril.

We witness to powers and principalities in world capitals and at the United Nations. Not because we seek special favor or legislation for United Methodists or believe that salvation is derived from lobbying, but because our faith in the risen Christ compels us to call institutions to accountability on behalf of the children, the widows, the weak and the impoverished.

Flood Update- from Trustee Tom Hall

1. Flood recovery is now in professionals' hands. Loose floor tiles throughout the Clothing Center, Fellowship Hall, and Youth Center are to be replaced.
2. Estimates have been received for restoration, stripping and re-waxing of flooring in the Fellowship Hall and the Youth Center.
3. Reallocation of space in the basement to optimize usage is underway: The Praise Band, Sunday morning offering Counters, Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Custodian's office have been moved to different locations better located and sized

for their particular functions. Shelving and other storage solutions are to be pursued to avoid future clutter and damage.

4. The Parsonage Committee is meeting to discuss the best remedy (tile, carpeting, appliances, etc) for the parsonage basement.
5. The insurance adjuster has visited the church and photographed details of the damage. We expect to hear back from him within a couple weeks.

We are grateful for everyone's patience and support while we recovered from the flooding. The church and parsonage will emerge from these problems to serve us better and in more usable ways. We hope things will be pretty much back to normal by the end of the month.

A Prayer for Victory In the Trial of Suffering

By The Rev. Glenn A. Newberry

Dear Father in Heaven, Hear my prayer in this hour of special need.

I ask for your healing touch and support in body, mind and soul.

Thank you for blessing me with strength through spiritual union with you and all mankind.

I accept, trust and rejoice in your loving presence as my constant refuge

At all times , in all circumstances.

Though fear may flare and faith may flicker, help me to triumph in this adversity

As Jesus triumphed on the Cross for me.

And through it all may I find in you, my loving God and Father,
my ultimate joy and home and home!

O God, should earth's fair petals fall, shower me with your perfect peace.

Transform my darkness into light,

my trial of body, mind and spirit into victory of heart and soul!

This I ask through faith in Christ, in his name and in his spirit,

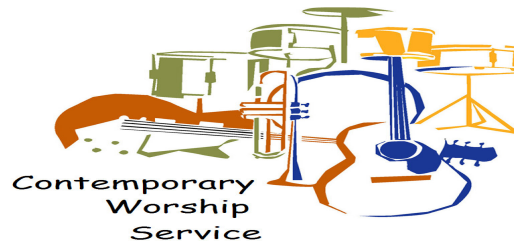
For Your greater Glory. Amen

CHURCH NEWS

Blood Drive

October 1 8am to 1pm
Cornerstone Church

Our normal blood drive will be hosted at Cornerstone Church 911 East Main St. Endicott (corner of Main and Lincoln). Please call Pat Devine 239-4979 to make an appointment or sign-up on the web at redcrossblood.org.



New Beginnings October 16 at 7 pm

We are excited to begin a new season of contemporary worship filled with praise, joyful song, and spirited fellowship! We will gather at 7pm in the sanctuary. Why don't you bring a friend and join us! This month's service will feature music by Living Water and a message from Jeff Heald. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.

World Communion Sunday Offering – October 2

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday – one of the six special Sundays with offerings observed across the United Methodist Church.

Your gifts provide:

- World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States,
- Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program, and
- Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

The World Communion Scholarships program supports students whose study focus will directly relate to mission and to the following areas: elimination of poverty, expansion of global health, leadership development, or congregational development. The program supports students from outside the U.S. or from communities of color from within the U.S.

You're Invited to a 90th Birthday Party

Sat, October 8 10:30-12:30

The family of Alta Hawley invites the congregation to attend an Open House for Alta's 90th Birthday Party on Saturday, October 8 from 10:30 to 12:30. The open house will be located in the lounge. Come celebrate with Alta!

Wesley Class Sky Lake Retreat Oct. 21 to 23

The retreat will be on the book and DVD titled "When Christians Get It Wrong" by Adam Hamilton. Gayle Wylie 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 book's author, Rev. Adam Hamilton.

For a flyer about the retreat contact Barbara Jones. 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 reasonable cost is \$113 per person for two nights lodging, six good meals, inspiring music, and a meaningful program.



Trunk or Treating October 28 6:30-8:00 pm

Please join us for some safe trick or treating and fun games! Put on your Halloween costume and join us in the parking lot! (In case of bad weather, we will be in the Sr. High Room) This event is open to all children up through 6th grade – no cost. Parents are encouraged to stay with their children. No need to RSVP – just come out and have a good time!

Trunks Needed Too!

Adults – please plan on coming, decorating the trunk of your car and handing out individually wrapped candy!

Helen Caldicott Lecture At BU Student Union October 10 6:30 pm

<http://bcpeaceaction.org/> is co-sponsoring a presentation by Helen Caldicott, on October 10th in the Nelson Mandela room in the BU Student Union.

Helen Caldicott is from Australia. She is conducting a statewide NY tour to discuss implications of the Japan nuclear accident. She will also discuss the radioactivity in Marcellus shale.

Helen is author of the following books: Nuclear Power Is Not The Answer, If You Love This Planet and A Desperate Passion Janet Burgon will perform from 6pm to 6:30pm with refreshments

Our Church Family



Rachel Donahue 10-11
Michael Romanowski 10-23
Carlie Schaffer 10-24
Monica Burrell 10-25
John Spencer 10-26

Hospitalized Last Month:

Betty Boettger
Norma Hertzog
Randy Tewksbury
Vivian Vanwinkle

In Sympathy:

Tom Cousins on the death of his mother
Art Felton on the death of his mother,
Mary Lizzie
Vivian Vanwinkle on the death of her
son, Michael

Joy:

Philip Edward Gardner born June 8 2011
Parents: Philip & Staci Gardner
Grandparents: Bruce & Sharon Phipps

Ladies Luncheon

We will meet on Tuesday, Oct 4th at 12 noon at for lunch. Please see the bulletin for the restaurant. Please call Millie Jones 754-2869 for reservations by Monday, October 3rd.

Tri M's Luncheon

Tri M's luncheon is TBD at this time. Please call Millie Jones 754-2869 for reservations. Please note the change of date to the 3rd Wed.

Church Women United

Will meet on Friday, October 7 at 12 noon at the First Presbyterian Church (29 Grant Ave.). The program will be "Living Our Joy" by the Harmony Club. Reservations to Millie Jones 754-2869, by Sun, Oct 2.

Sky Lake Fall Festival

Sunday, October 2nd

1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Save the date for a fun filled afternoon at beautiful Sky Lake with the annual Youth Group Scavenger Hunt, Pie Sale, and Silent Basket Auction. Proceeds benefit the Campership Fund for Special Needs camp.

United Methodist Women

Fall Bazaar – Due to the devastating flood and damage done to our community the UMW have decided to not hold the Fall Bazaar in October. Check the newsletter for any future money raisers.

Binghamton District UMW Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 15 at the Candor United Methodist Church. Our own Debbie Fisher will lead the meeting. Dr. Blenda Smith will share her Haiti experience. Reservations for the luncheon are due by October 7. Circle leaders have more information or contact Carole James to make a reservation by October 7.



Each year the UMW recognize a member of the church for their service and dedication. This year's recipient for recognition is Jeff Heald. Jeff received a mission recognition pin at the September 18 worship service. A gift to missions was also made in his honor.

Congratulations Jeff!



Circle Meetings

All women are invited to attend any of the circle meetings.

Elizabeth Circle – Mon, Oct. 10 at 7pm in the Lounge at Church. Contact Kelly Devine (754-9240) for more information.

Sarah Circle – Tues. Oct. 18 at 1 pm in the church lounge for cider and donuts. We will have a business meeting and on display will be pictures and articles from the early days of Central's women's groups.

Deborah Circle – Tues. Oct. 18 at 7pm at Pat Hansen's house (505 Hazel Drive Vestal). Nancy Jones will be leading a study on Mary. Contact Deb Fisher for more information (754-0360).

Grace Circle – Wed, Oct. 19 at 1 pm at Esther Zimmerman's (16 Vistaview Lane Apt. 102) 754-6857.

Social Justice

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Submitted by MaryBelle Mitten

Family Violence and Abuse – We recognize that family violence and abuse in all its forms- verbal, psychological, physical, sexual – is detrimental to the covenant of the human community. We encourage the Church to provide a safe environment, counsel, and support for the victim. While we deplore the actions of the abuser, we affirm that person to be in need of God’s redeeming love.

(from the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church)

Family Pledge of Non-Violence

Making piece must start within ourselves and in our family. Each of us, members of Christ’s family, commit ourselves as best we can, regularly asking God’s help in individual and family prayer, to become nonviolent and peaceable people, following the example of Christ:

To Respect Self and Others: To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

To Communicate Better: To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger and to work at solving problems peacefully.

To Listen: To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider other’s feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way.

To Forgive: To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

To Be Courageous: To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work or in the community and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

(from December 2000 Central Social Justice column)

Local SOS Shelter Information: 24 hour crisis line 607-754-4340

Web: www.sosshelter Email: sosshelter@stny.rr.com

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
Custodian Vito Longo
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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