

THE **Central** SENTRY

United Methodist Church

REV. DR. MICHELLE BOGUE-TROST

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

PASTOR MICHELLE'S NOTES



Lent and Easter have come and gone... Now what?

I think that is a very real spiritual question every year at this time—going all the way back to the disciples in those first days and weeks after Jesus was raised from death. Now what? What do we do? Where do we go? What will happen next? How do we deal with a risen Jesus?

You may have set some intentions (or not) for growth during Lent, and you may (or may not) have carried through with them. You've

participated (or not) in the retelling and reliving the story of Holy Week and celebrated (or not) the great victory of God over death. Now what?

The resurrection is not just a historical event to be remembered; it is a transformative experience. Easter invites us to embrace the reality of the risen Christ in our daily lives, knowing that this is not a once-accomplished event, but an ongoing one. Resurrection doesn't end when the lilies and the sounds of Easter music fade. Resurrection happens every time a life is transformed, every time sorrow and suffering are overturned, every time oppression is broken and justice is done, every time love wins.

Resurrection life brings with it with renewed hope, and a call to love more deeply, serve with greater compassion, and grow in our relationship with God. It brings with it the invitation to see Christ in each other, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to extend grace and kindness intentionally, with a heart of compassion, loving as Jesus loved, selflessly and sacrificially.

So, now what?

Now we go and live the resurrection life every single day. We listen for God's voice, we wait for the Spirit to move, we love as Christ loved and give as Christ gave, and we grow more and more into the shape of the One we celebrate at Easter.

Still in One Peace,
Pastor Michelle

PASTOR PAUL'S NOTES

"In the world we live in today, I believe the light of God can bring us out of the shadows."
(Angel Moreira)

A few weeks ago, Sherri and I planted seeds (indoors) for our pepper, broccoli, eggplant, and cabbage crops. The broccoli and cabbage seeds sprouted within a few days and are now getting "leggy" as they stretch for the light. Our front room has three large south-facing windows and the "seed table" is there. A few times a day, we turn each batch of seeds so that the seeds can get light equally on all sides, but they still seem to be stretching and searching for the light. The peppers and eggplant are still in the shadows of the potting soil. Are they seeking the light, too? Are they struggling to break through the shadows and reach out?

That got me to thinking, are we stretching and seeking for the Light? Our "intentional" Lent is over; Jesus is resurrected; all is well! Or is it?

Are we like our broccoli and cabbage seeds that have sprouted and growing– or are we like the peppers and eggplant, still in the dirt, covered in shadows? Waiting.

My time in Lent was spent doing some soul searching (aka hiking!), some more Bible reading and thinking, and time searching for God and finding a deeper relationship with God. Like our seedlings, though, I still am seeking that Light (I wish I was getting more "leggy" like our seedlings, though!). Some days, the shadows of life seem to creep in and I wonder where the Light is. It is hard to see the Light through the intense shadows at times! Even with the time change we all experienced in March, the days seem to be filled with shadows.

I hope that I can continue my "intentional" Lenten disciplines and continue to search and seek the Light. I hope that you continue your Lenten disciplines (or the Means of Grace for Sunday school people!!) and continue to grow and seek the Light in your life.

Like our pepper and eggplant seeds– the struggle is real and it may take a while, but seek the light.



(Update– they sprouted!!)



The United Methodist General Conference scheduled for 2020 has been delayed twice, and is now set to begin April 22, 2024. This is the legislative body in the United Methodist Church, responsible for setting church policy and revising the Book of Discipline, which outlines the laws, doctrine, and governance of the denomination. Held every four years (unless postponed by COVID!), GC is a global gathering of delegates, both clergy and lay, who are elected by their respective annual conferences. It is the only entity that speaks officially for the church, making it a vital forum for addressing theological, social, and administrative matters. GC's decisions on issues such as church doctrine, social justice, and the ordination of clergy have significant implications for the direction and unity of the denomination, making it an important event in the life of the UMC.

A GC delegate is responsible for representing their annual conference, deliberating and voting on church legislation, participating in discussions on church doctrine, policy, and social issues, and helping shape the direction of the denomination through their decisions. Pastor Michelle was elected to be a reserve delegate, but has in the last month moved into a seated delegate spot after a delegation member's resignation.

GC typically spans two weeks, with the first week dedicated to legislative committees and the second week to plenary sessions. The first week, delegates are divided into committees that focus on specific areas, such as church and society, global ministries, or finance and administration, which review and amend petitions and resolutions submitted prior to the conference. The second week consists of plenary sessions, where the entire body convenes to discuss, debate, and vote on the recommendations from the legislative committees, making final decisions on church policies, doctrines, and resolutions that will guide the denomination for the next four years.

Now you know! Pastor Michelle will keep you posted on all things GC as the month goes by.

**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

Native American Ministries Sunday, April 14, 2024

This is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts of Native Americans. We affirm the sacredness of

indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world. Members are encouraged to donate through their local churches or give online.

- 50% of the funds collected remain in the Annual Conference to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the conferences. To assist in developing these programs, each conference has a Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM).
- 25% of the donations fund scholarships designated for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology.
- 25% percent of the donations create beneficial programs, including mentoring programs, peer support systems, funding for economic development projects, and restoring traditional and historic ways that raise new leaders for Native American communities.

For questions or comments, please see Pastor Paul



Greeting of Happiness,

Central's exciting Easter event was a lot of fun! I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Easter. Easter reminds us of the great sacrifice Jesus made for us. I want to thank everyone that repeatedly sacrifices their time and helps out with preparing and volunteering at our events. Thanks also to those that help by donating requested items. These events would not be possible without everyone's support. Thank you!

The warmer weather and blooming flowers remind us of summer. The Faith Formation Team will spend April and May brainstorming, preparing and collaborating on some great new ideas for fun summer events. May the coming month be filled with lots of sunshine, time spent outdoors, and joy. God Bless.

Faith Formation Coordinator,
Donna Miller-Kross

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

Beginning **April 7**, Central will offer 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.

The Schedule:

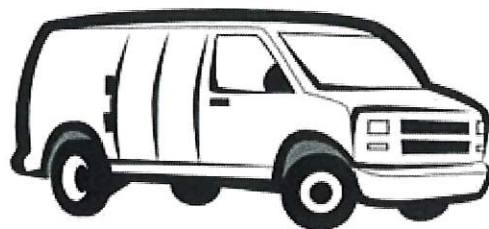
Arrive Hilltop at **10.05**, boarding for 10 minutes

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



A true United Methodist loves potluck covered dish lunches! Central's Leadership is planning one on Sunday, April 28 immediately after the 11AM worship (so around noon). We will gather in Fellowship Hall for food and fun and conversation. We will have a sign-up sheet (a few weeks ahead) so we know who is bringing what. Rumor has it Pastor Paul loves strawberry-rhubarb pie--just sayin'! Drinks and place settings will be provided by the church.



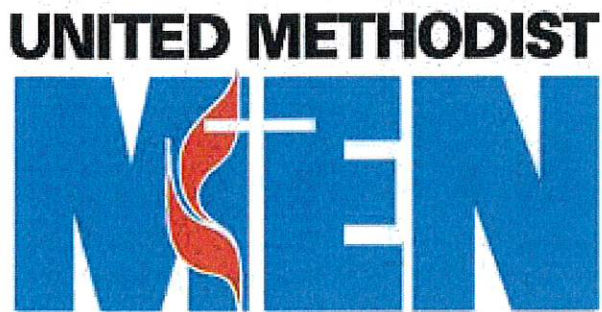
Our next study topic will be “Imagine No Racism”, a curriculum written and promoted by the General Commission on Religion and Race. The goal of this time together (about 5 or 6 weeks) is to examine deeply and discuss white privilege and racism—both inconsistent with the Kingdom of God, and how our mission and ministries impact racial justice in our community.



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS – UE SCHOOLS

Our April mini-mission project will be collecting hygiene items for the UE schools. Over the last few weeks, we have received emails from the UE school community resource people asking about personal care items. This seems to be an ongoing struggle for many of community families. One resource person recently commented “...it’s getting to be the time of year when the smells seem to be coming out and we definitely have students in need that don’t have the proper home structure to support them.” Needs include (but are not limited to): deodorant, dry shampoo, body spray, full body deodorant, mouthwash, wet wipes. Additionally, socks and potentially antifungal foot sprays (often the feet seem to be the problem) would be welcomed.

We are looking into some funding sources for this need, however, if you’d like to donate anything to this request, please put them in the donation station in the Nanticoke entrance. For questions or comments, please see Pastor Paul.



United
Women
in Faith

CUMC Men's Group

Calling on men interested in sharing a meal, fun and fellowship to join our monthly Men's meetings. The March meeting was well attended both in person and on Zoom, and we're hoping to increase the number of men who want to enjoy food, devotions, stories and fellowship.

The April meeting will be held on Friday, April 16. We get together at 6:00 for a meal. At 7:00 we bring up a Zoom meeting and meet with our out of town brethren, and locals who prefer to meet on Zoom. Please join us.

Men's Group ZOOM info

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81530597732>

Meeting ID: 815 3059 7732

Passcode: 491318

Clothing Center News

Thanks to everyone who has donated reusable cloth bags to the clothing center. They are greatly appreciated!

Thanks also to Denise Johnson who has been stitching reusable bags from upcycled clothing for the Clothing Center.

-Amy Klock

CWU Spring Fling Annual Meeting

We will be hosting the Spring Fling Annual Meeting for Church Women United on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 from 10:00-noon in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be the Chaplain from UHS. After the meeting a lunch of sandwiches, chips, dessert and beverages will be served. All women are invited to attend this annual meeting.

Circle Meetings

All women are invited to attend one of the United Women in Faith Circles. Please contact the circle leader for more information.

Deborah Circle Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm in person and also on zoom in the library at church. Contact: Pat Breneman, 748-3430

Grace Circle Wednesday, April 17 at noon in the library at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Pauline Witt, 748-4142

Sarah Circle Tuesday, April 16 at 12:00 in the community room at church. Please bring your lunch with you.

Contact: Carole James, 757-2629

Garden Tour - Saturday, June 22

Do you like to garden? Would you like to show your garden? The United Women in Faith (UWF) is looking for people to participate in this year's Garden Tour. We are looking for gardens in the Endicott / Endwell area. If you know someone who has a garden, please contact Pat Breneman (pbrenema@stny.rr.com / 607-321-9834). And please save the date to tour some lovely gardens on June 22nd



Installation of the two new hanging microphones in the vicinity of the bell tables for the choir is moving ahead and may already be in place by the time this newsletter is complete. The supporting hardware is in. We are waiting only for delivery of the microphones themselves. Their timing depends on the manufacturer's supply chain and employee staffing issues.

We have changed the 3rd-party software that runs the scrolling announcements in the Welcome Center. The original site was hard to access, had been acting up, and was costly. To use it on a second or third TV in the church

would have required additional subscription fees. The new software is free and can be used on up to 10 monitors at no cost. So far, it has performed well and we look forward to using it in other areas around the church.

The Tech Team Youth/Young Adult Intern Program continues to go well. We are fortunate to be able to avail ourselves of the young people's interests and skills.

As always, we thank the Shalom Fund, Board of Trustees, and the congregation members and friends who, in financial support and in prayer, undergird this outreach and support ministry of Central Church.

-Mark Marino

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING GENEROSITY!

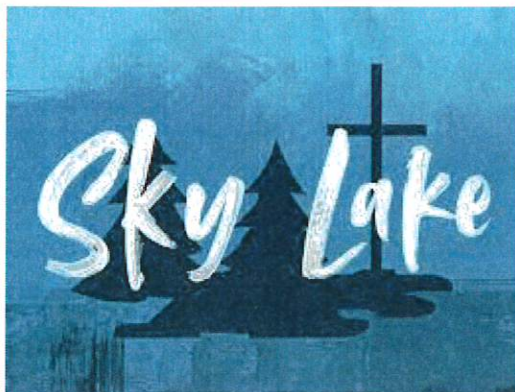
In the Finance update in the January newsletter we reported that we entered 2024 with a gap between the annual budget and the pledged giving. This is nothing new for Central as history has shown that through the generosity and financial support of the congregation the gap closes by the end of the year.



So far this year, your faithful stewardship has continued to support the programs, ministries and missions of Central with some very strong giving. With Easter this past month it is expected March will be another good month, we hope this will continue throughout the year.

We are thankful for the generosity of all who support Central in so many ways.

-Finance Committee



CAMPING SUNDAY IS APRIL 21st!

The Lukens-Jackson Task Force of Central UMC has worked since 1972 to sponsor children and youth to attend summer camps at Sky Lake, many of those years hosting and staffing one week of racially diverse camp at a time when such experiences were very rare.

Today, Sky Lake hosts a variety of camps, bringing together children, youth and adults with special needs from various cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds, allowing them to grow an appreciation of each other in a natural setting and

nurturing atmosphere. The Lukens-Jackson Task Force works through the year to raise money and recruit children to send to camp.

Central has shown great support in the past and we ask for that again as we build up our reserves. Funding for Lukens-Jackson camperships is provided entirely through generous donations from you! Donations may be given on Camping Sunday or at any time as an online donation at www.centralumcendicott.org/give.html

Sky Lake is also looking for paid and volunteer summer camp staff! This is a great way for youth and young adults to spend the summer: working at camp, making lifelong friends and gaining leadership skills. For more information about summer opportunities, visit www.skylakecenter.org.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR... AND SO ARE ALLERGIES

Did you know that some of our members are extremely sensitive and highly allergic to fragrances? And that some of these members are choosing to stay home rather than attend worship in person to avoid having an allergic reaction?



Help us make Central a safe place for everyone; consider refraining from wearing perfume, cologne or scented lotions to worship services and events at Central.

Our hope is that everyone can feel welcome at every event at Central!



PALOOZA 2024 Save the date!

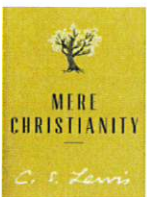
Mark your calendars for a fun filled day!! **Saturday, June 8** is the date for this year's Pride Palooza at Otsiningo Park in Binghamton. Organized by the Binghamton Pride Coalition, Pride Palooza is a day long event celebrating our LGBTQ+ siblings. The Pride Coalition was organized in 2005 and works to end oppression based on sexuality and gender, promotes pride and visibility, and celebrates queer lives, communities, and culture in the greater Binghamton region. Central UMC will have a table set up with information and we will show and share our love for God and all people at this event. Sign-ups will begin in May for 2-hour shifts.



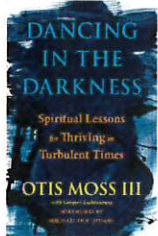
EVENTS

(Every) SUNDAY MORNING
ADULT FAITH FORMATION
9:31am in the Lounge
April: Imagine No Racism

(Every) MONDAY NIGHT
BOOK DISCUSSION 7:30pm
ID:88466303555 Passcode: 051760



Mere Christianity: C.S. Lewis
April 1 Book 4 pt 1-5
April 8 Book 4 pt 6-11



Dancing in the Darkness: Otis Moss III
April 15 Front matter-Ch 2 (front-31)
April 22 Chapter 3-5 (p 32-52)
April 29 Chapter 6-7 (p 67-89)
May 6 Chapter 8-end (p 81-end)

UWF/CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
Wednesday, April 3 10:00am
Spring Fling & Annual Meeting

FIRST-SUNDAY VAN RIDE
Sunday, April 7
See newsletter article for details

PARISH VISITORS
Tuesday, April 9 10:00am

MINISTRY NIGHT
Tuesday, April 9
5:30 Administrative teams
6:30 Dinner & Fellowship
7:00 Church Council

WESLEY CLASS
Thursday, April 11
- No Breakfast
7:00 pm ZOOM

UWF TAKE-OUT LUNCHEON
Saturday, April 13 Pick up 11:00-1:00

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Monday, March 15

UWF CIRCLE MEETINGS
Sarah Circle

Tuesday, April 16
12 noon community room

Deborah Circle

Tuesday, April 16
7:00pm HYBRID/library call the office for
ZOOM information.

Grace Circle

Wednesday, April 17
12 noon church library

CENTRAL MEN'S GROUP

Friday, April 19
Dinner 6:00pm
Meeting 7:00pm (in person & ZOOM)

CAMPING SUNDAY

Sunday, April 21
11:00am worship service
Raising Money for Sky Lake Camperships

POTLUCK AT CENTRAL

Sunday, April 28
Following 11am worship service

UWF SpringTake-Out Luncheon 2024

Saturday, April 13th, 2024 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 13th, 2024 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), Wraps (turkey, ham, roast beef and veggie); pasta salad (by the pint), potato soup (by the pint), tossed or chef salad (quart), fresh fruit (1/2 pint); deviled eggs (2 halves per order), and last but truly not least, 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 - Shelley Lobevero".

We're doing it the same as last year - in order to place a PRE-ORDER, please either call/text Shelley Lobevero at 607-624-1984, or email Shelley at shelly.lobevero@gmail.com PRIOR TO Saturday 4/6/24 10:00am. It would be appreciated that if you plan on ordering, you do it as soon as you can. EVERYTHING you can do to help will assist UWF in making money for our wonderful missions.

Thank you....Your UWF Spring Take-Out Luncheon Team



ITEMS:	Price	Quantity	Total per Line
Chicken Salad (PINT)	\$ 8.50	Qty _____	_____ Total
WRAPS:	\$ 7.50/ea.		
*Turkey		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Ham		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Roast Beef		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Veggies		Qty _____	_____ Total
Tossed Salad (Quart)	\$ 7.00	Qty _____	_____ Total
Chef Salad (Quart)	\$ 7.00	Qty _____	_____ Total
Pasta Salad (PINT)	\$ 6.50	Qty _____	_____ Total
Potato Soup (PINT)	\$ 7.50	Qty _____	_____ Total
Fresh Fruit (1/2 Pint)	\$ 6.50	Qty _____	_____ Total
Deviled Eggs (2 halves)	\$ 1.00	Qty _____	_____ Total
Cookies: (bag of 6)	\$ 5.00/ea.		
*Molasses		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Choc Chip		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Oatmeal Raisin		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Snickerdoodles		Qty _____	_____ Total
*Lemon Pizzelles		Qty _____	_____ Total

TOTAL Qty's _____

TOTAL _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7:30p Book Discussion	2 noon Clothing Center	3 10:00a Church Women United: Spring Fling (Fellowship Hall) 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 1p UWF Leadership 7:30p AA	4 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	6
7 FIRST SUNDAY VAN 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	8 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7:30p Book Discussion	9 10:00a Parish Visitors noon Clothing Center 5:30p Ministry Night 5:45p Girl Scouts	10 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club - Library 7:30p AA	11 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 6:30p Central Crafters 7:00p Wesley Class (ZOOM) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	13 UWF Spring Take-Out Luncheon 11:00 - 1:00
14 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:00a WIC Clinic 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7:00p Allocations/ZOOM 7:30p Book Discussion	16 noon Clothing Center noon Sarah Circle 7:00p Deborah Circle (HYBRID/Library)	17 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center noon Grace Circle 7:30p AA	18 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	19 NEWSLETTER LAYOUT 5:30p Girl Scouts 6:00p Men's Group Dinner 7:00 Men's Group 7:30p AA	20
21 Camping Sunday 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship &	22 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7:00p Ahwaga Canoe 7:30p Book Discussion	23 noon Clothing Center	24 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6p Lions Club - Library 7:30p AA	25 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Cappella Ringers 6:30p Central Crafters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	26 5:30p Girl Scouts 7:30p AA	27
28 8a Worship cable 1301 8:30a Worship 9:30a Adult Ed 11a Worship Potluck after 11am worship	29 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7:30p Book Discussion	30 noon Clothing Center				

Central

United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost
Associate Pastor: Paul Reed
Web & Media: Martina DiRose
Community Liaison: Laurel O'Connor
Chancel Choir: Carolyn Stanford
Bell Choir Director: Denise Johnson
Living Water Director: Jeff Heald
Organist: Sean Stafford
Treasurer: Larry Jackson
Parish Visitors: Nancy Jones,
Carole James



Central UMC is a fully inclusive church that seeks, embraces, educates, worships, and serves, all in God's love.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 754-6060 Fax: 785-4676

Alicia Thoennes, Admin Secretary
office@centralumcendicott.org

www.centralumcendicott.org

Central

United Methodist Church

Central United Methodist Church
17 Nanticoke Ave.
Endicott, NY 13760

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