

THE **Central** SENTRY

United Methodist Church

REV. DR. MICHELLE BOGUE-TROST

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PASTOR'S NOTES



As I write this, I am sitting on a lakeshore in Alabama, at my sister's new home. She and her husband closed on it a few days before I arrived, and we've had some fun figuring out where things go and what she wants it to look like. They are making a move from a much smaller living situation, where there was no room for much in the way of furniture; they sold most of what they had when they made that move.

Consequently, they have a blank slate to work with. What freedom! They've had the opportunity to evaluate everything they own carefully. With the streamlining they did previously, everything they have now is important and precious to them; they have let go of the things that have little or no

meaning. It's an exciting prospect to be able to decide exactly what (and what not) to bring into this new living situation.

This move represents a place to host children and grandchildren, and to wake up each day to the quiet and serenity of a lake slough. Watching the moving and selection process has given me a glimpse into my sister's life and personality which I doubt I would see otherwise. Each thing is chosen with care for the purpose it will serve, not simply to add acquisitions or clutter. Each thing matters in the life she wants to have here. It reflects deep care for a core vision she has of the life they want together.

That is a lesson we can take into congregational life as well as into our own personal lives. Phyllis Tickle in *The Great Emergence* describes cycles of church history and reformation as being akin to large rummage sales, where we as The Church examine everything we have and everything we do, and carefully select what to weed out, prune away, or discard. It is hard work, but it is a great work, as we periodically through our history take a good hard look at how we live out our faith. Do we carry too much baggage? Too much extra weight? Are we holding on to things simply out of sentiment, and not because they are serving God and neighbor as we need to do? Are we keeping things that are centered in love and in being the faithful disciples of Christ we are called to be?

Food for thought, as I sit by the slough...

Still in One Peace,
Pastor Michelle Bogue-Trost

PASTOR PAUL'S NOTES

I love spring time. Flowers blooming, gardens growing, leaves budding out, butterflies flitting around, hummingbirds humming, bees buzzing. Now that winter is over, these small creatures have emerged from their cocoons or winter habitats and are now busy doing work!

Our grandson Joseph was just with us for Easter weekend. One of the first things he said to me was, "Grandpa, let's do tractor ride and work!" I love to hear those words. We both have fun doing tractor rides and working around the farm. And playing bubbles and tossing balls for the dogs, too!

Jesus came to the disciples in their locked room that first Easter evening and said to them, "Peace to you. Just as God sent me, so I send you." Then Jesus took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:21-22, MSG). There's that Holy Spirit again!

Jesus sends us into the world filled with the Holy Spirit. We are called to do what Jesus had done in the name of God: have compassion, seek justice, love mercy, stand against oppression, love all people. Now that we have emerged from our cocoons, our winter slumbers, our cold and dark times, bust out and become new creatures. Like the bees and butterflies, we have "work" to do; like Joseph says to me, "Let's do work, Grandpa!"

The work may be hard; the work may be dirty; the work may be outside our comfort zone, but we are sent to be disciples of Jesus. One way we can work is to create health kits for UMCOR (see Mission News); maybe you want to be involved in Pride Palooza (coming in June) or possibly you want to help out at Shepherd's Supper; maybe the clothing center is a project you can help with. You may even have a great idea that you'd like to try! If that's the case, see me or Pastor Michelle and bounce ideas around! There are so many opportunities here to "do work" and definitely more that can be done!
Happy Spring!

Peace+
Pastor Paul



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

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

Deborah Circle

Tuesday, May 16 at 7pm
in person in the church library.
Contact: Pat Breneman, 607.748.3430 for ZOOM info

Grace Circle

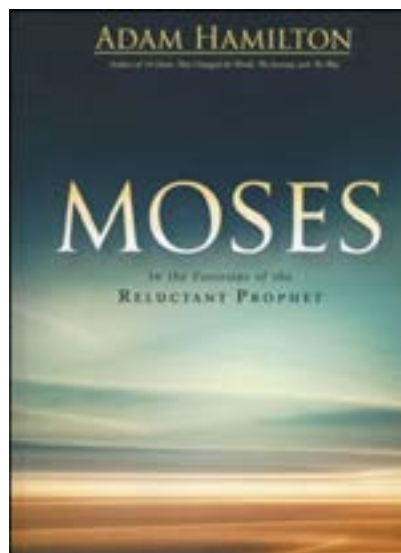
Wednesday, May 17 at 12 pm
in the Community Room at church.
Please bring your lunch with you.
There will be no Zoom.
Contact: Pauline Witt, 607.748.4142

Sarah Circle

Tuesday, May 16 at Noon
in the Community Room at church.
Please bring your lunch with you.
Contact: Carole James, 607.757.2629

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have begun an exciting book written by Adam Hamilton, "Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet". Through the study, we will look at the life of Moses and his reluctance to join with God. We will then look at our lives and see how God is calling us and how we may, at times, be reluctant to answer that call. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the lounge.



CENTRAL MEN'S GROUP



All Men Invited:
CUMC Men's Group - Friday May 19
We're always looking for men to join our monthly meeting. All are welcome.

There are two choices - you can join us in person at the church at 6:00 PM for a meal and dessert. Or join in a Zoom call at 7:00.

We have time for devotions, laughs and just some good times. Please plan on joining us.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89092769060>

Meeting ID: 890 9276 9060
Passcode: 804041

FINANCE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity in supporting Central's Ministries and Programs financially we are doing well through the first quarter of the year. As we enter the time of year when some of us are away, please be reminded of the importance to maintain your financial support through the summer months. We are grateful for the commitment of so many of you to support Central with your monetary donations. It is with this faithful support that Central can continue to be a beacon of God's love in the community. One way to ensure you're giving is maintained while you may be traveling is by signing up for Electronic giving. If you're interested in doing this, contact the Church Office.
The Finance Committee

TECH MINISTRY

Integration of the two new computers into the system is complete. We tweak and adjust them as time goes along, but they work well and do everything we hoped. They have provided several unexpected time-saving and ease-of-operation benefits as well.

The problem with the rear projector not working with the new computers has been resolved, so the committee has decided to keep it for a while longer and instead concentrate on installing a video switcher better suited to our needs. Conversations with our technical consultant in this regard are underway.

Other adjustments have consolidated wires and cables and streamlined and simplified operations. Installation of a piano monitor to facilitate piano and organ duets is complete and working well. Vocal monitors for the choir are being put back into service. These and other similar changes have improved TV Ministry's ability to support the church's worship and program life.

The Youth/Young Adult Tech Team Intern Program continues to provide consistent, capable support in the tech booth. Additional youth for that program and more adult volunteers are always welcome. Others willing to help prepare before services and followup after are needed, too. No experience is required, just an interest in and a willingness to contribute to this ministry of Central. Contact the office or stop by the booth on Sunday morning to learn more.

We continue to be grateful for the continued support of Central's members, friends, and supporters.

Mark Marino

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



April Showers to May Flowers!

As we come into the month of June, teachers and students are brewing with excitement preparing for schools to close for summer break. We are also excited about three events we have planned for Central this summer.

First, Central will have a booth at Otsinengo Park for the Pride Palooza on June 10th from 12pm-6pm. This is a great way for us to get into the community and show that we are an affirming church and are open to everyone. We won't just show up but we will also show people what God's love really looks like. Since it's a long day we can certainly split up shifts of covering the table. If you can cover for even an hour or two please let me know or call the church to put your name on the volunteer list.

Next, we are kicking off our summer with a family fun movie night at the church. This will be taking place downstairs on Wednesday June 21st from 6pm-8pm. We will be playing the movie, Minions Rise of Gru. There will be food, snacks, and tables for our local organizations to give out information of services.

Our third event will be the Block Party August 26th outside the church. We will need multiple volunteers for this event as it will be a family event with activities, food, games, and more. Please mark your calendars to volunteer that day and call the church to sign up.

Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all the events. Hope to see you then. Thank You and God Bless

Donna Miller-Kross

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



CENTRAL SERVES

What can outreach look like when you have honest conversations with school administrators? What can outreach sound like? What does it feel like?

It feels like listening closely, and being open to wherever the Spirit leads the other person. Not coming in with preconceived notions about what “helping” looks like for a group or a place.

This past month, a conversation with JonMichael Shea, the Principal at CFJ Elementary School, helped Central Serves reevaluate what service to a school might look like.

When we asked him how we could be supportive, he started with upcoming events, helping students, things we would expect. Then we asked the question: if there was something we could do, right now, to support you, this school and its staff, what would it be?

And we listened.

It was quite simple. Principal Shea’s eyes widened. “Well...” he said, “there is one thing. We had someone redo our staff break room, which is great, but the coffee machine broke and we haven’t been able to afford a new one. Do you think that’s something you could help with? I understand if you can’t.”

Well, we can. And we did. Not only did Central Serves bring them a coffee machine, we brought them two. Because God’s bounty goes farther than you or I could imagine, and we wanted to show CFJ that love. We put stickers on the Keurigs to thank staff for the work they do and that we send our love from Central UMC!

We never would have imagined that coffee would be helpful, positive outreach. That God would work through Principal Shea to bravely make the school’s needs known. But that small outreach makes a big difference in their lives today, and everyday that the staff of CFJ need a little pick-me-up. And now we’re asking Jennie F how we can support their staff, too - because we learned, after one impactful conversation, that there are many ways to approach outreach.

Laurel O’Connor



MISSIONS TEAM

Our mini-mission project for May is to create health kits for UMCOR. These kits help provide basic necessities to those who are most vulnerable during times of crisis. Health Kits are distributed during disasters, whether socio-economic or as the result of a natural occurrence. Kits consist of: one hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches), one washcloth, one comb (at least 6 inches of teeth), one toenail or fingernail clipper, bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger; no Ivory or Jergen’s soap), one adult toothbrush, 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches). Materials will be collected during the month of May and we will gather together and assemble the kits. Specific list of materials can be found in the Welcome Center.

Pastor Paul

CENTRAL CHURCH EVENTS:

WESLEY CLASS - Breakfast
Thursday, May 11th 10am
Denny's on Vestal Parkway

WESLEY ZOOM 7pm - MAY 11th

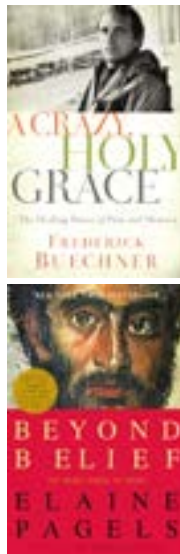
SACRED SITES OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, May 21st 1-3pm

The Preservation Association of the Southern Tier is sponsoring a Sacred Sites Open House on Sunday May 21. The Open House is free and open to the Public. There will be many Sacred Sites open in the Southern Tier, Binghamton, Johnson City, Endwell and Endicott. This is an opportunity for the public to see the interiors of these magnificent buildings.

MONDAY NIGHT
BOOK STUDY
7:30pm each week

A Crazy Holy Grace (4 weeks)
Frederick Buechner
May 1 pp 85-118 (Pt 2, #5-6)
May 8 pp 119-138 (Pt 3)

Beyond Belief: Elaine Pagels (5 weeks)
May 15 Chap 1
May 22 Chap 2
No Book Study Memorial Day May 29
Jun 5 Chap 3
Jun 12 Chap 4
Jun 19 Chap 5-end



ROAD RALLY - Scavenger Hunt
Saturday, May 20th 4pm

Want to have some fun driving around the local area looking for landmarks or objects from the Scavenger list? Then join us for a fun afternoon seeing how many objects you can find. Each car will be given a list of items to find in the area. Just take a picture of it with your cell phone. When we're done we'll share our journeys at a picnic. We'll meet at Church at 4:00 to get the Scavenger hunt list and then meet again for the picnic. Bring a dish to pass, utensils and drinks. Teams are encouraged.

BACH DOCUMENTARY
SATURDAY, May 20th 9:30

On Saturday, May 20 at 9:30am, the Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will continue showing the new documentary on J.S. Bach issued by Fugue State Films. This is in follow-up to the first session held on March 11. This highly anticipated new documentary includes biographical information on Bach's life as well as several performances of his organ music played on historic instruments. The DVD will be shown in Central's dining room. Anyone interested in learning more about Bach and his music is welcome to attend!

GARDEN TOUR
Saturday, July 15th

Save the date for the UWF Garden Tour on July 15. The tour includes 9 gardens in the Binghamton and Chenango Bridge area. The tour is a lovely way to enjoy the outdoors and learn some tips about gardening. This year's tour is partnering with two community groups – Lyceum, a Life-Long Learning Institute and the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST). Tickets are \$20 and will be available in the church office beginning in June.



PRAYERS AND THANKS

Thank you for the beautiful cards and notes that have been sent to me from Central, They are a bright spot in my days.

Sincerely, Norma Poyneer

Good day to everone. I would like thank everyone who participated in the UWF 2023 Spring Take-Out Luncheon, whether you ordered food, made cookies, donated money, or were my angels in the kitchen on Friday and Saturday. This fundraising event wouldn't be what it is without each of you. You are all a blessing.

Shelley Lobevero



“Love is not love that alters when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to remove. Oh no, it is an ever-fixed mark that looks on tempests and is never shaken...”
(William Shakespeare, Sonnet 116)

Jeanette and Edward McMullen were married on December 15, 1962 at Central United Methodist Church by Rev. Hawke. The wedding was small and there was no photographer. The temperatures were frigid, the weather was poor with snow and ice but their vows would not be delayed by a storm.

Fast forward to April 2023. The phone rings in the office and Karen politely answers. After an extended conversation, the date is set for Jeanette and Ed to come back to the church for wedding photographs that they never had.

The joy that they shared with us about their life and the love they have for each other that still shows through even today was amazing! These two people are still in love with each other, even after all these years!

They will be celebrating with family their 60th anniversary this coming Memorial Day weekend.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT



Wednesday | June 21ST

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

THE MOVIE STARTS AT 6:15 PM

Food, Drinks, and Snacks Provided

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

17 Nanticoke Ave. Endicott, NY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | 1 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm ZOOM Book Study | 2 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Program Councils (ZOOM) | 3 10:00am ZOOM Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 1:00pm UWF ZOOM 5:45pm Endicott Toast Masters 7:30pm AA | 4 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 6:30pm Cappella Ringers 7:30pm Choir rehearsal | 5 CINCO DE MAYO 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA | 6 9:00am AGO 11:00 CWU Friendship Day |
| 7 8:00am Worship TV 8:30am Worship 9:45am Adult Ed 11am Worship | 8 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm ZOOM Book Study | 9 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm ZOOM Finance 7:00pm ZOOM Van | 10 10:00am ZOOM Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 6:00pm Lions Club-Library 7:30pm AA | 11 10am Wesley Breakfast 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 5:00pm Berkshire Group 6:30pm Cappella Ringers 7:00pm Trustees ZOOM 7:00pm Wesley group ZOOM 7:30pm Choir rehearsal | 12 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA | 13 7:00am UE Teacher Breakfast |
| 14 MOTHER'S DAY 8:00am Worship TV 8:30am Worship 9:45am Adult Ed 11am Worship | 15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 6:15pm ZOOM Reconciling 7:00pm ZOOM Allocations 7:30pm ZOOM Book Study | 16 12:00pm Clothing Center 12:00pm Sarah Circle 5:00pm Girl Scouts 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Deborah Circle (Library & ZOOM) | 17 10:00am ZOOM Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 12:00pm Grace Circle 5:45pm Endicott Toast Masters 7:30pm AA | 18 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 6:30pm Cappella Ringers 7:30pm Choir rehearsal | 19 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Men's Group Dinner 7:00pm ZOOM Men's Group 7:30pm AA | 20 9:00am AGO 4:00pm Road Rally Scavenger Hunt |
| 21 8:00am Worship TV 8:30am Worship 9:45am Adult Ed 11am Worship 1:00pm Sacred Sites Open House | 22 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Ahwaga Canoe 7:30pm ZOOM Book Study | 23 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm ZOOM Church Council | 24 10:00am Zoom Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 6:00pm Lions Club-Library 7:30pm AA | 25 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 6:30pm Cappella Ringers 7:30pm Choir rehearsal | 26 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA | 27 |
| 28 8:00am Worship TV 9:30am Worship | 29 MEMORIAL DAY 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm ZOOM Book Study | 30 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts | 31 10:00am ZOOM Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 7:30pm AA | <h1>May</h1> | | |