


THE **Central** SENTRY

 United Methodist Church

REV. DR. MICHELLE BOGUE-TROST

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PASTOR MICHELLE'S NOTES



As we step into the grey embrace of November, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the warmth, light, and grace embodied at Central. This month, we are not only celebrating the blessings of the harvest season but also commemorating our 185th Anniversary! A milestone like this reminds us of the rich tapestry of faith and community that has been woven over the years. It is a time to reflect on the countless lives touched by God's love through our church and to recommit ourselves to the inclusive and compassionate ministry that defines us.

We will celebrate on November 19, and I hope you will make special plans to participate in worship that day, when we will welcome Bishop Hector Burgos-Nuñez, who will share the message during our worship service. It will be a joyful day to celebrate our past and envision ministry for the coming year.

In the spirit of gratitude and giving, we continue our annual Harvest Home non-perishable food collection to present that day, as well as offering you the annual

opportunity to support Central's ministry through your commitments of financial giving, which we will consecrate in worship. Your donations will make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, embodying the spirit of compassion Jesus teaches us.

As we approach this special time in our church calendar, I pray that we will continue to open our hearts to God's grace, allowing it to flow through us and touch the lives of everyone we encounter. May our 185th anniversary be a testament to the enduring power of faith, hope, and love that Central represents.

In this season of thanksgiving, I am deeply grateful for each one of you, for your faithfulness, your love, and your dedication to making our church a haven of acceptance and love. We walk this sacred journey together, hand in hand, embracing all who seek the warmth of God's love and grace.
Still in one peace.

Pastor Michelle

PASTOR PAUL'S NOTES

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have." (Frederick Keonig- fun fact for the day...his best known invention is the steam powered printing press in 1810 that could print up to 1100 sheets per hour, printing on both sides at the same time!)

As we enter the month known for giving thanks and then begin our Advent journey, let's try to remember these words, recognize and appreciate what we have and not be focused on what we don't have or what we want.

As I have matured, I have really started to focus on those things in my life that I do have and things that really matter. I have always known I had a family, but more and more I am realizing their importance and what we have together. Time with family is now becoming more important than it ever was for me; time with Sherri, time with the kids (Lauren, Morgan, and Chris), and of course time with the grandkids (Joseph and Owen). I appreciate their patience and grace with me— believe it or not, I am not the easiest person to get along with at times! I hope they know that I love them. I am happy.

I appreciate all the people that have been instrumental in my faith journey. Some of my former clergy friends, some non-clergy good friends, so many of my former students and many others in my life have helped me become the person that I am. I never was able to recognize my gifts (or didn't want to recognize them), but people pointed them out. I am happy.

I appreciate the grace and guidance that has been given me in my few beginning months here at Central. I have found my new home and a bigger family to love and be loved by; to work in ministry with; to journey in faith with. I am happy.

I am happy. Thank you all. Peace+

Pastor Paul



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, November 14 at 7:00 in the church library. NOTE: This is the 2nd Tuesday instead of the 3rd Tuesday. We will be reading the book *The Scandal of Forgiveness* by Philip Yancy. Contact: Pat Breneman, 748-3430

Grace Circle: Wednesday, November 15 at noon in the community room at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Pauline Witt, 748-4142

Sarah Circle: Tuesday, November 21 at 12:00 in the community room at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Carole James, 757-2629

All of the circles will vote on the new officers and the budget for the next year. Also, we will have the Dedication of the World Thank Offering at the meetings.

CENTRAL MEN'S GROUP



We have a core of 10 - 12 regular attendees for our monthly Men's meetings, but we'd love to have twice that. We meet the third Friday of every month. Please consider joining the fun and fellowship this month or at some time in the future.

We meet in person for food and fellowship at 6:00 at Central, Then at 7:00 we have a Zoom meeting, for those who are out of town, or those who don't want to meet in person. We have some out of town regulars who join Zoom each month as well. We'd love to have more -
6:00 - Meet at Central for Meal
7:00 - Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81530597732>
Meeting ID: 815 3059 7732
Passcode: 491318

ALLOCATIONS TEAM REPORT

Allocations had a busy Fall grant season! We were able to facilitate Central UMC giving away nearly \$5000 this cycle. The whole year in total: \$13,685! Thank you to all the organizations who applied, and for their work in the community. Here's the breakdown for the Fall grant season:

Central UMC Blood Drive: \$120 grant
Community of Grace of the Southern Tier:
\$900 grant to support a welcome home brunch for formerly incarcerated women
Church in the Wild: \$1200 to help purchase equipment
Women's Club of Endicott: \$865 for a new shed to organize donations for Blessing Boxes
Central UMC Missions Team: \$600 to start a bike ministry
American Civic Association: \$1200 to support relocating refugees

Just a reminder that Allocations is only accepting applications twice a year, with deadlines on April 1 and September 1. Know of an organization or group that could use funds to make communities stronger? Send them the link in March!

TECH MINISTRY

TV Ministry continues to go well. Adaptable equipment allows the Tech Team to provide more varied and more interesting experiences for viewers. While they also result in more opportunities for glitches and snags, the presence of consistent personnel in the booth have led to a team able to identify and fix problems so that they have little or no effect on either worshipers in the sanctuary or those participating remotely.

We have made progress on ways to involve remote and on-site worshipers together in real time. We hope to roll this feature out before the end of the calendar year.

The Youth/Young Adult Intern Program continues to enrich the knowledge and capabilities of the young people in it, while also attracting new youth. Some of the older youth who have been with the program for a period of time now serve as teachers and mentors to new team members. They have risen to occasion well. It is an exciting step.

A number of on-site and remote adults support TV Ministry's work, too. They offer their gifts and graces not only in operating the equipment, but also in shepherding the Interns, keeping equipment in good working order, and in post-editing for the twice-weekly Spectrum cable broadcasts.

One area that needs to be shored up is persons to gather and collate the weekly materials the tech booth members need to quickly and smoothly move through the service. Right now, I am the only person practiced in preparing them. This makes it difficult for the booth personnel when I am absent because of illness or travel.

These preparations require no technical knowledge and can be done from home with only a computer and standard software. Contact me at the booth on Sundays or through the office to find out more.

Mark Marino

FAITH FORMATION



As we entered into the fall season we watched the leaves change colors and were awakened in the morning with the cool brisk air. We were greeted at our doors by little ghosts, goblins superheros, or princesses looking for sweet treats on Halloween. We had the chance to welcome the same kids dressed up for the church halloween event on Oct. 25th where we had a great turn out.

November the snow will fall. And we give thanks at Thanksgiving. I would like to extend a big thank you to the church and all of the volunteers that donate and volunteer for the years events. And hugh thank you to the person that kindly donated the big bounce house for the block party that we will now have for other years to come.

The gift of giving reminds me of gift which reminds me that Christmas is right around the corner. So for the month of November we will take a short break to plan for our annual Christmas celebration.

This year's celebration will be on December 20th from 5-7. This is an RSVP event where we will take reservations for spots till December 13th. As we have done in the past. We will have a short story about the meaning of Christmas and of course a meeting with Santa and some food and goodies. Thank you and Blessings to all and everyone.

Donna Miller-Kross



CENTRAL'S 185TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATES 55 YEARS OF HANDBELL MUSIC MINISTRY 1968-2023

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord" Psalm 100:1

Central's handbell program was initiated by Rev. Bradley Havens in 1968. Three octaves of Schulmerich handbells were purchased by using Memorial Funds and were dedicated into service on 5/19/68. Under the direction of Miriam Hill, two youth choirs were formed, one junior high and one senior high. During the first year, the senior high choir performed in 13 CUMC services, 3 services at other area churches, 7 community performances and hosted the area's first combined handbell concert with 3 other churches.

Directors and ringers changed over time. In 1985 the bells rang at Easter service for the first time in several years under the direction of Audry Byer, Vestal H.S. Band Director. Denise Johnson then began directing the group of adults that later became known as the Cappella Ringers. In 1988, Carol Coughenour was hired as the Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director. Having an extensive background in handbell directing, Carol developed the Century Ringers and Meri Ringers youth choirs and accomplished fundraising for the full 5 octave set of bells and 3 octaves of Malmark choirchimes. The Centry Ringers became an accomplished audition choir that toured and performed in many churches, community settings and participated in competitions, including Disney World.

Today, the Cappella Ringers continue to offer their music ministry with the purpose of "making a joyful noise" for worshippers at Central Church. We rejoice in the support that has been provided for the handbell program and celebrate the 11 directors and approximate 275 ringers who have served in the program during the past 55 years. We invite others to join us and see for yourself how enjoyable ringing handbells can be!

Denise Johnson



MISSIONS TEAM

Our September Mini-mission project was "Undies- Sundays" and it was very successful!! Each of the four UE elementary schools, as well as our Clothing Center, received a grocery bag of boys and girls underwear.

The October Mini-mission project was "Sock-tober". We have collected (as of October 12) at least two large clothes baskets of new socks. All socks will be distributed between the U-E schools and our Clothing Center.

Our November project is "Harvest Home". During the month, we will be collecting non-perishable, shelf- stable foods that will be donated to Shepherd's Supper and CHOW. Grocery bags will be available Sunday, November 5 and are due back on Sunday, November 19 (the day Bishop Burgos will be preaching!).

December will be collections for Heifer Project... watch for weekly details in the Weekly Sentry beginning in early November. Visit <https://www.heifer.org/> for some quick information.

The Bike Ministry Project is beginning! If you have a good bike that you are not using, consider donating to this ministry. We will be collecting bikes and repairing/refurbishing them to give to UE school students and community members. Look to your neighbors, garage sales, wherever, to find good bikes! If you'd like to help repair and refurbish, please contact Pastor Paul. Bikes can be delivered to the Bike Room (downstairs at the hallway junctions near the Youth Room; there is a sign on the door).

Thank you for all your mission help. It is so great being a ministry partner with you all.

Pastor Paul

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

What a great beginning to our time together! I think our "Progressive Christianity" series went well and it really helped us to grow our faith and solidify some of our theology. The biggest piece we learned was that we can have differing opinions and beliefs and still believe in the same God!

By the time you read this, we will be well into the study "Questions Jesus Asked". Feel free to join in any time you are available. I promise you will have an enriching time!

Our Advent study will begin on December 3 with the guide "Almost Christmas". From the UNY Media site: "In Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors to explore how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, connecting our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. In this book, we will break down the barriers that prevent us from experiencing an "altogether" love, hope, joy, and peace in Christ in our lives and in the world around us."

Pastor Paul

COLLEGE & MILITARY CARDS

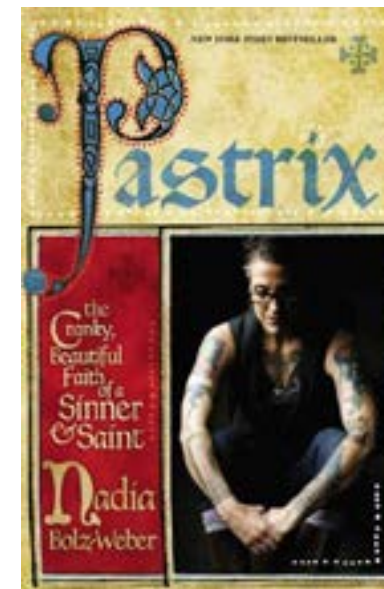
Do you have a family member who is attending college or serving in the military? Please contact the church office with their name and home address so we can send them a card and a gift card in time for finals week. Cards will be mailed the first week of December. We will be sending gift cards instead of care packages once again. If anyone in the congregation would like to contribute, please send a check to the church office indicating that the donation is for College Care Cards. Central church wants to let our college students and military personnel know that we are thinking of them.

CENTRAL CHURCH EVENTS:

WESLEY CLASS - Breakfast
Thursday, Nov 9th 10am
at the Blue Dolphin

WESLEY CLASS ZOOM
Nov 9th - 7pm

MONDAY NIGHT
BOOK DISCUSSION
7:30pm each week



Cranky, Beautiful Faith
Nadia Bolz-Weber

Oct 23	Chapter 1
Oct 30	Chapters 2-4
Nov 6	Chapters 5-8
Nov 13	Chapters 9-12
Nov 20	Chapters 13-16
Nov 27	Chapters 17-19

Next Book:
Holy Disruption: Tracy Daub
Dec 4 Intro, Chapters 1-2
Dec 11 Chapters 3-4
Dec 18 Chapters 5-end

*No Book Study December 25,
Christmas Day*

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Sunday, Nov 26th 3pm

Come help decorate the sanctuary and church for the Advent and Christmas Season. All ages are welcome to help put up the trees, candles, wreaths, nativity and Advent wreath. Bring the family for this fun tradition at Central--many hands make light work!

CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE HAS MOVED



The Annual Meeting of the congregation (Charge Conference) was scheduled for Saturday, November 4, but has been moved to Sunday, January 14 following 11am worship. This event is open to all members of Central, and is an important component of our connectional life in the Upper New York Conference. Please plan to attend!

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday December 3 at 3:00 in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to enjoy a musical Christmas program. Details to follow. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

CHRISTMAS PARTY Wed, Dec 20th 5-7pm

Please see the flyer in the back of the newsletter for more information.



CLOTHING CLOSET

The Clothing Center is in desperate need of winter coats for people of all ages and sizes. Please donate if you are able.



PRAYERS AND THANKS

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts and cards. My arm is healing well. I start on a decreased medication for the cancer soon. My new address is: 1942 County Road 32, Greene, NY 13778 and new phone number is 607-875-0667 and my cell is still 607-744-1910. I love you all!

Cyndi Tedeschi

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who helped make the UWF Fall Take-Out Luncheon a success. Without all of you, we couldn't support all the church missions that we do. Thank you,

Shelley Lobevero

For the many cards and well wishes I have received from the special people of Central, I want to say thank you very much. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Norma Poyneer

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOVEMBER						
5 ALL SAINTS DAY 8:00am Worship TV 8:30am Worship 8:30am Adult Ed 9:30am Adult Ed 11am Worship HARVEST HOME BAGS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS	6 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm ZOOM Book Discussion	7 ELECTION DAY 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts	8 10:00am ZOOM Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 6:00pm Lions Club-Library 7:30pm AA	9 10:00am Wesley Breakfast 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 6:30pm Cappella Ringers 7:00pm Trustees ZOOM 7:00pm Wesley ZOOM 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	10 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA	11 VETERANS DAY
12 8:00am Worship TV 8:30am Worship 9:30am Adult Ed 11am Worship	13 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Ahwaga Canoe 7:00pm ZOOM Van 7:30pm ZOOM Book Discussion	14 10:00am WIC Clinic 10:00am Parish Visitors 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts 5:30pm Ministry Night 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Deborah Circle	15 10:00am ZOOM Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 12:00pm Grace Circle 7:30pm AA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 6:30pm Cappella Ringers 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	17 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Men's Group Dinner 7:00pm Men's Group ZOOM 7:30pm AA	18 11:00am U-E Harvest Fest
19 HARVEST HOME SUNDAY 8:00am Worship TV (Bishop Hector) 8:30am Worship 9:30am Adult Ed 11am Worship	20 8:00am WIC Clinic 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm ZOOM Book Discussion	21 12:00pm Sarah Circle 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts	22 UWF ANNUAL MEETING 10:00am Zoom Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 6:00pm Lions Club-Library 7:30pm AA	23 THANKSGIVING	24 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm AA	25
26 8:00am Worship TV 8:30am Worship 9:30am Adult Ed 11am Worship 3:00pm Christmas Decorating	27 5:30pm Worship TV on TWC 5:45pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm ZOOM Book Discussion	28 12:00pm Clothing Center 5:00pm Girl Scouts	29 10:00am Zoom Soul Care 12:00pm Clothing Center 7:30pm AA	30 4:30pm Shepherd's Supper 6:30pm Cappella Ringers 7:30pm Choir rehearsal		