

THE Central SENTRY

United Methodist Church

REV. TERESSA M. SIVERS

17 NANTICOKE AVENUE, ENDICOTT NY 13760
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607-754-6060

PASTOR TERESSA'S NOTES:

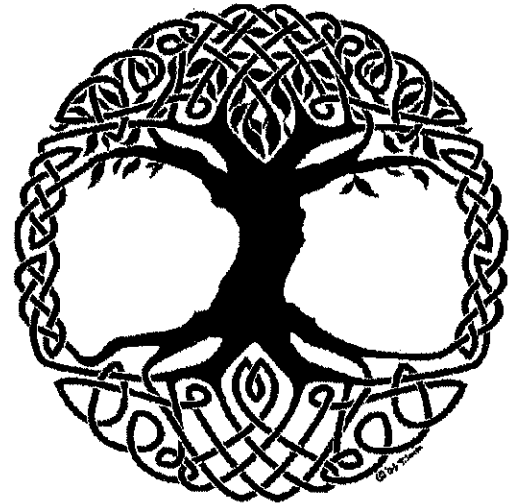
*Happy are those who trust in the LORD,
who rely on the LORD.*

*⁸ They will be like trees planted by the streams,
whose roots reach down to the water.*

*They won't fear drought when it comes;
their leaves will remain green.*

*They won't be stressed in the time of drought
or fail to bear fruit.*

-Jeremiah 17:7-8, Common English Bible



I don't know if I would consider myself a 'tree-hugger,' but there is something about leaning up against a beautiful maple or oak, or perhaps a mighty pine tree, when life is a bit in chaos, and breathing in the fragrance of life, taking strength from the solidity of the tree's trunk. There is comfort in noting the thick roots digging into the earth. There is peace in turning your face to the heavens and watching the wind move among the branches and leaves or needles. So many cultures, on every continent, across time have used the image of the tree and its roots in their spiritual life.

It shouldn't surprise us that Jeremiah turns to this image as a comfort to a lost Israel. This young prophet sought to bring comfort and strength to a people lost in exile. He noted that their foundation in God is like those mighty trees digging deep into underground sources of sustenance. Though life can feel dry and brittle, the water of life flows up through deep roots to bring hope and cause life to thrive despite the drought.

Central UMC Endicott is certainly not experiencing a drought! On the contrary, your life in community is so rich and vibrant, so Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. I am excited to join you on your fantastic journey. But in this time of transition and change, it may feel a bit chaotic and our emotions may churn a bit as if on a roller coaster. We are all so happy for Pastor Michelle, Nate and Alice on this next step in their journey with God in Christ Jesus. We pray blessings upon them and Asbury First UMC. But we are sad to say good-bye, tearful at the ending of their leadership here at Central UMC. I am grateful beyond words to follow behind and come alongside such amazing pastoral care, and I hope to honor all the work that Pastor Michelle and Pastor Paul have accomplished with and among you. I am eager to work alongside Pastor Paul and all of Central UMC as God leads us forward together.

Your roots are deep and strong. These thick roots allow you to spread your branches wide to reach the Endicott community and beyond. As we transition together forward into God's future, those wondrous roots will ground us firmly and gift us the flexibility and stability to reach farther and further as the Spirit leads. Praise be to God!

Grace & Peace!
-Pastor T
(Pastor Teresa)

PASTOR PAUL'S NOTES

"Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language." (Henry James)

We are well into the hot, lazy days of summer. As a kid, I would be outside all the time with the neighborhood kids— playing in the dirt pile, running through the woods, camping, going on adventures, and generally raising mayhem. Now, in my "adult years", I tend to use my days gardening, doing barn work, reading, hiking, camping, going on adventures, and generally raising mayhem. Not too much has changed— but summer brings me more hours to do all of that in!

I have trouble being still; I have trouble listening; I have trouble knowing; I have trouble being calm. One of the spiritual disciplines is solitude— the idea of taking time away from the "busy-ness" of life and spending time with God- alone. It is easy for me to tell my people this, but I sometimes don't practice what I preach! It is time for me to practice this!

During July and August, I have committed myself to exploring more about me and who I am and what my relationship with God is; I still sometimes struggle with my relationship with God. To assist me with this commitment, I have decided to set aside at least half an hour each afternoon (at least 5 days a week) to sit in the same place in the woods next to our home and just be. My goal- listen and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. I am reminded of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." I may or may not journal so some days may include writing, some days may include drawing or painting, some days may include doodles or thoughts that I have, but my hope is that most days will be just quiet solitude with God. I feel most connected with God in the woods, so I am hoping this will help.

My summer challenge for you— "Be still." Can you do it?

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

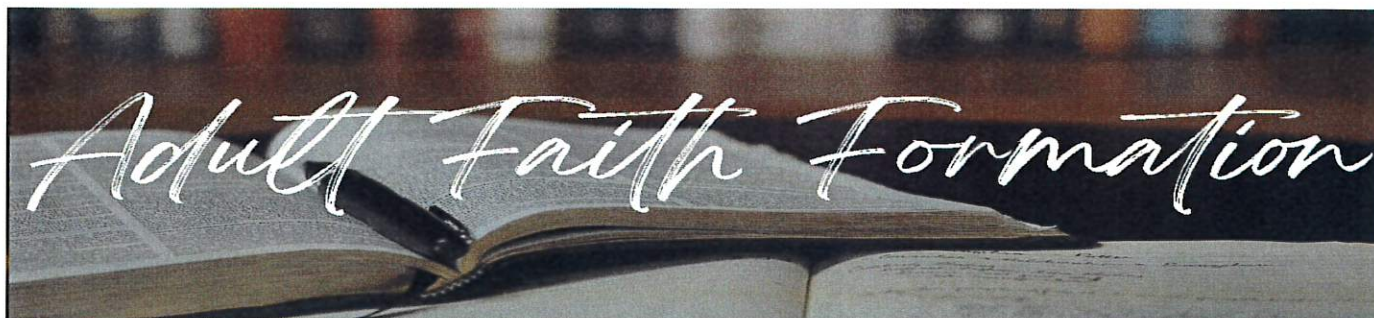
In June we held an Ice Cream Social community event and it was a success! Volunteers assisted with preparing ice cream for kids and adults and shared information with them about Central's events and mission. Central loves giving back to the community and being the hands and feet of Jesus by putting food in their bellies, clothes on their backs, smiles on their faces, and love in their hearts.

Our upcoming Welcome Back to School event is scheduled for September 7th from 12pm-3pm with a rain date of September 14th. We will be providing hotdogs, chips, cotton candy, popcorn as well as bounce houses, games, crafts, and information from community organizations. We need many volunteers to assist with the planning and execution of the event. Please contact the church office or call me directly at 607-427-3684 if you can help.

Central is offering one service at 9:30am during the summer. Kids' church will be on hold until the fall; however, items to keep them occupied are available in the back of the sanctuary. We will need volunteers to assist with the kids' program during the school year.

Enjoy your summer and don't forget your sunscreen!

Faith Formation Coordinator,
Donna Miller-Kross



Adult Sunday School

Many people participated in the Psalm Challenge this past spring. Congratulations! One of the group members challenged each of us to write our own psalm; some of us did and we had a great time with that! So, I am extending the challenge to the entire church! My challenge for you is to write your own psalm (defined as a sacred song or hymn) and submit it to Pastor Paul for publishing in our own "Psalms of Central" devotional. If you'd like to participate, please have submissions to me by the end of August. If you'd like to include some artwork, please scan it as a PDF and I will include that as well!

The Adult Sunday School class will begin our fall session with a study by Marcus Borg called "Embracing an Adult Faith" and we will follow it with a study by Matthew Skinner called "Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit". I have some plans for interspersing some short sessions of "What does this sentence really mean?"

I am looking forward to a great year and excited about growing in faith with all my people.

Retreat

I have been in conversation with some people about the possibility of a church retreat day at Sky Lake. My basic idea is to meet at Sky Lake in the morning, maybe have a light breakfast there, followed by some time in worship and quiet solitude, maybe have a few art/craft classes, maybe do some nature activities, definitely have some free time to explore and be away from the hustle of a typical day at home. We would have lunch and maybe dinner there and close with some type of worship experience. If you'd be interested in planning or interested in going, please let Pastor Paul know your thoughts.

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

Central offers 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.

SUMMER Schedule:

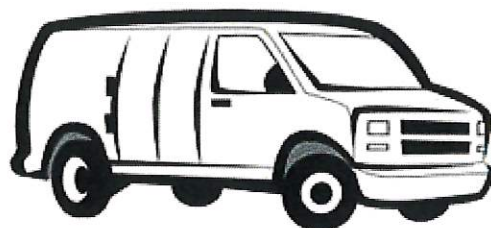
Arrive Hilltop at **8.35**, boarding for 10 minutes

Depart Hilltop at **8.45**

Arrive Good Shepherd Village at **8.56**, boarding for 10 minutes

Depart GSV at **9.06**

Arrive at Central prior to 9.30 service





Mission News

Don't forget...the Donation Station (located in the Nanticoke entrance) has a shelf unit for any donations you may have. These may include personal hygiene products for the UE schools and our community, used batteries (that go to Wegmans for recycling), old prescription containers (that go to CVS for recycling), cans/bottles (that are redeemed and used for outreach and other ministries), old eyeglasses (that go to the Lions Club) and our monthly mini-mission projects.

We are looking for your ideas for mini-mission projects. During worship, we ask the question, "Where have you seen God?" or "Where would you like to see God?" So, I am asking, "Where do you see a need in the community and how can we help?" What are some areas that need our help, what are some mini-mission projects you would like Central to get involved in? Where can we be active that we are not already? Let Pastor Paul know your thoughts.

July's mini-mission project: "Heel and Soul"

"Heel and Soul" is a community project organized by the United Way of Broome County in union with Butcher Boys, Excellus Blue Cross and FOX 40 with a goal of providing new sneakers/shoes for children in our community. Heel and Soul was born from the belief that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, deserves a pick-me-up. For children, who often lack control over their surroundings, this is especially important. The look on a child's face when they receive something they both want and need is priceless, and it's these simple gestures that can make a lasting impact. Every child wants, and frequently needs, new shoes to start the school year. This is an opportunity for us to fulfill a basic need and create a positive impression on the youth in our community.

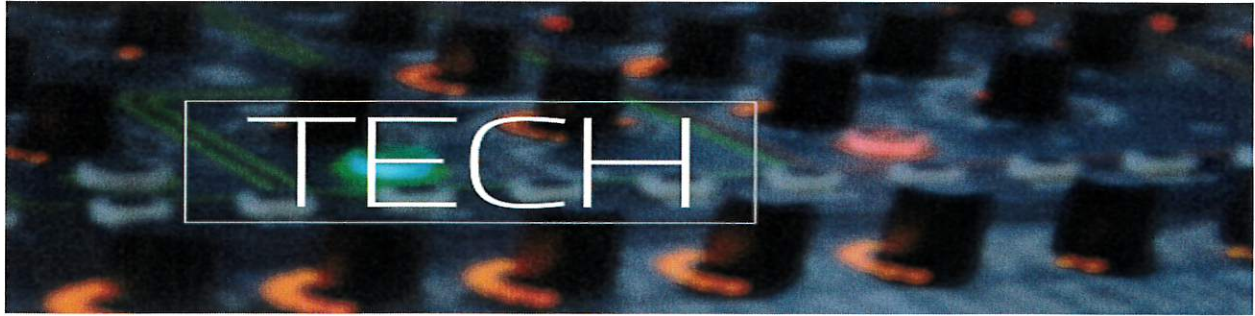
If you would like to participate and donate a new pair of sneakers/ shoes, you can drop them off in the Donation Station in the Nanticoke entrance of the church or deliver them to Butcher Boys (on Taft Avenue in Endicott). Deadline on donations is August 16.

See Pastor Paul or go to the following website for more information www.wicz.com/story/50812210/heel-and-soul-community-project

VAN UPDATE

The red van continues to be utilized on the 1st Sunday of the month for a morning pick up. Other groups also utilize the van for various service projects.

-Gregg Wood



TV MINISTRY

Replacement of the rear projector with an energy-efficient and an easier-to-maintain TV screen is another step closer. The TV is now in the hands of our installer. He is waiting for receipt of the smaller TV which will be used for scrolling announcements at the "T" outside the restrooms and library in the office wing. He anticipates it will be in and he will have completed his current project by the end of June. Our installs will be next.

The Tech Team Youth/Young Adult Intern Program continues to go well. We are grateful for worshipers' patience and forbearance as new Interns are brought onto the team and continuing Interns learn new responsibilities. Three of the more experienced Interns have become coordinators, taking responsibility for overseeing specific areas of the booth and mentoring new Interns. It is working well.

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

FINANCE UPDATE

In the June Newsletter we said that we were in decent shape financially, having a positive balance. We also mentioned that giving is typically down in the summer months. We have just experienced that the last few months with much lower than average in May.

While we are still in a positive balance position, the balance has dropped significantly these last few months. During the summer months it's crucial that we all stay current with our financial commitment. Wishing our Central family a safe and happy summer,

Finance Committee

CENTRAL'S SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Central returned to one worship service at 9:30am for the summer and will continue doing so through Sunday, September 1st.

VINES FARM SHARE

Pick-up fresh vegetables from a local organic farm every Thursday at Central from 4-6pm by signing up for a farm share through VINES. The cost of the fresh vegetables varies depending on the size of the share and the farm. You can sign-up online or call the Vines office at 607-205-8108. If you have any questions, please call me. - Pat Breneman



BLOOD DRIVE: Saturday, July 13 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed to help with sign in from 8:30 - 10:30 and 10:15 - 1:00. Please let Knud know if you can help - khansen3@yahoo.com, 607-759-3378.

Blood donors are needed to offset the emergency need for blood.

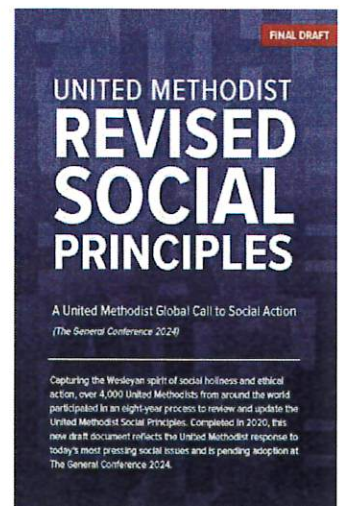
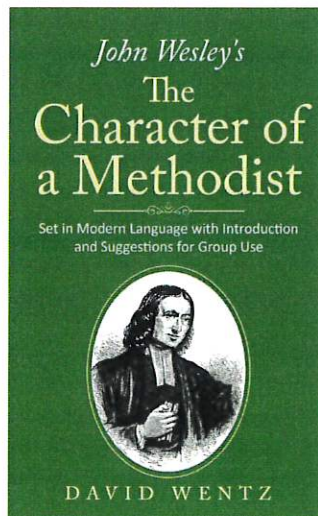
Why is there an emergency need for blood? The American Red Cross is experiencing a national blood shortage. Fewer donors than needed gave in 2023 and donations are typically low in the winter months. You can give by signing up at the Red Cross website and searching for the drive at Central on July 13- www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive

Book Discussion Mondays 7:30 pm ZOOM ID: 88466303555 Passcode: 051760

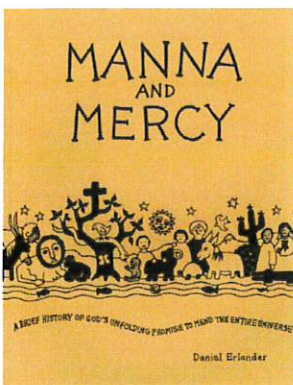
July 15-August 4: The Character of a Methodist & the New Social Principles

As Pastor Michelle shared with you post General Conference 2024, much in our Book of Discipline has changed, including New Social Principles. These guidelines to living our faith were completely rewritten to reflect the global nature of our denomination.

At the Upper New York Annual Conference, we had a phenomenal presentation from Dr. Ashly Boggan about our roots as United Methodists, noting how much our new Book of Discipline reflects Wesley's hope for the Methodists. You can watch Dr. Boggan's amazing presentation here: [VimeoDr.Boggan](https://vimeo.com/Dr.Boggan).



The Revised Social Principles can be found here: <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>



After we explore our Methodist past, present and future, we will spend time with a beautiful book entitled "Manna & Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe" by Rev. Daniel Erlander. Erlander hand wrote and illustrated the entire book. It is wonderful to explore the book with colored pencils.

Welcome Reception for Pastor Teresa

Join us for a reception following the 9:30 worship service on Sunday, July 14 to welcome Pastor Teresa to Central Church. We'll gather in the Welcome Center after the service for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome!



Mini-Golf: Tuesday, July 23 6:30 pm

Enjoy a fun evening with friends at Chuckster's-1915 Vestal Parkway on Tuesday, July 23. We will play a round of miniature golf followed by ice cream at the Inside Scoop. We will meet at Chuckster's at 6:30pm. If you need a ride, call the church office. A round of golf is \$13/person. The rain date will be the following week. Come join the fun with your church family!

United Women In Faith circles will not meet in July and August. They will resume in September.

Save the Date: United Women in Faith picnic

All women are invited to an end of summer picnic on Wednesday, August 28 at LOWER Highland Park in one of the two pavilions at 12:00. Please bring your lunch and drink.



United
Women
in Faith

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Fall Take-Out Luncheon hosted by Central UWF

Saturday, October 12th, 2024 from 11:00am – 1:00pm

"Pre-Order, Park and Pick Up"

Menu and Pre-Order form will be in the September and October newsletters.

Featuring all the wonderful foods that will be made for just for you.

Come support our community through the church missions.



July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30p Worship cable 1301 7:30p Book Discussion	2 noon Clothing Center 7p Van Meeting (ZOOM)	3 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	4 OFFICE CLOSED 12 noon Shepherd's Supper	5 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30p AA	6
7 SUMMER SCHEDULE FIRST SUNDAY VAN 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship	8 5:30p Worship cable 1301 7:30p Book Discussion	9 noon Clothing Center 5:30p Ministry Night 5:45p Girl Scouts	10 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	11 4:30p Shepherd's Supper	12 7:30p AA	13 8a Blood Drive
14 SUMMER SCHEDULE 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship 10:30a Welcome Reception for Pastor Teresa	15 8a WIC Clinic 5:30p Worship cable 1301 7:30p Book Discussion	16 noon Clothing Center 12	17 10a ZOOM Soul Care noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	18 4:30p Shepherd's Supper	19 7:30p AA	20
21 SUMMER SCHEDULE 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship	22 5:30p Worship cable 1301 7:30p Book Discussion	23 noon Clothing Center 6:30p Mini golf (CK'Sters)	24 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 6 pm Lions Club – Library 7:30p AA	25 4:30p Shepherd's Supper	26 7:30p AA	27
28 SUMMER SCHEDULE 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship	29 5:30p Worship cable 1301 7:30p Book Discussion	30 noon Clothing Center	31 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA			

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4:30p Shepherd's Supper	2 7:30p AA	3
4 SUMMER SCHEDULE FIRST SUNDAY VAN 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship	5 5:30p Worship cable1301 7:30p Book Discussion	6 noon Clothing Center	7 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) noon Clothing Center 7:30p AA	8 4:30p Shepherd's Supper	9 7:30p AA	10
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Central

☪ United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Teresa M. Sivers
Associate Pastor: Paul Reed
Web & Media: Martina DiRose
Chancel Choir: Carolyn Stanford
Bell Choir Director: Denise Johnson
Living Water Director: Jeff Heald
Organist: Sean Stafford
Treasurer: Teri Mahonski, CPA
Parish Visitors: Nancy Jones,
Carole James, Ron & Elaine Platt



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 Howard, Admin Secretary

office@centralumcendicott.org

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Central

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Endicott, NY 13760

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