

THE **Central** SENTRY

United Methodist Church

REV. DR. MICHELLE BOGUE-TROST

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PASTOR MICHELLE'S NOTES

Pastor's Notes (*for the last time*)



I am filled with a bittersweet mixture of emotions as I write this last note to you. Ten years. A decade of shared joys, sorrows, triumphs, and growth. It is with a heart both heavy with farewell and light with gratitude that I write. These years have been a profound blessing to me and to my family—we've had a journey marked by the warmth of fellowship and the strength of our shared convictions. Together, we've weathered storms and celebrated victories, all in love and faith. We have touched lives, healed wounds, and spread hope far beyond these walls, and it has been a deeply meaningful experience.

Yet, even as I say goodbye to my role as your pastor, I want to remind you that your journey does not end here. For as much as I have been privileged to serve and lead, it is ultimately your dedication, your compassion, and your unwavering commitment to each other and your neighbors in the world that makes Central unique; these are what will carry you forward. I have said it often: This congregation is the joy of my heart and the envy of my colleagues!

Change can be daunting, and goodbyes can be difficult. But every ending is also a new beginning—a chance to embrace the unknown with courage and optimism, knowing that the same Spirit that has guided us these last ten years will continue to light your way and mine. You will make new memories and conquer new challenges and I look forward to seeing the incredible ways in which Central will continue to thrive and flourish as you make your way into the future with Pastor Teresa. Though I may no longer serve in the role of your pastor (and must ask that you do not ask me to do so), I will always cherish the time we've spent together, as I cherish the friendships made here.

I want to offer my deepest thanks to each and every one of you—for your kindness, your support, and your unwavering dedication to this beloved community. I go knowing that we are bound together by something far greater than any one of us alone, and that gives me strength for the journey ahead.

With heartfelt gratitude and enduring affection, I am

Still in One Peace,

Michelle

PASTOR PAUL'S NOTES

Jesus is talking with some people gathered around him and says, "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. I'm putting you on a light stand—shine!" (Matthew 15:14-16, The Message)

Bring out God-colors in the world! What a great comment from Jesus! God created a beautiful and wonderful place for us to take care of. Full of brightness and sunshine; colors of fun, joy, peace, and love.

Those colors have been washed out and have faded lately into a dull gray with all the hate and war and mistrust that has seemed to permeate our world. The world looks like a yucky muck at times. Where are those God-colors?

We are called to shine God's light, to bring those God-colors to the forefront of life. We are called to splash bright colors into this colorless gray world. Splash those colors. Treat others with respect, focus on doing right, seek justice, stand up to oppression, love all. Show compassion, as Jesus did, to all people. Practice humility and humbleness as we offer generosity and forgiveness. Get involved in the community and shine God's light there; volunteer at a local agency or help with our garden project or Shepherd's Supper or the Clothing Center! Ask God for guidance to help you shine God's light and reflect it into the world. We are not in it to shine light onto ourselves, but to lift up others and honor God in the work that we do.

As we shine the light of Christ into the world, we become authentic people with purpose. Shining God's light helps change our mood and helps to make us happy and find joy. We can share our gifts with the community, and make an impact on the lives of others.

This summer- shine that Light!

Pastor Paul



You may have been following my Dispatches from General Conference, and information is still developing concerning the breadth and implementation of decisions made there. I am happy to host a Q&A session following the worship on Sunday, June 2, if you wish to remain after the 9.30am service to find out more.

—*Pastor Michelle*

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

We are kicking off our summer outreach with a **Welcome Summer Ice Cream Social** on June 26th from 6 to 7:30pm. There will be ice cream, music, games, and other activities. The event will be outside, weather permitting. We are excited to invite our neighbors and the local community to join in for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Last year's Block Party ran very smoothly. We're hoping this year's **Welcome Back to School** event will be even bigger and better. The event is tentatively scheduled for September 7th. We will have bounce houses, cotton candy, popcorn, games, tables staffed by local community organizations, and much more.

Sunday School will remain open in the back of the sanctuary this summer. The Faith Formation Team is always looking for people to join us as we seek to raise up the young minds in our community to grow in Christ. Please sign up to volunteer if you would like to help with Sunday School or our outreach events. Your help is greatly appreciated.

I am so grateful for each of you. You make a difference not only in the church but in the community. May God Bless you all.

Faith Formation Coordinator,
Donna Miller-Kross



Adult Sunday School

What a great year we have had!! Thank you for all the support and effort you have all put into learning more and growing deeper in faith. Also, thanks for the challenges! I will be planning next year's schedule during the summer. If there is something you'd like to study and discuss, please let me know. Topics, particular books of the Bible, etc... -Pastor Paul

CENTRAL'S SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Central returns to one worship service at 9:30am beginning Sunday, May 26th and continuing through Sunday, September 1st.

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



June's mini-mission project: "Bee the Change"



Our June mini-mission project will be to support Church World Service's "Bee the Change" program. Through this program you can purchase bee-keeping tools or even a hive of bees!! These will be given to families to help provide an income source and bees pollinate fruit crops that are incredibly valuable to all of us! See the following website for more information: cwstools.org

Order forms and information will be in the Welcome Center. Talk with Pastor Paul if you'd like more information.

Thank you to Grace Circle for your donation to support
the personal hygiene mission project in April.
- Pastor Paul

MISSION HUB NEWS

The Ogden- Hillcrest UMC donated close to 50 health kits to our Neighborhood Mission Hub in mid-May. Also in May, the Park Terrace Community UMC donated several tents. Thank you!!

These health kits, along with menstrual kits, cleaning buckets, sleeping bags, tents, and a few other items are stored down in the Mission Room and are given out to our community and neighboring communities when the need arises. We have recently given cleaning supplies and health kits to the UE schools for some of their unhoused families and the Addiction Center of Broome County received both menstrual and health kits.

CENTRAL HISTORY NOTE

As we celebrate the removal of discriminatory language from the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline, we also celebrate our own congregation's decision on May 1, 2016, to become a Reconciling Congregation. The hard work of Central's Reconciling Task Force resulted in the more deliberately inclusive approach with which we reach out into our local community and beyond. Thank you to those who served on the Task Force for moving us to a place where we say loudly that every single person is a beloved child of God, welcome to join in our worship and fellowship.



Photo taken in October 2016

SHEPHERD'S SUPPER UPDATE

We continue to set records for the number of meals served each week. Last year through April we averaged 169 meals a week, with the three weeks having more than 200 meals. This year we have averaged 204 meals a week, with 7 weeks over 200, three weeks over 250 and one week with 290 meals served! It's wonderful that we are able to do this each week. We have faithful teams of volunteers to prepare and serve the meals. We also have access to food from Broome Bounty which is sponsored by the Broome County Council of Churches and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. While Shepherd's Supper is included in the Central budget it is not nearly enough to cover the increase of food needed to prepare these number of meals, so we rely upon other donations. We are grateful for the numerous donations we receive each month from the generous Central family. We also rely upon our friends from Our Lady of Good Counsel who provide one of our cooks and many faithful volunteers to serve, including their youth. With summer coming we don't get the youth volunteers from OLGC so we need help on some weeks, especially the 3rd and 4th weeks of each month. If you'd be willing to help, please contact the Church Office. It only takes a few hours, basically from 3:45 - 6:00 PM. Please consider giving up a few hours to help this important mission of Central

-Knud Hansen



Central is one-third of the way through 2024 and so far, we are in good shape financially thanks to the generous support of all of us. As we enter the summer month, some of us travel and may be away, and we usually see the giving drop off, but the expenses don't. Please keep up with your financial commitments through the summer months. We are thankful for the strong financial stewardship of the Central congregation which enables the programs, ministries and missions to continue with such a strong Christian spirit.

One way to ensure continuation of your gifts to Central is through direct deposit from your financial institution. If you would like to know more about this, please contact the church office.

Wishing you all a safe summer, however you will be spending it.

-The Finance Committee



United
Women
in Faith

Circle

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

Meetings

Deborah Circle will meet Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm at the Olive Garden for dinner. Contact: Pat Breneman, 748-3430

Grace Circle Wednesday, June 19 at noon in the community room at church. Please bring your lunch with you. Contact: Pauline Witt, 748-4142

Sarah Circle Tuesday, June 18 at 12:30 at Good Shepherd Village for dessert. The meeting will follow. Contact: Carole James, 757-2629



There will be no men's group meeting in June. We are hoping all the men will join in attending the Rumble Ponies game on June 27.

TAILGATE AND METHODIST NIGHT AT RUMBLE PONIES. JOIN IN THE FUN!

Thursday June 27

Prior to the game we will tailgate in the Central Parking lot. We will meet at 5:00 PM and leave for the game at 6:00 PM. We will have hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks for \$5.00.

Game time is 6:35 PM. Tickets are \$11.00 (grandstand seats)

Please contact the church office for tickets and advise it you'll be attending the tailgate as well.

BTW - the Rumble Ponies are in first place (as of this writing).



PRIDE PALOOZA

June 8 from noon until 6PM at Otsiningo Park. This is a great opportunity to show our unconditional love and support for our LGBTQ+ siblings! Please sign up in the Welcome Center if you are able to help out. See Pastor Paul for more information.



GARDEN TOUR 2024

Saturday, June 22 from 10-3



What could be better than being surrounded by a garden filled with gorgeous plants and flowers?

Four more gardens in the Endicott/Endwell area! Come, indulge your passion for seeing lovely gardens, with singing birds and fluttering butterflies. Tickets for the tour are \$20 and will be available at the church office starting in June. The money raised will go to missions for women and children.



TV MINISTRY

The two new choir microphones hanging above the Lectern-side bell tables continue to perform well. Reports from choir members and both in-sanctuary and on-line worshipers are that the sound is much-improved. Installation help from the Trustees and volunteers greatly reduced the overall cost.

Plans are moving ahead to replace the rear projector with an energy-efficient and an easier-to-maintain TV screen. Near-daily price fluctuations are frustrating the installer's efforts to secure a reliable unit at a good price. Fortunately, we have the luxury of time at this point.

Conversations have begun about permanently relocating some microphone cords in the front of the sanctuary so that fewer of them will run under mats where worship leaders and participants walk. This will likely be a summer project.

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. We have begun to look at recruiting additional young people so that we can have smooth transitions should high school graduates leave the program.

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

CELEBRATING OUR 2024 GRADUATES



We wish our graduating seniors all the best for the next chapter in their lives!

Sydney "Kai" Glydon
Autumn "AJ" Dugue
Gabby Solyian
Lauren Aiken

CENTRAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

CUMC is again awarding the Doreen Youngs/Myra Carman/Lolita Waterman Scholarships to any CUMC member or friend who will be graduating from high school in 2024 or earlier. Scholarships are awarded annually with a lifetime limit of \$2,000 per student. This is not a need-based scholarship. Applicants are considered for the award based on their engagement with CUMC.

Applications are available in the church office and on the CUMC website. Completed applications can be brought to the church office or mailed to the church, c/o CUMC Scholarship Committee. Applicants must be accepted by, or currently attending, an institution of higher learning (e.g. trade school, community college, or four-year college). The scholarship deadline is June 8th. Scholarship recipients will be notified by June 14th.



VINES FARM SHARE

Looking forward to fresh vegetables this summer but don't have your own garden? Sign-up for a Farm Share from a local organic farm. You will be able to pick-up your fresh vegetables every week at Central on Thursdays from 4-6pm. The cost of the fresh vegetables varies from \$13 to \$35 per week depending on the size share and the farm. Details about the farms and sizes available can be found at <https://vinesgardens.org/programs/farmshare/>. You can sign-up either online at the VINES website or call the Vines office at 607-205-8108. Are there some veggies you don't like? No problem: they have a swap box where you can swap the items you don't like for ones that you do like. And you can cancel weeks when you are away. This program benefits the local farmers and YOU! I enjoyed a farm share from North Windsor Berries Farm last summer. If you have any questions, please call me. - Pat Breneman



CENTRAL IS GROWING A GARDEN!

Calling All Gardeners! Central has rented two 4 ft. x 10 ft. raised garden beds at the VINES Urban Garden located in Mersereau Park. The plan is to grow fresh vegetables to be used at Shepherd's Supper and also given away to those who do not have access to fresh, healthy produce. We are looking for a few people to be part of our garden team, to help plant and maintain the beds. We are also looking for donations of seeds (bush beans, lettuce, chard, spinach, and other fast growing, short generation plants), plants (especially cherry tomatoes), and garden tools to get us started. If you are interested in joining our gardening team, please contact Pastor Paul or Barb Parcels for details.

PASTOR MICHELLE'S FINAL SUNDAY AT CENTRAL is June 16

We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for a brunch style reception following the 9:30 service on Sunday, 6/16. Join us as we celebrate all that Michelle, Nate and Alice have meant to Central. We say "Godspeed" and we wish them well on their new adventure.

We will be collecting contributions towards a "love gift" for Pastor Michelle through June 9th. Call the office for details.

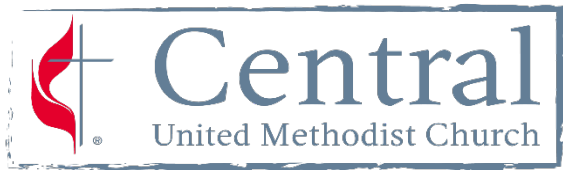
SAVE THESE JULY DATES:

American Red Cross Blood Drive – July 13th beginning at 8am

Important Note: June 15th is the deadline for the *July/August* Newsletter

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!



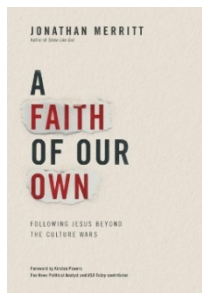
JUNE EVENTS

(Every) MONDAY NIGHT

BOOK DISCUSSION 7:30pm

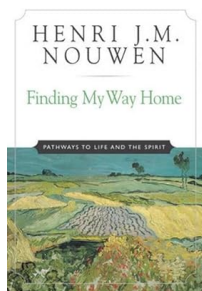
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A Faith of Our Own: Jonathan Merritt



May 13	Foreword-Ch 2	(-45)
May 20	Chap 3-4	(pp 46- 86)
May 27	Chap 5-6	(pp 87-119)
June 3	Chap 7-8	(pp 120-154)
June 10	Chap 9-end	(pp 155-)

Finding My Way Home: Henri Nouwen



June 17	Foreword-The Path of Power
June 24	The Path of Peace
July 1	The Path of Waiting
July 8	The Path of Living and Dying

FIRST-SUNDAY VAN RIDE

Sunday, June 2

See newsletter article for details

PRIDE PALOOZA

Saturday, June 8 Otsiningo Park

PARISH VISITORS

Tuesday, June 11 10:00am

MINISTRY NIGHT

Tuesday, June 11

5:30 Administrative teams

6:30 Dinner & Fellowship

7:00 Church Council

WESLEY CLASS

Thursday, June 13

7:00 pm ZOOM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Saturday, June 15 for July/August Newsletter

Farewell Brunch for Pastor Michelle and family

Sunday, June 16 Fellowship Hall

Following 9:30am service

UWF CIRCLE MEETINGS

Sarah Circle

Tuesday, June 18

12:30pm Good Shepherd Village for Dessert followed by meeting

Deborah Circle

Tuesday, June 18

6:00pm Olive Garden for Dinner

Grace Circle

Wednesday, June 19 - Juneteenth

12 noon church library

WELCOME SUMMER EVENT

Wednesday, June 26 6pm outside

UMM Night at the Rumble Ponies

Thursday, June 27

5pm Tailgate (Central's Parking Lot)

6pm Leave for game (starts at 6:35)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 26-September 1
One service at 9:30