

THE Central SENTRY

United Methodist Church

REV. TERESSA M. SIVERS

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Pastor Teresa's Note:

I have been listening to a podcast from the Center for Action and Contemplation entitled "Learning How to See." The podcast was recorded in 2020 but is extremely relevant to our world today as the first season focuses on all the things that skew our perception. In episode five of season one, host Brian McLaren leads a conversation on the power of money to cloud our ability to perceive the truth. How do we challenge money's hold on us. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, gave a powerful and challenging sermon on "The Use of Money." Below is a summary of his words.



(Abridged and put into modern English by Richard Hall. <https://www.eaforchristians.org/blog/john-wesley-the-use-of-money-12>)

"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourself, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." (Luke 16:9)

The right use of money is of the utmost importance to the Christian, yet it is a subject given too little attention. Wealth has often been regarded by poets and philosophers as a source of evil and yet the fault lies, not with money, but with those who use it. Indeed, money should be regarded as a gift of God for the benefits that it brings in ordering the affairs of civilization and the opportunities it offers for doing good. In the hands of God's children, money is food for the hungry, clothing for the naked and shelter for the stranger. With money we can care for the widow and the fatherless, defend the oppressed, meet the need of those who are sick or in pain.

It is therefore most urgent that God's people know how to make use of their money for his glory. All the necessary instructions can be condensed into 3 simple rules:

- Gain all you can
- Save all you can
- Give all you can

Gain all you can

With this first rule, we sound like children of the world, and it is our bounden duty to do this. There are, however, limits to this rule. We should not gain money at the expense of life or health. No sum of money, however large, should induce us to accept employment which would injure our bodies...

Save all you can

This is the second rule. Money is a precious gift. It should not be wasted on trivialities. Do not spend money on luxury foods, but be content with simple things that your body needs. Ornaments too, whether of the body, house or garden are a waste and should be avoided. Do not spend in order to gratify your vanity or to gain the admiration of others. The more you feed your pride in this way, the more it will grow within you.

Give all you can

Why is this? You do not own the wealth that you have. It has been entrusted to you for a short while by the God who brought you into being. All belongs to God. Your wealth is to be used for God as a holy sacrifice, made acceptable through Jesus Christ.

If you wish to be a good steward of that which God has given to you on loan the rules are simple enough. First provide sufficient food and clothing for yourself and your household. If there is a surplus after this is done, then use what remains for the good of your Christian family. If there is still a surplus, then do good to all people, as you have the opportunity.

These, then, are the simple rules for the Christian use of money. Gain all you can, without bringing harm to yourself or neighbor. Save all you can by avoiding waste and unnecessary luxuries. Finally, give all you can. Do not limit yourself to a proportion. Do not give God a tenth or even half what God already owns, but give all that is God's by using your wealth to preserve yourself and family, the Church of God and the rest of humanity. In this way you will be able to give a good account of your stewardship when the Lord comes with all the saints.

I read this sermon at least once per year to remind myself of the wisdom of John Wesley in speaking truth to money and its power over us. It is a challenging word, but helps me to think deeply about working, spending and giving. As we move into these beautiful summer months, let us remember to give to our church home so we may continue to care for one another and the world around us. Thank you for your generosity and love for your church home!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Teresa

Pastor Paul's Note

"God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20, The Message)

Jesus said these words to the disciples when they went to meet with him in Galilee after the resurrection. The Great Commission.

This paraphrase sounds slightly different from what we usually read. Many translations say, "Go and make disciples of all nations..." The mission statement of the United Methodist Church is "Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

I'm going to be completely honest— I'm not sure I know how to "go and make disciples"! How does one "make" a disciple? Is it like making a cake? Is there a recipe to follow? I am really unsure of this. But, I can "go out and train people in this way of life." I can "instruct them in that practice of all that we are commanded to do."

We should live our life such that people ask us why we do what we do! Our life should so closely mimic the life of Christ that people can begin to get an understanding of Jesus and what Jesus stands for. We can share the message of God through our actions and our words. I know there are times in my life when I don't do that effectively (or maybe at all), but I try to live and act so that people know goodness and grace and compassion.

As we walk along with others, assist them in their journey with Christ. When I first began hiking, I really didn't know anything about the trails, how to read the maps, read a compass, what shoes to wear, how to find the trailheads...all the essentials. I learned through the expertise of a few good friends. Training others in "this way of life" is like that. We go alongside others and are their companions, instructing, guiding, nurturing their growth in faith.

I have developed two really close hiking buddies over the last few years. I usually hike alone for solitude and freedom from people, but I know they are there when I need them. A simple call or text or visit and they can help clarify any confusion. Jesus is there when we need him, too. A simple prayer or conversation or even

some quiet time can help Jesus help us clarify the confusion. Jesus promises to be with us right up until the end.

Keep that promise alive and don't ever forget it!

My challenge for you this summer— how can you disciple others? How can you “go and train people in this way of life”? May you continue to experience the love and peace of Christ.

-Pastor Paul

Summer Worship and Beyond!

Pastors Teresa and Paul asked for your input in selecting worship/sermon topics for the summer month and you responded! Thank you! Here is not only the worship schedule for these summer months, but also an overview of our worship schedule into the fall. Remember that we will have a time of conversation after worship each Sunday this summer in the Lounge! Thank you for your input!

June

- 1—Seventh Sunday of Easter: Philippians 4:4-8 & Matthew 28:16-20
- 8—Pentecost Sunday: Acts 2:1-21
- 15—Fathering Sunday —Why we give to the church
- 22—Grief
- 29—Listening for and hearing God's voice

July

- 6—Discernment
- 13—Biblical Resistance: Moses and Pharaoh
- 20—Biblical Resistance: The Apostle Paul
- 27—Disagreement with others

August

- 3—Resurrection of the Body
- 10—Sin
- 17—Judgment
- 24—Hell
- 31—Spiritual warfare

September 7 through October 5: A five week series on Women of the Bible

October 12 through November 16: A six week series on the Parables of Jesus

We will handle all these topics with love and grace, noting that in many instances, the universal Church has been wrestling with and discussing these topics for 2000 years. Our conversation afterward will center on the guidelines from fruitful conversations. These are shared in this newsletter.

A Summer Bulletin Experiment—A Practice in Good Stewardship

In keeping with the challenge from John Wesley about our stewardship and use of money, we will try an experiment with our bulletin starting June 15th. For our summer series, we will use the same order of worship each week, simply changing the hymns and scripture readings. We will post a reminder of the order on the screen during announcements, but will not have a printed order of worship. We will be handing out one small sheet of paper with all the announcements and the prayer list, and we will begin the announcements with a list of the hymns, the scripture reading, and the special music offering for that Sunday. Please share your feedback with us, but do give it a few weeks to see how it 'feels.' This will conserve paper, copier ink (especially the colored ink), and the cost of the paper and copier use. Thank you for participating in our experiment!

Guidelines for Fruitful Conversations

- **Use “I” Statements:** Starting with “I” is a good technique to help you take responsibility for your opinions and feelings. “You” statements often provoke defensive feelings. Start with “I believe _____ because...” “I feel _____ about”
- **Listen to understand, not to respond:** Many times when others are speaking, we are planning how we will respond. Instead, listen carefully and be prepared to summarize what you hear. Respond first by

sharing your summary and allowing the other to confirm or clarify. This helps you make sure you understand and helps the other person feel heard.

- **If you are upset, ask yourself first why that is:** Take time to think about your feelings before responding in anger. Are you angry at the person speaking or are you angry about the topic? Respond with respect and be clear about your feelings.
- **Discuss one issue at a time:** Many topics are associated with other issues. It is easy to pivot to a related topic in the midst of a conversation. Stay on topic, and if you stray down another path, return to the topic of discussion as soon as you realize the error.
- **Give others their turn to talk:** When discussing topics we feel passionate about, we often realize we have another point to make while someone else is speaking. Hold that thought. Allow the speaker to finish their thought. Remember to listen to understand.
- **No yelling or using degrading language:** Discuss the issue, not the person. No put-downs, no swearing, no name-calling. And yelling moves a conversation into a confrontation.

Remind yourself throughout difficult conversations that all participants in the discussion are beloved children of God, precious and cherished. We are all family in Christ Jesus. Let all we do be done in love.



Hello Faith Formation Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed the month of May. We are sliding right into June which brings us warmer weather, baseball games, picnics, bbq, and fun summer activities.

The Faith Formation Group is kicking off our summer outreach program and would like to invite you to **SCOOP** into summer with us. Come to our **Welcome Summer Ice Cream Social and Juneteenth Celebration** on Wednesday, June 18th from 6:00PM – 7:00PM at Central. We'll have crafts as well as ice cream. Please invite your neighbors, friends and family. Let's celebrate the joy of being able to gather together with the community. This event is a perfect opportunity to enjoy fellowship, laughter and ICE CREAM. We think it will be a deliciously fun time. We can't wait to see you there.

Faith Formation is working to organize a summer fun week for the kids in the community in August. This will be a Monday - Thursday program and it's another great opportunity to invite more families to Central. We will need many volunteers to prepare for and lead this event. There are a variety of ways to help out. Please reach out if you are interested in helping with these events. See the "upcoming events" section of this newsletter for more details.

God Bless,
Donna Miller-Kross, Faith Formation Coordinator

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

Central offers a monthly First-Sunday van route to Hilltop 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). Riders will need to be present at the main building and ready to board at the time listed below.

Hilltop residents should contact the church office (607) 754-6060 or office@centralumcendicott.org

Summer Van Schedule: Sunday, June 1st 2025

Arrive Hilltop at **8:30AM** boarding for 10 minutes

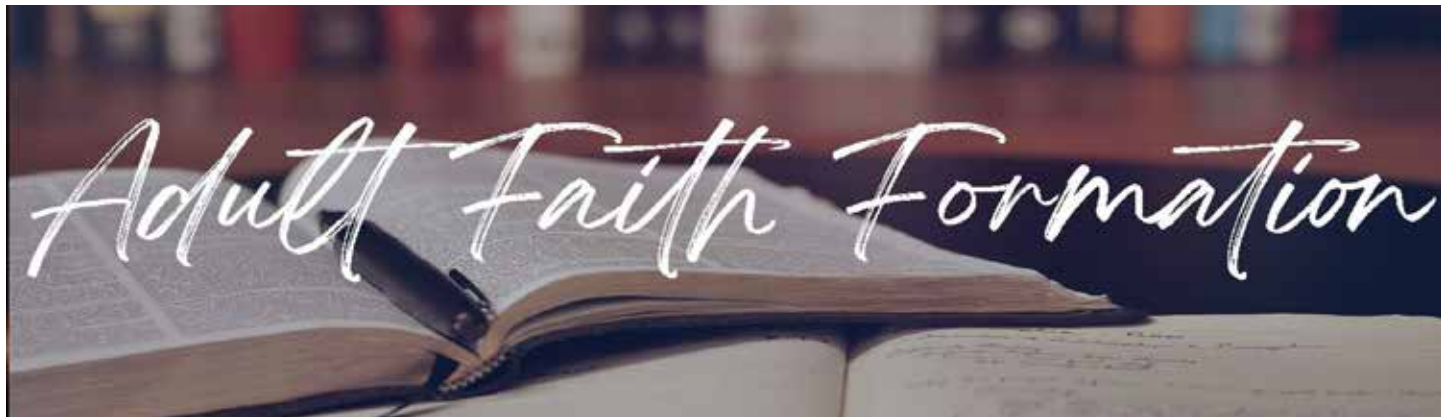
Depart Hilltop for Central at **8:40AM**

Arrive at Central prior to 9.30 service

Return to Hilltop after the service



(We currently do not have riders from Good Shepherd Village. Please contact the office 607-754-6060 office@centralumcendicott.org if you live at GSV and need a ride to Central.)



What a great year we had covering so many topics! The journey was tough at times, but I think we all came closer to God and many of us are really solidifying and defining (or maybe redefining!) our relationship with Christ.

We will take a break from class during the summer months - but don't forget Pastors Teressa and Paul will be holding discussions in the lounge after worship each Sunday for continued exploration of the sermon topic of the day!

I am looking for suggestions for next year's class. Please send me an email or drop a note in the pew pads if you have something you'd like to focus on!

Some of the topics I am currently looking at are: Women in the Bible (September and October). Parable- Part 2 (October and November), the Hebrew Covenants and the New Covenant established by Jesus, and Spiritual Warfare.

Thank you for your support!

Pastor Paul

Central welcomed Linda O'Neill & Dave Cross, Lori Parker and Lynn Coleman to the Central family on Sunday, May 18, 2025. We're so excited to have you with us!



Mission Projects

Thank you all for the support of our mini-mission projects throughout the year! These projects have helped countless numbers of our siblings in Christ! Thanks for being the presence of Jesus in our community. We collected almost 50 can openers in April to be given out at Shepherd's Supper and the Clothing Center. Our May mini-mission project of collecting camp supplies for Sky Lake campers is still going on as of this writing. I will provide an update soon.

Our June and July mini-mission project is to gather new sneakers for children. These will be donated to the "Heel and Soul" project. We did this last year with great success. Sneakers can be brought to the church and either placed in Pastor Paul's space or the basket in our Nanticoke entrance. They will then be donated at Butcher Boys (one of the drop off sites) on July 23.



There haven't been any significant changes or upgrades to TV Ministry over the past month. We have been working to debug one or two technical issues. Fortunately, these issues haven't affected our ability to LiveStream or record services.

TV Ministry Interns' recent secular job responsibilities and illnesses have presented staffing challenges in the booth. Adults have stepped in and provided coverage.

This difficulty has reminded us that we need to actively recruit additional Interns for situations like these and to prepare for those who leave the program for other jobs. Please let me or the church office know of youth or young adults you know who may be interested.

-Mark Marino



Men's Group ZOOM info:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82631320966>

Meeting ID: 826 3132 0966

Passcode: 092623

Men's Fellowship Group – All are Invited

The CUMC men meet on the first Tuesday of each month for a fellowship breakfast at the Broadway Diner at 3140 Watson Blvd Endwell at 8:00 AM. The June breakfast meeting is Tuesday, June 3.

We also have a fun fellowship meeting including food, devotionals and fun on Friday, June 20. This meeting is in person at 6:00 including a meal and dessert, or via zoom or in person at 7:00. Hope to see you at either or both meetings.

Finance Update

Thanks to the faithful spiritual giving of the Central family we have had a financially very strong first quarter of the year. Unfortunately giving in April was significantly down, as such, Central is entering the summer month with a very small balance. Historically we know that giving through the summer months of June, July and August is low, putting a challenge on our ability to meet with our financial obligations. This is a reminder to keep up your commitments to Central so we can meet those obligations and continue to support ministries, programs, and missions.

It's only with the support of all of us that Central can continue to provide the strong ministries and programs doing the work of Christ.

Circle Meetings - June

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

Deborah Circle Tuesday, June 24 (this is the 4th Tuesday) we will meet at 6:00 for dinner at the Olive Garden. Contact: Pat Breneman, 607-748-3430

Grace Circle Wednesday, June 18 we will meet at Noon at the home of Suzette Marino. Contact: Pauline Witt, 607-748-4142

Sarah Circle Tuesday, June 10 we will meet at the Olive Garden for lunch at 12:15pm. Contact: Carole James, 607-757-2629



United
Women
in Faith

SAVE THE DATE

United Women in Faith will sponsor a trip to Seneca Falls on Tuesday, September 16. We will visit the Suffrage Museum at the Women's Rights National Historical Park.

There is no charge for the museum. The only cost will be for lunch at Wolffy's Grill which overlooks Cayuga Lake. More information will follow.

All women are invited!

Upcoming Events Mark your calendars—

Pride Palooza 2025 will be on June 14 at Otsiningo Park in Binghamton from noon until 6PM. We will have an information table with lots of trinkets and baubles to give away. We will be doing some crafts and games. I will need help that day. Let me know if you'd like to help table for a while. There is also a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center. Thanks for your support!

June 18 is our Ice Cream Social and Juneteenth Celebration! Join us for great ice cream and crafts celebrating Juneteenth. We are working on having some guests visit- updates will happen as soon as possible. The event will run from 6 until 7PM and is open to the community!

Christmas in July will be July 15 from 5PM until 7PM. After a potluck picnic dinner, we will rebuild and create some new Chrismons for our tree. Many of the ones we have are in bad shape and need lots of TLC. This will be a great event to gather and eat and have some Christmas fun!!

Summer Fun Week (late August) is coming and we need volunteers! The event will be Monday through Thursday (Aug 18 to 21 or Aug 25 to 28, no decision yet) from 3 until 5:30PM. There will be crafts, music, drama, talk-time, and we will end with a quick dinner. We are focusing on some of the fun and interesting Bible stories: Noah, Adam and Eve, Joseph, Jesus and others. More details will be coming out soon.

Scholarships Available

CUMC is again awarding the Doreen Youngs/Myra Carman/Lolita Waterman Scholarships to any CUMC member or friend who will be graduating or has graduated from high school in 2025 or earlier. Scholarships are awarded annually with a lifetime limit of \$2,000 per student. This is not a needs-based scholarship, applicants are accepted for award based on their engagement with CUMC.

Applications are available in the church office and on the church website. Completed applications can be brought to the church office, or mailed to the church, c/o CUMC Scholarship Committee. They may also be sent to: office@centralumcendicott.org Applicants must be accepted by, or currently attending, an institution of higher learning (e.g. trade school, community college, or four-year college).



Wedding Announcement

Jaron and Emma are getting married on June 28th. We will take an offering as a wedding gift. Checks written out to the church with 'wedding' in the memo may be sent to the church office.

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY FIRST SUNDAY VAN SUMMER SCHEDULE 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship 10:45a Discussion	2 STAFF WORK WEEK 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	3 STAFF WORK WEEK 8a Men's Breakfast 12p Clothing Center	4 STAFF WORK WEEK 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 1p UWF Leadership 7p AA	5 STAFF WORK WEEK 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	6 STAFF WORK WEEK 5:30 Girl Scouts 7p AA	7
8 SUMMER SCHEDULE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship 10:45a Discussion	9 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	10 10:00a Parish Visitors 12:15 Sarah Circle - Olive Garden 5:30p Ministry Night	11 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 6p Lions Club (Library) 7p AA	12 1:30p Grief Group 4p VINES Farm Share pick up 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 7p Wesley Class	13 5:30 Girl Scouts 7p AA	14 PRIDE PALOOZA Noon – 6:00p
15 FATHERING SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship 10:45a Discussion	16 8a WIC Clinic 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	17 12p Clothing Center	18 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 12p Grace Circle - Suzette Marino's house 6p Ice Cream Social & Juneteenth Celebration 7p AA	19 JUNETEENTH – OFFICE CLOSED 4p VINES Farm Share pick up 4:30p Shepherd's Supper	20 5:30 Girl Scouts 6p Men's Group Dinner 7p Men's Group 7p AA	21
22 SUMMER SCHEDULE 8a Worship cable 1301 9:30a Worship 10:45a Discussion <hr/> 29 SUMMER SCHEDULE	23 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts 7p Ahwaga Canoe <hr/> 30 5:30p Worship cable 1301 5:45p Girl Scouts	24 12p Clothing Center 6:00p Deborah Circle – Olive Garden	25 10a Soul Care (ZOOM) 12p Clothing Center 6p Lions Club (Library) 7p AA	26 4:30p Shepherd's Supper 4p VINES Farm Share pick up	27 5:30 Girl Scouts 7p AA	28 EMMA & JARON'S WEDDING



Pastor: Rev. Teresa M. Sivers
Associate Pastor: Paul Reed
Web & Media: Martina DiRose
Chancel Choir: Jaron K. Johnson
Bell Choir Director: Denise Johnson
Organist: Sean Stafford
Treasurer: Teri Mahonski, CPA
Parish Visitors: Nancy Jones,
Carole James, Ron & Elaine Platt,
Pauline Witt



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



www.centralumcendicott.org



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