

Calendar Dates

Feb. 16: Valentines' Breakfast @ 9AM
 Feb. 26: Finance & Council meetings
 Feb. 27: Agape lunch @ Trinity
 March 3: Soup & Sup after worship
 March 6: Ash Wednesday service @ noon
 March 13, 20, 27: Lenten luncheon
 March 16: UMM Brunswick Stew sale
 March 26: Finance & Council meetings
 March 27: Agape lunch @ Trinity
 April 3 & 10: Lenten luncheon
 April 7: Soup & Sup after worship
 April 18: Maundy Thursday service @ 7PM
 April 21: Easter sunrise service @ Oaklawn Cemetery
 6:30AM

Cemetery Plot

My mom, Katherine Harmon, was a member of Central for years (as well as all the Jennings family members). I currently have 2 remaining cemetery plots at Oak Lawn that my parents bought back in the 60s. If you are interested in purchasing either of these, please call me at (540) 490-6089.

-Becci Harmon

January

2: Won Un
 3: Arabelle Stumb
 5: Lauren Granfield
 8: Michael Melton
 14: Mary Ann Shoemaker
 16: Sandra Clemmer
 Ron Jones
 18: Millicent Brubeck
 20: Jim Printy
 26: Thelma DePriest

February

2: Eli Artley
 Gus Gutshall
 4: Ed Smith
 6: Carolyn Smith
 Madison Foltz
 9: Millie Brown
 11: Aaron Peters
 17: Caroline Jones
 19: Jack Ambrogi
 25: Benham Black
 27: Doug Noland

March

1: Angela Berry
 Jerry Jones
 9: Tommy Rosen
 10: Andy & Lily Noto
 11: Beth Blackmer
 14: Dan Purdom
 Lili Un
 19: Lesley Artley
 20: Dioni Detablan
 22: Beth Mullenax
 23: Chris Granfield
 25: David Berry

Central Rules

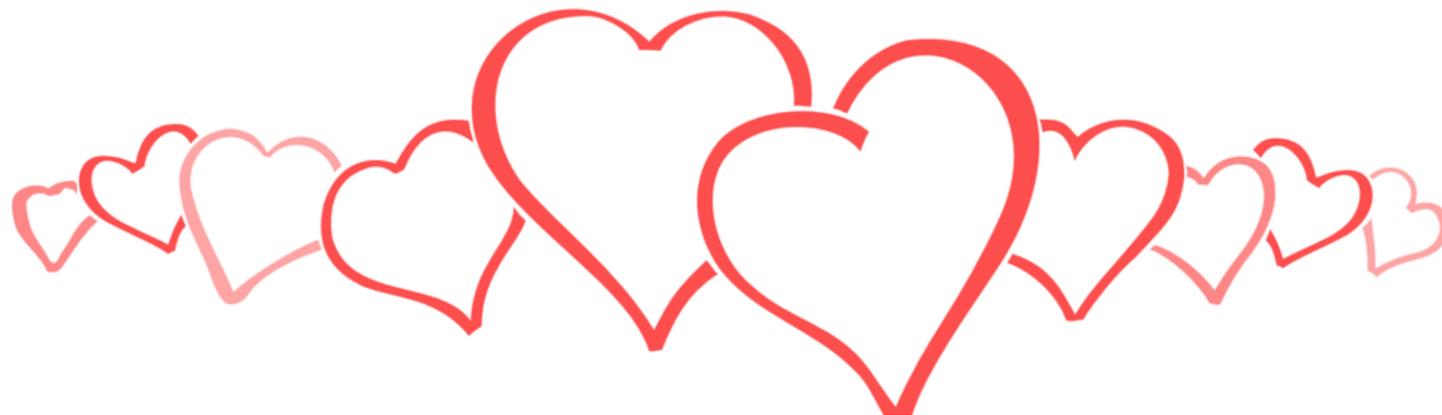
As we live our lives together here at Central and now in Staunton, VA., I would like to propose a guiding principles a.k.a., Central's Rules to guide our conduct and interaction within and without the church. I have presented the Rules to Central Council members and they have unanimously agreed it is something they can live by. Rule #13 was added by Bill Bushman's suggestion.

Here are the 13 rules:

- #1 God is in charge
- #2 Jesus is the head of the church
- #3 We are God's people and He needs us to carry out his will. God needs us to be his hands and feet
- #4 We welcome ALL people
- #5 We never bad mouth our own people and pastor
- #6 We do not judge
- #7 No one sits alone
- #8 No one goes hungry – physically and spiritually
- #9 We forgive 490 times
- #10 Every member participate in the life of mission and ministry
- #11 Never ever gets in the way of God's love
- #12 We are here not to be served but to serve
- #13 When in doubt go back to Rule #1.

The Central Connection

2019 Winter Newsletter



Central UMM Valentines' Breakfast

Saturday, February 16, 2019

Mark your Calendars! Come one, come all!

The Central United Methodist Men are renewing our annual Valentines' Day Breakfast Celebration for 2019--With a twist (or two)!

February 16, 2019, at 9:00 AM, will be the day and time; however, the venue will be the Fellowship Hall at Central. The menu will be pancakes "and all the trimmings." A further 'twist' is the invitation is open to ALL Centralites, and their Valentines.

This is a gift from the Central UM Men. Any proceeds which may arise will be put towards projects around the church and/or mission outreach in our community. As further notices of this breakfast go out, please don't hesitate to let any UM Men know if you are planning to attend.

If there are any questions about this, please let us know so we may clarify any confusion.

I can be reached at:
 Email: whbushman@icloud.com
 Cell: (540) 290-2599 (text or call)

-Bill Bushman, President
 Central United Methodist Men

Children/Youth Ministry

The Children/Youth Ministry at Central is in the process of organizing a "Senior Division" to provide organized fellowship, service and learning experiences for our teen members. The target age range for this group is 12/13 through 17 years. There are currently 6 Central families with youth in this age group, totaling 11 potential participants. Nine youth are presently committed.

A convenient date for our first organizational meeting is being revisited.

Activities for this group will mirror those of the children's group with age adjustments. These may include: regular meetings, 4th Sunday worship participation, SS or bible study, outreach programs, District and Conference events, establishment of a youth room, recreational activities and trips, etc., etc.

Our young people are looking forward to this new opportunity. As usual, we are seeking volunteers to help mentor and train our youth.

-Mary Douglas
deaconmed@aol.com



Agape Snack on Second Sunday of Each Month

Children and adults enjoy fellowship and a snack on Sunday mornings before our worship service. Our Nurture Committee provides a light snack three Sundays a month or four if there are five Sundays.

Beginning February 2019, our Agape Snack provided by an individual or group will be on the second Sunday of each month rather than the first Sunday. At this time the UMW and the UMM each provide one month, and five families have been providing refreshments ten months.

Nurture would like to invite other families or groups to participate in Agape refreshment time in 2019. On January 27, a signup sheet will be posted in the South Narthex near the gathering room for those wishing to participate in our Agape time beginning in March. We have a member who will be providing refreshments in February.

Please call Sandra Clemmer, 885-5453, if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Sandra Clemmer and Cheryl Kent
Co-Chairs Nurture Committee

2019 Lenten luncheon

I am happy to report this year the Lenten season will begin with Ash Wednesday service on March 6th, noon at Central and the next five Wednesdays Lenten Luncheon will be held at one of the Staunton 8 UM churches with different guest speakers. Lenten observation will end on April 21st (Easter Sunday) with SonRise Service at Oaklawn Cemetery at 6:30 am followed by hearty breakfast at St. Paul UMC prepared by Men's group of that church.

As before, we will meet at noon to hear a message delivered by a pastor and share a lunch and fellowship around 12:30 pm. Our theme this year is "Living as the body of Christ". See the complete schedule below:

- March 13 @ Marquis Memorial; guest speaker: Dave Rochford
- March 20 @ Central; guest speaker: Tizzy von Trapp Walker
- March 27 @ Cherryvale; guest speaker: Sarah Locke
- April 3 @ St. John's; guest speaker: Won Un
- April 10 @ Christ; guest speaker: Sarah Payne
- April 21 @ Oak Lawn Cemetery, followed by breakfast @ St. Paul's; guest speaker: Norman Ramsey

SPRC Report

The SPRC is pleased to announce that, at our December 16th meeting, we unanimously voted to request Pastor Un for another year since our efforts as a church are clearly effective. We carefully considered mission goals and plans for 2019 and found that Pastor Won is at the center of all of our ministry community outreach activities. We are happy that Pastor Won has also expressed a calling to stay with us another year. As a result, the DS has appointed Pastor Won to stay at Central for 2019. We look forward to another great year of serving Christ!

We give special thanks to Sandra Clemmer and Susan Obaugh, who are rotating out of the SPRC this year. We also welcome Ken Beals and Lynn Hill, who are joining our committee.

-Sybille Jobin



Soup & Sup Sunday

Millie and I look forward to cooking and sharing Soup and Sup Sunday with you on February 3rd. On the menu for lunch that Sunday will be Millie's chicken corn chowder, Connie's vegetable soup, bread and an assortment of Millie's delicious desserts.

Our last Soup and Sup Sunday will be on March 3rd, however, we are planning a picnic style lunch on April 7th, so please mark your calendars for these lunch dates. We are looking forward to seeing all of you then.

Millie and I extend a very sincere thank you for the generous support all of you have given to the Kitchen Fund over the past few months. We could not do what we do without your support and for that we are eternally grateful.

In Central's kitchen, there is much more that happens than just preparing food and serving a meal. In this fun space, we share our joys, concerns, and love for each other. We, with cheerful hearts, are ready and willing to feed those in need, the poor and hungry. What a joy it is to be a part of this ministry.

With much gratitude for caring,
Connie and Millie

2019 Music Resolution

With such a successful presentation of the Christmas Cantata concert last December, I would love to repeat the Cantata Program this coming December. We will involve all 3 of our choirs (Adult, Handbell, and Children's Choir) with guest instrumentalists. The other upcoming big musical event would be Sunday, April 21, where I would love to have all the choirs perform with guest musicians too. I also enjoyed having the Cold Steel Benders perform and they will make a wonderful addition to the Easter Sunday service.

My biggest resolution for 2019 is to continue building the numbers and abilities of all three choirs. The adult choir is performing regularly every week and I would like them to continue the great growth. I would love to program more challenging pieces that build the adult choir in long term. The children's choir got started and was performing once every month. I would love to continue that with more regular weekly rehearsals on Sundays. The bell choir is planning to perform once a month as well, starting in February. We are working on incorporating extended bell techniques and bringing out the melody.

As for my personal growth as a musician, I am starting to teach myself to play organ. I have also asked a few church musicians in town for organ lessons. I know the church members love hearing the organ and I would love to try to at least play organ for the special Christmas and Easter Services. As I get comfortable with organ playing, I would love to start playing more regularly, perhaps once a month. Thank you for being flexible with me while I continue to learn more about music's important role in worshipping. I would love to see more people involved in all our choirs so we can make more joyful noises together.

-Yi-Ping Chen



Central United Methodist Men

The Central United Methodist Men got off to a great start for 2019. We had our 'traditional' monthly breakfast meeting on the first Saturday of January, the 5th, and enjoyed one of our largest gatherings. 14 men enjoyed a self-prepared breakfast of eggs, bacon, biscuits, and gravy, and great company. Past President Jim Printy showcased the plaque that hangs in the Gathering Room. It commemorates the many United Methodist Men of Central's past who have made significant contributions in service through the organization to Central. It signifies the rich history of service of Central United Methodist Men

In the business meeting that followed, we agreed to donate \$500 to the church, as well as commit to performing several projects needing attention around the church. One of the projects identified was the third floor bathroom, which probably hasn't seen attention in decades. It is undergoing a full refurbishment. The lavatory is being upgraded, walls patched and painted, and a baby changing station is being installed.

Other church projects that are being addressed, or soon will be, include painting the sanctuary ceiling, and moving furniture pieces around for the 'Interior Amenities Focus' group who are making improvements to certain areas of the church to enhance welcoming and fellowship.

Other activities in the not-too-distant-future include:

- The invitation-to-all Valentines' Day Breakfast on February 16 at 9AM, described elsewhere in the newsletter, and
- An End-of-Winter Brunswick Stew fund-raiser will be held March 16.

Yes, our men's group has gotten off to a great start this year. Our invitation to all Central Men is always extended. A gathering of men in Christian fellowship taking on projects large and small in His name and to further His glory is what we are about. As we journey through the coming year, please join us as you are able.

-Bill Bushman, President
Central United Methodist Men

Central Total Bible Curriculum (CTBC)

This year, every 4th Sunday Central will host Central Total Bible Curriculum (CTBC) during the worship service. This is in place of a sermon.

When we said, "Yes!" to Jesus to become Christians we meant we will give up our ways, pick up what Jesus taught us to do, and follow his way to make God's Creation a better place to live for all of God's children. But as we all know, just saying "Yes!" to this calling does not make us a perfected Christian.

Jesus' original 12 disciples spent years being taught by Jesus in person. Jesus supported the 12 as a good rabbi. He taught, put into practice, re-taught and practiced until the disciples were perfected in carrying out the will of God.

The church is to model after how Jesus taught and practiced God's word in preaching and Bible study. No other study is needed in the church. When the word is preached and taught we are to practice in fellowship and service to the world as well as giving our time and money. How are you doing in these four areas (preaching, teaching, fellowship and service)?

In my mind, a healthy church, like a healthy member, observes all 4 areas of mission and ministry of the church – preaching, teaching, fellowship, and service. Consider these 4 areas as the balanced diet to nurture your body and soul. Think of it as trying to live a healthy life. One must eat a balanced diet and at the same time exercise your body to tone up your muscles.

CTBC is designed to sweep the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation in one year, 12 lessons. Yes, it is an ambitious undertaking; with help from God all things are possible.

You will be given a one-year guide, and in order to make the best of this study you will need to put in your time to read and to prepare for the study.

My new year's resolution is that by the end of year 2019 we will all have broader knowledge of how God is working through human history to make all things new and great.

-Pastor Un

Psalm 23: Line by Line Meaning

The LORD is my shepherd = **RELATIONSHIP**

I shall not be in want = **SUPPLY**

He makes me lie down in green pastures = **REST**

He leads me beside quiet waters = **REFRESHMENT**

He restores my soul = **HEALING**

He guides me in paths of righteousness = **GUIDANCE**

For his name's sake = **PURPOSE**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death = **TESTING**

I will fear no evil = **PROTECTION**

For you are with me = **FAITHFULNESS**

Your rod and your staff they comfort me = **DISCIPLINE**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies = **HOPE**

You anoint my head with oil = **CONSECRATION**

My cup overflows = **ABUNDANCE**

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life = **BLESSING**

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD = **SECURITY**

Forever = **ETERNITY**

LG QuickMemo

Tibetan Monks in Town: Wed. Feb 6, 5pm— Performance & Hands-on Art workshop

The MBU-Staunton Community is invited to a performance and hands-on art workshop of the Labrang Tashikyil monks of Dehra Dun, India, who will be in Staunton on February 6, 5pm as part of their "Sacred Arts of Tibet" tour of the US. Please join us for an evening of cultural sharing, including a demonstration of chanting, the Tashi Sholpa dance, and a chance to try your hand at Tibetan sand and "butter" sculpture art. Location: MBU Shakespeare Program's yet-to-be officially named new home, presently called "The Wharf Building"—19 W. Johnson, next to Pufferbellies. *This event is free, ecumenical, and open to the public.*

Central 2019 Fundraisers

Central UMC has two reasons to hold fundraising events. The first reason is to alleviate suffering during a crisis. The second reason is to supplement our budget as needed. This article focuses on the second reason with the understanding that emergencies can't be planned, so raised funds need flexibility. But barring a crisis, when you and I work on the following fundraisers, we are paying bills, buying supplies, fixing things, and making upgrades.

Can you and I raise \$5000.00 through fundraising events in 2019? The answer is yes, we can. Our ideas and our time are needed. We will hear details about the following fundraisers throughout 2019.

We have three groups of fundraisers – Ongoing, Smaller, and Larger:

Ongoing – are systems we set up and receive revenue throughout the year and future years. These events can raise \$500.00+ each per year. The advantage to these fundraisers is that, after set up, these tend to be comparatively effortless for us. Therefore, this group should be increased. Examples include:

Memorial plaques (or bricks) purchased to remember a loved one and permanently installed in the church.

Rental of space for Staunton events.

Smaller – include limited participation in city events as well as in-church events to raise about \$500.00 each per year. Examples:

Central UMC Cookbook produced and ready to sell about November 3

Queen City Mischief & Magic: provide limited refreshments in the fall

Staunton Jams: provide limited refreshments in the fall

Larger – expected to raise about \$1000.00 each, these events need more of us helping:

Yard Sale May 18 (tentative date)

Meating Place July 5-6 (tentative date)

Christmas Market (like the Holly Jolly Market) November 16 (tentative date)

Largest events – raising \$2,500.00 – we have none and need ideas.

As you can see, we have three larger events and three smaller events, which seem appropriate for our work force. That's us! What do you have a knack for doing?

-Diana Un

Commission on a Way Forward:

5 things you need to know

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino*

As a United Methodist, you may have heard about some of the things happening in our church today around the issues of human sexuality. There will be a Special Session of General Conference in February 2019, to receive and act upon a report by a group called the Commission on a Way Forward. This important work will help shape the future of The United Methodist Church.

These five things offer an overview of the Commission on a Way Forward, and what will be discussed and decided at the 2019 General Conference Special Session.

1. Beginnings

At General Conference 2016 in Portland, there were an overwhelming number of proposals dealing with issues surrounding same-sex marriage, the ordination of LGBTQ clergy, and related topics. During a discussion about how to proceed, a clergy delegate addressed the bishops, "We are asking for your leadership." Another added, "We are in a stuck place... I'm pleading with you. Please help us."

Important Dates

May 2016 – General Conference 2016

Oct 2016 – Commission members named

Jan 2017 – Praying Our Way Forward
Phase 2 begins

Jan 2017 - May 2018 – Commission meets 9 times over 17 months, and reports to the Council of Bishops 3 times.

May 2018 – Judicial Council ruling on Special Session of General Conference

Jul 2018 – Way Forward report released

Oct 2018 – Judicial Council ruling on constitutionality of plans

Feb 2019 – General Conference 2019

The bishops returned later in the General Conference with a plan. They would create a group to research and advise them of ways to help us get unstuck, to move us forward. The group then later brought together is the Commission on a Way Forward.

2. Task

The bishops carefully formed the Commission on a Way Forward, inviting 32 people who identified on all sides of the issues to be part of this special group. Eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members

constitute the commission.

The work of the Commission on a Way Forward is "to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward."

Their final report will be presented to a special session of General Conference, February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri.

3. Issues

As the Commission on a Way Forward was beginning their work, the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) invited scholars to a gathering called "Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness." Twenty-eight academics from three countries gathered for three days in March 2017, at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, to present papers and discuss the issues. Eight members of the Commission on a Way Forward attended the event.

Following the gathering, GBHEM produced *Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality*, a study guide based on the scholars' conversation.

4. Recommendations

On July 31, 2018, the final report of the Commission on a Way Forward was released in the four official languages of The United Methodist Church.

Stay Informed

Website: UMC.org/wayforward

Facebook: UMCforward

Twitter: @UMCforward

Instagram: UMCforward

5. Who decides?

The report of the Commission on a Way Forward will be received and acted upon by a special session of General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019. This worldwide gathering of United Methodists will only act on items around our deep divide over homosexuality.

Originally, the Commission on a Way Forward understood their role as advisory to the Council of Bishops, who would then report to the special

General Conference session. A ruling of the Judicial Council on May 25, 2018, clarified that the Commission on a Way Forward is to report directly to the General Conference.

At the request of the Council of Bishops, the Judicial Council reviewed proposed legislation for the One Church, Connectional Conference, and Traditional plans to determine their constitutionality. Oral hearings were held during their gathering in Zurich, Switzerland, October 23-26, 2018. Their decision was released on October 26.

Most of the delegates for the 2019 General Conference will be those who attended the 2016 General Conference, though The Book of Discipline allows annual conferences to elect new delegates if they so choose. As with every General Conference the number of clergy and lay (non-clergy) delegates will be equal. Bishops preside, but do not vote.

Our next regular General Conference will be held May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

To keep up with the latest news, be sure to visit our umc.org/wayforward.

If you have questions or concerns, be sure to talk to your United Methodist pastor.

**Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Contact him by email or at 615-312-3733.*

This story was posted on March 6, 2018.

Edited August 9, 2018 and November 8, 2018, to include updates and to reflect changes.

My thought is that, whatever the GC decides to adopt – One Church, Connectional Conference, or Traditional Plans – some churches will not like the Plan and there will ensue a discussion on whether to stay in the denomination.

There will be 5 petitions brought up to the GC pertaining to church exit issues this February meeting. The sticking point is whether churches will leave the denomination with their church property or leave without their church property.

To say the least, Methodism will face a difficult time ahead and possibly a schism. I mentioned this before: schisms are not necessarily inappropriate; if we trace back to the time of the early church when Peter and James, brother of Jesus, disagreed, they ended up taking different paths.

My point is this. Healthy cells need to divide themselves to multiply. Single cell will only remain single. In the history of Christianity, we have had numerous divisions and the good news is God's word stands forever and therefore, those who seek God's word will also stand forever.

Central Church will engage in deep discussions on the future of our church and denomination. I would like to begin this conversation starting this February and to make this discussion an open forum to all Central members in good standing.

Our first meeting is Sunday, March 3rd, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. At this meeting I will cover the history behind A Way Forward and different Plans the General Conference is considering.

Second meeting will take place on Sunday, March 10th, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. This time, I will be covering the pros and cons of different Plans. By this time, special General Conference will have met and we will have clearer direction.

For our discussion, I will provide printed materials for these meetings. To be good stewards of God's resources I would like to know who will be attending so as not to waste printing costs. Please contact Pastor Un (pastor@centralumcstaunton.org) or simply call the office (886-3441) and let Sarah know you will be attending.

-Pastor Un

