

Calendar Dates

September 17: Lay Leadership @ 7
September 22: CTBC Sunday
Church Picnic @ 4, Gypsy Hill Park
September 24: Finance @ 2, Council @ 7
September 25: Agape noon lunch @ Trinity

October 6: Soup & Sup after worship
October 27: CTBC Sunday
October 28: Charge Conference @ 7:30

Building Skills

Do you have experience with building a shed? Or, a deck? If you do, please call Pastor Won at 886-3441.



September

1: Josh Gutshall
3: Marina Foltz
5: Patrick Harrison
6: Donna Rhafiri
7: Susan Sutton
17: Cheryl Kent
30: Betsy Gutshall

October

6: Jackie Beals
11: Lizz Burket
12: Paul Obaugh
13: Susan Obaugh
17: Shannon Mowery
18: Gene Blackmer
Kelly Peters
30: Janet Nuckoles
Billie Quigley
Jim Reid

Reminder

2019 Charge Conference is
October 28th, 7:30 PM in
Connection room and the reports
are due on October 14th. Please
honor this date in order for the
office to compile and complete
the report for the meeting.

The Central Connection

2019 September Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

The future of the United Methodist Church denomination is still indistinct. Conversations are taking place among different factions. Several groups have developed alternate plans for the future of the church, including the Indianapolis Plan, the UMCNext Proposal and the Bard-Jones Plan.

We will have better insight after the 2020 General Conference in May. There is more and more talk relating to amicable division. As I said earlier, we have to be patient through the 2020 General Conference.

The question is, what will happen to Central UMC?

The answer is, "We don't know – exactly!" This is because, first, General Conference has to decide if the UMC denomination is going to be conservative or central/progressive in ideology. And then, presumably Virginia Annual Conference will then decide if we stay with the General Conference decision. It is difficult to clearly see what will unfold.

However, what I plainly see is Central UMC right here at 14 North Lewis Street, Staunton, Virginia, continuing its mission and ministry.

The Bible assures us, "He [God] will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

This is not the time to be afraid or discouraged but to forge ahead with what Central does best – love God and love all our neighbors.

I pray that God in Jesus Christ will continue His blessings on the people of Central UMC. Amen!

-Pastor Won

Soup & Sup

Dear Central Family,

Even though Millie and I are not ready to say goodbye to summer, we are looking forward to fall and the vibrant beauty she showers the valley with, a place we are blessed to call home!

Fall also means we are ready to begin our Soup Sunday's!! We just love cooking for all of you and hope you will break bread with us and enjoy fellowship with each other on October 6th.

On the menu will be vegetable soup, navy bean with ham, cheese biscuits and, of course, delicious desserts!

We will be sending all the proceeds to help with the recovery efforts in the Bahamas. We prayerfully ask you to search your hearts and give generously to help our brothers and sisters in the Bahamas. In advance, we offer each of you our most sincere thanks.

-Connie Davis

Membership Picture Update

Central UMC has a membership software called Servant Keeper. Administrative Assistant Sarah Russell has been hard at work entering our members' information into the Servant Keeper dating back as far as we can find a record.

For this record, we would like to have your picture as well as your information. Next year, we will have a pictorial directory.

Send us your "selfie". It does not have to be a glamour shot but just your ordinary day-to-day look. Take a picture of yourself (selfie) with your cell phone and email it to centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org. Thank you in advance.

Holly Jolly Holiday Market

NOVEMBER 16 AT CENTRAL

Featuring:

Handmade gifts from a variety of local artisans

Vintage Boutique

Mulled cider and more

Interested in being a vendor? Contact:
hollyjollymarket@centralumcstaunton.org

United Methodist Men

The men of Central have been active this month, although no regular meeting was held due to vacations and such. A special work session was held the second week of August to take care of some chores needed around the outside of the church. Cracks in the parking lots were sealed, which should help with the long-term viability of the pavements.

Central UMMen helped with the Last-Day-of-Summer event. Tables and canopies were placed and set up (and taken down). The men also helped with some of the activities that were scheduled to highlight Central's role in the Newtown area neighborhood.

Although originally intended to be held, the regular UMMen's breakfast scheduled for September 7, will be postponed to later in the month. It should be held so that officers can be nominated and elected. The date will be set shortly.

-Bill Bushman

Music

While Staunton Music Festival presented concerts at our church, they also provided a piano technician to work on our piano in the sanctuary. We were expecting a tune-up but got an overhaul. I hope you all noticed a big improvement in the way the piano sounds. It made me very happy to play on the improved instrument. Now if I don't sound good I can't blame the piano anymore!

Our first choir rehearsal with hymn sing was a big success. 14 people showed up to share their favorite hymns sung by the whole group. We presented our favorite one, Lord of the Dance, as Special music for the first Sunday of September service. Since it's so popular, we might have to bring it back as a monthly event! We will keep you posted!

-Yi-Ping Chen



Nurture Committee

Nurture Committee met in August. There was discussion about upcoming Socialite events. Our August Socialite was Bingo, which was enjoyed by all who attended. September Socialite will be the church picnic at Gypsy Hill Park @ 4pm on Sunday, September 22nd.

The prayer shawl ministry is up and running thanks to Linda Dinsmore, Sherri Huffer, and Sybille Jobin.

-Cheryl Kent



VIP Visits

Linda Dinsmore and Susan Black visited Bob Hanson at Brightview. Susan and Linda presented him with a beautiful prayer shawl crocheted by Sherri Huffer. Many of us remember Bob as a long-time member and Sunday school teacher at Central Church while also teaching at JMU. Bob was in good spirits and clearly appreciated his gift.

-Sybille Jobin

Mission & Outreach

Central's Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continue to run smoothly thanks to all of our volunteers and Caroline Jones's leadership. Many thanks to our "Monday Guys" that pick up our food at the Blue Ridge Food Bank and to our Tuesday Kroger volunteers. As always, if you have linens, clothes, shoes or other items that our Food Pantry clients could use, please bring them to church.

The Mission Trailer is stocked and ready to be of service to those in need. The District is planning a mission trip to Danville October 14-19th. If you are interested in joining the mission team, please contact Beth Christian at bethchristian@vaumc.org, or call her at 540-932-1055. I promise you will love being part of the team!

Lynn Hill has been given names of children in need and will once again be taking Christmas Presents to the Greenbrier. Thanks so much Lynn!! Our Trinity Agape Lunches are a blessing to many in our community. This important outreach is successful because of our many dedicated Central volunteers. Many thanks to Barbara, others that pitch in to help with cooking, and our volunteers that set up, serve, wash dishes and whatever else needs to be done to make our lunch a blessing to those in need of a hot meal in our community. Cold weather is just around the corner and Central is ready to start up our wood ministry. If you know of anyone that needs wood to warm their home or cook with, please let the church office know.

Back to school supplies and backpacks were given to five elementary and five middle school students. Thanks to our members for helping these students start their school year off on a positive note!

This Christmas Central will have a display at Gypsy Hill Park. Thanks to Caroline Jones and her team for making this happen.

What a blessing it is to be a member of a church that values service and mission and joyfully rolls up their sleeves to be the hands and feet of Jesus. The Outreach team welcomes any opportunity for Central to be involved in service/mission, so please let me know if you are aware of any.

-Connie Davis

Trustees News

Being trusted with the honor of caring for this old building can be overwhelming at times, but it's also rewarding and is a blessing. As always, the Trustees have been busy recently. We have finally completed the changeover from Verizon to MGW/Lingo for our phone service and Internet. We are immediately experiencing faster Internet, and should eventually realize savings with our phone service.

If you've been in the Gathering Room lately you've seen the recent progress in our redecorating efforts which will hopefully be completed this fall. There have been a few other beautification efforts which may not be as noticeable, including some additional exterior painting by church members. It's always nice to share the beauty of Central with others; and we had some tremendous crowds for the Staunton Music Festival. Of course, it's also helpful that we receive a nice donation from the festival. We were very appreciative this year that in addition to the donation, the SMF unexpectedly paid for tuning and repairs to our piano.

Maintaining the church does cost money, and we're often looking for other sources of revenue so that our offerings can be used for ministry. The Trustees have entered into an agreement with Kjellstrom Lee Construction to rent half the large church parking lot, beginning September 3. K-L will be completing a Stuart Hall project on W. Beverley St, and will need the parking for contractors work vehicles. K-L will be using the two rows nearest Frederick Street and will have exclusive use Monday through Friday from 7am until 5:30pm. We expect construction will continue through the spring. This is a similar arrangement to the one we had recently with the city and do not anticipate any issues. It will not interfere with our Sunday services, occasional Saturday activities, and K-L will not use the lot in case of weddings, funerals or other special church needs.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the church property please discuss with one of the Trustees: Leslie Artley, Susan Black, Bill Bushman, Martha Bushman, Mike Melton, Jim Printy, Sam Richardson, Jack True and Beth White.

-Jim Printy