

Calendar Dates

February 15: UMM Valentine's Breakfast @9
 February 21: International Dinner Night
 February 25: Finance meet @ 2
 Shrove Tuesday dinner @ 5:30
 Council meet @ 7
 February 26: Ash Wednesday service @ noon
 Agape Noon Lunch @ Trinity
 March 4: Lenten noon lunch @ St. Paul
 March 11: Lenten noon lunch @ Christ UMC
 March 18: Lenten noon lunch @ St. John
 March 19: Socialite @ 6:30
 March 24: Finance @ 2, Council @ 7
 March 25: Lenten noon lunch @ Cherryvale
 Agape Noon Lunch @ Trinity
 March 27: Common Grounds Coffeehouse @ 7
 April 1: Lenten noon lunch @ Central
 April 9: Maundy Thursday service
 April 12: Sunrise service @ 6:30 at St. Paul's



February

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

March

1: Jerry Jones
 10: Andy Noto
 Lily Noto
 11: Beth Blackmer
 14: Lili Un
 19: Leslie Artley
 20: Diony Detablan
 22: Beth Mullenax
 23: Chris Granfield
 25: David Berry

the nine key teachings of Jesus

radical **love**
 lavish **generosity**
 extravagant **forgiveness**
 inclusive **hospitality**
 compassionate **action**
 selfless **service**
 a passion for **justice**
 creative **nonviolence**
 simple **living**

Kurt Struckmeyer, An Unorthodox Faith

FOLLOWING JESUS

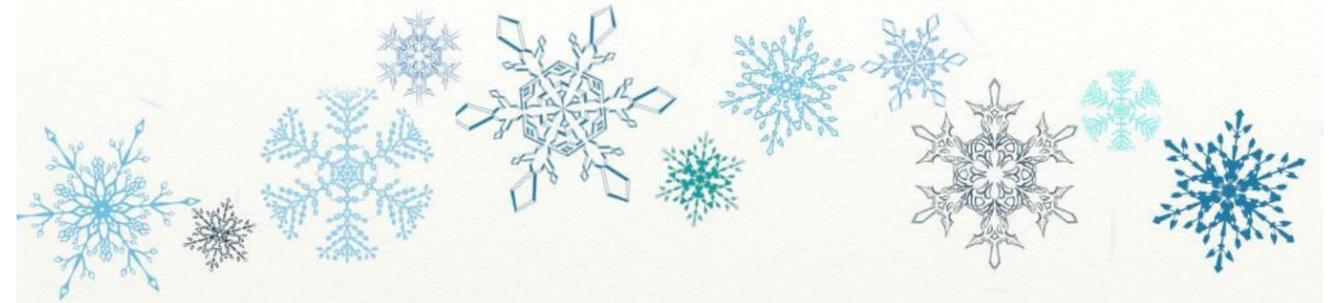
10 Rules for Respect

1. If you have a problem with me, come to me.
2. If I have a problem with you, I'll come to you.
3. If someone has a problem with me and come to you, send them to me.
4. If someone consistently will not come to me, say, "Let's go to the pastor together. I am sure he will see us about this."
5. Be careful how you interpret me—I'd rather do that.
6. I will be careful how I interpret you.
7. If it's confidential, don't tell.
8. I do not read unsigned letters or notes.
9. I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you.
10. When in doubt, just say it.

*-by Charles W. Christian
 Minister*

The Central Connection

2020 Winter Newsletter



January 2020 Council Minutes

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:04 pm on January 28 in the Wesley Fellowship classroom. Tom also presented the devotion. The minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting were approved. Those present included Tom Davis, Connie Davis, Mary Douglas, Linda Dinsmore, Sybille Jobin, Won Un, Sandra Clemmer, Bill Bushman, John Myers, Mike Melton, Yi-Ping Chen, Jim Printy, Susan Black, Marina Foltz, Virginia Buchanan, and Joe Hill.

Following the devotion a short orientation session about Central's organization and ministry was held for new members. It was led by Pastor Won.

Committee Reports

Lay Leader: Connie Davis requested that anyone who had concerns about the upcoming Virginia General Conference please contact her.

SPRC: Sybille Jobin reported that the SPRC met in December and unanimously recommended to the District Superintendent that Won Un be returned as Central's pastor.

Finance: Joe Hill distributed the January-December, 2019 financial statement. Noteworthy on this report is that the income for December was \$23,096.07 which included over \$3,000 from our Christmas offering. Expenses for the month were \$17,940.10. However, the report details that the entire year of 2019 was not a great year for Central financially. Our

income for the year from all sources (giving, building use, fund raisers, and investments) totaled \$237,213.12. Our expenses totaled \$248,238.24. Central's expenses fall into four major categories: operating expenses, salaries and benefits, programs, and apportionments. The good news is that we were able to pay all of our 2019 bills, salaries, and program expenses but the bad news is that we were not able to pay all of our conference and district apportionments. For 2019, we were able to pay 100% of our largest and perhaps most important Apportionment category, Active Clergy Health, which goes toward the health insurance for current clergy Virginia Conference. In order to make this \$13,104 payment, \$3,500 was paid from the Apportionment endowment and the final \$3,500 was taken from the Harry and Delia Baylor fund. Joe expressed thanks to Central's current membership and for the generous gifts of those who have passed away which enabled us to meet our most important obligations. The information in this report has been provided to Sarah Russell for a January-February newsletter article.

Joe also reported that the Finance Committee has set up a boiler fund so members can contribute directly to our needed boiler replacement. \$1,337 for this fund was received from a special offering taken at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Celebration held on January 20 at First Presbyterian Church. These funds, plus a \$500 donation already made by a Central UMC member, are the initial contributions for the boiler fund. Once the Trustees have contracted with a vendor to replace the furnace we will begin asking for member donations to this fund.

Endowment: Tom Davis reported that the Endowment Committee met with representatives of First Bank and discussed our General Endowment Fund in December.

Trustees: Bill Bushman reported that three contractors have reviewed the boiler. One bid has been sent thus far; others are expected. A potential side issue is the condition of the chimney. Bill also reported that the \$10,000 willed to Central by Myra P is still not settled. Linda Dinsmore offered the use of a space heater for the nursery until the boiler can be repaired.

Nurture/Witness: Susan Black reported that the committee will meet before the February meeting. The Cold Steel Benders would like to do a Socialite in March. There will likely not be a Socialite in February.

Choir/Music: Yi-Ping Chen thanked those who had expressed concern for her in her recent health scare. She reported that the piano in the fellowship hall is not in excellent condition though it has been tuned recently. Council complimented her on the choir and bell choir music lately.

Outreach: Caroline Jones e-mailed the following report: 1) Our Food Pantry is part of a pilot program called NOURISH. The Food Bank partnered with several departments at JMU to develop a coding system to encourage clients to make the healthy food choices and limit (but not eliminate) more unhealthy selections. Central's part was to conduct a survey with clients prior to the start of the program. We conducted the survey over one month in order to include most of the clients who would normally visit our pantry. We now have magnetic signs placed on USDA and purchased products that indicate best choices (green circle), use in moderation choices (yellow triangle), and use rarely choices (red squares). Folks from the Food Bank and JMU are currently interviewing volunteers and clients to see if the program has had much impact and also to learn what can be done to make it more effective. 2) A teenager in need of 70 community service hours will come to the Food Pantry on Monday afternoons to help us unload and shelve items. If anyone in the church plans work projects in which he might assist, Caroline has his contact information.

Connie reported that the Trinity luncheon program is going well under Barbara Snyder's supervision. We have had one person who benefited from our wood ministry. Connie thanked those who helped with Central's exhibit at Gypsy Hill Park at Christmas time, particularly Blair Sullenberger and Caroline Jones. Connie thanked Linda Dinsmore and Sybille Jobin for their work with the Clothes Closet.

Children and Youth: Mary Douglas reported that right now there are few children currently available for Children's Choir and Children's Church. John Bauman has done a great job with the teens. The teens are planning a pancake supper fund raiser for February 25, Shrove Tuesday 5:30 - 7:00. The teens are planning a "Common Grounds" coffee house at Central in cooperation with other local church's youth. John is requesting a grant from the Conference to help with this project. The nursery is going well. Mary reported that she is considering several possibilities for an Easter and/or November youth program.

UMW: No report.

UMM: Jim Printy reported that as a result of our successful fundraising with our Brunswick stew sale the men were able to make a number of donations: \$200 to Rotary Children's Christmas party, \$200 to Society of St. Andrew's, and \$500 to Central's General Fund. More recently the men agreed to donate \$400 to UMCOR for disaster relief. The donation is directed to UMCOR to be used at their discretion in the area(s) of most need. On Dec 7 the UMM and other church volunteers participated in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign. We were somewhat disappointed to collect only \$195 during the time we were bellringing due to the location and difficulty getting enough volunteers.

The men assisted with decorating the church for Christmas and removing decorations in January. The men recently completed a two week project at Augusta Street UMC, renovating/redecorating a small room behind the sanctuary. The men's next project will be to demolish and haul away a cement block wall on Trout Street which has fallen onto the sidewalk. This project is at the request of Cynthia Easterling with the City of Staunton.



12/19/2019

Central United Methodist Church
PO Box 953
Staunton, VA 24402

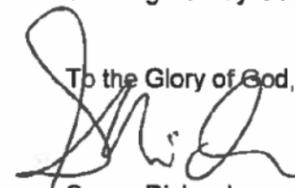
Dear Friends of the Valley Mission,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff here at the Valley Mission, I wish to extend our warmest thanks for your support of our agency. The Valley Mission not only provides shelter, clothing, and meals to the homeless in our community, but our staff also offers spiritual and emotional support to our residents, which help them face the issues surrounding homelessness. Generous gifts like yours allow us to fulfill our mission to serve those in need, twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.

Most often, those in need of help face difficulties that they simply do not have the tools to repair. Their circumstances cause them to feel beaten down and hopeless that tomorrow could ever bring about the possibility of a positive change in their lives. Because of donors such as yourself, the residents of the Valley Mission are fed, clothed, encouraged, and provided the tools that allow them to hope to dream of a better life. In many cases, our residents are making this dream a reality. For so many, your caring support is life transforming.

Your contribution of \$41.01 is greatly appreciated. According to IRS regulations, we must state that no goods or services were received in exchange for your donation. Please keep this letter for your tax records.

Valley Mission's sole purpose is to serve the needs of others in our community, and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership in helping us provide a place of hope for those who are experiencing challenges. May God continue to bless you in all that you do.

To the Glory of God,

Susan Richardson
Executive Director

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*Thank you so much!
I hope you all
are well. God Bless
you!
- Susan*