

## Gathering Room Updates

Oh how we Centralites long to gather for worship and welcome others once again within the walls of Central. As we praise God and thank Him daily, we are counting our blessings. We are very blessed to be stewards and worship in such a beautiful church.

You probably have noticed the work that has been underway in the Gathering Room. A committee has worked to enhance this lovely area and hopefully make it even more appealing to gather, visit, and possibly conduct meetings.

After much research and deliberation the committee determined it would be more cost effective, attractive, and in keeping with the architecture to use the existing furniture, and update with more contemporary upholstery. Then, place the pieces in logical conversation areas.

Bringing two lovely antique glass front cabinets from upstairs into the Gathering Room was a great addition. Only two pieces of furniture were purchased. Modern Boy Workshop in Staunton made two new benches to match two existing benches. The only additional purchases were four brass lamps placed in the seating areas. A very generous member donated the buffet we are using in the hallway to the kitchen.

Lili Un painted and donated the lovely painting of Central above the sofa. Art created and donated by church members through the years has been hung. Various treasures have been collected throughout the church and securely placed in the glass front cabinets. Hopefully, there will be enough objects and photographs to rotate displays, many of which depict the history of Central.

Once the committee is able to meet again, there will be just a little tweaking, but the Gathering Room is ready to welcome all who gather to worship at Central.

-Martha Bushman



### May

9: Augusta Markley

10: Luz Detablan

12: Sheryl Mullenax

16: Jack True

20: Vicki Printy

27: John Myers

30: Sybille Jobin

### June

2: Mary Douglas

David Granfield

6: Suzanne Noto

13: Keith Artley

28: Bobbie Rosson

29: Martha Bushman



# *The Central Connection*

2020 May Newsletter

## Online Giving Now Available

Central has taken advantage of an opportunity we learned about from the District Superintendent. He informed us that the Virginia Conference Treasurer has made use of the power of our Connection and has negotiated with a vendor called VANCO the free short-term use of their on-line giving services for local churches. This service has now been set up for Central and is available two ways:

1. Using your computer or tablet access the Central website (<https://centralumcstaunton.org>) where you will find a link for **Online Giving with VANCO** under the Worship tab.

Or,

2. Using your phone or tablet download the free mobile app from VANCO. Go to your phone's app store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to find the app quickly.



A video is available at <https://vimeo.com/262292774> that will walk you through using the GivePlus app.

Whether you choose to use the link or the app, you have two options:

a) Create an online profile so you can easily log back in for future giving and want to be able to view the history of all your giving to Central UMC. This is the preferred option for CUMC members. Note that your gifts can be one-time or recurring.

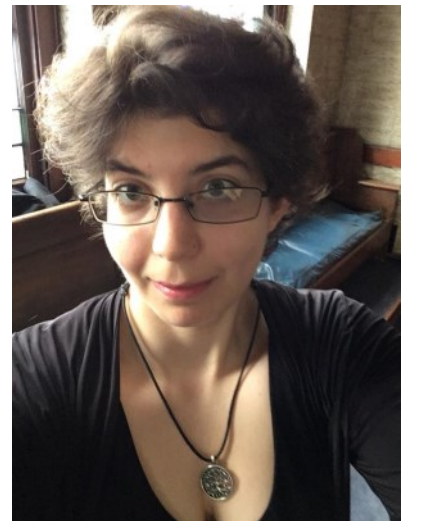
b) Give as a guest without creating a profile. In this case you will not have access to your history of giving at Central.

You can give through your checking account or by credit/debit card. All transactions with VANCO are secure. You will receive a receipt for your donation via e-mail.

If you have any questions about online giving, contact Administrative Assistant, at the church, 540-886-3441. Or, e-mail Joe Hill, Finance Chair

## Welcome Madeleine!

Dear Centralites,  
It is with great pleasure that the SPRC announces the hiring of a new Administrative Assistant, Madeleine Buttitta. In her interview with the Committee, she impressed us by her competence and her pleasant, poised personality. In addition to her office



experience, she is very well educated with a Master's Degree in Shakespearean Studies from Mary Baldwin University. Her extensive computer skills were also an important factor in our decision to offer her the job over several qualified candidates. As a result, she will be able to take over both aspects of Sarah's job—that of administrative assistant and that of book-keeper! We were really excited to hear that. She plans to start her job on June 1.

Madeleine "Maddie" Buttitta is originally from Chicago, but has called Virginia home for the past ten years. She has served as administrative assistant for the American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp in the summer of 2016, stage management assistant for their 2017 Renaissance Season, and, most recently, as tour guide. Outside of Shakespeare, Maddie fancies herself to be a relatively experienced stage manager and actor; she is also a classically trained vocalist.

-Sybille Jobin, *SPRC Chair*



## April 2020 Council Minutes

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 2:02 pm on April 28. Due to the COVID-19 "shelter in place" mandate Council met electronically via Zoom. Sybille Jobin presented the devotion. Those present included Tom Davis, Connie Davis, Mary Douglas, Sybille Jobin, Bill Bushman, Susan Black, Marina Foltz, Won Un, Yi-Ping Chen, and Joe Hill.

### Committee Reports

**Lay Leader:** Connie Davis reported that the Virginia Conference is on hold until September. She thanked Won that we have been able to worship remotely.

**SPRC:** Sybille Jobin reported that Sarah Russell's official last day will be May 31. A new administrative assistant, Madeleine Buttitta, has been hired. She will do the bookkeeping as well. Her first day will be June 1. Sybille reported that a farewell reception for Sarah has been canceled. Instead, we will be giving her a gift. The Nurture Committee will handle that.

**Finance:** Joe Hill reported on Central's financial status based on Sarah Russell's April Statement of Activities. The statement showed that the April income from all sources was \$27,724.39 and the expenses were \$29,856.33. The income included only \$7,366.00 from gifts by membership; \$15,857.65 was from quarterly distributions from our endowment accounts. He showed a chart which showed April giving for the past five years:

Due to the quarantine, Central has not held Sunday worship services since March 8. This chart clearly shows the negative effect this has had on our finances. He pointed out that Central has been keeping up with the Active Clergy line item on our apportionments but has not paid any of the other lines. For the first four months of 2020, our total of membership giving was \$40,025.30. For the same four months in 2019, which was not a good

year for CUMC financially, the total income from membership giving was \$54,089.00. He also reported that Central had applied for the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program loan which is based on monthly payroll. We have been awarded \$18,237. This loan, for which closing will take place in the next ten days, will become a grant as long as we do not reduce staff in the next few months.

**Endowment:** Tom Davis reported that the parsonage endowment account has gone from approximately \$390,000 to \$310,000 then back to \$360,000 as of today. Information on the other accounts is not available at this time.

**Trustees:** Bill Bushman reported that the furnace work has been completed. However, a leak in the main supply gas line was discovered. The work on the replacing the gas line has begun. It will take a few more days to complete. The current outstanding balance for this project is \$16,422. The Trustees are also investigating a service contract for the system. The system of video monitoring of the doors was discussed. Two Ring doorbells have been ordered to add to this system. Also the Trustees discussed the awning over the door on Beverley Street. They are considering replacing or recovering this awning and possibly moving the current one to the Lewis Street door.

**Nurture/Witness:** Susan Black reported that Nurture/Witness committee has not met but she will check with members concerning the gift for Sarah.

**Choir/Music:** Yi-Ping Chen reported that she and Won have been videotaping the service and posting it on YouTube. She reported that some colleagues of hers have been using Central for practicing and will be joining her for some of the worship music in the future.

**Outreach:** Connie Davis reported that Outreach has been extremely busy during the pandemic. Caroline Jones sent in her report which included:

- Provide pre-packed boxes during the pandemic. However, clients are able to Virginia was named a Disaster Food Program state during the pandemic. As a result, USDA eligibility requirements were relaxed so that food may be distributed to a wider client base.
- The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank generously decided to waive all fees for food during the pandemic. Because of this, Central's pantry is able to provide

much more food.

- Central will make fresh and frozen food choices when they get boxes.
- Volunteers follow CDC guidelines for safety, including wearing masks and gloves (most of the time) and using hand sanitizer and/or frequent hand washing. For safety, the most senior volunteers do not have client interaction.
- More than 7,800 pounds of food will be distributed in April.
- Pantry hours have been extended to Saturday mornings during soup distribution plus other times by appointment. Won manages those distributions. Many thanks to him!
- The soup ministry has expanded to include pantry distribution with many thanks to Millie Brown and Connie Davis. Each Saturday, Chicken Noodle and Vegetable soup is distributed. Vegetable soup is normally distributed on Wednesdays during Food Pantry. Also, masks have been distributed thanks to Lynn Hill, Cheryl Kent, Marilyn Blagg and Pat Collins.
- Connie reported that the luncheons at Trinity have been suspended.
- She also reported that a nice group of students from Boston had stayed at Central but a second volunteer group that was scheduled had to be canceled.
- A community wide picnic ("Central Chow Down") is planned for June 20.
- Connie reported that, as of April 25, 401 quarts of soup had been distributed. She thanked Yi-Ping for helping with cooking and Lynn Hill for supplying crackers.

**Children and Youth:** Mary Douglas had no report from youth activities since our services have been canceled. Won added that the youth Coffee House project is on hold but ready to go once the quarantine is over.

**UMW:** Caroline Jones reported that UMW meetings are currently suspended. They will reconvene as soon as it is safe to do so.

UMM: No report.

**At Large:** No report.

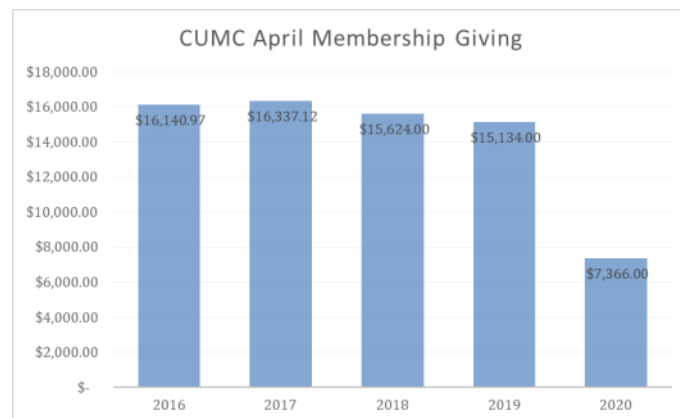
**Pastor:**

- Pastor Won reported that this has been a very difficult time which requires patience on our part. We should not rush to end social distancing.

- He is making phone calls, e-mails, Facebook posts, and providing online worship in order to connect with Central's members. A new microphone has been ordered to help with the audio on the worship recordings. Some CUMC groups have been using Zoom in order to connect with each other.
- He would like to have a Bible study such as a Sunday School Class via Zoom. He will also talk to John Bauman about having a Youth meeting using Zoom. Central has a Zoom subscription which allows for unlimited time for each Zoom session.
- This coming Sunday, May 3, there will be a drive-through Communion service in the Beverley Street parking lot. Attendees will receive a bag with communion elements in it and will also receive vegetable soup.
- We received a grant from the Staunton Community Foundation of \$1,500 for the Kitchen Fund thanks to use for the soup ministry. St. Paul's UMC, Bob Ladd and Trinity Episcopal have also donated because of this project.
- He expressed thank you to all those who work in the Food Pantry and Soup Ministry. The work of these members have been very positively received in the community.
- He expressed thanks to the Trustees for all the recent work on the heating system.
- He thanked members for sending their gifts for continuing our ministries.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Joe Hill will provide devotions for the May meeting. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 3:05 pm led by Marina Foltz.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joe Hill, *Council Secretary*





April 21, 2020

Dear Friends at Central United Methodist Church,

On behalf of all of us at Home Instead Senior Care, thank you for the cloth masks that members of your church made. The COVID-19 Pandemic brought with it challenges and hurdles that were difficult to respond to & prepare for. We truly appreciate the help & support from the community. Thank you for your time, talent, resources, & generous community spirit.

Very Gratefully -  
Your friends at Home Instead  
Senior Care.



4/10/2020

Central United Methodist Church  
PO Box 953  
Staunton, VA 24402

Dear Friends of the Valley Mission,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Valley Mission, I extend our warmest thanks for your support of our agency. Your recent financial gift of \$110.44 on 4/10/2020 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.

**Each year Valley Mission serves between 650 and 700 local homeless--at no cost to them.** In addition, **free meals**, as many as **58,000 per year**, are provided to those who reside in our shelter and in our local community who cannot afford to properly nourish themselves or their families. 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 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 for a better life. In many cases, our clients are making this dream a reality. For so many, your caring support is life transforming.

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, and may you continue invest in your local community through supporting Valley Mission.**

With warmest regards and most sincere gratitude,

  
Susan Richardson, M.Ed.  
Executive Director

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Wor and Friends,  
Thank you so much  
for this contribution  
to our ministry  
during a time of  
great need. God  
Bless each of you  
Susan