

I am excited to announce that our Easter Extravaganza will be held on **Saturday, April 15th from 10:00-12:00!** We will have a devotion from Pastor JF, a visit from a special friend, a fantastic egg hunt and then we will end the morning with free hot dogs!!! Please spread the word around the community! I will have flyers available in the church office that you are more than welcome to post at businesses or hand out to families. If you are willing to help with the event, we have several opportunities for you to get involved. We will need folks to donate candy, goodies (small enough to go inside of the eggs), plastic eggs or pre-filled eggs. We will need volunteers to stuff the eggs; some folks have already volunteered to take the eggs and goodies home to stuff in their free time (which is great!) and I have set aside 3 dates to come and stuff eggs. Those dates are March 27th & April 3rd from 1:00-3:00 pm in the church office, or April 12th from 10:00-12:00. Our youth will also be helping stuff eggs Sunday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm. The morning of the event, we will need a few volunteers to help register the children as they arrive, and we will also need volunteers to help in the kitchen and folks to hide eggs! Thank you for considering giving of your time, talents and resources!!!



If you have not purchased your ticket to attend our **9th Annual Dinner & Auction**, it is not too late! We will sell tickets through Monday, March 20th. The tickets are \$12 each, and includes a delicious dinner catered by George's Carryout (lasagna, salad, bread). Beverage and dessert will be provided by your church family. This event is Friday, March 24th beginning at 6:00. Food is available for carryout!

We are now one week away from our big night, and we are still in need of desserts to accompany our meal. Please let me know if you are willing to provide a dessert for the dinner...store bought is fine!! We will need desserts to be dropped off no later than the morning of the dinner (March 24th). Thank you to all of those who have already agreed to provide a dessert! Thank you to those who have volunteered to help in the kitchen and in childcare. We could still use a few more adults for childcare!

YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS CHANGE! This Sunday our Middle School Class will meet in the (old Youth Room) which is now the Kindergarten Classroom, and our High School Class will meet in the former College Classroom for our Sunday School time!!

MYF: We meet tonight at 6:00! Come enjoy a light dinner followed by games, worship and more! Don't miss out!!

TBC (Prayer Breakfast): Come bless us with your presence! Chick-fil-A! 6:54 AM! \$3.25 gets you a chicken biscuit, hash browns and a refillable drink!

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY: Join your friends at Wesley Williams' home this Wednesday from 7:03 till 8:33 pm. Bring your Bible! You're welcome to stick around afterwards for some added refreshments and fellowship.

BREAK THRU: Join us for some food, fun, fellowship and more this Thursday from 6:30 till 8:00 pm.

WEEK OF HOPE: *Note: All of our Team Members can register online now! Check your email!



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Ministry Wish List:



From time to time we need to access the gifts, skills, talents, and abilities of our church family for ministry opportunities. Here are some wishes we currently

have:

- a) **2 Bell Ringers** (Contact Bev Lawrence @ 336-302-5578 for more information)
- b) People to serve on **Prayer Ministry Team** (contact Wanda Tatum @ 336-953-1993)
- c) **Kitchen Supervisor** (Contact Shirley McAnulty for more information)
- e) A man interested in organizing and heading up a **renewed Men's Ministry** at Central UMC. (contact the church office at 336-629-1425)
- f) A beautification committee for the church grounds.



CUOC Update

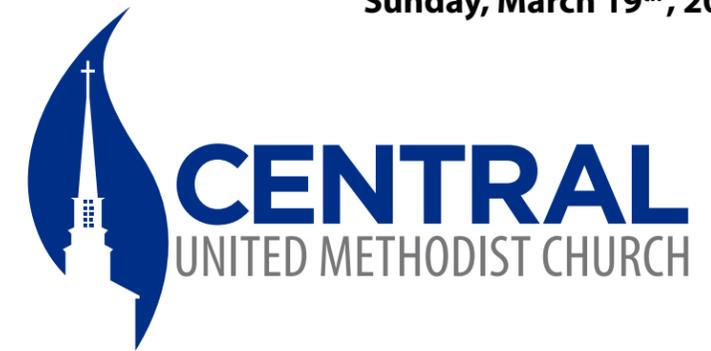
Reception volunteers needed for greeting and receiving clients, 4 hour slots, Mon-Thurs, morning or afternoon. For application, call 336-625-1500 or drop in at CUOC, 930 S. Fayetteville St (formerly Dan Thomas Pontiac).

CUOC Items
Any item

YOUR CENTRAL CHURCH STAFF

- | | |
|--|--|
| Dr. J.F. Howard Senior Pastor
jfhoward@centralunitedmethodist.org | Barbara Strider Chancel Choir Director
bapstrider@triad.rr.com |
| Fred Huffstetler Youth Pastor
youth@centralunitedmethodist.org | Joy Menius Organist
meniusjoy@yahoo.com |
| Jill Akins Church Office Manager
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fretmeister61@gmail.com |
| Heather Cagle Children & Family Ministry Director / DaySchool Director
hcagle@centralunitedmethodist.org | Bev Lawrence HandBell Choir Director
bevandterry@yahoo.com |

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Our Mission is to follow Jesus, make disciples and transform the world.
We are about making connections — connecting people to God and to each other.

The Message Of The Cross

One of my theological heroes was the late John R.W. Stott. I was first introduced to his writings when I was in college. Stott once wrote:

"The Christian community is a community of the cross, for it has been brought into being by the cross, and the focus of its worship is the Lamb once slain, now glorified."

What do you think about that idea that we are ***"a community of the cross?"*** Stott's point is that our identity and our life as followers of Jesus Christ, comes from the cross of Jesus Christ.

It is said when Watchman Nee passed away, a note was found underneath his pillow that read, Jesus ***"died to atone for...sin, and after three days rose again. This is the most important fact in the universe."***

The Apostle Paul declares that,
¹⁸ ***...the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*** (1 Corinthians 1:18).

The message of the cross is, as Watchman Nee proclaimed, "the most important fact in the universe."

At the heart of "the message of the cross" is that:

- Jesus took on Himself what is mine, and gave me what is His instead;
- Jesus became what He was not, so that I could become through Him, what I am not;
- Jesus demonstrates how apparent defeat can become ultimate victory;
- Jesus proves death is temporary, and leads to life unending;
- Jesus exemplifies the worst the world can do cannot compare to the best God can do.

In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul reminds me that the message of the cross has consequences:

1) When I rely on the message of the cross, it leads me to power.

Paul writes, 18 ...the message of the cross is...to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2) When I reject the message of the cross, it leads me to perish.

Paul declares, 18 ...the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...

3) When I receive the message of the cross, it leads me to salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:21 states,
²¹ ***For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.***

Our Lenten/Easter series "No Shortcuts" reminds us of the saving power of Jesus Christ. Each week that we gather between now and Easter Sunday, we will proclaim and affirm the life transforming power that exists in Jesus Christ, through the cross and the empty tomb.

Jacquelyn K. Heasley invites us to receive the message of the cross with these words:

"Jesus lived His life for you—then he gave His life to you. Now He wants to live His life through you!"

Pastor J.F.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday March 19 th 2017	Third Sunday in Lent	8:45AM
WELCOME		Fred Huffstetler
OPENING PRAYER		Fred Huffstetler
WORSHIP SONGS	"Cry of My Heart" "Your Grace Is Enough"	Praise Team
*TIME OF GREETING		Pastor J. F.
TIME OF THANKSGIVING PRAYER		Fred Huffstetler
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	Exodus 17:5-7	Pastor J. F.
GIVING OF GIFTS		
OFFERTORY SPECIAL	"Revelation Song"	Praise Team
SCRIPTURE	John 4:4-19 (See insert)	
MESSAGE	The Happy Meal Paradox	
	SERIES: "No Shortcuts"	Pastor J. F.
CLOSING SONG	"Holy is the Lord"	Praise Team

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The kneeling rail in the United Methodist Churches has traditionally been a place of prayer. If you have made a decision today that you would like to express publicly; if you would like to join this church on a profession of faith or by transferring your membership, or if you have a need for prayer, you are invited to come forward at this time. Decisions that could change your life are made at the altar.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING Fred Huffstetler

USHERS 8:45 AM

Tammie Walker, Tim Dunn, Rick Flickinger

GREETERS 8:45 AM -

Charles & Susan Swiers

USHERS 11:00 AM

CHAIRMAN – Dee Bulla
Captain - Hal Powell, Jerry Little, Ray Hargett, Bill McAnulty, Dean Lail, Tony Pugh, Boyd Thomas, Tom Allred

GREETERS 11:00 AM -

Frank Lamb, Becky Hughes, Thelma Renigar, Delette Self, Amy & Alan Pugh



Lillie Pearl Wood Nursing Scholarship

If you live in Randolph County and have been accepted in an accredited school of nursing, you may be eligible to apply for the Lillie Pearl Wood Nursing Scholarship (\$1000.00/year for full time students) Contact the Church Office for an application. Deadline is June 20.

Confirmation Class

Those who are 12 years and older who are interested in confirmation class, we have a target date set for after the Easter season. Contact the church office for more information.

336-629-1425

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday March 19 th 2017	Third Sunday in Lent	11:00 AM
PRELUDE		Joy Menius
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR		
CALL TO WORSHIP		Joy Menius
WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER		Pastor J.F.
*HYMN OF PRAISE	"Holy God We Praise Your Name"	#79 (UMH)
*MISSION STATEMENT (In Unison)		Fred Huffstetler
	<i>Our Mission is to follow Jesus, make disciples and transform the world. We are about making connections. Connecting people to God and to each other.</i>	
*THE APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)		#881 (UMH)
	<i>I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, *the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen</i>	
		*Universal Church
*THE GLORIA PATRI		#70(UMH)
*A TIME OF GREETING		Fred Huffstetler
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	Exodus 17:5-7	Pastor J.F
	<i>The Lord answered Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Take the staff you struck the Nile with in your hand and go. I am going to stand there in front of you on the rock at Horeb; when you hit the rock, water will come out of it and the people will drink." Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained, and because they tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"</i>	
OFFERTORY		#95(UMH)
*DOXOLOGY		Fred Huffstetler
TIME OF THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR OTHERS		Fred Huffstetler
THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)		#895 (UMH)
	<i>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory forever. Amen.</i>	
ANTHEM	"Beneath The Cross"	Arr. Tom Fettke
	<i>Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand, and wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am. For hands that should discard me hold wounds which tell me "come." Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won. Beneath the cross of Jesus, His family is my own. One strangers chasing selfish dreams; Now one thro' grace a lone. How could I now dishonor the ones that You have loved? Beneath the cross of Jesus the children called by God. There's a hiding place beneath the mighty cross. I find mercy there and refuge for the lost. Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown, we follow in His footsteps where promised hope is found. How great the joy before us to be His perfect bride. Beneath the cross of Jesus we will gladly live our lives</i>	
*Children leave for Children's Church		
SCRIPTURE	John 4:4-19 (See Insert)	
MESSAGE	The Happy Meal Paradox	
SERIES:	No Shortcuts	Pastor J.F.
HYMN OF RESPONSE	"Fill My Cup, Lord"	#641(UMH)
AN INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP		
	<i>The kneeling rail in the United Methodist Churches has traditionally been a place of prayer. If you have made a decision today that you would like to express publicly; if you would like to join this church on a profession of faith or by transferring your membership, or if you have a need for prayer, you are invited to come forward at this time. Decisions that could change your life are made at the altar.</i>	
*CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION.		Pastor J.F.
*POSTLUDE		*Congregation please stand if you are able.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

CUMC Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY, March 19th

8:45 AM – Contemporary Worship

11:00 AM – Traditional Worship

6:00 PM – MYF

MONDAY, March 20th

10:00 AM – Women's Bible Study

1:00 PM – Chair Chicks

5:30 PM – Volleyball

TUESDAY, March 21st

5:45 PM – Pilates

6:00 PM – Network

7:00 PM – Open Gym

WEDNESDAY, March 22nd

10:00 AM – Morning Prayer Group

1:00 PM – Chair Chicks

5:30 PM – Wednesday Night Meal & Bible Study

6:30 PM – Hand Bells

7:30 PM – Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, March 23rd

7:00 AM – "Walk and Worship"

10:00 AM – Women's Bible Study

5:30 PM – Staff Parish Meeting

7:00 PM – Open Gym

FRIDAY, March 24th

6:00 PM – Day School Auction

Memorials & Gifts

BUDGET FUND

In Memory of Bellma Allred

By David & Irene Allen

In Memory of Barbara Barnette

By David & Irene Allen

In Memory of Helen Powell

By David & Irene Allen

In Memory of Lloyd Malpass

By David & Irene Allen

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Howard Freemyer

By Good Samaritan Class

In Memory of Helen Powell

By Allan & Patricia Edwards



March

- 19 Jessica Watson
- 20 Donna Kirkman
Renee Voncannon
Nicole Pharr
Jenna Richardson
- 21 Jim Tatum
- 22 Charles Crawford
Jim Finison
- 24 Lisa Garrison
Beth Oyarzun
- 25 Elizabeth Lail



- April 9th - Palm Sunday / Cantata
- April 13th - Holy Thursday Communion Service
- April 15th - Easter Eggstravaganza 10:00am -12:00pm
- April 16th - Easter Celebration Services



Wednesday Night Dinner & Bible Study

When: Wednesday March 22nd, 2017

Where: Family Life Center

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Christian Homemakers / Sojourners

Lasagna, Salad

Dessert & Beverage

Cost: \$5 per person, \$15 per family

Tear this off or drop in the offering plate,

or call the church office by 12:00 noon on Monday.

NAME: _____

Attending: _____