



Central United Methodist Day School's 10th annual **DINNER AND AUCTION** will be held **Friday, April 20th, 2018** in the Family Life Center. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event! More information will be coming.

Children & Family Ministries

Eat, Pray, Serve – This week the children will be making five 'no sew' blankets to give away to some folks in need of warmth or simply in need of a blessing. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving one of these blankets, please let me know ASAP. We serve because He served!

Easter Egg Fun – Believe it or not, Easter is right around the corner!! Our day of fun will be **Saturday, March 31st, 10am-12am**. We will offer an egg hunt, entertainment and a free hot dog meal. That being said, it's time for us to start collecting candy for our egg hunt. Will you please consider donating candy as we prepare to bless the children in our community? Last year we served 79 children with our hunt, which means we will need at least 1600 pieces of candy. **Candy will need to be small enough to fit inside of a plastic Easter egg.** Please avoid small, hard candy that may be unsafe for a younger child. You may be asking... what can I do to help??? **We will need some volunteers for stuffing the eggs with candy in late March, prior to the event, and we will need a small army of volunteers for the actual event (kitchen volunteers, folks to hide eggs, direct the children, provide hospitality, etc).** Please prayerfully consider being a part of this event as we reach outside of our walls to show others the love of Jesus!

YOUTH NEWS

MATT MAHER IN CONCERT: Come go with us to see and hear Matt Maher Friday, March 9th, at First Wesleyan in High Point! Pre-Order your \$20 ticket THIS Sunday!! Tickets are going fast!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us for Sunday School & Worship this Sunday! Our High School students will meet in the Gathering Area with Benji Cagle, and our Middle School students will meet in their classroom with Ben & LoriAnn Owen.

MYF: Join us tonight from 6:00 till 7:45! Dinner is provided! We'll enjoy some good food, fellowship, games, worship and more!

CENTRAL BREAKFAST CLUB: Meet us at Chick-fil-A this coming Thursday morning at 6:45 for a warm meal, and an encouraging word! Bring \$3.25 to cover your breakfast!

LAST SUPPER DRAMA CAST & CREW: Gentlemen! Are you growing those beards in preparation for this year's Drama? Holy Thursday is March 29th and rehearsals will begin soon!! Interested in being a part of our Cast OR Crew??? Please contact Fred @ 302-0624!



Gideon: Your Weakness. God's Strength. is a 7 session women's Bible study by Priscilla Shirer. This study will encourage you to recognize your weakness as the key that the Lord gives you to unlock the full experience of His strength in your life. Join us beginning Monday, February 26 at 10:00 AM in the Family Life Center Conference Room. To learn more contact:

Joanne Moffitt: (336) 465-2263 jlwmoffitt@gmail.com or
Vicki Moss : 336-953-2561 vicki.moss@gmail.com
if have questions or would like to participate in this study.



"Introduction to Lay Ministry" (Basic Course)
Teacher: Rev. Leslee Wray, New Mount Tabor UMC
"Preaching" Teacher: Teacher: Rev. J.F. Howard, Central Asheboro UMC
"United Methodist Heritage" Teacher Mrs. Vicki Moss, Lay Leader, CUMC
"Prayer" Teacher: Rev. Jacob Kyker, Gray's Chapel UMC
8:00 - 8:30 A.M. Welcome, Registration, Coffee
8:30 A.M. - 12:00 Class
12:00 - 12:30 Lunch
12:30 - 4:00 P.M. Class
4:00 - 4:30 P.M. Closing Worship

The cost of the training event is \$30 per student to cover mailings, books, handouts, and meal.
Call the office for Registration Forms.

Budget

Needed to Date \$94,090.57 Received to Date \$88,342.66

Endowment Fund

Total Cash Received: \$287,253.79

Sunday, February 25, 2018

District Laity Conference -North

First UMC, Lexington 2pm-6pm

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dan Pezet,

WNCC Director of Congregational Development

Workshops:

- *Congregations 4 Children
- *Safe Sanctuary
- *Fresh Expressions
- *"Creating Engaging Worship from Easter to Summer"
- *"VBS and Rethinking Summer Sunday School"
- *"Assessing Your Church Vitality"
- *"Two Peas in a Pod"
- *"Knock, Knock! It's the IRS!"
- *Everything You Want to Know About Parsonages but are Afraid to Ask
- *SPRC 101
- *I am a Youth Participant



grass during the summer camp season. If this sounds like a ministry you would enjoy, contact the church office for more information.

2) Does your group want to host a Wednesday meal? All proceeds go directly to your group to advance your ministry and mission! We have dates available Wednesday evenings through April 25th. If your group is interested in participating, call Shirley McNulty at 336-625-4577 for details and availability.

YOUR CENTRAL CHURCH STAFF

Dr. J.F. Howard Senior Pastor
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Fred Huffstetler Pastor Congregational
Care & Older Adult Ministries
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Jill Akins Church Office Manager
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Heather Cagle Children & Family
Ministry Director
hcagle@centralunitedmethodist.org

1) Do you love the outdoors? Do you enjoy blessing children? Do you have fond memories as a child of camp? Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center is looking for a person (or a team of people) who would mow the camp

grass during the summer camp season. If this sounds like a ministry you would enjoy, contact the church office for more information.

2) Does your group want to host a Wednesday meal? All proceeds go directly to your group to advance your ministry and mission! We have dates available Wednesday evenings through April 25th. If your group is interested in participating, call Shirley McNulty at 336-625-4577 for details and availability.

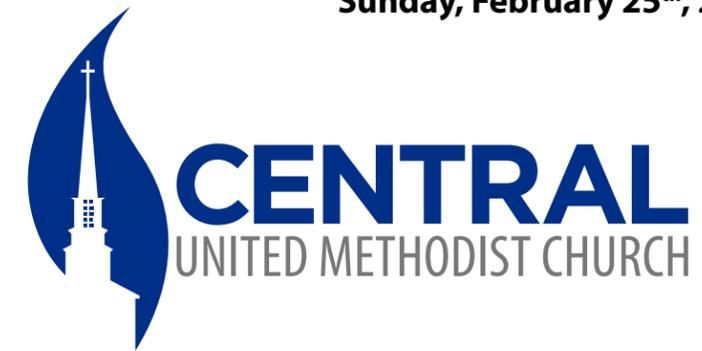
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Our Mission is to follow Jesus, make disciples and transform the world.

We are about making connections — connecting people to God and to each other.

Hospitality As A Means Of Incarnating The Gospel (Part 3)

For the past two weeks I have used this space to think out loud about the need for today's church to raise our level of hospitality in order to reach the increasingly indifferent and disconnected unchurched people in our world. In this final installment (I think!) I would like to highlight some of the things I am thinking about in new ways to better enable us to be effective in hospitality. Last week I wrote about practices 1-4, today I focus on practices 5-7:

5) Pew hosts (I really want to call them "pew pastors!"). Since people love to sit in the same seat at church, why not leverage this familiarity to greet and get to know everyone who sits around you; especially if you see someone sitting in your area who is a guest, or is new to you! I learned this from David Hughes. He told me on more than one occasion that he considered himself the "chaplain of the balcony." He considered that every person who came up to the balcony for Sunday worship was part of his "flock." He would greet each one and get to know them all. Peter reminds us of the importance of this practice:

² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly. {1 Peter 5:2}

6) Connection cards. I confess...I don't think the "pew pad" registration works anymore. The percentage of members who sign them is less than half of our worshiping community. New people won't fill them out if they see the regulars don't. Most churches these days use some sort of connection cards which are better than the old pew pads for getting information. An encouragement from up front should be made at every worship for every person to fill out these cards. Indeed, make these cards an expression of stewardship of life. They include vital contact information, but they also afford every person at worship to take a next step of faith and offer that to God. Most importantly, connection cards help the church gather information to better care for, and include people into the life of our church.

The wise writer of Proverbs reminds us,

²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds.

{Proverbs 27:23}

Fred Huffstetler is currently hard at work on an upgrade that will enable us to be more effective in this important ministry area.

7) Follow up. One of the best ways to demonstrate hospitality is to follow up with guests to say, "Thank you for joining us! We would love to have you come be with us again!" I hope we can begin in March Step #1 of a two step process of follow up hospitality: staffing a "Connection Station" in the lobby after each service where guests can drop off their connection card, get any information on the church they are looking for, and receive a "thank you for visiting with us" gift. Would you like to serve in this new area of ministry? A friendly face, a warm smile, and a love to see people come to know Jesus Christ, is all that is necessary. Let Fred Huffstetler know of your interest. We will get you trained and signed up in time to begin in March! Step #2 in the follow up process would be a brief doorstep visit. Studies still show this is effective in demonstrating a welcoming hospitality to first time guests. People will always want to see authentic love through practical action.

John the disciple encourages us in our hospitality mission with these words:
⁵ Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, ⁶ who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well... ⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth. {3 John 5-6, 8}

Pastor J.F.

