

CENTRAL NEWS

September 2024



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Pastor's Message: "Weathering a Drought" - **Jeremiah 17:5-8**

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

If you're a gardener like me, you've been lamenting that it's been a very dry year. Our region was even considered in the midst of a drought midsummer. Thankfully we've been upgraded from that status. However, where my parents live in the Shenandoah Valley, they still are officially in a season of drought. I was harvesting my basil this morning and it made me think about how well my garden did despite the drought. It only thrived because I watered it. So it is with our soul. Our spirit takes care and tending too.

The prophet Jeremiah was writing to a people in the midst of a spiritual drought. Unfortunately, it was of their own making – a result of worshiping idols instead of the one, true God. Jeremiah had some words of hope for these people in verses 7-8. Those who trust in the Lord will be able to weather a drought. This is only possible because their spirit was watered by the Lord.

What is the state of your soul? Are you in the midst of a drought? Or, is your soul thriving from the rains that God sends down on those who trust in the Divine? If you're experiencing some dry weather, what will it take to restore your soul to fruitfulness? As the children begin a new school year, perhaps you can see your faith journey as a return to school as well. Worship and Bible study are some ways God waters thirsty souls. However, our spirits require tending every day to be healthy and fruitful. What new spiritual disciplines have you heard about but not tried. It is my hope that our ultimate teacher, Jesus, will guide you in your faith journey.

God Bless You, *Pastor Shayne*

Restroom Update

Drywall is up and painted. Pipes and electricity are connected. Hopefully this project will be completed soon!! It's taken a lot longer than anticipated.

Donations to Church – Go Fund Me Canceled

The Go Fund Me Site has been canceled. There were too many problems with it, as well as them charging a fee. Any donations to the church can be by check directly to the church, or a bank to bank transfer to the church's account. If you know someone who would like to make that type donation, Sandy or Nancy have information on how to accomplish that.

Conference Update – Submitted by Sara Manner

We United Methodists can do much in mission as we all work together because we are part of what we call The Connectional System. When we put our resources together, we can do such good things in the name of Christ. Over \$109,800 was collected for the Virginia Annual Conference Offering. Our church donated \$100.00. The offering benefits our Virginia Conference Ministries called Partnerships of Hope Countries in Brazil, Cambodia, Mozambique, Native Americans, Haiti and Vietnam. Half the money goes to these ministries. It also supports UnDue Medical Debt which is a non-profit organization that purchases medical debt for pennies on the dollar and then cancels the debt for people who desperately need this opportunity. 50% of the total went to support this. United Methodist Committee on Relief kits were organized at the district level. Central Church assembled 42 hygiene kits. The total for the combined churches is 11,455 hygiene kits, 655 cleaning kits, and 2,316 menstrual kits for a total of 14,427!!

Mission Outreach

Central members donated \$1390 to our electrician, Richard Steffanus's mission trip to Suriname. The funds will help with purchasing and shipping school supplies. In August, we donated 129# of food and essential items to the Food Bank at Sacred Heart Center. He gave a report at our September 1st worship service.

Game Nights – 6pm, 3rd Saturdays

Every third Saturday, game nights will be coordinated by Dan & Tabitha Sierra. In July we played chair volleyball, with pool noodles and balloons. Lots of laughter!!! August was canceled because a number of people were unable to attend. Come enjoy pizza, snacks, and lots of good fellowship. You don't have to participate in board games to attend.

Remembering Bill Davis

William Kent Davis (Bill), passed away on Sunday, June 2, 2024. He was born in Richmond and predeceased by his parents Benjamin and Grace Miller Davis, and survived by cousins. He graduated from Huguenot High School in 1962 and worked for the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management for 43 years. He liked to square dance with the Squares and Pairs and the Tuckahoe Square Dance Club. He loved trains and traveling. Bill was a lifelong member of Central UMC and was active in her ministry. He was Asst. Treasurer for many years, helping his good friend Billy Motley, and served on the Board of Stewards for many years. He helped serve dinner for Central's Kid's Club and developed an empathy for those who were not as blessed with food and housing as he was. We all have missed Bill at Central the last several years, as he had been unable to attend because of medical issues. A graveside service was at Maury Cemetery on June 15th. Rest in Peace, dear friend!

Quote for the Month – Provided by Frank Howarth

"We are each of us angels with only one wing. And we can only fly embracing each other." -- Luciano De Crescenzo

September Birthdays

Shirley Irvin 9/18

Scott Buchanan 9/23

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm weekly Bible study @ St. Francis Home: *Moses* by Adam Hamilton

Sept. 6, Fri. – Northstar packs lunches for the Healing Place

Sept. 6, Fri. 9am – Church Board Meeting

Sept. 8, Sun. – 12 noon – Church Pot Luck

Sept. 21, Sat. 6pm – Game Night

Oct. 4, Fri. – Northstar packs lunches for the Healing Place

Oct. 19, Sat. 6pm – Game Night

Oct. 20, Sun. 5pm – Church Conference at Providence UMC in Chesterfield

Central UMC Traditional Sunday Worship Service: Sun. @ 11am, All are Welcome!

Narcotics Anonymous meets weekly: Sun. @ 7pm, Wed. @ 6pm; Fri. @ 6pm

Northstar Community: Sundays, 8:30am – Men's & Women's Groups in classrooms; 9:30am – Healing Service in Wesley Hall; Tuesdays 6:00pm – Recovery Yoga; Wednesdays 6:30pm – Women's Group