



“joyfully embracing the diverse community where god has placed us, to become the one community god wants us to be...”

CUMC May 2020

Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 2 | CUMC Charlotte E-News

WELCOME

Welcome to Central United Methodist Church e-newsletter! With the outbreak of the corona virus we are unable to mail out our traditional newsletter but still wanted you each to feel connected to your church. If you know someone within our family at Central that does not have a computer or internet, we would love for you to print this at home and share it with them. We want everyone to know that even though we are not together in person, we ARE together in spirit! Please remember that you are loved and you are missed.

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Greetings Family,

We sure do miss you! We pray you are fairing well during this challenging time.

We thank you for your willingness to call and check on each other, run errands, bring needed items to the church and so on.

I would like to give a shout out to our staff. During this pandemic they have been faithful in providing ministry both internally and externally to our church and surrounding community. They have provided out of the box activities to help keep everyone connected and involved. Thank you Susan Webster, Christy Bost, DeAnn Cynamon, Laura Gann and Yvette Cianci.

Our Sunday morning worship team has been instrumental in providing quality worship every Sunday morning. All we have to do is ask and they provide. Thank you Kevin Eudy, Don Irons, Bobbie Denny, Andrew and Amanda Pippin, and Allie Cynamon.

A big thanks to our Council leaders who have been busy in the background making sure our church continues to function at its best.

And lastly, I want to thank those of you behind the scenes for being the hands and feet of Christ in ministry. You have written grants, provided needed items to the church, helped make and deliver meals, made coffee, food boxes, collected food, etc. We could not do what we do without each and everyone of you. THANK YOU for your faithfulness.

Let's keep praying for each other and loving on each other as the Body of Christ. Christ will see us through.

~Pastor Pam



Missions

The Missions Committee reports that they collaborated on donating crayons, colored pencils, game books, reading books, stickers, candy, and activity sheets to pack 65 fun filled yellow goodie bags with our church name on them to go into the Central Cares boxes that were picked up on April 25. We hope that these activity bags gave the kids some time to engage in some creative activities.

The Missions Committee also thanks each of you who contributed nonperishable food on Easter Sunday and for the beautiful flowers that you tucked into the Easter Cross. A great big thank you to Vicki, Vern and Louise for providing leadership for that effort!



Outreach in the community

We are grateful that Roots Catering and Feeding Charlotte generously offered to provide to-go meals that we can give out at the Farm Lane Apartments for two more Tuesdays. They have already been providing food for our community during four Tuesdays!! Two of our young people design messages of hope that go out on the meals each week. In the photo above you can see the messages “God loves you” in Russian, Spanish and English. These are the languages spoken at the apartments where 140 meals were distributed today. Thank you to all who help with this project.



Loaves and Fishes Mobile Food Pantry came to Central UMC on Tuesday, April 28th in the afternoon and distributed 82 boxes of food to people who had been referred by school counselors, a pastor or priest or a social worker. We are pleased to partner with this excellent organization that is getting food to hungry families all over Charlotte. Thank you to Geovany and Arenivar who helped put the boxes into the car trunks!

Grant Funding received for Dinner Church at Central

We are grateful to be awarded \$3,000 from The Reynolds Ministry Fund and the United Methodist Foundation to be used during this calendar year towards the growing ministry of Dinner Church. The Reynolds Ministry Fund was established by Royce and Jane Reynolds of Greensboro, NC. The faithfulness and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have, for many years, supported disciple-making initiatives like this one. Our gratitude for Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds cannot be overstated. We continue to be inspired by their commitment to evangelism.

MISSIONS/CENTRAL CARES

We are overwhelmed by the giving at Central. THANK YOU for every can, every jar, every box you give to help us help others. We get excited when someone has put something in our box, as excited as if it was a present to us! Every month our needs change, depending on what is available when we do the once a week shopping at Second Harvest. Boxes were just given out April 25 so our shelves look empty now. We are asking for canned meats, dried beans, and jelly as the three products for your giving in May. Canned meats means things like tuna, ham, chicken, salmon...even (ugh!) SPAM. Jelly can be any size and flavor and dried beans any kind, but one or two pound bags are best. Pintos and black beans are favorites. Let us say once again, that there is

money in Central Cares, but right now we are limited with quantities we can purchase. As crazy as it sounds, we'd rather have a few ITEMS than a big check! THANKS for loving people you've never met. (You would love them if you met them!)

Bev Cheville, Missions Committee
Bobbie Denny, Central Cares

CHOOSE KINDNESS May Spiritual Guide

I watch a lot of news, not just recently. I've always loved history, and today's news becomes tomorrow's history. In watching the news lately, I realize that there are two angles of reporting: the worst case scenario and the good that is in stark contrast. Both angles start with the facts of the day, but they end with two different feelings. I call one the world viewpoint and the other the spiritual viewpoint. From a world viewpoint, I hear the number of deaths, the number of cases, the hospitals filled to capacity, health workers frustrated over lack of equipment, government officials blaming each other, long food lines...truths, but just cold reality. The spiritual viewpoint acknowledges that things are hard, sad, scary even, but there are people doing some remarkable things. Healthcare workers are willingly serving long hours, leaving the love and security of their own homes, stopping to sit with a person who shouldn't die alone. I know God is strengthening. Scientists are working round the

clock to find medicines to treat, to prolong, to avert, even to stop the virus. I know God is guiding their research. Common folks are doing common things that are not so common in these times. Driving to pick-LITERALLY-crops going to waste in order to take them to hungry people. People are packing boxes and helping the long food lines serve as many as possible. Some people are singing in the windows, dancing in their front yard, making and holding signs at nursing facilities, clapping for emergency workers-doing little things to bring smiles. This list is long with new ideas being shared each night on the news. I know God is putting ideas in heads and love in hearts. The reality is that bad things happen, and these days there are a LOT of bad things. I think of Mr. Rogers. When he was asked what do we do when bad things happen: look for the helpers. Helpers are always there. God is guiding the helpers. I choose to hear it all, but to focus most on the spiritual viewpoint. WE ARE NOT ALONE; GOD IS WITH US.

The May spiritual guide is on KINDNESS. I have chosen daily Scriptures for us to read. These include ways God is kind (the Bible uses “kind,” “steadfast love,” “mercy,” and similar words, depending on your translation) and ways people are kind or should be kind. I didn’t choose narratives, stories of people acting in kind ways, but YOU could make that YOUR additional ways to study. Think of the stories of Jesus, His parables like the Good Samaritan, His healings. Meditate on the words. Then ask God to give you an idea of

something you can do to be kind. DO one act of kindness that day. Speaking an encouraging word or a word of thanks would certainly qualify as an act of kindness. We are God’s hands and feet and mouth in this world. We are the helpers. “Be kind to one another.”

Bobbie Denny, spiritual lay leader



Everyone is invited on Thursday at 7:15pm to join DeAnn on a Zoom Call to request and sing along to your favorite hymns (Zoom meeting ID 632-929-909)

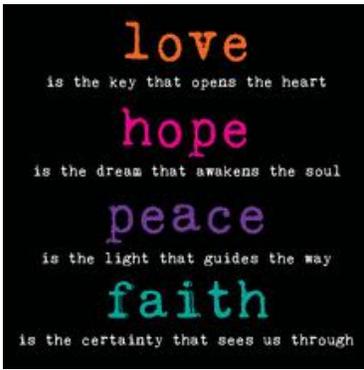


We have another sister turning **90** on May 3rd!!

Dot Hinson will turn **90** on May 3rd. Let's shower her with birthday cards and send her lots of LOVE!!

2922 Dunlavin Way Charlotte, NC 28205

704-537-2429



During this time as we spend our time at home, consider sharing a message of Hope, Love, and/or Joy with others. A short note, a greeting card, a text message, an email, a phone call....all ways to bring a smile to someone's face and share Hope, Love and Joy.

Need ideas on who to share these messages with - Christy can help you with that.

Need cards or stamps - Christy can help with that.

Join us each week for:

- Central UMC Children's Sermon on Facebook Live

Sundays @ 10:30

- Laugh, Learn, & Love (L3) with Christy on Zoom Thursdays @ 6:15pm
- All are welcome to participate - Link will be shared each week

To give to the Children or Youth

Funds mark your checks with the following:

- Children's Fund #230 – Youth Fund #2

Check out what Central has been doing...

Fun sidewalk chalk to brighten the day!



Loaves and Fishes mobile pantry!



Central Cares pick up!



Thank you notes to our essential workers!



Dropping off food for our friends!



Our only way to communicate with each other during these strange times we are in!

