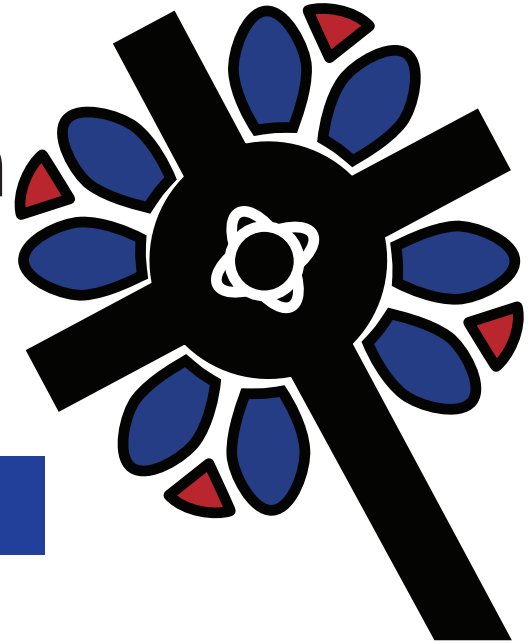


2019

Central United Methodist Church Leadership Directory



PASTORS and STAFF



**Lead
Pastor**
Tom Ream



**Associate
Pastor**
Jen Huff



**Business
Manager**
Christin Hampton



**Minister of
Music**
Madeleine
Demetriades



**Director
Preschool & Childcare**
Tiffany Cullers



**Director
Youth Ministry**
Sheri Koyles



Custodian
Billy Arnold



Custodian
Greg Scott

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL



**Council
Chair**
Jim Puckett
2020*



**Trustee
Chair**
David Sheets
2019



**Finance
Chair**
Jackie Scott
2019



**Staff-Parish Relations
Chair**
Dana Mollenkopf
2021



**United Methodist
Women Representative
/President**
Ann Cashner
2019*



Treasurer
Janet Robinson
2019



**Lay
Leader**
Debbie Jenkins
2021*



Secretary
Tara Jamison
2020



At-Large
Leanne Backmeyer
2021

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Dates are the end of a 3 year term, * indicates end of 2nd term.



Ecclesiastes

“Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” - Ecclesiastes 1:2

The season of Lent is the forty days, not counting Sundays, that leads us to Easter and it begins with Ash Wednesday (March 6 this year). While Lent has been observed with varying levels of commitment by Protestant Christians, it has grown in popularity and support over recent years. Personally, I find it to be a very helpful spiritual practice. Observing a fast, which may entail not eating certain foods, avoiding treats, or abstaining for favorite entertainments, is what most people associate with this season. Fasting can be a very beneficial experience IF one does so to carve out more time for prayer and mediate; by engaging in a fast that is not patronizing (ie. not eating Brussels sprouts if that is something you would never eat anyway); and uses it as a means of growing closer to God. As a spiritual discipline, fasting should not necessarily be limited to the season of Lent. Throughout the ages, Christians have observed fasts at many other times of the year. I find that fasting during Lent, when it is a sacrificial act (it costs you something to do it), helps draw us into a season that helps remind us of our profound need for God and the salvation that can only be found in Him. We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday by having ashes imposed on our foreheads as we hear the words, “From dust you have come, to dust you shall return.” It is a very sharp reminder of our humanity, our creature lines, our...dustiness.

Through this Lenten season, we will study and preach on the book of Ecclesiastes. This book of poetry in the Old Testament is presented by a Teacher, Qohelet, who some scholars believe is King Solomon. Throughout this book, the author wrestles with

questions of meaning and purpose. It is what might be called an ‘existential crisis.’ Qohelet wastes no time jumping to this crux of the tension as the book begins with the words, “Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” While we often use the word ‘vanity’ to describe a person who is conceited or self-absorbed, within the context of Ecclesiastes, it means meaningless, worthless, or futile. Admittedly, there is much to this book that is not cheery and encouraging, but I think it is a very appropriate text for the season of Lent. The author takes us through his struggles with trying to make sense of the world. He has come to a point in his life of wanting something more, and we will walk that journey with him. Spoiler Alert: The book does end more hopeful that it begins, but probably not in the way that you would anticipate or want.

Lent is a time of journeying from that reality of our mortality, our Ash Wednesday dustiness, to the hope and promise of Easter’s empty tomb. I encourage you to participate in the worship opportunities during the season of Lent, read through Ecclesiastes, and attend the pastor’s Bible study to talk about the texts. A schedule of services, including a suggested reading schedule, will be available soon. Join us on this journey of facing our deep, human need for hope and grace, as we discover how God provides for this need.

IN CHRIST
Pastor Tom

TRIBE NEWS

“For where two or three gather in my name, I will be with them” - Matthew 18:20

Youth Sunday

February 3 -Central

February 10-Centerville and First

Special Offering on These Sundays will go toward the mission trip

Tribe T-shirts for sale on Youth Sunday \$10 each
“WE WON’T BE SHAKEN”

Join us as we explore together how to keep our foundation firm on Christ the Solid Rock

Missions Fundraisers

MARCH-Saturday, March 23 Working the UMW Garage Sale at Central: garage sale item donations welcomed and can be dropped off at Central during weekday hours or during TRIBE on Sunday evenings from 5-7p. Parents: remember to sign-up to work the sale if you are going to be in town. Thanks!

APRIL—BINGO with prizes—Date to be determined

Tubing

All TRIBE families invited.

Sunday, February 17 from 3-5 at Valley’s Edge

Cost is \$15 per person

Youth staying for the late night need to bring dinner \$ for Wendy’s

****Please go on to the VE website and fill out a waiver for each tuber****

You are welcome to just watch from the lodge and drink cocoa!

Youth are invited for a late night hangout at Central after tubing until 9pm. If school is still on Holiday the next day.





The Jump (Jesus Uniting Mission and People) coordinator (Pastor Jen) and liaisons (Kathy Khamis, Marci Lindahl, Melissa Ream, and Kathy and Lowell Robinson), have been so excited to see how everyone is continuing to build relationships with children, youth, and families in our church and community. Below you will find some information about what has been happening the past few months.

The Intermediate Sunday School class has decided to do a JUMP project every month. In December, they raised funds for the Laundry Project. In January, they did a sock it to me event to collect socks for Communities in Schools. They have been continuing to spend time with the pre-k and elementary Sunday School classes at the beginning of the Sunday School hour to build relationships with one another and worship through praise and song.

A Note of Thanks!

The laundry project would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$390 in quarters to our project. What a fantastic donation. And the quarters were wrapped as well. I understand that the youth of the church were the ones who rounded up the quarters. Congratulations to the kids who did a wonderful job! It is refreshing to see that there are kids who care. We need more people and organizations like you. Such a kind gesture to our project. This amount is enough to fund an entire event. We thank you kindly! Your funds were used at our 1/3/19 event. We were able to assist 28 families with 138 loads of laundry! Out of the 70 individuals assisted, 40 were school aged children. Again THANK YOU so much. Michael Duke

Intermediate Sunday School class

Thanks to your continuing generosity -the quarters keep coming!! So, the Intermediate Sunday School class will continue to collect quarters for the Laundry Project. Look for the Detergent Bottle in the parlor before the service each week - or seek out one of our students.

The Agape Class joined the children and youth during their time for praising and singing one Sunday morning. Everyone had a great time worshiping God together through singing and dancing, as was evidenced by their smiles. They also teamed up with a Tuesday night small group to donate needed supplies to the Horizon House. Horizon House provides a place during the day for those who are homeless to take a shower, do laundry, etc.

In October, we had a successful Fall Festival. November we appreciated the teachers of children that attend our church. In December, we continued some of the traditions that had been done in the past with Our Neighborhood Christmas by having Neighborhood Christmas Lite. We shared resources with 12 families by giving them Christmas trees, wreaths, and decorations after our family friendly event that also involved the Boys and Girls Club. It was fun to see kids and their families making crafts together and enjoying a pizza dinner. A group of volunteers from Central also went over to Starr Elementary on December 22nd to help Columbian Properties and teachers and staff from Starr run the Breakfast with Father Christmas event. They also received a thank you note that read:

*“Christmas Breakfast Volunteers,
Thank you so much for giving your time and energies to Starr Elementary on the 22nd. The continued support (and prayers) of volunteers like you makes Starr a success for our families. Many blessings for the New Year. Karri Polk-Meek, Starr Principal #starrshines”*

The Jump leadership team wants to affirm and thank each of the volunteers that made all of these opportunities since October a reality. We were excited to see how many connections were made and how so many people have jumped in at Central. If there's something you have done since October, or will do in the future, please feel free to share this information with someone from the team or the office so that we can share all that is Jump related with one another. We look forward to what will happen in 2019 and continue to pray every day at 10:10am for the uniting vision of Central and Richmond. Stay tuned for what's next!

Garage Sale

March 23rd is the UMW GARAGE SALE. It sounds far away but you know what happens when you open that closet. Just bring those items to outside the office at church and we will collect them and someone will put them to good use. THANKS!

CUMC Call Chain

The CUMC Call Chain has been in place for a year. No lives have been saved, but fourteen people and their families can be comforted to know they are checked on each day. It's a certainty that there are others in the congregation who would benefit from this service. Please contact the office or Sally Sayre (935-9063) for more details. All it involves is a minute or less of your time: phone, email or text each day – your option. Thank you to those participating.

From the Community Food Pantry:

Thanks to you, our volunteers and donors, 2018 was a very good year! We provided 114,867 meals to 5,774 families (1,421 different families) consisting of 12,826 individuals. The average cost for all 114,867 meals provided was 69 cents.

Looking Back

As we do not have any paid employees, again in 2018 our volunteers were the essential part of our ministry. We don't have an exact count. We know there are over 100. In addition to the regular volunteers, each church has substitutes. The dedicated and faithful service of these "monthly volunteers" is the backbone of the pantry. They are the ones who meet and interact with our clients.

Looking Forward

We are continuing to participate in Kroger's 5% rewards program. Anyone who has a Kroger Plus Card can register it and Kroger will give 5% of your total bill to our Community Food Pantry. Our Kroger Non-Profit Organization number has been changed to RF335. (If you are already registered you do not need to do anything.) Kroger Plus Cards are free. You may pick one up at their courtesy desk. To register it go to:

krogercommunityrewards.com. Kroger donations for 2018, were \$2,330.08. For Kroger shoppers this is a no-cost, painless donation. THANK YOU!

Calendar of Events

2/5	Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
2/6	Pastor's Study	10:00am
2/9	Bread Baking	8:00am
2/11	Monday Morning Connection	9:00am
2/11	Medical Monday	1:00pm
2/13	Pastor's Study	10:00am
2/13	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
2/14	Creative Hands	9:00am
2/14	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
2/19	Bread Basket	4:30pm
2/19	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
2/20	Pastor's Study	10:00am
2/21	Friendship Circle	10:00am
2/27	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
2/27	Pastor's Study	10:00am
2/27	Garden ReConnect	3:30pm
2/28	Creative Hands	9:00am
2/28	Ad Council	6:30pm

Greeters

2/3	TBD
2/10	TBD
2/17	TBD
2/25	TBD

Scripture Readers

2/3	Ann Cashner
2/10	Jim Puckett
2/17	Gayla Parker
2/25	Donna Jurgens

Ushers

2/3	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
2/10	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
2/17	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
2/25	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson

Altar Guild

TBD