

**Centralia United Methodist Church**  
*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.*  
 715 Orchard Street - PO Box 108  
 Centralia, MO 65240

Sunday School..... 8:45am  
**Worship..... 10:00am**  
 Office Telephone.....573-682-3434  
 E-mail.....CentraliaMoUMC@gmail.com  
 Facebook.....www.facebook.com/CentraliaUMC  
 Website..... www.centraliaumc.org

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# Methodist Messages



A Publication of the Centralia United Methodist Church

April 2024

One of my favorite things about the longer days and warmer weather is family walks after dinner! When my family first moved here it was just me and Brittany and our dog, Wendy. Not long after it was me, Brittany, Wendy and our son, Cameron. And NOW, this spring, it is me, Brittany, Wendy, Cameron and our daughter, Rylee. That's crazy to think about! But I'm really not sure who enjoys these walks the most. I *can* say that I think the dog gets the most out of them. Whether they are shorter or longer, she enjoys every second and is pretty content no matter what.

If you know my family at all, you know that we LOVE animals. Our pets are family. When we were in St. Louis (pre-parental era) we fostered dogs of all kinds from newborn puppies to senior dogs. It was a special experience for us for an amazing organization, the Stray Rescue of St. Louis. There will be another season where we foster dogs again, but it won't be with two kids under three in the house. We truly believe that animals of all kinds are blessings to our lives and the world. Did you know that Genesis tells us that God made animals as companions for humans? After God makes Adam, God says it is not good for him to be alone and immediately God makes animals and Adam famously names them. One of God's ideas to help eliminate human loneliness was the friendship of animals! And the good news of Easter is that God's plan for redemption is to redeem ALL of creation, not just raise humans from the dead, but restore the world back to God's original design where humans and animals lived together in harmonious paradise.

I know in our Centralia community we have so many different animals that support us in so many ways! Dogs, cats, chickens, cows, horses, sheep, birds, reptiles, rodents and beyond all help to support our mental/emotional state, they serve our livelihoods, they serve our need for nourishment and more. And with spring often means new life where we meet new furry friends and clawed critters.

So, I am SO excited to invite you to The Blessing of the Animals at CUMC on Sunday April 28th from 3-5 pm. Bring your animals of any species or size to be prayed over and blessed by me and Pastor Craig. There will be animals of all sorts on our grounds, activities for all ages, refreshments and more. Those who have their animals blessed will receive an animal tag with a prayer card for your animal as well. Whether your animal is an outdoor pet, indoor pet, serves your land or something else, they are all welcome and wanted to join us for a blessing. This event will just be a come and go social time where smart and safe animal interaction is encouraged. It is a GREAT opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor and allow them to grow more connected to our church. I so look forward to seeing you, your family and your animal friends there!

Blessings,  
**Pastor Sean**  
 sean@centraliaumc.org

Rev. Sean McIntyre • 636-489-8284 •

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**April 2024 Calendar**



† **WORSHIP SCHEDULE & NEWS** †

# FIELD OF DREAMS



A SEASON OF DREAMING

Have you ever wondered if your dreams have meanings? Human consensus is that they have some sort of meaning; the difficulty is figuring out what that means. The Bible has plenty of instances of people who have dreams that are interpreted or given meaning. This baseball themed series will focus on these dreams and what we can learn from them.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 7  | <p><i>Second Sunday of Easter</i><br/>           Genesis 28:10 -22<br/>           God's dreams often come out of the darkest places.</p>  |
| Sunday, April 14 | <p><i>Third Sunday of Easter</i><br/>           1 Kings 3:5 -15 (Solomon's Dream); Matthew 25:23<br/>           If our greatest dream is God plus nothing, then we will be content with anything.</p>   |
| Sunday, April 21 | <p><i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i><br/>           Daniel 4 (Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree)<br/>           Our world is filled with criticism and public frustration. But what if Christians were more interested in being humble than being right? God's dream is for a humble world.</p> |

## General Conference of the United Methodist Church

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will gather in Charlotte, North Carolina April 23 - May 3, 2024. The General Conference is the global conferencing of our church and is the largest governing body of the United Methodist Church. Only the General Conference has the influence to speak for the entire United Methodist denomination. This is one of the largest gatherings of decision makers of one of largest Christian denominations in the world. In addition, much will be made about discussions and legislation around human sexuality. You may know that the UMC has been collectively grappling over our social and theological approach to human sexuality for the better part of half a century. All of this will bring with it a decent amount of media coverage. Media coverage will mean reports, opinions and speculation coming from a variety of sources.

I have not been ordained in the Methodist Church long, but as the child of Methodist clergy, I have been part of the church long enough to know that if one thing can be absolutely GUARANTEED it is that nothing happens quickly. My biggest piece of advice and what I want to ask of you is to not believe everything you see or hear from anyone. Even if the source is reliable, the vast majority of sources do not understand the way the United Methodist Political engine works. Even if they do, they do not have time or desire to explain it to you, but would more likely rather push their headline. Please know that I am abreast to what is happening and so is your local church leadership. We are committed to keeping you updated if/when there are things necessary to be communicated. Be patient and trust us that any communication that comes from me/us will be the information you would actually need to know.

As always, you can reach out to me any time with questions or concerns that you may have via email or phone!  
 Pastor Sean [sean@centraliaumc.org](mailto:sean@centraliaumc.org)

# FAITH IN ACTION: MISSION & MINISTRY



*We are the Hands and Feet of Jesus*



## CUMC Women's Ministry

*Empowering Women of Faith and Fellowship, Learning and Growing Together*

**LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE**

*1 Corinthians 16:14*



### Methodist Women at Work



#### Centralia United Methodist Women Donate Tablets to Support Youth

A very special thanks to the Centralia United Methodist Women and Mexico Kiwanis who donated tablets to the Audrain County Resource Center. The tablets will be used by children who are in protective custody at the Center and are awaiting foster care placement. Children sometimes wait a few hours for placement, sometimes several days. These tablets help to occupy their time during this period of transition. A special thanks as well to Cindy Cummins and Lori Pratt for organizing this effort.

**Thank You, UMW!**

Cindy Cummins presents tablets to the Audrain Resource Center.

# ANIMAL BLESSING

**Sun. April 28**

**3-5 pm**

**715 S Orchard St.**

Bring your family and animals/pets for an afternoon together with snacks, games and to have animals receive blessings from pastors.



**Bless, O Lord, our beloved animal companions, and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for their being. May God, who created the animals of this earth, continue to protect and sustain us all, now and for ever. Amen.**



Centralia United Methodist Church



Centralia United Methodist Church

# FAITH IN ACTION: MISSION & MINISTRY



*We are the Hands and Feet of Jesus*



## They Call Us To Gather.....

It was ten years ago and right before Easter Sunday, as Suzanne Long recalls, when several of the congregation had gathered to go through and clean out the closets. Suzanne opened one of the doors and found banners for Christmas and a few others she had never seen used in the church Sanctuary. That got her to thinking that it would be so nice to start hanging banners in our Sanctuary. Suzanne got busy; she researched the sizes that would be appropriate and the symbols and artwork that would be in her designs for the banners. She figured out how to cut the yardage to gain the most and best use of the fabrics planned. She then put together what we enjoy today.

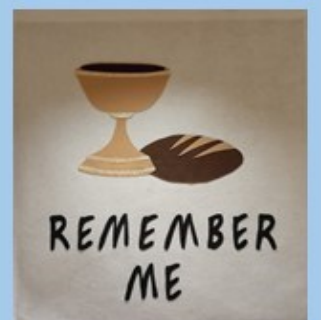
The banners that were hanging in the Sanctuary on the morning of Palm Sunday were her very first creations. These creations were so appropriate and as I looked around at them that morning, they represented the scripture of Matthew 21:1-11 by sharing the story of Jesus when he enters Jerusalem as King; the story of the palms: Palm Sunday. This was all reflected in our worship on Sunday as the children entered the sanctuary waving their palms and traversed through the aisles waving and smiling and sharing their joy and awe with us.

As I researched the history of banners in Christianity, I learned that they have been a part of our scripture heritage since the earliest biblical writings. They welcome us as children of God to prepare us for worship; to be mindful of God's presence among us. Banners remind us of scripture relevant to the seasons and time of worship such as Lent, Pentecost, and Christmas. These meanings and themes are our visual symbols of our Christian heritage and the sanctity of worship.

Doreen Kellogg, in her article "*Lift a Banner in the Land!*" shares that they represent how God's people use the banners to help us understand how we can use them today to create a meaningful part of gathering for worship and how we are being called to serve. Suzanne's creativity in scriptural banner resources is her spiritual gift shared amongst our congregation. Her symbolism provides a focus on God and his message for us each Sunday while we are gathered as a community of faith.

Suzanne and Scott Long have long been decorating our Sanctuary for worship during our Lent and Christmas seasons. We are joyful and thankful for their gifts to serve.

Carolyn Williams



### CUMC Launches New Website

We are SO excited to share with you that we have a new website! It is at the same address as always, [centraliaumc.org](http://centraliaumc.org), BUT it is vastly improved and extremely inviting. It is a great place to invite someone to find out more information about our church. You can find upcoming events, worship videos, class/group information AND invite someone to plan their visit with us on a Sunday morning. A planned visit ensures we know they are coming, so we can have one of our hospitality team members receive them, save them a seat, and give them a tour of the campus. Be sure to visit our new website!

# PALM SUNDAY 2024 AT CUMC



...the Lord will arise upon you... then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall see and be radiant. - from Isa. 60:1-5 NRSV

# STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Financial Advice from Babylonia to Centralia

French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote “plus ca change, plus c’est la meme chose” or the more things change, the more they stay the same. This adage is proven in a book titled *The Richest Man in Babylon: Six Laws of Wealth*, authored by Charles Conrad. The Babylonians didn’t have a bitcoin market to invest in and probably invested in chariots rather than electric cars, but the more things change, the more they stay the same. Conrad cites six financial principles that guided the richest man in Babylon and still ring true for Centralians today.

The first financial principle is to **“Keep a part of all you earn. Save at least 10% of your income.”** This concept is often referred to as paying ourselves first. Under this principle we are to set aside a portion of our income to add to savings/investment each month. This is done at the beginning of the month; if we wait until the end we might not have anything left over. Paying ourselves first prioritizes the importance of doing so, much as tithing and giving our first fruits to God does. Paying ourselves and God first is directing our money where to go. As Dave Ramsey has said, if we don’t tell our money where to go, it will soon disappear on its own.

The second financial principle is to **“Put your savings to work for you. Invest it so that it will multiply.”** Setting aside money for ourselves each month is a great and necessary first step. However, to outpace inflation, something more is needed. We must draw interest on that money. As we establish a “rainy day emergency fund” to prepare for the inevitable rainstorm, the focus is on keeping our money safe and secure. Bank accounts and CDs are safe havens for this. There are numerous high yield savings accounts and CD’s that are above 4-5% presently. This is substantially better than many savings accounts which may pay .10 percent. Through the years, that interest disparity can make a shocking difference. Once an emergency fund of 3-6 months expenses is covered, then the move can be made to invest money in stocks to grow our wealth even more. Historically, the stock market has averaged around a 10% return on money invested. Financial sage Warren Buffett believes that an index fund is the safest and smartest way for most of us to invest. An index fund invests in the entire market providing ultimate diversification and typically good returns. There may be great years of 50%+ returns and there could be terrible years of -50% returns, but over the long haul historically the return has averaged a gain of around 10%.

The third financial principle is **“Avoid debt. The poor pay interest while the rich earn interest.”** It’s been said that it’s better to give than receive, and that is true over most situations. However, rest assured that it’s not better to give interest rather than receive interest. In fact, the reverse is true. Several years ago, I used a Covid relief check to pay off my remaining car loan. I eliminated a car payment with 5% interest and started investing that car payment and receiving interest. I believe I read that 70% of Americans spent their Covid relief checks on big screen televisions. In the long term I was happier with my choice. Credit card debt of 20% plus can truly make us a slave to the lender. Covetousness and our unwillingness to delay gratification don’t serve our finances well. Dave Ramsey offers this advice: Don’t try to keep up with the Joneses. THEY’RE BROKE.

The fourth financial principle is **“Don’t speculate in get-rich-quick schemes. Invest in said businesses that you understand.”** Earlier I mentioned that a lot of us aren’t big fans of the concept of delayed gratification. This can cause us trouble when we want wealth but don’t want to work for it or wait for it. Uncle Ed says that I will easily double my money in Ethereum — maybe so, maybe not. Where there is high reward potential, there is typically incredible risk. I don’t have much understanding of bitcoin, but I do know about McDonald’s burgers, Nike’s shoes, and Walmart stores. None of those businesses will double my money overnight, but over time the trend is typically up for these businesses, with some dips and spikes along the way.

The fifth financial principle is **“Invest in yourself. Gain knowledge and skills to increase your earning power.”** Never stop learning. One of the best ways we can make ourselves more valuable is to gain new skills. We can look at those above us at work and figure out what skills we need to move to the next level. If investing is interesting, we can read up on it or talk to people we know who are successful at it. Persistence and perseverance will serve us well along the way as we invest in ourselves.

(Continued Next Page)

# STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Financial Advice from Babylonia to Centralia

The sixth and final financial principle mentioned is “Safeguard your growing fortune with diversification and insurance.” Most of us are familiar with the concept of not putting all our eggs in one basket. If I put all my money in Walmart stock and then Walmart stock crashes, I’ll end up in big trouble. Our goal should be to diversify by investing in different business and different industries, or probably even smarter by investing in an index fund. We must also insure our cars, homes, and lives to protect against catastrophes. A blink of an eye car wreck, tornado, or unexpected illness can wipe away a lifetime of savings and investment if we’re not properly insured. The principles for financial security are the same for Centralians today as for Babylonians centuries ago. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Greg Ray

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### Faithful Stewards & Generous Givers: Tithes and Offerings

*Centralia UMC Financial Update for 2024*

Tithes/General Giving 03-31-24	\$6,475	<b>2024 Weekly Average Budget Need</b> <b>\$5,186</b>
Tithes/Gen. Gifts Year to Date	\$54,203	
Budget Year-to-Date	\$67,420	

#### WAYS TO GIVE

- Cash or Check (“Centralia UMC”)
- Online/through “app”
- You can also make your worship offering with the Give link on the CUMC Website at: Give-Centralia United Methodist Church (centraliaumc.org)
- Text to Give: Add text # 84321 to your contacts, and you can text in your offering by typing in the dollar amount.

#### Financial Questions

Russ Greene III, Finance Chair, 918.605.6996 or russgmutgr@yahoo.com OR Financial Team at cumcorchard@gmail.com

#### Stewardship Contact Team

Craig Stevenson, Deacon and Stewardship Team Leader at 573.397.1274 or craigstevenson2040@gmail.com

#### Online Giving

Greg Ray, Financial /Stewardship Team at 573.829.1475



## Legacy Gifts Make Church Renovations Possible

**THANK YOU** to all who have helped with recent improvements to the Church, including the installation of new flooring, drywall repair, and new paint in the classrooms! Your hard work has helped to make these improvements possible!

These projects were funded through legacy gifts, which are also known as planned or deferred gifts. While legacy gifts are typically a living donor’s legal arrangement to leave cash or assets to a nonprofit organization upon their death, these gifts can take several forms, including recurring donations that begin while the donor is alive and continue after they’re deceased. For most organizations, including CUMC, legacy gifts are vital to stability, and sustained growth and development. The recent renovations to CUMC classrooms did not require the expenditure of operating funds because CUMC was included in the estate plans of our members who specified that interest from these funds could be utilized for such projects.

A legacy gift can do many things. From helping to ensure that the mission and values of the Church endure beyond one’s lifetime to demonstrating the impact the Church had in one’s life, the possibilities are endless.

If you are interested in learning more about legacy giving, contact Sally Palmer at 573.682.0428.

Cheryl Reams

# RENOVATIONS AT CUMC



**K-5 Classroom**



**Adult Classroom**



# EASTER SUNDAY 2024 AT CUMC



# April Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 2 Wanda Goe  
Tina Ray  
Whitney (Long) Roseberg  
Donna Jennings  
Jason Haskell  
Milo Clutter
- 3 MarKay Wright  
Susan Farr
- 4 Breanna Dollens  
Russell Greene, Jr. (The Elder)  
Scott Matteson
- 6 Alexis "Lexi" Brandkamp  
Bill Schnackenberg  
Garrett Holland
- 7 Dan de la Rosa  
Samuel Van Eps
- 9 Kasey Gudde
- 10 Bruce Shock
- 11 Betsy Dawkins
- 14 Carl Dollens

- 15 Corabelle Bargar
- 16 Ed Reynolds
- 17 Sharon Tawney  
Lydia Collier
- 18 Raul Taranu
- 23 Julie Crum  
Olivia Jean Gudde  
Sean McIntyre  
Kile Chitwood
- 24 Lilliann "Lilly" Henke  
Nathan Greene
- 26 Janet Jesse-Sexton  
Heather McKelvy  
Ivan Sweezer
- 28 Charles Palmer
- 30 Alerey Crocker



## Happy Anniversary

- 1 Tim & Debby Schwennesen
- 3 Charlie & Karen Popeck
- 16 Bill & Jane Vaughn
- 18 Nick & Hannah Romine
- 20 Tim & De Reed
- 21 Alex & Lauren Finck
- 24 Bob & Diann Green
- 27 Tom & Laura Pavlak
- 30 Ben & Brenda (Clutter) Van Eps  
Aaron & Whitney (Long) Roseberg



*If your birthday or anniversary, or someone else of our church family, has inadvertently been left off of these lists, PLEASE accept our sincere apologies and call or email the church office with that information.*

## SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

The theme for 2024 JMA Summer Camps is "Let Me Tell You 'Bout My Jesus" with Timothy 4:2 as the related bible verse.

Jo-OTA will be hosting 11 camps this year to grow in relations with Jesus by making the most of opportunities for prayer, Bible study, Worship and Christian Fellowship.

### 2024 Camp JO-OTA Summer Camps

- Family Camp—TBA
- Faith Treasure Hunt May 28-31
- Mom/Grandma and Me Camp June 1
- Spirit Camp June 17-21
- Frog Camp June 21-22
- S'mores Camp June 21-23
- Discovery Camps June 30-July 3

**CUMC will provide scholarships that cover up to 50% of the cost for members/ active CUMC participants for summer church camps!**

**You're welcome to invite friends, too** - you don't have to be a Methodist to attend any of these camps! Feel free to contact the church office with any questions or for more information.

### Leadership is Always Needed!

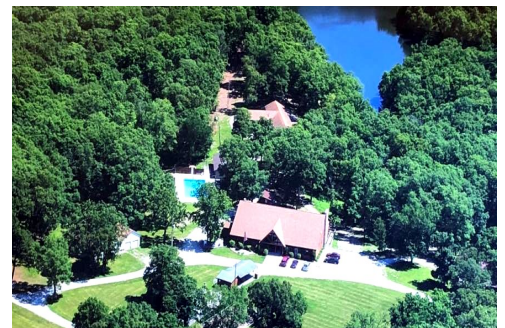
Individuals who give their time, talent and gifts are the heart and soul of the camping ministry.

## Summer Camp Registrations are Now Open!

**Let's go to camp!** And did you know? Centralia UMC offers scholarships for summer church camp.

**Camp Jo-Ota**, located just an hour north of Centralia near Clarence MO, starts the season with Family Camp May 26-29, and continues with a variety of camps for ages 4 thru high-schoolers in **June and July**. Camps include Outdoor Discovery, Sewing, Sports, Faith Treasure Hunt Science, and more! Jo-Ota has a swimming pool, lake for canoeing and fishing, and a challenge course. Learn more at: [www.campjo-ota.org](http://www.campjo-ota.org).

Lake!  
Pool!



Jo-Ota Methodist Association  
1272 Hwy MM  
Clarence, MO 63437  
Camp Office [office@campjo-ota.org](mailto:office@campjo-ota.org)  
[Campjo-ota.org](http://Campjo-ota.org)  
660-699-2393

# MILITARY CARING CORNER - PLEASE PRAY FOR MEMBERS & LOVED ONES OF OUR CHURCH IN THE MILITARY

Alex Armour  
 Ryan Ball  
 Lynn Beardon  
 Chris Bradley/*Germany*  
 Jon Brimeyer/*Army*  
 Tony Cammarata  
 - *National Guard*  
 Mark Chitwood  
 Brandon Cooke  
 Colin & Taylor Fair - *Army (NY)*  
 Amanda & Shane Fierge  
 Steve, Naomi, Aliya Hahn  
 Kenny Lee Harrison  
 Kyle Haskell -*Coast Gu.*  
 Emily Haskell

Joy Hahn  
 Mike Hays  
 Andrew Horton - *Korea*  
 Travis Hudson - *Iraq*  
 Brendan Kennon-*Airforce*  
 Abby Kent  
 Michael Kinder  
 Justin Lami/*Navy*  
 Byron McVay  
 Chris Malone  
 Alyssa Matteson, *A.F.*  
 John Matteson/*U.S.*  
 Rafe Mechlin - *Marines*  
 Nick Morris/*Marines*  
 Neal Olds/*Navy*  
 Lynn O'Riley

Jacob Pendergrast  
 Amy Robinett  
 Charlee Schultz - *Navy*  
 Jake Shannon  
 Nathan Swartz - *Afghan.*  
 Justin Thurston  
 Jonathan Windsor  
 Alexander Wisdom  
 Wesley Wright - *AF Res.*  
 Bob Yager



## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING...



### Women's Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 10am

Meets at CUMC at 10am on Tuesday mornings, starting with the second Tuesday of the month. All women welcome!



### United Methodist Women's April Meeting

April 2nd ~ 1:00 pm

Round Table Meeting Room

Round Table Restaurant, 937 East Highway 22, Centralia, Missouri



UMW meets the First Tuesday of each month!

Contact Person: Carolyn Williams 573 881-1748

**Come Join Us!**

**All Women are Welcome....**

<https://centraliaumc.org/>

### New Life For Old Milk Jugs

As you may know, we collect clean, empty milk jugs for Mobility Worldwide. They use them as filler when they ship the mobility carts, which go to folks in some of the poorest parts of the world. The jugs then become bonus water containers for the people receiving the carts. It's a win-win-win! To help, please place **clean, dry** gallon or half-gallon milk (or other beverage jugs w/handles) in the bin next to the recycling bins; and the lids in the basket on the nearby table. Thanks so much to everyone for doing a great job cleaning out the milk jugs prior to delivery to CUMC. Many thanks also to volunteers Bill Grace & Sally Palmer, who are currently serving as our delivery persons taking the jugs to the mobility cart production facility in Columbia.

Learn more about the work of Mobility Worldwide (formerly Personal Energy Transportation [PET]), online [www.giftofmobility.org](http://www.giftofmobility.org),

#### Centralia United Methodist Church Staff:

Rev. Sean McIntyre, Pastor. Cheryl Reams, Office Administrator Dorie and Tristan Haas-Custodians.  
 Scott Long, Minister of Music. Tenson Liang, Pianist.  
 Tiffany Holloway, Director of Panther Cub Club Before & After School Program. Makenzi Manson-Nursery Attendant.