

CENTRAL CHIMES

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 50415, ARLINGTON VA 22205

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DECEMBER 2023

PASTOR'S PAGE

Psalm 126: 1 (NRSVUE)

"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream."

Dear Central UMC members and friends,

In 2017 we launched our "Dreams to Reality" capital campaign to support the vision of creating affordable housing on our church property. God gave us a vision bigger than we could accomplish on our own. I am so grateful for the leadership at the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) who believed in our vision and were willing to help us make that dream a reality. In just a few months residents will start moving into those brand-new committed affordable housing units that APAH will own and operate.

As our leadership board continues to work on our plans to relaunch our congregation's ministries in Ballston we're once again dreaming of the future reality God has in mind for us.

During the season of Advent, the scripture readings that highlight how God prepared people for the birth of Jesus feature people who were dreamers. Sometimes the text tells us of a literal dream, like Joseph had one night, where God gave a clear message to a person. Other times, it features people like the Magi who imaged a transformed world and knew how to look for the signs that God was at work. Starting December 2, during worship each week we're going to encounter the story of some who received and responded to God's dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.

This worship series for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us in worship as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. We worship in person on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., virtually on Sundays at 10:30 a.m., and if you miss a sermon you can listen to our podcast by visiting sermons.cumcballston.org.

Grace and peace, Pastor Sarah

A devotional booklet for our advent worship series is available to pick up at our Saturday, 10:30 a.m. worship services. If you can't make it to one of our worship services copies can be mailed, just contact the church office at 703-527-8844 or email office@cumcballston.org.

LEADERSHIP BOARD

Vital Congregation Goals

The past year for CUMC and the Leadership Board has been a whirlwind of construction and planning. The Leadership Board is focused on the time when the entire congregation will be together again sharing our hope and hospitality on Sundays (not Saturdays) with the neighborhood around us. We have been preparing for the opening of the new building with our strategic focus based on our work with Leighton Ford Ministries and our five priority pillars outlined below. Each team has created a timeline until the soft opening in February and grander opening in March. We have updated our website, started a new Instagram account, finalized our outreach brochure, updated connection cards, the list is a long one. Most importantly continue to partner with APAH on finishing the construction and how best to reach out to the 144 apartment units as they fill up above us and welcome them to the community. Let's not forget our relationship with Kinhaven is also key to a successful opening and 2024.

I feel very blessed to have the great team we have on the Leadership Board and with Pastor Sarah to help set priorities and get things done. But, we will need everyone's help in making the launch and 2024 a success. We will be welcoming so many new guests into Central that we need to make feel comfortable and that want to come back. Our budget is complete for 2024 but we still have surprises that we need to be ready for. Please help us share the joy of Central UMC and welcome new faces when we open in February. Thank you.

Strategic Priorities 2023-2024



WELCOMING

HOW WE INVITE PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH US AND JOIN IN SERVING.



WORSHIP:

EVALUATE AND CREATE OUR NEW WORSHIP FOR THE PROMISED LAND.



NEIGHBORHOOD:

CONNECT WITH NEIGHBORS, TELL THEM WE ARE COMING, WE CARE, WE WANT TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR MISSION AND WE WANT TO PARTNER WITH YOU.



SERVING:

MISSION DRIVEN TO FIND WAYS TO RE-ESTABLISH OUR PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.



COMMUNICATION:

WHAT AND HOW...

CENTRAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 50415, Arlington, Virginia 22205
703-527-8844
office@cumcballston.org

Rev. Sarah Harrison- McQueen
Senior Pastor

November 2023

Dear Friends of Central,

Christmas is almost here! As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Leadership Board wanted to make a special appeal on behalf of those who work very hard to make our worship time special every week: our Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) staff. This year the challenges continue with the everchanging demands of the pandemic.

It is a long tradition at Central to collect a love gift for our church staff. We are served faithfully throughout the year by: Reverend Sarah Harrison McQueen, our Minister of Music, Barbara Peterson Kieffer, our Church Administrative Assistant, Tish Van Patten, our Bookkeeper, Appolinaire Abo, and our Sexton, Edward McGee. We uphold these church employees in our prayers throughout the year. The love gift provides a way in which we can join together financially to provide each of these Christian servants with a holiday present from our hearts.

Gifts will be collected up through December 31, 2023 and shared with the staff on the 12th day of Christmas, January 6, 2024. If you wish to participate, please make your check payable to Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) and mark on your check and/or offering envelope "Love Gift." You may place your gift in the offering plate on any Saturday, or mail it to Central United Methodist Church at P.O. Box 50415, Arlington, VA 22205. If you wish to give online, you may do so at: www.cumcballston.org click on the Donate tab and note Love Gift at the top of the page where it says "designation."

Thank you for your generosity!

The Leadership Board of Central United Methodist Church

Mike Rugala

Gene Cross

Demilour R. Ignacio

Jennifer Liu

Tricia O'Hara

Joemer Ta-ala

Alex Timm

Jen Tucci

CHANCEL CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA AND CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Central's Chancel Choir will perform their Christmas Cantata on Saturday, December 16, during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Central's December 24 Christmas Eve worship service will be at 5:00 p.m. and the Chancel Choir will sing 1 selection from their Christmas Cantata. We are also expecting a special guest, Carl Tanner, opera tenor, to join us on Christmas Eve and sing.

THANK YOU

Pat Barham - I received this note today, November 1, addressed to "Dear Central United Methodist Church members."

Thank you for the beautiful card and kind words in memory of Terry Horning. His brother and I miss him terribly. His death was so unexpected!.

Terry loved his church and enjoyed its activities. We were happy to meet members at his service. Terry is buried in Osceola Memory Gardens in Kissimmee, FL. It is where our other family members are buried.

Sincerely, Olive and Rusty Horning

Pat Barham - Thank you to the 28 people who ordered the White House Ornaments totaling 112. With these purchases Central made a total of \$341.60. Enjoy your ornaments.

Steve Barham – Thanks to all those who contributed to the annual CROP WALK. I raised \$1,373 from the members of Central and friends. All totaled over \$29,000 was collected in Arlington of which 25% stays in the county. Nationwide there were 2,550 teams that raised \$2,741,753 so far for 2023. Funds raised help people in need with no restrictions based on faith or beliefs.

The Mission Team – Thanks to all who contributed to the toy drive in November for area children to have a nicer Christmas.



The original project cost was anticipated as \$9.1 million for the church's share of the construction costs. With various change orders and anticipated change orders, we expect the total cost to come in at \$9.5 million. Considering the impact of Covid and construction material inflation pricing we are doing well. In addition, the church has paid some costs directly and will have some fit-out expense yet to come but we should finish close to the budget considering contingencies and offsets.



SANCTUARY

We are in the process of making furniture selections, interior design components, signage and other finish elements. The tile for the labyrinth is arriving shortly and installation will begin in a couple of weeks. A mockup of the stained glass windows will be available in a week. The backlight panels have already been installed. This long exile will soon be over in 100 days and counting.

God is everywhere. We can be, too.

Join us for in-person worship on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. at 4701 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. Need directions? Visit <https://www.cumcballston.org/find-us>.

Before coming to the church if you'd like to verify our in-person worship service has not been cancelled you can call our church office number (703-527-8844) and listen to the recording. Any changes are left on the telephone recording on Fridays before each Saturday in-person worship service.

Virtual worship through Zoom and Facebook on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

On Sundays at 10:30 a.m. we will share a recording of our in-person worship service for all who want to worship from home via Zoom, Facebook Live and Call in by phone. Worship is also broadcast on television each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Comcast channel 69 and Verizon channel 38 courtesy of Arlington Independent Media. This is a recording of the previous week's worship service.



Zoom

Meeting ID: 703 527
8844 Passcode:
welcome



Facebook Live

Visit
www.facebook.com/cumcballston



Call in by phone:
301-715-8592-946
Webinar ID:
5333 2464



- Donations can be made to Central United Methodist Church as follows:
- PayPal by using the QR code on the left.
- Checks or cash donations can also be dropped in the offering box at the in-person, 10:30-11:30 a.m. worship services on Saturday mornings.
- Checks can be mailed to:
Central United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 50415
Arlington, VA 22205