

# CENTRAL CHIMES

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MAY 2025



Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Easter Worship Service, Easter Brunch, and Easter Egg Hunt run smoothly! It was a day filled with both laughter and tears, new friends and old, and glimpses of the hope of resurrection we have through the love of Christ.

## PASTOR'S PAGE

*"And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts." 1 Peter 4:10 (CEB)*

Dear Central UMC,

There are moments when I'm in awe of the gifts that others have and the way that God can use them. Throughout the season of Lent each week in worship we had a prayer station that allowed us to participate with some type of hands-on activity in response to the word read and proclaimed. These prayer stations were designed in collaboration with the worship design team and most of the physical items were created by Bonni Bonneville. This week Provision Café wasn't able to operate and Jeanie made soup with the leftovers from Maundy Thursday and Easter. Later that day when I ran into one of our guests walking down Fairfax Drive, he stopped me to comment on how delicious that potato soup was! Each one of us has gifts that God can use to bless others. Knowing our gifts and using them to glorify God is a vital part of our discipleship.

Since the recent death of Pope Francis, I have seen many inspiring quotes from him. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, he wrote, "The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice." These words remind us that the Church is not merely a place we gather, but a movement we join.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, taught that faith is never passive. For him, faith was always about a love that overflows into service. Our Methodist tradition calls us to live as active disciples—loving God and neighbor not just in word, but in deed. We are not called to comfort but to courage, not just to worship but to witness.

Now more than ever, our communities need the healing presence of the Church. We are invited to be a people who show up—for the hurting, the hungry, the hopeful. Whether in feeding ministries, prayer circles, or small acts of kindness, we bear fruit that lasts when we live into this joyful calling.

May we move forward as a Church that goes forth—bold in faith, generous in spirit, and rooted in the love of Christ.

Grace and peace, Pastor Sarah

## **LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE**

The Leadership Board met, in person and via zoom, following worship on April 6, 2025. They entered executive session to discuss personnel matters and voted to extend a job offer to Brian Mills as our new Office & Communications Manager working on site 30 hours per week. He will assume most of the communications duties handled by our remote communications specialist, Larry Williams, since 2021. The board also confirmed the details of the job offer for Greg Capaldini to serve as our Choir Master & Conductor. We appreciate Shawn Thorpe stepping in to help lead the choir through Tish's funeral and Easter 2025.

We reviewed the current status of the Provision Church lease. We also amended the payment schedule for the Kinhaven School lease due to their continued delay in starting school on site.

We reviewed the current bank accounts and agreed to move our primary operating account from Wells Fargo to Chase Bank.

The next Leadership Board meeting will be on May 12th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

## **THANK YOU LARRY!**

We are deeply grateful to Larry Williams for his faithful service as our Communication Specialist. His creativity and care have helped tell the story of our church with grace and professionalism. We offer our gratitude and best wishes as he embarks on the next chapter of his professional journey

## **CHERRYDALE UMC BLOOD DRIVE**

Cherrydale UMC will host an Inova Blood Drive on Sunday, June 1, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at 3701 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA. The Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be in the church parking lot.

Book your appointment by visiting or calling 1-866-256-6372 (use code 8982).

A photo ID is required, and donations take about an hour. All donors will receive a free Inova Neck Fan, while supplies last, upon completing the screening process.

If you have any question, contact Michelle Kile at (703) 527-2621 or email [office@cherrydaleumc.org](mailto:office@cherrydaleumc.org).

More details at [InovaBlood.org](http://InovaBlood.org).



**Explore Our Heritage:**  
**Ted Campbell's "A Core Methodist Hymnal"**  
**Now on PDF!**

Looking to deepen your connection to our Methodist roots through song? Noted Methodist historian Rev. Dr. Ted Campbell (Professor Emeritus at Perkins School of Theology) has recently published a valuable new resource titled "A Core Methodist Hymnal."

This book focuses on the texts of 126 foundational hymns common to historic Methodist hymnals (including works by Wesley, Watts, and Crosby), accompanied by Campbell's insightful commentary. It's designed for personal devotion and study, allowing readers to engage deeply with the poetry and theology of these core hymns – a wonderful tool for Christian formation in the Wesleyan tradition.

This book is a great resource for personal growth or small group study. Please note that physical copies of the book are available for purchase; you can find links to retailers listed below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2f23tkp5>

Also, with great generosity, Rev. Dr. Campbell has made a digital PDF version freely available. You can download it directly here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4pypyhfw>

We encourage you to explore this wonderful resource in the format that works best for you and deepen your appreciation for our shared Methodist heritage!

Jacob Williams  
Worship Coordinator and Accompanist

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

When I moved to Arlington from Burke, VA I was not familiar with the churches in that area. Also, I was contemplating switching to another denomination. From time to time, I would attend various churches but never felt a connection with any of them. Nor do I recall church members greeting and/or welcoming fresh faces. Sadly, my attendance dwindled to an occasional visit.

Many years had passed and finally, I started reaching out to my friends inquiring about churches in the area. I knew that this void all these years had to be filled. It was time to return to church. God works in mysterious ways. As a member of the Optimist Club of Arlington one of the members approached me, as he knew I was searching for a church to join. He invited me to attend Sunday worship at the church where he and his wife were members. I knew both and I immediately accepted.

I decided to drive by the church during the week to check out the location and hopefully look inside. The steeple and stained glass windows were amazing. It was peaceful when I entered the sanctuary, I looked around, felt comfortable, and thought this was where I belong.

My friends were waiting for me on Sunday and greeted me with hugs and smiles. They introduced me to their family and invited me to sit with them, but not until they introduced me to the choir, as they were members and were aware that I sang with other choirs. The service had not started, and I was already connected to several members. The following Sunday I was handed a choir robe and have been a member of this wonderful “family” for the past 20 years. They are supportive, caring, and lots of fun.

And thus began my spiritual journey. I was sponsored to attend a 3-day Retreat to Emmaus. When I returned home, I felt like I was floating on a cloud and realized that it was the first time I felt His presence. I joined the weekly Bible Study, a first for me. This prompted me to join the Reader of the Word Ministry, a first for me, drawing me closer to God. I consider this an honor. During this journey I’ve learned to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7) and it is the love of God that teaches us exactly how to do this.

I recall in one of my readings, and I quote, “Everyday you love him well, is a day you have fulfilled your purpose in life.”

Tricia O’Hara, Certified Lay Minister

## **WELCOME BRIAN!**



Brian brings a spirit of service and a love for learning to his new role as Office & Communications Manager at Central United Methodist Church. He will be providing support for the daily operation of the church office and assisting staff wherever needed.

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Brian recently earned his bachelor's degree. He has worked in various fields, including customer service and security, and coached basketball for several years, always drawn to roles that support others and build community.

Brian is a CUMC member and part of the choir. He enjoys reading and spending time with his beautiful wife, his grown children, and exceptionally cute grandson.

The new church office hours: Tuesday 9 AM - 5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM - 5 PM, Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM, and Friday 9 AM - 5 PM. To reach Brian via email for work related topics please email him at: [office@cumcballston.org](mailto:office@cumcballston.org)

## **WELCOME GREG!**



Greg Capaldini is joining our staff as Choir Master & Conductor on May 1st. He has served a number of DC area churches as a singer, pianist, and organist, beginning with the Basilica of the National Shrine and most recently serving at Capitol Hill UMC. He earned a Master's Degree in Music from the Catholic University of America, later pursuing a PhD in Musicology but stopping short of a dissertation. He was born in West Virginia, his Italian grandparents having immigrated to the US nearly 100 years ago.

His faith journey started with the Roman Catholic Church of his childhood and continued with reception into the Episcopal Church as an adult and then into the UMC. Greg has lived in the Ballston neighborhood since 1997, working weekdays as a legal secretary. His favorite hangout is the Clarendon dog park, runners-up being various casual restaurants along the Orange-Silver Line. He is always ready for a meal of fresh spring rolls, soft-shell crabs, and Vietnamese iced coffee. Or pizza, fajitas, cheesesteak... To connect with Greg, maybe share a meal, and learn more about how you can use your musical talents to praise God please email him at [conductor@cumcballston.org](mailto:conductor@cumcballston.org).

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE DETAILS FOR** **REV. RICHARD COBB**

Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about people who have died so that you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose, so we also believe that God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Common English Bible)

As we celebrate the joy and promise of Easter, we pause to give thanks for the life and ministry of Pastor Richard. With hearts full of gratitude, we remember his faithful service and the impact of his witness to God's love. We find comfort in the promise of new life that Christ offers to all.

We will gather at Central UMC for a memorial service on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Please note that on-site parking is limited. If you are able, we kindly ask that you park across the street in the overflow garage under the Hilton Hotel to allow space for the family and guests with mobility needs.

The church can provide a validation sticker for the \$6 parking fee. If you need help navigating to and from that garage, download a [.pdf from this link](#).

We'll be hosting a reception following the service. If you're able to assist with setting up, cleaning up, or providing refreshments, please contact Bonni Bonneville. If you need her contact information, call 703-527-8844 or email [office@cumcballston.org](mailto:office@cumcballston.org).

During the reception, we'll have a microphone set up in the fellowship hall to provide an opportunity to share stories and memories of Pastor Richard.

There will be a committal service at 4 p.m. at the Reliance UMC cemetery located at 1021 Reliance Rd, Middletown, VA 22645. The family will leave Central UMC by 2 p.m. to travel the 70 miles to the cemetery. Following the committal service, the family will gather for supper at the Cracker Barrel in Front Royal and welcomes your company there.

Feel free to forward this email to folks who would like to know the details of the service, but please do not post these details on Facebook.

If you would like to send a card to Carroll or Rich and need their mailing addresses, please contact the church office at 703-527-8844 or [office@cumcballston.org](mailto:office@cumcballston.org).

Blessings, Pastor Sarah"

God is everywhere. We can be, too.

Since we moved to our new building we have enhanced our online experience and are now live streaming our Service directly on our website at <https://www.cumcballston.org>. This change aims to provide you with a more user-friendly and integrated way to join us from the comfort of your home.

We appreciate your continued support and flexibility as we make this transition. Should you encounter any difficulties or have questions during this process, please feel free to reach out to us.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new online platform and creating an even more engaging virtual community.

Thank you for being a valued part of Central United Methodist Church.



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Youtube

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<https://www.youtube.com/@CUMCBallstonVA>

If you encounter any difficulties accessing the website, you can livestream the event from our YouTube (YT) or Facebook (FB) accounts.



- 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 Sunday mornings.
- Checks can be mailed to:  
Central United Methodist Church  
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