



## Central United Methodist Women

The Central United Methodist Women fosters fellowship among women of all ages and has been a part of the church for many years. While it may have been difficult for women to get out to meetings at the time of Old Lebanon or Old Methodist churches, the women still played a very active role, especially in preparing food for the outdoor revivals and church picnics, in the shape-note singings that drew all entire families, and in providing for the ill within the congregation. In 1886 the women of Old Methodist formed the first official women's organization that has grown and changed in name and focus over the years but still exists to this day. It was initially known as the Women's Missionary Society, later the Ladies Aid Society. By the time Central on Franklin Street was being constructed, there was a huge need for these ladies to head and carry out the decorating plans. This required raising funds, buying furniture and carpets and gathering for sewing sessions. The fundraising ideas were interesting and often available to the entire community. As time passed at the new Central, it was easier for women within walking proximity to gather. Central women were particularly active in Temperance Unions in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. By the time the current Central United Methodist Church was built on North Main Street, women were driving and transporting themselves to church meetings. Because of the number of women in the church, multiple circles were established based on different interests. Each group is called a circle and the collection of individual circles is called the general circle, to which every woman belongs. Over the years the individual circles have come and gone, but the general circle is perpetual and links the women of Central to all women of every other Methodist Church. The focus of the National United Methodist Women is missions and they provide direction, education and literature for churches like Central. The national organization helps equip women for leadership and works for justice through service and advocacy.

Currently the collective organization at Central is composed of 3 separate groups that work together but concentrate on their own focus. For many years, they have worked together to hold a large annual fall festival luncheon and bake sale that is widely

attended by the community and serves as a major fund raiser for the club. They also sponsor an annual Week of Prayer and Self-denial collection of monetary gifts that are then distributed to various local charities. Each group promotes individual events or activities in the church to carry out their purpose, like luncheons, sending cards to members unable to attend church, visiting members, and providing enrichment programs.

**ABIGAIL CIRCLE**-Through programs centered on missions, these ladies learn about various ways to help other people locally and globally.

**ANNE CLARK CIRCLE**-Through educational and inspirational study, these ladies promote spiritual growth and fellowship. Programs include histories, biographies, missions and reports for community, state and national organizations meeting unique human needs. They sponsor Christmas gifts for residents of the Children's Center.

### **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

The Friendship Through doing things for others, these ladies promote fellowship and a feeling of belonging to those unable to be in church. They enjoy craft project like making Valentines, hospital tray favors or flower baskets for special church friends, health kits for disaster victims and palm crosses for the Palm Sunday Church service.

**VISITATION CIRCLE**-By regular visits to shut-ins, these ladies promote love in warm one-on-one interactions. They may share a small gift, but the main goal is to share Christ's love.

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## **1930's UMW Party**



Central United Methodist Church, Women's groups often entertained with parties during the 1930s. The Women of Central United Methodist Church held a Washington's Tea, and are shown with their guests at the old New Willow Hotel. Seated on the front are Libby Shelton (left) and Marianna Hines. Standing (left to right) are Mazie Cook, William Allred, Flossie Allred, Kitty Miller, Mrs. Walter J. Miller, the Rev. Walter J. Miller, Geraldine Miller, Willie Moore Gentry, unknown, Bess Merritt, Rachel Holcomb and Will Hale. On the second row are Grace Vaughn, Mrs. Matt Hines, Molly Haymore, Cora Earp, Mrs. Floyd Poore, Minnie Chandler, D.A. Robertson, Clara Clark, Lucy Bowman, Kathryn Mays, Mrs. Paul Hull, Mrs. Joe G. Greenwood and Hilda Hollingsworth. On the back rows are Ruth Minick, Mary Louise Merritt, Ada Shelton, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. C. C. Elder, Mrs. E. Q. Benbow, Elsie Sparger, Mrs. Walter Poore, Mrs. Sparger Robertson, Annie Badgett, Louise Foy, Ethel Doss, Virginia Coltrane, Mrs. R. F. Collins and Mabel Creed.

# Sample Fall Festival



June 10, 2005

336/786-8324 • Fax 336/786-7994  
www.centralumc.us

To All the Women of Central United Methodist Church:

Greetings to all women who have any connection with our church! Our United Methodist Women find great spiritual blessings through participating in the Annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial. I am using this letter as a means of letting you know how much we appreciate your help with the 2004 Call to Prayer. We are sure you appreciate the fact that the cost of postage is a great consideration in our not responding immediately.

Through your generosity you contributed the largest amount we have ever received For the Call to Prayer, an amount in excess of \$2,000.00.

This is the only fund raising project during the year that we make available to every woman on our church membership rolls, or who attends our church, whether or not you are a member of the UMW.

This year our women have a rare opportunity to help agencies for which our church found it necessary to cut funding. Most of these are local agencies dear to the hearts of many of us such as Hope Valley, Habitat for Humanity, Surry Medical Ministries and others. Elsewhere in the Conference there is UMAR, the relatively new and long-awaited home for the mentally retarded, and the Children's Home in nearby Winston-Salem. We must not desert these institutions. Of particular concern was the fact that the funding for Clinics in Haiti was cut in half when we are all aware of the deplorable conditions in Haiti. We are all familiar with the work done by Dr. Charles Sykes toward establishing Hope Valley. I had only recently learned that the alcoholic son of a member of the staff of one of our North Carolina Universities was involved in a wreck in our locality. Because he was arrested for driving under the influence he was referred to Hope Valley and his mother has reported that her son is a changed person as a result of this help. I was very saddened at our Council meeting when the budget was discussed that we were unable to include agencies who depend upon us and we know to be helpful in our community and in our Conference. This category is called "Ministry and Mission at Home and Abroad" and it would be our hope to restore the \$2650.00 cut from these agencies, thus encouraging those who have worked so diligently on these projects, as well as enabling their work to go forward. These monies will be paid by our UMW treasurer directly to the agencies involved. We will report to you our success in our next communication. Hopefully, in the future, our church will be able to include these agencies in our regular budget. For your further information I am enclosing a photostat of the portion of the budget and minutes that pertain to this situation.

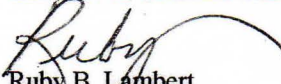
Some have asked about the term "self-denial." I learned of this term as it applies to our purposes from my mother in whose day the women of Salem Methodist Church might deny themselves a new Easter bonnet in order to give to this cause. It becomes more meaningful to us when we do without something we really want, whatever that "something" might cost. The blessing we receive cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

Let us combine our efforts and see what we – let me rephrase this – see what God can do with our offering. An envelope is enclosed and it can be mailed as addressed, given to our treasurer, or left in the church office where we have placed a special box for these offerings. Either way, you can be assured it will reach its sacred destination.

All the women of our church are dear to us. We remember with deep affection those who have moved away and we still feel you are a part of us. May God Bless You!

Love and Prayers,

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

  
Ruby B. Lambert  
Prayer Program

Enc. Prayer Card and Envelope



**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CALL TO PRAYER**

**Dear Father,**

The United Methodist Women  
of Central United Methodist Church are calling upon you.

We praise your Holy Name.

We are thankful for all thy many blessings.

We are especially thankful for this call to prayer and self-denial.

We ask, just as the Disciples asked your Son, that you teach us to pray.

Help us to know how to pray.

We give you thanks for your special blessings in our lives.

And we ask for even more blessings because we know you love us.

There are situations where we need your help.

We bring these before your throne of grace.

There are people in our lives about whom we are concerned.

We name these in our hearts before thee.

We pray your forgiveness of our sins.

We confess them before thee.

We each have problems in our personal lives.

Some of these problems are visible to others, some visible only to thee.

We ask you to help us overcome whatever it is that prevents a closer walk with thee.

Help us to listen and hear what you say to us.

We ask your special blessings upon:

New Babies, New Mothers, Children, Youth,

Those away at college or the Military, Newly Married

Those with Disabilities, Older ones with Infirmities

Most of all, we pray for thy presence in our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

In the name of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**AMEN**



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WEEK OF PRAYER LETTER

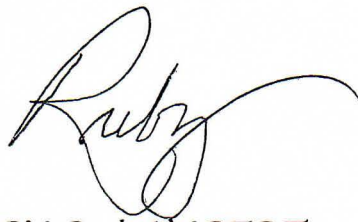
JULY 28, 2019

DEAREST FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT; HERE WE ARE WITH OUR ANNUAL LETTER, DIRECTLY TO YOU AND PRAYING YOU WILL BLESS EACH WORD. FIRST OF ALL WE THANK YOU FOR EVERY BLESSING - WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THANKFULNESS IS THE KEY TO YOUR STOREHOUSE OF BLESSINGS. WE ARE TRUSTING THAT YOU WILL LAY ON OUR HEARTS WHAT TO SAY THAT IN THIS PRAYER EVERY WORD WILL BRING GLORY TO YOUR NAME AND ACCOMPLISH YOUR PURPOSE IN YOUR CHURCH. BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR CHURCH, DEAREST FATHER, AND WE WISH TO BE GOOD STEWARDS. WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN BY DENYING OURSELVES SOMETHING WE FELT WE COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT. WE KNOW YOU MADE MANY COVENANTS WITH YOUR PEOPLE AND THIS IS OUR COVENANT WITH YOU.

YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF HOW MUCH WE NEED YOU TO HELP US. WE HAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH THAT WE DEDICATED TO YOUR GLORY, BELIEVING WE WERE DOING YOUR WILL AT A TIME BEFORE SO MANY OF OUR INDUSTRIES WENT OVERSEAS. WE BELIEVE YOU WILL NOT LEAVE US HOPELESS, BUT YOU WILL PROVIDE WHATEVER IS NECESSARY FOR US TO HELP WHOEVER ENTERS OUR DOORS TO FIND WHAT EACH OF US NEEDS THAT IS MISSING FROM OUR LIVES. HELP US MAKE EVERYONE WELCOME.

WHEN THESE LETTERS ARE READY TO MAIL WE WILL TAKE THEM TO THE ALTAR AND ASK YOUR SERVANT, PASTOR DANIEL MILLER, TO BLESS THEM THAT THEY WILL CARRY WITH THEM YOUR POWER TO PROVIDE THE DEAREST NEED OF EACH RECIPIENT. WE KNOW YOU CAN DO THIS AND WE ARE TRUSTING YOU WILL. YOURS WILL BE THE HONOR AND THE GLORY.

WE CLAIM ANOTHER OF YOUR PROMISES, DEAR TO OUR HEARTS. YOU DO NOT CONFINE YOUR BLESSINGS TO US, BUT YOU BLESS OUR HOUSE-HOLDS. WE LOVE YOU FOR THIS GREATEST BLESSING OF ALL, DEAREST FATHER AND WE PRAISE YOUR HOLY NAME.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruby".

RUBY B. LAMBERT,  
PRAYER COORDINATOR  
ON BEHALF OF ALL YOUR CHILDREN  
WHO LOVE CENTRAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

ENCLOSURE: LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF THIS GIFT  
ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO UMW/HELEN PFITZNER IN  
CONFIDENCE

\$100.00  
9/11/19

ORGANIZATIONS TRADITIONALLY HELPED BY OUR  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN IN OUR  
WEEK OF PRAYER OFFERING

2019

We dare not risk becoming like the Dead Sea with everything  
coming in and nothing going out. Therefore we will share  
with the following worthwhile organizations:

ARC of Surry County

Blue Ridge CareNet Counseling Center

Children's Center of Surry County

First Baptist Church Friends Feeding Friends

Hope Valley, Inc.

Salvation Army Mount Airy Corps

Shepherd's House

Sheriff's Christmas Fund

Surry Medical Ministries

Yokefellow Cooperative Ministry

YoungLife Foothills (Mount Airy/Surry)