



# Central

United Methodist Church

# The Messenger

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October 2009

## EVIL TEMPTS; LIFE TESTS; GOD GUIDES; WE (CAN) LEARN

As I was planning October sermons, I read a passage adjacent to one on which I will preach, which spoke to me for this article. In a beloved New Testament book, James writes (1:12-16 NRSV):

*Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved.*

With a no-nonsense practicality James says we can't blame God when things go wrong. God **certainly does not tempt us**; rather, it is evil inclinations within us that respond to the lure of something that is not healthy but sounds exciting. I also believe—James seems to concur—that **God does not test us**, at least not in the sense of God picking certain things to be sent to us so God can grade our response. We are certainly tested by the processes of life and some of the mysteries of the world that God created. However, God's also created us, loves us (incredibly and unconditionally) and guides us. Our role is to recognize we are God's blessed and beloved creatures and to follow God's guidance for our good.

Indeed, evil tempts us at times, usually when we least expect it. Life does test us: plenty of things that come up are hard to deal with and challenge our faith, love and hope. Still, in all of this God is here to guide us. The question is: Will we follow? Or, if we have not followed: Will we learn? We can learn from our mistakes—even our sins—and from the unexpected situations that arise to throw us a curve. God created us capable of learning from experience, but it is not automatic. Even age does not assure wisdom: Sometimes we grow mature and wise; other times we just get old. So the question is: Will we take advantage of our experiences (even those not from God) to become wiser, stronger, more faithful?

I think about that question not only in relationship to our individual situations but with historical and cultural events—like the economic downturn that started two years ago. There are signs of hope that we are starting to emerge from it, but it is still quite painful: People are still getting "downsized," others still face foreclosure or bankruptcy, many have lost significant savings and nearly all of us have been affected in some ways. It seems to me there are a number of things that can now be seen to have helped get us in this mess: sub-prime mortgages, lack of verifying financial health, risky in-

vestments, lax regulation, inadequate supervision, trusting rather than checking when things sounded "too good to be true," over-spending, not "saving for a rainy day," seeking "more" and "bigger." A couple of biblical words come to mind for much of this: coveting and greed. Coveting is wanting what others have that we don't. Greed is letting our drive to acquire take precedence over reality and/or morality.

So can we learn not to live "on the edge" financially, because it turns out to be a cliff with a long drop? Can we learn that life does not consist in the accumulation of things? Can we see ourselves as greatly blessed by much that we did not "earn" and thus entrusted with great responsibility and the opportunity to do much good. Sister Joan Chittister has said that all we can ever really **have** are our relationships, because material "things" are transitory and they are **ours** only for a while.

This suggests I should value my relationships to family, friends, church, community, nation, world and God above everything else and use what I "have" for a short while in the service of those relationships. If I live this way, I am a lot less likely to get into financial trouble, because I am less into both getting and spending. I am a lot more likely to savor the moment and the relationships that make it good. And I am drawn to invest wisely what I "have" to serve what really matters in the long run. I hold things in trust for the sake for my family, my world, my church and my God. I want to save prudently, invest cautiously, spend wisely and give generously. At least this is what I have learned from the current test.

Your Pastor,

## NEW CUSTODIANS

Please welcome two new custodians. **Russell Daugherty** (no relationship to **Brandon** or **Suzy**) began as our full-time weekday custodian on September 14. **Kenneth Chandler** started as our weekend custodian on September 26. Kenneth may work slightly different Sunday hours, so he can attend his own church.

## OCTOBER 11 RUN MAY AFFECT NORTH MAIN

The Evansville Half Marathon could affect a few people coming to church on Sunday, October 11, as it goes down North Main Street from Garvin Park to the Lloyd Expressway underpass, but the faster runners will be past there by 7:45 a.m. and most walkers, by 9:30 a.m. Unaffected are the Lloyd Expressway, its Mary Street exit and First Avenue.

### IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

- Oct. 4 World Communion Sunday  
3 Simple Rules: “Stay in Love with God”  
Scriptures: Luke 22:14-20  
Sermon: “Jesus Remembered; Fellowship Enacted”
- Oct. 11 Stewardship: What It Means to Receivers  
Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5 & 26-31 & James 1:17-18  
Sermon: “We Are in the Gifted Class”
- Oct. 18 Stewardship: What It Means to Givers  
Scriptures: Luke 9:1-6, 10a  
Sermon: “The Greatest Job in the World”
- Oct. 25 Stewardship: What It Means to God and Us  
Scriptures: Romans 12:1-8  
Sermon: “Giving Nothing Less Than Ourselves”

### ROMANS STUDY BEGINS OCTOBER 14

**Y**ou are invited to an 8-week study of Romans on Wednesday nights, led by **Pastor Joe**. On October 14, he will hold a brief introductory session 6:45-7:30 p.m. Subsequent sessions will begin at either 6:00 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. (depending on what works best for the people attending) and last 1½ hours. Paul’s letter to the Romans has been one of the most influential biblical books. It was written to a church that Paul had neither founded nor visited, unlike most of his letters. He writes not to address local issues he is aware of but to present the basics of his understanding of Christian faith and practice. He writes in preparation for a planned visit to this capital city and its church. Reading it created a turning point in faith for St. Augustine, Martin Luther and John Wesley, among Christians of the past, and still does for people today. Let yourself be among these by joining in the study, which includes daily Bible reading with guidance and questions and at the weekly meetings: sharing from our reading, DVD teaching and Bible study. It is part of the Disciple Bible Study series, which focuses on living out our faith, not just learning content.

### “3 SIMPLE RULES” CONCLUDES ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Our all-church focus on the 3 Simple Rules concludes October 4, appropriately reaching its climax on World Communion Sunday. Communion is one of the “ordinances” identified by John Wesley, the Church through the ages and Jesus himself as ways to stay in touch with God. It and other spiritual disciplines are means of grace that help us to “Stay in Love with God,” and so practice the third of the “General Rules of the Methodist Church,” the original form of which were developed by Wesley 270 years ago. They remain one of five documents that guide United Methodist belief and practice, but are not sectarian. They are truly simple, helpful guiding principles for any who would follow Jesus: 1) Do no harm; 2) Do good; and 3) Stay in love with God. Living them out is a lifetime challenge, but we are not alone in doing this. God is with us and, as we use the things that keep us in love with God, we draw more and more on Divine strength. Draw near with faith October 4 to share that at the communion table.

Contact the church office by October 11, if you want a copy of: Job’s original book (\$5) for your own reflection or a gift, the adult study book (\$6) or both (\$10). We will return unsold copies for credit.

### THREE SIMPLE RULES

### FALL FAMILY FUN DAY IS NOVEMBER 1

Fun for all ages at the Fall Family Fun Day as we will travel to the Harris Ranch in Boonville for an afternoon of fellowship and relaxation. This annual event is a favorite of many. We will roast hot dogs over an open fire, toast marshmallows for s’mores, and sip hot chocolate and warm apple cider. There will also be a hayride for all brave souls (through the “haunted” cemetery) and games for the kids. You can even meet a longhorn steer and see the survivors of the Fall Festival.



The van will leave Rural King East at 3:30 p.m. or you can meet us at the Harris’ at 4:00 p.m. We will leave the Harris’ by 7:30 p.m. and arrive at Rural King by 8:00 p.m. This is a delightful afternoon for all ages.

Cost is \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family. Please call or e-mail **Nancy** in the church office to register your attendance.

### NEW OUTREACH TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

We have long hoped to have a more effective way of getting used, but serviceable, furniture to neighbors in need. In the past there have been offers of furniture but no requests, or requests for furniture and nothing available because we had no storage. Thanks to the trustees, we now have storage space for furniture that can be donated to neighbors in need. If you still have furniture that you have been storing for this ministry, please call or e-mail **Nancy** in the church office. We will also need trucks for picking up the furniture. If you have a truck and would be willing to make a pick-up **no more than one time per month**, please let **Nancy** know that, also. We know that we have neighbors who do not have beds, comfortable chairs, or a table for dinner. This is an important way we can meet more needs. Thank you.

### REAL WORLD MEAL

The Mission Committee will be sponsoring another Real World Meal on Sunday, October 18th at 11:45 a.m. in the Trinity Room to benefit the United Methodist Youth Home. The Real World Meal allows the participants a very realistic view into the life of the poor and privileged from around the world. Seating is limited to keep the level of intimacy at an optimal level, and following the meal there will be a presentation by Janet Weyer, the development director for the UM Youth Home. Please contact someone from the Mission Committee if you are interested in attending the upcoming “Real World Meal,” or sign up on the office door of **Mike Warneke**.



### FAIR TRADE FAIR

The Mission Committee is excited to announce that they will be sponsoring a Fair Trade Fair on Sunday, November the 8th following the second service. The Fair Trade Fair is aimed at helping different mission organizations by selling their crafts, jewelry, and other handmade items. We will also be inviting all of our mission and outreach organizations from Central to set-up an information table for their different committees and activities. We will have goods made by Ugandan widows, crafts from Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, items from Tess International, items from Patchwork Central, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for our friends in Cali, Columbia and have numerous Central outreach groups represented. Light luncheon accompanies this event. We invite all to attend this special experience. More specific information in the November Messenger and on the Central website.

## YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP UPDATE

A men's and women's young adult small group study will continue to meet on Friday nights during the month of October. We will be meeting at the church on October 16th and 30th from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. We will begin each meeting by sharing a meal at 5:30 p.m. and breaking up into our small groups at 6:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided here at



the church at the cost of \$2 per child. We will be discussing the book, **The Rest of God**, by Mark Buchanan, as we look at inserting more rest in our lives and attempting to honor a true Sabbath. Please talk to **Mike Warneke** if you would like more information on upcoming studies.

## FLOOD OF JUSTICE MISSIONS

The Flood of Justice Missions website is now online and reaching out to prospective churches and homeowners for our kick-off mission trip next July. Our small committed group of leaders continues to add details and work on the logistics that are necessary for a project of this magnitude. The Flood of Justice Team is very thankful to the Endowment Board and the generosity for this project. Please take a look at the website located at [www.floodofjusticemissions.com](http://www.floodofjusticemissions.com) to find out all of the exciting things that are on the horizon for Central, and how you can get involved.

## CENTRAL'S NEW WEBSITE

Thanks to a very generous grant that we received from The Center for Congregations, our church website has been given a brand new look through the wonderful work of Brian Scroggins at Kitch and Schreiber. The Outreach Committee hopes that you had a chance to attend the recent Web Release Party on Sunday, September 27 to learn about the new site, and the impact that it can have on both our own Central members and the Evansville community. If you were unable to attend the Web Release Party, or if you would like more information or training on our new site, you are invited to attend an additional training event on Monday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Trinity Room. Thank you to the numerous members of the church staff for all of their valuable input and help in making the new [www.central-church.org](http://www.central-church.org) a great new ministry tool.

## SECOND FLOOR ADULT CLASS THERMOSTATS MAY NEED SUNDAY ADJUSTMENTS

Adult Sunday School classes on the second floor may need to set the thermostat in their rooms on Sunday for proper cooling or heating. That area of the church is "zoned" and the thermostats in each room control dampers that allow heating or cooling, when the thermostat calls for it and the air handler in the basement is turned on, as it is most Sunday mornings. Cooling or heating may be used during the day through the week in the Child Care Staff Lounge, the middle of

these five rooms. At those times the thermostats in the other rooms would be set back so that they do not call for heating and cooling. Child Care administrative staff is responsible for turning off and on the air handler unit each day and for re-setting thermostats in the five rooms Monday morning and Friday afternoon, but, if they get busy and miss doing it on Friday, the temperature may not be right on Sunday. Someone in the US, Fa-Ho-Lo, 4-Cer's and Compass classes may want to check the setting of the thermostat each week. It should be set on Sunday morning at 72-74° in the summer and 68-70° in the winter. If you want to set back your thermostats at the end of class on Sunday, you may set it to 82° in summer and 60° in winter. Contact **Pastor Easley** if there are questions.



## 2009 ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTIONS

It is a pleasure to report to you on the current status and activities of the Endowment Fund Governing Board of Central United Methodist Church. We are indeed fortunate to have individuals willing to serve on this board who are, not only committed to our church's Endowment Fund, but who have the knowledge and expertise to protect the fund and see that we realize maximum growth over time.

As this is my last year to serve on the Governing Board, I would like to thank those who have dedicated themselves to this worthwhile and fulfilling mission. Several years ago, **Betty Jo Adams** encouraged me to accept a position on the Endowment Fund, saying it was fun and rewarding to be able to distribute money to our church's missions. She was right! But she left out the part about the awesome responsibility that comes with the management of this amount of money. Without the help and prayers of each member of the board and the church, the job could have been overwhelming. I thank each and everyone of you.

Over the last ten years, the Endowment Fund has seen remarkable growth, due to the generosity and vision of our members. This has been a difficult year in terms of economic growth; however, with sound investment strategies for long-term growth, our endowment fund remains strong. Our annual distribution has more than doubled, providing financial support to our church and many missions of the community. By a vote of the board, the investment income of the fund is being divided with 50% toward Service to Others and 50% to the Trustees for major maintenance projects. While we were unable to fulfill all of the requests, we can celebrate the fact that we can have a significant impact through the Endowment Fund. The amount distributed is \$44,367.06.

Central Child Care - \$2,000  
Central Power/Tutoring Program - \$3,000  
Central Shalom Literacy Program - \$300  
Evansville Area Community of Churches Emergency Food Pantry System - \$1,000  
Santa Claus Campground Corporation - \$1,000  
Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment - \$1,000  
Central Loaves and Fishes Fund - \$2,500  
United Methodist Youth Home - \$1,000  
Central Flood of Justice - \$2,500  
Outreach Ministries - \$4,000  
Reflecting Waters for Ruth's House - \$1,000  
Vanderburgh Count Health Department for the Community Dental Clinic - \$2,000  
Weekday Christian Education - \$1,000  
Central United Methodist Church Board of Trustees - \$22,067.06

**Linda Tribble**, Endowment Governing Board President

## CENTRAL PRAYER TEAM

God has blessed us so much with answers to prayers. This is just a reminder to the congregation to call us when you or someone you know needs prayer. Call **Carol Crabtree** 402-1809, **Linda Harris** 897-3179 or **Bennett and Doris Mullen** 423-9251 and we will pass it on to the rest of the team. Blessings,  
**Carol Crabtree**, Prayer Team Leader

## PAPER GOODS FOR PANTRY OCTOBER 4

For this month's "First-Sunday Pantry Collection" the item is "Paper." On October 4, you are invited to bring paper goods for distribution at our pantry. This new project of United Methodist Women invites members to bring staples for our food pantry each first Sunday, usually a Communion Sunday, so think "Jesus shares food with us, so we share with others." In August we asked for a "Box", in September a "Can", in November "Toiletries" and in December go back to "Box" and start back through the alphabet: **B, C, P & T**.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Christina Mirando
- 2 Austin Bruce  
Kay Conder  
Dorothy Zapp
- 4 Jerrienne Bonenberger
- 5 Terri Pennington  
Max White
- 7 Makenna Counts
- 8 Naomi Dill  
Cathy Ferris  
Brenda Lowey  
Joe Renner  
Madelyn Schreiber
- 9 Arthur O'Bryan
- 10 Clay Boylls  
Margaret Pruden  
Tressa Strouse
- 11 John Maier
- 13 Brittany Gerding  
Bill Seymour
- 14 Robert DeVillez  
Steve Sanders
- 15 Linda Harris
- 17 Amy Barron  
Bob Dillow
- 18 Millard Johnson
- 19 Mike Davis  
Timothy Lowey
- 20 Katie Boylls
- 21 Connie Maglinger  
Larry Whicker
- 22 Bonnie Hames
- 24 Reginald Morgan  
Verna Viets
- 25 Marilyn Conder  
Scott Schreiber  
Sommer Wambach
- 26 Lynn Brower  
Kurt Koenig
- 27 Ashley O'Bryan
- 28 Andrew Dillow  
Linda Paris  
Dawson Schmitt  
Mike Warneke
- 29 Elizabeth Riester  
Brian Schnakenburg
- 30 Carolyn Brockelman
- 31 Pam Clayton  
Dustin Lankford



### SENIOR CITIZENS HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Senior Citizens will be having their annual Halloween Party, Thursday, October 15, 2009, at 12:00 noon in the Garden Room. Please call **Velma Berry** with any questions, 477-5871 and please bring a covered dish to share.

**THANKS!** The staff of the Child Care would like to thank **Tom Halbig** for painting the staff lounge. It's now a very inviting place for some quiet time. We also utilize this area for orientation of new staff and training when the numbers are small. We would also like to thank the volunteers who trimmed our shrubs and made our entrance more inviting. We are also looking forward to the vestibule being erected between the infant floor and the FLC center. Thanks to **Brandon Daugherty, Bill Wright, Ed Higgs** and **Bob Romain** for tackling this difficult job. We would also like to invite you to tour the center to see the changes. We now have new carpet in Room 01, with more to come and new blinds will be installed soon.

## SHALOM NEWS

The Central Community of Shalom has been blessed more and more as time goes on. While Central United Methodist Church initiated the ministry in the year 2000, St. Lucas UCC, Jacobsville Neighborhood Improvement Association and Weed and Weed soon joined the team. There has been a recent surge of interest by others. Folks from First Christian Church in Evansville and from Faith Temple Church of God in Christ in Newburgh have started to participate and share their wealth of talents with us. Several individuals from the neighborhood have also started participating in the ministry. The sharing of our faith and working together has been a rewarding experience for all of us.



One of our most successful outreaches has been the monthly Shalom Zone Free Neighborhood Meals. These began in 2003 and continue to the present. The attendance has grown from a handful of neighbors to well over 100 who come each month. The last meal on August 30, 2009, fed 125 people with 26 volunteers distributing the meal. Much of the food is donated by those who serve. It is wonderful to see the joy with which each one gives of themselves to help others.

We would love to see any of you who would want to be involved at our next meeting on October 13, 2009, 5:15 p.m. at St. Lucas UCC, 33 W. Virginia St. Come join us for a wonderful meal.

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of **Ted Mattingly**, who died August 27. Ted was a retired police officer who grew up attending Central UMC with his mother Ruth, aunt **Mary Ellen Hasenmyer**, cousin **Linda Eggleston** and other family. His funeral service was September 1.....and to **Charles Ballard** and family on the death of his wife **Karleen Stephan Ballard**. She died September 5 at the age of 84. Her service was Friday at Irvington UMC in Indianapolis. Rev. Ballard is a retired United Methodist pastor, who grew up at Central. His address is 1401 N. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

### JUSTICE MOMENT: CAJE AND THE SECOND OF THE 3 SIMPLE RULES – DO GOOD

We are learning in our study of the Three Simple Rules that they are not so simple, and that even the second rule that sounds easy is hard to practice. I read that to follow the second rule, Do Good, we must be able to see beyond our own needs others' needs.

CAJE can help us practice the second rule because CAJE is starting our annual listening process to learn about the needs of our community and attempt to see what injustices can be solved by the actions of CAJE. Just as Wesley challenged his classes to not just make contributions to the poor but to get to know them and understand their needs, CAJE challenges us to open our eyes to see injustices. By working to correct these injustices in Evansville and Newburgh, CAJE is also following Wesley's teaching to help people to help themselves. CAJE invites you to see and discuss the movie "When Did I See You Hungry" at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, in the Garden Room.

Remember that we can do good by looking beyond our own needs to see the needs of others. If you see needs or injustices in the community that you would like CAJE to consider, please contact me, **Bill Seymour**, or any member of Central's CAJE team.

-Linda Henzman

# October 2009



Services Every Sunday: 8:30 A. M. Contemporary Service 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 World Communion Sunday Fall Festival Week	5 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack 6:00 Trustee Mtg. - Ch-O	6 9:00 Church Staff Mtg. 5:00 FLC rented for Basketball 6:30 Emmaus Prayer Group	7 11:00 Wednesday Friends - Trinity Room 6:15 Choir 7:30 Bell Choir	8 7:30 JACC Mtg. - Library 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack	9 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 N.A. Meeting - Library	10 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 N.A. Meeting - Library
11 11:45 Worship Study TF - Library 4:00 Cluster Group-St Lucas	12 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack 4:30 Outreach Team - Trinity 5:30 Web Training- Trinity 6:00 Executive Church Council - Nolte 7:15 LR Financial T. F. Ch-O	13 9:00 Church Staff Mtg. 2:00 Small Accountability 3:30 Tutoring 5:00 FLC rented for Basketball 5:15 Shalom Mtg. - St. Lucas 6:15 US Class Banquet - Garden 6:15 Mission Team Mtg. - Library	14 11:45 JUNIA Mtg. - Trinity 1:00 Mary-Martin Circle - Nolte 4:00 Power 5:15 Finance Committee - Ch-O 5:30 Youth - Youth Room 6:15 Romans Study - Library 6:15 Choir 7:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Basketball - FLC	15 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack 12:00 Senior Citizens - Garden Room 3:30 Tutoring 3:00 Child Care Team Mtg. - Library	16 5:30 Young Adult Small Group - Trinity	17 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 9:00-12:00 Youth soup making - FLC Kitchen 12:00 N.A. Meeting - Library
18 11:45 Real World Meal Youth Soup Sale	19 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack 7:00 Bea Conder Circle - Hostess: Marilyn Conder	20 9:00 Full Church Staff Mtg. 11:15 Literary Ladies - Kennel Club 12:00 Messenger Deadline 5:00 FLC rented for Basketball 5:45 Nurture Team Mtg. - Ch-O 6:30 Emmaus Prayer Group	21 11:00 Wednesday Friends - Trinity Room 4:00 Power 5:30 Movie & Discussion 5:30 Youth - Youth Room 6:15 Romans Study - Library 6:30 Choir 7:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Basketball - FLC	22 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack	23 5:30 Child Care Family Fund Night - Garden & FLC	24 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 N.A. Meeting - Library
25 5:00 Shalom Neighborhood Dinner - St. Lucas	26 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack 6:00 CAJE Team Mtg. - Library	27 9:00 Church Staff Mtg. 3:30 Tutoring 5:00 FLC rented for Basketball 6:30 Emmaus Prayer Group	28 4:00 Power 5:30 Youth - Youth Room 6:15 Romans Study - Library 6:15 Choir 7:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Basketball - FLC	29 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:00 Rack Shack 3:30 Tutoring 5:15 Flood of Justice - Ch-O	30 5:30 Young Adult Small Group - Trinity 6:00 Rehearsal Bullock/Spegal	31 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 N.A. Meeting - Library 1:30 Bullock/Spegal Wedding