



# The Messenger

## Central

United Methodist Church

Joseph Easley, Senior Pastor  
300 Mary Street  
Evansville, Indiana 47710-1292

Phone (812) 424-3574  
Fax (812) 424-3575  
[www.central-church.org](http://www.central-church.org)

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### THE MOST OFFENSIVE 4-LETTER WORD

Years ago we saw the movie *Forest Gump*, enjoyed it, thought it was well done and felt it had a good message. A year or so later, we rented “*Forest Gump*” on video to watch with visiting relatives for enjoyment and relaxation. It shocked me when it had the opposite effect. One relative thought it was a horrible movie. She was greatly offended by 4-letter words in it, which I had hardly noticed. I have been more careful since, because I realize various people respond differently to certain words.

Right now in America, it seems like the most offensive 4-letter word is “c-o-m-p-r-o-m-i-s-e.” O.K., I know this word appears to contain 10 letters, but the way people reel around in denial when the word is thrown at them or speak with vengeance when they accuse someone else of having done it, you would think it is the most offensive word in our language. It must be a 4-letter word in disguise.

This was the one thing that many Representatives and Senators adamantly stated they would have nothing to do with, during the deficit debate that carried into early August. There were those for whom the very thought of compromise, variously, on budget cuts in some areas, entitlement provision changes or tax increase was totally unacceptable. For some a bill that had 90% of what they favored but even 10% of what they opposed was anathema. Since one person’s ideal solution was evil to others, and vice-versa, down to the last days it seemed like no meaningful decision would be reached.

Polls of citizens during that time showed that a strong majority of average Americans believed that any deficit deal should include a balanced approach with significant budget cuts, some tax increases and entitlement programs changes. However, before we get too disgusted at our elected representatives and proud of our citizens’ common sense, we had better take another look. Like it or not, elected officials say they are merely responding to what their constituents want. That well may be. Congress may not be an aberration from mainstream America but a reflection of our culture right now.

The no-compromise winner-take-all mentality seems to be a wide-spread phenomenon. It plays itself out not just on the political stage but in every arena and in social units at all levels. As a pastor, it pains me especially when members of families and churches are divided by inability to compromise.

If you can identify the people you know who fit that description and give you grief, I suggest you also look at you and how you come to your positions, hold to them and fight for them. Are you really willing to listen to oth-

ers who hold different positions on some issue? Are you interested in trying to understand why they are so committed to their views? Are you interested in finding solutions that takes into account both your values and the strong beliefs of others?

On the other hand, if you feel like I am aiming right at you, unfairly criticizing and/or trying to make you feel bad about disagreements you have had, I could be, and I could be, and I could be. In any case it would also not hurt to take a self-reflective look at how you handle disagreements and how open you are to that horrible “4-letter word.” And you are right: I also need to take a look at myself to make sure I am hearing others clearly, open to the other’s heart and willing to seek common ground.

“But there are some things on which one just can’t compromise!” Indeed there are. I am not calling for relativism, where anything can be OK as long as the person doing it or viewing it that way thinks it is OK. Some things are good and right, since they uphold the principles that go beyond us, the principles at the heart of the universe as God created it and that fit with how we are called to live in relationship to God and others. We can see those clearly enough to usually know what we should do or not do, but our vision is always incomplete and only God sees the divine reality and its human corollaries with 100% accuracy. We need to be humble not only in the face of God, but in relationship to others, who at some points may be able to see a part of God’s truth more clearly than us. Each of us may see some parts of God’s truth. We need to work together as Christians and as United Methodists for the most complete understanding of reality. Out of true dialogue often comes a greater perspective on the truth, which goes beyond either holding to our own views or giving in to others’ views.

Ultimately it is also in our self-interest to compromise—nasty word that it is. Fighting to the death for principles is deathly! Deadly for marriages, nations, and congregations! If one values relationships, one must sometimes put that above one’s own opinion and seek the common good.

Your Pastor,

### PASTOR JOE GONE SEPT. 5-6 FOR BIRTHDAY

Pastor Joe will be leaving after worship on September 4 to catch a plane to Florida. He will be joining Patti, who leaves on September 2, and their younger son Dylan, his wife Fabiola and Brissa, who are visiting there with Fabiola’s sister and attending the wedding of a friend. Brissa’s first birthday is September 2, but they will celebrate it on Labor Day and return late on September 6.

## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

Sept. 4 Combined Communion Volunteer Sunday  
Recognizing **Suzy Daugherty**  
Unbinding Your Heart Introductory Sermon  
and Sign Up Sunday  
Scripture: Acts 8:26-38  
Sermon: "The Baptism Barrier"

Sept 11 9-11 Memorial Service (Combined Worship)  
Scripture: Romans 12:9-21  
Sermon: "Not Letting Evil Win"

Sept. 18 Traditional Service: **Pastor Easley**  
Scripture: Romans 8 (selected verses)  
Sermon: "God Is For Us"  
Casual Speaker: **Patti Wright**

Sept. 25 Traditional Service: **Pastor Easley**  
Scripture: Romans 13:1-10  
Sermon: "Duty and Debt"  
Casual Speaker: **Mike Warneke**

## ONE SPECIAL SERVICE FOR SEPTEMBER 11

**REMEMBER** Since September 11 is not only the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the devastating day but also a Sunday, the Worship Team felt we should come together in worship for a special service as we remember the pain and look to our faith as to how to move forward. We will have one service in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. Much planning has gone into the service to make it meaningful. The choir will contribute on their first Sunday back.

## EVANGELIST

Every few years, the church I grew up in would bring in an evangelist for a week long revival. I don't remember a lot about these services as that was a long time ago, but I do remember them as emotional and moving. Thus, for me the term evangelist isn't particularly positive or negative, but it does denote someone who is even more special than a pastor and that takes someone pretty special. It denotes someone special enough that churches all over wanted him to come to lead services. It denotes someone who is dynamic and forceful. It denotes someone who can inspire others and help them come to God. Not many people could live up to that image.

I pulled away from the church for many years. I had what seemed to be lots of good reasons at the time. I went through years without giving spirituality much thought and, even when I did give spirituality thought, I frequently separated it from organized religion. But, there always seemed to be something that would tug at me every once in awhile, perhaps when I was in need or perhaps just when I realized that something was missing, even if I couldn't define what it was. Over time, that sense of something missing grew and the tugging got stronger. Unfortunately, I was dense enough that it took one particularly hard yank to get me to do anything about those gnawing feelings. I am eternally (pun intended) grateful for that yank because my life is much more complete for having first walked in the doors of Central United Methodist Church.

In the near future, we are embarking on a full church study called Unbinding the Heart. The program will take 6 weeks out of our lives to participate in a small group or out of our normal Sunday School class schedule. As bizarre or as scary or as inappropriate as it may sound, the uncensored goal is to make evangelists of us all. If it is successful, will we all turn into that image of an evangelist that I have carried in my mind all of these years? Will we be learning how to impose our ideas on others? On the contrary, we will learn what I am only beginning to understand, that even people as flawed as I am have a story of their faith journey to tell, that may make a difference to someone else. I hope all of you will join our E-vent teams in this exciting venture. You will be getting more details in the next few weeks.

**Bill Seymour**

## BRING PAPER GOODS FOR PANTRY SEPTEMBER 4

This month's "First-Sunday Collection" item is "Paper Goods" On September 4, please bring in paper goods for our food pantry. You may also give by cash or check (to "Central UMC" noting "Food Pantry").

## JOIN CENTRAL'S KOMEN TEAM

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure takes place in downtown Evansville on **Saturday, September 24**. The Program starts at 8 a.m. and the 3.1 mile/5K run/walk at 9 a.m. It is still possible to join the Central team by registering online at [www.komenevansville.org](http://www.komenevansville.org). 1) Click the pink "register" box; 2) Click the second "register" box; 3) Click "Join an Existing Team"; 4) Enter team name: Central United Methodist Church; 5) Click "Search". It will ask for more information, including payment by charge card. If you have questions, contact Central's race chairperson, **Ruth Randall**, 425-0326.

## FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Fall Festival is coming up in 4½ short weeks **Volunteers** (October 2-9). This year, the booth is a church project with profits going to the church budget for 2012. Most Youth Ministry expenses will in turn be funded in the budget. We need more volunteers to help make it a success. Sign up to work at the booth is underway. **Abby Warneke** is in charge of volunteers and would love to sign you up. **Bob Clayton** is coordinating the task force that is planning for it. **Kurt Koenig** (who was "Mr. Fall Festival for 16 years) and **Suzy Daugherty** (who as Youth Director for 14 years shared with **Kurt** in planning for the booth and working 15 hour days) are serving on the task force with **Bob, Abby, Charlie Long** and **Mary Schreiber**. Thanks to them and to everyone else that helps.

## THIRD GRADE BIBLES



It is time to present our Third Grade Bibles. If you have a child in third grade, please be sure to notify the church office.

## YOUTH GROUP HELP!!

The Youth Group will begin meeting weekly on Sunday evenings from 4 to 6 p.m. beginning on September 11. We are in need of a few items to make our Youth Room look new and different: wooden tables that seat 2-4, with chairs; a ping pong table; lamps (both table and floor); large picture frames; coffee mugs; coffee pot; silverware. All of these items can be "hand-me-downs" or you can make a donation to the Youth Group for these items to be purchased. Please contact Abby or Mike if you have questions.

I am also in need of finding a volunteer to watch Gideon and Abel once a month during the all staff meeting. The meeting is every 3rd Monday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Thank you so much for supporting the Youth at Central!

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are still studying Moses in our rotations. We have learned some new songs, made unleavened bread, created the Nile waterway on a meat tray and have been on a 10 plague scavenger hunt. Ask the kids where to find flies at the church.



Also, we will be participating in the Unbinding the Gospel series and will need a few extra teachers. Please let **Nancy** know if you would be willing to help.

## SWEET SLEEP TEAM UPDATE

Our Uganda Mission Team had a blessed trip to Kampala and back. We were able to work with the over 400 children at the New Kabaale Busenga primary school. We provided new beds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, mosquito nets and bibles for all of the boarders, as well as bibles to the staff and day school children. We were blessed beyond belief to be in the presence of these joy-filled children and have a small glimpse into the hope that they have found in the Gospel. Our team would like to thank Central for all of the prayer and financial support that helped make this trip a reality.

Please be on the lookout for information for next summer's trip with Sweet Sleep back to Uganda. We will start meeting later this fall to prepare our next journey to the heart of Africa to be a blessing to those with physical needs, and to be blessed by those with spiritual abundance.

## UNITED METHODIST HABITAT BUILD

Central is once again participating in this year's United Methodist Habitat for Humanity Build. We are blessed to be working with Vicki Jones and Reggie Smith, our Partner Family, along with 11 other area United Methodist Churches.



Pre-construction will begin on September 6 at the Habitat warehouse; with the construction at the build site, 1719 S. Linwood Ave, beginning on Saturday, September 10. There are multiple ways in which you can get involved with this build: we will need people to assist with the meals at the site each work day, or you can volunteer your time and skills to help construct this new home for this much deserved family.

Build days will take place on Saturdays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with shifts from 8 to 11 a.m. and noon to 3:30 p.m. There is a detailed list of tasks for each build day, so you can ensure your skills will be used accordingly. All volunteers must register online at [www.evansvillehabitat.org](http://www.evansvillehabitat.org) using the "volunteer tab" to the left, then choosing "construction" and "volunteer now." You will next click on the "All Events" tab and see a list of all of the current construction builds. Simply scroll down until you find the United Methodist Build day that you would like to volunteer for.

We will also need groups to help sponsor lunches to feed the volunteers. There are still many opportunities for groups, Sunday school classes, or ministry teams to organize one of these meals, please call **Amy Barron** at 459-6487 for the available dates and further details.

If you have any other questions or need further assistance in signing up to assist with this build you can contact **Amy Barron** or **Mike Warneke**, the Central representatives for this Habitat build. More information can be found on the bulletin boards in the FLC entrance and near the Mary Street entrance.

### GREETERS

The Trinity Class will have representatives outside at our Mary Street and Canopy Doors greeting our members and guests as they arrive at Central for our Worship time together. We hope this will make our guests feel welcomed and allow them to access our nursery with ease, and find our worship spaces.

- Sept. 4 > Mary Street Doors: **Willis** Family  
Canopy Doors: **White** Family
- Sept. 11 > Mary Street Doors: **Scott Schreiber** Family  
Canopy Doors: **Bruce Armstrong**
- Sept. 18 > Mary Street Doors: **Warneke** Family  
Canopy Doors: **Hatt** Family
- Sept. 25 > Mary Street Doors: **Matt Schreiber** Family  
Canopy Doors: **Wilson** Family

### SHALOM TEAM MEAL

Our Shalom Team will be sharing in a meal with our neighborhood on Sunday, September 25 at 5:00 p.m. in our Family Life Center, and we could use volunteers at 4:00 p.m. to assist in meal preparations. We would love to have more people involved in this vital ministry of our church and community. This is an exciting time for our Shalom Team, and we would love to have new hearts and minds as we move forward serving alongside the residents of Jacobsville.

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BAZAAR

On Saturday, October 1 join us for a taste of international culture and cuisine shared by Evansville area churches and mission groups. This event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Barn, located at 2225 Kansas Road, just past the Evansville Regional Airport, turning west on Kansas Road. Mike Warneke will have his Ugandan items from Ekisa Designs on display and for sale during this event.

### CONDER 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Ned and Marilyn Conder in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were wed on August 19, 1961.

## YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

Our young adult small groups will begin to meet regularly once again during the month of September. Our Monday group will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and any 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Trinity Room. Our Wednesday group will meet on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Trinity room beginning on September 7. Both of these groups are always open to having new members join us for this time of food, fellowship, discipleship and community building.

**WELCOME** to Reed James O'Bryan, who was born April 20 to Brandon and Lara O'Bryan. **Arthur and Anna O'Bryan** are his great grandparents. His grandfather is **Tim O'Bryan**, and great aunt and uncles are **Brandon and Jennifer Willis** and **Andy and Vanessa O'Bryan**. ...and to Tinley Ann Heilman who was born on July 26 to Kyle and Kelly (O'Bryan) Heilman.

### THANKS TO SEPTEMBER NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

September 4—**Claire Dugan**  
September 11—**Kay Conder**  
September 18—**Ruth Randall**  
September 25—**Kristi Frazier**

### UPCOMING COFFEE QUARTER HOSTS

September 18: Trinity Class  
October 16: Youth Room Open House  
November 20: Open  
December 18: Open

### NEW ACOLYTE CHANGES

You may have noticed a change--the acolytes are now acolyting with a family member. This is a great way to see the multi-generational families within our church. Thanks to the acolytes for the month of September:

September 4—**Emma Brandt**  
September 11—**Carly Frazier**  
September 18—**Evan Lynch**  
September 25—**Talon Counts**

### THANKS

Thanks to all who helped restock our supplies in the church office for the hungry and homeless. We are now in good shape to help those in need that happen to come in when the Food Pantry is not open.

I would like to thank Central Church and all for their prayers and cards sent to me on my surgery and illness.

**Marilyn Grayson**

**MANY THANKS** to **Kay Conder** for all the work she did to get the Archives room in order. She has worked hard replacing ceiling tiles, preparing for carpet and getting the room put back together again. Thanks for a wonderful job!

### MARIAN CLEM'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY SEPT. 3 RECEPTION 1-3 PM SEPT. 4

Marian Clem's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday is September 3. You are encouraged to send her a card at: Heritage Health Care, Room 308; 1201 W. Buena Vista, Evansville 47710. Her family is having a reception in honor of her 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday September 4 in the Pavilion at Heritage. All are invited.



### PLEASE CALL CHURCH ON HOSPITALIZATIONS

Please notify the church when you or a loved one is in the hospital. If hospitals have permission and all the information, they try to notify churches but that doesn't always happen. However, all the old records of church connections for patients were lost in a computer system switchover at Deaconess. Recently several members have been there, when the church was unaware of it. It is just best to call to make sure the church knows.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Tyler White
- 2 Jerold Moore
- 3 Marian Clem  
Matthew Davis  
Cole Ferris  
Robert Francis  
Ryan Frazier  
Charlotte Robinson
- 4 Kitty Maes
- 5 Olivia Baird  
Ed Higgs  
Helen Lewis
- 6 Matthew Slaubaugh  
Wanda Wersich
- 7 Matthew Baird  
Rebecca Morgan  
Elsie Phillips  
Michael Tribble
- 8 Frank Schwitz
- 9 Jesse Merritt, Jr.
- 10 Regina Redd
- 11 Morgan Ayers  
Grant Dugan  
Malana Halbig  
Drew Hartmann, Jr.
- 12 Marian Gant  
Rosemary Jarrett
- 14 Bessie Patterson  
Auston Pugh  
David Romain  
Shane Wilson  
Bill Wright
- 15 Jennifer Mallardi  
Barbara Vaughan
- 16 Dustin Aki  
Beverly Ellerbruck
- 17 Richard Crow  
Janet Duncan  
Betty Myers  
Shane Unversaw
- 18 Journey Aki  
Ashlee Barr
- 19 Dorothy Frazier  
Darlene Rycroft
- 20 Jack Wambach  
Cooper Willis  
Sylvia Collins
- 25 Dekajuan Halbig
- 26 Austin Halbig
- 27 Nicholas Wilson
- 28 Paula Houghton
- 29 Maxwell Dillow
- 30 Amelia Guard  
James Kluesner  
Thomas Miranda



**DOWNTOWN MEMORIAL SERVICE  
5:30 SEPTEMBER 11**

911

The editor of the Evansville Courier and Press will be the featured speaker at a Memorial Service for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 9-11-01 terrorist attacks, to be held at the Four Freedoms Monument on September 11 on Riverside Drive at 5:30 p.m. “Unity and Peace” is the theme of this event, sponsored by the Downtown Ministers Association, to which the whole community is invited. In addition to the major address by Mizell Stewart III, there will be singing and prayers by area people from several different faith groups. After the service people are invited to stay for fellowship and picnic-style food, provided by different churches. In case of rain, the service and fellowship will be at First Baptist Church, 320 Cherry St. Call there, 425-8296, for details.

**2011 APPLE FEST**

To Benefit Weekday Christian Education Program

**Saturday - September 24**

**3:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Central United Methodist Church**

**Fried Chicken Dinner - \$8.00 per person**

Children- 8 years old and under \$4.00  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans,  
Baked Apple Slices, Roll,  
Beverage and Apple Pie

Apple Annie’s booth with boutique items, jewelry,  
note cards, handmade items and holiday décor.

Baked Goods Booth

International vendor booths with gift items.

Bring your family and friends to support  
Weekday Christian Education, which brings the  
message of Christ to children in  
Vanderburgh County schools every year.

**COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE-FRESH AND FAITHFUL**

The Common English Bible bills itself as “a fresh translations to touch the heart and soul.” **Pastor Joe** says, “It really seems to live up to that.” He and **Patti** have been using it for their devotional reading since early August. **Patti** has noted how it makes reading more understandable. Joe has used it in sermon study and found the translation very faithful to the original languages and put in words that are indeed common English today, much as the translation authorized by King James was 400 years ago when it came out. The New Testament of the CEB came out last summer and the full Bible released in August. The project was sponsored by a number of Protestant Churches in America, including the United Methodist Publishing House. Central ordered 12 paperback copies of it, and people are welcome to try it out. Contact the office if you would like to see a copy or even borrow it for a week or two.

**ALZHEIMER’S  
MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP**

A monthly support group for people who care for persons with Alzheimer’s disease meets at 3:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at East Side Christian Church, 2001 Bayard Park Drive. For more info contact the facilitator Rev. Linda Parker at 476-3091.

**UNITED METHODIST YOUTH HOME  
BOWL-A-THON**

The Youth Home will be having its 2nd Annual Bowl-A-Thon at AMF Arc Lanes on Saturday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. More information and applications are on the bulletin board and in the Church Office. Registration is due by September 1. There are also sponsorships available. If interested in sponsorships, donating a door prize or becoming a bowler, please call the Youth Home at 479-7535.

**PRAY FOR CLUSTER CHURCH**

Please pray for the churches in our new cluster: Central, Fairlawn, Howell, St. James West, St. John’s, Salem, Simpson and Trinity UMC. We will have a second meeting to discuss what the cluster will do at 6:30 p.m., September 27 at Simpson UMC. Pray also as the cluster finds it mission that will enhance the ministry of each church in it.

**FUNDRAISER  
WITH STEPTO’S BAR-B-Q SHACK**

Stepsto’s Bar-B-Q Shack in North Park will give Central 10% of the sales for meal purchases every Sunday and Wednesday if you take a church bulletin to them when you dine there. Quarterly they will send us a check for 10% of the amount that was spent. This fundraiser will continue until the end of this year.

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON**

The Senior Citizens Luncheon will be September 15 at 12 noon in the Trinity Room. The program will be Stephen Amick speaking on Medicare. Everyone is to bring a covered dish and please call Velma Berry, 477-5871, with any questions.