

The Messenger

Central

United Methodist Church

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November 2011

“UNBINDING OUR HEARTS,” AS THE THEME SAYS

I am thrilled to see the response at Central to our E-vent so far. We have just 4 copies of Unbinding Your Heart left in the church office, meaning that at least 112 people have gotten a book. When you consider that some couples are sharing a book, I think we can safely estimate that over 125 adults are participating in the study in some way.

Most of those people with a book are also participating in a small group, where they are able to discuss their insights from each week's reading, share their prayer journal experiences and participate in real life exercises in their class or group. Two small groups are meeting outside the Sunday School hour, but most of the participants are studying through an adult Sunday School class. I hear good reports from all these settings. Some of the most enthusiastic reports come from the combined Compass and Fa-HoLo classes. They enjoy the material, the exercises and the stimulation of the mixture of people.

In addition, our youth Sunday School class is studying the same theme, mostly without using the book. Our children in Sunday School are working with the same themes as parents in an age-appropriate way. If you want to see one example of what they are doing, stop by Nancy's office (room 106) and see the Prayer Wall they have put up.

The daily prayer journal is something new for many people, but people are doing it, trying new things and finding meaning in some of the day in the 40-Day Prayer Journal. Not every day of it will connect for any one of us, so do not feel guilty about that or think: “this is not worth it to me” rather continue doing these, because if we stick with it, each of us will find some different days when we feel “spoken to” by the scripture or experience. Different days will connect with different people, even as different forms of prayer are more meaningful to different people. I sense people are willing to stay with this. The group reinforcement helps most of us. I am also pleased to hear of people taking their books with them on trips and starting or continuing the daily prayer journal while on vacation. That could be an abundantly fruitful time to feel God's Spirit in a new way.

I have also been aware of doing some different things in worship and in the sermons. Those things are a bit out of my own comfort zone, but I have been surprised at how empowered I have felt to boldly do them. I also worry about how people in worship might respond, if they are pushed too hard or too far; however, I have had very positive feedback from people after the Post-It note prayer experience on the second Sunday. Putting these up on the windows, an idea from another team member let people fairly immediately respond by posting these, allowed them to participate physically in doing that and left a colorful visual reminder of these prayer needs, which will continue to surround us through November 20. Likewise, people in the casual service responded very positively to the prayer stations that same day. I sense people truly trying out some new steps in prayer. Thank you for being willing to do that.

This E-vent is helping us address some areas of Christian

life (and church life) of which I have become most convinced I need to address, people whom I love need to address and the Church that I love needs to address. The approach of the book has felt real. Even facing some of the depressing statistics the author cited has not left me (or others) in the depressed mood we might have thought they would. We knew they were true already, and not admitting them was unconsciously depressing us. When we get them out in the open, they have less subtle power over us, and we realize “We are not alone” in the struggles.

The book has also helped me to renew hope. Central, like other main-line congregations, has deep faith, loving people and wonderful programs. While we haven't done some other things well in recent years, we are not condemned to the same rut of failure. New things can happen. I am certainly aware that they will not happen on the basis of my, your or our strength alone, but the good news (Good News) is that God works through people who give themselves to God and follow the way of Jesus. I know I personally feel buoyed up in my own faith, and I see others too experiencing God's presence in new ways in their lives and becoming re-excited about their faith and their church. Thanks be to God!

Your Pastor,

E-VENT MID-POINT CHECK-IN

By this point, we are about halfway through the E-vent. We hope your experience has been a blessing to you and those with whom you have shared this journey. What do you think so far? Have you found the material interesting? Have the ideas challenged any notions you had or any habits you had fallen into? Have the discussions given you any insights into people you didn't know well or any new insights into people you did know? Has the overall experience been enjoyable? We hope that your experience has included all of the above. But despite all of those things being important, none of them is really the point of doing this. The even more important question is, are you, are we, are all of us any closer to knowing what God wants us to get out of this E-vent, both personally and as a congregation? Just, perhaps, this question is one we can ponder in the next three weeks.

Bill Seymour, Karen Renner and Connie Romain

SABBATH CONTINUES DURING E-VENT

We thank all teams and committees that are observing our 6-week “Sabbath” from regular church work during our E-vent, in order to listen more closely to God as we study Unbinding Your Heart and pray. Since the Church Council met on October 11 only a couple of groups have held meetings that simply could not be delayed; however at each of them we plan to begin them with the prayer exercise used at the second meetings of small groups. (The study book suggested committing the church to using that at the beginning of every church meeting for the next 6 months.) We hope groups will continue to postpone meeting until our last Sunday, November 20—or begin necessary meetings with the exercise.

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

Nov. 6 All Saints Sunday (Remember deceased members)
Communion (Combined Service)
Scripture: John 4:7-10, 16-29
Unbinding Your Heart Sermon 4:
“Catalytic Conversations”

Nov. 13 Unbinding Your Heart Sermon 5:
“Healing Hospitality”
Scripture: Mark 2:1-12
Casual Speaker: **Mike Warneke**

Nov. 20 Unbinding Your Heart Sermon 6:
“Faith Focus”
Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33
Casual Speaker: **Kim White**

Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent
Theme: Waiting for Peace in our Lives
Traditional Speaker: **Mike Warneke**
Casual Speaker: **Patti Wright**
on “Our Favorite Carols”

TIME, TALENT, TREASURE COMMITMENTS

Since Consecration Sunday on October 2, many people have completed and returned a “2012 Team Response Form” and a “2012 Commitment Card.” If you have not, please return yours this week by mail, bring it to church on November 6 or you can communicate this to Lisa by phone or e-mail. Thanks.

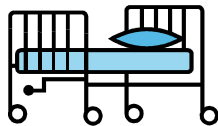
YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

Thank you to those who traveled to the Youth Room for October's Coffee Quarter! During November, the youth will continue to meet on Sundays from 4 to 6 p.m. We have a few special things going on this month. On November 13 we will head to CFC for a Toby Mac concert. On November 27 we will help serve the neighborhood Shalom meal as our quarterly service project. We will also be sending college care packages to former youth of CUMC who are now in college.

Please help us with this project. You can bring in any care package items (candy, gum, snacks, school supplies, toiletries, or anything fun) to the church during the Sundays of November. There will be boxes for donations in the back of the Sanctuary and FLC. We will compile the packages on the 27th and then send them out that week. Monetary donations for postage will gladly be accepted. Please contact **Abby Warneke** for more info. Thank you for your help in encouraging and supporting the youth of Central!

SWEET SLEEP 2012 INFORMATION MEETING

We are once again planning on making the journey to Uganda next summer with the goal of providing new bedding, mosquito nets and bibles for a group of orphans living in the Kampala area. We will have coffee to sell once again as a way of raising funds, as well as the opportunity to sell items for Ekisa Designs. We will have another informational meeting on Sunday, November 13th at noon in the parlor of the church. We will discuss the general logistics of this mission trip, fundraising ideas, and I can hopefully address any concerns that you may have. Please contact Mike Warneke if you have any questions or plan on attending.



FOSTER PARENTS SOUGHT

Regional Youth Services is recruiting new foster parents to help children in need. If you are interested, please call Rene at 422-4741.

CHARGE CONFERENCE 3 PM NOVEMBER 20

Annual Charge Conference business will be conducted for Central and most of the other Vanderburgh County UMC congregations at a joint meeting at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 20 at The Turning Pointe UMC. This will be a great opportunity for us to get together with all the other county UMC's under the leadership of our new District Superintendent George Purnell. While necessary routine annual business will be conducted at that meeting as required, it will not be the focus of the meeting. Fortunately, the Church Council had already approved the Nomination for 2012 and pastoral compensation for 2012 at their October 11 meeting, and these will merely be affirmed by the Charge Conference. A focus may be on 2012 goals related to the UMC Bishop's initiative for “Vital Congregations.”

AFFOLTERS MOVE TO ATRIA

On October 19 **Bunny and Mollie Affolter** moved to a beautiful assisted living apartment at Atria, just off Newburgh Road near the Jewish Temple and Covert Avenue. Their address is: 5311 Rosebud Lane, Room 213, Newburgh, Indiana, 47630. Their phone number remains 476-2069. Please wish them well and keep them in your prayers with this big move. Also keep in touch with them.

ENDOWMENT FROM DOROTHY ERICKSON ESTATE

Dorothy Erickson became a member of Central Methodist church in August 1959 and remained a member until her death this July. She regularly attended worship and the US Sunday School class, as long as she was able, some even after moving from her home to assisted living at Bell Oaks Terrace in Newburgh. She was faithful to the church in every way during her life, and she planned so she could continue that even after her death. She included Central's Endowment in her will. A partial distribution from her estate was received in October, with the closing of the estate and final distribution expected in January. We also want to recognize **Jerrine Robertson's** faithful support to Dorothy for the past several years. As power of attorney, she oversaw Dorothy's care and is the executrix of her estate.

REMEMBERING DECEASED MEMBERS NOVEMBER 6

On November 6, we will remember members of Central who died in the past 17 months. This is All Saints Sunday. The Feast of All Saints traces its Christian roots back 1600 years to an observance in Syria that celebrated all known and unknown martyrs.

A couple of centuries later the established date for it became November 1. It became a day to remember departed Christians of inspirational faith and a day on which to reaffirm our faith in the resurrection by remembering those in God's eternal care. It was the favorite feast day of Methodist founder John Wesley. It has been a time for congregations around the world to remember their own members who have died in the prior year. The Worship Team decided early this year to move our remembrance of deceased members from the last Sunday of May to this day, both to align ourselves with this deep tradition and so it would fall on a Sunday when we have a combined service and communion. This year we will remember members who died since May 30, 2010. In future years we will remember those who have died in the prior 12 months (November through October).

In Memoriam

YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

Our Wednesday young adult small group will meet regularly once again during the month of November. We will meet on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room on each Wednesday of the month, and we are currently studying a Parenting Series entitled, Parental Guidance Required. This group is always open to having new members join us for this time of food, fellowship, discipleship and community building.



JACC ANNUAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 15

The Jacobsville Area Community Corporation will hold its annual membership meeting at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 15 in the Ivy Room at SWIRCA, 16 W. Virginia Street. Registration for the meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. we will begin a full meal prepared by DiLegge's. There is no cost for the meal for all who are members of JACC (\$5 for residents of the JACC area or \$8 for other interested persons). A brief business meeting will be conducted as people finish eating. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and give information on two planning processes that are underway to make significant improvements in Jacobsville. The Jacobsville Initiative is a comprehensive planning process, with major community involvement and looking at all aspects of life in the entire Jacobsville area. The other focuses more narrowly on commercial development in an enlarged Jacobsville Redevelopment Area (primarily south of Virginia Street and along North Main Street) and uses a professional urban planning consultant. Businesses in the JACC area can become Organizational Members of JACC for annual dues of \$25.

CAJE TEAM NEWS

As part of our annual listening process, Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE) team members from the 20 member congregations have been conducting house meetings and one-on-one meetings to identify a new issue or area of concern for CAJE to undertake. The Central CAJE team conducted one of its listening meetings at the September Shalom dinner in our FLC. All concerns that CAJE teams have heard during the process were discussed at a team assembly on October 24. Next, the list of concerns will be considered at the CAJE Annual Assembly where all present will cast votes to choose the 2012 issue. Everyone is invited to hear the testimonies and cast a vote at the Annual Assembly on Monday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. at St. John Catholic Church, 625 Frame Road, Newburgh.

PRAY FOR "THE CLUSTER"

Please pray regularly for Central Church and the churches in: "The Cluster" Fairlawn, Howell, St. James West, St. John's, Salem, Simpson and Trinity UMC. Pray for the ministries of each, for mutual support among the churches, and for discerning any new or continuing ministries we do more effectively together. Representatives from the churches will have a cluster meeting again at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 8 at St. John UMC in their new building, the former Asbury UMC building on Fulton and Uhlhorn.

PRAY

BRING BOXED FOOD FOR PANTRY NOVEMBER 6



This month's "First-Sunday Collection" item is "Boxes." On November 6, please bring in boxed staple food to distribute in our food pantry. Cash gifts or checks (to "Central UMC Food Pantry") are also welcome.

FALL FESTIVAL RECAP:

Thanks so much to the 75+ volunteers who helped in this year's Fall Festival Booth. It was a great turnout from our church family! Special "big thanks" goes to **Bob Clayton** for his huge role in making the week a success! Due to wonderful weather and this great help, we brought in over \$34,500 which will work out to be a profit of about \$8,000. Exact numbers are not in quite yet, but we'll have a finalized profit very soon. As a reminder, these funds will go directly into the church budget and be used for the church budget in 2012, which includes \$4,000 of funding for Youth Ministry. We've already signed up for the booth in 2012, so be thinking about what we can do to make this event even better!

Abby Warneke on behalf of The Fall Festival Team

CHILD CARE NEWS

Congratulations Central Child Care, for maintaining the highest level of achievement. Recently, the Child Care was evaluated by Paths to Quality and achieved the highest level given.



Thanks to the Trustees, for trimming the bushes by the Child Care doors and for removing the planter.

Reminders: CHILD CARE CLOSED NOVEMBER 24 AND 25.

Christmas Shop early - Buy a book at the Scholastic Book Fair November 14 through November 22.

THANKS: NOVEMBER NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

November 6--**Barb Hubbard**
November 13--**Heather Morse**
November 20--**Amber Schreiber**
November 27--**Cathy Ferris and Kristi Frazier**

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Thanks to the Acolytes for the month of November:
November 6--**Maddie Schreiber**
November 13--**Emma Brandt**
November 20--**Carly Frazier**
November 27--**Gavin Wambach**

UPCOMING COFFEE QUARTER HOSTS

We are in need of committees, Sunday School classes or families to assist with our third Sunday of the month fellowship time by providing light refreshments and coffee. This will typically take place in the parlor. Please get in touch with **Mike Warneke** if you would like to host a future coffee quarter.

November 20: Open
December 18: Open

GREETERS

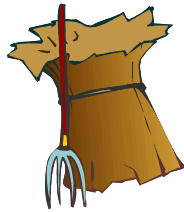
The Trinity Class will have representatives outside at our Mary Street and canopy doors greeting our members and guests as they arrive at Central for our worship time together. We hope this will make our guests feel welcomed and allow them to access our nursery with ease, and find our worship spaces.



Nov. 6 > Mary Street Doors: **Warneke Family**
Canopy Doors: **Willis Family**
Nov. 13 > Mary Street Doors: **Matt Schreiber Family**
Canopy Doors: **Wilson Family**
Nov. 20 > Mary Street Doors: **Daugherty Family**
Canopy Doors: **Barron Family**
Nov. 27 > Mary Street Doors: **Rhett Schreiber Family**
Canopy Doors: **Counts Family**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kieran Counts
Angela Francis
- 2 Anna O'Bryan
- 3 Brian O'Shaughnessy
Molly O'Shaughnessy
- 5 C. C. Affolter
- 6 Ariana Halbig
- 7 Brandon O'Bryan
Mary Pfender
- 9 Pam Graham
- 10 Stephanie Buse
Clara Daugherty
Samuel Daugherty
Nancy Harp
- 11 June Redd
- 12 Jamie Meyerholtz
Betty Romain
- 13 Jennifer Willis
- 14 William Lloyd Kratzer, Jr.
- 15 C. Mac Hamon
- 17 Ruth Ayers
Kim Boyd
Alice Guth
Doris Kaltofen
- 18 Dave Randall
- 19 Timothy Mosley
Christine Unversaw
Brandi Watson
- 21 Johnny Spinks
- 23 Danielle Meece
Norman Schmitt
Robert J. Simmons
- 25 Joe Easley
Kelly O'Bryan
Collin Pfender
Rhett Schreiber
- 27 Barbara Bruce
- 29 David Collins
Sadie Pusateri
Sue Anne Shurig
- 30 Jeffery Moore
Ken Schreiber



CROP HUNGER WALK - NOVEMBER 5



The 39th annual CROP Hunger Walk will be held Saturday, November 5. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. at East-side Christian Church, 2001 Bayard Park Dr. and the walk begins at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in walking and/or helping to raise money for hunger relief, please contact Pastor Joe.

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.

METHODIST MOUNTAIN MISSION PICK-UP

The Methodist Mountain Mission, which serves South-eastern Kentucky, will be in our area November 14-15 to pick up new toys and other Christmas gifts for the whole family plus good used clothing, pots, pans and other household items. See bulletin board for more info.

YOUTH HOME EVENT

The next event with the UM Youth Home kids is scheduled for Friday evening, November 4. We have been invited to the Harris home for a bonfire and hayride. The kids will arrive around 6:00 p.m. We will eat with them, go on a hayride, and tell stories or play games around the fire. I'm sure they'll have a wonderful time. If you'd like to join us for this event or help supply some refreshments, please contact **Kim White** or **Mike Warneke**.

FAIR TRADE FAIR

Please come and support your mission team as well as a number of wonderful vendors from the area, and allow your purchases to bless various corners of the world. The third annual Fair Trade Fair will take place in the Family Life Center from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 6. There will be appetizers and ethnic refreshments served throughout this event, and we invite you to stop in to shop from our Fair Trade Market throughout the morning. There will be coffee, cocoa and tea available from Equal Exchange in partnership with UMCOR; beautiful items from around the globe from Karama gifts, a partner of Young Life Africa; Ugandan jewelry, baskets and stitched items from Ekisa Designs; beautiful blankets and scarves from Myanmar through the ministries of Uncharted International; and Fair Trade items from the Old North Fair Trade Market. Invite your family or grab your Sunday School class and make your Christmas shopping mean a little something extra this year!



SHALOM TEAM MEAL

Our Shalom Team will be sharing in a meal with our neighborhood on Sunday, November 27 at 5:00 p.m. here at Central in the Family Life Center. 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.

RIBBON-CUTTING FOR LUCAS PLACE II

ECHO Housing Corporation will unveil its new Lucas Place II with a Ribbon-Cutting at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, November 3. This new building, three blocks from Central at the corner of Michigan and Garfield Streets, contains 20 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless single veterans. It has funding from the Veterans Administration, since it provides an important service for those who have served our country and then through the fortunes for life have nowhere to lay their heads. Some of these men and women may have mental or emotional limitations and/or chemical dependent issues, but research has shown if people have housing, the other issues are more likely to be dealt with. The problems plus being homeless are not only more difficult to manage but more expensive in the long run for society. The social services that go with the housing will be a great stabilizer.



"PETS FOR A CAUSE" AT ST. LUCAS U.C.C. DOG PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST NOVEMBER 5

All dogs are invited to come together for a "barking" good time while raising some money for the Tri-State Alliance Holiday Project. The TSA Holiday Project supports low income families who are impacted by HIV/AIDS. This year, 375 families need your assistance. This Dog Party and Costume Contest is sponsored by the Shalom Zone. It will be held at St. Lucas United Church of Christ, 33 W. Virginia Street on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. There will be snacks, vanilla ice cream and water will be available for all dogs. Kids, come in your Halloween costumes! Dogs, bring your owners!

All people, and all ages, are welcome even if you can't bring a dog! There is no charge to attend this event. Desserts and baked goods will be available for purchase. Donations will be accepted for the TSA Holiday Project. There will also be a pie throwing auction! The highest bidder for a whipped cream pie will get to throw it in the face of a local ministerial leader (among them Pastor Joe). Clean-up provided by the dogs! For more information, or to donate desserts or baked goods, contact Lisa Covington, 303-8865 or lisac46222@yahoo.com.