



# The Messenger

## C e n t r a l

United Methodist Church

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*February 2012*

### “HARDEST FUNERAL” AND DIFFICULT ISSUES

My wife Patti’s first full-time job after college, during the three years I was in seminary, was with the county child placement and protective services. She was a social worker in the agency that oversaw children and families who had come under court supervision. She dealt with children in foster homes, monitoring their needs and working with the foster parents. She also worked with families who had lost custody of their children or were in danger of losing custody or who had had custody restored but were still being monitored.

At age 22 she was the one who was supposed to have all the answers about children’s development and care: what was best for the child and how parents and foster parents should deal with children and their needs in every situation. I remember her telling me one evening how, after she told a mature adult “the right way” to handle a particular situation with a child, this experienced foster-parent patted her hand and replied, “When you have raised children of your own, you come back and tell me how that works.” In other words, the foster parent was going to trust her wisdom gained by years of experience more than a young social worker who “knew” in theory, but not in practice. Patti understood that it was ludicrous for her to advise this woman. Textbook answers may not fit real-life situations.

I have learned there are many situations where we can make definitive statements, in theory, that sound perfectly right, but in practice, things are never quite as black or white. In theory, we can isolate one issue and say definitively what is right and what is wrong. In practice, numerous issues play into a situation, and there are multiple possible right answers, depending on which issues in the situation one focuses. One obvious example is that of killing another person, which in theory is always wrong, if we consider only the life of that particular person. However, if the person is attacking one’s family or someone plotting to kill many others or an enemy combatant, these other considerations can change what is right. I find absolute pacifism attractive in theory, but in cases of people like Adolph Hitler or Osama bin Laden I can no longer think about just that one life in isolation from all the other lives affected. The great evil unleashed by such a person needs to be stopped and that could justify their being killed. That doesn’t change my value system nor make killing right, but it makes it clear that I must consider a number of issues in the application of my values to a given situation.

Most of us prefer absolute answers—at least if we like the answers—but real life is messier. Textbook answers don’t always fit, may not address all that is going on. Adam Hamilton, pastor of the largest-attendance United Methodist congregation published a book of sermons a few years ago with the perceptive title, Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White. “Seeing gray” does not necessarily make a person less confident of God nor any less a believer in truth and right, but it can cause us to admit our knowledge of God, truth, right and other people is never complete. We still need to make choices in a gray world, but our choices will likely be wiser if we consider black, white and all the other colors in the picture. God can and does guide us to discern God’s call on our lives and those of others amid all shades of colors there are.

Issues that seem “gray” are more difficult to discuss. We may be reluctant to address an issue, even in the church, when we know the people present would have different opinions and strong feelings. I admit I have been hesitant to tackle “controversial issues” from the pulpit. But such fears are

probably not from God, since according to 1 John 4:7-21, “God is love...and perfect love casts out fear.” So despite my fears and because of love, this month I want to preach on an issue where we tend to have black or white answers, but I want us to see “the gray” that really exists. The gray comes from blending our different perspectives in honest, respectful dialogue. It is also “the gray” of the lives of real people in our world who don’t want “textbook answers” or “theories.” People need Christians willing to enter the worlds of real people and work with God to find answers that meet the test of experience. We owe it to God (who is grace) and people (whom God loves).

On February 5, I want to share “The Hardest Funeral I Ever Preached,” when a textbook answer that saw only white or black would not work. I had to be honest with “the gray” of a real person, who was also a long-time friend, and the varied community of people that composed his world and mine. This and other experiences caused me to think again about what I thought I knew. But, as essential as it is to examine experience and see how God may be acting in the situation, as Christians we must also test it with the record of our faith and it’s witness to God’s working. So, I will follow up (February 12 in the traditional service and February 19 in the casual) with “What does the Bible Say?” I ask you to join me for these two sermons.

Your Pastor,

### REV. EASLEY ON VACATION FEB. 27-MAR. 3

Rev. Easley and Patti are taking vacation Monday, February 27 through Saturday, March 3 to visit their granddaughter and her parents in San Francisco. In the event of a pastoral need during this week, contact the church office (424-3574) or Carol Crabtree (402-1809). Upon his return, Pastor Joe will host our District Superintendent George Purnell, who is preaching March 4 and will share in celebrating communion.

### CONTRIBUTIONS GIVEN WITH NO NAME

The following contributions were given and we were unable to give credit to the person(s) giving the contributions. Please check your end of year statement to see if one of your contributions were not credited to you. It will affect your remaining balance.

- 3-20-2011 \$500 given to Vision 2012
- 4-24-2011 \$100 given to Budget
- 4-24-2011 \$ 25 given to Easter Offering
- 6-5-2011 \$25 given to UMCOR
- 6-12-2011 \$20 given to Vision 2012
- 6-19-2011 \$20 given to Vision 2012
- 12-4-2011 \$110 given to Vision 2012

### THANKS: ACOLYTES FOR FEBRUARY:

- February 5 – Carly Frazier
- February 12 – Madeline Morse
- February 19 – Anna Schreiber
- February 26 – Evan Lynch

### THANKS FEBRUARY NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:

- February 5 – Barb Hubbard
- February 12 – Heather Morse
- February 19 – Amber Schreiber
- February 26 – Claire Dugan

## IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

- Feb. 5 Combined Service led by Organ and Choir  
Communion celebrated  
Sermon: "The Hardest Funeral I Ever Preached" Scripture: Luke 19:1-10
- Feb. 12 Traditional Service: Pastor Joe preaching:  
Sermon: "What Does Scripture Say"  
Various scripture to be given out Feb. 5  
Casual Service: Mike Warneke speaking  
Sermon: "What are You Craving?"  
Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12
- Feb. 19 Traditional Service: Mike Warneke preaching  
Sermon: "What are You Craving?"  
Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12  
Casual Service: Pastor Joe speaking  
Sermon: "What Does Scripture Say"  
Various scripture to be given out Feb. 5
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.  
Sermon: "Reconciled To Having Nothing, Yet Possessing Everything"  
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Feb. 26 First Sunday in Lent  
Traditional Service: Pastor Joe preaching  
Sermon: "By God's Grace, All Can Change"  
Scripture: Ps. 25:1-10 & Mark 1:4-5, 9-15  
Casual Service: Brandon Daugherty speaking  
Sermon: "Year of Jubilee for Central"

## CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF FEBRUARY 12

Young people in the seventh grade through high school, who are interested in studying our faith more deeply and in possibly being confirmed as a professing member of the church, and their parents are invited to a Confirmation Kick-Off Luncheon on Sunday, February 12, starting at 11:35 a.m. (right after Sunday School) in the Garden Room and ending by 12:45 p.m. Potential mentors for the confirmands will also be invited to attend. Each youth would meet individually with his/her mentor to work through material to learn more about Christian beliefs and practices as well as the meaning of following Christ and being part of the Church. In addition, there may be one or more group events during the study and individual meetings with Pastor Joe in mid to late May. Youth and parents interested in attending are asked to call the church by Wednesday, February 8, to let us know how many from the family will be attending. Contact **Pastor Joe**, if you have any questions.

## STUDY OF GENESIS BEGINS FEBRUARY 22

**Genesis** is the first book of the Bible and sets the stage for our understanding of God. We also learn about creation (which is both good and "fallen"), God's goals for life, the choice of Abraham's descendants for a special role in history and those goals, and the kind of relationships God seeks with all creation. These key themes continue to unfold throughout scripture. Pastor Joe will facilitate a study of Genesis using a Short-Term Disciple Bible Study resource, which includes introductory material for each of 10 weekly sessions, daily reading in the Bible during this time and a DVD with 10 minutes of stimulating material for each week. The study will be offered on Wednesday nights 6:15 to 7:3 p.m. in the Library, beginning February 22 with a half-hour introductory session before the Ash Wednesday service that night. If there is enough interest for a Sunday morning study, 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the Nolte Room, he will also do that, starting with a 30-minute introductory session February 19. For both groups the first meeting will let you meet other participants, get books and review assignments. If questions, call.

## NO SENIOR CITIZENS THIS MONTH

Central's Senior Citizens group continues in winter hiatus. Its future is uncertain without new leadership.

## FEB. 22 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE BEGINS LENT

All are invited to a special worship service for Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on February 22. This day begins Lent, a period of 40 weekdays leading up to Easter, which has had a special place in Christian life since the first 300 or 400 years of the Church.

## BUDGET ENVELOPES

Due to an oversight, all of the budget envelopes were not initially available for pick up. The remaining envelopes are now available and have been placed in the Parlor and Family Life Center.

## MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFASTS BEGIN FEB. 25

The Evansville/Vanderburgh County United Methodist Men's Lenten Breakfasts begin on February 25 at 7:30 a.m. at Simpson UMC and continue through April 7 at the Scottish Rite. Watch for details.



## YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

Our Wednesday young adult small group will meet once again during the month of February. We will meet on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room on the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd as we finish our study on Joshua, entitled Crossings. We will also once again begin a study on character and integrity called Deadly Viper Character Assassins; we would love to have some new people, young or old join us for this 8 week study.

We will also have our annual Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on Saturday, February 11th at 6 p.m. Please contact **Mike Warneke** if you plan on attending this event so I can make sure our reservations at the Log Inn are correct.

## CENTRAL CINEMA NIGHTS

The Outreach Team will be offering a new opportunity during the coming year, and we would like to invite both you and your friends and family to the Central Cinema. On the



3rd Thursday of each month we will have a film viewing, followed by a discussion time in the Garden Room. This time will begin at 6:00 p.m. and light refreshments will be served. We can't offer you a drive-in experience, but we encourage an "eat-in" experience where you can bring your dinner with you, and enjoy it while you

watch that month's offering. The film line-up will be as follows for the next few months:

- § February 16 at 6:00 p.m. - Soul Surfer, rated PG (The story of surfer, shark attack victim and subsequent comeback surfing champion Bethany Hamilton is told in this inspirational drama)
- § March 15 at 7:30 p.m. - Jennie Wellsand, worship concert in the Family Life Center
- § April 19 at 6:00 p.m. - The Visitor, rated PG-13 (A gentle drama about illegal immigration)

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The youth group has continued to meet on Sunday evenings from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The youth led Children's Church on January 29 and did a great job! We will continue to lead Children's Church on a quarterly basis. February will be an exciting month... February 2 we will be attending "Winter Jam" at the Ford Center--this is an incredible Christian concert featuring 10 bands (everyone is welcome to join us!). On February 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Room, we will be hosting the first annual "Evening Under the Stars" banquet--this is one of our big fundraisers to help support youth going to church camp and attending the mission trip. Tickets for this event are \$15 per person and include a meal served by the youth, our version of the "Newly Wed Game", and live entertainment! Tickets are available each Sunday or by contacting **Abby Warneke** (962-5755). February 19 the youth will be doing a service project by setting up chairs in the FLC for the Casual Service. We are always looking for other service projects so if you have ideas for us, please let us know! Thank you for your continued support of the youth at Central!

**SWEET SLEEP TEAM MEETING FOR 2012**

We are once again planning on making the journey to Uganda next summer, June 8-18, with the goal of providing new bedding, mosquito nets and bibles for a group of orphans living in the Kampala area. Coffee and garbage bags are once again available for sale to help our team make a lasting difference in Uganda. We will have another team planning meeting Sunday, February 19 at 12:15 p.m. in the Trinity Room. We'll discuss the application process, turn in deposits, support lists and letters, finalize our fundraising calendar, and address any concerns. Please contact **Mike Warneke** if you have any questions or plan on attending.

**WELCOME** to Miah Joy Moore who was born December 17 to Jeffery Scott Moore and Jennifer Daunis. **Jerry and Karen Moore** welcomed Miah Joy as their first grandchild, who also was 6 lbs. 9 oz. and 19 inches.

**Imogene Lutz** would like to **THANK** everyone for the all the get well cards, Christmas Cards, birthday cards, prayers, food, visits and many kindnesses shown to her.

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of **Daryl Jones**, age 39, who died on January 4 after a 2-month bout with melanoma. His 4 children, ages 8 through 16, are in our Power program or are graduates and his extended family has many years involvement in this Central ministry. **Pam Graham**, Daryl's sister, became a Central member in 2010. Daryl was buried January 7 and generous community donations have helped the family with funeral expenses, but they still owe about \$1,000. If you would like to help, send a check (noting "Darryl Jones funeral expense") to Ziemer Funeral Home, 800 S. Hebron Ave. 47714 or call 477-1515.

**EYEGASSES AND HEARING AIDS NEEDED**

Please bring your used eyeglasses and hearing aids to the Church Parlor Mission Center by March 30. Ziemer Funeral Home is donating them to the Evansville Lions Club, and the nonprofit organization or church donating the most glasses and hearing aids will be awarded \$1,000.

**THANKS AND APPRECIATION**

**Norman and Jane Schmitt** and family wish to express their thanks and appreciation for your prayers and concerns during Norm's time of radiation treatments.

**THANKS TO ANGEL TREE WORKERS**

Thank you so much for all you do! We had a perfect Christmas. My daughter kept picking up her present with the zebra print ear muffs and holding them on her lap. She would keep saying "This is gonna be a cool gift"! She loved the outfit and the jeans! We have a very hard time getting jeans to fit her. We went all over Evansville to find a pair. We never found them. The jeans she got from Angel Tree fit perfect!! J This is basically her only pair because all we had were leggings. She loved the Apples to Apples game and slippers!



I love the shirts. I will think of Angel Tree every time I wear them or see my daughter wear hers. We shared the ham with my neighbors because they did not have any food in their fridge. I supplied the ham and milk that Angel Tree gave us. Her children were very excited to drink the milk. They usually do not have it because it is expensive.

You have touched several lives this year with your generosity.

Central is an amazing church with a big heart.

Another time at Christmas you helped and our food came in a white hamper with a yellow and red ribbon tied up as a bow. We still have the hamper with the bow still on it. It usually becomes a conversation starter when we are at the laundry mat.

Thank you so much for everything.  
May God Bless You All! J Family #21 (Adult & Child)

**BRING TOILETRES FOR PANTRY FEBRUARY 5**

This month's "First-Sunday Collection" item is "Toiletries." On February 5, please bring in toiletry items to distribute in our pantry. Cash gifts or checks (to "Central UMC Food Pantry") are also welcome.

**VOLLEYBALL WITH CENTENARY UMC**



We will be playing some volleyball on Wednesday, February 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. in our Family Life Center. This time is open to anyone interested in some exercise and some "friendly" competition.

**CHILD CARE NEWS**



Parent-Teacher conferences will be held January 30-February 3 for students who moved last August. Valentine Parties will be held February 14 at 2:30 p.m. Child Care will be closed February 20 for Staff development. No child care on that day. Spring pictures will be taken February 22-23. Look sharp! Check out the new play equipment in the Toddler room; also notice the new "soft tiles" (Safe Fall Zone). Toddlers are enjoying it!

**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. Please help us continue this wonderful time of fellowship by signing up your group or family. Please get in touch with **Mike Warneke** if you would like to host a future coffee quarter.



February 19: Ministry and Mission Fair hosted by the Mission Team  
March 18: Open  
April 15: Open

**OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUT**

Are you looking for a way to help out on Sunday mornings to make Central a friendlier place or to aid in worship? Here are a few ideas that might work for you:

1. Visitor Host – loaves of banana bread have been made to give to families who visit Central. Now we just need someone in each service who will be responsible for identifying visitors, and getting them a welcome packet and a loaf of bread.
2. Casual Service Videographer – are you an aspiring movie director or just have and like to use a video camera? The casual service is looking for someone to video the service and provide a file that can be uploaded to the internet and linked to our website in the few days following the service.

Family Life Center Work Day – there is a planned work day for the FLC on Saturday, February 25, from 9 – 11 a.m. Tables and chairs will be cleaned, shelves will be hung, a new screen will be constructed, walls will be patched and other small projects will be undertaken. If you are interested in helping out, we hope to see you there.

In addition to these, there are plenty of other ways to help out and contribute each Sunday morning and each day of the week at Central. If something you see interests you, fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate. If it is something we do not have that would be good to do, please contact the office to see about implementing it.

\*\*\*\*\*

I want to take this opportunity ...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping with # 1 #2 #3 or other (written below).

\_\_\_\_\_

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jasmine Jae Cummings
- 2 Margie Singer
- 4 Nancy Reid
- 6 Mary Ellen Hasenmyer
- 7 Alexander Herring
- 10 Doris Klein  
Rebecca Morgan  
Diane Walker
- 11 Wesley Lynch  
Pam Owens
- 12 Ray Brower  
Elise Lynch  
Megan Tribble
- 13 Julia Emswiller  
Andrew O'Bryan
- 14 Christa Crow  
Susan J. Edminson  
Kira Pusateri
- 15 Tim Boyd  
Carly Frazier  
Heather Morse
- 17 William C. Brenner  
Lupita Echeverria  
Eleni Jackson
- 18 Vern Newboles
- 19 Remington Adams  
Sue Halter
- 20 Mark Georges
- 21 Linda Henzman
- 25 Jeff Duncan  
Kristi Frazier  
Jean Walling
- 26 Art Barr
- 26 Deloris Gibson  
Barbara Johnson
- 28 Eric Millay  
Andrew O'Bryan



### MINISTRY AND MISSION FAIR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Our Central Mission Team will be hosting a Ministry in Mission fair on Sunday, February 19 following services in the church parlor. This will be a time for light refreshments, and for our members to connect with ministry and/or mission opportunities for the coming year. This is the week prior to Lent beginning, and we challenge our members to find new ways to serve our community of faith and beyond during this special time of the year.

### PLAN FOR SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church offers a variety of camps at six sites. Camps at the closest locations, both near Bedford (two hours away) offer the following camps:

Grades 3-5	June 17-22	Rivervale
Grades 3-5	June 17-22	Indicoso
Grades 3-5	July 8-13	Indicoso
Grades 6-8	June 24-29	Indicoso
Grades 6-8	July 15-20	Indicoso
Grades 6-8	July 15-20	Rivervale (Drama)
Grades 9-13	July 1-6	Indicoso
Grades 9-13	July 15-20	Rivervale (Drama)
Grades 9-13	July 22-27	Indicoso

Pine Creek west of Lafayette (three hours away) has water activities in a creek (and a swimming pool), horses and a rustic setting. On Lake Webster (five hours away) Epworth Forest offers vibrant Senior High camps and Camp Adventure has exciting, active Middle School camps. Campers and parents in each church are encouraged to plan ahead by age levels and attend the same camp week, so they can share rides and bring the experience back home. The church office has information on all dates and camps. Rev. Easley is familiar with the sites and can answer questions or get answers about camps. Santa Claus UMC and Posey County UM churches plan to offer camps at Santa Claus, but the dates are not yet known.



### MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT - LAKE BARKLEY

Community Marriage Builders offers a variety of programs to support marriage preparation, enrichment and recovery. They have an enrichment workshop "World Class Marriage" coming up March 16-18 at the Lake Barkley Lodge. There is no cost for the workshop itself, except for room and board at the state park for these days. An "Early Bird" special can even reduce this cost. See flyer on bulletin board.

## GREETERS

The Trinity Class will have representatives outside at our Mary Street and Canopy Doors greeting 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.

Feb. 5 > Mary Street Doors: **Willis** Family  
Canopy Doors: White Family

Feb. 12 > Mary Street Doors: **Scott Schreiber** Family  
Canopy Doors: **Bruce Armstrong**

Feb. 19 > Mary Street Doors: **Matt Schreiber** Family  
Canopy Doors: **Brandt** Family

Feb. 26 > Mary Street Doors: **Warneke** Family  
Canopy Doors: **Wilson** Family

### ICEMAN GAME

The Outreach Team is planning on a fun outing for our church membership on Friday, February 3rd at 7:15 p.m. We still have a few IceMen tickets available. Please talk with Mike Warneke if you are interested in attending.

### JENNIE WELLSAND CONCERT "IN-THE-ROUND"

The Outreach Team would like to invite you to a very intimate night of worship in the Family Life Center on Thursday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. with Jennie Wells. Jennie is from Valparaiso, IN and has been leading worship since 2002. Her album was released June 14, 2011 and can be found on iTunes or amazon.com. A free download of 10000 Nights can be found at www.JennieWellsand.com as well as a few other songs from the album. There will be a love offering taken at this event, and we hope that you will feel compelled to bring your family and friends to this event.

### SWEET SLEEP TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION

Please clear your calendar for a fun-filled evening on Saturday, April 14. The six individuals that will be heading to Uganda this coming June will be hosting a trivia night and silent auction in the Family Life Center from 6:30 until 9:00 p.m. during the last Saturday of March. You can purchase a single ticket for \$10 or a team trivia table of 6 can be purchased for \$50. All of the proceeds and profits will be used toward the trip costs and purchase of beds for our Sweet Sleep Team. There will also be a Uganda Market set up for you to purchase wonderful handmade items from Uganda, some wonderful appetizers and desserts, as well as many silent auction items.

Contact **Mike Warneke** (604-2458) to purchase tickets, or see a mission team representative following services on March 13, 20 and 27. Also, if you'd like to donate an item, gift certificate or gift basket for the silent auction, donations can be dropped off at the church anytime during March.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mary Schreiber for winning the Chili Cook-off. We had nine entries and people took the tasting very seriously. For those who could not attend, you missed a great time of fellowship and lots of great chili. Thanks to all who entered.

Linda Harris, Nurture Committee

I would like to **THANK** everyone for your thoughts and prayers (also the cards) during my hospital stay with pneumonia. It meant so much to me. It's always nice to know you have so many people in your corner. We are a wonderful Church full of love.

Linda Harris

**OUR SYMPATHY** goes to Susan Rideout and family on the death of her grandmother, Lillian Rucker, who died Wednesday, January 25. Lillian was a 70 year member of Central belonging to the Togadore Class and the Senior Citizens Group. She also was a long-time volunteer of the Rack Shack. Her funeral was at Boone Funeral Home with burial in Locust Hill Cemetery.

**Please note: If you find errors in the Messenger I apologize.**  
**Lisa Miner, Secretary**