



The Messenger

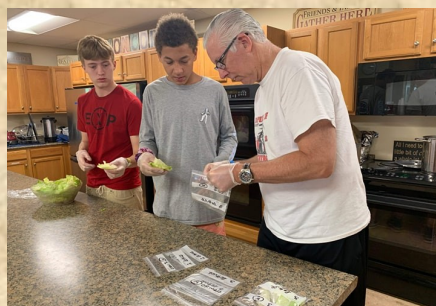
August 2019

INVESTING IN YOUTH



YOUTH INVESTING IN MINISTRY

Compassion



A VIEW FROM THE FRONT

High school was a long time ago for me. Although the memories are clear and feel recent, the calendar indicates that it has been a few decades now. And although I know that I am the same person in all the essential ways- I have the same body (although it is older and larger in unfortunate ways), the same family and the same basic worldview- I have changed and grown in some pretty significant ways. There are many things that contribute to these changes. Things I have read, sermons and lectures that I have heard and life experiences have all contributed in making me who I am today.

And here is something interesting. I have changed my mind. A lot of times and on a lot of issues. For example, I grew up believing that the way a person became a Christian was to attend a church service- maybe a revival meeting, a camp meeting, or some other evangelistic event. These services always end with an emotional, drawn out altar call. To become a Christian I believed that you needed to respond to one of these altar calls, go to the front of the church and get saved. Getting saved, of course, is a whole procedure in itself. You almost certainly need to cry. There is also a prayer led by someone else, usually the preacher of the service. We repeat the prayer, phrase by phrase, admitting our sins, praying for forgiveness and inviting Jesus to come into our hearts.

For at least half of my life I believed that this was the only way to make sure you go to heaven. But- get ready for this- I have changed my mind! I don't think that this is the only way to get saved. At least I hope not. Most churches that I know, including ones that I have pastored, do not have revival services or camp meetings. And if we did, only the most "saved" and sanctified saints would attend. They don't need to become Christians. They are already saved. And yet, I regularly see people experience new life in Christ. It is not unusual for me to see people grow in faith. There has to be another way.

I had an honest to God "eureka" moment when I realized that I knew people, several people in fact, who never said a sinner's prayer, but were Christians. There are men and women who begin to see the way God wants them to live. Maybe it's because of a low point in their lives, but they realize that change is necessary. Maybe they have met a friend who seems to have life figured out and so they decide to live like that friend. And as they emulate the successful friend, they find themselves being changed, growing, and becoming more spiritual. Until one day, maybe completely by surprise, this person wakes up and realizes, "I'm a Christian."

I have decided that Christianity is not one decision that is made in an emotional state at the end of a worship service and a dramatic sermon. Being a Christian is the result of a series of decisions that each individual must make. Each day I am becoming more like Jesus because of the choices that make, the places that I go and the things that I do. Every moment Christ is making me more in his own likeness. I am becoming a disciple.



Notes from the Music Leader:

As I am engaged in planning the fall season for Chancel Choir Musicians and the Central Carillon Handbell Ringers I am confronted with a spirit of excitement and optimism. As we have entered each Choir Season I have sought a focal point or theme to govern my planning. In my first fall at Central UMC the theme that soon became obvious to me was this congregation's sense of FAMILY. This led to our "Cantata Sunday" in December being built around the ideas of Family and Family groups. The Choir worked on building their choral technique and recruiting new members. (this will ALWAYS be on-going!)

2017 came to me very clearly as I followed the footsteps of Martin Luther through Germany on his journey to the beginnings of Protestantism, celebrating the 500th anniversary of Luther's 95 Theses.

2018 began as an opportunity to challenge the choir and encourage their growth with a full length "Book Cantata." That fall became a season of challenge, transition and sudden pastoral change.

Fall 2019's excitement stems from several sources:

- A. As I stand in the pulpit I see new faces! I don't need to tell you why this is very thrilling;
- B. As we enter hymn-time during worship, I hear you singing with renewed vigor. This inspires me because I believe that worship is a participatory act and I know you are participating;
- C. In recent weeks, I have heard discussion from our leadership about restoring the sanctuary to a musically-friendly acoustic environment. This is huge to me. (I will share something personal here. My wife will tell you, I am an obsessive OVER-shopper. Cities, cars, tubas all require spread sheets, comparisons, charts and all this before the internet. I love lists!) When I look back at my 2016 notes about CUMC I find three things in the negative column: 1.) the acoustics of the sanctuary; 2.) the potential of the piano; 3.) the lack of potential of the organ. The second two are amplified by the first one: A very small, very old piano, boxed in a corner and a 1970's electronic organ.
- D. This morning, I met with Pastor Dewey and Marilyn Conder to discuss the most effective use of the Ned Conder Memorial Piano Fund. I came away with several thoughts: a.) We have a great opportunity; b.) We have a mandate to be fiscally responsible; c.) We come together to Worship God and strengthen the Body of Christ; d.) We have a possible solution to number "2.)" above!

Lastly, this fall's theme has been building for a long time. Not 500 years like Luther, or 170 years like Central's family, but since: worship-planning conversations with Pastor George last fall; followed by hymnal research the choir and I have done together; discussions of Hymnody with the UMW; and talking with many of you about the hymns we sing and why. It has become apparent, even to me, that we need to spend some time exploring the richness of our tradition of hymns.

Therefore, I am eager to share with you this Fall's plan. In August the Choir and Bells will resume rehearsals. In September Asaph the Psalmist will come before us in the person of David Westfall. You, the congregation, will participate with Asaph by raising your voices in Psalm! As we approach Thanksgiving we will join the Choir and the Handbells and the congregation (YOU) in a full "Book Cantata" written by one of my favorite composers, Mr. Hal Hopson, entitled "A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS." I have big dreams, we will see what comes of them. (One of them even includes a new piano...but...we will see when God's time is right.)

If you say, "boy that sounds exciting, I'd like to be a part of that", come see me.

If you don't, I will come and find you anyway.

In loving encouragement

Wayne C. Jones

Air Traffic Controller extraordinaire (Ret.)

erstwhile tubaist and

Central Methodist Music Director

Choir and Bell practice starts Wednesday, August 28. Choir is 5:30 p.m. and Bells are at 6:45 p.m. The first day the choir sings in the service is September 8.

Family Ministry Update

Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Lunch Aug. 18

Our
2nd
Annual
Oldies
Party
to
honor
those
who
give



SUNDAY,
AUGUST 18

10:30 AM

Family Life Center

Wear oldies attire of
your favorite decade!

Bring your High School Yearbook
Picture to the church office by
August 11 and we'll make a copy
for a fun display at the event!

If you gave us one last year, we have kept it on file
and you don't need to send a new one.

Save the Date!

OLDIES PARTY

CLASSIC HIT MUSIC
DANCING
Food and Fun

Volunteer/Donor Appreciation Lunch

Volunteers and Donors Thanks for your help!

Kids and Teenagers got to go to the Youth Mission Trip to Colorado because of you!



OUR SYMPATHY goes to the family of Donna (Prow) Davis who passed away on June 26. Her funeral was June 30 in Madisonville, Ky with burial in Hanson, Ky. And also to the family of Melba Bootz who passed away July 1. Her funeral was July 5 at Browning Funeral Home.



The children and staff of the childcare are excited for a new school year! August 5th is when most of the children will move to new classrooms. We will have an Open House on Aug. 1 from 6-7 for our families to get information about the program, see the classroom, and meet the teachers. We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Mandy has been named our new Assistant Director! She has been an employee of Central for 18 years and a department head in the toddler department for 13 years. Mandy will work as the Assistant Director until Ms. Penny retires in May at which time she will take over as the Child Care Director.

ENDOWMENT REQUESTS

The Central Endowment Fund Governing Board invites requests for funds from the 2019 annual distribution. Requests should be made in writing by August 15, and submitted to: Central United Methodist Church Endowment Fund Request 300 Mary Street Evansville, IN 47710. Each year, the Endowment Fund Governing Board meets to review all requests for funding from the Church, the neighborhood and the community. Requests should include the amount of funding being sought and a brief description of the need. All requests will be considered depending on the amount of funding available for distribution.

THANK YOU! It is with a heavy heart that I leave Central. You have become a family to me. Thank you for all of your support over the years, the words of encouragement or appreciation and the times you have brightened my day by making me smile or laugh. Thanks to all of the staff and volunteers current and past that have been a blessing to me and have helped Central to carry on. Thanks to Pastor Dewey for being the great boss that I needed closing out my time at Central.

Leaving allows me to be more available to work with my husband in our business, N and P Distributors. (When you see the trucks with Wonder or Natures Own bread on the side think of me.) I am looking forward to watching my youngest grandchild for a day a week his last year before school and to becoming more involved in the work of our new church. Not to mention working in my weed garden and watching my birds, squirrels and rabbits regularly. You are a great people and very special to me. I am going to miss you very much!

With much love, Lisa Miner

MANAGE YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Go to www.central-church.org; Click on the **Donate** button; click on the **Create Profile** button; follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Mattie Woods

5 Braden Cooper

5 Olivia Cooper

6 Kent Conder

8 Matt Schreiber

9 Barbara Brooks

9 Flossie Wilson

10 Joseph O'Bryan

11 Nicole Mitsopoulos

11 Duane Nichols

12 Susan Herring

12 Donna Hillyard

14 Pam Dugan

14 Gideon Warneke

16 Lynn Kratzer

17 Matthew Dillow

17 Cameron Ferris

17 Andrew Pfender

17 Connie Romain

18 Hope Hartmann

18 Daniel Romain

20 Libby Pittman

21 Brooklyn Buse

22 Annie Reed

24 Ellie Barron

25 Anna Schreiber

26 Velma Berry

26 Randy Dillback

27 Jeff Romain

28 Mark Schmitt

29 Stan Schmitt

CENTRAL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Food Pantry 1:00 pm Child Care Management Mtg. 4:30 pm Youth Small Group 6:00 pm Child Care Open House	2	3 8:00 pm N A Mtg - Trinity
4 9:15 am Traditional Worship Service 10:30 am Family & Life Group 10:30 am Small Youth Group 10:30 am Sunday School	5 9:30 am Food Pantry	6 4:30 pm Mission Team 5:00 pm Youth Group	7 4:30 pm Youth Small Group	8 9:30 am Food Pantry 4:30 pm Youth Small Group	9	10 8:00 pm N A Mtg - Trinity
11 9:15 am Traditional Worship Service 10:30 am Family & Life Group 10:30 am Small Youth Group 10:30 am Sunday School	12 9:30 am Food Pantry 11:00 am Deaconess Moms	13 10:00 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Youth Group	14 4:30 pm Trad. Worship Team 4:30 pm Youth Small Group	15 9:30 am Oldies Dance Set Up 4:30 pm Food Pantry Youth Small Group	16 Oldies Dance Set Up	17 8:00 pm Oldies Dance Set Up N A Mtg - Trinity
18 9:15 am Traditional Worship Service 10:30 am Oldies Dance	19 9:30 am Food Pantry	20 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Literary Ladies 5:00 pm Youth Group	21 4:30 pm Youth Small Group	22 9:30 am Food Pantry 4:30 pm Youth Small Group	23	24 12:00 pm Berry Reunion 8:00 pm N A Mtg - Trinity
25 9:15 am Traditional Worship Service 10:30 am Family & Life Group 10:30 am Small Youth Group 10:30 am Sunday School	26 9:30 am Food Pantry	27 10:00 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Youth Group	28 11:45 am Wednesday Friends 4:30 pm Youth Small Group 5:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm Endowment Meeting 6:45 pm Bell Choir	29 9:30 am Food Pantry 4:30 pm Youth Small Group	30	31 8:00 pm N A Mtg - Trinity



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Web Site: www.central-church.org

CENTRAL CHILD CARE

Monday thru Friday/6:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Tel. (812) 424-9461

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Traditional Service 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Family & Life Group 10:30 a.m.