

october 2019

THE MESSENGER



Central United Methodist Church

CONNECT to God.

CONNECT to others.

CONNECT to the world.

5144 Oak Street

(816)753-1844

| Kansas City, MO 64112

| connectatcentral.com

Sunday Worship @ 10:00am

facebook.com/connectatcentral

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SALLY

Dear Central Friends,

One of my favorite times to be at church is Sunday morning, early. I arrive before anyone else, so that I can have plenty of time to get myself settled, prayed, and prepared for worship. As the days get shorter, I've been arriving before the sun has. I love feeling my way through the darkened church up to the sanctuary. (One of these days I'll learn where the light switches are.) As I kneel on the needlepoint pads at the communion rail, I feel such a sense of history. The first glimmers of light begin to illumine the stained glass, and it seems as if the saints of the church are kneeling beside me.

After a bit, I stand and begin to walk around the sanctuary. I pause to pray by different pews, picturing in my head who might be sitting there in a few hours. I'm beginning to learn where people usually sit, yet I focus also on newcomers who will join us for worship. I pray that the words that I speak, the hymns that we sing, the anthem that the choir lifts before us, and especially the welcome that we give one another will help provide for people exactly what God intends for them to receive as we worship together. As I walk out of the sanctuary, I feel a renewed sense of joy and confidence in the gifts of this congregation.

By the time I get back to my office, other people are beginning to arrive. We have a fantastic group of volunteers and staff who arrive early to make sure the church building is prepared for the morning. Doors are unlocked, lights are turned off, coffee is brewed, donuts and/or treats are prepared, bulletins are placed out. . . myriad tasks, big and small, are handled faithfully each week.

What I hope you take away from this description is an awareness that before you have even stepped foot into our church building on a Sunday morning, many people have been preparing the way for you. You have

been prayed for, you've had coffee made for you, you've had lights turned on for you. We do all of these things for you because you are a beloved part of our church family. We want you to feel welcomed, comfortable, and loved while you are in God's house, and a whole lot of people are willing to get up extra early on a Sunday morning to make sure that happens.

By the way, in November Central will celebrate 175 years of welcoming people into God's family. The main event will occur on Sunday, November 10, beginning with our 10:00 worship. We'll follow worship with a celebration meal (potluck, with Central providing the main course), featuring music and a special program. I hope you'll put this event on your calendar and plan to join us! Please reach out to any former members and friends of Central that you know, so that we can have a wonderful family-of-God reunion.

Blessings,

Sally

BEST WAYS TO CONTACT SALLY

Non-Urgent Matters: Email is easiest, sally@connectatcentral.com. Or, call the church office at 816-753-1844. I'll check email and phone messages during normal business hours.

Urgent Things: Texting is preferable, 816-226-6980, or you can call me at that number.

Middle of the Night: I hope you're never in a situation where you need to contact me in the middle of the night, but if you are, my home phone is 816-427-5191.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Gifted and Called.

It has been said that God does not call the qualified. God qualifies the called. Each one of us does indeed have a call from God. What is God calling you to do? How can you live out the gifts that God has given you? During this sermon series, we'll look at how God called many different people in Scripture. As you learn about how God called them you'll surely see how God calls you.

October 6: (World Communion Sunday) **The Call of Sarah, Who Laughed**

October 13: The Call of Isaiah, "Here I Am, Send Me!"

October 20: The Call of Samuel, A Voice in the Night

October 27: The Call of Paul, Knocked off His (Donkey)

COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION

Are you free on Wednesday mornings and interested in joining a discussion group? Beginning Sept. 25, the Community of Compassion, moderated by retired UMC pastor Kyle Hern, will be meeting in The Connect on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. We generally choose books on spiritual and current topics for discussion. Join us!

175 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please be sure to join us on Sunday, November 10 for the celebration of Central's 175th Anniversary! Our worship celebration will begin at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by a community potluck at 11 a.m. in Kenwood Hall. Central will provide the main dish and dessert (cake!), and everyone is invited to bring side dishes to share. We'll have an entertaining and enlightening program, as we celebrate where Central has been and where we are going. Be sure to invite any former members you know, so that they can be a part of this fantastic celebration!

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Contemplative Connections is a centering prayer group that meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:45-7:45pm in the Chapel at Central UMC. Contemplative Outreach of Kansas City describes centering prayer as a "method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship." Our practice is both to connect with one another in Christian fellowship as well as to practice 2 sessions of silence ranging from 10-20 minutes each.

CHURCH DIRECTORY ANNOUNCEMENT

It's pictorial directory time! This year, we're doing it a little bit differently by producing it ourselves, so even if you're a veteran of previous directories, please read the following information closely.

With our existing church membership software, we have the ability to upload our directory and pictures online, for a password-secured, regularly-updated online directory. In addition, our software creates a format which we can use for printed pictorial directories. You have received an email already to update your information, and also to let us know if you'd like to opt out of being included in either directory.

We will be taking pictures in early October. Watch your email for exact dates/times to sign up. One of our church members, who has experience as a professional photographer, has volunteered to take the pictures and will gift Central with the pictures for our online directory which everyone can access, but which cannot be printed.

If you have been photographed for church directories previously, you might recall getting a picture and directory free, in exchange for sitting through a sales talk and potentially purchasing surprisingly expensive packages of photos. Here is where things will be different this year: No sales talk, but also no free photos or directory. If you would like to purchase pictures for your own use, the photographer will have a price for you to purchase a flash drive with all of your pictures, based on the size of your group. You will then have full access to share the photos online and print Christmas cards, etc. using the printing company of your choice.

If you would like a hard copy of the pictorial directory, we'll be asking you to order in advance and pay for it.

Another fantastic difference: We hope to have the directories in your hands in November, thereby creating the fastest church pictorial directory in history!

More details will be coming soon. If you've got questions, please call the office at 816-753-1844 or contact Jessica Bryon at 214-493-3601.



Sally and Andrew Haynes

-From our 1987 Directory
(About that hair..Hey, it was the '80's!)



OCTOBER EVENTS AT CENTRAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

October brings many fun and important events to Central Early Childhood Center (CECC). This month CECC teachers will be conferencing with families on October 14th to set goals for their children. Classy Kids Studio will be at Central on Oct 23rd & 24th to take individual and sibling portraits of CECC students. On October 27th teachers and families will participate in Central's annual Trunk-or-Treat. And on Halloween day, UMKC Law School will be hosting our students for their annual costume parade. Students and staff at the law school have great fun competing in a decorating challenge as they transform office areas throughout three floors of the building for the children to visit and "trick-or-treat". Everyone is invited to 'dress up' and join us at 12:00 (noon) for this fabulously fun annual event. Lots of extra hands and eyes will be helping to make this a safe walking trip. As always, KCMO Police will be on hand to help us safely cross the street!

THE UMKC FOOD DRIVE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who participated in the UMKC Kangaroo Food Pantry donations. Our delivery was made on Tuesday, 9-17: we donated 313 pounds of food and \$20 cash. The pantry director and the 4 student volunteers who unloaded our shipment all expressed many thanks to us and assured us that it would be put to good use. Thanks Central!

- submitted by Barb Warriner

RMN- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

It's been almost a year since Central became a Reconciling Congregation - Where do we go from here?

On October 21, 2019, members of Central UMC voted to join the Reconciling Ministry Network as a congregation. Nearly a year later, on Sept. 15, you once again affirmed our pledge to take a stand for inclusion. Thank you to all who stayed after church to vote to send the petition to General Conference. This petition clearly expresses our desire to eliminate all exclusionary and punitive language from the UMC Book of Discipline. You all overwhelmingly endorsed it with a vote of 51 to 1. Yay!

So, what's next for Central? The Central Reconciling Ministries Network Action Team (RMN), along with Rev. Sally Haynes* met recently to discuss plans and events. We would love to have your input as well.

If you are passionate about Central's goal to become more inclusive to the LGBTQ community, plan to stay after church on Sunday, Oct. 13th following the worship service for an update and planning, dreaming, volunteering opportunities and maybe even a Rainbow flag raising ceremony! We will have light refreshments. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm to help us keep the momentum going!

RMN Action Team Members include: Steve DeWilde*, Connie Hartline, Maggie Holley, Barb Shelly and Trina Taft

(*indicates General Conference and/or Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 2020)

LEADERSHIP TEAM SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Leadership Team met on Tuesday, Sept. 24. This group manages the administrative life of our congregation. This month contained many significant items of business. Our budget is doing better than at this time last year. Our most recent financial audit was reviewed, with some recommendations to continue to improve our financial practices. The pastor's 2020 salary was approved, with a cost-of-living increase. Contracts with various vendors have been renegotiated, saving us some money. Building issues included new and familiar leaks during a recent deluge, so tuckpointing will be done in November. We're also seeking more information/bids on roofing repairs. We will fix the electronic sign out front. The Nominating Committee has been at work, identifying incoming leaders for the Class of 2022. Our annual Charge Conference will be Sunday, October 20 at 2:00 p.m. at The Summit UMC in Lee's Summit. If you have any questions or input, feel free to contact Brian Petrie, Chair, at Brian.Petrie@asi.com.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY POSITION

Central UMC is seeking a part-time (10 hours/week) Co-Director of Children and Family Ministry, to work alongside Britney Costanzo. This person will have primary responsibility for special events (e.g. Trunk or Treat, Breakfast with Santa) and communication with families and the congregation. For more information and/or application, please contact the office or go to our website, www.connectatcentral.com

<u>Financial Summary</u>	August 2019	YTD	YTD% <i>Over/Under Budget</i>
<u>Income</u>			
Member Support	\$29,111	\$262,262	89%
<i>Pledges and all offerings</i>			
Proceeds from Other Sources	\$10,469	\$163,156	88%
<i>Building use, quarterly distributions, etc.</i>			
<u>Expenses</u>			
Apportionments	\$0	\$36,474	57%
<i>District and Conference</i>			
All Other Expenses	\$60,443	\$375,777	87%
<i>Program expense, salaries, utilities, etc.</i>			
Net Income	-\$20,863	\$13,167	
<i>What we have received vs. what we have spent</i>			
<i>The detailed financial statement is posted in the Connect and the 52nd Street Lobby (Narthex), or you may call the office (816-753-1844) to request a copy.</i>			

CALENDAR

BOY SCOUTS: Every Monday at 7pm

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP : Every Wednesday from 6:45pm-7:45pm

CHOIR : Every Wednesday at 6:30pm

COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION : 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month (starting Sept 25) from 8:30am-9:30am

GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP : Every Tuesday from Sept 10-Oct 29 from 5:30pm-7pm

TROOP 2036 : Every Tuesday at 7pm

TRUNK OR TREAT : October 27, 4:30-6pm

Trunk or Treat is coming up!

We will be collecting PEANUT FREE candy from now until October 26th. Please bring your donations to the church office.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Larri Robinson at 816-255-5411 or larrirobinson@gmail.com



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



10/2: Bradley Carolan, Carla Warriner; **10/4:** Sally Haynes; **10/8:** Kathryn Buenger; Bette Rhule;

10/9: Lorna Brammell; **10/10:** Wilma Heckart; **10/11:** Laura Bruce; **10/12:** Vimala Dasari;

10/14: Bea Kamp, Paul Weigel; **10/15:** Connie Hartline, Grace Philhour, Faith Philhour, Cody Wesche;

10/19: Becca Bruce; **10/20:** Amanda Hanna, Milke Jasa; **10/21:** Adam Troutwine; **10/22:** Steve

Boeck; **10/23:** Barb Shelly; **10/24:** Stephen Cutelli; **10/28:** Madison Costanzo; **10/29:** Steven DeWilde;

10/30: Avery Lemon, Harper Page, Alison Troutwine; **10/31:** Jayden Dugan



5144 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64112
connectatcentral.com
Sunday Worship @ 10:00am

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST STAFF

Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes | Pastor
sally@connectatcentral.com

Betty Tracewell | Business Manager
betty@connectatcentral.com

Donna Brown | Dir. of Early Childhood Center
central_ecc@yahoo.com

Justin McCoy | Director of Music/Organist/Pianist
justin@connectatcentral.com

Mark Costanzo | Worship Coordinator
mark@connectatcentral.com

Erin Case | Admin. Asst./Graphics
erin@connectatcentral.com

Britney Costanzo | Children & Families
britney@connectatcentral.com

Lisa Wynn | Receptionist

Sunday Worship @ 10:00am