

february 2020

THE MESSENGER



Central United Methodist Church

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5144 Oak Street
(816)753-1844

| Kansas City, MO 64112
| connectatcentral.com

Sunday Worship @ 10:00am

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR SALLY

Dear Central Friends,

I want to update you on the status of the future of the UMC. General Conference in May 2020 will be a major decision point. There are many different plans that are coming before that body, and until recently, it appeared that we might find ourselves once again at a stalemate.

However, a group of leaders from the traditionalist, moderate, and progressive branches came together at the request of Bishop John Yombasu, the bishop of Sierra Leone. The mediator was Kenneth Feinberg, who has mediated such high-profile cases as the 9-11 Victims Fund. Amazingly, this group was able to create a document that all sides agreed to, the “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation.”

In essence, this protocol allows the traditionalists to leave the UMC to create their own expression of Methodism. The churches that depart would be able to take their property and assets if they leave within the next quadrennium. Annual Conferences would be able to leave within the next year and a half. The UMC would give \$25 million to assist this new expression of Methodism.

Moderates and progressives would retain the UMC. Any church or Annual Conference that does not take a vote will remain within the existing UMC. If there are any churches who do not want to align with their Annual Conference (e.g. a progressive church within an Annual Conference that joins the traditionalist branch), there is a method for them to leave their Annual Conference to join a like-minded Conference.

When the Protocol is adopted, all anti-LGBT+ language will be removed from the Discipline. In the meantime, complaints against clergy who violate those provisions in the Discipline will be “held in abeyance,” meaning that they will not proceed forward at this time.

The UMC will set aside \$39 million to assist with historically marginalized churches and ministries, such as Africa University. This money will come from funds the traditionalist branch has chosen not to take with them, plus funds from the UMC.

All of the signers of this protocol agreed to support this plan and no other. Here is where things get tricky, and we’ll see what happens. I think our biggest issue now is a well-earned lack of trust between sides. We have a history of behaving in untrustworthy ways towards each other, and so it is natural that it is hard to trust one another in this instance. However, if this protocol can hold, I believe it offers our best way forward. We can separate with grace and move into the future with hope.

A year ago, I did not advocate for nor expect the separation of the UMC. I continue to be astounded that issues of sexual orientation are so divisive as to tear apart our denomination. However, given the events of 2019, I am convinced now that a gracious separation provides our best future. Central UMC is well-positioned for this eventuality, having already staked our claim as a Reconciling UMC. We know who we are, and we know that we will remain firmly within the UMC.

Keep praying for the future of our denomination, and for General Conference, May 5-15.

Blessings,

Sally

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

February: “Faith at the Movies” In the coldest days of the winter, it’s always a good idea to warm up inside with a good movie and some popcorn. This sermon series will be looking at some of the best movies of the year, with an eye to finding what we can learn from these powerful movies.

Feb. 2 Peanut Butter Falcon

Feb. 9 Harriet

Feb. 16 A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Feb. 23 Rev. Barry Freese Preach, Frozen 2

We'll be showing the movies after the sermon in which they are featured, on the dates below:

Tuesday, February 4, 6:30pm: **Peanut Butter Falcon**

Sunday, February 9, 6:30pm: **Harriet**

Sunday, February 16, 6:30pm: **A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood**

Sunday, February 23, 6:30pm: **Frozen 2 or Frozen, depending on if Frozen 2 has been released.**

SAVE THE DATE!

**Blessed Dress will be
Friday, March 13
from 3-7pm and
Saturday, March 14
from 9am-2pm.
Volunteers will be
needed! Look out
for ways to sign up.**

CELEBRATION OF COMMITMENT

Valentine’s Day is coming up, and we’re taking the opportunity to celebrate your commitment of love to one another. Join us Wednesday, February 12 at 6pm in the sanctuary for a brief service. You’ll be able to stand with your beloved and speak words of faith, hope, and love to one another. We’ll have a reception in the Connect afterwards. This event is part of #ResistHarm, a movement within the UMC to work towards full inclusion for all.

#RESISTHARM

Central joined United Methodists from around the US in resisting harm via photos. See the different ways that we proclaim that God's love is for all.





An Exciting New opportunity – CECC has entered into a 2 year partnership with TFC to enhance social emotional learning in all our classrooms. This program is funded through the Jackson County Community Children’s Services Fund (JCCCSF). The Family Conservancy (TFC) is a non-profit organization serving the KC metro area to empower area residents to raise happy, healthy, educated children. They are focused on supporting families, caregivers and teachers who prepare children for success in school and life. Early childhood professionals including those at Central have benefitted for years through support, education and training provided by TFC. Each week Central will have two TFC staff on site, an Early Childhood Social Emotional Learning Specialist who will work primarily in classrooms with children 3 years of age and up and an Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist who will be providing support in all classrooms. Some parents may be asked for permission to complete the Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). This is a social-emotional screening tool that explores a child’s strengths and areas for improvement in social and emotional tasks.

CENTRAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER 2020-21 ENROLLMENT BEGINS SOON

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year and Summer 2020 begins March 2nd for our currently enrolled families and Central UMC members. On April 1, enrollment is opened to the public. Central UMC members also receive a special discount on monthly tuition. We will continue to offer both full and part-time enrollment options. We are happy to answer any questions you might have about any of our classes. You may also want to schedule a tour to see the program for yourself. Brochures and enrollment forms for 2019-2020 will be available in February, so be sure to check out our website, centrallyearlychildhood.com. Classes are expected to fill quickly, so enroll early! Directors make the final decision for classroom assignments for all children.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

In February, teachers will meet formally with parents to discuss their child’s growth and development. Goal setting for the remainder of the school year will also take place at this time. Partnering with families is an important piece of a child’s early education and we at Central encourage parents to be as involved as they would like to be. This stage is often a parent’s first experience with their child in an educational setting and we want to help families feel comfortable and ready to continue to be an advocate for their child’s future. “Working together” has always been a big part of the mission and vision at Central Early Childhood Center.

CHILI COOKOFF

Congratulations to the winners of Central's 2020 chili cookoff! Brian Petrie took top honors again, with Matt Bryon and Lori Beth Hamline as runners up. In the dessert decorating competition, Rebecca Bruce nailed the "earth" theme with her spectacular globe-shaped and planet-decorated cake. Terri Hickam placed with springtime cupcakes. A great time was had by all and we raised nearly \$700 to support Central missions and outreach.

MILL CREEK PARK

Neither weather nor football can slow down Central's Mill Creek Park ministry team. We served meals in the snow in December and in 15-degree temperatures in January. The January outing fell at the same time as The Chiefs AFC championship against the Titans, but we caught the action on transistor radio while serving about turkey mac and cheese to about 35 hungry people. Central has partnered with Artists Helping the Homeless for seven years to serve meals the third Sunday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome. We usually meet in the kitchen at 3:30 p.m. to cook, and then carpool to the park to serve at 4:30 p.m.

Central's Mill Creek Park ministry team served meals in the snow in December and in 15-degree temperatures in January.



Chili Cook-Off Dessert



Chili Cook-Off Winners



Chili Cook-Off Dessert



Serving at Mill Creek

CALENDAR

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 26

BLESSED DRESS: Fri, March 13 (3-7pm) and Sat, March 14 (9am-2pm)

BOY SCOUTS: Every Monday at 7pm

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

CELEBRATION OF COMMITMENT: Wednesday, February 12 at 6pm

CHOIR: Every Wednesday at 6:30pm

COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 8:30am-9:30am

CUB SCOUTS: Every Monday at 6:30pm

“FAITH AT THE MOVIES”-AN UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES: Every Sunday in February

SOUNDING JOY BELL CHOIR: Every Wednesday at 7:45pm

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



2/1: Katherine Lenger; **2/2:** Josh Muehlberger; **2/3:** Reece Cochran; **2/5:** Janna Cochran, Cindy Wienstroer;

2/12: David Brammell; **2/17:** Tamara Vandergriff; **2/18:** Brad Pearson; **2/21:** Deborah Powell;

2/22: Gary Wesche; **2/23:** Mary Katherine Blatt; **2/26:** Sandra Gates, Justin McCoy; **2/28:** Jessica Bryon



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Sunday Worship @ 10:00am

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST STAFF

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Sunday Worship @ 10:00am

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