



As I look to 2017 in my imagination I find a number of exciting possibilities on the horizon, both for myself and our congregation. This is a year of endings and beginnings for me personally. I will end my doctoral program with my graduation in May. Of course, that assumes that I finish my dissertation and pass the oral examination. As I end that program I will be entering into something new: Stephen Ministry. Pastor Kelly and I will both be going to Stephen Ministry training in January, and with the help of Judy Williams and other interested folks, we are going to plow a new way forward in terms of congregational care.

I am also very excited about the Bible study that I will begin teaching next Sunday at 9:45am along with Dr. Daniel Cummings. This Bible study will feature elements of music, story-telling, Bible study, and art. The theme for January is "NEW." January 8 will be the introduction to the class and we will focus on the theme of "New Creation." Please come and join us on the 8th to see if this class will be a fit for you. As I said, I am incredibly excited about what this class, and this format, can evolve into for Central.

All of these things that I have mentioned take time, work, effort, imagination, planning, preparation, and prayer. Each step along the way of completing something or beginning something is a work unto itself. As we begin this New Year I would encourage you to be prayerful about who you want to be for Christ this year and what steps you will take to get there.

Here's to what's next!

Joyfully,
Scott

Green Team Forming

Central United Methodist Church is forming a Green Team for the purpose of assessing and monitoring our use of energy and materials potentially damaging to our environment. If you are interested in joining this ministry dedicated to creation care, please leave your name and contact information with the Church office. The first meeting will be in late January.

Please carefully consider if God is calling you to this important ministry.

January 1, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE





SERMON SERIES

“PILGRIMAGE”

CLASSIC SERVICE

8:30am & 11:00am

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

1:00pm

Beginning **January 8th** I will be leading a new Bible study in the Life Center at 9:45am.

Accompanied by Dan Cummings, this Bible study will feature a theme for each month with the opportunity for us to share stories from our lives that touch upon that theme. We will then take the theme and look at how the scriptures inform us. Along the way we will intersperse music that gives voice to our experience.

The theme for **January** will be “New” and we will focus on these sub-themes:

January 8th: New Creation: What is it like to be made new by the love of Christ?

January 15th: New Jerusalem: How does being “made new” lead to a new community?

January 22nd: New Wines in Old Wineskins:

How does being made new ask us to leave something behind?

January 29th: New Covenant:

How does Jesus’ life, ministry, death, and resurrection create relationship between God and us?



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETINGS

The United Methodist Women Book Club will meet next on **January 11, 2017**, at **2:00pm** in the Conference Room at the church.

The book for discussion is *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger.

Women of all ages are welcome.

ADULT MINISTRIES Questions? Contact Pastor Kelly at the church office or via email to kellyb@centraltolife.org;

- **Sundays:** Adult Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am. There are a variety of classes to choose from.
- **Weekdays:** Several small study groups to choose from: Monday night, Wednesday or Friday mornings.

IS CHURCH HAPPENING?

Tune in to Channel 7 news or check out the website for weather related updates.

-CUMC follows APS Monday-Friday Schedule-

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Scott Sharp, Senior Pastor

Rev. Kelly Brooks, Executive Pastor

Rev. Janet Norden, Associate Pastor

Scott Zila, Building Superintendent

Jerri Foster, Director of Music Ministries

Michele Humes, Office Manager

Kathy Gough, Office Assistant

Jesus Valdez, Media Coordinator

Rick Wild, Organist

Alesha Bird, ASL Interpreter



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