



When I was in my mid twenties, my dad and I spent 24 hours in a truck together when he helped me move from North Carolina to Oklahoma. When we were packing the truck I noticed that my dad was having a difficult time breathing. As it turned out, he would be diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis not long after our trip together. I must have had a sense that our trip in the pick up was going to be our last significant time together because I asked my dad every question I could think of as we drove across I-40.

What I learned from my dad is that he had sacrificed a lot for my brothers and me. Before we were born, my dad had a lot of interests and hobbies and activities that he enjoyed. After we came along, those all went away. Instead of go kart racing, riding his motorcycle, and singing, my dad spent his time going to our games, buying all the clothes and equipment we needed, and doing the things that we wanted to do. My dad worked very hard to provide our family with what we needed and a whole lot more. On some level, I already knew this. What I discovered on our long journey in the truck was the level of sacrifice that my dad was willing to commit to for my brothers and I. My dad did without, so that we could do so much.

Matthew's gospel tells us that five loaves of bread and two small fish fed a multitude when blessed by Jesus. An important element of this story is that the disciples looked upon what they had as being so insignificant as to not being relevant. Jesus, however, saw these meager foodstuffs as more than sufficient. The gifts that the disciples had to share were a bounty when Jesus had something to do with them.

What do you have to share? What gifts of time, talent, and money, are you willing to share, in conjunction with the Holy Spirit, that can lead to a bounty of blessing? Please be prayerful about this over the next couple of weeks as the church asks you for your financial support in 2017. The sacrifices my dad made for me made all the difference. What sacrifice might we make for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

January 22, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE





SERMON SERIES

“PILGRIMAGE”

CLASSIC SERVICE

8:30am & 11:00am

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

1:00pm



Pastor Led Bible Study, Sunday's from 9:45-10:45 in the Life Center

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

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?



Messy Church

Are you interested in attending the Messy Church workshop with Pastor Kelly on February 11th, 10am-3pm?

What is Messy Church? Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration, and hospitality. It is designed for people who don't already belong to another form of church. The Messy Church workshop is designed for congregations who are interested in exploring ways to reach new people in a different way.

*If you are interested in attending this workshop, or for more information, visit with Pastor Kelly **before January 11th.***



CUMC Foundation Meeting

Sunday, Feb 5th at 12:15 in room 311

CHILDREN AND ADULT MINISTRIES

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

- **Sundays:** 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.

www.centraltolife.org

UNM WESLEY “LOVE OF WESLEY” DINNER



The UNM Wesley “Love of Wesley” fundraising dinner and auction will be held at **St. John’s UMC on Friday, January 27, 2017 from 5-7 PM.** Dinner tickets are \$15 each. Donations for door prizes or for the silent auction are also needed. If you are interested in attending the dinner or can donate any items, *please contact Ed Vigil at (505) 221-0041.*

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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Get connected! Sign up for Central Connections, our weekly electronic newsletter, at www.centraltolife.org or send an email to Jesus Valdez at jesusvaldez@centraltolife.org.
201 University Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505) 243-7834 www.centraltolife.org
Services broadcast on KAZQ TV-32—Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm

Growing Christ-Centered Community in a Distracting World