



My undergraduate degree is in Secondary Education, and as part of that training I was a student teacher at a high school in Oklahoma. One of the most interesting days I observed had to do with Valentine's Day. On that day, the school office kept getting filled with balloons, and flowers, and presents. Between classes, lucky students would go to the office and retrieve their surprises, and then carry them around all day. By the end of school, it was hard to see down the hall because of all the balloons hovering above the students. It was a flood of red and white hearts.

And then, there were those students who had nothing to carry. No one had sent them flowers. No one had sent them balloons. No one would be giving them candy. No one would hand them a card asking them to be a valentine.

My heart sank as I watched the faces of the students as they walked through the halls, their eyes lowered as they tried to disappear into the background.

Meanwhile, those students who were fortunate enough to have received a gift seemed to float through the halls. It was amazing to me how much a few roses could both lift one student and deflate another student all at the same time.

I believe in the breadth of God's love. I believe that Christ sacrificed his life for all of humanity. I believe that the Holy Spirit is available to everyone. In a time in which it feels like people are being ranked and categorized as to how valuable or lovable they are, I stand with those people who are like the students that never got roses. I stand with writer of 1 John 4 who said, "God is love."

My prayer is that during this week when we offer Valentine's Day greetings to one another, that we would remember the lonely, the lost, the threatened, and the vulnerable, and offer them love in the name of Christ.

February 12, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE



SERMON SERIES

“PILGRIMAGE”

CLASSIC SERVICE

8:30am & 11:00am

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

1:00pm



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us on **Saturday, February 18th** for the meeting of Central United Methodist Men. Our program will be presented by Laura Kuehn, Crime Prevention Specialist with the Albuquerque Police Department. Laura will discuss personal safety, neighborhood safety and cyber security and other topics of interest to all attendees. We will gather for breakfast at 8:00 AM followed by the program at 8:30 AM. **Call Ed Vigil at (505) 221-0041 for more info or to RSVP.**

UNM WESLEY

THANK YOU, CENTRAL UMC

The UNM Wesley Foundation thanks all the CUMC members for supporting the recent “Love of Wesley” fundraiser dinner through ticket purchases, donations and auction item purchases. We were able to raise over \$3000 to fund our ongoing UNM Wesley Spiritual and Outreach programs.

Once again, thanks for all your support for UNM Wesley!



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Be looking for the CUMC Monthly Newsletter. The newsletter is published the first of each month and will be emailed to you. Stop by the Welcome Desk in the gathering area to fill out a card with your contact information.

For comments or questions, please email the Communication Team at communicationsteam@centraltolife.org, or call us at 268-1009.

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

February 15, 11:45am, Friendly Lunch Bunch, Room 311

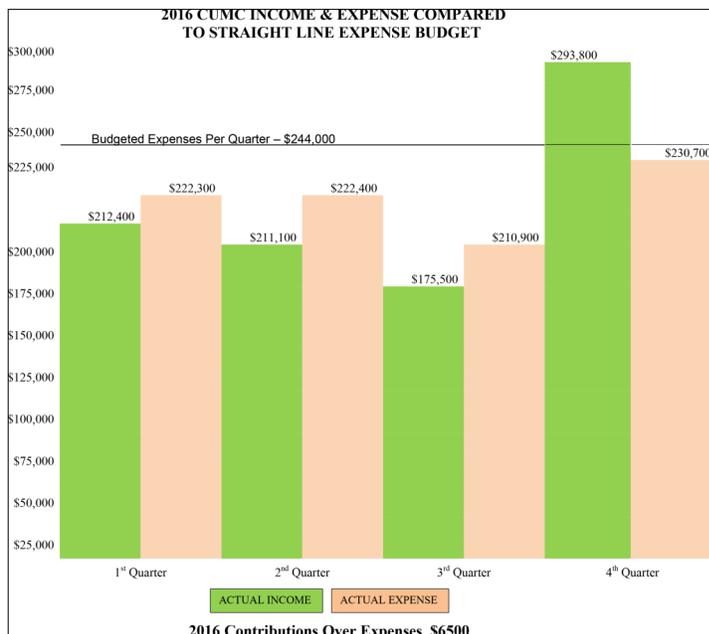
February 18, 9:30am, Lydian, Room 305

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. Choose from a variety of classes.
- **Weekdays:** Several small study groups to choose from: Monday night, Wednesday or Friday mornings.

www.centraltolife.org



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



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