



Our journey, through the letters of Christ to the angels of the seven churches in the book of Revelation, continues today with the letter to the angel and church in Pergamum. In this letter we find words of encouragement and words of criticism. The Pergamum community is holding fast to Christ, and there are also some elements within the community who have fallen prey to false teaching. The letter to the angel thus becomes one of affirmation and correction, with Christ calling for repentance at the end of the letter.

It strikes me that this letter is especially appropriate for our consideration on this Independence weekend. When we, as a nation, uphold the values upon which we were formed—democracy, freedom, responsibility, etc.—we are a nation that serves as a symbol of hope for people around the world. But, we are also the nation that often fails to live up to our stated values. The inequality, racism, poverty, crime, and hate, that seem so rampant in our nation, are obvious and visible examples of deeper divisions that we face each day, some more painfully than others.

Christ’s words to the angel of the church in Pergamum are honest, direct, and specific. I wonder if it might serve us well to work as a people to name both the ways in which our nation lives up to its calling, and where we have failed. Doing this in the spirit of love, and outside of partisan politics, might be a fantasy, but it is one that I hope more and more Americans aspire to, and hope for.

As we celebrate the 4th of July this week, let us do our part to continue the work of the democratic experiment. Let us live in the freedom of Christ, and let us turn that freedom into justice. Have a great Independence Day!

With Love,
Scott



CHURCH WIDE POT LUCK

Mark your calendars for church wide pot luck **Sunday, July 23rd at Noon** in the Life Center. The hamburgers and hot dogs are being provided. Bring a side or dessert to share and plan on staying to play some games. This event is being hosted by your CUMC Youth group and Governance Team.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- CLOSED on **July 3rd & July 4th.**



Church 4 Kids?



Church 4 Kids is on a break for the summer and will return on **August 13th.** Backpack Blessing!



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE

July 2, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE



SERMON SERIES

“7 CHURCHES, 7 LETTERS, 7 WEEKS”

CLASSIC SERVICE

8:30am & 11:00am

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Several years ago a member of our congregation and I were talking, and he said that he missed “real politicians.” When I asked him to clarify, he said that real politicians are people who can work with people of all kinds, for a common goal. I really like that definition of a real politician and, like him, I wish we had more in our government, and I wish I were a little more like that.

I mention this because right now the Community of Hope ministry is in limbo. As we have come to a time of transition in that ministry, with Pastor Janet leaving, the leadership of Community of Hope and I have hit some bumps. I haven’t contributed my best to this time of change, and have certainly played a big part in coming to this impasse. There are also issues on the other side of the coin. However, I am confident that COH has a future, and our job is to work on that. In the meantime, there are a number of issues to sort out, and that’s going to take some work. Today, Community of Hope is meeting at University Heights, UMC, but that is not going to be COH’s permanent home.

What is good about this situation is that the leadership of COH is very committed to this ministry, and they do an outstanding job; from meal prep, to music, to hospitality. They are also looking for ways to establish COH as a stand-alone congregation, which would be very exciting. There are a lot of options right now, and a lot of uncertainty. However, even in the midst of change there are still opportunities to be involved in Community of Hope, if you so desire.

It is my hope that, as we move through July, we will be able to give more detail and clarity about the next step for Community of Hope. In the meantime, please pray for patience, guidance, and wisdom for everyone involved in COH.

With Hope,
Scott



COFFEE MINISTRY is scheduled to return in August.

This is a time we meet in the CUMC parking lot and greet students and guests with a no-cost cup of coffee and a friendly smile.

Please contact Pastor Kelly if you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, kellyb@centraltolife.org.

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETINGS



The United Methodist Women's Book Club will next meet on **July 12 at 2:00pm** in the Conference Room at Central. The book for discussion this meeting is My Salinger Year by Joanna Rakoff. Women of all ages are welcome to come and join in discussion.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kelly Brooks, Executive Pastor
Michele Humes, Office Administrator
Kathy Gough, Office Assistant

Jesus Valdez, Media Coordinator
Jonathan Davidson, Interim Director of Music
Rick Wild, Organist
Ronselle Harrison, Audio Tech
Alesha Bird, ASL Interpreter



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