



I often think of the preface to a book about New Mexico that I once read. In a couple of pages the famed New Mexican writer Tony Hillerman described our state eloquently and, dare I say, with a sense of enchantment, that has stuck with me for many years. One of the descriptions that Hillerman provided was the difference between our Monsoon season storms. In a way very reminiscent of Pueblo and Native American traditions, he said that we have male storms and female storms. The male storms are full of bluster, sound, lights, and wind, but they provide very little rain. Then are the

female storms. These storms, Hillerman wrote, simmer and brew until they provide rain in a way that takes their time to soak and nourish the earth.

Our spiritual lives seem to have these dimensions too. There are times when everything going on in our souls seems like a thunderstorm coming over the Sandias. Thunder, lightening, wind, and storm seem to be harbingers of something that is going to either blow our houses down, or flood the arroyos. We wait for the rain; but it never comes. What's the old quote: "Sound and fury amounting to nothing."

There are also times in our spiritual lives when things just seem to be simmering and brewing. We have a sense of the Holy Spirit moving in our lives, but this movement is subtle, in a way that we notice but does not grab our attention. Perhaps the Spirit nudges at us through a conversation with a friend, or a book we read, a prayer we offer, or a passage from scripture. We wait. We wonder what God is opening in our hearts as the Spirit takes the time needed to prepare us for whatever invitation God is offering us.

As we journey though the end of this summer, and through our Monsoon season, I would invite you to pay attention to our afternoon clouds. As they build, what might they say to you about your life with Jesus Christ right now? Are you in a time of bluster and gusting winds that demand attention but produce little of importance? Or, are you in a time of patient development? Maybe you're somewhere in between, or in a different place every day. In whatever place we find ourselves this week, my prayer is that each of us will be keenly aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

With Gratitude,  
Scott



**Lowell Elementary School  
Annual Uniform Drive; Now—July 31st**

Help us reach our goal of \$15000 to help purchase uniforms for all children of Lowell Elementary School. Your gift of \$65 provides a voucher for uniforms and shoes for one child. *Make checks payable to CUMC with Uniforms on the memo line.*



**CHURCH WIDE POT LUCK**

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

July 16, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE



**SERMON SERIES**

**"7 CHURCHES, 7 LETTERS, 7 WEEKS"**

**CLASSIC SERVICE**

**8:30am & 11:00am**



**PARKING AT CUMC!**

We are updating our parking permits, **ALL CURRENT PARKING PERMITS WILL NO LONGER BE VALID!** Members can pick up a permit application at the front desk and new permits will be available for pick-up starting **August 6th**.



**Church 4 Kids**

Church 4 Kids is on a break for the summer and will return on **August 13th** with a Backpack Blessing! Please bring your backpacks when we return in August during the 11am service for a special Backpack Blessing in the Chapel. *Please see Pastor Kelly for more information.*



**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

It is hard to believe that it is almost August...then September! Please consider using the CUMC Monthly Newsletter for:

- advertising needed donations and/or volunteers for our various service ministries;
- informing people of upcoming new studies in Bible Studies and Sunday School.

Deadline for the August edition is July 17. Please contact the Communications Team at [communicationsteam@centraltolife.org](mailto:communicationsteam@centraltolife.org) or call (505) 268-1009 (Briggs family)

**CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULT MINISTRIES**

Questions? Contact Pastor Kelly at the church office or via email to [kellyb@centraltolife.org](mailto: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](http://www.centraltolife.org)

**You can now make a contribution to Central United Methodist Church with a quick text message!**

Simply send a text to **505-384-7589** with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. *Example: \$25.* Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!



**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



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