



Last Saturday night, the University of Oklahoma defeated The Ohio State University in a football game played at Ohio State’s storied stadium “The Shoe.” After the game, the fiery Oklahoma quarterback, driven by passion and some level of selfishness, planted the University of Oklahoma flag in the center of the Ohio State emblem at the middle of the field. Of course, this excited the OU fans to no end, and riled the Ohio State faithful.

Of course, a few days after this all transpired, the Oklahoma quarterback made a statement saying that he was sorry. An article I read this week entitled this act by the quarterback a classic “I’m sorry; I’m not sorry at all” kind of statement. In fact, the article went on to demonstrate how this kind of action is often immediately planted into the lore of a university. The author further suspected that pictures, oil prints, and others artistic renderings of the “moment” are probably already for sale.

What does a college quarterback’s outlandish act have to do with church? Well, today, part of our focus from the Apostles’ Creed is the statement regarding Jesus who “suffered under Pontius Pilate.” Now, if you remember that part of the story of Jesus’ trial, it was Pilate, the Roman prefect, who “washed his hands” of Jesus’ blood. Again, it seems like this is one of those “I’m sorry; I’m not sorry” kind of moments. After all, Pilate could have made the decision not to try Jesus as a traitor. Pilate could have decided to let him go. Pilate could have decided to give Jesus a different sentence. Instead, Pilate chose by not really choosing.

Pilate, in many ways, is an archetype for us as Christians. The Apostle Paul helps us remember that we are all sinners, and that we are all far from innocent. Paul also reminds us that the grace of Jesus Christ saves us. What Paul desired from the Romans was a faith that was fully committed to Jesus, instead of a faith that says, “I’m sorry; I’m not sorry” when we sin.

Today, we gather to worship the God of grace, who calls us by name, redeems us through love, and empowers us to live holy lives. Today, we gather to proclaim what we believe, and to dedicate our lives, once again, to the Kingdom of God.

Joyfully,  
Scott

September 17, 2017

CENTRAL TO LIFE





**SERMON SERIES**  
**“CREDO: I BELIEVE-QUESTIONS IN CONTEXT,  
 FAITH IN ACTION”**

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



**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

**Have you looked for the September CUMC Newsletter?**

It is now in your email inbox. Inside this edition, read about:

- How you can help victims of Hurricane Harvey through CUMC Youth and UMCOR.
- Lowell Elementary – Who are the kids and families? What is the neighborhood like?

Please contact the Communications Team at [communicationsteam@centraltolife.org](mailto:communicationsteam@centraltolife.org) or 505-268-1009 (Briggs family)

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETINGS**



**September 20, 11:45am,**  
 Friendly Lunch Bunch, Room 311

**September 23, 9:00am-3:00pm, Spiritual Retreat**  
 at the Canossian Spirituality Center

Topic will be “Self-Made...Not!”  
 For registration information please contact  
 Dodie at (505) 255-2405.



**THRIFT SHOP 1/2 PRICE SALE**

Last day is September 17th

**Sunday 12:00–1:00pm**

**Thursday 12:00–3:00pm**

**Friday 9:00am–12:00noon**

**September 17th—Fill a bag for \$2.00**

**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)

**“SPRING 2018 MINISTRY FOCUS”**

In January we will be having an all church retreat at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. This retreat is for all ages and will have corresponding curriculum. In some ways, this retreat is like a confirmation retreat, or maybe a confirmation refresher retreat. In addition to learning a lot about our church heritage there will be time for worship, enjoying camp, and having a great time in fellowship. The dates are January 12-15.

During Lent of 2018 Central will offer a number of small group and Bible study opportunities to dig deeper into the life of John Wesley, The United Methodist Church, and our ministry. Each Sunday worship service will have something to do with Wesley as we journey through Lent to Easter.

Finally, in May, Central is embarking on a 10-day trip to England to experience the historic birthplace of John Wesley, and what would become the Methodist movement. This trip will be an exciting and faith-growing adventure.

For more information and registration materials, please contact Pastor Kelly at [kellyb@centraltolife.org](mailto:kellyb@centraltolife.org)

**CHURCH STAFF**

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**Rev. Kelly Brooks**, Executive Pastor  
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**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).  
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**Services broadcast on KAZQ TV-32—Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm**