



I enjoy sports. I grew up playing sports all the time, and I enjoy watching sports on tv. This makes me a small minority in my house. Sometimes, when I watch a game, one of my daughters will ask me, “Which is the good team, and which is the bad team?” On certain occasions I am able to answer that question quickly, and with confidence. Other times, I have to admit that I don’t really care which team wins, and that makes me wonder why I am watching the game in the first place.

My girls’ notion that there is a bad team and a good team, makes me stop for a moment and consider what worldview they have at the moment. I am not really surprised that they see the world this way. The shows that they watch, the games that they play, and the conflicts that they get into with each other demonstrate that there is a clear line between good and bad, between right and wrong, between fault and innocence.

Today, in the Gospel of Mark, we find Jesus in three different scenes that beg the question of how he saw the world. The first scene finds Jesus in Simon’s house, where he heals Simon’s mother. That evening he heals more people. The next morning Jesus goes out alone to pray, and then he goes through Galilee preaching. What strikes me about this passage is the diversity that presents itself to Jesus. A close relative, the demon-possessed, and the sick, all seem to be treated equally by Jesus. Furthermore, Jesus’ isolated prayer life is juxtaposed with his public ministry of preaching through Galilee.

It seems to me that as Christians, we are called to be in ministry to the world. It would be easy for us to draw harsh lines and decide who deserves God’s love and who does not. But that doesn’t seem to be the way of Jesus. Instead, he offers grace and mercy, as well as accountability and a call for repentance.

Perhaps this is something to think about as you watch the Super Bowl this afternoon. Is there a “bad” team? Is there a “good” team?

With Love,
Scott

**Would you like to experience the history of the Methodist Church and the Wesley Family in a different way?
Please join Pastor Scott and Pastor Kelly on a journey of a lifetime - The Wesley Heritage Tour**

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. Registration for the Tour can be found here <http://centraltolife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/Events/2018-Wesleyan-Heritage.pdf>


For more information and registration materials, please contact Pastor Kelly at kellyb@centraltolife.org




COME,
LET US
USE THE
GRACE
DIVINE

SERMON SERIES

“COME, LET US USE THE GRACE DIVINE”



Our annual Fat Tuesday pancake supper will be on **Tuesday, February 13th at 5:30pm in the Life Center**, we are pleased to announce that Jazz To Go will be providing music during the supper!



Our **Ash Wednesday** worship service will be on Valentine's Day, **February 14th, at 7:00pm** in the Life Center. This service will feature some of the Taize songs from our hymnal, the choir, the imposition of ashes, and time for prayer and reflection.

During Lent there will be a couple of study opportunities for you. Rev. Kelly will be offering a study at **11:00am starting on Wednesday February 14th** at the Starbucks near Lomas and Washington. In addition to Rev. Kelly's study, Rev. Scott Sharp will offer a study on Thursday evenings starting **February 15th at 6:00pm** in the Conference room of the church.

SALE

THRIFT SHOP JEWELRY SALE

The Jewelry sale is being held **Today at 9:00am-1:00pm** in the Gathering Area.

- All funds generated by the Thrift Shop Ministry are used for repairs and improvements to the church building and grounds.

The Thrift Shop welcomes your donations of no longer needed items and clothing any time of the year.

Financial Peace University Money Management Class

Central United Methodist Church will be coordinating a nine-lesson money management class taught by Dave Ramsey:

Starting Date: Tuesday, February 6th from 6:30—8:00pm

Duration: 9 weeks

Register at: <http://fpu.com/1056204>

Local Contact is Robin Harder

robin.ribble-harder@icf.com or (505) 440-7548

CHILDREN, YOUTH, 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



HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

Four times a year (February, May, August, November) on the first Sunday of the month volunteers deliver and serve communion to our Homebound members/friends. *If you are interested in sharing the Lord's Supper with one of these gracious folks, please contact Pastor Kelly or Anne Downing (717-1020).*

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. Dr. Scott Sharp, Senior Pastor

Rev. Kelly Brooks, Executive Pastor

Michele Humes, Office Administrator

Kathy Gough, Office Assistant

Jesus Valdez, Media Coordinator

Dr. Karen Marroli, Director of Music

Dr. Daniel Cummings, Accompanist

Ronselle Harrison, Audio Tech

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.
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Services broadcast on KAZQ TV-32—Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm

Growing Christ-Centered Community in a Distracting World