

Today, Sunday, is Baptism of the Lord Sunday. As I read again the story of Jesus' baptism, the question that comes to my mind is "Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit himself to John's baptism of repentance?"

At his baptism, Jesus accepted his mission as God's suffering servant on behalf of all sinful men and women. By submitting humbly to John's baptism, Jesus gave us a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of his death on the cross, where out of love he gave his life for the remission of our sins (Mark 10:38, 45).

Because Jesus humbled himself so completely, his Father proclaimed how delighted he was in him (Mark 1:11). The Holy Spirit, too, was present, anointing Jesus for the work he was about to begin. At his baptism, Jesus became the source of the Spirit for all who would believe in him. The heavens were opened, the Spirit fell, and a new creation was inaugurated.

If we want to experience the power and grace of this new creation in our lives, we must follow Jesus' example. St. Gregory of Nazianzus, a fourth-century church Father, gives us this advice: "Let us be buried with Christ by baptism, in order to rise with him. Let us go down with him in order to be raised with him. Let us rise with him in order to be glorified with him." If we want to experience the transformation Gregory wrote about, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to forge the same humility in our hearts that Jesus showed at his baptism.

On January 27, Bishop Bledsoe will be preaching at both 8:30 and 11:00 services. I have been bragging on you to the Bishop so here is your chance to prove me right. So, please don't let me down. It is our chance to hear the Bishop in person preach. It is also a chance for me to see and hear about the good things that are happening at Central. The UMW has graciously agreed to host a welcome reception with "light" refreshments in the Central to Life Hall after the 1st service and before Sunday School. So, join us on Sunday, January 27th.

**LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP IN THE CITY & SABBATH IN THE SUBURBS.**

Are you a 20, 30, or 40-something individual or couple with or without children who is looking for an opportunity to be in fellowship in a different way? Would you like to have the opportunity to share a meal and devotional time, and to explore the city with a group of new and familiar faces? Please join Pastor Kelly on **Sunday, January 20th** during the Sunday School hour in the Chapel to learn more about two new opportunities for people like you: Lunch & Fellowship in the City and Sabbath in The Suburbs.

*Please contact Pastor Kelly Brooks for more information.*

January 13, 2018

CENTRAL TO LIFE





## SERMON SERIES

### "A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS"



#### ADULT MINISTRIES

- **Sundays:** Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am. Choose from a variety of classes:
- **Monday Bible Study:** Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm
- **WOW Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am
- **Starbucks Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 11-12pm
- **Brewery Study—** In Collaboration with X-Ile Ministries: Wednesdays, 6pm-8pm.
- **Clergy Conversations!** Last Sunday of each month, 9:45-10:45am, Central to Life Center.
- Several Sunday school classes and small groups around Central will begin an 8-week study related to spiritual type on January 13, and we hope you'll find one to join! Have you sat in a worship service and felt you did not "fit"? Have you ever thought "all this theology and praying is fine, but what we really need to do is to do something?" Have you ever thought "all this stuff is too touchy feely? What we need is a good Wesleyan theological sermon!" If you have, it is normal. All of us have a spiritual type just like we have a personality type. Do you know your spiritual type? What is Central's spiritual type? Beginning in January, you will be given the opportunity to explore your own spiritual type and how you can deepen your connection to God.

*Please contact Pastor Kelly for more information.*

#### CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

- Sunday School for Preschool and Early Elementary will begin on **February 3rd** in the Nursery. If you have a young, preschool-early elementary age child, please bring them to the nursery for this special time of laughter and learning using curriculum called Deep Blue by Cokesbury.
- **Sundays:** Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am in rooms 105 (Elementary), 107 (ages 3 & 4), and 301/302 (Youth: 6th - 12th grade)
- Childcare for ages 0-8 is available during worship services and Sunday School – (Located on the Lower Level of the building.)

*Contact Pastor Kelly with questions.*

#### UNITED METHODIST MEN



Happy New Year from Central United Methodist Men!! Join us for 2019 Kickoff Meeting on January 19th. Our speaker will be Dr. Sandra Whisler, who is the President of the New Mexico Medical Society. We will gather for breakfast at 8:00 AM, followed by our devotional and our program.

*Call Ed Vigil at (505) 221-0041 to RSVP or additional information is needed.*



#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**February 16th, 5:30pm** for a special Sacramento Methodist Assembly Donor Dinner. This event will include special music, a meal, and a presentation about Phase II from the Directors of Sacramento. Tickets will be \$25 each. More information to come!  
*Please contact Pastor Kelly Brooks for more information.*

#### WOW BIBLE STUDY



WOW begins a new study on **January 16:**  
*The Case for Easter: A Journalist Investigates the Evidence for the Resurrection by Lee Strobel.*  
All women are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:30 at church for bible study and fellowship.

*All announcements for the CTL News are due via email to [JesusValdez@centraltolife.org](mailto:JesusValdez@centraltolife.org) by **Tuesday at 5pm.***

#### CHURCH STAFF

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**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](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**