

According to Wikipedia, “Affluenza is a term used most commonly by critics of consumerism. It is thought to have been first used in 1954 but was popularized in 1997 with a PBS documentary of the same name and the subsequent book *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic* (2001, revised in 2005, 2014). These works define affluenza as ‘a painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more.’”

A simpler definition is the hamster wheel principle. The more you get, the more you want. The Gospel lesson I’m using in the sermon is the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10. (I will pause so you can sing the Sunday School song in your head.) My sermon is about affluenza, the hamster wheel, Zacchaeus, and the path to wholeness.

St. Ambrose has a fascinating interpretation of this Biblical text. He said:
(1) Zacchaeus being short is indicative of his being short on faith and virtue
(2) that Zacchaeus must ascend a tree shows no one attached to earthly matters can see Jesus; and
(3) the Lord intending to pass that way reveals that Christ will approach anyone willing to repent and believe. As I ponder his interpretation of this text, I wonder if our attachment to our things causes us to be short on faith and prevents us from seeing Jesus clearly and more fully? If so, what do we need to repent from and change in our lives?

A Special Charge Conference has been called for the Governance Team to vote on giving Saranam permission to borrow \$750,000 to purchase property from Mesa View UMC for program expansion. It will be held **TODAY**, at noon in the Sanctuary.



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE

July 21, 2019

CENTRAL TO LIFE



LESS IS MORE.

SERMON SERIES

"LESS IS MORE"



ADULT MINISTRIES

- **Sundays:** Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am. Choose from a variety of classes:
- **Monday Bible Study:** Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm *Will resume in the fall.*
- **Starbucks Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 11-12pm *Will resume in the fall.*
- **Brewery Study—** Wednesdays, 6pm-8pm. *Will resume in the fall.*
- **Clergy Conversations!** 4th Sunday of each month, 9:45-10:45am
We will not have a CC in July.
- Join **Pastor Greg** this summer on **Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00pm, June 10th - July 29th in Rm 311** for a study on Colossians and Philemon.
- **WOW:** Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am. *Will resume September 11th.*
- **Sabbath in The Suburbs:** August 4th@ High & Dry Brewery.

Please contact Pastor Kelly for more information.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

- 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.)
- Church 4 Kids takes place every Sunday during the second service. This is a time where children 0-Elementary are invited to the Chapel to spend time with one of the clergy to learn more about the scripture lesson of the day in an age-appropriate setting.

Children Sunday School and Church 4 Kids is on break until August 4th

Contact Pastor Kelly with questions.

2019 Sacramento Methodist Assembly Summer Camp Dates for all ages are out! Big Kids Camp Grades 4—6 (July 19-22th), Horse Camps for all ages, and much more! Visit www.sacramentocamp.com for specific camp and registration information. *Questions? Contact Pastor Kelly.*

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST MEETING

Central United Methodist Men will take a summer vacation and **not** meet in July or August. CUMM will resume regular meetings in September. *Call Ed Vigil at 505-221-0041 if you have any questions.*



Have you ever been interested in learning more about the teachings of Paul? Have you ever been interested in traveling to the places Paul wrote letters and traveled to? If so, you are invited to join Rev. Kelly Brooks and Rev. Jim Hawk on an Educational Opportunities Journeys of Paul Cruise taking place **September 7-19th, 2020**. Information is available at the Welcome Desk.

Reconciling Congregation Exploration Working Group

Upcoming Opportunities for Conversation:

- Are you, your small group, or Sunday School class interested in hearing more from CUMC's Reconciling Exploration Working Group? If so, contact Barbara Allender to schedule time.
- August 11 and 18 in the Life Center during the Sunday School hour, Bert Scott will lead a discussion on the book by Walter Wink Homosexuality and Christian Faith.
- August 25 at 9:45 in the Life Center during the Sunday School hour, a congregational meeting will be held to review and vote on a Welcoming Statement and assess where Central is on the path to becoming a Reconciling Church.

All announcements for the CTL News are due via email to JesusValdez@centraltolife.org by **Monday at 5pm**.

CHURCH STAFF

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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



WE ARE A
STEPHEN
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