

INSPIRE (USPS 097-740) is published twice monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 201 3rd Ave., Knoxville TN 37917-7286

Per. Post. Pd.

Periodicals postage paid at Knoxville TN 37950

Forwarding Service Requested.

Postmaster: Send address changes to 201 3rd Ave. Knoxville TN 37917-7286



INSPIRE

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee @ Welcome Center

We are looking for volunteers to host our hospitality table in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. It's easy- you just brew coffee, set it and 2 dozen provided prepackaged snacks out by 9:25, and after worship clean up the area. There will be instructions provided for brewing the coffee. May our welcomes be wide and warm!



Central Lights

The May Central Lights program will feature the O'Connor Singing Seniors. Central Lights will meet Tuesday, May 3rd, at 10:30 am. Lunch will follow the program (\$6). All senior and retired members and friends are invited to attend. Visitors are always welcome.

Text-Service

Central has a new text-message service that will be used to better communicate with the congregation in emergencies and/or important reminders. To join please text the message: @centralumc to: 81010

Church Directory

Get the church directory on your mobile device or iPad!

1. Search the app store for "Instant Church Directory"
2. Enter your email as it's listed in our directory
3. Enter the assigned password(will be emailed to you) into the app.

UMW Flea Market - Saturday, April 30 - 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

The annual flea market is sponsored by Central United Methodist Women. In addition to the flea market, there will be a café to purchase food and baked good.

Set-up for the market will begin Monday, April 25, at 9:00 am. We will accept clothing on hangers only, please do not bring clothing in bags. Any household item, children's toys, etc. will be accepted and very much appreciated. We will NOT accept electronics, such as TV's, computers, etc. If they are no use to you, they aren't of use to anyone else and do not sell.



Please contact Patty Parham at 246-8648 if you have any questions. Anyone available to help with the setup starting on Monday, April 25 and every day of the week leading up to Saturday, April 30th will be welcomed with open arms. We have good fun and fellowship during this time and appreciate all the help we can get. We hope to have another successful sale to support our district and conference UMW, as well as our church and other local missions.

Campbell's Labels/Box Tops for Education

The United Methodist Women of Central UMC are collecting Campbell's Labels & Box Tops for Education to benefit Red Bird Mission in Hickman, KY. Red Bird is a general mission of the United Methodist Church and is located in one of the most impoverished areas of Eastern Kentucky. There is a box in the church office with information about eligible labels and to collect labels for shipping. We will count and ship the labels by the 1st of June. If you have any questions, call Patty Parham @ 246-8648.

An Invitation from Knoxville Writer's Guild

"What's So Funny?" Local, award winning humor writer Judy Di Gregorio, speaks in Central's Fellowship Hall on May 5, 7:00-8:00 pm, sponsored by the Knoxville Writers Guild. Open to all. Special welcome to CUMC members.

Writing Workshop on Saturday, May 21, 10pm -12pm. Visit knoxvillewritersguild.org/events for more info and to regis-

Central UMC - 201 3rd Ave. Knoxville, TN. 37917 - 865-524-1659

Pastoral and Administrative Staff

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, Pastor jimmy@knoxcentralumc.org 865-805-5373

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Ashley Garren, Administrative Assistant | ashley@knoxcentralumc.org | Austin Byerly, Pastoral Intern | austin@knoxcentralumc.org |
| Ashton Binkley, Director of Children and Youth | ashton@knoxcentralumc.org | Lauren Gangaware, Children's Ministry Assistant | lauren@knoxcentralumc.org |
| George Hayden, Music Director | george@knoxcentralumc.org | Charles Parham, Organist | charles@knoxcentralumc.org |
| Carolyn Cottrell, Pianist | ceandcm@comcast.net | Perry Starkey, Food Services | perry@knoxcentralumc.org |
| Jeff Criswell, Custodian | jeff@knoxcentralumc.org | Doug Johnson, Facilities Manager | doug@knoxcentralumc.org |

United Methodist General Conference

Every four years, the top legislative body of the United Methodist Church meets to discuss church law and polity and adopt resolutions around social issues. The General Conference is the only official voice that speaks for the global denomination.

This year delegates will gather in Portland, Oregon from May 10 - May 20. The first week resolutions will be considered in smaller groups where they will either be recommended to the full body, not recommended, tabled or added to a consent calendar (to be approved with a long list of other items).

There are many legislative issues to be considered, including church structure, general boards and agencies, clergy ordination matters, and resolutions around our social principles. These range from human sexuality, religious freedom and disabilities to racism, creation care, and economics. They will also discuss budget and engaging young people in leadership, as well as a new hymnal that will be made available in digital format.

As your pastor, I ask that you pray for our General Conference. Four years ago, there were many hurtful things said and done relating to human sexuality and full inclusion in the church. No matter where you stand when it comes to human sexuality, surely we can all agree that we are all of sacred worth and God welcomes and loves all.

I would also tell you this — by and large, the work we are doing in our community and city is not affected by the actions taken at General Conference. Of course, there are always one or two things that, if passed, could eventually affect us structurally. And some things could open us up to more possibilities of ministry in our neighborhood.

While I will keep my eyes and ears on Portland, I remain focused on the task at hand in our city—a city reeling from another violent shooting. The task of making Christ known by extending hospitality, serving this community, and embracing all. The task of bringing God's transforming love and justice to this world.

Join me in praying for the delegates (the lead of our Holston delegation is Rev. David Graves, who is the senior pastor at Church Street downtown) and all those who will gather. But even more importantly, join me in sharing the love of God to the people of this beautiful city we call home.

- Pastor Jimmy

If you want to read more about General Conference, go to <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>. Also, you will be able to live stream some of the sessions by going to www.umc.org.



Sending Forth With Blessings

Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." I've been very fortunate to stand on the shoulders of many people who have mentored me along the my journey.

In my time as a pastor, I've had the opportunity to mentor a few folks along the way. I take that role very seriously. It is an opportunity to share a bit of wisdom from those I have learned from, and also to share my own experiences serving God in the local church.

Over the past nine months, we've all had a wonderful opportunity to journey alongside Austin Byerly. We've seen his love for God and for people. We've seen his passion for the local church and his love of church liturgy and sacred music (give him the title of a song and more than likely he will be able to tell you the page number in the United Methodist hymnal).

We've heard him preach, teach, and pray. He's also helped bring our visual technology to life. The staff has had the opportunity to see Austin in a less formal way. He is what you see on Sunday mornings: authentic, full of life, and eager to serve God. I am confident he will do that and more in his life.

The time to say goodbye is drawing near. One thing about being a mentoring church is that most people move on. They will lead in other places and in other ways. This ministry is not self-serving. Of course, we benefit for a season, but the hello is inevitably followed by a goodbye.

As we wrestle with this, may the words from Ecclesiastes speak to us: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." We have learned as much from Austin as he has from us. We have been truly blessed by his participation in the life of our community.

You'll have an opportunity to hear him preach on May 1, and his last Sunday with us will be May 8. When you see him, thank him. Encourage him. Pray for him. Be proud of the role you have played in shaping his life and ministry. Thanks be to God, and thank you, Austin!

Pastor Jimmy



Central UMC's Up Coming Involvement in Community Events

The **4th and Gill Home Tour** is nearly here! Attend, volunteer, or do both! Meet your neighbors from 1-6 pm on April 24! Over 500 people will attend, and you should be one of them! Kids (12 and under) are free. Advance tickets are \$10, or buy them at the door for \$12. Can you be a guide or greeter? Even if you haven't been coming here for 5 generations, It's easy- we've got historical "cheat sheets" to help you out!



Open Streets Knoxville returns on Pentecost, May 15, from 1-6 pm, and God's spirit will pour out of Central's doors and into our neighborhood! Join in the joy by volunteering to setup, break down, provide music, hand out water on Central Avenue, help walkers make their own fiery ribbon streamer to light up Central Avenue with life and color and don't forget we need folks to cavorting about with streamers. Let Ann Sartwell know if you can help in advance with cutting ribbons or dowels, or drilling holes for eyebolts. Sign up to volunteer at this great community event today!

The **Fulton Bacculaureate** is on Monday, May 9th. Central is proud to have a strong partnership with Fulton High School and host this event for them. There are plenty of jobs to be done on that day so we can use your help anytime between 9 am and 9 pm that day. Please let us know when you can help. Thanks!

BIG RIVER

One of my interests outside of the local church is theater. I've have had the honor to play Abraham Lincoln and Henry David Thoreau in community theater. I've never been in a musical, but this summer I will have that opportunity! I will play the role of Counselor Robinson as well as be a part of the ensemble when the Word Players present Big River this July at the Bijou Theater.

Big River is an adventure based on Huckleberry Finn and his relationship with Jim, a runaway slave. The musical score was written by Roger Miller. It is a great show, and I would love it if you could come!

Group tickets are available, so we are putting together a group for Sunday, July 17. The show starts at 3:00 pm that day. Group ticket price is \$15.50. If you are interested, please call the church office, or e-mail ashley@knoxcentralumc.org by Monday, May 9.

There are also shows on Friday, July 15 at 7:30 pm or Saturday, July 16 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Tickets for those shows will be \$21.50 for adults, \$17.50 for seniors and students. There will be an opportunity at some point on a Sunday morning to buy tickets here at the church. I am grateful for your prayers and support as I go on this journey!

- Jimmy aka Counselor Robinson

VBS - Cave Quest 2016
Sunday, June 26th - Wednesday, June 29th



Contact Ashton Binkley,
Director of Children and Youth, at
ashton@knoxcentralumc.org
or (336)624-2567 for more information
on how you can be a part of
VBS Cave Quest 2016.

VBS Online Registration Coming Soon!

Monday, July 25 – Friday, July 29

Youth Mission Week

Operation Backyard



The cost of this trip is \$50 until June 1st, then it will be \$55, after July 1st it will be \$60. Chaperones do not need to pay. Reserve your spot today!

We are looking for evening meals to feed the youth group during this week. Please contact Ashton if you think you can help!



Sunday, April 24

Lunch & Devotion

Lunch & Devotion at Senor Taco on Broadway after church service.

Sunday, May 1

Youth Group Meeting - 5:30 pm

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day - No Youth

Sunday, May 15

Open Streets Knoxville

Friday, May 20th, 9:00 pm to

Saturday, May 21st, 9:00 am

SUMMER LOCK-IN

Patents, there will be a mission team meeting on Friday night. Also, we can only do this lock-in event with the help of chaperones. Please contact Ashton today!

May 26, June 2, June 9, and June 23

Youth Thursday Night Bible Study

Reach Out, Don't Freak Out!

We are looking for people to host a meeting at their house. Please contact Ashton if interested.

June 15 - 6:15 pm

Wednesday Night Church Under the Bridge

A Note from Ashton..... "People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them." Matthew 10:13-16

Depending on where you sit in the sanctuary, you may have noticed our front row gang conquering more of the front pew. Sometimes we are silly, and sometimes we don't like to sit still, and sometimes we are even a little loud. I sometimes catch myself saying "Now, let's sit down now", or "we can be louder we go upstairs", and while I understand that that can be important, what is vastly more significant is that these children have chosen to sit upfront so they can be together in fellowship. They sing, and when they sing they sing out! When something is funny they laugh with joy. Sometimes they can't help but move, even if it's just to bug one another. They desire to be together, and they are growing and learning in Christ, and shouldn't we do that too.

There are so many ways to be blessed by our kids here at Central. Sometimes, we get caught up with all the roles in our lives, or we think that we aren't qualified to serve God in ways we never had before. But look at our kids, Jesus wanted them to come to him anyway, just like he wants you to do as well. It is a blessing to be in the lives of these kids. We don't care if you're too loud, if you don't like to sit still, we don't care if you are a little silly. We know that God can do big things with us, and even bigger things with all of us.

- Ashton, Director of Children and Youth