



A word from the Moderator

Thank you for electing me as the Moderator for the 2018 - 2019 church year. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve our congregation in this way.

As moderator, I will be a legal agent of this congregation, chair of the board and facilitate our four meetings of the general board. FYI - the first of these meetings of the general board has been set for Thursday evening, September 20, 2018. Meetings of the board are open to all. You are invited to join us at 5:45 pm on September 20, 2018.

I am looking toward an exciting year at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis.

We are welcoming Luis Gierbolini as a full-time associate. We are continuing the work of the Vision Implementation Team via the Community Ministry Grant. We are looking to host community events. Our choir is looking to continue to "sing praises" outside of our walls. And much more.

One way to describe recent years at Central is that we are moving from being a "pastor-centered church" to a program-centered church. There are many among us that can explain what those terms mean better than I can. I will simply say, as a church gets to more than 150 or so active members, it becomes increasingly important for there to be ways for people to stay and feel connected beyond their connection with the pastors. Many of us have experience with being a part of a "large church" or a "small church". Perhaps fewer of us have the experience of moving from "small" to "large". So, this provides us an opportunity to look, explore, converse and imagine - What framework might we need? What structure might help us support the ministries to which we feel called? How do we make room for leaders, encouragers, supporters, participants to grow into their gifts?

So, please stay tuned - however you do that - via eConnections, Facebook, Twitter, word-of-mouth, being curious - etc. Stay tuned :)

In closing, since I agreed to be nominated for the moderator position, the feedback has been solidly two things: 1) Thank you. 2) What were you thinking?!

As an FYI - I said "yes" to the opportunity of being nominated for moderator by releasing multiple other church commitments. I will focus on this one role. I want to thank those who have taken on responsibilities of which I have let go. Your willingness to lead and serve is a gift to us all.

As we continue to figure out what it means to be "Central" in the heart of this city, we are on a journey together. It is a pleasure to travel side-by-side.

With gratitude, Mary

This and That

Greeters for Doors 1 and 5 are needed for late July and throughout August. Sign up here to be a greeter! Contact Kathy Riestler (kriester@gmail.com) for more information.

Youth are invited to join other youth in the region for a conversation on race. The event will be held here at Central on July 28 from 1:00-3:30pm.

Year end contributions statements will be available for pick up in fellowship hall for the next several Sundays.

A Summer of Stories

During the summer we are sharing stories from Central's history during worship. We will reprint them in eConnections so that all can read them. Here is a story about tradition, as told by Jim Keown on July 15.

I have been a member of Central since 1985. One of the first Sundays that I attended I was seated in the center section to the right of the center support. When communion was past I tried to give it to the person on my left and they wouldn't take it. I finally was told to pass it back to the right. Why was that? TRADITION.

In those early years I watched the deacons preparing communion and the elders sitting on the stairway watching and waiting. Why was that? TRADITION. The deacons prepared Communion, but it was the custom that only the elders were permitted to put on white gloves and place the communion ware on the table in the sanctuary.

In the 80s few persons outside of the trustees knew how much money was in the endowment. Some trustees didn't even know because there was not a printed balance sheet that showed the endowment. It appeared to be a secret. Why was that? TRADITION.

However, some traditions get in the way.

We have put aside the old tradition of communion distribution. We now observe it in a variety of ways. Deacons now have been given the dignity and respect to place the communion ware on the table. That was changed when my wife, Oletta was chair of the deacons. We still use the term Pivot, although, they no longer pivot. The elders personally hand the elements to each deacon.

The trustees are now very open about the endowment fund and provide annual reports and the treasurer is unpaid like all our volunteers.

But there are some traditions that we must continue.

I've always felt that this congregation was very open and accepting of all people from the day I first attended. When we started talking about officially stating that we are an open and affirming congregation, I asked why, because we were already there.

However, we shared in a study process that produced stories that were hurtful to hear. I saw the importance of making a firm statement for the benefit of all of us and the community. A stronger tradition is in place.

The tradition of meaningful worship with music, preaching, art and lay participation is at a high level. There were years when we lost some of it, but the tradition has been restored and improved.

We have come a long way since 1985. We have set aside some traditions that got in the way. We have strengthened some traditions that are essential. We are in a good place in our history.

Events This Weekend

Sunday, July 22

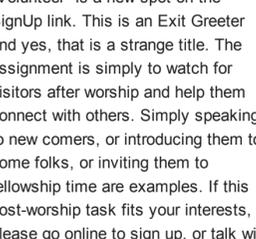
- Bible Study in the conference room at 9am.
Worship in the sanctuary at 10:30am. Children age 3 through 5th grade will be together during the sermon time.
Central Justice Network in the conference room at noon.

To see a full monthly printable calendar of our meetings and events, click here.

A Summer of Psalms

Psalms 137 (New Revised Standard Version) - how you tried reading the psalms out loud yet???

By the rivers of Babylon— there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem's fall, how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down! Down to its foundations!" O daughter Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us! Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!



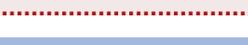
"Volunteer" is a new spot on the SignUp link. This is an Exit Greeter and yes, that is a strange title. The assignment is simply to watch for visitors after worship and help them connect with others. Simply speaking to new comers, or introducing them to some folks, or inviting them to fellowship time are examples. If this post-worship task fits your interests, please go online to sign up, or talk with Kathy Riestler or Dawn Barnes.

Thrift Store Reminders

- Donations can be brought any weekday between 9am and 5pm.
Donations can be brought on Sundays and left at the bottom of the stairs at door #1.
Make sure each donated item can be carried by one person. Heavier items are hard to sell.
We always have a demand for bed linens and towels.
Please donate only items in good repair and good working order. If there is a slight problem with electronics, please make note of it.
Books that sell best are fiction, inspirational or cookbooks. Nonfiction might best be taken to Indy Reads or another site.

Thank you for helping us keep the store open and available for our customers. Please stop in for a visit any Monday between 10:00 and 2:30 or the last Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:30.

CELEBRATIONS

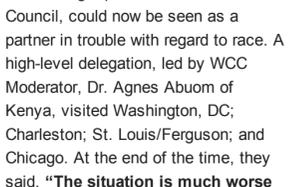


Birthdays and Anniversaries*

- July 20 Jennifer Riggs
July 21 Alanis Dorsey
July 24 Linda McCrae
John Stemple
July 25 Elaine Brunner & Scott Nickel*

Upcoming Preaching Texts

- July 22 Psalm 137
July 29 Psalm 19



A Message from Dr. Sharon Watkins

Shortly after the Charleston massacre of a Bible study group by a white supremacist, leaders at the World Council of Churches decided that a solidarity visit to the United States was called for. The U.S., often thought of as a stronger partner within the Council, could now be seen as a partner in trouble with regard to race. A high-level delegation, led by WCC Moderator, Dr. Agnes Aboum of Kenya, visited Washington, DC; Charleston; St. Louis/Ferguson; and Chicago. At the end of the time, they said, "The situation is much worse than we thought."

They urged the National Council of Churches to take a leading role in calling the nation - especially the churches - to account for the ongoing racism in our society. They suggested convening a Truth and Reconciliation process.

A National Council of Churches task force, on truth and reconciliation was formed, but very soon came to the conclusion that "reconciliation" should not at this time be a stated part of the goal. Truth, yes. The NCC task force on racial justice noted:

"that a thorough and true story of racism and racial injustice in our nation must be told and heard; that the complicity of white church members and leadership, and the impact of that complicity on faith communities of color, has not yet been fully recognized in white communities. The National Council of Churches believes that healing cannot be achieved without a complete confession of the truth as a prelude to reparative action and restorative justice."

In other words, truth comes first, then repair and healing. Reconciliation, as God's gift, we pray will follow. As one of our members asked, "How can we have re-conciliation when we've never really had 'conciliation'."

With that was born the National Council of Churches initiative on race: A.C.T. to End Racism. Awaken. Confront. Transform. It is based on the premise that it is time to learn the truth about racism and white supremacy, confront the generational trauma in our churches, our communities and our laws, and work to transform the structures and biases that recreate racism generation after generation.

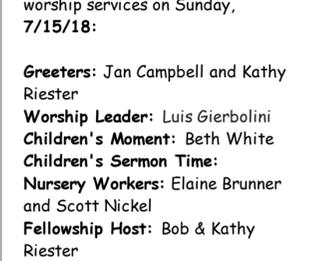
The first step is to learn the truth and to tell it. Next week, I'll say a word about that.

Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry needs the following items as we have been having difficulty obtaining them from Gleaners: Dried beans, low sodium/low salt vegetables and soup, spaghetti sauce, mashed potatoes, and bars of bath soap. We also need small packs of peanut butter crackers, cheese and crackers, and granola/breakfast bars for our snack bags that are handed out at the office. As usual we will accept any food donations that you would like to give. Please place all items in the grocery cart in Fellowship Hall. We are also in need of paper grocery bags with handles and gallon jugs with lids. Please wash and dry out the jugs before donating. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the pantry.

Storms are upon us. How do you respond?

The power of storms. The power of God. And a prayer for peace. What happens when you reflect on these things? For the psalmist, the response is worship. Before you come to worship on July 29, we invite reflection on Psalm 29 and the Sermon Text Conversation started for us by Mary, Ricky and David, posted on Central's website. Consider, as a spiritual discipline, adding your own Psalm 29 story to the conversation. You can do so easily on our website.



We thank those who enriched our worship services on Sunday, 7/15/18:

- Greeters: Jan Campbell and Kathy Riestler
Worship Leader: Luis Gierbolini
Children's Moment: Beth White
Children's Sermon Time: Nursery Workers: Elaine Brunner and Scott Nickel
Fellowship Host: Bob & Kathy Riestler
Offering Counters: Elaine Brunner and Steve Martz
Audio Technician: Bill Lambert

Thank you also to those who have helped in the office this week: Jessica Rodenberger and Lucy Williams

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

- Our General Facebook Page - https://www.facebook.com/indyccc/
Our Facebook Family Page - https://www.facebook.com/CentrallndyFamilies
Our Church Website - http://www.indyccc.org
Our Facebook Justice Network - Central Justice Network
Our Twitter Account - https://twitter.com/@indyccc46204

