

CENTRALIA
UMC

Inside this issue:

Birthdays	2
Sermon Text/ Titles	2
Little Free Pantry	2

Caring & Sharing

Vangie's Voice

I just returned from my hometown. As Rocky the cat and I looked after my ill mother, the images I received from Lewis County have been conflicting.

One image is from our friends at the Centralia Downtown Association (C.D.A.). On their Facebook post, they remind us that wearing a mask helps the local economy. They even offer masks and sanitizer to downtown businesses who need it. Their response is one of encouragement and compassion, calling us to care for our community.

Later that day, another image came on the news. It was our sheriff. Speaking into a bullhorn, with an audience of seemingly older white men in a church parking lot, he said one sentence: "Don't be a sheep". Huh? That made me scratch my head.

The next day he explained himself, saying that it's ok to question things. I imagine he's frustrated with an imperative which would be difficult to enforce. Yet that one clip of him in a bullhorn came off as forceful, angry, and seemingly lacked care for the community. (I recognize this is a judgement call on my part; I don't know his heart). Yet in comparing his response with the C.D.A., it's a stark contrast.

Somehow, in our country, wearing a mask is politicized. What is a follower of Jesus to do? No matter what, we are to go back to the gospels and ask the old question, "What Would

Jesus Do?"

When the sheriff mentioned sheep, I think of how Jesus kept calling his followers sheep. My mind went to Luke 15: 3-7. Here's part of it:

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices." This is a common theme in the gospel: seeking and caring for that one, that outsider, or the least of these. (vs.4-5)

As followers of Jesus, we are, at times, to deny our own preferences to care for the whole community, and especially look after the "least of these". Jesus also cared for the welfare of human bodies, and in our Methodist theology, health is part of our spirituality.

For those who are able, I urge you to wear a mask in public. Consider it a visible witness, a sign of care and compassion. One could even have a message on it. A pastor friend has a bright rainbow mask with "God Loves You" all over it.

Though 2020 is a difficult year, our God is leading us to go deeper. There is much being revealed, which we may not have noticed before. Methodists have deep roots in movements of social justice. How is the Spirit calling us to enter back into that work in our community? A few of us have shown up at rallies for racial justice in our commu-

nity. What does it mean to follow Jesus in this moment?

The last few weeks in July, I will be giving a worship series called "Open Our Eyes". It's a series based on "See All the People" from United Methodist Discipleship Ministries. I'll introduce you to one of my favorite United Methodist leaders, Rev. Junius Dotson, director of U.M. Discipleship Ministries. We are called to make disciples, as well as be disciples. How can we do this in the midst of a pandemic, a failing economy, and a resurrected social justice movement? These are the very things that God can use to take us deeper.

What about re-opening? Though the building remains closed, the church remains open and online. A sub-committee is working on drafting a detailed phased re-opening plan. This must be approved by both our Admin Board and our District Superintendent, Kathleen Webber. Everyone will be notified when we have an approved plan. Feel free to notify the office with any ideas.

We welcome back Pastor Vangie for her second year of ministry. May God continue to bless her work among us.

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Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom

Sundays in July at
11:45 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
online with this ad-
dress:

[https://
greaternw.zoom.us/
j/99983687484](https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/99983687484)

Or call in on the good ol'
fashioned telephone:

+1 253 215 8782
US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 999 8368
7484

If you would like to submit anything for
the August Newsletter, please have it to
the church office by Tuesday, July 28.

Sermon Scriptures and Titles for July

Stay tuned to Facebook and Email to find out what we are doing!

July 5 Sermon: **For Freedom** -Galatians 5:1, 13-16; Psalm 72

Communion Sunday! Use whatever elements (bread and juice) you have on hand.

Sermon Series:

Open Our Eyes: #SeeAllThePeople

www.seeallthepeople.org

July 12- **See All the People:**

Matthew 9:35-10:8

July 19-**Hear All the People:**

Matthew 10:24-39

July 26-**Love All the People :**

Matthew 10:40-42, Psalm 13



Until further notice, each service will be held on our Facebook page at 11:00 a.m.. [https://
www.facebook.com/centraliaunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/centraliaunitedmethodistchurch) Pastor Vangie will also attempt to
put them on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCL0SreuvVQuMQ9F8dNfQUdQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0SreuvVQuMQ9F8dNfQUdQ) or you can put Centralia First UMC in the search bar.



July Birthdays

July 2	Joanne Dettmering
July 7	Jim Russell
July 14	Pastor Vangie Rand
July 23	Connie Swope
July 31	Brian Byrd

Little Free Pantry

We are NOT hosting a community dinner this month. In lieu of this we would like to keep our Little Free Pantry well stocked. If you have any items to donate please feel free to put them in the pantry or leave by the parking lot door and we will be sure to get them in the box. Any financial donations toward this would also be appreciated.

Thank-you to everyone who has donated to our Little Free Pantry. We have been able to keep it well stocked and that means many lives touched by *your* generosity.