



May
Lamplighter

**"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" -
Isaiah 43:19a**

I enjoy the vividly, descriptive writings of Ray Bradbury. His works can be so imaginative and insightful about human nature. One of my favorites is Dandelion Wine. It is one of the few books that I have ever picked up to read again and again (If you were wondering, J.R.R. Tolkien's Hobbit and Lord of the Rings trilogy are the other exceptions). Dandelion Wine is a collection of short stories of a twelve year old boy, named Douglas Spaulding, recollecting his childhood summers. Early in the book, a story begins with Doug hiking through the countryside with his father and younger brother to pick wild berries. Doug has a sense that he is being stalked by something elusive. It is on the edge of his perception and just beyond his ability to comprehend. As his brother pounces on him for an impromptu wrestling match, Doug realizes what it was that lurked about him. In that moment he thinks, "I'm really alive!...I never knew it before, or if I did I don't remember!" It's a beautiful story, and for me it is an example of literature at its best. It reveals a deeper truth. It also reminds me of the transitions that are going on at Central.

In the passage above from Isaiah, God says (my paraphrase), "Hey! I'm doing something new, have you noticed?" Admittedly, Central has been through some challenges over the past couple years, BUT have you noticed a difference? Have you perceived a change in the feel or spirit of things at Central? Have you felt the energy, joy, and excitement that is stirring in our congregation? For a while now, I have felt like Doug. It seemed that something was

going on. I did not have a clear sense of what it was but I had my suspicions. Easter Sunday confirmed it for me. God is moving in a big way at Central. Melissa said it best the other day, "This isn't the same church we came to a year and a half ago!" That can be said for many reasons but most especially because God is doing a new thing.

I want to be clear though. Just because we have made some changes, most recently our change to a single service, that does not mean that our changes are God's 'new things.' However, sometimes we need to make changes that allow us to see how and where and in what ways God is doing a new thing. Sometimes for us to perceive what God is doing our perspective needs to change. I must confess that I do not always like change (Melissa would probably tell you that I never like it!). However, I recognize that change is often needed to help break us loose from our established ways of thinking, doing, and being. By being freed from our familiar patterns and routines, we can be more aware of what God is doing around and in and through us. We are better able to recognize and participate in the new things that God is working in our midst. Do you perceive it? Just as new life is bursting forth in the world around us with flowers blooming and trees leafing out, God's new things are springing forth to reveal God's presence in the world. It is an exciting time at Central and I pray that the new things God is working will touch your life. Just as Jesus sprung forth from the tomb on Easter bringing hope and new life to all, may God's new things spring forth so that we may see the hope and new life that is emerging at Central!

IN CHRIST
Pastor Tom

Ponderings From Pastor Curtis

Read Philippians 1:27-30. This month, we are continuing at lightening pace through the book of Philippians. It has only been five months since we started and we are already finishing chapter one. (I'm joking! Though even at this pace, there is still so much more we could have examined!).

This paragraph begins with, what is even at first glance, a very weighty command from Paul to the church in Philippi, "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ..." (v.27). But what does Paul mean? How does one conduct oneself "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ"? As he finished the paragraph, he shows us at least part of what he might mean. He continues on in the same sentence, "...so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel..."

The first thing I notice, is that Paul is calling the Philippians to lives of worthiness, regardless of whether or not someone is watching, as he says, "...so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear that you are standing firm..." A life that is worthy of the Gospel of Christ is one that is consistent, where there is no deception.

Second, Paul clearly indicates that part of what it means for a church to live in "a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" is to be a church which is united with "one spirit" and "with one mind." This unity is not a unity surrounding a particular cause or common interest. It is not to be a unity around their love of Philippi and desire to make it a great city. This unity is a unity which is to be found only in "striving together for the faith of the

gospel..." In other words, it is a unity to be found in a greater and greater pursuit of Christ. This means both an increasing of the faith of those within the church as well as taking knowledge of the faith to those who are not yet a part of the Church. This is what he means by "striving together for the faith of the gospel." Paul does not promise smooth sailing in this endeavor! In v.28-30, he is clear to warn them that such a life will breed opposition. (As he well knows, given that he is writing to them from a jail cell). Nevertheless, his call to them is one of faithfulness to the gospel in spite of the hardships it may bring to their lives.

For us obedience to the call to conduct ourselves "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ..." expresses itself much in the same way as it did for the Philippian church. That is, through living consistent, deception-free lives which are characterized by unity of focus on the mission of Christ. Although, living this way will still likely result in opposition, we are fortunate that it is unlikely we will face the same strength of opposition as Paul or the Philippian church. The knowledge that others have (or do presently in other parts of the world) face great opposition to the faith should inspire us with confidence to press on in our pursuit of living worthy of the Gospel of Christ. How can we strive together toward what Paul describes here? How can we work toward this type of unity of purpose? What is one thing you can do this month to develop that mindset within yourself? Let's ponder these things together this month.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Curtis

TRIBE NEWS

"For where two or three gather in my name, I will be with them" - Matthew 18:20

Summer Sunday School

Parents of 252 Kids: Sean and Nicole are amazing SS teachers throughout the school year. We give them the summer to revive their ministry hearts for our kids. In order for this to happen, we need parents of children or youth to volunteer for one week of teaching. All materials and instructions will be provided for you. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the doors of 252 soon. Please be praying about loving on our kids for one Sunday this summer!



Graduates

Don't forget to turn in your student's graduation information to the office ASAP.

We need:

Name

School they are graduating from

Accomplishments you wish to be highlighted

College plans (if any)

Grad Sunday is June 4th

We will have a light breakfast in the parlor, coordinated by the families of our Juniors, for students to be celebrated by church members. During worship, we will recognize each student

Turn off the TV Tuesdays

We will have activities each Tuesday throughout the summer for families! zoo visits, train rides, game nights, talent show, ice cream parties, swimming at natural springs, etc. So, turn off Netflix and plan to come join us!

Want to support the Youth Mission Trip?

Visit the bulletin board in the main hall and pick an envelope with a number on it. You simply give the denomination listed on the envelope. You might only be able to give \$5 or \$10, but every amount helps a student go on mission with us!

Important Summer Dates

June 10-16: Mission Trip for all rising
(6th - College)

June 25-30: High School Camp "All That"
(9th - 12th)

July 9-14: Middle School Camp Adventure
(6th-8th)

July 23-28: Children's Camp Lakewood
(3rd-5th)

****Scholarships Available****

Small groups at Central

Are you interested in leading a Small Group at Central? In August, Central will be starting new small groups in conjunction with a church wide initiative called "Soulshift," which will involve a sermon series, curriculum for Sunday School classes of every age, and the beginning of some new small groups! (More information on that will be forthcoming.)

The purpose of these groups is not simply for the purpose of the "Soulshift" initiative, but our hope is that many groups will continue and they will become a vital part of our discipleship here at Central! The purpose of this type of group is four-fold:

1. To pray with/for each other.
2. To study scripture together.
3. To share experience of God with each other.
4. To be there for each other at "Crunch Time."

In June, we will be holding a training session to assist those who would like to take part in leading this type of ministry. For those who are interested in participating but not leading, stay tuned for more information to come! If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please talk with Pastor Curtis.



4th Annual All Church Camp Out!
Tentative Date: Weekend of September
8th-10th

Garden Getaway Women's Retreat ReConnect

Saturday, June 3rd, 2017

CUMC Fellowship Hall

9am - 1pm (Includes light breakfast and lunch)

cost: \$5.00

We meet again! We would like to reconnect with those who attended the Women's Retreat in September. We will recap on what was covered, as well as have the opportunity to grow deeper in fellowship with one another. If you were unable to attend in September, you are still welcome to join us in June! There will be an opportunity to sign up in the office, or contact Jen Banker or Mary Alice Bolser.

Women of Joy Conference

August 11th - 12th

Banker Life Field house in Indianapolis, IN
Conference Tickets prior to May 17th at \$109 per person, \$99 if we have more than 10 people.

Speakers include Lisa Harper, Kirk and Chelsea Cameron, Angela Thomas Pharr, and Christine Cane. There will be a Natalie Grant Concert on Friday night. Find more information at www.womenofjoy.org.

Once we know how many people are interested in coming, we can look into hotel rooms. Please let Jen Banker know if you are interested by signing up in the office, or by email at jmosborne3@gmail.com

Ladies Day Out in Greenville, OH

DATE CHANGE

New date to be announced. Please watch the bulletin!

Primetimers

Please join us Wednesday May 17th at noon at IU East Building Rm 912 on East Main Street. We will be hearing from Tim Scales. Please reserve your seat by Monday, May 15th. To reserve your seat, please call the office at 765-962-8543. You must reserve a seat to attend.

UMW Pop-Up

Thank you to everyone who supported the UMW Pop-Up. It was a great success!

Creative Hands

Creative Hands meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 9am thru lunch beginning May 11th. Come join us for fun and fellowship as we prepare for our next venture.



May 5th

Mark your calendar so that you won't miss the UMW Family Fiesta in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. The Test Drum Corp will perform and the children who attend will break a piñata. Tickets will cost \$7 for adults and \$4 for kids.

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” – 1 Corinthians 12:12

It takes many parts working together to attend to the many needs of the Body. The church is the body of Christ if it requires many people with a variety of talents and abilities to do all of the things necessary for the ongoing ministry of Central. Here are several opportunities to serve within our congregation:

Coffee Fellowship – There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlor for people to work at our Sunday coffee fellowship. Linda Witter is the coordinator. If you would be interested in helping, Linda can give you an orientation about how to make the coffee and set things up.

Photo Directory - We will be having photos taken May 18, 19, and 20 for a new photo directory. We will need volunteers to serve as hosts/hostesses on the photography days. We will also need a coordinator, people to make scheduling calls, and help with the layout of the directory. Contact Pastor Tom if you are available to help with this project. Also, if you have good, recent photos of church ministries or events that you would like us to consider including, please submit those to Pastor Tom as well.

Parking Lot Potholes - A couple of potholes have developed in the church parking lot. The asphalt patch material has been purchased, but we need to borrow an asphalt tamper to pack the material in the holes. Please let us know if you have one we could borrow, or if you would be willing to come and do the patching even better! Contact Pastor Tom if you are able to help with this project.

5/5 Yada Yada Book Club 10:00am
 5/5 UMW Family Fiesta 6:30pm
 5/7 Prayer Partner Breakfast 9:00am
 5/8 Medical Monday 1:00pm
 5/9 Preschool Board Meeting 6:00pm
 5/11 Creative Hands 9:00am
 5/11 Soup Kitchen 9:00am
 5/12 Yada Yada Book Club 10:00am
 5/13 Bread Baking 8:00am
 5/14 Men's Forum 9:00am
 5/15 Mon. Morning Connection 9:00am
 5/16 Bread Basket 4:30pm
 5/17 Primetimers 12:00pm
 5/18 Photo Directory
 5/18 Friendship Circle 9:30am
 5/18 Thursday Evening Circle 6:00pm
 5/19 Photo Directory
 5/19 Yada Yada Book Club 10:00am
 5/20 Photo Directory
 5/21 Coffee with the Pastor 9:00am
 5/25 Creative Hands 9:00am
 5/25 Ad Council 6:30pm
 5/26 Yada Yada Book Club 10:00am
 5/31 Lamplighter Assembly 10:00am

Youth Choir: Sundays at 9am

Cantus Choir: Sundays at 12pm

Youth Group: Sundays at 5pm

Women's Prayer Group: Mondays at 12pm

Men's Prayer Group: Wednesdays at 12pm

Chancel Choir: Wednesdays at 12pm

Wesley Ringers: Wednesdays at 5:15pm

Joy Singers: Thursdays at 4pm

Serving in the Month of May

Children's Moment

5/7 Pastor Tom/ Pastor Curtis
 5/14 TBD
 5/21 TBD
 5/28 TBD

Children's Church

5/7 Communion
 5/14 TBD
 5/21 TBD
 5/28 TBD

Greeters

5/7 Amy & Kate Holthouse
 David & Mary Jane Sheets
 5/14 Jim & Barbara Harper
 Amy McKee
 5/21 Larry & Gayla Parker
 Doug & Brenda Oler
 5/28 Jim & Polly Puckett
 John & Jody Turner

Scripture Readers

5/7 Karis Koyles
 5/14 Barbara Harper
 5/21 Kathy Robinson
 5/28 Debbie Jenkins

Acolytes

5/7 Levon Jordan & Luke Sheridan
 5/14 Jacey Cornett & Jackson Cornett
 5/21 Kathryn Brunton & Kate Holthouse
 5/28 Dylan Candlish & Masson Heiny

Ushers

5/7 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott,
 Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
 5/14 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim
 Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett,
 Marvin Kenworthy
 5/21 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim
 Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett,
 Marvin Kenworthy
 5/28 Eric Burkhardt, Electa Berk, Larry
 Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson,
 Lester Robinson