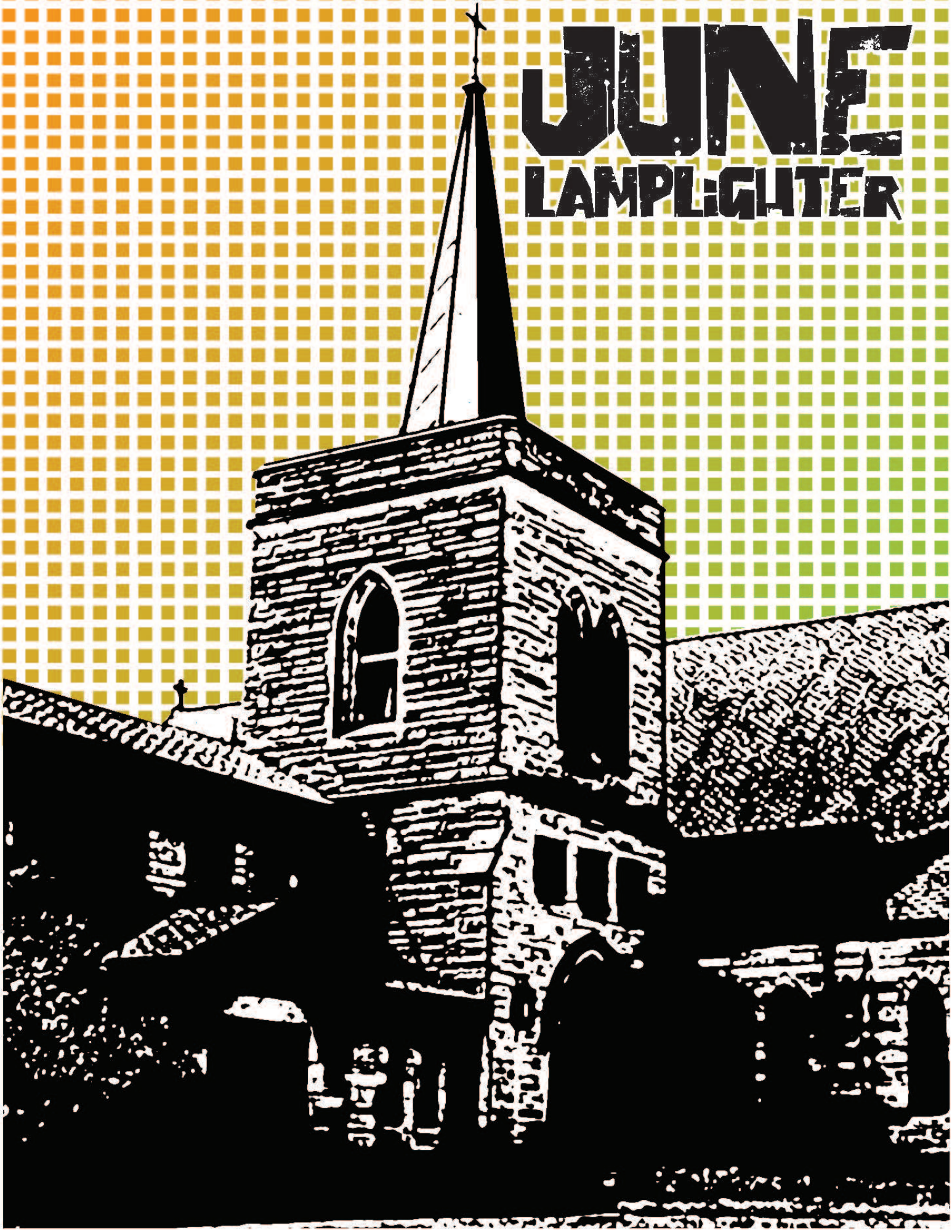
JUNE

LAMPLIGHTER



EZEKIEL 37:9-10

Pentecost, the celebration of God pouring out the Holy Spirit upon all the earth, is just a couple of weeks away. It is a time to celebrate the gift of God's presence and power that is the Spirit that Jesus announced would come when he ascended into heaven. On the day of Pentecost we are reminded of the mighty works that were done because the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and in the following days the Church experienced tremendous growth. Empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit, those first disciples took the message to the streets and by the work of the same Holy Spirit people responded and believed! I often imagine what it must have been like to be present on that day and I wonder what it would be like if it happened to us today.

John Wesley wrote, "I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions" (quoted in How To Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer). This statement has captured my imagination and made me begin to dream and pray about what such a revival would look like for Central UMC. A revival, fueled by God's Spirit where each and every person is unleashed to live out God's purpose and plan. Not only would such a revival transform our lives and our church, but most certainly the community around us.

So what does it take for such a revival to happen? What drives it? What sustains it? The short answer is: the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is often associated with wind, fire, and breath. On Pentecost the Spirit moved "like the rush of a violent wind" and "divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them" (Acts 2:2-3). In the Gospel of John (20:22) Jesus breaths on the disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit" and in Ezekiel the prophet calls upon the wind to breathe life into the restored dry bones. It is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that revival is possible. Through revival God grips His people with deep conviction, repentance, forgiveness and deliverance from personal sins; He fills them with the Holy Spirit and manifests in them the fruit and graces of the Holy Spirit; He makes His presence and power known in the Church and community; and He bring new people to faith.

"THEN HE SAID TO ME, "PROPHESY TO THE BREATH, PROPHESY, MORTAL, AND SAY TO THE BREATH: THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: COME FROM THE FOUR WINDS, O BREATH, AND BREATHE UPON THESE SLAIN, THAT THEY MAY LIVE." I PROPHESIED AS HE COMMANDED ME, AND THE BREATH CAME INTO THEM, AND THEY LIVED, AND STOOD ON THEIR FEET, A VAST MULTITUDE".

Join me in embracing John Wesley's dream and prayer that a revival of holiness would erupt in our church to move us forward with a clear mission and create a community that only God can make possible. In the weeks leading up to and beyond Pentecost, pray that the Spirit would be poured out upon us and our church SO THAT a revival of faith and mission would lead us in making disciples for the transformation of the world. Come, Holy Spirit, come!
IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CURTIS

Read Philippians 2:1-11. This is one of the major passages through which we gain a better understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ. One of the major doctrines of Christianity is that Jesus was both divine and human. He was not 50% human and 50% divine or some other percentage of the two. He was/is both fully divine (that is, 100% God) and at the same time also fully human (again, 100%). As the passages says in v.6, He was in very nature, God. The only way that is possible is through divine self-limitation; that is, if Jesus, chooses to limit the exercise of His God nature. This is what we see Paul explaining here in Philippians 2. V.7 says, that He "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant…"
Before that sounds too much like something that comes from an ivory tower and has no bearing on our daily lives, let me say, nothing could be further from the truth. Christ's actions here have immense consequences for us, not least of which is that it was through this action which He accomplished the work necessary for our salvation! Read again,

V.5-8.

JESUS, WHO IS GOD, HUMBLED HIMSELF AND SUBMITTED HIMSELF TO BECOMING HUMAN, LIVING, AND ULTIMATELY SUBMIT HIMSELF EVEN TO DEATH. THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS ABSOLUTE POWER, DEMONSTRATES ABSOLUTE HUMILITY BY LIMITING HIMSELF, EVEN TO THE POINT OF DEATH ON A CROSS. HIS WILLINGNESS TO HUMBLE HIMSELF IN THIS WAY HAS PROFOUND MEANING FOR EACH OF US.

First, this demonstration of humility speaks to us of Jesus immense love for us as He was willing to go to such extraordinary lengths to restore relationship with us. (Next time you're feeling unimportant reread this passage and think about the fact that Jesus loved you enough to endure that for you!).
The second implication of Christ's humility is that it serves as a calling for us to follow in His example. The mission of the Christian life is to be ever more fully formed into Christ's likeness; thus, also in His humility. This is what Paul says in v.2, "…make my

joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves… Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus…" The preface to Paul's description of Jesus humility is a call to imitate that humility. If we desire to imitate Christ with our lives, then we must recognize that means imitating the humility of God who submitted Himself to becoming human for our sakes and sacrificing Himself for the sake of others. In what ways can we demonstrate that Christ-like self-sacrificial humility this month?

Grace and Peace, Pastor Curtis

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.

Women of Joy Conference

August 11th - 12th

Banker Life Field house in Indianapolis, IN

Conference Tickets prior to May 17th are

$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 of 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

Primetimers: Please join us Wednesday June 21st at noon Please reserve your seat by Monday, June 19th. To reserve your seat, please call the office at 765-962-8543. You must reserve a seat to attend.

Creative Hands: Creative Hands meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 9am thru lunch. Come join us for fun and fellowship!

A Brief Word from your Music Director
Do you have any of the following abilities?:

- Singing
- Playing a muscial instrument
- Dancing
- Poetry Reading

If so, please see me about participating in the special music during the upcoming summer months. Best Regards, Madeleine Connolly

Save the Date: August 18 & 19. A marriage conference taking place at Central UMC.
Forever. And Fruitful. Despite the dysfunction and distress in today's society, this has always been God's blueprint for marriage. And that is the heart of ForeverFruitful…to go back to the heart of the Father when He first spoke marital direction to Adam and Eve. Three commands. Two Days. Purpose: To make your marriage the fruitful covenant God originally designed. More information will be available soon.

Children's Moment - June
6/4 Pastor
6/11 Jeff Sheridan
6/18 Ann Cashner
6/25 Alisa Clapp-Itnyre

Children's Church - June
No Children's Church in June

Scripture Readers - June
6/4 TBD
6/11 Ann Cashner
6/18 Jim Puckett
6/25 Kathy Eyer

Ushers - June
6/4 Eric Burkhardt, Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
6/11 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
6/18 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
6/25 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Marvin Kenworthy

Calendar of Events - June

6/2 Yada Yada	10:00am
6/3 Women's ReConnect	9:00am
6/8 Creative Hands	9:00am
6/8 Soup Kitchen	9:00am
6/10 Bread Baking	8:00am
6/11 Coffee with the Pastor	9:00am
6/12 Medical Monday	12:30pm
6/13 Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
6/17 Disciples Hand	8:30am
6/18 Membership Class	9:00am
6/20 Bread Basket	4:30pm
6/21 Primetimers	12:00pm
6/22 Creative Hands	9:00am
6/22 Ad Council	6:30pm
6/25 Membership Class	9:00am
6/28 LL Assembly	10:00am

THE TRIBE NEWS.

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, I WILL BE WITH THEM" - MATTHEW 18:20

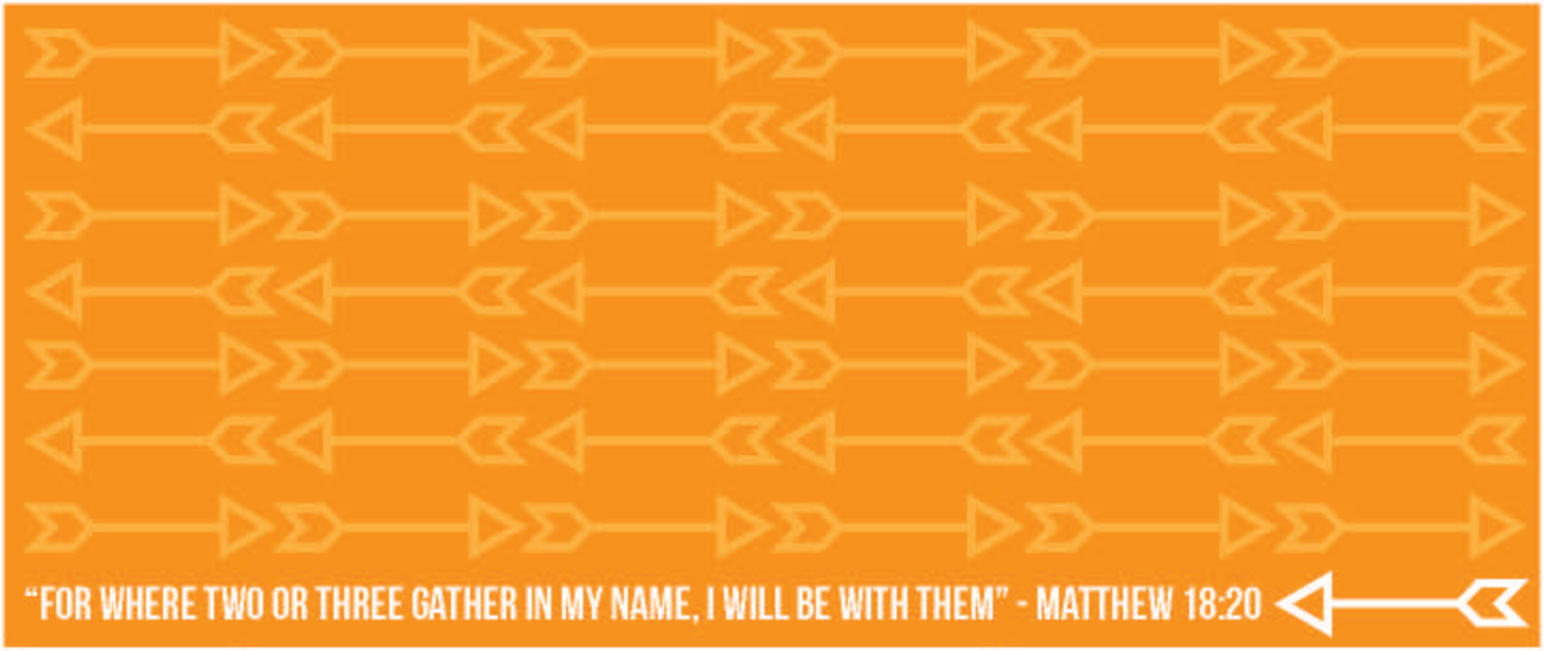
Thank You so much for all the support that you provided to make this trip a reality for our students. Please pray for the youth as they embark on their trip to Virginia Beach on Saturday the 10th. They will be loving and ministering to countless numbers of individuals and will need strength to make it through the week. Please join me in praying this prayer for the entire week:

Almighty God, We praise you for the opportunity for our students to experience caring for your created. How easily we forget that there is so much more to the world than our little corner. May the students be used by you to share your love with everyone they encounter on this journey. We ask also that you help them have harmony amongst themselves, even once exhaustion sets in, that their peace may be a bright example of your Kingdom. We lastly ask you for safety in their travel, work, and experiences. Amen.

Open Gym: Rising 6th grade and up students, watch for dates throughout the summer for open gym. Sheri will open the gym some days and some evenings for you to come and hang out.

Children's Summer Sunday School: I am excited to announce that the children will be learning about some of the faith heroes throughout history this summer with a series called TORCHLIGHTERS. You can view these same stories on Right Now Media and be able to discuss them with your children. Kaylee Simpson, Pat Heiny, and Sheri Koyles will be leading our preschool through 7th graders through this series. Join us in 252 on Sunday mornings at 9 to hear stories of Corrie Ten Boom, Samuel Morris, John Wesley, Jim Elliott and more!

WATCH FOR NEWS TO COME REGARDING SUMMER FAMILY EVENTS



Students in Service Update: The following is a list of ways that the students have been serving our congregation, community, and the world for the past school year:

- Scripture readers
- Worship leaders and Choir specials
- Joined in Hanging of the Greens.
- Participated in the Walk For Darkness.
- Went caroling at 5 nursing homes.
- Yard work for various members.
- Trunk or Treat volunteers
- Made banners of love for the tragedy in France.
- Helped children in the Girls, Inc. Fun Run.
- Aided in the set-up for various family/full congregation events.
- Raised over $1000 for the fight against human trafficking.

Do you have a need?: Let Sheri, Michelle, Carol, or Pastors Tom, Ted, or Curtis know and we will see if the youth can help meet that need! The youth love to serve and need opportunities!

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 are available

SOULSHIFT

SoulShift is the measure of a transformed life.

Central United Methodist Church will be on a journey of being transformed by Christ starting the first week in August through the end of September. From infants to seniors, we will all be immersed in this life-changing series. We will be discussing seven different soul shifts in our Sunday worship services, Sunday Schools, and form small groups to read through the book SoulShift together. The children and teens will be discussing this as well. Events are planned to help emphasize each shift. Throughout this series, we will be asking the Lord to change our hearts and minds. These shifts help us move beyond wanting to be different, to experiencing genuine change. For more information or if interested in being in a small group, please contact Pastor Curtis. (curtis.banker@inumc.org).
Sign-ups for Small Groups will begin in July!

Me to You
A shift in orientation from focusing on ourselves to focusing on others

Slave to Child
A shift in identity from serving God to loving God

Seen to Unseen
A shift in values from embracing things that are temporary to embracingthings that are eternal

Consumer to Steward
A shift in ownership from acquiring things for ourselves to offering what we haveto God and others

Ask to Listen
A shift in posture from asking others to listening to God

Sheep to Shepherd
A shift in influence from following the crowd to leading like Christ

Me to We
A shift in priority from individualism to community

ALL-CHURCH TRANSFORMATION