



I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS
SO THAT IN ME YOU

I may have
Peace 

IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE

But take heart!

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD

JOHN 16:33

We begin each Church Council meeting with a devotion time that I usually lead. At our January meeting, I was planning to discuss the (then upcoming) United Methodist General Conference and what they felt would be most helpful to share with our congregation. The purpose of the special session of the General Conference was to discuss the United Methodist Church's position of human sexuality related to the ordination of homosexual clergy and same sex marriages. This topic is one that our denomination has debated for several decades. It has created a deep divide within our church as people express their passionate convictions for and against making changes to the statements in the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (i.e. our official rule book). So, in preparation for this meeting I printed out slips of paper with ten different translations of the verse from John 16:33. As it turned out, the evening of our January Church Council meeting ended up being that night that the Conference Superintendent came to announce that I was being appointed to Aldersgate UMC in Fort Wayne.

As we began the meeting, I ask those in attendance to each read the slip that I have given them with this passage from John. I made notes on a white board for three points from this passage:

1. The world will...
2. You should...
3. Because Jesus...

Looking at this passage in several different translations of the Bible, we found that the 'world' will provide tribulations, trouble, distress, suffering, persecution, and trials & sorrows. I think most of us can nod our heads and say, "It sure does." Jesus continues and offers a word of hope and says that we should be encouraged, take heart, cheer up, be brave, take courage, and be of good cheer. Why Jesus? In the face of such difficulties how can you possibly tell us that we should be encouraged? Jesus answers our obvious question before we can even ask it. He says that He has overcome, conquered, and defeated the world. My paraphrase of this passage that evening was, "Stuff is going to happen, you don't have to worry, Jesus has this." I shared this prior to the General Conference knowing that it would likely be divisive. It was and continues to be, but it also paved the way for the announcement of my departure from Central.

Even as children, we learn early that life is not fair. Each day presents us with a myriad of challenges. Some of them we can handle on our own, but at times we face challenges that beat us down and leave us feeling completely overwhelmed, helpless, and hopeless. As Jesus neared that time of his crucifixion and death, he tried to prepare his disciples for what was to come. The road ahead would certainly present challenges, but He wanted them to be assured that in and through Him they could confidently face all that was to come.

Everyday, 'stuff' will happen. Some things will be easier to face than others, but we should not be too anxious. Jesus has this or more importantly Jesus has us. When we put our hope and faith in Him, we are never alone. We cannot overlook the first sentence of this passage when Jesus give his statement of purpose. When we see the words "so that", we know that this is the main point. "So that in me you in may have peace." Jesus does not promise a quick, magical fix for all our problems, but He does offer His peace to face our daily 'stuff.' As we draw near our celebration of Easter and the resurrection, we are reminded that the power of the empty confirms that when Jesus says, "Stuff is going to happen; you don't have to worry; I've got this" He means it. May Jesus give you peace and confidence to face your 'stuff.'

IN CHRIST
Pastor Tom

Extending the Communion Table

Communion is an act of the whole church, though not everyone is able to be present, especially those who are sick or homebound. Pastors can train laypersons to take Communion to those who are unable to be present for the congregation's sharing of the bread and cup. As United Methodists, we are all ministers and we are all to take a role to care for one another and to include everyone in the sacraments. On communion Sunday beginning in April, Pastor Tom will consecrate the elements of bread and wine (grape juice) during our worship service. This will include the communion sets that we can send with laity beyond the walls of the church into homes, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. If you are interested in visiting with the sick and homebound, and working with us to extend Christ's feast with the church, please contact Pastor Jen. You may also contact her if you'd like to be put on the list to receive communion



Prayer Cards

The staff and congregational care team have started to mail out these prayer cards to members of our congregation. If you are interested in sending cards to others, they are available to be picked up in the parlor. We hope that our congregation and community will know that they are surrounded in prayer!

CUMC Call Chain

The CUMC Call Chain has been in place for a year. No lives have been saved, but fourteen people and their families can be comforted to know they are checked on each day. It's a certainty that there are others in the congregation who would benefit from this service. Please contact the office or Sally Sayre (935-9063) for more details. All it involves is a minute or less of your time: phone, email or text each day – your option. Thank you to those participating.

Creative Hands

Creative Hands will meet April 11th and 25th from 9am thru lunch.

Calendar of Events

4/3	Pastor's Study	10:00am
4/6	UMW Pop-Up	10:00am
4/7	TRIBE Bingo	5:00pm
4/8	Monday Morning Connection	9:00am
4/8	Medical Monday	1:00pm
4/10	Pastor's Study	10:00am
4/10	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
4/11	Creative Hands	9:00am
4/11	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
4/13	UMW District Meeting	9:00am
4/16	Bread Basket	4:30pm
4/17	Pastor's Study	10:00am
4/17	Meet Ad Council	11:30am
4/17	Garden ReConnect	3:00pm
4/18	Friendship Circle	10:00am
4/24	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
4/24	Pastor's Study	10:00am
4/25	Creative Hands	9:00am
4/25	Ad Council	6:30pm

Greeters

4/7	TBD
4/14	TBD
4/21	TBD
4/28	TBD

Scripture Readers

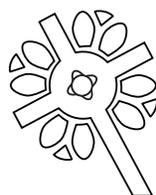
4/7	Kathy Eyer
4/14	Sally Sayre
4/21	Jan Hibner
4/28	Pat Heiny

Ushers

4/7	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
4/14	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler
4/21	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler
4/28	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Jamie Puckett

Altar Guild

TBD



SECURITY TEAM

The Security Team would like to remind everyone to notify the pastor of any family issues that may present a safety concern at Central UMC.

•Custody issues •Severe family arguments •Relational issues



SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH

5 PM

THE ARC CENTER

(2900 W. MAIN ST., RICHMOND)

COST: \$10 PER PERSON—INCLUDES ONE CARD

\$2 PER ADDITIONAL CARD

SNACKS:

FREE POPCORN

SODA FOR SALE \$0.50

PROCEEDS BENEFIT TRIBE MISSIONS:

HURRICANE RELIEF IN FLORIDA

TRIBE IS THE COMBINED YOUTH GROUP OF
CENTRAL, RICHMOND FIRST, AND CENTERVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

WIN PRIZES!

~\$1,000 WORTH IN PRIZES AVAILABLE



**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1425 EAST MAIN STREET**

**SATURDAY APRIL 6TH
10AM - 2PM**

*Complimentary Tea with
Styles by Secret Ingredient*

