



CENTRAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission is to follow Jesus, make disciples and transform the world.
We are about making connections — connecting people to God and to each other.

Vacation Bible School begins tomorrow!!! I can't believe it's finally here! Please be in prayer this week as we pour Jesus into the lives of the children attending. We would love for you to partner with us in our VBS mission this year to provide clean water for the people of Peru. You can place a donation in the offering plate earmarked 'VBS', or you can drop by the office and give it to Jill. For just \$5, you can provide clean water for 1 person for an entire year!!! I can't think of a better way to spend \$5! Thank you to all of our volunteers and those who have helped plan and prepare the awesome week ahead!

Kid's Ahoy

This coming week, our Kid's Ahoy participants and youth leaders will be devoting their time to VBS! Many of them have made a commitment to be present with us throughout the week! Our Tuesday events will resume on August 1st, with an exciting trip to the Marbles Kid's Museum in Raleigh!

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: We hope to see you Sunday morning!

MYF: Join us from 6:00-7:15pm! Derrick, Justin & Jennifer will have something special planned!

G*Force: (Lunch & Putt-Putt): We're making a Five Guys RUN today! Afterwards, we'll even enjoy a round of Putt-Putt, games and more! Call or text Fred for meeting times & details.....

MOVIE NIGHT: July 26th At the Williams' home! It all starts at 7:30pm. Come enjoy a good movie, followed by some great discussion and refreshments.

Victory Junction Mission: Friday, July 28th we meet in the church parking lot to leave at 8:30am! We usually return around 11:30am.

VBS: (M-F, July 24th-July 28th) We've got a week planned for all our boys & girls! Come lend a hand with this exciting ministry! (This also makes for some great "service hours" for school!) VBS leaders need to be here by 5:30 each evening and concludes at 8:30pm. Call or text Heather @336-963-2878 if you would like to serve.

There are 7 Hearing Assistance Units available to those who would like use of one. Please see an usher to receive one but please make sure to return them that same day as others may need them. Thank you!

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Did you know.....



That the Asbury Sunday School Class sponsored the Red Cross Blood Drive last week? With the help of volunteers, 52 people came & 49 pints of blood were collected! Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the drive and a BIG "thank you" to all who came out and gave the gift of life! Special "thanks" to Sara Baker who stepped up to the plate when Linda Dunn stepped down as chair.

NETworX for HOPE RANDOLPH

READY TO BE TRANSFORMED & MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY?
NETworX for Hope Randolph is currently recruiting for our next class beginning August 15th. We are seeking individuals who are struggling financially (Champions of Change) and for individuals (Allies) who are willing to walk alongside them and form relationships. We are all poor in some aspects of our lives but we all have strengths to share. Join the NETworX adventure to change our community. Contact Peter Brisley (336) 302 4093 pbrisley@networxforhope.com; Vicki Moss (336) 953 2561 vicki.moss@gmail.com; Trenten Lowe (336) 420 3800 trenten.lowe@gmail.com www.networxforhope.com

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Into The Light

Whenever Kari and I go to our house at Lake Junaluska the first thing we do is go in and open every curtain and raise every window. Usually the house has been closed up for a number of days or sometimes weeks and we are greeted with a house that is dark, dank, dusty, and damp. Pulling the curtains back and raising the windows lets much needed light and fresh air into the house. After being away for a while the house is stuffy and stale.

I can sense the distinct odor of mildew and mold. I see a light layer of dust on the furniture. I notice cobwebs in the corners. After being shut up for days or weeks the whole house feels like it needs a good cleaning.

There is something about parting the curtains and opening the windows and allowing in the light and the fresh air that seems to bring our house back to life. In a short period of time it feels welcoming and cozy again.

When we do open up the house, we are greeted with the consequence of fresh air and new light: exposure! All the areas of our home that need a good cleaning are suddenly all too evident in the light.

I find that's the way it is in a life as well. Things happen to us in life and we want to keep closed up and hidden away in the darkest corners of our lives. After a time things start to get smelly, and unhealthy. But we are afraid to bring them out into the light. We know a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit and the light of Jesus Christ shining in us would be so much better. But we are not sure that we want to risk exposure. The idea of bringing some of the things in our lives out in the open can be frightening. It may be that we are ashamed or guilty about some of the things we are hiding away, or we may still feel hurt from the wounds of the past. Regardless we just do not want to bring these things out into the light. We are afraid of what the exposure would do to us. What would God think? What others think? Would we feel even worse about ourselves?

There are two things that we can learn from this:

1) Keeping things closed up and hidden in the dark is unhealthy. When we leave our house closed up for too long, mold and mildew start to grow. Living in that environment for too long would make us sick. The same is true about our souls. It is those things we hide away in our lives that keep us from living healthy lives.

2) Bringing things into the light helps us see clearly what to do about them. Exposure reveals the true condition of things.

Jesus encourages us to bring things into the light: **"For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light."** {Mark 4:22}

There is no need to fear exposure, because Jesus has already dealt with the consequences of our deepest, darkest secrets. As the Apostle Paul declares, Jesus has us covered:

"For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God". {Colossians 3:3}

Maybe it is time to open up and bring some hidden things out into the light of Jesus Christ. It could be the next step in your healing. What do you say?

Pastor J.F.

