

A Word from Pastor Shayne...

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ[e] have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

(Galatians 5:22-25, NRSVUE)

The past couple of Sundays my sermon has been based on texts from Galatians. In this letter Paul is emphasizing that faith in Christ was more important than following the Mosaic law. At the end of Galatians, chapter 5, he gets more specific stating that faith will have fruit. In other words, people should be able to see Christians acting on their love for Jesus Christ. You'll see in the section above Paul identifies a number of "fruits of the Spirit." In this short article I want to focus on one; generosity.

Lately, we've been improving on being generous to the community around us. This is important, not just because it's an expression of our faith, but because the need is great. There are pockets of poverty near our church that bring the poverty level to about 20% nearby. One of the things we do to support our needy neighbors is contribute to Sacred Heart Center's food pantry the first Sunday of every month. It's commendable that we have been increasing our contributions over the past few months (70 lbs. of food/health items in April, 74 lbs. in May, and 104 lbs. in June). Most of us at Central don't have to worry about where our next meal is coming from. Therefore, I would encourage you to see giving to our local food pantry as an expression of love for Jesus Christ. When you shop the last week of the month consider taking along a list of Sacred Heart's most needed items (available in our sanctuary or online). When I'm shopping for our neighbors, I also try to purchase the most nutritious product on the list. I say when we give to help needy neighbors, it is both an expression of our faith and a way to nurture our faith as well. We give to neighbors in our local community as well as far away (for example the Ukraine offering for UMCOR). Regardless, living by the Spirit will ultimately bring us closer to God and bless others.

Blessings,

Pastor Shayne

Pastor Shayne will have a sermon series in July on "Communing with Creation." Here are some details:

July 3 – Gen. 1:1 - 26a – "The Yin and Yang of Creation"
July 10 – Gen. 1:26 - 2:3 – "Good Stewardship of the Earth"
July 17 – Romans 8:18-25; Rev. 21:1-2, 22:1-5 –
"The Ultimate Renewal of Creation"



July & August Birthdays

Sara Manner
7/3

Ashley Stott
8/2

Bill Pollok
8/27

LaVelle Cobb
7/18

Phyllis Putze
8/4

Billy Motley
8/29

We're sending birthday hugs your way!

Food Pantry

Every 1st Sunday we collect non-perishable food items to support the local food pantry ministry of our neighbor Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Perry St. If you wish to send a monetary donation, you may send it to the church office.

ART | DRAMA | MUSIC | DANCE

CREATE

INTERGENERATIONAL ART CAMP

JULY 25-28 5:00 - 8:00 PM @ CENTRAL UMC

REGISTER www.bit.ly/create-artcamp



Current NA Meetings:

Sundays @ 7:00PM
Wednesdays @ 5:30PM
Fridays @ TBD

An Independence Day Prayer

Father,

Today we think of our nation's independence. The ability that we have to worship you freely, openly, and without the threat of persecution. We ultimately thank You for bestowing that freedom on us as a nation. May we use that freedom to help lead others to the true freedom that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus, our LORD. May we forever praise and honor Your name. Amen.