

A Word from Pastor Shayne...

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6: 1-12 (NRSV)

In a healthy church most everyone plays a role in the church's operation, mission, and outreach. In Acts 6 we see some delegation of tasks. In the early church, the distribution of food had been uneven and was apparently being neglected. They needed some leaders to ensure fair and efficient distribution of food. This allowed everyone to have food, and the apostles could focus on what they were called to do, share the word and preach.

Before I entered pastoral ministry, I was serving as the Chair of the Worship Committee at Good Shepherd. This committee had to make sure there were acolytes, liturgists, and communion stewards for all three services. Our committee also became involved in investigating and deciding on a new sound system to meet the congregation's growing needs. There were a lot of moving parts just in this one corner of Good Shepherd's ministry. Many roles that didn't seem important, were indeed necessary, behind the scenes activities essential to the life of the church. I took my turn helping with some of the roles. However, it took all of us working together sharing our spiritual gifts for ministry to allow the church to share Christ's grace.

All United Methodist churches are called to make new disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. How it gets lived out in a local context depends on the congregation. I know we don't have a large congregation at Central, but we are God's mission outpost in Manchester. As we progress in our revitalization at Central, there are many tasks that we're going to need help with. I appreciate the hard work a number of you have done to help us make progress in this process. If you don't have a ministry role at Central already, I'd encourage you to talk with me about how your spiritual gifts and passions can help us be Christ to Manchester.

God Bless You, *Pastor Shayne*

A TRIP TO REMEMBER: THE KIDS TAKE WASHINGTON, DC!



Our kids and youth had a chance to get away over Spring Break and in celebration of Easter. Our group traveled to Washington D.C. via the Amtrak train and spent a day exploring on foot! The day began with lots of fun and activity engaging with the interactive exhibits at the Museum of the Bible. The impressive and life-like exhibits gave a walk through the kids through major stories of the Hebrew Bible, first-century Nazareth, and the story of how Jesus' followers became a thriving society. Next up was lunch at a nearby food court. In the afternoon, the group visited the Smithsonian National Museum of American

History where they saw iconic dresses of first ladies of the U.S. and a huge collection of older forms of transportation. The kids and chaperones wrapped up the day with dinner at Union Station and a quiet (most were asleep!) train ride home. The gift shops were a hit at every stop, of course! More than just a fun way to close out Spring Break, this trip was a first for many of our kids...first time on a train, first time in DC, and our ministry's first trip outside of Virginia in recent years! As you can see from the picture below of the youngest travelers, the excitement of the day brought great joy and exhaustion! We would like to extend a special thank you to Trinity UMC for helping to provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner for everyone!



May & June Birthdays

Pastor Shayne
5/11

Mark Putze
5/21

Jordan Bondurant
5/22

Brittany James
5/26

Kelly Desclos-Estes
6/12

*We're sending birthday hugs
your way!*

Easter Offering

Thank you to everyone who faithfully gave to our Easter offering this year. We exceeded our goal of 12,000! We have received \$13,140 in gifts. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!! If you have not given and would like to, you may still do so.

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.



Faithgateway.com



Wehavekids.com

Central Arts Camp

Monday, July 25 - Thursday, July 28
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Art and music instruction in a faith context for all ages

Light dinner provided

Cost: \$5.00/day, or \$20.00 for the week



You have been a beautiful example of God's love.
May the Lord bless YOU with love and joy on
Mother's Day and always.

Happy Mother's Day!

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
Proverbs 31