

CENTRAL CONNECTION

Upcoming Events

February 12
7pm - Ladies' Bible Study

February 14
6pm - Ash Wednesday
Service at Central

February 15
7pm - Immerse Study @
Parsonage

February 18
10am - Sunday school
-Immerse Study
11am - Worship

UPCOMING

Feb 25 - Potluck Lunch

**Don't forget to check out
our website or Facebook
page to find worship
services, newsletters and
more!**



So, what exactly is a sabbatical? Well, in the academic world it is usually a semester "off" from teaching classes to focus on a major writing project. In the church world, a sabbatical is a season of rest and renewal.

Current statistics tell us that less than 10% of people who begin in ministry will retire as ministers. That means less than 1 in 10 clergy survive a lifetime of professional ministry. Sabbaticals are designed to help pastors renew and refuel their souls so they can continue in serving the church for the long haul.

I've been serving churches as paid staff for 20 years now. Pastors carry a lot of heavy things from leading worship and writing sermons, to hearing the hard realities of peoples' lives without being able to talk about it, to medical crises, to late night phone calls and texts, to community activities - the list is endless. A longer time away, like a sabbatical, helps pastors attend to their own spiritual walk and needs - which are often neglected while caring for others.

I will be on sabbatical August, September and October of this year. When I came to Central, the search team and I agreed to a three month sabbatical after every five years of ministry here. This will technically be at six years - but that's because of my DMin project!

While away I plan to do a lot of porch sitting, reading, napping, gardening, and experimental cooking. I also plan to read the entire Bible during that three months and read up on prayer practices (and spend time practicing those practices!) I plan to spend at least a couple of weeks at the DOC camp in Athens and a week in Arkansas with some friends to unwind. And, Dad, Chip and I are looking at a short family trip since we haven't been able to do that in a number of years. I'm also looking to find a new hobby or two. I will continue with therapy and spiritual direction during this time as well and I plan to visit several churches (DOC and not) for worship on Sundays. I'll have a more detailed plan as August gets closer.

Pastor Lory

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Nation and World, Tammy Brockman, Nancy Atkison, Madison Wardell, Charlotte Reagan, Brylie, Bob Miller, CASA Kids, Tony Barker, Vivian Contareas, Sharon Brown, Dieter Stratemann, Shirley Miller, Ken Backus, Reese Handley, Christy Hoff, Chad Brown, Joe Kalal, Morgan Heck, Charlotte Reed, Carolyn Tapley, Pam Kessler, Paula Whitfield, Steve McCoulaugh, Johnny Martin, Denise Chamberlain, Lynn Hanson, Molly Major, Jack and Shirley Roberts, Ben Hill, Margaret Centofanti, Nicole Rahmer, Dean Prine, Connie O'Neill, Chris Tettleton, Brenda Sutton, David Howard, Abel Jesus Hernandez. Kal Luke, Barbara Saunders, Nicole Saunders, Sandy Major, Patrick Major, Crystal Shelton, Yvonne Mesler, Raenell Nunneley, LaQuita Hewitt, Clara Boyd, Scott Baker, Steve, Bruce Major, Hubbell Kabisch, Christy Mesler
Family of: Patty Dunn, Linda Marshall

Worship This Week:

Elders: Kabisch, Veale
Deacons: Mesler, Seay
Communion: Prine
Sermon Text: Mark 1:9-15
Sun School: Immerse Wk 7

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Ash Wednesday
February 14th
6pm
Central Christian



We will host a combined Ash Wednesday service with First United Methodist Church in our sanctuary at 6pm on February 14th as we begin the season of Lent together.



The 2024 Lawn Care sign up sheet is on the stand in the sanctuary. Sign up for a month or two and help keep the church grounds looking beautiful!

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Our Central devotional booklets are available on the table in the sanctuary and the foyer. Pick up a copy and use them as a guide for your reflections during Lent. Thank you to all who contributed by writing a short