

May - June 2018

The Word

From Spencerville Trinity United Methodist Church

Pastoral Message

Greetings to you in the strong name of Jesus Christ, At the time I write this article the weather is still playing



tricks on us. As you read this, I hope spring has sprung and the outside is enjoyable. Coming out of Holy Week with a wonderful celebration of our risen Savior, I can't help but receive in my spirit the focus on how we make the nonessentials, essential and the essential, nonessential. Our denomination as a whole is struggling through a conflicted spirit that may end up in schism. It breaks my heart that we, who are called Christian, fight to the point of separation.

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The movement of the Spirit of God is nothing new and neither is power struggle among people. When the power struggle of humanity reaches a climax, we all end up losing and look anemic to the world. Our fight and disunity is not a good marketing moment for people who do not know Jesus as their Savior. Who wants to invite people to come when "brothers and sisters in Christ" fight and bicker with each other over nonessentials?

The gospel is the message we should proclaim on a consistent basis. The gospel of our risen Savior is THE essential message. We must proclaim it by voice and by action in order to be a good and consistent witness to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus. I recently read Daniel 9.1-19 and verses 5-7 stood out to me:



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Our Mission
We exist to **EMBRACE** our community with the real hope of Jesus Christ, to **EQUIP** people of God with a faith that works for real people, and to **SEND** disciples into the world to make a difference for Jesus Christ

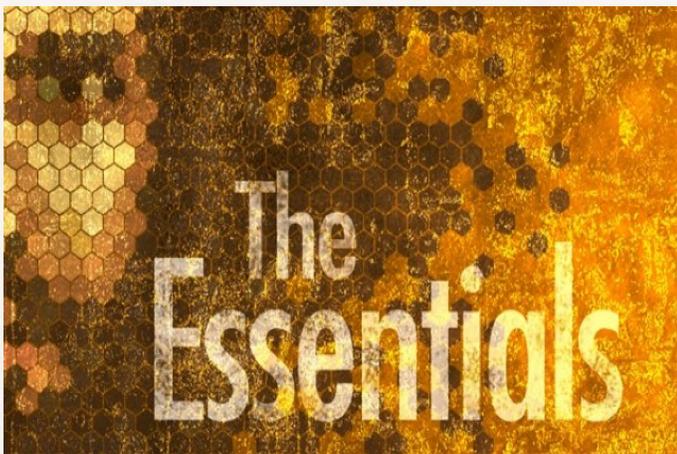
Core Values
Relationships, Belongings, Beacon of Hope, Commitment, Discipleship, Service, Love, Compassion, Celebration

Our Vision
To be a church of **REAL PEOPLE** offering the **REAL HOPE** of Jesus Christ.

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5 [W]e have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. 7 To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame...

The passage in Daniel applies to our current clash more than ever in churches everywhere and in our specific denomination of The United Methodist Church. There are prophetic voices screaming that if we do not listen to the Spirit of God and follow his lead into the future then we will shrink and become nothing. Since the inception of the Christian Church, we have sanctified what the world was doing by making it our own for the proclamation of the gospel of Christ. The prophetic voices are not screaming to adopt what the culture is doing but screaming to adopt what God is doing in the midst of chaos and conflict.



We all must have open eyes and open ears to see and hear what God is doing and where He is taking us. We must be willing to give up our nonessentials and give in to God's essential. Sometimes being obedient stretches us to the point of being uncomfortable and removes us from the familiar. Paul reminds us, 19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in

order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

I don't know what will happen to our denomination or our churches in the future. A lot of decisions will need to be made and what must continue is the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ by all means necessary. It's about disciple-making, not about us.

Consultation on Common Texts, Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2011).

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 9:19-23.

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Josh

Converge

Converge is a youth-focused weekend event that is dedicated toward uniting churches together in order to create a movement that furthers the work of God in our area. Converge 2018 was held in Lima in early April. Some of

Trinity's youth had been in attendance for the event. While there, they were a part of fellowship, worship and praise, and testimonies on how God has affected peoples' lives. We asked some of the youth what stood out about Converge, and what they took away from it.

“The emotion and power of the speakers.”

-Ashleigh Volbert

“The experience of people helping people, even though we didn't all know each other.”

-Riley Edgington

“The whole movement makes you feel closer to Christ.”

-Emily Byglin

They made new friends and felt new growth from this experience. They also received bracelets with different colors, symbolizing: sin leads to death, but if we love God, we will have faith, which leads to everlasting life.

Please pray that the fire the youth felt at Converge continues to burn for Christ, and that Converge continues to change lives to bring more children to God.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

May 13: Mother's Day

May 20: Community Breakfast
Proceeds to benefit youth summer camp

May 20: Lola Rockhold's 100th Birthday
Open invitation, 2-4pm in café, hall, and foyer

June 3-6: Annual Conference
June 5: Pastor Josh's Ordination

June 17: Father's Day

June 21-23: Summerfest