

Central United Methodist Church  
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# Central News

Central United Methodist Church

Return Service Requested

## June 10, 2019

**June 9– 12**  
 Holston Annual Conference  
 Please pray for the Annual Conference

**June 12**  
 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study  
 7:30pm Choir Practice

**June 13**  
**Church Office Closing at 11 am**

**June 14**  
 10:00am Kitchen Angels

**June 17**  
 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 6:30pm United Methodist Men's  
 Potluck Dinner  
 All men of the church  
 are welcome

**June 20**  
 Noon WEO's Potluck Lunch  
 Fellowship Hall  
 1:30pm Grief Group

**NEWSLETTER  
 DEADLINE  
 JUNE 24**

**SAVE THE DATE!  
 VBS JULY 15-18**



**Central UMC Members Celebrating  
 SPECIAL BIRTHDAY'S IN JUNE**  
 Alva Suttle on June 1  
 Frank Agee on June 29th

**The Tongue and I**  
 My tongue and I have been living together for more than fifty years. We've had a lively relationship, but at times it has been a trying one.

The first few years weren't difficult, because no one held me responsible for what I did with my tongue. In fact, it seemed I could do no wrong. Everything I said seemed to delight my parents. They were astonished at each new word, almost as if I were fount of wisdom. Often they could hardly wait to report to friends and relatives about the triumphs of my tongue.

One day, however, there was a sharp change. It happened when I repeated, under other circumstances, something which my parents considered "cute." Buoyed by the success of my tongue, I ventured the same performance later that day in front of visitors. This time, to my surprise, it brought a reprimand. That was the day I began to learn that in all of my lifetime I would face no greater task than the proper use and control of my tongue.

Gradually, I learned that with the tongue I not only can hurt the person with whom I speak, I can even hurt someone who isn't present. This means that the tongue has power beyond any physical weapon. With the tongue I can hurt great causes. With it I can injure goodness and love and faith and hope. Indeed, in a sense I can even hurt God, or at least causes and person which are cherished by God.

Don't think I exaggerate the power of the tongue. Wiser persons have made the same point. The author of Proverbs wrote, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." The Book of Proverbs contains warnings against the dangers and sins of the tongue in almost every chapter. The wise man knew by painful experience, I venture! C.S. Lewis said that the book of Psalms mentions hardly any evil more often than misuse of the tongue. The Apostle James describes the tongue as "a fire, a world of iniquity"; and he notes that while humanity has been able to bring every kind of beast, bird, serpent and creature of the sea under control, he has not yet been able to tame the tongue, "an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." A contemporary writer might add that we have been able to bring space, electricity, atom and hydrogen under control—but not yet the tongue.

Let's consider some of the problems with the tongue. We might begin at an obvious level, the sin of saying things which are not true. It shouldn't be necessary to spend much time on this matter, for honesty is the most basic of qualities. If a person's word can't be depended upon, what can? But I am shocked, again and again, at how casually we sometimes use the truth, giving just a twist here and an exaggeration there, until we have changed the whole effect. Surely there is such a thing as truth of intention as well as truth in actual expression. When we tell something in such a way that it is likely to be misinterpreted, we cannot really claim to be thoroughly honest, for we have the intention of a lie even though we may avoid its actual form.

We can be parties to dishonesty by repeating information for which we have not adequate certainty. Do you ever find yourself saying something like, "I don't really know if this is true, but here's what Joe told me." In many instances, such a report may not be harmful, but often it is. And of course, much of the time we don't even bother to preface our statements with a disclaimer about their veracity; we simply repeat what we've heard, giving it all the authority of truth.

(continued inside)

### **PROJECT CROSSROADS 2019 MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

This year our local mission to Project Crossroads in Marion, VA is scheduled for July 8-12th. All adults and youth are invited to go for the entire week or for just a day or two, as you are able. Our team will be doing construction work for underserved people in the community. If you are interested in participating or helping with food preparation please see Mandy Freedom (jmpfreedom@gmail.com). There will be an organizational meeting in June, so stay tuned.

### **Meet and Greet Schedule**

**June 16**      **June 23**      **June 30**  
**GYFT**      **Pairs & Spares**      **Missions**  
**Father's Day**      **New Spirit**

ATTENDANCE	May 26	June 2	June 9
Morning Worship	93	92	74
Sunday School	96	86	90
Traditional Worship	89	84	89
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>163</b>

**New River District Lay Servant  
 Ministries Trainings**  
 Saturday, August 17 8:30am — 4:30pm  
 First United Methodist Church, Hillsville  
 Cost: \$30

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**  
 Logan Haynes-Army Reserves  
 Ryan Haynes- Army Reserves  
 Kerry Keys- South Korea  
 Elizabeth Venegas- North Carolina  
 Aaron Smith— Texas

The Tongue & I continued.

But, a statement doesn't have to be untrue in order to be unworthy. Some things which are true still ought not to be said because they are unkind and destructive. Some people justify this kind of talk by saying, "I believe in being frank." That treasured frankness may cloak an inner meanness. The New Testament tells us that there are some things of which it is a shame even to speak. Things may be true, yet also be corrupting and degrading, harmful to the person who speaks, to the hearer, and to the one about whom we have spoken.

In the changing styles of the times, we are currently caught up in a fad of frankness. In the opinion of many, including some in literary and entertainment circle, there is virtue in the public use of profanity and scatological language. They suggest that if such language expresses your emotions, it would be dishonest not to use it publicly. The fallacy in their reason is clear. It disregards the feelings and rights of others. People who are considerate of others ask themselves what their conduct will do to those who are with them. It is one of the most serious condemnations of our times that we have become indifferent to other people in matters of taste in language. We have made frankness a greater virtue than thoughtfulness.

Another problem of the tongue is that we talk too much. Dr. Konrad Adenauer once said, "Sometimes I doubt whether there is divine justice. All parts of the human body get tired eventually—except the tongue. And I feel this is unjust." Isn't it strange?—no matter how long we talk, our tongues never grow weary. The voice may give out after a few hours, and the mind may have given up before that though without our knowing it, but the tongue goes merrily on.

The wise writer of Proverbs warns us, "In the multitude of words, there wanteth not sin." That is, if you keep talking long enough, you're sure eventually to say the wrong thing. A colloquial translation of the Bible puts it this way: "Don't talk so much. You keep putting your foot in your mouth. Be sensible and turn off the flow!" How many times in my life I wish I had "turned off the flow" sooner than I did! In my youth, I knew a godly man who said, I sometime pray, as I leave a conversation, that people will forget what I have said." Believe me, I have often offered the same prayer.

Even good people, if they talk long enough, will say the wrong thing. Partly, this is because as we continue talking we become more casual and unrestrained—which of course, is a good thing in many ways, but carried too far, can become bad. It's partly because human nature eggs us on to top the other person, and for that matter, to top ourselves. Has the other person said a shocking thing? Then I'll be more shocking. Did my last bit of humor evoke laughter? Then this time I'll have to get more laughter even if I abandon good taste in order to do so.

The average American speaks 26,000 words a day. There's no doubt some of us go over our quota. The finest thing some people could do would be to cut verbal production by perhaps fifty per cent! If they did, they'd cut their troubles by seventy five percent. All of us ought to ask ourselves how many of our 26,000 words are trivial, how many are unnecessary, how many are questionable, and how many are downright harmful. And by painful contrast, we should ask how many are spiritually productive and how many bring blessing and gladness to others.

When one thinks of all the harm which can be done by talking too much, we may conclude that the best thing is to give up speech altogether. Thus some wise man said, "A man may regret his speech; never his silence." but this is not true. Sometimes silence can be a sin of the tongue altogether as evil as the ill-spoken word. That is, there is the danger that we will be silent when we ought to speak. When a person's reputation is being maligned, when a lie is told, when a great truth is discredited, it is a wicked thing to remain silent. For many of us, evil silence is even more of a danger than careless speech.

This was the sin of Germany in the 1930's, that good people remained silent when the Jews were persecuted. This is the sin of genteel people, who would rather allow a reputation to be tarnished than to disturb a dinner conversation. This is the sin of timid people, who act as if they have no convictions when they fear they will be laughed at, or thought corny or naïve. By our silence we can become party to a crime.

Thus, we are sometimes in danger of talking too much, we are in as much danger, under other circumstances, of talking too little. The tongue is a power to be used well, not to be overused, misused, or abandoned. To abandon God's gift of speech is as evil as to abuse it.

Buckminster Fuller, the twentieth century Renaissance man, frequently instructs an audience, "Stick your tongue way out before a mirror. It is a strange device. If you were tongueless and someone came offering to sell you a tongue, would you buy such a thing?" In some of life's darker moments, we think we'd gladly sell it to even the lowest bidder. But on reflection we know that the tongue, however strange its appearance, is almost priceless. The power of speech identifies us as human beings. The tongue is the major transmitter of thought. Personality is the quality of the divine, and speech is the single most significant mark of personality.

Jesus put the power and importance of the tongue in eternal terms. He warned, "On the day of judgement men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

The tongue is related to so many weaknesses. It is a faithful slave to our pride. It can verbalize our lust, it is the noisy proclaimer of our stupidities. Isn't it strange that the tongue can charge ahead at such a breakneck speed when the brain itself is stumbling along? Surely we need help if we are to master this unruly instrument!

(Continued on next page)

The Tongue and I continued

So what shall we do with such a powerful instrument as this, something which can bless and curse humanity, and which will be a basis for our judgment before God! Surely we have to approach it with humility, admitting that we have sometimes misused its power and that we continue to be in danger of doing so. The Apostle said that if a person does not sin with his tongue, he is perfect. I expect not many of us would claim that kind of perfection; and if we did, no doubt someone who knows us would be quick to set the record straight.

Many centuries ago a brilliant young man named Isaiah came to the holy temple one day. There he received a vision of God. As he comprehended the majesty and holiness of God, one thing struck him, above all else; the evil of his speech. Of all the matters which might have distressed him, this one dominated: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the mist of a people of unclean lips."

At that moment a divine messenger came to Isaiah, carrying a burning coal from the altar of the temple. With it the angel touched Isaiah's mouth, saying, "Behold this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven."

Our tongues are capable of almost unlimited blessings....with these tongues we can speak words of hope, with them we can console, with them we can plead for great causes. The tongue can be a channel of love, of inspiration, and of strength.."

**"Honey in the Lion"  
From a Collection of Sermons  
by J. Ellsworth Kalas**

The Pastor shared this with the staff at a recent staff meeting and gave me permission to share it in this newsletter. I hope you find it as thought provoking as I did.  
Sandra Stanwitz

*Mission of the Month*

**MISSION OF THE MONTH —AUGUST**

**KIDS**—School just ended but we're already preparing for next year! August Kids is a local program sponsored by the Radford Clothing Bank and hosted here at CUMC that provides vouchers for qualifying families to purchase back-to-school clothing for their children at Walmart in Fairlawn. New clothing provides a positive and self-confident way for students to start the new school year. Please give generously to serve the children right here in our community and help them have a great school year.



Austin Dangerfield	June 1
Alva Suttle	June 1
Kendal Colley	June 2
William (Bill) Goode	June 5
Joe Hester	June 5
Frances Williams	June 5
Regina Golding	June 6
Betsy Albert	June 8
Georgene Hash	June 8
Harold Sutherland	June 8
Christian Rippe	June 9
Diane Goode	June 10
Pat Collins	June 11
Hunter Shrewsbury	June 12
Sharon Taylor	June 14
Casey Hamblin	June 15
Roger Hollins	June 15
Lee Simms	June 15
Meredith Woods	June 15
Owen Saunders	June 17
Garnet Hall	June 19
Clair Fender	June 20
Connie Hoover	June 20
Wendy Holsinger	June 25
Pat Casey	June 27
Eddie Crews	June 27
Richard Oliver	June 28
Frank Agee	June 29
Sandy Hill	June 29

**Wesley Foundation  
Golf Tournament  
Saturday June 29th 1:00pm  
\$75 per player**  
(includes Green fees, card, 18 holes & goodie bags)  
**Dinner, Entertainment & Prizes**  
**Event Contact: 276-688-6151**  
**Golf Contact: 717-371-3575**