

Hi, I'm Pastor Scott. Today I'm going to talk to you about **Vibrant Tradition** which is one of the mission values that we hold here at Central. Now Vibrant Tradition is sort of an odd coupling of words. It reminds us that there's something deep that we all hold onto, but that foundation is what we really experience in vibrant ways as we reinterpret it for today. To me, vibrant tradition is all of these elements of church and worship and ministry that we know and love and that we take and that we've received a gift from those who came before us and give it a vibrancy that meets the needs of us as a congregation of today - but also meets the needs of the world outside.

Giving something new life is refreshing and it's a great gift. I think about that in terms of what Jesus said in John. He says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." Vibrant tradition reminds us that we're rooted in that vine - that's the tradition part; but we're also the fruit of that vine - that's the vibrancy part. Life having vibrancy, and growing bearing fruit - that's a gift to other people. That's an important passage for us to remember when we're talking about Vibrant Tradition.

Another example might be a skyscraper. Early on when architects and engineers started to build buildings that went to the sky, they realized that it wasn't enough just to make them strong. They also had to be nimble so that they could move in turbulent weather. In fact, I read an article about one of the skyscrapers in Houston that survived a hurricane that came through. Researchers who were in the building never worried about the structural integrity, but they were on quite a ride as the building swayed 4-5 feet during the storm.

Vibrant tradition is a bit like that. We are rooted in the tradition of the church; we find strength in our foundation. But we also have the ability to adapt and change with what we're presented with in life - the calls for us to be agile. We can do that as a church

As a way of illustrating that, beginning August 6 through October, I'm going to preach a series of sermons about the Apostles Creed. To many of you the Apostles Creed is something you can just say without thinking about it. I never heard the Apostles Creed until I was in my mid-twenties. It's become an important part of my life. Not only does it instill faith and talk about that but it also allows us to raise questions and concerns and wrestle with our faith. In that way Vibrant Tradition is about the rootedness of this ancient creed and also the vibrancy of our context bringing questions of faith to that very creed. It also allows us to reinterpret that about what it means to be alive today as a person of faith. So, I'm excited about that sermon series and I hope that you'll attend worship over the course of those months here at Central. You can also tune into us at our TV Ministry to watch those sermons and think about them.

Again, Vibrant Tradition for me is that sense of being rooted in something that's very foundational, that gives us strength; but it's also the vibrancy that gives new life and a sense of agility that allows us to be in ministry in relevant ways today.

Thanks for tuning into this addition of our monthly newsletter. I hope that in some way you experience Vibrant Tradition even in your own life - knowing who you are and who your family was and how you got to this place; also realizing that God calls us into each day in an appreciation of God's grace that allows us to live vibrantly for our faith and for Jesus Christ.

Vibrant tradition - its Central to Life here at Central United Church, and I hope it is for you also.

Thanks so much -God bless you.