



LAMPLIGHTER

Central United Methodist Church • Richmond, IN





A Message from Pastor Tom

"The LORD says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'" - Psalm 32:8

I am reading *Canoeing in the Mountains*. It is a book on Christian leadership by pastor and theologian Tod Bolsinger. In this book, Bolsinger uses the Lewis and Clark expedition as a metaphor for the Church today. In 1803, following the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead the Corps of Discovery in search of a water route that would connect the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark were chosen for their leadership skills, military background, and frontier experience. With a team of seasoned soldiers and adventurers, the expedition set out to find the route that everyone was certain existed. After months of traveling the rivers of the West, they reached the Continental Divide and expected to see the Pacific on the other side. Instead they found themselves looking out over the Rocky Mountains. In the words of one expedition member, "the mountains continue as far as our eyes could extend. They extended much further than we expected." It was at this point in the journey that for all of their skill and expertise in navigating rivers, they were confronted with the reality that what had gotten them this far was not going to be what got them to their destination.

For churches in the United States today, Central included, we are facing a similar reality: what has gotten us to where we are will not be what moves us into the future. Much of what we understand about how to 'be' and 'do' church has

changed and we need to begin looking at different ways to engage in ministry. Much like the Lewis and Clark expedition's venturing into unfamiliar territory, the journey of the Church now means stepping off the map of what we know and what is familiar. In the book, Bolsinger contrasts technical challenges with adaptive challenges. Technical challenges are the things to which we already have solutions available and are 'within our repertoire.' Leading worship; managing resources and programs; providing pastoral care; and other established practices are examples of the solutions to technical challenges. Adaptive challenges "cannot be solved with one's existing knowledge and skills, requiring people to make a shift in their values, expectations, attitudes, or habits of behavior" (p. 42). Uncharted territory like the Lewis and Clark expedition encountered, or like the church faces today, require looking for new ways forward.

Bolsinger defines leadership as "energizing a community of people toward their own transformation in order to accomplish a shared mission in the face of a changing world." It means that the pastors, staff, leadership, and the congregation all must experience transformation (growth) to accomplish the mission (going) that God has given us. SoulShift has been just one part of the growth that we desire to see God bring about at Central so that we can be something more than we have been and help us to make God's visions a reality. As the world changes, the answers will seldom be clear. It will be necessary for us to experience ongoing transformation, and at times it will be uncomfortable. However, as the Psalmist reminds us, God will be with us and guide us. May we all seek God's wisdom and allow Him to be our guide so that we can be the church that God desires and that the world needs us to be.
IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom



Ponderings from Pastor Curtis

“Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.”

Read Philippians 3:1-11. This month, we are continuing our way through Philippians. (I have now realized that we will not finish this year!). In this paragraph, Paul begins with the word “Finally.” Like when a preacher might use the word in a sermon, it doesn’t mean that Paul was almost finished with his letter. It means that what he is about to say is the point that he really wanted to get to. This indicates that this is what Paul sees as one of his primary purposes for having written them in the first place.

He begins by instructing them to be aware of people who are still trying to impose circumcision on the Church, saying that the true “circumcision” is “worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” (v.3). He then goes on to describe that if we were to “put confidence in the flesh”, or in other words see faith as a matter of our external accomplishments, then he would have more reason to have such confidence than almost anyone else. He was “circumcised on the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless” (v.4-6). We might not readily

understand how impressive those credentials are, but it would be sufficient to say that when it comes to adherence to the Law, Paul is at the top of the heap. And yet, he goes on to say, “but whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him...” (v.7-9).

Paul is saying that all of his accomplishments which he used to prize so much, he now realizes that they are far less valuable than the pursuit of Christ. In fact, he uses some very strong language to describe it. In v.8, the word that is often translated “rubbish” really means “excrement of animals” or “dung” (Yikes!). This is how he sees his impressive accomplishments in comparison with the pursuit of Christ! Paul recognizes this and uses strong language to convey to the church that any accomplishment, possession, earned righteousness, or status they might ever have is nothing in comparison with the pursuit of Christ. Paul’s only goal for life is “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings... in order that I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (v.10-12). The question for us is, do we recognize this same truth in our lives as well? Are we pursuing Christ with the same awareness that truly what matters is Him and not every other things we might accomplish? Let’s ask ourselves this month, are there things in our lives that we prize more highly than Christ? Do we allow other things to take priority of our time or have we recognized our one life goal as to “know Him and the power of His resurrection”?

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Curtis



October 29th • 5pm - 6pm
Central United Methodist Church

We are looking for many volunteers to help pass out candy to our visiting neighborhood kids and their families! You are not required to decorate your vehicle but there is a contest for best decorated car! We are also looking for a few volunteers to help serve food and greet our guests as they come. We are also accepting donations of candy to pass out to our visitors. These donations can be dropped off in the office workroom during our normal business hours. If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions please call the office at 765-962-8543 or email Christin at christin@richmondcumc.com

We hope to see everyone there!

Primetimers

Please join us Wednesday Oct. 18th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. You must reserve a seat to attend. To reserve your spot, please call the office at 765-962-8543 or email Christin at christin@richmondcumc.com

Friendship Circle

will meet on Thursday, October 19, at 9:30 in the church parlor.

Right Now Media

As you might be aware our church has a subscription to RightNow Media, which means that everyone in our church now has access to an extensive library of video Bible studies! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

RightNow Media is a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work and in your neighborhood. It has videos for everyone - kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals - all aimed at helping to spur spiritual growth. If you have not accessed it before, there is not time like the present! If you have not received an email invitation, please email Pastor Curtis, to be signed up! (curtis.banker@inumc.org)

Altar Flowers

We are in the process of updating our Altar flower orders. If you would like to give flowers to be placed on the altar, please contact Christin at 765-962-8543. The cost is \$25 per order. If you have given orders in the past and would like to continue to give, please call the office at 765-962-8543 so we can make sure we have the correct billing information and message. **If we do not hear from you, the order will NOT continue in 2018.** all orders for the remainder of this year, will be placed. If you have any questions, please contact Christin.

Creative Hands

Thank you for another successful Pop-Up. UMW uses these profits to fund their many missions. We have new projects to work on on October 12th and 26th, and a noodle making day in preparation for a November "Just for Central" Pop-up. The Sunday before Thanksgiving we will have some selected gift items, our noodles, and pecans for sale just for church members.

Dinners for Six

Several of you have asked about the next Dinners for Six. The church schedule is pretty full this Fall, so we have decided to wait until Spring to schedule the next one. This will give us something to look forward to after the winter. Thanks to all who participated (around 70) in the first one.

UMW News:

On Thursday, Nov. 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, UMW will have a Memorial Service for members who have died, a Love Offering will be collected, and we will vote on and install our new UMW officers for 2018. Refreshments will be served in the parlor by the Friendship Circle. All women are welcome.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming UMW Christmas Luncheon, right after church on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Everyone is invited, men, women, children and teens.

Our Neighborhood Christmas

Our Neighborhood Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 9th. If you are inclined, we still need 3', 4' and tabletop trees to decorate and donate for Our Neighborhood Christmas. These can be dropped off in the church office workroom. Thank you for all your support and contributions.



THE TRIBE NEWS.

“FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, I WILL BE WITH THEM” - MATTHEW 18:20

Fall Retreat

We will be camping at the Lindahl property! Friday, October 6 to Saturday October 7 from 6pm to 10am. Please bring a tent(if you have one), bug spray, closed-toed shoes, clothes that can get dirty (messy games), sleeping bag, pillow, trail clothes (long pants). Cost is \$20 each

High School Meeting Opportunities

Saturday, October 7th: at Amanda's house (text 806-759-0485 for an address)

Saturday, October 28: Escape Room-first 8 to sign-up and pay \$20 will join us for an escape room experience!

Tribe Meetings

October Series:

“Aliens, Zombies, and Black Cats”

(6th-12th grade)

Sunday, October 1:

5-7 at Central

Sunday, October 8:

5-7 at Central

Sunday, October 15:

Richmond Fall Break-Youth will be at First

Sunday, October 22:

Centerville Fall Break-Youth at Central

Sunday, October 29:

Service Project: Help set-up for Trunk or Treats at Central UMC and First UMC

Mystery Dinner Fundraiser

Back by popular demand. More action, more mystery! Audition and Rehearsal Schedule coming soon!

February 3rd, 6:00pm

Centerville MC - Dinner and Show

February 4th, 12:00pm

Central UMC - Lunch and Show



Calendar of Events AND Persons Serving

10/8	Coffee w/Pastor Tom	9:00am
10/9	Medical Monday	1:00pm
10/9	Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
10/10	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
10/12	Creative Hands	9:00am
10/12	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
10/14	Bread Baking	8:00am
10/16	Monday Morning Connection	9:00am
10/17	Bread Basket	4:30pm
10/19	Friendship Circle	9:30am
10/18	Primetimers	12:00pm
10/25	Lamplighter Assembly	9:00am
10/26	Creative Hands	9:00am
10/26	Ad Council	6:30pm
10/29	Membership Class	9:00am
10/29	Trunk or Treat	5:00pm

Planning an event?

If you are planning on an event you would like to be held here at the church, please contact the church office at 765-962-8543 at least a week before the event to make sure the date and time are available. Please make sure to fill out a church event form, located in the office, so we know how you would like your event set up and where you would like to have it. If you have any questions, please call Christin at 765-962-8543 or email christin@richmondcumc.com

Greeters

10/1	Phil & Mary Alice Bolser
10/8	Youth Greeters
10/15	Martha Hayes & Nettie Cates
10/22	Larry & Carol Moore
10/29	David & Sharon Miles

Acolytes

10/1	Jamie Puckett & Dylan Puckett
10/8	Ike Khamis & Olivia Swonder
10/15	Ava McCurdy & Anna Claire Ream
10/22	Annetta Itnyre
10/29	Aidan Snedigar & Alec Snedigar

Ushers

10/1	Eric Burkhardt, Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
10/8	Eric Burkhardt, Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
10/15	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
10/22	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
10/29	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Marvin Kenworthy

Scripture Readers

10/1	Kathy Robinson
10/8	Debbie Jenkins
10/15	Jen Huff
10/22	Ann Cashner
10/29	Jim Puckett

Children's Message

10/1	Pastor Tom / Pastor Curtis
10/8	Nicole Andreas
10/15	Alisa Clapp-Itnyre
10/22	Jen Huff
10/29	Ann Cashner

Altar Guild

Carol Bucher & Flo Arthur

