



APRIL

April

LAMPLIGHTER

Central United Methodist Church • Richmond, IN



“He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’” – Luke 11:1 (NRSV)

It is an interesting request of Jesus’ disciples. Of all the things they could have ask, it was that Jesus teach them to pray. They had listened to his teachings, shared in his out pouring of love, and witnessed the miracles. If they did not yet know, they were in the process of discovering the true nature of Jesus, and yet they ask to be taught to pray. In this verse, we are told that Jesus was praying and when he finished the disciples ask this question. We also read in their statement “teach us to prayer as John taught his disciples.” Was it the example that they witnessed of Jesus praying or their desire to be instructed as John was instructing his disciples that motivated the question? We will never know. However, I think we can safely conclude that for the disciples they recognized the value of prayer and desired to be better at it.

I recently read a quote posted by another United Methodist pastor. The quote was by Leonard Ravenhill

(1907-1994). He was an English evangelist and author who lead revivals and taught on the significance of prayer. Ravenhill said:

“Poverty-stricken as the church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.”

This quote, particularly the last sentence, has really stuck with me. I find myself reflecting on what that means in my life and for us as the Central UMC congregation. How intentional am I in my pray life? Have I truly embraced its significance as primary in all that I do? Like the disciples, do I recognize its value and desire to be better at it? I am still unwilling to admit these answers to myself, and based on that statement you are probably speculating correctly.

So why is prayer so important? What is it about prayer that everything else hinges upon it? In the challenge and reflecting that this quote has laid on my heart, I offer these possible answers.

- Prayer is our earnestly seeking a deeper relationship with God.
- Prayer is an honest, openness of who we are before the Creator of all.
- Prayer is humbling ourselves before God so that we may be transformed
- Prayer is an act of unity and solidarity among those who profess faith in Jesus Christ.
- Prayer is an attempt to be more like Jesus by following His example.
- Prayer is the most significant thing that we can do. You may have other ways that you would complete the statement, “Prayer is...” This was by no means an attempt at an exhaustive list, rather my own reflections of what prayer is in my life and/or what I aspire for it to be. Above all, Ravenhill’s words, “Failing here, we fail everywhere” has reminded me that any real, lasting, and significant thing that we will do as a congregation must begin with; be bathed in; surrounded and lifted by; and concluded in prayer. Not just my prayers, but our prayers. So Lord, teach us to pray. Teach us to lean on and trust in You, and You alone. Teach us to be a congregation, that if we are known for nothing else, becomes known as a church that prays. Because if we do, I believe there is nothing that You will not be able to accomplish through us.

IN CHRIST - Pastor Tom



Ponderings From Pastor Curtis

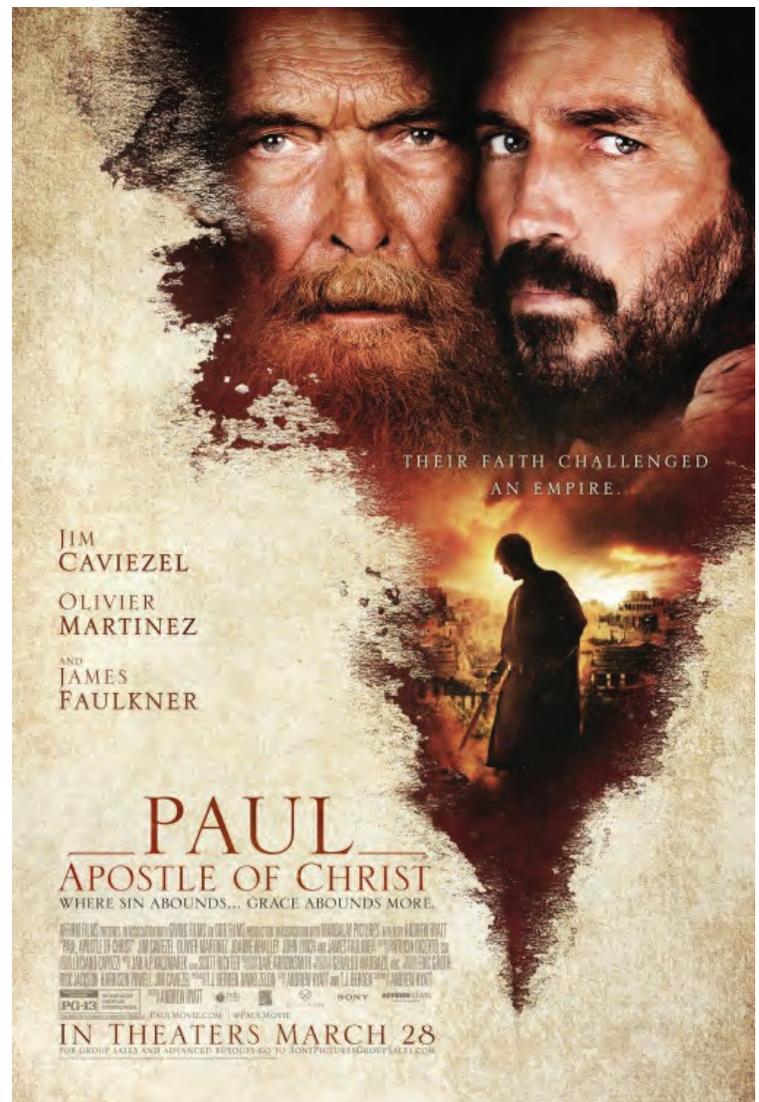
Read Philippians 4:10-20. After taking a month off, we are now returning to our journey through Philippians. In this paragraph, Paul has shifted to describing his personal situation and drawing a helpful lesson from it.

Paul demonstrates a Christ-like attitude of contentment and gratefulness. This passage is perhaps best summarized by Paul's familiar words in v.11-12. Referring to the previous verse in which he offers his thanks to the recipients for their concern, he writes, "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." In this passage, Paul demonstrates both contentment and gratitude for what he has been given. Paul's ability to be content is truly a manifestation of God's grace in his life. As has been mentioned in the past, it is important to note that Paul is writing this letter from prison. Consider also the other horrific events in his life which he has suffered for the sake of the Gospel (See 2 Corinthians 11:16-33). Paul certainly could have been justified in being discontent with his situation. And yet, here he is able to express contentment regardless of any of these circumstances. To what does Paul attribute his ability to be content? Verse 13 makes it clear, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." We typically think of this passage as meaning that we can conquer whatever obstacles we want given the fact that the Lord is on our side. The context of the passage, being one of a description of suffering in difficult circumstances, gives the verse some additional weight. Paul is able to be content, because of his recognition of the sufficiency of Christ.

Second, Paul demonstrates a genuine gratitude for all that he has been given. We see this in the thanks he offers to the Philippian church throughout the passage (v.10, v.14-19). He is grateful both to God and to the Philippians. What a

way to live! Contentment and gratitude. Can you imagine a life characterized by these two things? Often we find ourselves jealous of others, wanting something more than we have, or complaining about our present circumstances. Here Paul calls us to ask ourselves these questions: In what areas of my life am I discontent? Is this a holy discontent or an unholy one? In what areas have I been ungrateful? Ask the Lord to reveal these to you and commit to working on them. Another way to ask this is to ask yourself what do you see in your life for which you realize you should be grateful? Developing these attitudes was not something that Paul did in himself, but remember, we "can do everything through him who gives" us strength (v.13). Let's ponder these things this month.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Curtis



(As an aside, if you are interested in better understanding Paul's situation, I highly recommend the new movie, "Paul: Apostle of Christ" which is presently in theaters. It is a bit graphic, but portrays accurately the situation for the early Christians).

THE TRIBE NEWS

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

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE AND SAFETY AWARENESS TRAINING

\$\$\$
FUNDRAISER
FOR YOUTH
MISSION

SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH
10:00AM - 2:00PM
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1425 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, IN 47374

INSTRUCTOR
TOM KEARNS
FROM EARLHAM COLLEGE

EC

\$25 PER PERSON
AGES: 10 AND UP
THERE WILL BE A LIGHT LUNCH SERVED!
QUESTIONS OR RESERVATION, CALL 765-962-8543

Youth: We will provide the salad bar items for the fundraiser. Once we have a good estimate of participants, I will send out a donation list.



CAMP CAMP CAMP CAMP CAMP

Rising 6th -8th graders, it is time to get registered for camp! Register before April 16 and get the early bird rate.

Go to www.impact2818.org and register under youth camps, Camp Adventure AM261 (this is Sheri and Amanda's week) If you need a tuition assistance, please contact Sheri Koyles or Ted Chalk for a code to enter.

Camp is also available for students in rising grades 3rd-5th. Amanda Williams (a volunteer for TRIBE) will be directing at Camp Lakewood for LE301 for the week of July 22-27. Please contact Sheri Koyles at 806-759-0485 for more information about this age group.

MISSION TRIP UPDATE

July 7-14

We are now headed to Bluffton, IN to work with the Forgotten Children, INC and local home repair. At the end of the week we will be going to Cedar Point for the day. This is for all students in going into the 8th-12th grade. We are continuing with our planned fundraisers and will save any extra from this year to help us go to a farther destination next Summer. Please get your \$50 deposit in ASAP if you are planning on joining us this year

College Care Packages

We will be sending college student care packages out on Wednesday, April 4th. The theme is "Finals survival kit." Please feel free to donate items that can be sent throughout the year to show our students love from their church family! Things appreciated are: gum, mints, hot chocolate mix, packaged crackers, packaged easy meals, gift cards, home baked goodies, post-its, pens, pencils, etc. The TRIBE will package the items and have them ready to send. Please place all items in the tub located outside the main office.

CENTRAL NEWS

Altar Flowers

If you would like to give flowers to be placed on the altar for Sunday Worship, please contact Christin at 765-962-8543. The cost is \$25 per order and will be billed through Jack Daggy Flowers.

Care Chain

If you live alone, CUMC invites you to be a part of our new Care Chain. Those who love you will be put at ease to know you are in touch with someone every day. Choose the method you prefer: phone, text or email. Someone will contact you and you in turn will contact someone else. It will only take a few minutes at most, but the peace of mind will last all day. See Sally Sayre for more information. Final plans will be in place as soon as we have our list of participants.

Mission Advocates for the North Central Jurisdiction are Coming to Central!

Please join us at noon on April 5th for lunch and a program. All are invited to attend a UMW luncheon featuring speakers Steve and Gail Quigg, who have been serving as missionaries since 1979 in Aviation Ministries. Steve will thrill us with stories of his adventures flying airplanes for the UMC in Africa. Gail will delight us with an African style show. The lunch and program are FREE, but reservation are necessary. Simply sign up in the entry hallway, Sundays March 25 and April 1, then prepare to be delighted!

Calling all kids!

Whether you are a daughter, son, grandchild, niece or nephew, you are going to want to bring your favorite adult to "MAGIC MOMENTS" on May 4th.

The fun begins at 6:30 with dinner and fellowship. After dinner we will be thrilled and amazed by the MAGIC TRICKS of local magician Tony Truitt. Tickets will be \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Tickets will be sold for this evening of illusions on the last two Sundays of April in the entry hallway. Invite a friend or a relative, or maybe TWO!

Opportunities for Women:

April 13—UMW East District Spring Meeting at DeSoto UMC in DeSoto, IN May 18-20—UMW Assembly 2018-Celebrating 150 of UMW in Columbus, OH July 17-20—UMW's Mission u at DePauw University in Greencastle, IN If you wish to be part of a carpool for a certain event, call Ann Cashner at 962-8458.

Garage Sale and Creative Hands

Thank you for all of the donations and help with the United Methodist Women's Garage Sale! All of the work made it a success. Creative Hands will be meeting April 12 and 26 for fellowship and fun.

Primetimers

Join us Wednesday April 18th at noon in Fellowship Hall Join us as we hear from Jennie Lahmann, PR for Morrison Reeves Library. She will be talking about the new updated and fresh Morrison Reeves Library. 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.

The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is a new women's circle which meets every 2nd Wednesday at 11:30am in the kitchen area. Bring a sack lunch and join us as we laugh and share each month. Currently we are reading chapters from Jessica Lagrone's Broken and Blessed. Hope to see you soon! For further information, please call Elaine Mollenkopf at 765-994-6377

Thank you!

Thank you for your support of our preschool and childcare ministry. By purchasing Texas Roadhouse Rolls, extra servings of butter, and making financial contributions, you helped us raise \$714.06. We appreciate you and we hope you enjoy your purchases!

Doan & Mills *Funeral Home*

AND

Mills *Funeral Home*

Are Honored To Present



**An Evening with Dr. Alan Wolfelt
Exploring Death, Grief, and Mourning:
touchstones for Hope and Healing**

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Thursday, April 19th
Central United Methodist Church
1425 East Main Street, Richmond, IN

**The Art of "Companioning" the Mourner:
Caring Versus Curing**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Friday, April 20th
Central United Methodist Church
1425 East Main Street, Richmond, IN

Seating is free but limited, so we ask that you please
register as soon as possible through one of the following
ways:

Online at www.DoanMillsFuneralHome.com
or Call Doan & Mills Funeral Home at
(765) 966-0596



United Methodist Women
invites all women of the church
to a Baby Shower
honoring

JENNIFER BANKER

on Sunday, April 22nd
After Worship
Central United Methodist Church
1425 East Main Street
Richmond, IN 47374

Mother and Baby Banker are
registered at
Target, Amazon, and WalMart.
If you choose to bring a gift,
please leave gifts unwrapped.
We will have a card for
all to sign.

Please join us for a light lunch
and celebration

PLAN YOUR MONTH

Calendar of Events

4/1	Easter Service	10:00am
4/3	Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
4/5	UMW Lunch	1:00pm
4/9	Medical Monday	1:00pm
4/11	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
4/12	Creative Hands	9:00am
4/14	Bread Baking	8:00am
4/14	Women's Self Defense	10:00am
4/16	Monday Morning Connection	9:00am
4/17	Bread Basket	4:30pm
4/17	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
4/18	Primetimers	12:00pm
4/19	Friendship Circle	9:30am
4/19	Doan & Mills Grief Workshop	7:00pm
4/20	Doan & Mills Grief Workshop	9:00am
4/21	Disciple's Hand	8:30am
4/22	UMW Baby Shower for Jen Banker	11:00am
4/25	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
4/26	Creative Hands	9:00am
4/26	Ad Council	6:30pm

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 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

Greeters

4/1	David & Karen Candlish
4/8	Youth
4/15	Brent & Cindy Haworth
4/22	Dana & Elaine Mollenkopf
4/29	Mark & Kenyatta Cox

Acolytes

4/1	Ike Khamis & Olivia Swonder
4/8	Ava McCurdy & Anna Claire Ream
4/15	Annetta Itnyre
4/22	Aidan Snedigar & Alec Snedigar
4/29	Levon Jordan & Luke Sheridan

Scripture Readers

4/1	Mary Alice Bolser
4/8	Alisa Clapp-Itnyre
4/15	Shirley Hester
4/22	Joyce Egger
4/29	Dana Reihman

Children's Message

4/1	Pastor Tom / Pastor Curtis
4/8	Alisa Clapp-Itnyre
4/15	Pastor Jen
4/22	Jeff Sheridan
4/29	Ann Cashner

Ushers

4/1	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
4/8	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
4/15	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
4/22	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
4/29	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson

Altar Guild

Joyce Egger