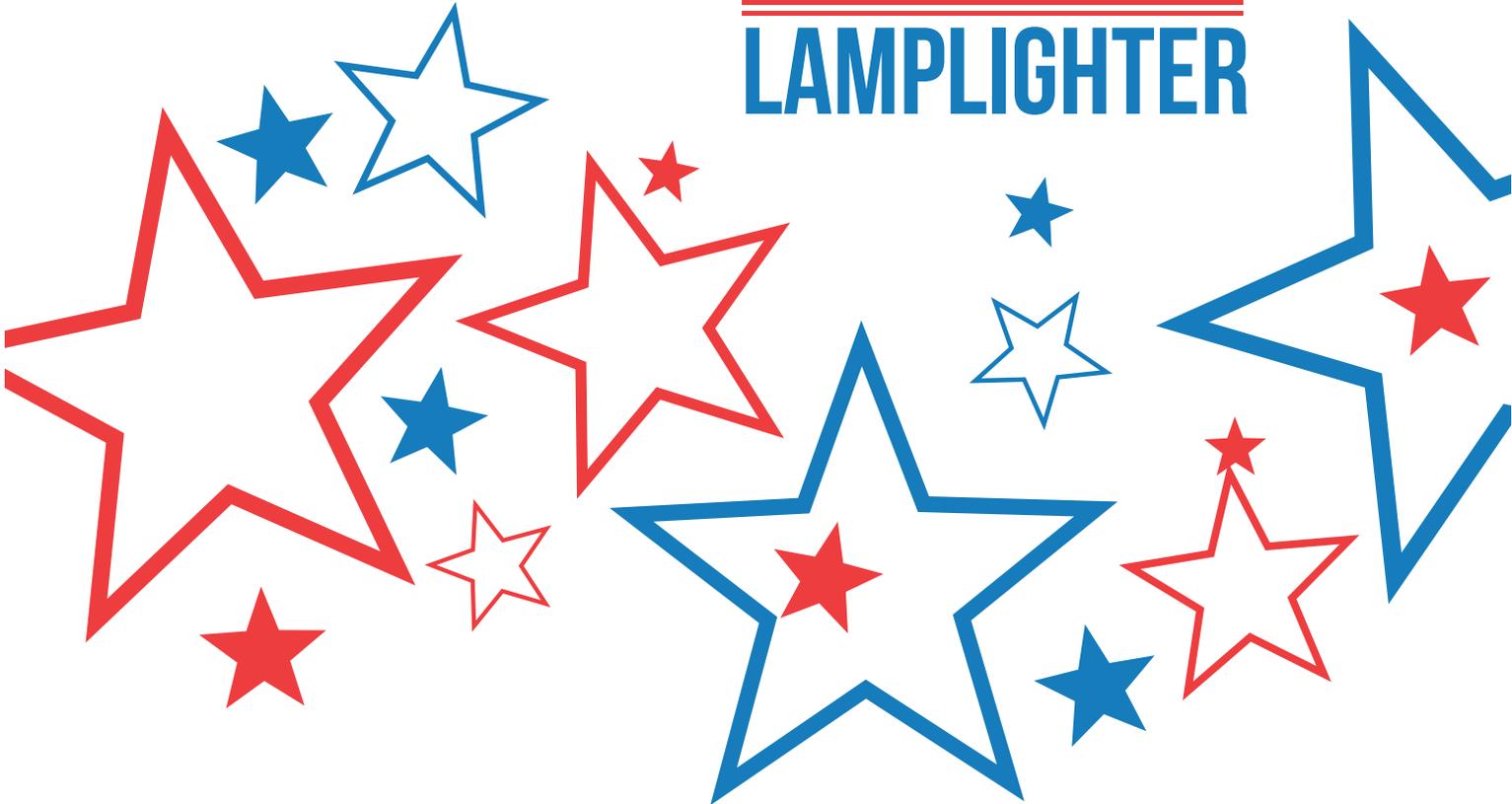


JULY

LAMPLIGHTER



"I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world." - John 16:33 (CEB)

I recently listened to an episode of the podcast "The Bible for Normal People" hosted by theologian Pete Enns titled "Critical Thinking." Pete and his co-host, Jared Byas, spent some time discussing how factors such as context, audience and literary style of Biblical texts should influence our understanding of Scripture. They explained why the cliché, "God said it, that settles it" does not give us all the information we need to grasp the depth and richness of so much of the Bible. They also defined 'Critical Thinking' as not having to feel that we know everything and intentionally questions why we believe what we believe.

I was reminded of the process that I experienced when I attended seminary. I must confess that having grown up in the church, I was pretty arrogant about thinking I understood the Bible and the Christian faith. Seminary opened a whole new world of thoughts, ideas, and interpretations that I had to consider. I have used the analogy that prior to seminary I had "constructed" the tool shed of my faith with all the bits and pieces of information, interpretation, and opinion that I had collected over my life. Arriving at seminary, I began the process of dismantling the tool shed of my faith and examined each piece along the way. With this pile of pieces, I was to rebuild my tool shed. Now some of those pieces, after considering them, ended up being put back exactly as they were but others needed to be replaced or modified based upon the things I was learning. Critical Thinking was a key aspect of my seminary education, and it continues to be an ongoing process.

I share this as we reflect upon how we, as individuals and a congregation, as well as the Church as a whole respond to contemporary issues. Recently, we shared with the congregation that conversations

are going on within the denomination regarding the full inclusion of LGBT people as clergy and the practice of marrying same-sex couples. Currently, the Book of Discipline (the UMC rule book) names homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teachings." This issue has caused some significant divisions with the UMC (and other denominations are wrestling with this as well). There will be a special session of the General Conference in February of 2019 for the sole purpose of considering the options for the UMC. This process has been named "The Way Forward." Nothing is decided, but we felt you should be aware that the conversations are going on.

Recently, I shared Bishop Trimble's letter about the practice of separating children of undocumented immigrants from their parents when they were detained at our borders. Even within our congregation, we have people who support and oppose this practice. I do not have, nor do I think any one has the right answer to this complicated issue. All of us have a bias when it comes to our understanding of issues, great or small. Often that bias comes from assuming that we know the right answer. The way that we learn and grow is by questioning our assumptions and considering other possibilities. Sometimes our thoughts and convictions are changed, but it can also serve to affirm and strengthen what we already believed.

As the Central UMC church family and as members of the Body of Christ, I want to offer a couple suggestions as we navigate the complexities of our rapidly changing world. When confronted with situations that challenge your views, consider the following:

1. Take a deep breath and pause. Don't respond immediately.
2. Honestly ask yourself, "Why do I believe or feel the way that I do?"
3. Try to consider other perspectives (put yourself in someone else's shoes).
4. Seek to understand the issues and the people involved.
5. Engage in dialogue and share your thoughts, don't attack.
6. Let grace and compassion lead you, even

when you disagree.

I would encourage all of us to practice some Critical Thinking about the issues we encounter on a daily basis. It will not always be an easy task, but I believe it is a necessary one. As much as we may be unsettled by the events of the world, the antics of world leaders, and the ever changing society we live in, remember that Jesus said, "In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world." We on are this journey of life and faith together. May we be encouraged by Jesus and share some encouragement with others.

IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom



"There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith – those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. We've selected eight bold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives" (A Sanctified Art). Using visual art, prompts in a study journal for reflection, a **study group at 10am on Tuesdays starting June 26th**, preaching, and Songs of Our Faith, "we hope to dig deep into the worlds of these characters, entering their stories with curiosity and openness to what they might teach us... As we journey with these characters, may they remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and grace. May they awaken us to the faces of our faith in our world today. May they encourage us to know that no action is ever too small to make a difference." We pray that through reflecting on these faces of the past, faces of our faith, we may be blessed and learn and grow. **Study guides may be obtained from the office, or you may request a digital copy by emailing the church office.**

Opportunities for Women:

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.

Creative Hands

Creative Hands will meet on July 12th and 26th in Fellowship Hall. Come join us for fellowship and fun as we prepare for another pop-up!

Primetimers

Join us Wednesday July 18th at noon in Fellowship Hall. You must reserve a seat to attend. To reserve your spot, please call the office at 765-962-8543

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.



July 29 - Sept 16

Sept 23 - Oct 28

Nov 4 - Jan 20

Jan 27 - March 17

John 1, 2, 3

Galations

James

Colossians

All of these studies are on Right Now Media, so feel free to follow along with us even if you aren't able to join us on Sundays



DEAR PASTOR JEN

*Dear Pastor Jen,
Watching Pastor Curtis' ordination
raised a lot of questions in our house:*

*What's the difference between being
commissioned and ordained?*

*What's the difference between deacon
and elder?*

*What are the titles associated with
all of the terms/positions above?
Nicole & Sean Andreas*

Dear Andreas family,
Thank you for your questions! I am going to take the liberty to answer your questions over the span of two articles. Next time I'll tell you about the difference between a deacon and an elder. Today, I'll take care of answering your other two questions.

First, the easy question: What are the titles associated with all of the terms/positions above (i.e. commissioned, ordained, deacon, elder)? The title in the United Methodist Church is Reverend. Some prefer to be called Reverend, some Pastor, and some prefer no title. Personally, I like to share my title of Rev. in writing and introduce myself as Pastor Jen. Especially for children, this helps them to hopefully attribute positive feelings towards clergy, and for many, it may be the first time that they have met a clergy who is female.

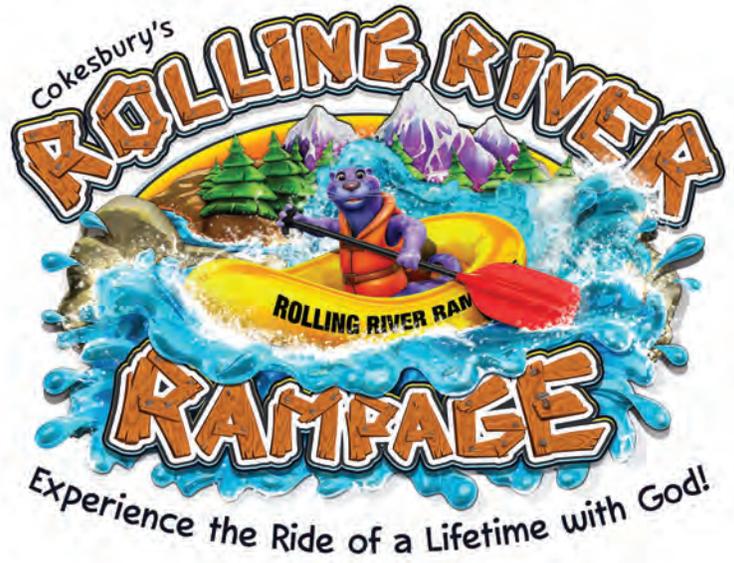
Second, what's the difference between being commissioned and ordained? Before one is ordained, they are commissioned. Pastor Curtis was ordained this year. Commissioning is a part of the candidacy process, a process in which

those who are called to this set-apart ministry are "examined regarding the authenticity of their call by God" (Book of Discipline, ¶310). Commissioning is provisional membership in the annual conference. In order to be commissioned, there are candidacy, service, and schooling requirements that one must meet. The Book of Discipline states that "commissioning is the act of the church that publicly acknowledges God's call and the response, talents, gifts and training of the candidate. The church invokes the Holy Spirit as the candidate is commissioned to be a faithful servant leader among the people, to lead the church in service, to proclaim the Word of God and to equip others for ministry" (¶325).

Once a person is commissioned, they begin to prepare for ordination and enter into a residency program. In provisional membership, clergy can only do sacraments and weddings outside of their local church setting with permission from the District Superintendent and they do not have the same voting privileges as ordained clergy. In our conference, the residency program lasts three years, though some are delayed (by personal choice or by order of the Board of Ordained Ministry) or discontinued in the process. During this program, there are retreats to attend, covenant groups to meet with, observations, and paperwork to complete. For both commissioning and ordination, there are papers that must be written and interviews that must be completed. "In ordination, the church affirms and continues the apostolic ministry through persons empowered by the Holy Spirit" (Book of Discipline, ¶303). The Book of Discipline goes on to say that "ordination is fulfilled in leadership of the people of God through ministries of Service, Word, Sacrament, Order, Compassion, and Justice." Next time that I write, I'll share how Deacons and Elders lead the people of God through these different ministries. Until then, may you experience and notice many of God's blessings!

Peace, Pastor Jen

Tribe news



Back to School Rally at Epworth Forest Camp!

Friday, August 3rd - Saturday, August 4th.
(beachfront, kayaks, paddleboards, volleyball, etc.) This will be for all TRIBE members! It will only be \$20 per person plus a meal on the drive down on Friday. Please let me know if you are interested in participating because I have to register each person by name.

Camp Adventure

June 24th - 29th:

For grades 6th - 8th. It's not too late to sign-up!
Contact Sheri ASAP

Mission Trip / Cedar Point

July 7th - 15th:

Join us! See Sheri ASAP

VBS with all 3 churches!

July 15th - 19th:

Help run games, music, etc. Sign-up at any church for this awesome service opportunity. Can't help all week? Just come when you are able

Pool Party

Sunday, August 5th:

at the City Pool with area youth groups

Tribe Kick-off

Sunday, August 12:

For the 2018-19 school year! Details to come!

**SUNDAY NIGHT
KICK-OFF PARTY**

**COMMUNITY VBS
JULY 15TH - 19TH
6PM - 8PM**

**2900 W. MAIN ST.
RICHMOND, IN 47374**

Join us for a Community VBS July 15-20. You can help lead games, make crafts, serve snacks, lead music, act in the large group time, and so much more. See Sheri or Jen if you would like to help with this! Can't help all week? No problem, sign-up to help whenever you are available!

7/2	Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
7/3	Faces of our Faith Study	10:00am
7/9	Medical Monday	1:00pm
7/10	Faces of our Faith Study	10:00am
7/12	Creative Hands	9:00am
7/12	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
7/17	Faces of our Faith Study	10:00am
7/17	Bread Basket	4:30pm
7/17	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
7/18	Primetimers	12:00pm
7/21	Disciples Hand	8:30am
7/24	Faces of our Faith Study	10:00am
7/25	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
7/26	Creative Hands	9:00am
7/26	Ad Council	6:00pm
7/31	Faces of our Faith Study	10:00am
7/31	Preschool Open House	6:00pm

Greeters

7/1	Don & Doris Knollman
7/8	Julie Maxiener & Betty Gibbs
7/15	Springer & Mary Ann Smith
7/22	Walter & Martha Soper
7/29	Pat Jarvis & Jane Ruger

Scripture Readers

7/1	Pat Heiny
7/8	Karis Koyles
7/15	TBD
7/22	Kathy Robinson
7/29	Debbie Jenkins

Ushers

7/1	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms
7/8	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
7/15	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
7/22	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
7/29	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson

Altar Guild

Pat Harris

UMC BASEBALL NIGHT



Join us for our
Community VBS Fundraiser

Richmond Jazz Baseball
Wednesday, July 11th
at 7:05pm

at Don McBride Stadium
204 NW 13th Street
Richmond, IN

Tickets: \$4.50 per person
Kids 6 and under free!
for any questions or to
purchase tickets,
call Central at 765-962-8543