



October Lamplighter



“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NRSV)

What exactly do we mean when we say that the Bible is “the Word of God”? For some people this may mean that the words on the pages of the Bible were uttered from the very mouth of God and humans happened to hear and record them. But there are problems with this, namely that human beings became involved in the process. If God literally spoke each word of the Bible, what language did God use? Did the humans recording it do so accurately? How about the people involved in translating the texts from the originally languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, & Greek) into a language that you and I can understand? You do not have to ask too many questions to begin running into some problems with the notion that the Bible is the literal word of God, BUT that does not make it unimportant. Quite the opposite in my opinion.

The Bible is a library or a collection of works. It contains historical narratives, prophecy, poetry, Gospels, and epistles (letters) that were contributed by over 30 writers spanning well over 1000 years. The Bible as we know it today, was canonized (accepted as genuine) through a process that once again involved humans who decided what to include and what to exclude. For example, the New Testament as it stands today was authorized at the third council of Carthage in 397 A.D. This is by no means a comprehensive explanation of how the Bible came to be, but a snapshot intended to show the scope of time and people involved in its development. As a collection of ancient writings, the Bible is truly remarkable in the sheer volume of manuscripts, fragments or complete, that are available for scholars to use to create the myriad of modern translations currently available. Even with all that, the oldest existing, complete copy of the Old Testament is from the 10th century, which is removed by almost 1000 years from when the last of the books in the Old Testament were

written. All this is to say that the Bible has truly stood the test of time. It has been well, but not perfectly, transmitted through the ages.

For some people it is important that this remarkable book, the Bible, is to be literal, inerrant, and infallible. While these words are intended to honor and give significance to the Bible, I feel that they actually serve to limit it by confining the Bible to only one or a few correct interpretations. I believe that the Bible itself is the living Word of God. By this I mean that the Holy Spirit infuses the Bible with meaning and purpose. Just as the Holy Spirit can empower us, though we are flawed and imperfect, to be and do great things for God’s kingdom, likewise it can infuse the texts of the Bible to challenge, encourage, and reveal God to those who read it. In 2 Timothy, Paul writes that “all Scripture is inspired by God.” Some translations say “all Scripture is God breathed.” My view is that just as God breathed the Holy Spirit into the Church at Pentecost, the same Spirit continues to be breathed into the words of the Bible to give them life, meaning, and power.

I seldom reread books of literature (JRR Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings” being the exception), but if I were to go back and reread a novel by Tom Clancy or James Patterson I would likely come away with the same understanding of the story. The Scriptures of the Bible are unique in their ability to reveal and teach us new and different truths each time we read them. While there are amazing things in the Bible, I think it is important to understand the Bible seldom offers easy answers. It is less an instruction book than it is a text to be wrestled with over and over again. More than the words on the pages, the act of seeking understanding is where we encounter God. More than simply gaining knowledge, growing in our understanding of God and our relationship with God is the goal. One of the doctrinal statements of the United Methodist Church states, “The Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation...”. Within the pages of the Bible, everything is revealed that we need to know about God who calls us to respond to the love that we have been shown through Jesus the Christ. (Cont.)

(Cont.) Each of us have our own understanding of and experience with the Bible. I believe that God's Spirit is at work in each of us as we read or hear the Scriptures opening our hearts and minds to received what we need. I also believe that while human beings and Councils throughout history have been involved in the crafting of the Bible that we know today, God's Spirit was also involved each step of the way. God inspired the original authors of the texts and the people making decisions about what was important to pass on to future generations of God's people. The Bible is amazing and important, and we should seriously reflect upon what we read within its pages. The next time you pick up your Bible to read, pause and pray that God's Spirit would reveal something new or necessary to you so that your understanding of and love for God may grow. This is what I think it means for the Bible to be the Word of God.

IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom



You're Invited

Mickey Shuey and Malia Eden would like to invite the congregation to their upcoming wedding ceremony at Central United Methodist Church, to be held Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m. The couple greatly appreciates the support and love they have received from fellow members of CUMC and looks forward to having their faith community join them in their special day. Due to limited space, the reception is open only to invited guests.

Remember Me Workshop

The next Remember Me workshops will be on October 7th after worship and October 8th at 10am in the parlor.

Membership Class

The next membership class will be October 21st at 9am and October 28th at 9am

Sunday Treats!

Our hospitality table in the parlor is a great way to connect with each other before and after worship on Sunday mornings. We would like to offer a variety of treats during our Sunday coffee hour. If you would be interested in helping contribute to these treats, please contact the church office or put your name on the sign-up sheet.

Threshold Singers of Richmond, Indiana:

Our goal is to bring ease and comfort to those at the thresholds of living and dying. A calm and focused presence at the bedside, with gentle voices, simple songs, and sincere kindness, can be soothing and reassuring to patients, family, and caregivers alike. If you would like more information about what we do, or would like us to sing at the bedside of a loved one, please contact Amy McKee or Janie Jordan.

Creative Hands

Creative Hands will meet October 11th & 25th. Join us for fun, fellowship, and food and noodles from 9 through lunch.

Monday Morning Connections

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10am in the Parlor. Our next meeting will be October 8th.

The Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30am. All women in the church are cordially invited to attend. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 18th. Please consider joining us for fellowship and inspiration. Contact Doris Knollman with any questions 765-458-5893



FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

In years past, we have had a Trunk or Treat to reach out to families in our community and help them celebrate Halloween safely. Last year, we added an indoor festival component.

This year, we will have a Family Fall Festival, where there's
(noun)

something fun for everyone! Indoors, jump in the bounce houses,
(action)

play games, make fun crafts, and feast on
(plural noun) (adjective) (plural noun)

delicious hot dogs. Outdoors, join us for tasty
(adjective) (plural noun) (adjective)

candy, given to you by enthusiastic individuals from their decorated
(adjective)

trunks.

The Family Fall Festival is happening from 5-7 pm
(time)

on Sunday, October 28th.

We hope you and your family will join us!

How can you help? Donate candy, run a game or craft, supervise bounce houses, hand out candy, or help serve food. Contact Christin or Pastor Jen.

TRIBE NEWS

"For where two or three gather in my name, I will be with them" - Matthew 18:20

What's happening with TRIBE, you ask?

My answer is A LOT!!

We have consistently been having about 20 youth at our Sunday fellowship and Bible study time! We took 21 youth to King's Island for a long, hot day! We had representative parents from ALL 3 CHURCHES at our parent meeting this past week! We voted on and picked a week for our 2019 mission trip!

What's next?

October is crazy with all of our school systems having different dates for Fall Break, so we will be offering some day trips.

Richmond and Northeastern School students:

Tuesday, October 16:

Skyzone Dayton and movie day

Thursday, October 18:

Afternoon Metropark Hike and Ice Cream

Centerville Schools:

Tuesday, October 23:

Skyzone Dayton and Movie Day

Thursday, October 25:

Metropark Hike and Ice Cream

We will need drivers for these events, please let me know if you are able to help out-you do not need to be a parent! You could just be someone who loves movies, hiking, and ice cream!

Trunk or Treat

Each of the 3 TRIBE churches has a Fall Festival event of some type. Check with your pastor, parents, or bulletins for updated dates and times of your event and sign-up to volunteer. It is fun, a service opportunity, and you get free candy!

Mystery Dinner Fundraiser

A Christmas-themed mystery dinner is coming your way this year!! We will have 2 shows again this year on December 1. Mark your calendar! You do not want to miss this!!

Auditions: Sunday, October 7 from 4-5

We need adult actors too! Please consider joining us to help round out the show!

Autumn and Winter reversible sign making fundraiser

Join us on Saturday, October 20 at 6pm at Centerville UMC and design (with lots of help) your reversible outdoor or indoor wooden sign. Bring \$25, a friend, and a spirit of fun and creativity! Refreshments will be provided!

****Have old planks or wood sitting around?? We need it for this project!****

Youth will be required to bring paint for this event.

Sign-up to provide snack, pizza, or volunteer for Tribe

Contact Sheri at 806-759-0485



PECANS!

UMW will have 1 pound bags of pecans available the Sunday before Thanksgiving. They will be \$12 per pound bag. If you would like to pre-order please see Shanron Rider (966-6909) or Martha Hayes (962-5009) and let us know your order. We will have extras available.

Calling the Noodle Elders!

Calling the Noodle Elders. We will be making noodles on October 11 from 9 until we're done.



Central Children's Ministries would like to offer you a free enrichment tool for your child with a birth date on or after January 1, 2015 and your family that goes along with our Pre-K Sunday School curriculum. It's even something that can be used for your nieces, nephews, and grandchildren! Each month you will receive a faith based e-newsletter that can be sent to your email, grandparent's emails, etc. that matches up what your children may be experiencing in the world around them, based on their developmental stages. The newsletter gives great ideas for helping them grow in their faith and as individuals developmentally in your home. Once your child's information is entered into the subscription site, the emails you supply will automatically receive a monthly E newsletter, based on the age of your child. Articles on child development, faith formation, and seasonal celebrations are all included in the monthly emails. If you are interested in signing up for this free newsletter, please provide Pastor Jen with the name of the child, their age, and the emails you'd like the newsletter to be sent to.

Central United Methodist Preschool

is now enrolling children ages 3-5 for 3 day classes. Come play, learn and grow with us. To learn more about our preschool or to schedule a tour contact Tiffany Cullers at tiffany@richmondcumc.com or 765-373-3108.

*Bring in this newsletter to get a discount on enrollment.

Rebecca Lafuze, Preschool and Childcare Board Vice Chair

Calendar of Events

10/2	Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
10/3	Life Line Screening	8:00am
10/3	Pastor's Study	10:00am
10/8	Monday Morning Connection	9:00am
10/8	Medical Monday	1:00pm
10/10	Pastor's Study	10:00am
10/10	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
10/11	Creative Hands	9:00am
10/11	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
10/13	Bread Baking	8:00am
10/16	Bread Basket	4:30pm
10/16	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
10/17	Pastor's Study	10:00am
10/18	Friendship Circle	9:30am
10/20	Disciple's Hand	8:30am
10/24	Pastor's Study	10:00am
10/25	Creative Hands	9:00am
10/25	Ad Council	6:30pm
10/28	Family Fall Festival	5:00pm
10/30	Charge Conference	6:30pm
10/31	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
10/31	Pastor's Study	10:00am

Greeters

TBD

Scripture Readers

- 10/7 Joyce Egger
- 10/14 Danna Reihman
- 10/21 TBD
- 10/28 Kathy Eyer

Ushers

- 10/7 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
- 10/14 Electa Berk, Larry Parker. Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
- 10/21 Electa Berk, Larry Parker. Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
- 10/28 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler

Altar Guild

Carol Bucher

Unit Spotlight: Central

A SECOND FAMILY

The Central Unit at 1425 East Main Street gives its 290 members a place to belong and grow, building relationships and learning to work together. This facility has a large gym to foster fitness and well-being, an exciting games room right at the entrance where kids can play together and expend a little energy, and a large, quiet homework room where the members can diligently study without distractions. We're incredibly grateful to Central United Methodist Church for graciously providing a facility that supports the development of these amazing kids!



"Our uniqueness and success is based on our partnership with Central United Methodist Church from the very beginning. Central Club exudes a family-like atmosphere. It's awesome to see a church that not only preaches the gospel, but lives it-by opening its doors to our youth. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Gari Quiroz
Central Unit Director