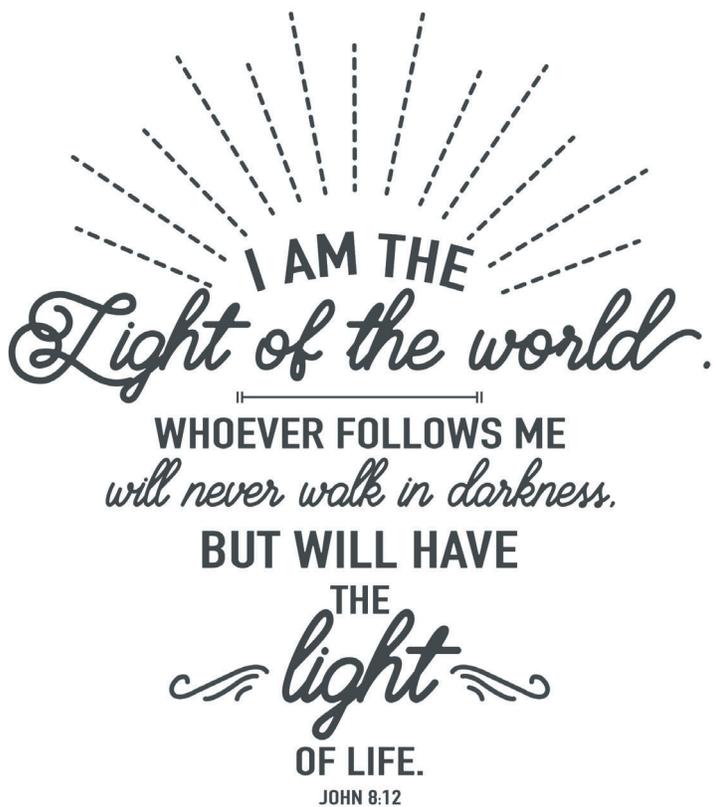




May
lamplighter



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' – John 8:12 (NRSV)

I do not see them as often any more, but when I was a child I had a number of glow-in-the-dark toys. They were plastic items or stickers that you could leave in the sun or place next to a light bulb that would then glow with that greenish-yellow cast when put in a dark place. How long and bright it would glow usually depended on how much time it spent in the light. To keep it glowing brightly or to get it to glow again once it stopped, you had to return it to the light.

The glow-in-the-dark toys of my childhood remind me of my relationship with Jesus. He is the light of the world and imparts His light into our lives. He says that when we follow Him we will never walk in darkness but have the light of life. The only way to have that light is to follow (i.e. draw near to Christ) and spend time in His presence. Faithfully following Jesus is not a onetime proposition. We do not simply have an encounter or experience that covers us for the rest of our lives. Rather, the encounter is an invitation that begins a life-long relationship of repeatedly drawing near to Jesus. I am using light as a metaphor for our relationship with Jesus, but when we bask in the light of Jesus, we take on His glow. However, like my glow-in-the-dark toys, if we

do not regularly return to Jesus, we risk losing that light. Through worship or prayer, Scripture study or reflection, or anything else that helps you grow closer to Jesus, you are drawing near to Him and strengthening your relationship. Once we have responded to Jesus invitation, we begin a process that is simple yet not always easy. It is a simple two-step process: 1. Draw near to Jesus and 2. Repeat. Simple but not always easy for us to remain committed. Simple because the more we draw near to Jesus and the longer we spend time in His presence, the brighter His light will glow in our lives. For as many ways and opportunities that we have to draw near to Jesus, there are just as many distractions and excuses for why we cannot or do not. It is amazing how such a simple thing as spending time with Jesus and growing in our relationship with Him can make such a difference. It can transform our lives but it also is how the love and grace of God is shared with this world. When the light of Jesus glows in our lives, others will notice and often be blessed by His light.

Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16)." While Jesus tells us to let 'your light shine', it is important to note that it is Jesus' light. It is not something we do by our own strength, wisdom, goodness, or other characteristics that originate within us. We are not able to create light that offers life and hope to the world by our own ability. God sent Jesus to be the light of the world (John 1:4), and we are the blessed recipients of that light charged with sharing it so that others might also be blessed. More accurately this passage could read, "*let your light, the light that you have received from spending time with me [Jesus], shine.*" This is how we become participants in the work that God is doing in this world through Jesus, our risen Savior. We draw near to Him; receive His light (or become a bit more like Him); go and share the light where it is needed; and repeat this process again and again and again. May your life glow with the holy light of Jesus, the conqueror of death and vanquisher of sin, so that you too participate in bringing the hope and life of Jesus to bear on the broken people and dark places in this world.

IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom

TRIBE NEWS

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

Below you will see a list of the students that are going on mission with TRIBE from your congregation. Including students and adults from the other congregations, we are taking a total of 28 people! If you would like to support their fundraising efforts, please send a check to the church with the student or adult's name in the memo line.

**Preston Bolser
Shelby Bolser
Dylan Candlish
Edyn Curry
Nick Kovach
Gunner Kovach
Jagger Kovach
Cayden Lindahl
Ava McCurdy
Ella Rader
Anna Claire Ream
Kate Ream**

**Karnisha Satterfield
Sheri Koyles
Amanda Williams**

Please begin to pray for their time away on this experience.

Special shout out to Central's UMW

The UMW gave TRIBE missions efforts, \$500 for our help with thr garage sale!

Tribe Gatherings

Sunday, May 5th - Basketball Tourney Fundraiser

Sunday, May 12 - Mission trip "Heart" preparation

Sunday, May 19 - TRIBE end of year party

Mission participants should make every effort to attend the "Heart" sessions



Intergenerational 5-on-5 Basketball Tournament Sunday, May 5th at 4:00pm Central UMC Gym

\$50 per team*

*Teams must have at least one elementary schooler, one teenager, and three of your choice.

\$2 per spectator

Hot dogs, chips, cookie, and drink meal \$5

Proceeds benefit TRIBE Missions: Hurricane Relief in Florida

**TRIBE is a combined Youth Group of
Central, Richmond First, and Centerville
United Methodist Churches**

Vacation Bible School

June 9-13 Sunday-Thursday 6-8pm

The Arc (the old Faith Trinity building)

Pastor Jen is overseeing volunteers this year for the entire program.

Please contact her for more details.

Surprise theme to be revealed soon!

Communion now available!

Would you like communion brought to you because you are unable to make it to worship? Contact the church office to set up a time for a communion steward to come visit you.



Prayer Cards

The staff and congregational care team have started to mail out these prayer cards to members of our congregation. If you are interested in sending cards to others, they are available to be picked up in the parlor. We hope that our congregation and community will know that they are surrounded in prayer!

Welcome Pastor Joe and his family

As we approach the arrival of Pastor Joe Seger and his family, it would be nice if members of the congregation reached out to send a card of greeting, a word of encouragement, or a looking forward to getting to know you message. The Seger's address is 3016 Decatur St., West Lafayette, IN 47906

Creative Hands

Creative Hands will meet May 9th and 23rd from 9am through lunch. We hope to see you all there!

UMW Women and Children Celebration

Ladies...you and the youth of Central United Methodist are invited to a Garden Party on Friday, May 3 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. This year's UMW Celebration of Women and Children event will feature, music, a picnic meal, lots of prizes, and fun. Tickets are \$7.00 [they will be on sale this Sunday and the 28th in the lobby]. If unable to purchase tickets on these Sundays, please contact Elaine Mollenkopf at mamamole@comcast.net or (765) 994-6377 to make other arrangements. See you there!

Remember Me

There were around fifty people who attended Pastor Tom's "Remember Me" workshops last fall but only a couple who have returned completed worksheets to the church office. If you have completed or intend to complete the worksheet, remember we have offered to keep a copy on file in the church safe for whenever it would be needed.

Calendar of Events

5/3	UMW Women's Celebration	6:00pm
5/8	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
5/9	Creative Hands	9:00am
5/11	Bread Baking	8:00am
5/13	Monday Morning Connection	9:00am
5/13	Medical Monday	1:00pm
5/15	Meet Ad Council	11:30am
5/16	Friendship Circle	10:00am
5/22	Garden ReConnect	3:30pm
5/23	Creative Hands	9:00am
5/23	Ad Council	6:00pm
5/29	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am

Greeters

5/5	TBD
5/12	TBD
5/19	TBD
5/26	TBD

Scripture Readers

5/5	Kathy Robinson
5/12	Debbie Jenkins
5/19	Eileen Cravens
5/26	Ann Cashner

Ushers

5/5	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett
5/12	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
5/19	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
5/26	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler

Altar Guild

TBD