

January
Lampighter

20/20 VISION



Little kids love to learn. They also love to do things themselves. Riddles can sometimes be a good way to bridge this gap. Initial efforts and wonderfully creative guesses yield to questions and sometimes pleading for hints, clues – and sometimes the answer. For example: I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I? After speculation and maybe frustration, I love the moment when the riddler yields to the child's demands and asks them to spell out seven and then even, and then repeat until...one of the kids yell, "I see!" The kid is so excited she will show her friends who may not yet get it by writing out the word and covering up the 's.'

I love this scene. Questions leading to knowledge, leading to revelation, leading to sharing. Seeing in this sense goes beyond what is visible and into the realm of understanding. This time of the calendar year naturally leads us into questions which cause us to look beyond the physical and into tomorrow:

What would it be like to hold onto my New Years Resolution for the whole year?

What does 2020 hold for my family?

Where will our church be this time next year?

How am I going to address x, y, or z in the new year?

What dream may come to reality in 2020?

For each of us, our journeys into 2020 will be unique and full of adventure. I am excited to hear from each of you in the coming months how this comes to pass with the accompanying joys and sorrows. From here on this side of the new year, I am wondering about those times our paths will overlap due to our relationships with Jesus and our community here at Central. Our journey into tomorrow causes us to come together in this love of Christ. This wondering leads to both dreams and visions of what's ahead. The child above saw without seeing. Yet in her sharing she showed what she 'saw.' We all wonder about what's ahead. Let me show a little of what I see.

The good people who gather at Central UMC have been such a blessing to my family and me. You have all wrapped us up in love and prayer and invitation – making our landing into Richmond and Central a wonderful one. I see this continuing with other

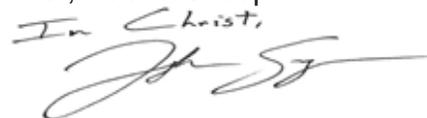
families moving into our community and coming through our doors in 2020. I have relished conversations hearing about the faithfulness of Central to keeping the ways of Jesus Central in all we do. I see us continuing to grow in our discipleship while inviting others to follow the path we are treading. Every week I am joyfully surprised to hear of the ways members of Central love their neighbors regularly. In 2020 I see new ways of celebrating these good works while continuing to invite others into loving in the ways of Jesus. I am constantly humbled how often our neighbors minister to us here at Central, ask for our presence, and use our building. I see us continuing to JUMP into the messiness of daily walking with our neighbors.

Many questions still remain. Who are the people we each will be discipling in 2020? Who are the three people who do not know Jesus we will be praying for daily to come to find trust in our Lord? How will we wrestle with challenges which arise in our community and world? Where am I struggling in my walk with Jesus? How can I lean into my community when I do not know what's ahead? I do not 'know' all of this will come to pass as I now 'see' it, but much like the child, I cannot help but begin to share it. And let us do so much like Paul admonishes us to proceed in 2 Cor. 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

I know I am not alone in this. I am definitely not the best at this. For Central, this is a corporeal matter. What are you seeing in our future together? What are you yearning for in your walk with God? What abundance must be shared in the coming months? What deserts in your soul need a recreating word from the Fount of all blessings? Please share the visions you are discerning. Our walk into 2020 will be one of you, me – us – and Jesus weaving together Central's shared story of hope.

I do not 'know' what lies ahead for us in 2020, but I am excited for what I am 'seeing.' Let us all proceed with the love and message of Christ, "For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." I am excited to be on this journey after Jesus with you.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Joseph

In Christ,


When we heard that 7 out of 10 Americans live paycheck to paycheck, we knew we had to do something. That's why we're going to be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University class here at the church starting Tuesday, January 21st. It's the most practical stuff out there and the most fun you'll ever have learning about money. Each weekly session starts with Dave Ramsey teaching on video and is followed by a powerful small group discussion. You'll see that you are DEFINITELY not alone if you're struggling in this area. And even if you're one of the few who isn't struggling, you'll still benefit from this powerful material. It teaches you how to apply biblical principles to the way you handle money and how to start truly managing all of the resources God has given you. This class breaks the process down into easy steps that will help no matter where you are. You've just got to take it! We're having a free class preview January 12th at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall you don't want to miss. If you want to get some more information, just ask Christin. Can't wait to see you all there!



Prayer Walks

Prayer connects us daily to a loving God moving in our midst. In his 3 rules for Methodists, John Wesley calls us to both private and public prayer. On the first Monday of every month at noon, we will have a prayer walk through our neighborhood. We will divide into small groups at the entrance of the church and proceed in different directions. Along the way, we will pause to pick up trash and renew our streets and sidewalks. Please contact Pastor Joseph with any questions. For those who cannot participate in this way, contact pastor Jen for alternative options.



Excited for the invitation/challenge? You can start with prayer for all joining you on the journey. Begin your habit today by creating chair time – 15-20 minutes in a specific, relaxing place with just you and the Bible. Download the “Read Scripture” App to your phone or device and set up your schedule to start January 1.

Don't like reading the Bible on a device? Download the “reading plan” or pick one up in the office.

Don't have a Bible? Stop by the office for a free one.

Felt overwhelmed in past attempts? Sign up for an accountability partner and join in the journey together.

More of a visual learner? Check out the awesome videos from The Bible Project which accompany the yearly readings.

Still unsure? Need questions answered? Join us on Monday Afternoons @ 1:30 in in the Parlor for conversation. Anything not addressed or concerns and questions needed to be voiced? Stop by or set up a time to talk with Pastor Joseph.



CAMP!!!! JUNE 14-19

Save the date for your child's life-changing, adventure-having, Jesus-worshipping, memory-making week at camp this summer. Scholarships Available. More information at impact2818.org.

Central Preschool News

You've probably heard that it takes a village to raise a child, but did you know it also takes a village for Cope's Traveling Toddler Time program to function at its best? I mentioned last month that Cope Environmental Center received a grant from the Wayne County Foundation to take their Toddler

Time on the road to local childcare's and preschool's and engage kids with nature. For Toddler Time that takes place at Cope (which I highly recommend!), kids age 2-5 are brought by their parent or grandparent so it's 1 or 2 to 1 ratio of kids and adults. But when Cope comes to us we have about 17 kids age 2-5 and not near that many adults, so we need volunteers to help with crafts and be a lap to sit on/near during the story book time. Another big initiative of Cope's is to get people outside - all ages! That means we also need help bundling those little kiddos up to get outside in a reasonable time.



December was our third Toddler Time visit and, luckily, I had learned from the first two visits that we

needed LOTS of volunteers. I recruited 8 volunteers, not including Stephanie, Erika (Childcare teacher) and myself. We learned about Song Birds and the kids made bird feeders by stringing cereal on to pipe cleaners. This could have easily become frustrating for the kids, especially younger ones, if they had to wait for someone to help them figure it out, but all the kids had a nearby adult to encourage and assist them. They all did great! Oh, how the kids' faces light up when they accomplish something. Building confidence!

I need more volunteers to add to my list for Toddler Time to continue to be a success. It's not as big a time commitment as helping the whole morning (about 1-1 ¼ hrs), but you still get the same intrinsic reward :) We need you whether you're male, female, younger, older - the preschoolers love everybody! Please contact Nicole if interested in volunteering - preschool@richmondcumc.com



We had a great time at Sounds of the Season! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Here's what folks who have spent time with Preschool are saying:

Preschool children are fun. They look at the world through eyes of wonder and get excited about the smallest of things. Being with them and serving in some small way brings joy to my heart.

~ Donna Jurgens

Making young people a priority is always important!

~ Sheri Koyles

I love the energy, enthusiasm, and eagerness of all the kids. I especially like returning to see how they grow and develop!! And, their smiles when they recognize someone they know just light up the room. I encourage you to be someone they know. Today when I was there I watched the interaction between and among them - they are so considerate of one another - and they are only 3 or 4.

Plus- a bonus - They are so kind, they help me up when I try to sit on the floor!!!!"

~ Pat Heiny

I love volunteering with the preschoolers each week. Their minds are like porous sponges with unceasing curiosity about the world around them. I consider it a privilege to be able to help them learn and grow through play-based activities inside and outside of the classroom!

~ Madeleine Demetriades

Thank you to December volunteers: Madeleine Demetriades, Pastor Jen Huff, Doris Miller, Donna Jurgens, Pat Heiny, Jennifer Seger, Sheri Koyles, Annie Pettit



Sword
in the
Sword
groffam

A MELODRAMA WITH AUDIENCE INTERACTIONS

January 18th, 2020 • 5pm & 7pm
ARC Center 2900 W. Main St.

Tickets: \$10 per adult and
\$5 for ages 10 and under

Youth Chili Cook-Off

Use your donation to vote on your favorite!

All proceeds go to fund the youth mission trip
to Henderson Settlement in Frakes Kentucky

Creative Hands

Creative Hands will meet on January 9th and 23rd from 9am thru lunch. Come join us for crafts, laughs, and fellowship. If you have any questions or creative ideas, contact Shanron Rider.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle will meet at 10:00am in the Parlor on Thursday, January 16th. Please join us!



Community Food Pantry

Through your help and giving, the community food pantry handed out over 250 turkeys and fed over 500 families in the month of November! Thank you to all those who gave with donations and their time. We are on the look out for more volunteers and would love to have you on board! We are also looking for anyone would would like to do our scheduling. Bob and Jennifer Hall have been a great asset to us and have done our scheduling for many year and we believe they deserve a break. If you are interested please see Dave Shaw. We are also accepting donations of boxed Cereals!

December Reflections on Music at Central

We are invited at this time of year to reflect on our many joys and blessings, with the focusing image of the baby Jesus in the manger. I am so grateful for all the music we create together at Central to help make the Christmas season extra special.

Along with Sunday worship and our Christmas Eve services, December brought us several special musical occasions:

'Sounds of the Season' on Dec. 8 presented a lively and diverse program of nearly 20 special performances featuring many holiday favorites. After carols led by Ron Cobine, Pastor Jen opened the evening in prayer. Pastor Joseph read poetry between the acts.

Groups and individuals of all ages joined in the fun—we had the Preschool and Sunday School Choirs (director: Nicole Andreas), 'God's Way' Praise Band, the Boys and Girls Club Bell Choir (director:

Alisa Clapp-Itnyre) and various instrumental and vocal soloists including myself, Frederick Chatfield, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Annetta Itnyre and Betty Reibsoemer.

Sheri Koyles offered a fun dramatic skit with daughter Karis and Sunday School teacher Sean Andreas. Madeleine's piano students Chiara Spicer and Samuel Seger showed off their skills. Frederick and Madeleine closed the program with a rousing organ-piano duet of carols.

The 'Longest Night' Service on Dec. 21 was offered in hopeful reflection on the darkest time of year, the shortest day, but was brightened with relaxing guitar music by Amy McKee.

Musical groups present for both Christmas Eve Services included the Chancel Choir and Central's 'Wesley Ringers' Bell Choir as well as the Joy Singers Choir (directed by Kathy Robinson and Debbie Jenkins. Their music really helped us celebrate and prepare to usher in the beautiful new year.

I am forever grateful to the hard-working church members and volunteers who make all of this music at Central possible! If you have an interest in joining a choir, playing an instrument, or being involved in our music program in any way, please contact me at Madeleine@richmondcumc.com.

I think we have had a wonderful year of making music together during 2019, and I greatly look forward to seeing what we can accomplish to glorify God through our "joyful noise" in 2020! Wishing all of you love, comfort and joy during this precious season.

Madeleine Demetriades, Minister of Music

Thank You!

Thank You

My family and I are very grateful for all the love and support shone to us following the passing of Bob into heaven. We are thankful for all the cards, donations, hugs, and prayers from this loving church family.

Sherry Bailey and family

January Calendar

1/1 CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!
1/6 Prayer Walk 12:00pm
1/6 Parlor Conversations 1:30pm
1/8 Wisdom Study 10:00am
1/8 Lunch Bunch 11:30am
1/8 Wesley Ringers 5:30pp
1/8 Chancel Choir 6:30pm
1/9 Creative Hands 9:00am
1/9 Soup Kitchen 9:00am
1/9 Joy Singers 4:00pm
1/13 Monday Morning Connection 9:00am
1/13 Medical Monday 1:00pm
1/15 Wisdom Study 10:00am
1/15 Meet Ad Council and Staff 11:30am
1/15 Wesley Ringers 5:30am
1/15 Chancel Choir 6:30pm
1/16 Friendship Circle 10:00am
1/16 Joy Singers 4:00pm
1/18 TRIBE Play 5:00pm
1/21 Bread Basket 4:30pm
1/21 Trustees Meeting 6:30pm
1/22 Wisdom Study 10:00am
1/22 Garden ReConnect 3:30pm
1/22 Wesley Ringers 5:30pm
1/22 Chancel Choir 6:30pm
1/23 Creative Hands 9:00am
1/23 Joy Singers 4:00pm
1/23 Ad Council 6:30pm
1/29 Lamplighter Assembly 10:00am
1/29 Wisdom Study 10:00am
1/29 Wesley Ringers 5:30pm
1/29 Chancel Choir 6:30pm
1/30 Joy Singers 4:00pm

Thank you for serving!

Acolytes

TBD

Sunday Greeters

TBD

Sunday Ushers

1/5 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett,
Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett
1/12 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett,
Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett
1/19 Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim
Robinson, Lester Robinson
1/26 Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim
Robinson, Lester Robinson

Sunday Scripture Readers

1/5 Eileen Cravens
1/12 Duane Hodgkin
1/19 Pat Heiny
1/26 Kathy Robinson

December Altar Guild

TBD