



February Lamplighter 2020



Connecting with God

Every fall I spend hours in woods alone in Southern Indiana's finest Forests. I look forward to the quiet of the dark morning punctuated only by the little feet of forest denizens rustling through the leaves. My thoughts rise with the tree trunks around me and move with the soft breezes through the limbs. Mesmerized by nature, I can look back on the past year's growths and disappointing losses while imagining what the coming days might bring.

Most of all, I find myself being in awe of the wonders with which God has surrounded us. Its not long before I am holding conversation with God. I talk about my failures and He reminds me of His work in me. I speculate upon His nature and He answers with the mysteries of His creation. All in all it is quite a humbling time, and much needed. I come out renewed and refreshed in so many ways.

Yet some years, my time in the woods is marked with gusting winds, falling rain, and tiny little companions. I find myself distracted from my usual getaway. I still offer up my thoughts to God, but my ears and attention do not await a response in the chaos of it all. How true this is of life.

We know to the core of our beings we need time to gather our thoughts, sort them, and be present to this moment. We need to stop the busy, to rest,

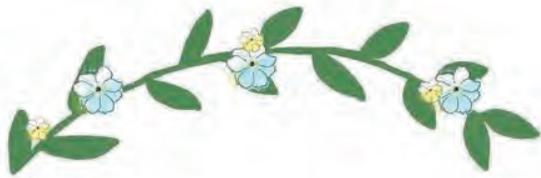
and seek Sabbath. Yet our frail attempts to carve out time are often raided by circumstance and the next best thing. A deadline gets pushed up, a loved one gets sick, our attention gets pulled elsewhere—and moment by moment that sacred time with God gets shaved and borrowed and shortened and...forgotten.

Yet our God is faithful. His blessings are new every morning. His hands are open to us if we only reach again for His embrace. I realized from these past encounters I needed to set down time regularly on my calendar to sit in the woods with God—not just when it is convenient to my schedule—or I might miss His conversational wisdom altogether. I have to work at resting. I pray now my schedule holds up.

This is just one aspect of God's love and life reaching out to us. We can meet Him every morning, day, and evening. We can meet Him in fasting, singing, resting, praying, worshipping, mourning, working and feasting. We can meet him alone or with others. For our God is always with us, it is up to us to seek this connection and the joy it brings. Richard Foster in his timeless *Celebration of Discipline*, tells us, "the purpose of the (spiritual disciplines) is liberation from the stifling slavery to self-interest and fear."

This journey of spiritual growth can seem daunting, especially if we focus upon our past

Cont...



Be still,
and know
that
I am God

Psalms 46:10



failures or future plans instead of our glorious God. “The grace of God is unearned and unearnable, but if we ever expect to grow in grace, we must pay the price of a consciously chosen course of action which involves both individual and group life.”

We are offered a reflective time every year in the liturgical calendar. Lent is the traditional 40 day period of fasting, discipline, and self-restraint (minus the Sundays as we celebrate the Lord’s resurrection) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Central will be using this time to dwell on the disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission and service.

Do you want a deeper connection with your God who loves you? I would like to invite you to our Ash Wednesday service on February 26th @ 6:30, or join us every Sunday for a renewing conversation on connecting with God.

Have you buried yourself under the accumulation of things and piling up of stuff? I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider what you can let go of over this 40 day period to simplify your life.

Has the busyness of your life kept your schedule full, ears full of noise, and thoughts always moving? Maybe this is a Saturday to spend in silence before God's wondrous creation.

Have you been addicted to control? I invite you to submit to Jesus and become a lead follower. Perhaps even find a group to join or a way to serve over this Lenten season in new ways.

John Wesley wrote, “God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.” I will be praying for you, for us, and for the new connections we are making with God in this upcoming season.

I look forward to rejoicing with you over the new works God is doing in us come Easter morning.

In Christ,

Come meet members of the Ad Council, Pastors, and Staff!

Every Third Wednesday of the Month at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your questions, comments and concerns The next gathering will be Wednesday, February 19th.

Community Food Pantry

We are on the look out for more volunteers and would love to have you on board! We are also looking for anyone who would like to do our scheduling. Bob and Jennifer Hall have been a great asset to us and have done our scheduling for many years and we believe they deserve a break. If you are interested please see Dave Shaw. We are also accepting donations of boxed cereals!



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.

Making a Difference in the Life of a Child

Central's Childcare and Preschool invite you to become a sponsor of a child's early development. A child sponsorship covers full or partial tuition for families in need. If you would like to contribute to this ministry in this way you may write a check written to CUMC with "childcare/preschool" in the memo line, make a donation online, or contact Pastor Jen. If you have any questions, Pastor Jen can be reached through the church office or you can email her at jennifer@richmondcumc.com for more information.

Are you a caregiver?

Central UMC would like to provide you with respite and support. A new group that will start soon will be led by Pastor Jen. If you would like more information about this group or to be a part of the group, please contact her through the church office or via email: jennifer@richmondcumc.com.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle will meet at 10:00am in the Parlor on Thursday, February 20th. Please join us!



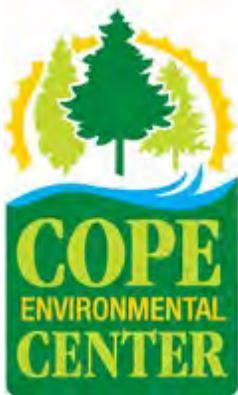
Let's Go Camping!

Winter seems like it has yet to settle in, but a quick calculation tells me there are only 80ish school days to go before summer—which leads me to one thought—I have to sign my kids up for camp! Central is gearing up for a memorable week of camp for all ages June 14-19. Mark your calendars and begin inviting friends. More information will be coming soon.

Did you know our church has a great camping system with something for the whole family—from Mini-Camp for K-2, Elementry Camp for 3-5, Middle School Camp for 6-8, That Thing for High Schoolers, Sports Camp, Horse camp and more! Parents can also get in on the camping action during Family Camp Weekends and Parent-Child Retreats! Go to impact2818.com for more information on all your kids' camping opportunities. Want to talk about which camp is right for your kids? Jennifer Seger is a member of the Conference Camping Board and she would love to talk about camp with you—email her at segerfamily6@gmail.com. Need help with a scholarship? Call Pastor Joseph and he will hook you up!

Central Preschool News

Lord you have done so many things!
You made them all so wisely!
The earth is full of your creations!
Psalm 104:24



Upcoming TODDLER TIME dates and topics:

Wednesday, January 29th
10:15-11:15am
Wonderful Worms

Wednesday, February 12th
10:15-11:15am
Maple Magic

I need more volunteers for both dates.

For Traveling Toddler Time to be the most beneficial to all 16 of our 2-5 year olds, we need lots of help. You'll help with a craft, be a lap to sit on or near for story time, help us prepare for an outside adventure and it is very likely you will learn something about the topic. Talk about WIN - WIN!!! We need you whether you're male, female, younger, older - the preschoolers love everybody! Please contact Nicole if interested in volunteering - preschool@richmondcumc.com

Thank you January volunteers:

Pastor Jen Huff, Tricia Sheridan,
Sheri Koyles,
Donna Jurgens,
Pat Heiny,
Jen Hall,
Madeleine
Demetriades,
Doris Miller



Good to be back!

As nice as it was to have a respite from the classroom over Christmas Break, it is good to be back with my students. Coming back after break is going quite well; we're all getting back into our classroom routine and expectations. There seems to be an extra dose of eagerness and excitement in all the kiddos, so I am enjoying that. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!



During "Mm" week the older kids used a giant map to get from our bottom floor classroom



to the main floor office and then to top floor Studio 252 for a special music lesson.



Lola Buesching Weitemier Memorial Fund

The Lola Buesching Weitemier Memorial Fund was established in memory of Lola Buesching Weitemier by her husband, Dr. Ray Weitemier, M.D. The principal is to be held in perpetuity to endow a fund for camping scholarships.

How to Give

There are many ways in which you can donate to Central United Methodist Church Endowment Fund:

Cash Gifts,

are the easiest and most popular form of gift, and provides a tax deduction equal to the full value of the gift.

Stock Gifts,

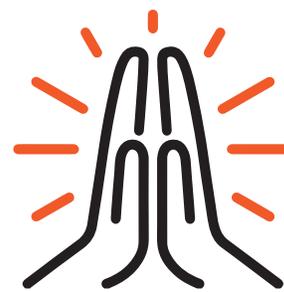
may provide even greater tax benefits, this is especially true of securities that have appreciated in value.

Life Estate Gifts,

a gift to Central United Methodist Church of a home, land or farm in the future without giving up the current use of the property.

Life Insurance,

can also provide a tax deduction. And if arranged properly, can be removed from a donors estate for probate purposes.



Women's Prayer Group

This group meets every Monday in the parlor at 12:00 noon. We pray for all prayer requests and any persons we know who need prayer as well as our church and community. Praises for our blessings are also offered. Pray without ceasing is a part of our call to be Christians. Help us honor this command. This group has a long and rich history. It was begun in 2000 by Nancy Curtis, Pastor Larry Curtis' wife. The size of the group is of no particular importance, however, we have had as many as 15 to as few as 2. We know also that where two or three are gathered together, the Lord is present also. Again, we meet from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays. Please prayerfully consider joining us for prayer. Come any time at the above time. The Lord welcomes you and so do we. By the way, we also welcome any men who wish to come at that time. Please come!! If you have any questions, please contact Jan Hibner at 962-4810 or 277-3136



Join the Choir

Can you sing? The Chancel Choir needs you! We rehearse Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm downstairs in the choir room. Feeling unsure? Try it out for a few weeks and see if you like it. We work on music each week that soothes the soul.

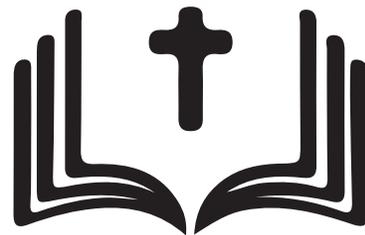
Contact: Madeleine at
madeleine@richmondcumc.com



Central UMC is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non invasive and painless health screenings on 2/20/2020. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441, or text the word circle to 797979, or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle



Creative Hands
will meet on February
13th and 27th from 9am
thru lunch as we prepare
for a Spring Pop-Up!



Reading the Bible in a year

Christians have always been a people of the Bible. Yet, for many reasons, many of us have never read the entirety of the Holy Scriptures. On January 1, 2020, Central began to take this challenge head-on in offering resources, classes, and prayers for any and all who desire to journey through the pages of God's Word. To follow along, download the reading plan from our website or pick up a copy in the church office! In February, we will be reading Leviticus 8 - Deut. 23 and Psalm 32 - 60.

Mark your Calendars for these UMW events!

Feb. 6 Meeting

UMW meeting will be in the parlor at 10am. Our speakers will be several members of the Richmond Police Dept. concerning how to keep ourselves safe. Refreshments will be provided by the Executive Committee.

March 5 Meeting

UMW Legislative Day at North UMC in Indy, 10:00am-3:30pm. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00am to carpool. We will need to pre-register. See Ann Cashner for more information.

Community Food Pantry Kroger Rewards

The Community Food Pantry continues to participate in Kroger's 5% rewards program. Anyone who has a Kroger Plus Card can register it and Kroger will give 5% of your total bill to our Food Pantry. Our Kroger Non-Profit Organization number is RF335. Kroger Plus Cards are free. You may pick one up at their courtesy desk. To register it go to: krogercommunityrewards.com. Kroger donations for 2019, were \$1,013.31. For Kroger shoppers this is a no-cost, painless donation. THANK YOU! The Food Pantry always needs our contributions of food items and cash.



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

THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL SUPPORT YOU GAVE TRIBE BY COMING OUT TO THE SWORD IN THE STYROFOAM! WE APPRECIATE ALL THE LOVE YOU HAVE FOR US!

Parents Morning Out

Friday, February 14 - 6-10pm at Central

The TRIBE will offer babysitting for donations (\$10 minimum). We will have age groups separated and we will offer a snack, craft, movie, and games. Please contact Sheri at 806-759-0485 with questions or to reserve a spot for your child/ren.

****YOUTH THAT WORK WILL RECEIVE PROCEEDS TOWARDS THEIR MISSION ACCOUNT****

Mark your calendars!

Youth Sundays

Sunday, March 1 at Central UMC

Sunday, March 8 at Centerville UMC and First UMC

Youth Service Retreat

March 13-15

Join us as we help Camp Lakewood get ready for summer campers. We will also be enjoying some of the elements ourselves! We will be leaving at 4 on Friday and returning Sunday afternoon. Cost and details TBA.

BINGO PARTY IS BACK IN APRIL!

Join us Sunday, April 19 at 5pm at the ARC for an evening of BINGO and prizes all to benefit the Youth Mission Experience!

****If you have a prize to donate that would promote your business, feel free to do so!****

January Reflections

January brought us into the Season of Epiphany: that thoughtful time from January 6th until the final Sunday before Ash Wednesday when we celebrate Christ's Birth, Baptism and ultimate Transfiguration. I offer some updates on the music ministry at Central.

- The choral library database has completed processing Chancel Choir anthems (almost 2,000 boxes of anthems/cantatas!) and is now about to start work on the collection of handbell music. If anyone would like to help with data entry and counting/sorting music, please contact me at Madeleine@richmondcumc.com.

- Through funds from the Benton Estate for Music, the department is excited to announce the acquisition of two professional choir microphones for the sanctuary. These will work very well to amplify the Chancel Choir each week and can also be used for the Wesley Ringers Bell Choir, Joysingers Children's Choir and any other small, medium or large ensemble that may need to be better heard in the Sanctuary.

- The Chancel Choir and Wesley Ringers Bell Choir have generously donated funds in order to purchase a very nice Grand Piano Light for the piano in the sanctuary. It has already been ordered, arrived and will be in place by Mid-January. This light will be so wonderful for weekly Sunday use as well as for special events/services, concerts, festivals, etc. Thank you, Chancel Choir and Wesley Ringer Members!

I am forever grateful to the hard-working church members and volunteers who make all of the 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.

January was a wonderful time of making music to lift up His name with joyful noise. When the next Lamplighter comes out, we will be in the season of Lent. I look forward to experiencing this time with you.

Wishing you all warmth and joy during the chilly month of February,

Madeleine Demetriades, Minister of Music

February Calendar

2/2	Family Tubing at Valley's Edge	1:00pm
2/3	Prayer Walk	12:00pm
2/3	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm
2/4	Financial Peace University	6:00pm
2/5	Wisdom Study	10:00am
2/6	UMW Meeting	10:00am
2/8	Bread Baking	8:00am
2/10	Medical Monday	1:00pm
2/10	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm
2/11	Financial Peace University	6:00pm
2/12	Wisdom Study	10:00am
2/12	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
2/13	Creative Hands	9:00am
2/13	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
2/16	Pizza with the Pastors	11:30am
2/17	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm
2/18	Bread Basket	4:30pm
2/18	Financial Peace University	6:00pm
2/18	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
2/19	Wisdom Study	10:00am
2/19	Meet Ad Council and Staff	11:30am
2/20	Lifeline Screening	8:00am
2/20	Friendship Circle	10:00am
2/23	Boys and Girls Club Lunch	11:30am
2/24	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm
2/25	Financial Peace University	6:00pm
2/26	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
2/26	Wisdom Study	10:00am
2/26	Garden ReConnect	3:30pm
2/27	Creative Hands	9:00am
2/27	Ad Council	6:30pm
2/29	Discipleship Pathway	9:00am

Upcoming Special Music/Services

- 2/2: Chancel Choir
- 2/16: Chancel Choir
- 2/23: Wesley Ringers Bell Choir
- 2/23: Karis Koyles
- 2/23: Chancel Choir
- 2/26: 6:30pm: Ash Wednesday Service – Chancel Choir; TBD: Joysingers Children's Choir

Thank you for serving!

Acolytes

- 2/2 The Andreas Family
- 2/9 Donna Jurgens and Kaylee Simpson
- 2/16 Dana & Elaine Mollenkopf
- 2/23 Irene Ellis and Mary Alice Bolser

Greeters

TBD

Ushers

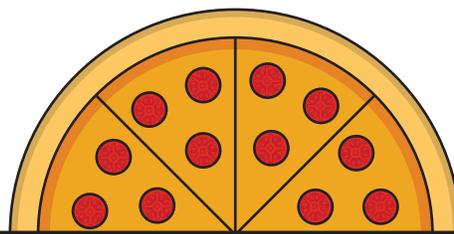
- 2/2 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler
- 2/9 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler
- 2/16 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett
- 2/23 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett

Scripture Readers

- 2/2 Mary Alice Bolser
- 2/9 Dana Reihman
- 2/16 Donna Jurgens
- 2/23 Phil Scott

Altar Guild

Fred Chatfield



PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS

Join us every 3rd Sunday of the month
for an informal time of fellowship
in Fellowship Hall at 11:30am!