



March Lamplighter 2020



March has always been a strange month to me. Perhaps this sensation comes from High School Shakespeare and the infamous, 'Beware the Ides of March.' Taking time for reflection, I think it comes more from lived reality. March begins in Winter and ends in Spring. For those of us in Indiana, this means expecting temperatures somewhere between sub zero and the mid eighties. Welcome to the jet stream pivot state. Furthermore, school Spring Breaks fall in this month inviting travel to places which feel more like Summer. Maybe most excitingly, the verdant growth of the woods and plants around us begin again what they ceased last Fall...even if a half foot of snow might fall on it later in the month. 'In like a lion and out like a lamb' may not always be the appropriate phrase, but there is often chaos of some sort within the days.

Maybe you find your life wavering between different spaces these days.

- Chaotic schedules with no ability to lean into solid expectations.
- Constant attendance to this moment for we know not how the mood or actions of those in our lives could change tomorrow.
- Rising hope for new growth after months of cold, sorrowful dormancy.
- Eager expectation for new adventures and seasonal changes after another wonderful Winter.
- Glad just to be alive after exhausting trials through dark nights of frost.
- Not sure if we will still be standing if the world we depend upon shifts again.

Within the rhythm of church life, a steadier beat

beckons us to join our disparate stories to a deeper harmony. Lent calls us from the chaos and circumstance to contemplate and concentrate upon the conquering love of our King. Unified before us in shining glory of redemption, our paths diverge behind us into every imaginable situation – and some we would rather not imagine. Yet our eyes rest upon the beckoning love of the living Truth. Jesus invites us all to walk with the Wonderful Counselor away from wiles of the world. Arm in arm we can journey this month to a deeper walk with our sauntering Savior.

This Lenten journey covers a well-worn path. For centuries and millennia, the church has taken time each year to prepare for the memory and celebration of Easter morning. 40 days of intentional preparation punctuated by 6 days of Lord's Day celebrations culminate in a great celebration which our covenantal family on Easter morning. The methods and disciplines emphasized over time have varied, but we have remained consistent in our pursuit of a more authentic, daily relationship with our God.

Renewing rest in our redeemer, this is our hope. For those of you in the chaos of life this March, you are invited to pause and join us in turning towards our risen Lord. For those of you celebrating never-ceasing success this March, you are invited to pause and join us in turning towards our risen Lord. The hills and valleys of life are under the rule of our God. Wisdom comes in daily receiving the blessings offered regardless of circumstance.

Cont...

If you find yourself over-scheduled, burdened and encroached upon by the stuff of your life, consider the invitation of living simply after Jesus. Saying no, decluttering, selling-off 'stuff', and blocking off portions of your calendar will free you to breathe freely and daily walk with God. If you find yourself well-intentioned but scattered, busied, and never-finishing, consider submitting yourself to the yoke of the good teacher. Submitting and committing clarifies and energizes us to follow through. If we find ourselves overly concerned with our own situation and not knowing our neighbors, consider serving in our community. Opportunities to be present and to offer meaningful work abound and brings us into obedience of loving our neighbors.

The invitations to walk with God never cease. We just sometimes offer our attention to other distractions and rabbit trails. Let us lean in this Lenten season. Scripture reading, Christian conversation, fasting, worship, and prayer are but a few of the many ways we live a life after God. A new opportunity will be offered March 18th, a silent retreat. A time for you to be with God uninterrupted by your own thoughts and external demands. We will be gathering at Hayes Arboretum from 9 - 4. This will be a guided time with corporate prayer and worship interspersed. For more information, please contact me at [joseph@richmondcumc.com](mailto:joseph@richmondcumc.com). Afterwards, we will have available a packet for a self-guided retreat for a time of your own choosing.

It is my continuous prayer the people of Central UMC will connect more deeply and fully with our God who loves us so. May we spend the month of March drawing near to the Lion of Judah. Being still and knowing who is our God.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Joseph

*In Christ,*  




**From Madeleine Demetriades,  
Minister of Music**

We are now in the traditional season of reflection called Lent: a time to remember what Christ gave up for us. The music during this time will be contemplative as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's ultimate resurrection from death. Here are some updates on the music ministry at Central United Methodist Church:

- The choral library database project has officially been completed. By the start of 2020, all of the Chancel Choir anthems both traditional and modern, as well as Christmas and Easter anthems have been processed. During February, Barb Harper and Janet Robinson helped process all handbell music as well as the extensive collection of choral cantatas. Thank you so much to the volunteers who have made this project possible! In the future it will be so helpful to have records of all the music that we own, and to know how many copies exist.

- Central United Methodist Church choir member Frederick Chatfield performed a recital at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, February 5th as a part of Reid's exciting new recital series which occurs each Wednesday at noon. Congratulations to Frederick for a very successful and lovely recital. I will perform a recital as a part of this series on Wednesday, April 15th at noon. I will play a diverse array of classical and romantic piano works on Reid's 115-year old Starr grand piano. Mark your calendars!

- Central is excited to be the host of a 2020 Community Handbell Festival this coming November. Participants will include First English Lutheran Church and St Paul's Lutheran Church. More information to follow.

Please let me know if you have any questions about Central's music ministry, or if you would be interested in joining a group! We always have more chairs available...



# TRIBE

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

We hope you experience the

## G.R.A.C.E

of God and His son, Jesus as you worship with us on Youth Sunday!

Our prayer is that you would see how deep His love is for you, no matter your past, present, or future decisions. Several of our students will be speaking, singing, and sharing their interpretations with you.

### NEW TRIBE MISSION EXPERIENCE PLAN

Many of our students have to choose camp or mission trip each summer because of cost or scheduling. We would love to have students be able to experience both of these important times away from the “norm.” In order to offer more students the opportunity to be involved, without the pressure of extra fundraising, we will now be moving to a system of having a mission trip one summer and then only offering camp the next summer.

We apologize for not having this information before our first fundraiser. We were having trouble getting the skilled laborers to join us for Henderson Settlement and we decided that it is best not to take on that endeavor this year.

Therefore, this summer will be a camp summer. The following are the camp opportunities available to our children and students. You may send your student any week that IMPACT2818 has a camp, but adults from our churches will only be attending these weeks. The grades listed are the grades your child will be entering the

upcoming school year. Sheri will be present at both Adventure and Epworth. Please contact your pastor for ICASH codes for scholarships for ½ off camp tuition. You will need to register your student online. Please do so ASAP as spots will fill up. Let Sheri, Ted, or Adam know when you are certain your student will be attending.

**Children: (Grades 3-6): Camp Lakewood**

June 14th-19th

**Middle School (Grades 6-8) Camp Adventure**

June 14th-19th

**High School (Grades 9-12) Camp Epworth**

June 21st-26th



**BINGO PARTY IS BACK!!**

Sunday, April 19th from 5-7pm

At the ARC Center

2900 W Main St.

Richmond, Indiana 47374

\*\*All students need to begin gathering prizes\*\*

# Central Preschool News



Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

## MMMmmm...maple!

Our Cope Environmental Center Traveling Toddler Time program for February was MAGIC MAPLE. We learned the process of tapping a tree to collect sap and boiling it down to make maple syrup. Did you know a tree has to be 14" in diameter to be tapped for sap - we're all big enough! We even got to sample maple syrup made from sap collected from Cope trees earlier that week. To add to our tactile learning, we had a healthy pancake lunch with local maple syrup directly following Traveling Toddler Time. YUM!



If you'd like to learn all about maple syrup, or just eat a lot of pancakes, check out [copeenvironmental.org](http://copeenvironmental.org) for info on Cope's upcoming Family Maple Syrup Day Hike and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Thank you to Circle of Friends

(UMW circle at Friends Fellowship Community) for filling wonderful Valentine goodie bags for all the preschoolers!

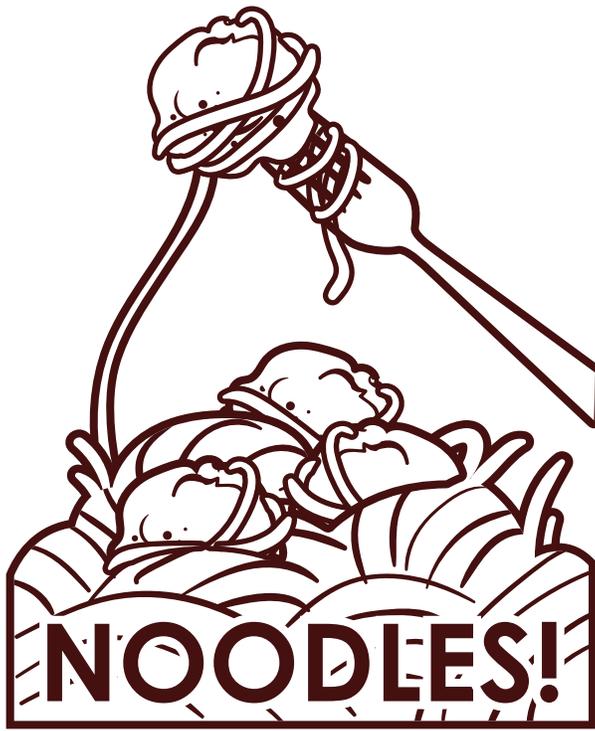
Do you have an hour or two to spare?



Ideally, I could use a volunteer with me Mondays & Wednesdays from 9.30am-12.30pm. BUT even if you just have one or two hours to spare in that time frame, I would appreciate it! An extra adult set of eyes and hands goes a long way when working with little ones ;) Please contact Nicole if available [preschool@richmondcumc.com](mailto:preschool@richmondcumc.com)

## Thank you to January & February classroom and Cope TTT volunteers:

Susie Auman, Mary Alice Bolser, Justin Daggy, Bob Clark, Arden Davis, Madeleine Demetriades, Doris Miller, Donna Jurgens, Pat Heiny, Tricia Sheridan, Pastor Jen, Sheri Koyles, Jen Seger, Nedra Clark, Sherry Ingram, Steve Royer, Roxie Deer, Jen Hall



### **Creative Hands - UMW Pop-Up**

Which came first? The chicken or the egg? We don't care, because we've got the noodles ... oodles of them! So if March goes out like a lion, tame it with a noodle or two. But wait ... here are the details! Let Central UMC's Creative Hands put some spring in your step at our next "pop-up" sale before and after church on Sunday, March 29th. Look for loads of colorful flowers, bowl cozies, decorative pillows, stitched hangings, painted rocks and more. Proceeds go to local charities...and you can help! Creative hands will meet March 12th and 26th from 9am thru lunch. Calling all noodle elders! We will be making noodles on March 12th.

### **Caregiver Study**

The caregiver group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 10am in the Memorial Room. We are currently reading "Ambushed by Grace: Help and Hope on the Caregiving Journey" by Shelly Beach. Contact Pastor Jen for a book and any questions you might have.

### **Save the date:**

S.O.S.-Step Out Saturday is Saturday, May 16th. Central will have six different opportunities to serve in the community that morning. More details from the missions team to come!

### **From football, to basketball, Souper Bowl to March Madness...**

The missions focus for March is the Community food pantry! Sunday, March 1st you can bring food items and make a monetary donation during our communion offering to the food pantry. Saturday, March 7th mark your calendars to join us for a tour to learn more about the food pantry and an opportunity to serve. Look for an email and an announcement in the bulletin for more details.



### **Dear Church Family,**

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement shown to our family this past month in so many different ways! We are blown away by your kindness and have really enjoyed the delicious food that you have shared with us. You have really helped to make our transition a smooth one.

Gratefully, The Huffs

### **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, March 18th

### **Friendship Circle**

The Friendship Circle will meet at 10:00am in the Parlor on Thursday, March 19th. Please join us!



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.



### **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! This year Central will lead their own in our community. If you are interested in being on the planning team, please contact Pastor Jen. The dates are Sunday, June 7th - Wednesday, June 10th and will be held in the evening.

### **UMW Meeting**

March 5th is UMW Legislative Day at North UMC in Indy, from 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.

### **More details:**

#### **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. Each child has yearly fees of \$90. For the preschool year, 2 day tuition is \$880 and 3 day tuition is \$1260. Families can pay this in 4 installments. Childcare rates begin at \$132 per week for infants and decrease as they age, incrementally, down to \$89 per week. 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](mailto:jennifer@richmondcumc.com) for more information. Thank you for your support!



### **Women's Prayer Group**

This group meets every Monday in the parlor at 12pm to 1pm. 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. We know that where two or three are gathered together, the Lord is present. 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. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Hibner at 962-4810 or 277-3136

# March Calendar

3/2	Prayer Walk	12:00pm
3/2	Women's Prayer	12:00pm
3/2	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm
3/3	Financial Peace University	6:00pm
3/4	Wisdom Study	10:00am
3/4	Men's Prayer	12:00pm
3/9	Monday Morning Connection	9:00am
3/9	Caregiver Study	10:00am
3/9	Women's Prayer	12:00pm
3/9	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm
3/10	Financial Peace University	6:00pm
3/11	Wisdom Study	10:00am
3/11	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
3/11	Men's Prayer	12:00pm
3/12	Creative Hands	9:00am
3/12	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
3/14	Bread baking	8:00am
3/15	Pizza with the Pastors	11:00am
3/16	Women's Prayer	12:00pm
3/16	Fireside Conversation	1:30pm
3/17	Bread Basket	4:30pm
3/17	Financial Peace University	6:00pm
3/17	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
3/18	Wisdom Study	10:00am
3/18	Meet Ad Council	11:30am
3/18	Men's Prayer	12:00pm
3/19	Friendship Circle	10:00am
3/23	Women's Prayer	12:00pm
3/23	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm
3/25	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
3/25	Men's Prayer	12:00pm
3/25	Garden ReConnect	3:30pm
3/26	Creative Hands	9:00am
3/26	Ad Council	6:30pm
3/29	UMW Pop-Up	9:00am
3/30	Women's Prayer	12:00pm
3/30	Fireside Conversations	1:30pm

## Upcoming Special Music

- 3/1: Youth service/ Drake Shadle, piano
- 3/8: Chancel Choir
- 3/15: Joysingers and Chancel Choir
- 3/22: Wesley Ringers and Chancel Choir
- 3/29: Chancel Choir

## Acolytes

Contact the church office at 765-962-8543 to serve in this way!

## Greeters

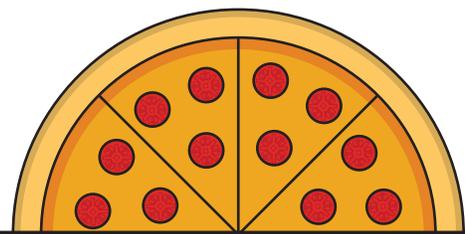
Contact the church office at 765-962-8543 to serve in this way!

## Ushers

- 3/1 Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
- 3/8 Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
- 3/15 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler
- 3/22 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler
- 3/29 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett

## Scripture Readers

- 3/1 Shirley Hester
- 3/8 Gayla Parker
- 3/15 Kathy Eyer
- 3/22 Ann Cashner
- 3/29 BJ Toms



## PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS

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