



a note from *Pastor Joseph*

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

This passage from Pentecost has come to grow on me. It points to that moment when a group of people collectively deal with their authentic selves. We discussed how the people had been 'caught' in their attitudes and actions (or rather non-action) towards Jesus in what led up to his crucifixion. We heard the Good News, that they, yes them, could still drink from the springs of eternal life if only there was repentance because of God's good acts. Worshipping in truth and spirit was no longer a dream. And I have been wondering.

What would those words be today? What action could we take? How could Central call forth our neighbors and community in ways which would 'cut to the heart'? How could we love well enough to earn the right to be heard? Friends, we are indeed in a time of grief, confusion, and moving on without knowing what's next. Everyday we hear messengers speak of a brave new world emerging from the latest tragedy, development, and triumph. Prognosticators pontificate and prophesy about the latest and greatest, the newest and boldest, the wokest and purest, the smartest and oldest - only the streets around us tell a different story.

Our neighbors are longing for change. Changes from the complications to life from this pandemic. Changes to the systems which leave so many crowded in poverty and isolated in wealth. Changes to the perceptions and biases which have so long plagued our country. Changes to the loneliness and despair which only goes away one needle or Netflix binge at a time. The coronavirus has left us in a new reality. One where we yearn to shake hands (and maybe hug) and see each other's faces, yet one where we find comfort in loving our neighbor by keeping our germs confined to our masks and six feet away. Change the way we have always done it is no longer guaranteed to work. *Brothers and Sisters, what shalt we do?*

Let us turn to something more ancient and more solid.

The gospel's call remains. 'Repent and believe the good news!' Let us turn from the myriad ways we try to figure it all, work it all out on our own. Let us turn from our overwhelmed sense of inadequacy and receive fully the abundance of our God. Let us again take hold of the good news King Jesus has wisdom for us today as children of God. Let us remember our calling to bear this message of forgiveness, holiness, abundance, community, and shalom to all we come across - including the next person. Let us be truly ourselves, fully known, empowered by the Holy Spirit, walking in holiness, making peace, and spreading love.

Maybe they are our neighbors, our friends, our family. Maybe they are strangers, fellow workers, or even fellow church goers. Maybe even the person staring back in the mirror has yet to take hold. Today could be that first day! God's call continues on us to live good news lives and to pass along this wisdom, truth and love to whoever God sends to us. We at Central are those people and I am excited to see in the coming months and years how our church responds. We will commiserate, conspire, co-create, concoct and continue - together, whatever it takes. Jesus is worth it. His kingdom is worth it. All of our neighbors are worth it.

Just dreaming of this, knowing of these I feel that cut deepening and I find myself wondering, "Brothers and sisters of Central UMC, what shall we do?"

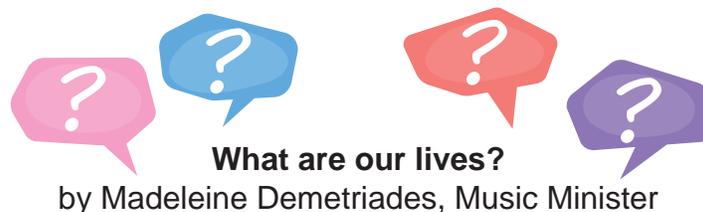
Yours in Christ, Pastor Joseph



I love beautiful sunsets. I often feel that God is painting yet another masterpiece, not only to demonstrate His creative genius, but also to fill me with just a little pinch of His glory. The awe I feel is sometimes indescribable!

I don't witness very many sunrises because I rarely wake up early enough. The one sunrise I hope not to miss is the one that will appear after my "final sunset" because that one will be a SONrise. It will be more magnificent than any sunrise or sunset I have ever been blessed with since I will come face to face with the SON of God - my Savior Jesus Christ !!!

"His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand where his power was hidden."
Habakkuk 3:4 NIV



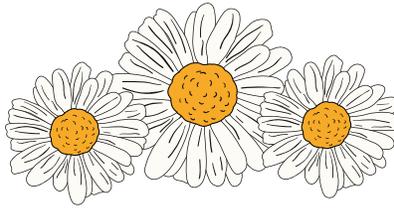
James 4: 13-16

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

We all spend so much time doing our own thing. We run from appointment to appointment, never pausing for a breath. We concern ourselves with making money; making a living for ourselves and our families. We all want to have a legacy - to live a good life that was well-lived. We try to do what's right. However, we just don't know what tomorrow will bring. These unprecedented times (a term I've heard way too often recently) bring about much anxiety and frustration. I often look at my calendar and wonder what the fall will look like: will there be Chancel Choir rehearsals? Will we feel comfortable singing at all, as a congregation? There are just so many questions. How do we know what to do? How do we know what is right? What are our lives?

All we can do is pray, and spend time alone with God.
God bless you, my friends – have a good July!

Join Madeleine every Tuesday at 10am on Central's Facebook page for a live musical worship!



FEAR NOT

By Sheri Koyles, Youth Minister

Did you ever pick up a flower, as a young person, and play that “game” where you tore off the petals, one by one, chanting “He/She loves me, He/She loves me not”? I would play this with my friends while each of us thought of our crush. Of course, we would use a new flower until we got the desired result. We could have just counted the petals and picked the flower that gave us the outcome we wished for, but we never used our noggin’s that well-lol. Nonetheless, we left that game either frustrated or delighted. Really?! We let a flower determine the feelings of a person... Fast forward to your later years when you clearly knew that this way of guessing the feelings of others was completely ridiculous. But don’t we still find ourselves playing this game with God and our trust in Him?

Everything is going great: *“I trust you completely Lord.”*

Things are not going so well: *“Where are you, Lord, are you there, maybe I can’t trust you.”*

Over and over again we cycle through these waves of feeling- oriented faith. Did you know that “fear not” is found in His holy word 365 times? You have already made the connection to what is significant about that! One “fear not” from the Lord for everyday of the year! Coincidence? Maybe? Nonetheless, it is encouraging and powerful to know that God wants us to continually know that we can trust in Him and leave the fear behind.

Max Lucado is the author of the book, *Fearless*, that seeks to aid believers in the pursuit of letting go of fear and dwelling in trust. He states: “Fear corrodes our confidence in God’s goodness.” Read that again. And one more time. That is exactly what fear does! It makes us question God’s character. We know that God is not the author of fear, anxiety, worry, distress, etc. Yet we wallow in it whenever the world seems to close in. We have certainly seen an overwhelming fear grip our world in the last 4 months!

Max concludes his book with a call to be God’s people and respond to His character rather than the “doom” surrounding us. “There’s a stampede of fear out there. Let’s not get caught in it. Let’s be those who stay calm. Let’s recognize danger but not be overwhelmed. Acknowledge threats but refuse to be defined by them. Let others breathe the polluted air of anxiety, not us. Let’s be numbered among those who hear a DIFFERENT VOICE, GOD’S.”!

So, when you hear the voice of fear and anxiety creeping in...STOP what you are doing, get on your knees, and listen to the voice that can calm even a raging sea!



TRIBE



Well it certainly feels weird to not be sending out camp or mission trip updates. It is strange to sit in the office and just plan small group events or larger outdoor ones. I am sure many of you feel the same as summer plans and dreams had to be cancelled or changed. All 3 churches are now back and meeting with safety guidelines, so I hope you find some time to go worship corporately. Worshipping online in our pj's is nice, but nothing can beat meeting with fellow believers as scripture asks us to not give up doing!



GUESS WHAT?!

**If you are entering 6th grade in the next school year,
YOU ARE OFFICIALLY A PART OF TRIBE!!**

You are welcome to join any of our events, activities, or meetings. PARENTS: Want to be informed about all of this great stuff? Send a text to 806-759-0485 with the best phone number to add to our REMIND text service, you and your student's name, and your facebook and/or Instagram tag to be added to our social media pages. I also need an email in order to add you to the email updates.



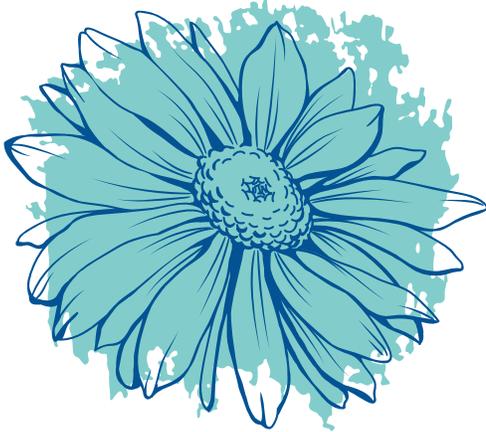
**TRIBE family biking Friday, July 3rd at 10:00am ALL ARE INVITED
*grandma, cousins, uncles, little sisters, godparents. Nice church people(lol)!***

Meet at the Family Fitness Warehouse parking lot at 10am. Bring some water and a lunch. If you have a bike and can transport it, then bring it with you, otherwise, we can rent free ones from the bike shop! Please text Sheri at 806-759-0485 if you are joining us!



RETREAT RETREAT RETREAT RETREAT

It was super sad to hear that summer camp was cancelled! It was just too difficult to figure out how to have hundreds of students together at camp safely. But we can use a camp facility for just our group very safely! So Join us July 17th-19th as we will be heading to Camp Lakewood in Wilcottville, IN for a short weekend of swimming, hanging out, campfires and more! Please contact Sheri for more information.



Thank You

Thank you to my church family for all the calls, cards, thoughts & prayers. I truly love & appreciate each of you.
-Donna Jurgens

Thank You

We, the family of James J. McComb, would like to thank the members of Central Methodist Church for their many thoughts, prayers, cards, and phone calls. They are appreciated and felt, bring God's peace and comfort to us all. In Christian love, Jim and Pat McComb.

Men's Prayer Group

The Men's prayer group has begun meeting Wednesdays at noon in the Veteran's Park. They are wearing masks and social distancing. Please contact Bob Hall with more questions.

Creative Hands

Greetings from Creative Hands. We know that we've all been at home sheltering in place and have had time to organize and reorganize and have found antiques and collectibles that you think others would appreciate owning. We will be glad to take your donations of antiques and collectibles for our next Pop-Up for new owners to enjoy while helping UMW support their local charities. When it is safe, bring items to the church office for UMW. Please mark your donations "For UMW Pop-Up." Thank you and we are wishing you well.

Lamplighter Devotionals and Testimonies

We are asking for devotionals and testimonies from the congregation to be shared in a future Lamplighter. If you feel led to share, please submit yours by July 15th to Christin at christin@richmondcumc.com.

Central United Methodist Church is online!

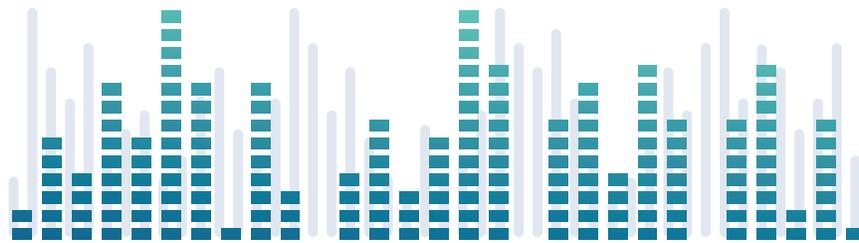
Check out our website, richmondcumc.com for all updates and information and you can watch our Sunday service live and get updates on the happenings at Central on our Facebook page facebook.com/richmondcumc.

Join us in July for Praise and Play!

July 12th, 19th, and 26th at 6:00pm

We will gather at 6:00pm outdoors (indoors if it's raining) for a time of praise through song with guitar. Children will then have the opportunity for a short lesson and playing on our playground or indoors in the gym, while the rest of us join together for a short devotion and discussion. We hope you will join us!





A New Day, A New Army

We have heard story after story of how the livestream service is blessing many. Therefore we are resolving to continue to offer our online Sunday morning service indefinitely. When our fellow Wesleyan William Booth changed the name of the Christian Mission to the Salvation Army he declared he did not want to settle down into quietness, but rather go forward at all costs. Friends we have reached such a time with our online ministry. Right now we have a few faithful who are making sure this ministry continues. Longterm, we will need reinforcements on this team to run sound, video, and slides. Is it you? Are you willing to serve on Sunday mornings and beyond? If you discern this in your prayers, please contact the office.

The Bible in One Year

We are continuing to read the Bible in one year here at Central. We are currently in Jeremiah. Feel free to start today to get a flavor of the Hebrew Scriptures before we read the whole New Testament beginning in August. You can download the Read Scripture app or pick up a copy of the readings in the office. If you are struggling through it and would like a group to discuss with, feel free to join our conversation group on Mondays at 1:30pm which discusses all things Jesus and the Bible in One year. You can join via Zoom or in-person in the church parlor.

Community Emergency Relief Room Update

The Relief Room continues to take shape. A special thanks to those who have made financial contributions and donations of items to be distributed to those facing emergency situations. For now, we have plenty of women's clothing and stuffed animals. There is still a need for men's and school aged children's clothing, shoes, bedding, and essential household and kitchen items. If you would like to check out the room and see Dana Mollenkopf in church, let him know. He would be happy to take you down and show you around.



Central Preschool Registration

Central Preschool is open for registration! If you or someone you know is interested, please contact our Early Childhood Center Coordinator Arden Davis at (765)962-8543 or by email at cumcchildcare@richmondcumc.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mention this ad and receive \$10 off registration fee



Community Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Twice per week - 2 hours per day: A volunteer is needed to be present while the pantry is open. This person would help wherever needed. Re-fill shelves, accept food donations at the back door, help pass out food if church volunteers need extra help.

Once per week - 1 to 2 hours: Our truck goes to the Richmond Meijer to pick up their donations. When the truck drivers unload the food, we need a volunteer to help unload the truck, sort the food and add it to our shelves. The length of time varies by the amount of food.

Once per month - 2 to 3 hours: Once a month our truck goes to pick up food from Gleaners Food Bank. When the truck drivers unload the food, we need a volunteer to help unload the truck, sort the food and add it to our shelves. The length of time varies by the amount of food.

Once per week on your own schedule: We need a volunteer to recycle excess cardboard. Once a week load and haul the cardboard to the landfill for recycling. Volunteers will need a mini-van or pick-up. Length of time varies.

Please give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to volunteering and talk to your friends, neighbors and co-workers about their volunteering to help. To volunteer or find out more details, call Phil Shirden: 765-994-9447



A Huge Shout Out to our Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to Pat Heiny and Nicole and Sean Andreas for staying connected to their students during the pandemic. Thanks for being awesome and keeping them engaged and excited about their faith journeys!



Summer Bible Reading Bingo

Let your child choose from these suggested reading activities. Once they complete an activity, they can color in the square. When they have colored in five squares in a row they have a bingo. You can stop there, or encourage your child to continue with the other activities until all squares are colored.

Read for 15 minutes in your backyard or another outdoor area	Read a Bible story about traveling and then go for a walk	Read a story set in the summertime	Read a story and then re-tell the story in your own words to a grownup	Read the same story as a friend and then discuss it with them over video chat
Read a Bible story that features a child	Read a Bible story about water. When you are done, run through a sprinkler or play in a wading pool.	Read a Bible story with a female main character	Read a Bible story and then invent a new title for it	Read a Bible story from the Old Testament
Read a parable	Read a Bible story with an animal in it	Free Space	Read a Bible story featuring a baby	Read a favorite Bible story while next to an open window
When you see a rainbow, read God's rainbow promise from Genesis 9:16	Read to a sibling or a friend	Read a Bible story about healing	Make a fort in your living room or bedroom and read a Bible story inside it	Read a Bible story during mealtime
Read a Gospel story	Read a psalm	Read a Bible story about Jesus	Read a Bible story with a family member over video chat	Read a Bible story in the car



Central United Methodist Church

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In May we began to worship together in person again. If you have questions about what this looks like, please don't hesitate to ask. We will continue to make the service available via Facebook live for those who are not physically present.

 facebook.com/richmondcumc

 richmondcumc.com