



AUGUST

LAMPLIGHTER

a note from *Pastor Joseph*

Does anyone else have trouble focusing on just one thing? I start over here, get called over there, add to my list further out, and wonder what's going on within. Just chalk it up to 2020. These are uncharted waters. All comparisons lack on some front. We are all aware of the blunt reality, matters beyond our control, but the unseen and the unknown often place us in a paralysis of analysis. A storm of indecision rages within while a strange, calm fog mocks our varying responses. Hours of preparation and anxiety melt in the wake of a single announcement. The momentum of conviction stalls before the changing winds of public opinion. We are left with one clear truth – there is so much we do not know (ok two, we wish we would never have to utter Covid-19 again).

This certainty of uncertainty forces us to constantly look around us in new ways. We are all in this together, sure, but observation tells us our responses are different. Perhaps we may be on the same ocean, but we are not all on the same vessels or attempting the same course. The never ceasing waves of data and announcements have broken the rudder of objectivity. Anxiety and tension mounts as varying parts of our community stay at home while others go wherever they feel led. Some isolate, some congregate. Some mourn, some celebrate. Some rest, while others double their hours. We file for unemployment, file for PPP, save, hoard, spend, invest, waste, hire, lay-off – we are left conflicted and confused. We want to offer hugs and celebrate at favorite restaurants while resenting those who do.

I do not know where you find yourself in the fog of this epidemiological war. I do know this hurts. Pain is a part of disorientation. Common sense is no longer common. Doing what we have always done not only does not work – it can harm us. And right now for you, it might be more than you can bear. I know it is for me. I am so grateful for God's church in these times. Together, we can make it through this. Please, stand strong for just a little longer.

I find myself turning again and again to the Psalms for their powerful language and hope. There you can find so much, including psalms of disorientation and reorientation. The people of Israel had been dispossessed of a land they believed entitled to them and found expression through Psalms of lament. They brought their pain and questions about the change to a foreign land boldly and bluntly before their God. Throughout the verses, it's as though God holds these pains until new possibilities emerge. We too can find ways to authentically share our pains with one another. We share the pain of being apart. We want everyone to be safe, but we feel the pain of seeing our neighbors and friends shutter their businesses – lose their income.

This storm is particularly cruel at this point. The very measures to slow and hopefully stop the spread of the Coronavirus are the very ones which are undoing our economy. The movement of people spreads germs, but it also spreads around money. The spread of money allows our employees and the public to pay for goods, health care, and rent. This is not a neatly packaged either/or. It's a messy both/and. And now the various solutions are being politicized rather than discussed. Social unrest and haunting videos have stirred fear and division into the chaos. The momentary peace of "togetherness" has been broken. The fog of indecision seems to grow denser.

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But we will not stay disoriented forever. Either the fog will lift or we will develop new ways of navigating our new discoveries. Looking back we can see this is how all of history has read.

Even in the Psalms, the cries of disorientation give way to songs of re-orientation and ultimately celebration. The old can become new. What seemed lost can be found again. Further, in re-orientation much needed shifts can happen as we rediscover what is most valuable in our lives. Members of the community get to build this by creating, producing and sharing. Meaningful work provides ways for families to get the income needed to thrive. Services are offered to promote healthy abundance and bountiful relationships. The Church spreads itself out to connect wherever we find ourselves. We can again anticipate a better tomorrow. We can again invest our sweat in the ground. The seeds of hope can spring forth from this soil.

I find this hope in peace. Not the mere absence of conflict, but in the Hebrew conception for peace – Shalom. Shalom has a larger vision of a rightly ordered society where everything is in the right relationship to one another and God. The saga of the suffering of Job uses Shalom to talk about having all of his household in order. 1 Kings speaks of how peaceful kingdoms also participate in trade which brings abundance. We are not isolated individuals. I need the home goods store, baker, dairy farmer, grocer, real estate agent, banker, and insurer to sit in my home and be thankful for the buttered bread broken for my family. I need my neighbors of different hues and incomes to be in meaningful, holistic community. In some ways we see this more clearly as we join billions around the world in this similar socially distanced reality. We are inextricably linked. This is why scripture again and again tells the story of eternal Shalom with no more war nor hunger.

A peace seemingly shattered by the disruptive winds of the coronavirus and unveiled racism. We have a fight before us to restore our communities to wholeness, to restore Shalom.

In this fight for a new tomorrow, love of neighbor can lead the way, and what a wonderful opportunity the people of Central have in leading this new reality. We will have a chance to care for those coming back into the outside world. We can come alongside their concerns while meeting their needs. We can find new ways of gathering in discipling community. We can pray and call and encourage and connect through technology when we must distance ourselves. We can leave behind practices and ways of socializing which marginalized the unseen. There can be a shift from “how much do I have to save?” to “how much can I serve?” All can be a part of the Shalom.

In the fog, we do not know what is next, but we choose to carry on. It will be hard. We will be hurt and disappointed again and again. This valley of trouble may very well be the way forward for what comes next. Knowing where we have been can give us the strength to go forward. Friends, the dream of building up the kingdom community in Richmond and beyond is worth this effort. As we again put our hand to the rudder, we can remember the promise of Isaiah, ‘When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.’

They say in the midst of the storm of disorientation, keep your focus on the horizon. If we keep our eye on the hope of this new tomorrow, this love can cast off the fear which restrains. Maybe then we will hear the words of the One who calms the storm, “Be still.” We will gather again. We will celebrate our triumphs and mourn our losses together when the time is right. I for one, look forward to those celebrations.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Joseph

TRIBE

CENTERVILLE ARCHWAY DAYS-LAST WEEKEND IN AUGUST YARD SALE!!!

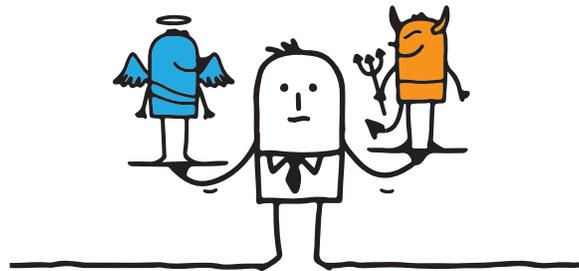
TRIBE IS IN CHARGE THIS YEAR-Details about shifts to sign-up for will be forthcoming. Please begin to bring your donations to any of the 3 churches and mark them for the youth yard sale.

KAYAKING in Brookville

Sunday, August 2nd - Make sure your contact Sheri (if you haven't already) if you are joining us so she can reserve more kayaks. \$25 per person. Time:1pm-4pm

Back To School TRIBE

Sunday, August 16th. Watch your email for details!



TEMPTED

By Cayden Lindahl - RHS Sophomore

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” - I Corinthians 10:13

Being tempted is not a sin, but falling into temptation is the sin. God is giving you an opportunity to not fall into temptation. You have to realize the opportunity He is giving you (to run away from temptation) and then take it! Just ask Him and He will help you every time. I Peter 5:7 tells us *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”* He cares for you and He will give you the help you need to not fall into temptation.

Questions for reflection:

1. What tempts you to do something sinful?
2. Have you ever noticed God giving you “a way out”?

Prayer: Lord, help me to be listening to your voice and guidance as things in life tempt me. Give me the strength to walk away from sinful situations. As I spend more time with You, guide me to have a desire to be so much like You that I easily follow the way out of temptation that You provide. Help me also to be a good example to others who are struggling with tempting situations. Amen.



Library Books!

All of the books and shelves in the library have been cleaned and wiped down with disinfectant wipes. Many books that have been unused are now sitting on our “Free Book” shelf in the entry way waiting to find their new homes. There are still lots of good valuable informative books and enjoyable fiction stories available for your enjoyment. If you want to look for books during the week, you will need to enter the area through the doors opposite the sanctuary. Please take advantage of this offering from Central.



Our church uses a church record keeping solution called Realm®. It serves the administrative needs of our staff, and also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in our church. Not only does this improve work life for our ministry staff, it makes it easier for our church members to connect with each other, keep up with what’s going on, and grow as a connected community of believers.

Profiles

With Realm, everyone in our church gets a unique profile. Your profile contains everything you want people in our church to know about you. Your profile also enables you to join a small group, RSVP to events, track your giving, update your contact information, change family details, set notification preferences, or replace that outdated family photo. By keeping your information current, you are helping our staff, group leaders, and our church community. Your Profile includes: Contact Information* (e.g. name, address, email, and phone), Photo, Family Members, and Personal Information (e.g. marital status, birthday**, etc.)

Groups

Groups and classes are an important part of our church, and now you can connect with the people in them throughout the week. You can keep track of upcoming meetings, who’s bringing what, and what’s going on in each other’s lives.

Giving

With Realm, you can view your private giving history or make new donations online or on your mobile phone. Simply sign in to look over your year-to-date giving, check pledge progress, print a contribution statement, or make a new one-time or recurring donation. It’s always available and kept secure in an easy-to-use online environment.

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 to Christin at christin@richmondcumc.com.

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.



What a year this has been...social distancing, wearing masks, fear of the unknown, fear of what the future holds and how to adapt to a “new normal.” Sometimes when I feel discouraged and need a gentle reminder that our Father in heaven is watching over us and won’t give us more than we can handle, I turn to one of my favorite songs – “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.”

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home?
When Jesus is my portion – My constant friend is He.
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

What a comfort the words of this song bring me – a reassurance that He watches over me and will take care of all my needs – I just need to believe and have faith.

In an effort to continue with some UMW activities, and the opportunity to return to some “normalcy”, we are in the process of updating the UMW program book and planning programs for 2020-2021. You are correct, gatherings won’t be like we’ve done in the past, but we will continue the best way possible, keeping everyone’s health and welfare in mind.

If you would like to have your name and contact information printed in the program book, please forward the following information to Christin no later than August 31, 2020. We are planning to distribute new books by December. Information may be sent to Christin via email at christin@richmondcumc.com or mail to Central UMC 1425 East Main Street, Richmond, IN 47374.

Information requested: Name, Street Address, Phone (Landline), Phone (Cell), Email

Providing your information for publication in the program book automatically recognizes you as a supporter/member of Central's United Methodist Women's unit and the Indiana Conference. As such, we are obligated to pay \$13 for each name listed. The \$13 minimum pledge is then distributed to the Indiana Conference, the Lucille Raines Residence in Indianapolis, and scholarships for UMW's Mission u. When UMW supporters/members are able to give more than the \$13 minimum pledge, Central's UMW unit is able to provide additional support to local service agencies. Your UMW pledge may be mailed to our UMW Treasurer, Barb Shirden, at 241 South 46th Street, Richmond, IN 47374. Checks should be made payable to: United Methodist Women of Central UMC.

Please consider sharing your time and talents...let your voice be heard...Membership is open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the church through United Methodist Women.

Remember, we are all experiencing changes and making adaptations to our everyday life. Be kind to one another, hold on to your faith, and know that even when His eye is on the sparrow, He watches over each and every one of us.

Blessings,
Linda Foley, Central's UMW Vice-President

Upcoming UMW Gatherings: - *Masks required – social distancing observed*

Thursday, August 13, 12:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall – following Creative Hands
Election of UMW Officers

Thursday, September 10, 12:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall – following Creative Hands
Program: Tale of the Three Trees – Linda Foley presenter

September Pop-Up - Information coming soon!



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***

Presentation of Bibles

It is a tradition in our church to present Bibles to 3rd graders. We know that sometimes we overlook someone or skip a year. If you are entering 3rd grade or did not receive your "3rd Grade" Bible, please contact Pastor Jen. Bibles will be presented in church (or another way if you prefer not to attend worship in person) during our Back to School Sunday (date TBA).

A Note from Pastor Jen

As a pastor and church, we have the privilege to be able to serve people and be present with them in their times of need. This takes on many different forms. For me, it involves learning about community resources in each new place where I am appointed. I have learned about where to send people when they need help with rent, where they can go to have a warm meal or collect food for their family, where they can receive medical care, etc. Resources and community contacts change and not everyone has the same situation or need. As a result, I am constantly learning how to best love our neighbors. We have even learned during this pandemic where to donate masks so that others would not have to go without!

Recently, I learned about another resource in our community. I thought it would be a good idea to share this information with you, so that you might also learn about these resources, and pass along the information to those who might be in need. We never know when any of us might also utilize these resources, so the more information we have, the better.

If someone is in need of Depends, they can contact one or more of the following places:

- Ask doctor for a prescription so Medicaid will cover cost
- Lifestream will also help with a prescription:
<https://www.lifestreaminc.org/wayne-county/>, 759-1121, 800-589-1121
- Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana receives donations and will hand out:
<https://ilcein.org/>, 939-9226, 877-939-9226
- Wayne Township Trustee Main Office and Dwyer Center, 973-9392 (call) or 969-2371 (call/text)
- Emergency Relief Resource Room at Central UMC
- An emergency during worship – speak to an usher or find in acolyte closet
- Goodwill sometimes has large quantities boxed together for a few dollars

Thank you for being faithful servants and witnesses, shining your light into the world around you.

Be blessed,
Pastor Jen



Mujila Falls Agricultural Center

One of the great parts of being United Methodist is that we are a connectional church. This means we are connected in ministry to places such as Mujila Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia. Central has been supporting this project for over 15 years through donations and the Mission Bread Project. This support has helped the Center generate income, increase nutrition, lower death in childbirth, and help advance education among children and youth. Please pray for this and the many missions around the world and consider supporting it through a special offering.

A Note from our Music Minister Madeleine Demetriades

Greetings Central friends! I pray that you are well during these trying and uncertain times. I have some exciting updates regarding Central's music ministry:

Thursday livestreams are returning in August! The first date will be 8/13. They will be each week at 2pm, and streamed live from the church sanctuary. These brief 30 minute devotional times will include reflective and meditative music from the organ and piano.

Tuesday worship livestreams are continuing! These remain at 10am, and stream live from my living room in Brookville, OH. It has been such a joy doing these every Tuesday since 3/24! I have played so many new pieces, learned more about hymns, and gotten to know some of you better. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to serve you all.

I am starting a Zoom Hymn Study! We will examine the fascinating stories behind our most beloved Methodist hymns, and discuss how these songs help to enrich our spiritual lives and elevate our worship experience. I promise we will have fun! It will start on Tuesday, 7/28 at 2:00pm and last until 9/1. If you are interested in participating, please email me at: madeleine@richmondcumc.com



In lieu of Vacation Bible School...

Families were given a copy of “En la escuela de los Salmos/At Psalms School” by John D. Witvliet, Maria Eugenia Cornou, and Joel Schoon-Tanis along with a guide for further learning, devotion, and experiential activities. This bilingual book has beautiful artwork across each page with three verses from the book of Psalms to enhance each lesson of what the Psalms teach us to do. For example, the Psalms teach us to say, “Thank you, Lord” and to “offer our gifts to God.” The guide made it possible for infants through adults to connect to scripture and these lessons and to continue their learning by observing, listening, and participating in worship. If you would like to check out this resource, you can ask Pastor Jen for more information. This resource is simple yet impactful. We hope you will join us in praying for the families who will be learning together from this resource.

Central United Methodist Church
1425 East Main Street
Richmond, IN 47374

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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