

Praying and Thanking in All Circumstances

Have you ever been thankful for fleas? I have not and do not think I ever will. I remember the misery of our poor Dixie when she had some years ago. I remember the sprays and cleanings and treatments. No thank you.

Yet that is precisely where the sisters ten Boom found themselves in the Ravensbruck concentration camp – thankful for fleas. A little back story. The brave women had been arrested for harboring Jews in Holland and eventually transferred to a flea infested, rancid straw-laden, overcrowded barracks in Germany. Corrie's cries of disgust were answered by Betsie's continued prayers which found guidance in their morning reading, 1 Thessalonians, "Comfort the frightened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus..." Their prayers led Betsie to give thanks for even the fleas – a step too far for Corrie.

As the weeks passed they noticed they were able to minister more freely in the large room of these barracks. Betsie especially was able to comfort those around here by reading her smuggled Bible with others and offering prayer. Corrie came back from her labor one evening and noticed Betsie's eyes were twinkling. Betsie shared she had gone up to the guards outside that day to ask a question. They refused to go inside to investigate – because of the fleas. Corrie's mind immediately raced back to their initial prayer and Betsie's offering of thanks. She finally relented and gave thanks for a creature she had seen no possible purpose for.

May our own hearts be in such communion with our God so that we may also find space to 'give thanks in all circumstances.' 2020 has given us ample opportunity at discouragement and despair. Yet a look at our own lives, and those who have gone before us, tell us some of our greatest blessings are a result of difficult times. It is my prayer that we remain a praying, hopeful community with eyes to see what God is up to in the midst of it all. Maybe, just maybe, we might receive the resulting joy along the way.

This month we will be embarking on a church wide study of The Workbook of Living Prayer by Maxie Dunham. The former president of Upper Room wrote this as a process to be undertaken daily on our own as well as weekly in groups. You can join a group now by going to your Realm Account and looking under groups. Physical sign-ups will be available in the church office. I believe these 7 weeks of communal discipleship will leave a lasting mark of the legacy of Central UMC.

In September summer falls into autumn, so also this newsletter transitions us to what lies ahead. Please invite others to join with us as we travel through this prayerful study. Let us swing back into making disciples of Jesus Christ as we begin our first full month back at school. Our many ministries continue to foster transformation in our hearts and in our community. We are excited to have our first student pastor from Bethany Theological Seminary, Carla Gillespie, and invite you to read her letter to the church. There is still room for you and your family to build memories at Family Camp in Brown County.

Let us create this September faithful memories which mark God's faithfulness in 2020. For these possibilities and future realities, I give you thanks God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joseph

Central Stewarding God's Resources

Central continues to be a Christian community dedicated to making disciples for the transformation of the world. As members, we have vowed to uphold the local congregation with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Please prayerfully discern how God has called you in these five areas over the past year. We would love to hear more of your stories of faithfulness. Please share these with Finance Chair Sherry Bailey at sabailey7013@gmail.com. When Stewardship Team sends out our annual pledge cards at the end of the month, we look forward to sharing the celebration of how Central continues to transform Richmond and beyond.

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.

Love Offering

Greg Scott, one of our custodians, will be having surgery soon. If you would like to give a love offering to support him during this time and lower the costs associated with this procedure, please send a check written to the church with "Love Offering – Greg" in the memo line, or you can give online and choose the love offering option. Please contact the office if you have questions. Thank you for your support!



Central Family Camp

Join us September 18th-20th for a great opportunity to escape to the woods of Brown County.

Families will have the opportunity to hike, challenge, shop, and experience all that Camp Moneto and Brown County have to offer. We realize not everyone will be able to participate at this time, so we will ask all to love and respect the social distance of any family who chooses to join.

Family Camp is a great opportunity for the family to rest, recreate, relax, and reset in a gracious space. There are over 700 acres to socially distance effectively while having ample opportunity to gather safely for times of worship and fellowship. Come and join us in God's good creation.

For those interested, please email Pastor Joseph at joseph@richmondcumc.com for more details and costs.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle will resume meeting on Thursday, September 18 at 10:00 A.M. in the church parlor. We will practice social distancing. Masks are required. Please join us for this opportunity to be together again in fellowship and love of Christ Jesus.



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.



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*



To keep from going Covid Crazy, Creative Hands has kept busy creating for you! Even Social distancing hasn't kept us from making pillows, pumpkins and plentiful hand crafted items. The sale of our handiwork raises funds for UMW to support local charities. And since most of us aren't out shopping too much, what better way to shop for the holidays. So pop over to the church parking lot from 10am to 2pm Saturday, Sept. 26th for our open air pandemic pop-up from the trunks of our cars and SUVs/ Enjoy complimentary treats with styles by The Secret Ingredient.



The Importance of Deep Listening
By Madeleine Demetriades, Minister of Music

Late experimental composer Pauline Oliveros originated the phrase "deep listening," defining it as a sort of radical attentiveness. She wrote: "I differentiate to hear and to listen. To hear is the physical means that enables perception. To listen is to give attention to what is perceived both acoustically and psychologically."

Far too often, music precariously exists around the edges of our lives. You hear it everywhere: tinkling faintly as you shop for milk, blaring loudly as you wait on hold during a phone call, hammering on as you browse clothes at the mall ... The musical cacophony is never-ceasing. With all the noise, it can become easy to forget that music is truly one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. Music has the ability to transform lives - to enter a person's soul and change it irrevocably for the better.

One of my professors at Miami University once told my husband and I about his formative experience with deep listening as a youth. I will now paraphrase what he said:

'Deep listening to albums was one of the most important parts of studying music and a key to becoming a better musician and artist. My friends and I would all get beers, lay down on our dorm room bunk beds, close our eyes and let the new vinyl LPs wash over us. We couldn't believe what we were hearing. For hours, we would deeply focus in on the swirling rhythms and melodies, the towering layers of sound. We sought out the newest releases of Latin, Bebop and Free Jazz and took it in with our eyes closed and minds wide open. Those were some of the best times of my college years.' This story made a strong impression on me at the time and I remain grateful to have heard it. It impressed upon me the veritable importance of this peaceful practice.

I would now like to briefly explain how to engage in deep listening, as it can be an immensely transformative and rewarding experience.

1. Dim the lights, sit down and light a candle. Attaining an attitude of mindfulness is the key here. Put your phone on Do Not Disturb mode. You must commit to avoiding it for the next few hours. Bury it in the yard if you have to.
2. Pick out 2-3 albums. Put them on the record player/CD player/whatever you are using. Ideally, you have good headphones or a good speaker system. Turn the volume to about 7/10.
3. As the music starts, close your eyes and empty your mind. Relax. Let the sounds wash over you. As it plays, consider the following: What am I hearing? Is the rhythm slow or frenetic? Is the overall tone of the song melancholy or happy? How many parts are there? How does it make me feel? What does the artist want to communicate with this piece?
4. That's it. As the music ends, slowly come back to reality by doing slight stretches and drinking some water. Reflect on the overall experience. Start planning what albums you will listen to next time!

Event Reminders:

Tuesdays at 10:00am: Worship Livestream (from Madeleine's Living Room)

Thursdays at 2:00pm: Sanctuary Meditations (Time for Quiet Reflections with Organ and Piano)

MARRIAGE — NIGHT

We wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity coming up on October 10th from 5:00pm – 8:30pm. We are registered as a host site for the Marriage Night simulcast event presented by RightNow Media, and we would love for you to attend.

Marriage Night is a one-night event for married and engaged couples to laugh and learn as they hear from marriage experts and discover how to honor God through their relationship. The speaker lineup includes Matt and Lauren Chandler, Conway and Jada Edwards, Les and Leslie Parrott, and comedian Michael Jr. Mark your calendar and plan to attend—it'll be worth your time.

Tickets are available for \$15 per person. Due to Covid-19 this is virtual. The simulcast link will be emailed to participants. You can drive thru to pick up dinner. More details to follow! If you don't have access to internet, contact the church office to register for a spot at the church.



Hello Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

My name is Carla Gillespie and I am a returning Bethany Theological Seminary student. I first attended Bethany from 2004-2009. At that time, I was not able to complete the internship portions of my M.Div. degree, because there was a requirement that prevented students from having a job concurrently. I had a daughter to take care of, so I had to discontinue my schooling --- until now! Amazingly this time, I am not returning to the Seminary alone. My daughter, Ashley, her husband Stephen and I are all enrolled together, which is very exciting. As a family, we will all care for our little guy, Gabriel who is sixteen months old. I am so proud to be a new grandma! It is the most amazing thing ever.

Over the coming school year, I will be serving in your congregation as a minister in training. In our Church of the Brethren denomination, there is a collegial track that leads to ordination. That is my intended destination. I look forward to meeting each one of you and serving the Lord together with you. I sincerely thank you for this opportunity to learn and serve in your congregation this year!

Blessings,
Carla



By: Addison Moore - Sophomore RHS

“These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” John 15:11

With the hatred we are seeing in the news today, it is important to stay positive and remember who brings Joy to our lives. Romans 8:18 says the joy of the Lord is a source of strength for us since we can better endure the present sufferings of this world for the glory that is coming.

I know it is easy to find yourself getting down and stressed coronavirus, seeing violence in streets, and watching political parties throw rocks at each other (figuratively).

It is important to remember; we have something bigger. God overcomes all these things. He brings joy in stressful, difficult times. Having confidence in God can fill you up with joy.

Questions to ask yourself:

Are you feeling stressed?

How do you find joy today?

Prayer: Jesus please help me take comfort in you during these challenging times. Help me know that you are the source of joy. Help me lift others up so they can feel your joy. Thank you for your many blessings. In your name I pray, Amen.

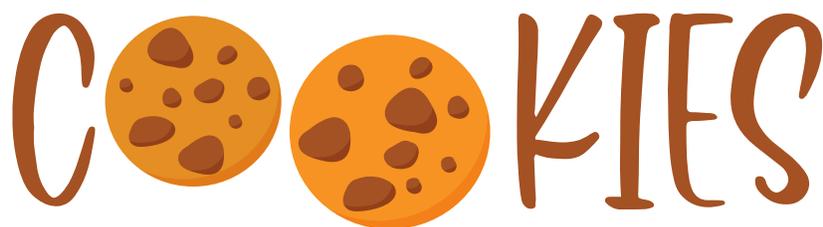
TRIBE



TRIBE has been gathering and it is so great to be back together. Many of the students have expressed anxiety over the current situation, especially with school and athletics. This month, we ask that you pray for each of these students, by name, as they begin an unknown journey.

Drake and CJ Shadle
Cayden and Jacob Lindahl
Kate Wilson and Camille
Clayton Raper
Eva and Ben Hawk
Aiden Snediger
Maddie Hopkins
Allie Phillips
Edyn Curry
Ava McCurdy
Abby Cooper
Katie Arndt
Luke Sheridan
Ben and Anna Withers
Nathan Westover
Jonathan Snyder

Gavin Stiggleman
Cameron Stiggleman
Dylan Candlish
Courtney Seger
Masson Heiny
Jagger and Gunner Kovach
Addison, Cole, and Dawson Moore
Karis Koyles
Darrin and Daniel Candlish
Cameron and Chloe
Ruby Snyder
Gabby Smith
Elizabeth Nevels
Ella Rayder
Shelby and Preston Bolser
Jesse Owens

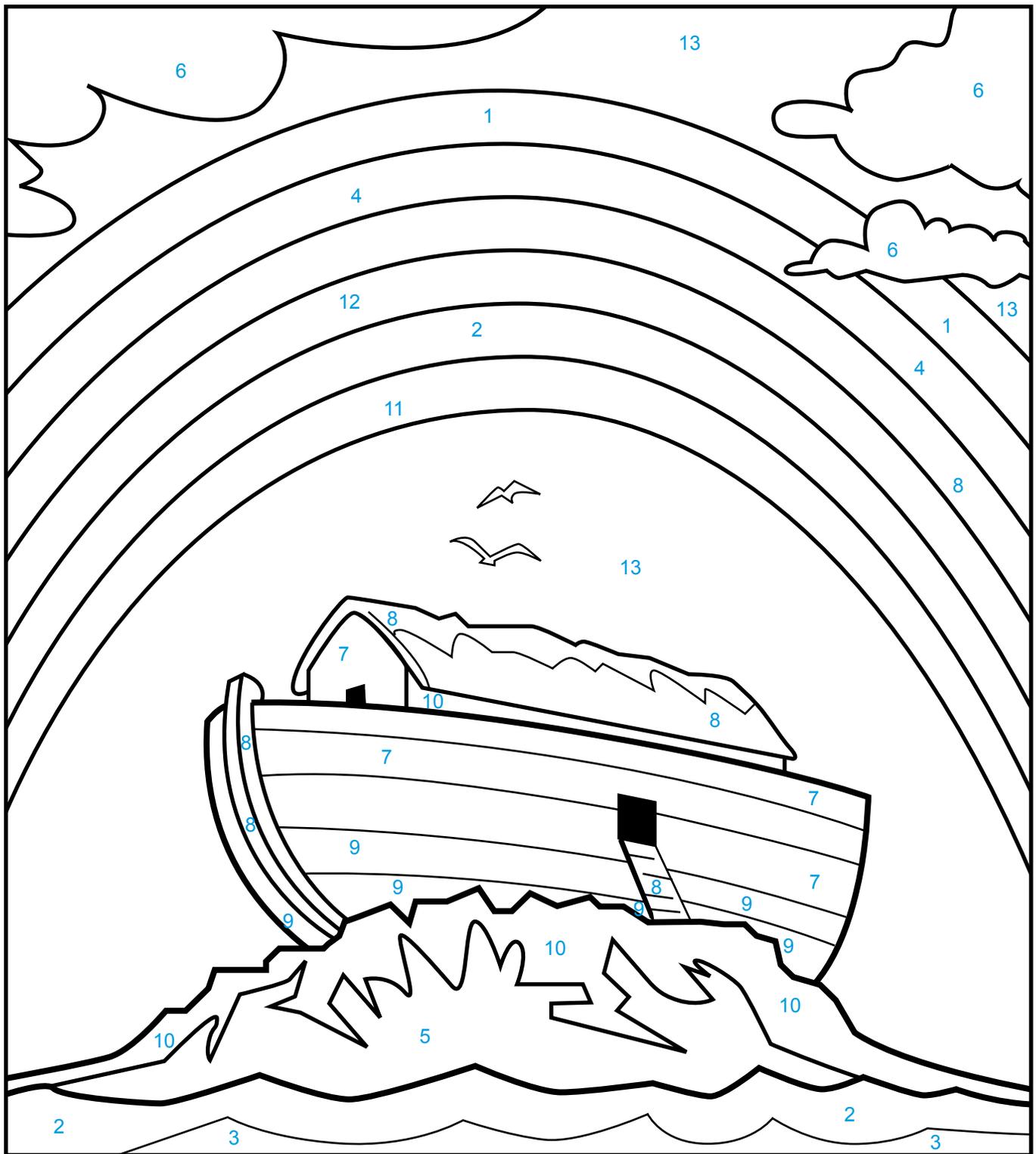


COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS

Please contact any of the 3 churches to give us the name of a shut-in who would love to receive some cookie love! The middle school girls small group asked if we could do this!

God Made a Promise to Noah Color by Number

Color each section by the colors shown in the list at the bottom of the page. If you don't have all of the colors listed or find an area that's not numbered, make your best color choice.



1. Red
2. Dark Blue
3. Blue
4. Orange
5. Dark Green
6. Light Gray
7. Tan
8. Yellow
9. Brown
10. Dark Gray
11. Violet
12. Light Green
13. Sky Blue

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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

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