



October Lamplighter



Our Many Homes

The leaves are turning colors. How did this happen? So much still unresolved and undone from a pandemically betrayed summer. Where did all that time go? My senses further pull me into this reality as shivering children rush back in for long sleeves. Wasn't it just 90 last week? This article now becomes the convicting proof. Fall is here. October nonetheless. A time of raking leaves, campfires, homecomings, and all things autumn.

The very thought of it brings me back to home in my childhood – and I pause as I think about how my children will think about it. Home. Many say it is where the heart is. For many of us, we think of our house as our home. The pictures hung show us this. The dents and paint upon the walls betray lives lived in this space. Even the dust seems to keep warm long ago memories of building love with others. I loved living into this ideal. But it is not always the truth for all of us. After my grandma's death, my grandma's home where I played hide and seek, where I overheard family lore when I was supposed to be asleep on sleepovers, where I learned how to crack walnuts - it was sold the same summer I moved 3 hours away.

This movement for some of us turns home into that place where people knew me back when. Back before I went to college. Back before I got married and moved away. Back before the world knew me another way. Those places our thoughts and dreams wander toward when we let our guard down and give space for what's deep within to well up. As I have moved around in life, I find myself referring to home as being back where I grew up. But this also lacks at times.

With the coronavirus, many of us have felt more acutely the space between ourselves and those who have moved away. We yearn to be together, to process together, to survive and thrive together. Only we are apart. And it forces me to deal again with the reality of home. My children know where my wife and I grew up, but that is not their home. Their home is with us. My home is now with my wife and children. This will always be tied to the places we live, not because of the places – but because of the relationships.

And from here I find myself again humbled by God's desire for all of us in the church. In our own journeys we are at different points in relation to home. Creating it, leaving it, looking for it, growing up in it, loving it, moving away from it, finding it – but we all are invited to a home in church along the way. Relationships in which we are loved and formed and challenged. Relationships which build bigger buildings to accommodate more and gather dust to honor what has been done before. Relationships which grieve loss, are severed by moves, and grow spontaneously through the Holy Spirit. Relationships which bring us home to God. These relationships seep into the very walls which house the church and call us through the ages.

Continued on Next Page

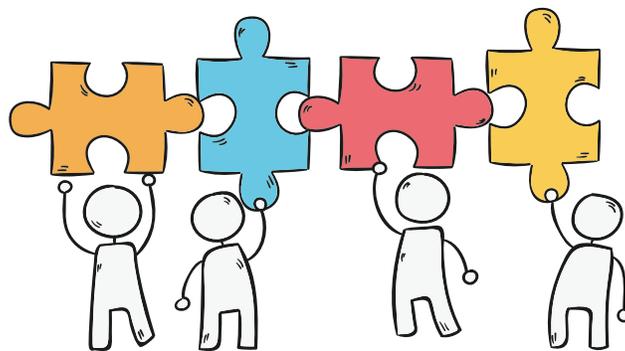
It's October and I find myself being nostalgic about home – where I grew up, here with my family, in our church, and inviting others to the privilege of its enjoyment. Long roads all worth traveling, which bring us to our current moment. The pandemic has caused many of us to pause our journeys, to wonder whether being far from family is good, to wander in our ideas of home, to ponder how we church in a socially distant world. Whether we are home, far from it, or leaving - we find ourselves at a crossroads. Jeremiah spoke of a hard time in Israel's past:

“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.”

It is good to sit in this contemplation at these moments. Guidance can be found in this pause of our journeys through life as we think of home, the relationships therein, and our next steps. Where is God calling us? What home are we building? May we all find the wisdom to travel well with those whom God has called us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joseph



Worship Team

There is much you will find in this newsletter calling you to portions of what home means for us at Central. The devotionals which call us to walk deeper with God. The reports of the good works we are shining to Richmond and beyond. The invitations to serve in building a home for many to follow Jesus here at Central. Fall break sits like an oasis for this strange school year. The Living prayer studies continue to call us to one another and a deeper walk with God. We continue to serve many every week here through the ministry of our building. Soon we will offer our commitment cards for 2021 and the work God has for us all at Central. There is much going on with our Central home.

I will offer one such invitation for this intersection of wisdom and the 21st century. Will you prayerfully consider serving on the Worship Team? We have many dreams to grow our worship services in the coming years so that others will have space to connect to God. This might mean new services, different services, or television services. All of these need more servants in the audio video work to become a reality. Please prayerfully discern whether you have the time and heart to bring worship more fully to someone else. Do not worry about the skills. God equips the called more than God calls the equipped. And I know several people ready and willing to walk every step with you. If you feel this tug on your heart, please send me an email joseph@richmondcumc.com.



Step Out Saturday – October 3rd 11:30am

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us, “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” So many at Central have done this well in their own mission fields during the pandemic. On October 3rd, we plan to do this at Central. There will be outdoor praise and worship and a community luncheon beginning at 11:30am. Prayer walks, projects, and service opportunities will follow. Please be in prayer about the ways we can let our lights shine before others on this day and every day! Please wear a Central or red shirt.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle will meet on Thursday, October 15th 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.

UMW Fall Pop-Up

Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Women’s Trunk Show Pop-Up. We kept busy, we had fun, we hope you enjoy your purchases. We look forward to gathering again. (The noodle elders may assemble soon, at a safe distance, with PPE.) Do you need pecans? More info later coming soon!

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.



Are you a Caregiver?

Are you caring for a loved one? Do you need a listening ear? Do you need suggestions of help? WE ARE HERE! RICHMOND AREA SUPPORT GROUP 1ST AND 3RD Wednesday each month 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. First English Lutheran Church (rear door) 2727 E. Main St. Richmond IN. WE CARE!

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.



Reflections on my Summer Hymn Study By Madeleine Demetriades, Minister of Music

During the months of July, August and September, I led a virtual Hymn Study. Weekly participation ranged from 8-12 faithful participants as we worked our way through portions of the book “Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories” by Robert J. Morgan. Some of the hymns we examined include: Be Thou My Vision, Great is Thy Faithfulness, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, Spirit Song and many more. Much meaningful discussion was had as we dissected the hymn’s lyrics, notes/rhythmic patterns, compositional history and overall impact on modern society. I realized that there was quite a lot that I didn’t know about my most favorite hymns which I have played and sung all my life!

We reminisced about beloved personal favorites and the impact they’ve had on our lives. We recalled favorite hymns of parents, siblings and spouses. We discussed the controversial topic of “Worship Wars” which refers to the discussion about older, more traditional hymns versus modern praise music (just a disclaimer: I believe there’s room for both types, as all music has potential to bring us closer to God). My father, who is an expert in German Linguistics, was able to share his own translation of A Mighty Fortress is Our God. The group also learned that Charles

Wesley originally penned ELEVEN verses for the hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". Can you imagine singing all 11 of those on a sunny Easter morning?!

In conclusion, leading this study was very edifying and enjoyable. We got to stretch our minds each week, discovering new information about hymns we have known and loved all our lives. It was fun to get to know people better through hearing about their personal connections to the songs. It was so wonderful to be able to see everyone's faces and engage with one another in weekly fellowship and community. I plan to begin another Hymn Study during the Advent season, beginning in early November. This study will explore iconic Advent and Christmas hymns and how they enrich our spiritual lives and worship experience during Christmastime. I hope that you will join me. Watch for updates and information on this upcoming study in future bulletins and newsletters as well as on Central's Facebook page and on Realm!

Musical Worship Opportunities

On Tuesdays at 10:00am, experience a time of weekly worship and virtual fellowship from Madeleine's Living Room! We pray, read Scripture, sing hymns and hear meditative piano music. Streams live on Central's Facebook page.

On Wednesdays at 12:15pm, Join us for weekly Musical Meditations, live from Central's beautiful Sanctuary! Meditative music played on pipe organ and piano. Streams live on Central's Facebook page.

2nd Annual Sounds of the Season Christmas Variety Show

We are tentatively planning to put on another Sounds of the Season, after great success last year. It will most likely be a virtual event. We need singers, dancers, joke-tellers, poets, kazoo players, etc. If you would like to participate, please email Madeleine at madeleine@richmondcumc.com or call the church office at 765-962-8543.



Wayne County Jail Ministry

I was in prison and you came to visit me ... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:36, 40)

Visiting prisoners has been and continues to be a hallmark of Christian ministry. Paul wrote several letters from prison. Jesus, Peter, and John all spent time in prison. The invitation continues to us today. The Jail Ministry for the Wayne County Jail is seeking followers of Jesus to serve on its visitation, Crisis Ministry, and Jail services teams. To do so, you will first need to complete an orientation. Due to Covid-19, these will be via zoom on October 1st and October 10th. Please contact Pastor Joseph (joseph@richmondcumc.com) for links to join him in this community ministry.

TRIBE



TRIBE has had all kinds of excitement lately! We have moved out of 110 and have begun to redesign Room 214. It's a great space with lots of potential! It has a coffee shop, pool and ping pong tables, lounge area and even a chalkboard wall! Come by and check it out sometime! We also had a fabulous Family Night complete with Generation Trivia and other games of wit! We will have our next Intergenerational night in December. Watch for info to come.

Thanks to Jonathan and Ruby Snyder, Katie Arndt, Kate Wilson, Marisa and Chase Cates, and Cameron Stiggleman for their help in worship in September. They helped make the service a memorable experience!

The Junior High girls baked cookies and wrote notes for the residents at Brookdale Senior Living in September. The staff received the cookies and said the residents in need were very grateful! The other youth worked on painting our "new" space on the top floor. The high school boys went axe throwing! The high school girls are still planning their events, and the junior high boys will be playing paint ball this month.

Small Groups

We have two new small group leaders! Emma Girdley is leading the junior high girls and Reverend Paul is leading the junior high boys. Both groups are studying IDENTITY: You are who God says you are! The High School boys are currently working through the Discipleship Playbook and learning from some famous athletes. The High School girls are also studying IDENTITY with Priscilla Shirer.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR YOUR STUDENTS!



Children in or around 3rd grade received Bibles at the beginning of the school year! They were thrilled!

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 494
RICHMOND, IN
47374



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