



November
lamplighter

A Note from the Pastor

The Psalms have again become my favorite prayer book. They anchor us in thousands of years of faithful wisdom while pointing us to a better tomorrow. There are words for every season of life.

For celebration of seeing family and being present to our children growing in God - You will show me the path of life: in your presence is the fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11.

For lifting up our joy to our Maker - Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Psalm 100:1-2

For years like 2020 - How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? Psalm 13:1-2



God desires our attention in prayerful conversation whatever we are feeling. In this communion we see more clearly the promises, offer more fully our praise, and grieve more deeply our laments. This renewed focus returns upon our current physically distant moment and illuminates the opportunities beyond the problems. Just look at Jesus. Jesus often left the gathering, the crowd, the group...

...to go on a boat and again be the creative Word hovering over the chaos of the waters.

...to travel with His Father in the wilderness and be the Way which guides us through our unknown landscapes.

...to pray in the desert as Living Water for new creation.

...to climb the mountain and remind us of the promises foretold before pointing ahead.

We too can be alone, with God, with purpose, in these times....Day by day by day, O Dear Lord, three things I pray – to see Thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day by day.

These times apart make us yearn for our people, yet allow for us to recover our spiritual grounding. That, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! And in these promises we can hope beyond our visible circumstance. For reconciliation in our lives, healing for our world, and the ministry ahead for the people of Central to flourish. The rest of 2020 and 2021 will be unprecedented – I believe stories from Central's ministry will stand as to why. Christ in us, bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come!

Yes, there are hard days ahead. We will get through them together – you, I, the people God is calling to join, and the Holy Spirit together in these glorious works to come. I look forward to standing here at 1425 E Main St. in the coming years to recall the good news of these glorious works, see their fruit, and return again to the work ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joseph

Staying Positive

by Madeleine Demetriades, Minister of Music

These last few months have been challenging. This pandemic is so different than anything I have ever experienced. It can be easy to get caught up in worry and negativity and forget to be thankful. There is so much to be grateful for, even during this uncomfortable and uncertain time of quarantine: there is the beautiful autumn weather, family and friends that make us feel safe and happy, tasty food, great TV shows, etc. I've spent some time reflecting on some positive things which have indirectly emerged during this pandemic time. I have realized that I have become much more comfortable and confident with the virtual/digital landscape, which can be effective for creative outreach and ministering far beyond Richmond. I have learned never to take togetherness for granted: that fellowship (both virtual and in-person) is such a blessing. Finally, I have realized that time spent in solitary can be immeasurably valuable for self- assessment and personal growth.

Pastor Joseph called in mid-March and said, "Madeleine, you should start a twice weekly worship livestream from your living room." I agreed, and thus began the adventure. Thirty-one weeks later, here we are. I have absolutely cherished the experience and privilege of getting to know people on a more personal level through the comment section. The weekly time of sharing scripture, hymns and stories has quickly become one of the highlights of my week. Additionally, the weekly Musical Meditations offerings have been challenging yet rewarding. We have done nine programs so far with online views overall totaling 4,380! It has been a privilege to be able to share music in this way. If the pandemic hadn't happened, I'm not sure if I would have become as well-versed in these virtual and technological means of ministry and outreach.

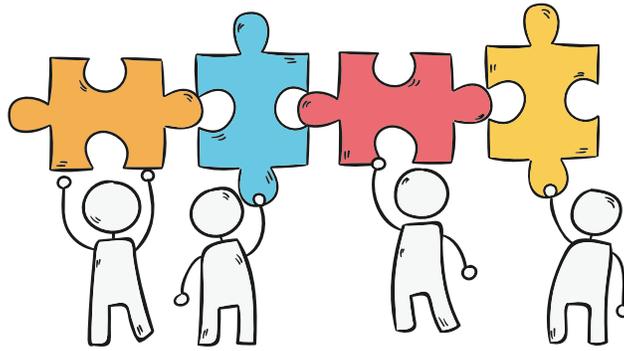
I have learned never to take fellowship for granted. I have always enjoyed time alone to read, write and be alone with my thoughts. However, I am a people-person, through and through. I never shy away from public speaking, or large crowds. The time of the lock-down in March and April was quite difficult - no choirs, or in-person worship services. In July, I started participating in distanced rehearsals of the Sweet Sounds of Starr Valley Dulcimer group. It has been such a joy to participate and get to experience weekly fellowship and music-making. I have also enjoyed being in Sherry Bailey's prayer group this September and October. After the pandemic ends, I will never forget to cherish and be grateful for in-person experiences; for the simple yet profound satisfaction one can gain by being around others.

I have always valued time spent alone. It provides the opportunity to reflect and recharge. The pandemic really made me appreciate how this time can aid in deep and personal self-exploration. I have chewed on the following questions for months: what do I personally seek with music? How can I best utilize my music to affect others? How can I continually improve what I do? God walks with me daily as I seek the answers. Moving forward, I will never fail to appreciate just how valuable alone time can be for personal development.

In conclusion, I have realized the many ways that the pandemic has affected my job in stunningly positive ways: my growth in knowledge of the virtual/online world and seeing how to utilize Facebook and Zoom as unique ministry tools. My appreciation for fellowship, both virtual and in-person, and that time by myself can lead to exciting new revelations and opportunities to grow, both professionally and as a person.

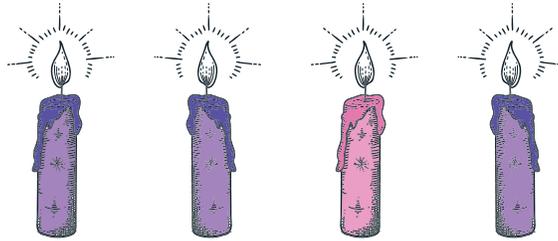
Special Thanks to everyone who recorded Special Music in October:

Ann Cashner, Amy McKee, Linda Jennings, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Sheri Koyles, Kourtney Seger, Sweet Sounds of Starr Valley Dulcimer Group, Wesley Ringers Bell Choir & Central UMC Virtual Chancel Choir



Worship Team

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.



Soon, it will be time to LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH!

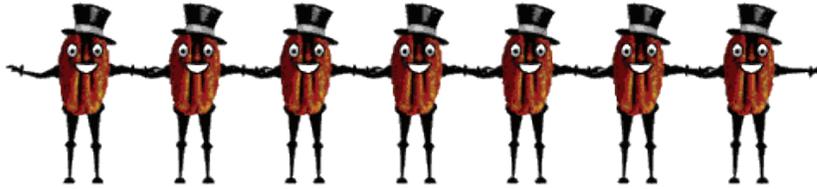
Many congregations celebrate Advent by using an Advent wreath to help worshipers focus on the coming of the Messiah. Each Sunday someone lights another candle on the wreath and leads the congregation in an appropriate reading and prayer. At Christmas, the Christ candle in the center of the circle is lit, signifying that the time of waiting is over.

Lighting the Advent wreath is also a great time for us to nurture one another's faith. This year, we are asking you to share stories showing how God is working in your lives during the lighting of the Advent candles. These can be shared in person as you light the Advent wreath, or on video. Please contact Pastor Jen to learn more and sign up!

Listening to each other's faith stories is an important aspect of faith formation. It gives us a chance to learn how to express thoughts and ideas that are not yet fully formed. These testimonies can serve as a model for each of us, so that during the week we can have a similar time of sharing with small groups, friends, and family.

We will have a "Take It Home" section in the bulletin with additional questions for reflection and scriptures to read. You can read these for mealtime devotions, before bed, or any other time your family, friends, or small group gathers.

By linking the lighting of the Advent candle to faith stories from the Bible and from our congregation, the season of waiting for the coming of Jesus becomes more personal. Together we can share our faith walk with our friends, our fellow believers, and with the children who need to hear the stories of faith.



UMW Pecans

UMW will have one pound bags of pecans, halves or pieces, available before Thanksgiving. If you would like to pre-order, please see or call or leave a message for Shanron Rider (966-6909) or Martha Hayes (962-5009) and let us know your order. (Most years our pecans arrive by the 2nd Thursday of the month.) We will have extras available. You may also contact christin at christin@richmondcumc.com with the following information;

name, phone number, number of pounds of halves and/or number of pounds of pieces



People are paying attention to Central UMC online! Something GOOD is happening out there!

Four Months Ago:

Three Sunday Services yielded over 600 views on Facebook!

Another Sunday Service had views surpassing 850 views on Facebook!

Three Months Ago:

Over the weeks, there have been 647 views on Facebook of one Sunday Service! WOW!

One other week had 418 views on Facebook of one Sunday Service, and the next week 360

Two Months Ago:

Over one week: there were 418 viewings of one Sunday Service on Facebook

Over that next week: The "Back to School Blessing" service yielded a whopping 927 views!!

The Memorial Service had a total of 314 views to date. What a blessing for the family.

Six weeks Ago:

Over one week: there were 372 viewings of the Sunday Service on Facebook

Weekly Message Videos on Facebook are gaining increasing attention:

each receiving from 140 - 250 views!

Madeline's Music Meditations on Facebook are pulling in a lot of followers: 2 weeks ago, there were 2.5K views!!!

What do you think this could mean for the future? How does it make you feel to hear about CUMC's Online impact? What comments do you have to share?

Email me: carla@richmondcumc.com



As a child I developed a heart for missions. The church I grew up in held an annual missions conference when we had missionaries come to share about what God was doing through them and their missions in the United States and around the world. In some ways, I dreaded the weekend of missions conference, because my mom had the gift of hospitality and hosted the missionaries in our home that only had one bathroom. I didn't like having strange people in our home, but over time I came to love hearing their stories and looked forward to our conference weekend.

In addition to hearing about God's work it was also a time of commitment. Commitment to giving to support missions and to serving God. During one of those weekends I committed to serve where God was calling me. My time of service was a short term mission trip to Jamaica to help build an addition on a pastor's house. At that time I heard a famous quote "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God." While in Jamaica I believe God broke my heart to serve Him where He needed me. Since then I did another short term mission trip to an Indian Reservation teaching VBS.

Lately, I believe God is working on my heart again to serve. Jack and I had the opportunity to visit the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY recently when we delivered a mobile medical unit to them to be converted to a mobile dental clinic. While there we were able to get a tour of the settlement and learned of many opportunities and needs and are considering ways we can serve there.

The missions committee is in the process of developing plans and opportunities for the areas on which we as a church will focus and serve. Look for ways that you can serve in the coming months. If you have an interest in missions let Pastor Jen or me know and we will look for a way you can serve.

Join Genesis of Richmond, Indiana for an Evening of Hope including a live virtual auction, performances from various local performers....all from the safety of your home! The evening will be hosted by Roxie Deer & Andrew Hoover with various other local pop-ins from community leaders!

Thank you!

The Methodist ladies that prepare sack lunches and dinners at Rock Solid thank Nettie Cates and Becky Shaw for their leadership and Aileen Githens for her generous donations.

TRIBE



I find myself wanting to give an update on our 2021 Mission Trip planning and feeling sad that I have nothing to share. With the continued state of the world, I am unsure about mission trip planning. However, in November, we will be having a parent meeting to decide these next Summer decisions. Please make plans to attend so that we can make the most parent-informed decision possible.

Sunday, November 15th from 4-4:30pm
At Central in the Parlor
(please wear a mask)

Small Group Update

Due to many factors, at this time, TRIBE leadership has decided to suspend Small Groups on Sundays until the New Year. So, in November, we will not have small groups available. We will still provide a time of spiritual growth, but most Sundays all students will be kept together. High School may still hang out in their room instead of joining game time, if they choose.

The POSITIVE in all of this is that the MIDDLE SCHOOL students are able to learn and grow with the HIGH SCHOOL students whom many of them look up to. SMALL GROUPS STILL WILL BE GATHERING FOR FELLOWSHIP TIMES!!! Check the TRIBE emails for dates and times for November gatherings



Local Mission Opportunity for TRIBE

What can I do to give back? During the month of November, we will be collecting items for the teachers, administrators, etc. that are connected to our churches and work in the school systems. We will be assembling these gratitude baskets on Sunday, November 22nd during TRIBE. Please begin collecting items that teachers may like to receive: Elderberry/Zinc gummies, pens and pencils, essential oils, gift cards, stickers or sticky notes, fun masks, etc. You may send them in at any time!

Christmas Service Project This Year

We will be in connection with the new shelter Refuge of Hope and collecting gifts for residents or items needed by the shelter. We will collect these items at our annual Christmas Party.

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