



AUGUST
LAMPLIGHTER

DO YOU HEAR IT?



That strange quality in the air. I find it wonderful - the silence left behind as the Cicadas complete their 17-year journey. The surging sounds were quite the novelty - and quickly turned deafening - I am glad for a little quiet. Their glorious appearance and now stark absence marks another point of the unrelenting change in the world, change our lives must pass by. Or as Ecclesiastes puts it, "For everything there is a season, and a time

for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build..."

August is upon us and a new time has emerged. Our broader community prepares for the end of summer, going back to school and the festivals which go with it. The concern about the coronavirus always lingers in the background, but that should not prevent us from celebrating these occasions. Let us be in prayer for all involved in these endeavors. My children eagerly look forward to seeing their friends again while wondering what the new teacher will be like, what the new school will feel like. This season reminds me of the precious time we have with our children in this life, of the constant call we have to form them for what comes next. Or as Proverbs tells us, "'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

School reminds us of our call to always be learning. Henry Ford once said that a person is old who stops learning, whether they are 20 or 80. The time is always now to learn. Jesus constantly calls us to continue in learning, to open ourselves beyond given or pharisaical boundaries. We talked in July about the Wisdom of Jesus and how He tries to open our eyes to a different angle through his teachings. Still, some of us are not sure to what level we can admit our questions in the light of faith. Doubt creeps in and we fear its spread. I invite you to 'fear not.' Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life. Following Him will lead us exactly where we need to go. On Sundays in August will be discussing doubt and our faith. We will also be opening a conversational space during the Sunday School hour to wrestle with our questions and living this life of faith - what questions do you have? Together we can take this renewal journey. Or as Paul calls us, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Have faith in God's good will this season for it is indeed new time. Throughout this Lamplighter you will see many other opportunities and stories about the new things God is doing in our midst. The church has worked for thousands of years. Central has been faithful through hundreds. Together we can see the new things the Holy Spirit calls us to in the days ahead, and invite others to the journey. We have been through a hard season in this pandemic. We are doing great things at Central. Still our call is to bring people to Jesus. Or as Isaiah called to a people in exile, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Yours in Christ, Pastor Joseph

A WORD FROM PASTOR PHIL



The pioneer of our Methodist movement, John Wesley, famously preached on the idea that salvation is “the entire work of God, from the first dawning of grace in the soul, till it is consummated in glory” (Sermon 43, The Scripture Way of Salvation).

I love this framework! It completely reorients the way we might often think about salvation. Wesley shows us that the biblical view of salvation is much bigger than a single moment of conversion or confirmation, or even the experience of baptism. These are significant markers along the way, to be sure, but full salvation is also so much more. It begins with our awakening to the grace that came to us before we could ever come to God, and it extends to the grace that will raise us up at the last day of Christ’s return. Salvation is ongoing. It keeps growing. Salvation is a journey of grace.

And this ties directly to our discipleship. In other words, it connects to all the ways we are being formed into the likeness of Christ here and now— as individuals and in families, as grandparents and parents and kids. Deep spiritual formation happens not only in the big moments of baptism, conversion, and confirmation but also in the small, steady, ongoing practices and habits of our everyday lives. Eugene Peterson calls it the “long obedience in the same direction.” And again, beautifully, even this is God’s grace. I love seeing these ordinary glimpses of grace.

I’ve been your associate pastor for only a short time, yet already I am hearing so many stories of that grace. And I’d love to hear more about how Central UMC has been a special place of grace for you! I’m eager to learn about Richmond and all the things God is up to in our community. Let’s get together sometime to chat about these stories of grace.

I’d love to talk or share a meal or grab a coffee with you anytime! I’d also really enjoy getting to connect with your family or small group. Feel free to email me at phil@richmondcumc.com, or call or stop by the church office. Hope to see you soon!

“O what people of God we ought to be; and grace can make us so!” -Francis Asbury

In Christ,
Pastor Phil

**FOR BY THE GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH,
AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD
- EPHESIANS 2:8 NSRV**

SPECIAL MUSIC PHOTO SPOTLIGHTS: SUMMER 2021

by Madeleine Demetriades, Minister of Music

We are so blessed to have so many talented people in our congregation at Central United Methodist Church. I want to take a moment and highlight some of the music we have heard so far this summer. I also want to take this time to remind you: we are always searching for new musicians to play for Sunday worship. If you have interest, please contact Madeleine at: madeleine@richmondcumc.com.



Madeleine and Frederick Chatfield performing an organ/piano duet of Holy, Holy, Holy for Trinity Sunday (May 30th)



A small group from Central's Chancel Choir sings for Reverend Jen Huff's final worship service on Sunday, June 6th



The Sweet Sounds of Starr Valley shared lovely music via video recording on June 27th (note: photo was taken pre-covid)





Caption: Madeleine playing a patriotic pipe organ program on July 1st in honor of Independence Day

IMPORTANT UPCOMING MUSICAL DATES

Thursday, August 12th from 12:00pm-12:30pm

Pipe Organ Concert by Madeleine Demetriades
(will be viewable in person & via Facebook livestream)

Wednesday, September 8th

5:30pm: Wesley Ringers Bell Choir resumes weekly rehearsals

6:30pm: Chancel Choir resumes weekly rehearsals

Thursday, September 16th from 12:00pm-12:30pm

Pipe Organ Concert by Madeleine Demetriades
(will be viewable in person & via Facebook livestream)

Thursday, October 21st from 12:00pm-12:30pm

Pipe Organ Concert by Madeleine Demetriades
(will be viewable in person & via Facebook livestream)

Joysingers Children's Choir will be resuming in fall - date TBD.

Parents, please watch for email communication from the church.





New class - Thriving in Babylon - 6 week study

Starting August 8th in Fellowship Hall 15 minutes after church service Bring your friend, bring your lunch, bring your Bible "God is in control of who's in control." For more information and to sign up, please contact Ned or BJ Toms, 765-965-4658 nedtoms@comcast.net.

Creative Hands

Creative Hands meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Join us for fellowship, fun, food and maybe another Pop-Up !?!

Grief Support Group

We are beginning a grief support group and welcome anyone who is in need of a little company walking through a loss. We hope to share and help each other. The plan is to meet for six sessions on the second and fourth Mondays at 2 PM in the memorial room here at the church, beginning July 12. Please contact Sherry Bailey at 765-277-6641, or sabailey7013@gmail.com to let us know of your plans to join us.

Office Support Team

From time to time Christin needs help with various tasks or coverage in the office. If you would be willing to be on an "On-Call" list to volunteer, please contact Christin at 765-962-8543 or email her at christin@richmondcumc.com

REAL DISCIPLESHIP SURVEY

We are told to follow Jesus, but how do I know where I stand in the journey...what to do next? The Real Discipleship Survey is an instrument designed to support the development of maturing disciples at both the personal and congregational levels. It measures the level of maturity in each of six dimensions of discipleship: Worship, Hospitality, Open to Jesus, Obeying Jesus, Service, and Generosity. The Indiana Conference has purchased a conference-wide license which makes the survey free for all INUMC churches and congregants! Once you take the survey, you will receive your results along with some suggestions on how you can continue to mature in journeying with Jesus. You can find the links to the Real Discipleship Survey and the Instructions on our website at richmondcumc.com/exploring/

Prayer Walk

In his 3 rules for Methodists, John Wesley calls us to both private and public prayer. On August 2nd at 12pm, we will have a prayer walk through our neighborhood. We will meet by the Welcome Center, divide into small groups at the entrance of the church, and proceed in different directions. Along the way, we will pause to pick up trash and renew our streets and sidewalks. Together we will listen for God's will for Central for the days ahead.

CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are gearing up for Preschool to start! On July 22nd, we had our Preschool and Childcare open house where members of the community were able to come tour our site, meet staff and get information on Preschool and Childcare enrollment. We had a ton of fun and hope to enroll some new friends soon!

Preschool will be starting Wednesday August 11th. Ms Erika is looking forward to starting a new year, getting to know her new students, and helping her students learn and grow in social, cognitive and motor development.



Hello everyone, I am Erika and I'm the preschool teacher here at Central. We do a lot of play-based learning and I make sure that every aspect of the child's day with me is part of a fun and safe learning environment that is nurturing them in their early years and preparing them for their years in school. My goal is to help children grow socially, emotionally, and academically!



Central United Methodist Church

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