





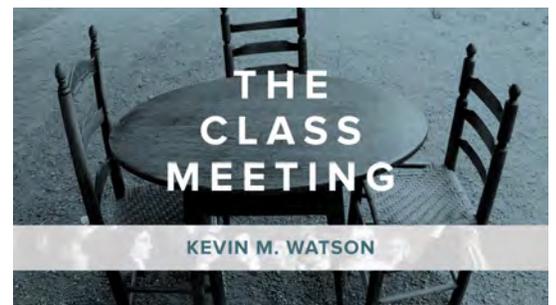
So much to tend to, so little time. The thought has run through my head more than once as the Back to School season has descended upon our household. Three schools, new teachers, after-school opportunities, unexpected interruptions, family travels, new friends, and so on, and so on. Add into the chaos the schedules of upcoming seasons, school calendar dates, pre-planned outings – and its easy to feel like life has been decided and decreed to the end of the year.

In times like these, I try to remember the call of James, Jesus' brother. He uses this strange phrase in both 4:13 and 5:1 of his letter, $\alpha\gamma\epsilon\ \nu\upsilon\upsilon$. The translations vary – “Now listen, Look here, Come now,” as the interpreters wrestle with juxtaposition of these words. The context for

both has to do with the actions of people who are looking far ahead in life and the trouble or folly borrowed in such bold assumptions. The King James rendering of James' admonition still sticks in my mind – ‘Go to now.’ I need this reminder from time to time.

So often we are tempted to rest in future possibilities or problems rather than being present to the current reality. Go to now. Sometimes, as when our schedules get so full, we can miss out on the current blessings. Go to now. There is a Godly wisdom in this call. Here and now I am God's child. Here and now I can deal with today's happenings. Here and now I have family, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ who love me. Here and now I can be present to them and the wonder of today's blessings. Here and now I can love my neighbor, act on the Holy Spirit's promptings, and rejoice in the day the Lord has made. Tomorrow might be wonderful or terrible, but striving to live there before it comes invites avoidable complications. Or as Jesus puts it, “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

This month we will be embarking on a church wide study of The Class Meeting by Kevin Watson. The professor at Candler School of Theology wrote this to bring the great building block of early Methodism, the class meeting, back to the forefront of contemporary Methodist consciousness. The class meeting was/is a time for those who gather to bring to the moment a life lived after God – joys, challenges and all.



You can join a group now by going to your Realm Account and looking under groups. Physical sign-ups are available on Sunday mornings and in the church office. I believe small groups such as these have the potential for forever transforming your life, and then through you, the world around you.

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 attempt to live together with Christ one day at a time. Let us continue 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 for choir to return, new member classes, and new opportunities. There is still room for you and your family to build memories at Family Camp in Brown County September 10-12.

Let us create faithful memories this September which mark God's faithfulness in 2021. There might be much ahead, but it starts with this day. Let us start by being present to this day. Thank you God for this day, this moment, this breath. Amen.

In Christ,



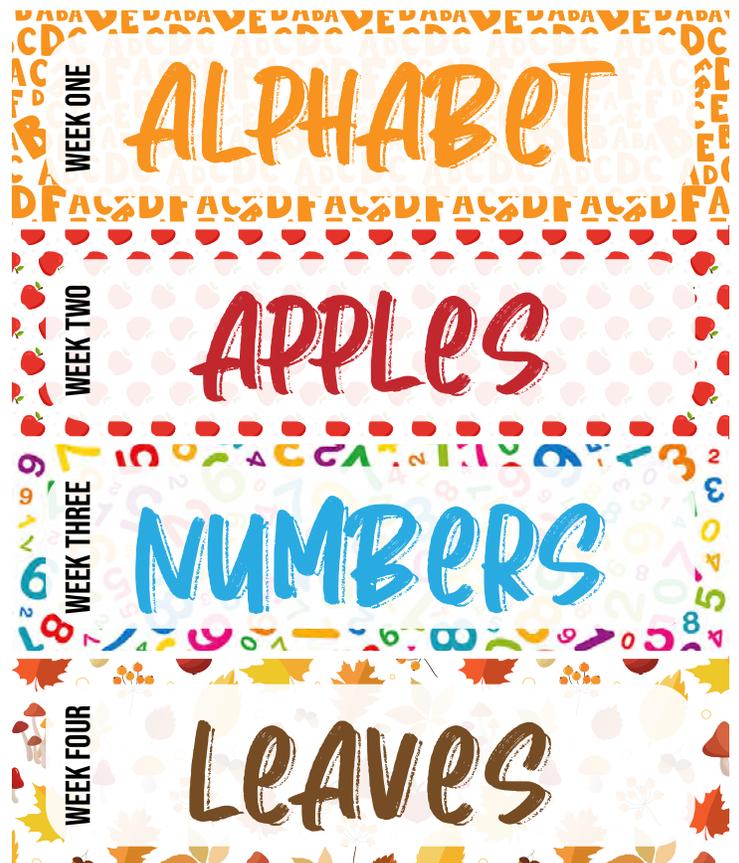

CENTRAL CHILDCARE

We have had a blast at Central Childcare in August. We've added a few new friends and a new staff member! Below you can see the weekly themes for September. These themes guide us in our activities in the classrooms to ensure everyone has a good time and learns something along the way. This month, we would like to highlight one of our amazing childcare teachers.

Deborah has been with us the longest and works with our youngest friends in the infant room. We've not met a baby who doesn't love being snuggled by her or a parent that isn't appreciative of her care and patience. We love having her a part of our team.



Hi everyone! My name is Deborah Huston and I've lived in Richmond for 12 years with my husband Chet and our son Jack. I've had the privilege to work at Central Childcare for 4 1/2 years. I love being a part of these families lives and all the babies make me smile.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

You can feel it in the air. You can see it at the bus stop and car line. School days have returned. I've enjoyed hearing from the kids and youth at our church about their first weeks back. They've shared about their experiences with new teachers, new classes, and new schools. Lots of new adventures for everyone! For me, it's been a while since I've had my own first day of school as a student, but even I got my chance again as I started doctoral studies this month. It's a special time of year. Somehow it always finds me with a good cup of coffee and a large stack of books!

Lifelong learning is such a gift from our Creator. The curiosity to grow in our knowledge and love of God is grace. I'm reminded of how Jesus "grew in wisdom and in stature" as a young boy in the gospels (Luke 2:52). Likewise, the wisdom literature of the Hebrew Scriptures taps into a long tradition of inspiring continual growth: "Let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill" (Proverbs 1:5). Or, we might think back to the advice given by Paul to Timothy: "Continue in what you have learned..." (2 Timothy 3:14). Learning strengthens our walk with the Lord, and it equips us in our call to carry out God's mission. Even into eternity, it seems we will continue to grow in this grace. We can never reach the end of growing in our knowledge of God. "Come further up, come further in!" as the stories of C.S. Lewis show us.

And on that note, we have a number of incredible opportunities for all ages to keep learning and growing here at Central— Sunday school classes, conversation spaces, small groups, Tribe youth gatherings, family camp, morning worship... You can find out about all sorts of groups and gatherings on our church website. There are lots of ways to keep growing!

I also have the joy of facilitating a number of these areas as your new associate pastor. I'd love to help you get connected to deepen your own discipleship journey and to help you share that journey with others. If you have any questions or would be interested in further conversation about your journey of growing in faith, feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Again, you can always email me at phil@richmondcumc.com, or call or stop by the church office. I'd love to buy you coffee or share lunch sometime. Let's get connected!

In Christ,
Pastor Phil



MUSICAL REFLECTIONS



August was certainly a splendid month for music: During worship on August 8th, we experienced joyous and heartfelt bluegrass music provided by the Sweet Sounds of Starr Valley dulcimer group. We also got to hear mother-daughter duo Alisa and Annetta Itnyre perform a lovely duet of Be Still, My Soul. Our congregation is certainly a talented and devoted one! May God richly bless us this September as the temperatures slowly chill and we are brought into the wonderful season of Autumn (and eventually, winter/Christmas!).



I now offer some updates on the music ministry at Central.

- After a year off due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are excited to announce the return of regular choir rehearsals this fall. Wesley Ringers Handbell Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 8th at 5:30pm. Chancel Choir will resume on the same date, 9/8, at 6:30pm. Joysingers Children's Choir will resume on Thursday, 9/16 at 4:00pm. Joysinger parents: please watch for email communication from Debbie Jenkins or Madeleine Demetriades.

- The Administrative Council and Trustees Board have officially approved the construction of a modest railing system along the sides of the chancel area in the sanctuary for improved mobility for choir members and easier overall access to the area. The project should be completed by end of 2021.

- The Central Music Committee will resume regular meetings this fall. Members, please watch your email for further information.

I am forever grateful to the hard-working church members and volunteers who make all of the music at Central possible! If you have an interest in joining a choir, playing an instrument, or being involved in our music program in any way, please contact me at Madeleine@richmondcumc.com.

Again, August was a wonderful time of making music to lift up His name with a joyful noise! When the next Lamplighter comes out, we will all the more closer to the season of Advent, and Christmas! I can hardly wait.

I look forward to experiencing this time with you.

Wishing you much happiness and joy in September and beyond,

Madeleine Demetriades
Minister of Music



Masks



In Central's continued desire to love God and love our neighbor, we recognize the growing number of cases of Covid in our community. We ask that while our county remains on the rise in the orange or red per [coronavirus.in.gov](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov) website that you would wear a mask while moving around the building, singing, or unable to be physically distanced. This will allow us to continue to create space to worship God and for our neighbor to join us. Again, if you feel you have any symptoms or may have been exposed to the virus, please stay home and join us in worship through our livestream. You can find it here on our Facebook page. We will get through this together.

Family Camp

The campfire calls once again as the calendar tilts toward Fall. You and your family are invited to join Family Camp at Camp Moneto in wonderful Brown County on September 10-12. In addition to the space to worship God in creation, there are over 700 acres to explore, climbing walls, archery, and memories to be made. Make time to retreat and recharge with your Church family. Scholarships are available. For more information and to sign-up, please contact Pastor Joseph.

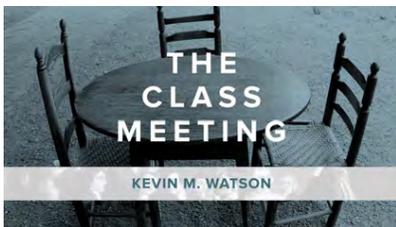


Creative Hands

Creative Hands meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Join us for at 9am thru lunch for fellowship, fun, food! **POP-UP COMING OCTOBER 2ND FROM 10AM - 2PM AT CENTRAL UMC. COME GET FALL, HALLOWEEN, AND CHRISTMAS DECOR.**

New Sunday Conversation Space

Do you have questions? About your faith, life, the Bible, the history of our church, why the world the way it is? Good, we do too. We will be gathering on Sunday mornings at 9:00am over coffee and snacks in the Youth Room on the 2nd floor to discuss these questions, reflect on life, and grow in Christ in light of the Bible and our good God. For anyone grade 7 – 119 years old.



New Class Meetings – Sign-up Sunday!

How is it with your soul? Do you want to go deeper with God? Grow in your faith? Our new class meetings are just for you! In early Methodism, class meetings were the building blocks of the church. These small group gatherings were intentional, safe spaces where fellow believers could “watch over one another in love” and spur one another to deeper faith. We have several new groups starting this fall and meeting at various times. We'll be using Kevin Watson's *The Class Meeting* as a key resource. You're invited to sign-up in the lobby, or you can reach out to Pastor Joseph or Pastor Phil.

Will Workshop

The Central United Methodist Church Endowment Committee is going to host a Workshop on Wills on September 19th after morning services. If you do not have a will or have not updated your will in many years you may want to attend. Please advise the office so we can reserve a place and have material available for you. If you have any questions please contact Jan Passmore.



Bread Basket

Nettie Cates and Becky Shaw have been leaders of the meals for quite some time. They would like to hand over leadership at the end of this year. They would like for 2 new leaders to step up and take over. The responsibility involves planning the meal each month, shopping for the items needed to prepare the meals, preparing the meals with the help of regular volunteers, serving the meals, and help clean up after the meal. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact Becky Shaw or Nettie Cates.

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be at Central United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. Appointments are limited, so please sign up now by calling 1-800-640-6307 and receive a \$10 discount off the package or text the word circle to 797979 or visit Life Line Screening's website at

[www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle]www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle

Complete Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening for \$149 (\$139 with the special Facebook discount). Speak with the LLSA representative for more package options. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

There is no time like the present to take action!



Wisdom Bible Study

The pandemic has offered challenges unlike any other in recent memory. Job offers wisdom unlike any other text in history. Join us Wednesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:00am starting September 1st as we resume our study of Wisdom in the Bible. Pastor Joseph guides the conversation as we walk section by section through the book of Job. No homework, we only ask you to reflect upon and apply the wisdom gleaned in the Word throughout the week. We

will be meeting in room 213 and on Zoom –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88545160130> Meeting ID: 885 4516 0130 +1 312 626 6799

Kinship Appreciation Month

Pat Heiny's Sunday School Class will be collecting donations to be given to kinship/relative families in September during Kinship Appreciation Month. Any leftover donations will be donated to families as needs arise. We are looking for approximately 85 of each item!

Laundry Detergent (Free & Clear Preferred)
Fabric Softener
Dish Soap/Dishwasher Pods
Toilet Paper
Clorox Wipes
Sanitizer

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