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Living Water

On a recent 'hot' afternoon, the boys and I went capturing a few more hours of summer fun. We walked the creek north of Thistlethwaite Falls looking for fish and critters. We found our favorite hole and jumped off a perfectly fallen tree. Then, adventure found us. We attempted to dam up a portion of the creek at a particularly narrow spot.

We began by moving small stones and filling the gaps with leaves and gravel. This stopped the trickle on the side and gave a barrier the larger pool could grow into. The real construction began with logs and larger stones. As the flow narrowed the force of the water pulled more gravel and sand. Finally, the last 3 feet were spanned. The water began to rise.

And the levee began to break. The power of the flowing water could not be withheld. We tried briefly to patch holes and raise the rocks. The boys marveled at how quickly a little water spilling over could turn into a rushing torrent. We eventually called our futile efforts and cleared out a new path for the waters to quench a parched river bed. The abundant waters would not stagnate by our restrictive force.

Neither does God's love. Like the waters of a rushing stream, God keeps pouring out his grace, peace, and love and finds parched lives with refreshing truth. Despite our efforts to restrict, control, and build up – no matter the forces in the world around us - God's Spirit finds a way. Jesus spoke of this in a season such as this, at the harvest festival of the booths in John 7:37-39, "On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, *"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."* By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.



At the Tabernacle Feast, the priests would draw water from the pool of Siloam and pour out a drink offering, called the waters of salvation, on the altar to commemorate the joy of the Spirit. With this backdrop. Jesus claims he is the fount of this unceasing Spirit coming at Pentecost. The Spirit which we have ceaselessly flowing through us as Christians today.

And this is my prayer for us in this season. As we enter our own season of fall festivals, may the people of Central be full of this living water. God's love and grace will not cease even if we are not ready to offer it. It will find a way to quench the thirsty, needy souls in our communities. May we be generous with the love and Spirit of God, with our time and gifts, with our attention and service in this season of abundance. May the blessings of God flow freely this season and, in the years to come as we build God's Shalom upon these rivers.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Joseph

GENEROSITY



When I think about this word, my mind first turns to the generosity of God. Our God is such a generous God! Scripture shows us a God who is the extravagant sower, the abundant giver, the excessive redeemer, the lavish lover. In Luke 15, he celebrates the lost sheep that was found. He is the father who runs to meet his prodigal son on the road. We see God's generosity in the story of Israel. We see it in the birth of the early church. The God of the Bible is a generous God.

Then there's the generosity we give back to God in response to the generosity he's shown toward us. We are invited to be a generous people— generous in our praise, generous in our thanksgiving, generous in our love. In John's Gospel, we see Mary, the sister of Martha, take an abundance of costly perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus, and "the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume" (John 12:3). You can almost smell the aroma wafting off the page. It is a lavish display of worship in response to the divine love she herself had received.

Likewise, Jesus invites all who follow him to share abundantly all that God has given, not storing up treasures for ourselves but being "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). We are rich toward God whenever we give generously to those in need— to the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed and broken. This is where we find Jesus. In offering generous love to these his brothers and sisters, we offer our love to him.

In what ways have you experienced the abundant, extravagant, boundless generosity of God? How can you respond in returning generous worship? Where do you see opportunities to live generously in your world today?

Here at Central, we are invited to share in the generous love of God. Generosity is a way of life. It's a transformational rhythm of grace.

So, let us love with generous hearts, as God has so loved us. And in our generous love, we'll be generously made new.

In Christ,
Pastor Phil





Music Ministry Updates

from Madeleine Demetriades, Minister of Music

As Summer falls into Autumn, I remain grateful for all of the fabulous members of Wesley Ringers, Chancel Choir and Joysingers Children's Choir. All three groups got back into the swing of rehearsals in early September, and have been having a great time! Both Chancel Choir and handbells will first play in worship on Sunday, October 3rd in honor of World Communion Sunday.

I am also so grateful for the wonderful turnout for my Star Wars organ concert on 9/16. The informal noon program offered selections from John Williams iconic score from the original trilogy (A New Hope, The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi). I always enjoy demonstrating the great capabilities of our beautiful pipe organ. It can be as soft as a lullaby and as mighty as a full brass section. My final organ program for the year will be next month: Thursday, October 21st at noon.

Upcoming concert:

3rd Annual Sounds of the Season Christmas Variety Show

It will soon be that time of year! We are having our 3rd Annual Sounds of the Season Christmas Variety Show on Sunday, December 12th at 6:00pm. We are IN NEED of volunteers to sing, play an instrument, act, dance, do stand-up routines, etc. Please email madeleine@richmondcumc.com if you have interest in participating in this special event!



Caption: The Wesley Ringers! Captured following rehearsal on 9/15. From left to right: Robert Meckley, Margy Smith, Patty Kelley, Madeleine Demetriades, Sally Sayre, Nicole Andreas, Amy McKee, Shanron Rider. Not pictured: Sandi Cox, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Karen Rosenberger, Joy Swonder, Paris Pegg.

Photo credit: Kathy Robinson



Caption: Here is the Chancel Choir, safely rehearsing distantly in the Fellowship Hall. From left to right: Beth Hartsough, Kathy Robinson, Amy McKee, Maryann Smith, Doris Miller, Linda Jennings, Ann Cashner, Linda Smith, Jim Swonder, Ted Halsted, Mike Hartsough. Not pictured: Frederick Chatfield, Joy Swonder.



Caption: Here is the Joysingers Children's Choir, having a back-to-rehearsal informal get-together at Debbie Jenkin's home. The children participated in a musical scavenger hunt, sang together and enjoyed cupcakes and punch in honor of missed 2020 birthday celebrations. They will first sing in worship on Sunday, October 24th.

Shalom Sessions

With so much dividing us in our world today, the church can and should offer a third way of uniting us in following the way of Jesus. Join us on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 12:05pm in the Fellowship Hall for a brown bag lunch as we discuss the matters affecting the Shalom of our community.

Prayer Walks

Prayer connects us daily to a loving God moving in our midst. In his 3 rules for Methodists, John Wesley calls us to both private and public prayer. On the first Monday of every month at noon, we will have a prayer walk through our neighborhood. We will 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. Please contact Pastor Joseph with any questions.



Mission's Committee

The Mission's Committee is planning a mission's work team to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky in 2022.

Henderson Settlement hosts more than 2,000 volunteer participants engaging in community mission outreach efforts each year. Volunteer activities include home construction, home repair and additions, hands on activity in delivery of their outreach programs, and a variety of on-campus service projects that enable their ministry. There are a number of reasons making the Settlement a

great partnership choice for our church:

- Henderson Settlement serves a community with great people, wonderful values and significant economic, social, and health challenges. It is a community where God's presence and effect is pervasive and obvious.
- Facilities – they offer a variety of housing arrangements that can accommodate family, team and small group co-location, as well as very large groups in a communal setting. All housing is climate controlled, meals are staff-prepared in their dining hall, and programming and entertainment are provided.
- God's spiritual impact – God is present in a very special way at the Settlement. Many past visitors and mission partners explain it using different words, but always coming back to "I experience God's presence here in a remarkable way!"
- Simplicity – the Settlement staff takes care of so many aspects of planning and delivering a high impact and secure mission experience, reducing the requirements for youth and team leaders. Our very competitive fee schedule also reduces fund raising efforts and yields more community impact per dollar invested.

Look for more information coming up on dates and plans.



Family Fall Festival

**Sunday, October 31st from 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Fun, Games, & Trunk or Treat!**

We are looking for many volunteers to help pass out candy to our visiting neighborhood kids and their families! You are not required to dress up but we encourage you to have fun! We are also looking for a few volunteers to help with simple games, setting up and cleaning up, and greet our guests as they come. We are also in need of candy donations to pass out to our visitors. These donations can be dropped off in the office workroom during our normal business hours. If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions please call the office at 765-962-8543 or email Christin at christin@richmondcumc.com or Pastor Phil at Phil@richmondcumc.com

UMW FALL POP-UP

**Saturday, October 2nd from 10:00am - 2:00pm
We have Fall, Halloween, and Christmas Decor!**

Decor was made with love from the ladies of Creative Hands. Creative Hands meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 9:00am thru lunch. Feeling crafty? Join us for Fun, Fellowship, and food!



PECANS!!

UMW will be selling PECANS. They will be \$12 per one pound bag. You can order halves or pieces. Contact Shanron Rider or Martha Hayes.

Calling NOODLE ELDERS

we will be making noodles at the October Creative Hands - October 14th and 28th.



UMW Meeting

UMW meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month after Creative Hands. The next UMW Meeting will be October 14th at 1:00pm. We will be hearing from Pastor Jen huff about her new job with the conference and how we can be involved with missions at the conference level.

TRIBE NEWS

At TRIBE these last several weeks, we have been living into the generous story of God. In our weekly lessons we've been travelling step-by-step through the grand epic of Scripture—from creation and fall to the early stages of redemption in Israel's history and the consummation of our restoration in Christ. At every place along the way we've seen the utter generosity of God!

And as a group we've been responding to that generosity with some generosity of our own. We keep celebrating all the work that we got to share on our mission trip this summer and how our churches sent an additional \$1375 to support the ongoing ministry there. A team of us got to give generously of our time at the yard sale at Centerville UMC last month, connecting with our community in new ways. A few more also helped tidy up the TRIBE room and took some things to the city dump. There are countless ways we're also serving our classmates, teachers, and neighbors every week. We live generously because we've experienced the generosity of God!

We're excited to see where God leads our group this season! New things are happening, and we're already off to a great start. Thank you for all your prayers and support!
Pastor Phil & TRIBE Leadership

Upcoming Events & Themes

October Lessons: Following Jesus: A series on deeper discipleship

October 3rd

TRIBE56 Night – Our senior high students will lead the lessons and games for 5th & 6th graders. An exciting, fun time for these groups to come together!

October 10th

No TRIBE meeting – We will not meet this night

October 17th

TRIBE56 Outing – We're planning a special event for the 5th & 6th grade group. More details to come!

October 31st

Family Fall Festival at Central from 5pm - 7pm

