



Happy

Thanks  
giving



# GIVE THANKS

November carries Fall from bountiful harvests to barren lands and grateful stores. Our American communities pivot from year-long efforts to Thanksgiving and the coming end of year celebrations. The church celebrates the liturgical end of year with Christ the King Sunday and begins anew with Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

All of this transition invites reflection for us in the midst. Reflection, with broader perspective brings on gratitude. Life yields too much wonder to give ourselves all the credit. Even bare branches in November cannot freeze the gratitude which calls up the blessings poured out to us. As people knowing the Word of God and covered by the blood of Jesus, we give thanks to God who has blessed us abundantly. Paul challenges to keep this before us in every season, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1 Thes 5:18)

I once thought this was an impossibility - 'give thanks in ALL circumstances.' Surely not ALL. Obedience to God's Word compelled me, and I took up the challenge. I thought through famine, heartbreaks, and loss. I tried...and was blessed. Giving thanks even in 'those' circumstances gave me new perspective, hope, and brief moments of communion with our good God. It did not diminish the hurt or injustice, but it grounded me in something deeper, stronger. I find it hard to maintain disgust, despair, and fury when I take up the posture of gratitude. Gratitude yields blessings which beget more gratitude. And we see God more clearly in the midst. *"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"* (Psalm 107:1)



Still the hustle of life and old patterns can keep us from such insight, such action. We must still 'give' thanks. As we turn to this month, here are a few practices which can guide us in staying grateful:

**The Daily Examen** - This daily practice was instituted by Ignatius Loyola and has blessed countless people for hundreds of years. The Examen guides daily reflection through thanksgiving:

Give thanksgiving for the gifts God has given.  
Ask for the Spirit to guide you in recalling your day.  
Review your day, recognize thoughts and emotions.  
Reflect and repent of any sin.  
Pray about collaborating with God in the coming day.

**Gratitude Blessings** - pick one person every day to intentionally give thanks to via call, text, email, letter, gift, meal, etc.

**Door-handle Presence** - Pause every time before you grab your vehicle's door handle to exit your vehicle. Give thanks to God for safe travels, the opportunity which demanded such travel, and wisdom and strength for what's ahead.

**Gratitude Journal** - Every day write down 3 things from that day which you are grateful for in your life. If you do it at night, try adding 3 hopes/joys you have for the coming day.

These are but a few of many practices we can engage to be obedient and blessed by the Word of God. What practices have blessed you? My prayer is that all of Central will find ways to be grateful this season and be blessed, so that, *"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."*(2 Cor 9:11)

I am thankful for you.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Joseph



At the end of the book of 1 Chronicles, in chapter 29, we find a fitting prayer offered by King David on behalf of all the assembly of Israel. At this point in the account, David is nearing the end of his reign, and his son Solomon is anointed king. The final verses of the chapter will narrate David's death. But just before the end, David turns his attention to God: "And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name" (1 Chron 29:13, ESV). Now we thank you. Now we thank you, our God. And praise your glorious name.

No doubt, these words take our minds back to the well-known hymn, "Now thank we all our God" (United Methodist Hymnal, 102). It was written by Martin Rinkart, in Saxony, in the year 1636,

and was later translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in the mid-19th century.

Martin Rinkart lived during a time of tremendous upheaval. The church in Northern Europe was still experiencing the birth pangs of the Protestant Reformation, and the majority of Rinkart's professional career spanned the dreadful Thirty-Years War. Famine and disease were just as deadly as the marching armies. An epidemic swept through Rinkart's city, causing the deaths of his two clergy colleagues and leaving him as the only remaining clergy in the area. He read the funeral services for 40-50 people a day who had died; more than 4,000 by the end of the epidemic, which also took the life of his first wife. Peace finally came in 1648, but Rinkart himself would die exhausted less than a year later.

In all of this, Rinkart penned the words of this hymn we often sing this time of year:

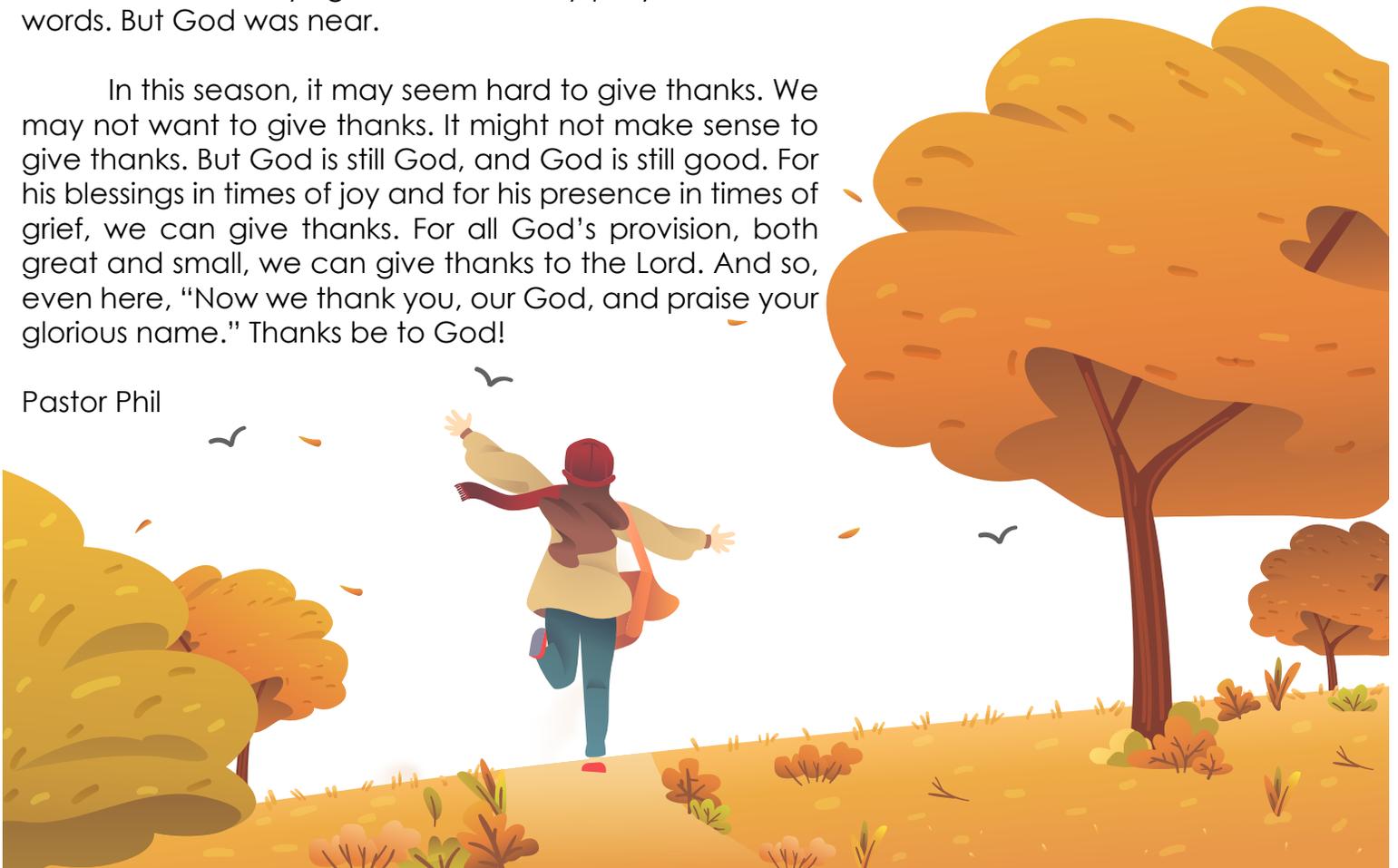
Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

In the midst of an epidemic that swept his region, in the midst of famine, war, and death, Rinkart still found a way to give thanks to God. For him, God had been his refuge. God had sustained him and provided for him, even as everything around him looked hopeless and lost. God's abiding presence through suffering had preserved his faith. Through all the hardships, all the destruction, all the grief and lament, God was still God. And God was still good.

As a pastor, I know the difficulties many have faced in this season. The loss of life, the loss of jobs, the loss of stability... Even now, it is still all around us. Just recently, while I was visiting Reid Hospital, a woman saw my Bible and guessed I was a pastor. With tears, she asked me to pray for her son who was dying of COVID. In my prayer, I had no words. But God was near.

In this season, it may seem hard to give thanks. We may not want to give thanks. It might not make sense to give thanks. But God is still God, and God is still good. For his blessings in times of joy and for his presence in times of grief, we can give thanks. For all God's provision, both great and small, we can give thanks to the Lord. And so, even here, "Now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name." Thanks be to God!

Pastor Phil





This has been a fun season at TRIBE. We finished up our series on the epic story of the Bible and jumped into some new lessons on following Jesus through deeper discipleship. We also had a great time with “Tribe56,” our fifth and sixth grade group. The juniors led us in some awesome lessons and games that night!

This month we also welcomed two new faces to our leadership team. Pastor Paul Samura is from Sierra Leone and has been connected with Central UMC in recent years. He is currently pursuing his D.Min. at United Theological Seminary and helps out at our weekly Tribe gatherings. Also, Joe McHugh has joined the team at First UMC and Centerville UMC as an interim for children’s and youth ministry. He brings a great presence to our Tribe. We’re excited to have these guys on board!

In the weeks ahead, we have quite a few fun things in store! Thank you again for all your prayers and for the ways you’ve supported our group. If you are interested in helping with TRIBE or “Tribe56” in any way – snacks, games, small group leading, mentoring, transportation, etc. – feel free to reach out to Pastor Phil and we’ll get you connected!

### Upcoming Events & Themes:

**November Lessons:** Ways to Read the Bible: In this new series, we’ll explore some simple, practical methods for reading the Bible for all it’s worth!

**11/21, TRIBE56 Night:** Our senior high students will lead the lessons and games for 5th & 6th graders. Another exciting, fun time for these groups to come together!

**11/28, No TRIBE meeting:** Thanksgiving Break



“FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME,  
I WILL BE WITH THEM” - MATTHEW 18:20





**A Brief Note of Gratitude  
from Madeleine Demetriades, Director of Music Ministries**

Central is a special place. We have so many people, both staff and laity, who get things done: people who care about our church, the congregation and the community at large. To put it simply, they emit selfless love and tireless dedication. During the 2020 COVID pandemic, this was especially realized and deeply appreciated. No task is impossible, and no job too large, when we are all in this together -- and that we are, my friends.

God, may you be with us as this new season approaches - may we embrace new beginnings while recalling past cherished moments. May we remember that you give us strength and wisdom, even when we don't see it at first. May you provide relief when we get momentarily overwhelmed with upcoming holiday planning. We know you are there. We love you. In Christ's Name We Pray... Amen.

**MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES**

- Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers Handbell Choir and Joysingers Children's Choir resumed weekly rehearsals in early September and are loving the experience of in-person music making. The Wesley Ringers and Chancel Choir presented music in worship on October 3rd for World Communion Sunday. Joysingers sang in worship on October 24th.

- Mark your calendars! Sounds of the Season is Sunday, December 12th at 6:00pm. This fun, festive evening will involve the choirs of Central as well as small ensembles and individuals who will sing, dance, tell jokes, and more!

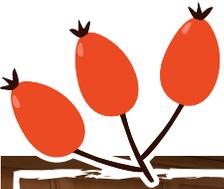
- The handrail/banister in the chancel area of the sanctuary is installed and working wonderfully. Chancel Choir members have said that the new addition makes getting up and down much easier. I want to thank the board of trustees and Greg Scott for working tirelessly to make this dream a reality.



Caption:  
Chancel Choir sings at 10/3 worship  
service



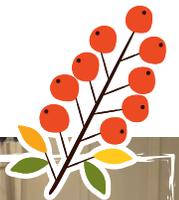
Caption:  
A shot of the Cantus Choir from  
Sounds of the Season 2019



Caption:  
The new handrail/banister on  
right-side chancel area in the  
sanctuary



Caption:  
The Wesley Handbell Ringers in  
action at 10/3 worship service



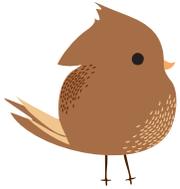


## **PECANS!!**

UMW will be selling PECANS. They will be \$12 per one pound bag. You can order halves or pieces. PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER BY NOVEMBER 14TH. Contact Shanron Rider or Martha Hayes with questions. Pecans and noodles will be available on the 21st.

## **UMW Meeting**

Red Cross Hurricane Relief: Dana Mollenkopf will speak to United Methodist Women on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall. All men, women & kids are welcome to join us for this interesting presentation. If you would like to join us for lunch at noon, please let Shanron Rider or Mary Ann Brooks know, so we can prepare enough food.



## **Sunday Greeters**

After a long absence due to Covid we are resuming the greeters program to welcome members and visitors to our church. We would appreciate your help in greeting church goers. We will follow the protocols established for Covid. We like to have 2 volunteers each Sunday 20 minutes before Church begins. We are making some changes to the way we have done this in the past and would appreciate suggestions as to how to make the program better. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the main hall way.

## **Media Ministry**

Can you “double-click” a mouse button? Can you press the space bar on a keyboard? Then YOU have what it takes to join Central's Media Ministry! Please prayerfully consider joining this vital ministry of Central UMC. Contact Jack or Krissi Hughes with questions or to get more information



## **All Saints Sunday**

If you would like to honor a loved one that has passed away this year, please notify the church office at 765-962-8543 or email Christin at [christin@richmondcumc.com](mailto:christin@richmondcumc.com) so that we may honor them on November 7th. Please send their name, date of birth and death, and a photo. All submissions are due by NOVEMBER 3RD.

## **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RELIEF ROOM**

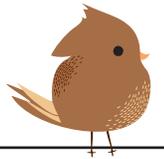
We need a volunteer or two to assist with a short term project. We have a number of clothing items for school age children that needs some organization. The project would be to sort the items by size and place them in plastic bins that have been purchased for their storage. This will help us work quickly with families who come in needing specific sizes of clothing for their children. Likewise, we have several pairs of children shoes that also need to be sorted by size. Come alone or bring a friend. Sort some of the items or all of the items. Whatever you can do would be appreciated. For more information contact Dana Mollenkopf at 765-277-0287 or [papamole@comcast.net](mailto:papamole@comcast.net). THANKS.



## **Living in Poverty - The Experience**

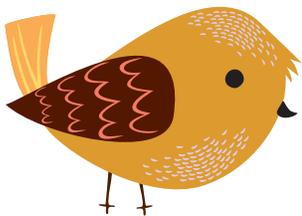
Natco Community Empowerment Center would like to invite you to “walk a mile” in the shoes of those facing poverty. Gain an understanding of the challenges individuals face in the poverty environment through an interactive, fast paced event. Join us on December 2nd from 1-3:30pm at Central United Methodist Church. RSVP at (765) 983-4766 or [dsinclair@natcocu.org](mailto:dsinclair@natcocu.org) by November 26th. We are very excited to bring this event to you and look forward to your participation.

# NOVEMBER 2021



	<b>1</b> Prayer Walk 12pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Church Meal 11:30am	<b>8</b> Mon. Morn. Connection 9am Medical Mon. 1pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Creative Hands 9am UMW Meeting 1pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Shalom Session 12pm	<b>17</b> Lunch Bunch 11:30am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> UMW Pop-Up 8am Hanging of the Greens - 12pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Lampighter Assembly 10am	<b>25</b> HAPPY THANKS- GIVING!	<b>26</b> HAPPY THANKS- GIVING!	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Sundays</b> Sunday School 9am • Worship 10am TRIBE 5pm			

## Weekday Gatherings



### Mondays

Women's Prayer 12pm  
 Fireside Conversation 1:30pm  
 Brianna's Hope 6:30pm

### Tuesdays

Benevolence Team 1pm

### Wednesdays

Wisdom Study 10am  
 Men's Prayer 12pm  
 Wesley Ringers 5:30pm  
 Chancel Choir 6:30pm

### Thursdays

Joy Singers 4pm

