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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# Thank You Central!

We have officially made it to 2022! I am eager to dream about the blessings ahead, but first let's pause and give thanks. 2021 was a hard year for so many – including us at Central as we continued to struggle with ministry under the shadow of Covid, multiple transitions, and ever changing expectations. Still, our God is good. You have been faithful in keeping our ministry going through your time, your witness, your presence, your gifts, and your prayers. It is a privilege to serve in communities where faithfulness to God's call can be seen. Thank you.

We start this 2022 year worshipping with Wesley's covenant renewal service. In it are these lines,

*"Lord, make me what you will.  
I put myself fully into your hands:  
put me to doing, put me to suffering,  
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,  
let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and with a willing heart  
give it all to your pleasure and disposal."*

Wesley penned these strong words to call anew our commitment to fully serve Christ wherever we are called. Covenant bonds us to God in our faith, to the church in our baptism, to our church in our vows, to our future with hope and joy. God has promised blessings beyond our circumstances; promises which give us rest and guide our work. Renewing our service to God's will excites the imagination. A group of people committed to prayer and following Jesus – what could stand in the way? I rejoice wondering about the ways God will move through our community.

Central's willingness to join Richmond's 24/7 prayer for 2022 will factor greatly in this movement for years to come. John Wesley wrote, "God hardly gives His Spirit even to those whom He has established in grace, if they do not pray for it on all occasions, not only once, but many times. 'God does nothing but in answer to prayer; and even they who have been converted to God, without praying for it themselves (which is exceeding rare), were not without the prayers of others.'" Central has been a praying church. We have our blessings from the prayers of those who have gone before us. We now bring concerted, repeated attention to the matters of God and cries of our hearts every 28th of the month in 2022. Every new victory which a soul gains comes through believing prayer. If you have not already signed-up for a spot, a few remain (and there is nothing wrong with more than one person praying at a time if it does fill up). We will also be having a Prayer Gathering on the 20th at 6:30 to prepare for our effort, a little prayer-palooza if you will. All are invited to join.



Indeed 2022 will be a year filled with God's presence, whatever may come. Read through the rest of this newsletter to begin to catch a glimpse. Join in discipleship opportunities as you feel led. Let me leave you with a prayer to rest in as we go together: O Author of our very souls, we give you thanks and praise for blessings you have bestowed this past year. Your promises bring hope and joy. Your covenant and forgiveness fill us with wonder. We know not what will come to pass in 2022, yet we know you send your Holy Spirit before us. I pray a spirit of encouragement descends upon the people called together at Central as we tend to the everyday work of answering your Call, o Lord. May we daily empty ourselves of our concerns, agendas, and past hurts so that we might daily receive your grace, wisdom, and love. Like children, may we joyfully receive your Kingdom and share it freely and winsomely with all around. We love you God, may your will be done here in Richmond and beyond. In Jesus name, Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Joseph



# ALL THINGS NEW

*“See I am making all things new”* (Revelation 21:5, NRSV). Near the end of the Book of Revelation we hear this word of renewal from Jesus as the new Jerusalem is coming into focus. The chorus resounds: *“See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them... Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away”* (vv. 3-4). In Christ, all things are being made new!

We have this incredible hope. All the decay, all the pain, all the destruction, strife, war, disease, and death will be put away. The world will be set right again. New things are coming soon.

As we begin this New Year, we have much to look forward to. And as Methodists, our optimism about God's grace draws us toward the new reality that Christ is already creating. The return of Christ and the end of all things drive us forward in our present task of growing in our love of God and neighbor. The New Year is a perfect time for us to rededicate ourselves to this holy renewal.

What are the ways you are seeking renewal this year? How might you bring renewal to the world around you? Here are some things to get you started:

1. Renew our prayer: In 2022, as a church we are devoting 24-hours a month to continuous prayer for our community. Sign-ups for time slots went out last month, and you can still get involved. We are committing to pray on the 28th of each month, and our prayer team would love to get you connected. Perhaps this practice can help renew your own life of prayer.

2. Renew our worship: This year, we have opportunity to engage the worshiping life of our congregation more and more. Worship has a powerful way of transforming our hearts and strengthening our walk with Christ. This year, let's renew our commitment to congregational worship. You might also consider these ways to serve in worship: altar guild, worship leading, scripture reading, media team, chancel choir, bell choir, ushering, greeting... Come and worship!

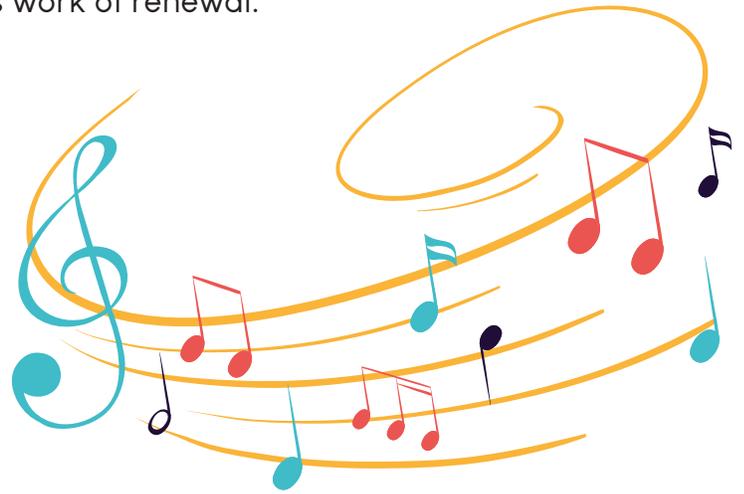
3. Renew our faith: As a new year begins, we can strengthen our faith through our personal study of scripture, attending Sunday school, and joining a class meeting. There are so many opportunities to grow in faith here at Central. We are a place where hearts and minds are being made new. Get connected! Let's renew our faith together!

What are some other things you might add? How do you want to be made new in 2022? As we look for the day of Christ's appearing, let's join his work of renewal.

Pastor Phil 

## Sounds of The Season: A Brief Retrospective

By Madeleine Demetriades



The 3rd annual Sounds of The Season Christmas program was on Sunday, December 12th at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. Participants included the Chancel Choir, the Wesley Handbell Ringers, the Joysingers Children's Choir, the Studio 252 Sunday School Class and the Masked Singers Vocal Quartet. Frederick Chatfield performed on organ, Joy Swonder on flute, Samuel Seger and Henry Backmeyer on piano, and Will Backmeyer, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Kathy Robinson and Amy McKee shared vocal pieces. Kathy and Amy also shared instrumental duets on dulcimer and guitar, respectively. Shanron Rider read the book Paddy's Christmas to the audience during the act transitions. Ann Cashner and Jennifer Seger were the photographers (see some of their beautiful photos on the back of the calendar insert!). Ann also created a beautiful sanctuary banner for the event. Nicole Andreas was the stage technician, prepping the stage for each act and moving microphones and stands into position. The audio-visual team included Jack and Krissi Hughes and Ron Itnyre. The greeters were Jim Robinson, Electa Berk and Lowell Robinson. Pastors Joseph Seger and Phil Carder also participated by offering the opening and closing prayers. The entire program was organized by our Director of Music Ministries, Madeleine Demetriades with the help of Central's music committee, as well as Central's wonderful staff. We are so grateful to the people of Central for supporting this wonderful event, and are very excited for Sounds of the Season 2022!

**Chancel Choir:** Ann Cashner, Linda Jennings, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Amy McKee, Kathy Robinson, Ted Halsted, Nancy Wilson, Jim Swonder, Frederick Chatfield, Mike Hartsough

Director: Madeleine Demetriades

Pianist: Joy Swonder

**Wesley Ringers:** Shanron Rider, Sally Sayre, Amy McKee, Patty Kelley, Nicole Andreas, Margy Smith, Paris Pegg, Holly Love, Nancy Wilson, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre

Director: Madeleine Demetriades

**Joysingers Children's Choir:** Henry Backmeyer, Will Backmeyer, Violet Backmeyer, Sam Seger, Cayden Seger, Caleb Seger, Melanie LaFuze, Brynn LaFuze, Addi George

Directors: Debbie Jenkins & Madeleine Demetriades

**Studio 252 Sunday School:** Zeke Andreas, Aureana Andreas, Henry Backmeyer, Will Backmeyer, Violet Backmeyer, Sam Seger, Cayden Seger, Caleb Seger, Courtney Seger  
Teachers: Sean & Nicole Andreas, Pat Heiny

**Masked Singers:** Ann Cashner, Linda Jennings, Amy McKee & Madeleine Demetriades  
Percussion Section: Kathy Robinson

**Music Committee:** Ann Cashner, Amy McKee, Kathy Robinson, Springer Smith, Frederick Chatfield, Shanron Rider, Doris Miller, Debbie Jenkins and Madeleine Demetriades



Happy New Year! We've got a lot of great things ahead for us at TRIBE in 2022. Special events, small group outings, youth camp, service trip, new lessons, and games... There's a lot to look forward to in the months to come!

Last month, the highlight for our group was our progressive dinner. We had more than thirty students join the fun of progressing between each of our three churches for a meal, Christmas devotional, and games. Thanks so much for all the help from the churches in providing food and transportation! We had a blast!

God is on the move here at TRIBE. And more good things are just ahead!

**Upcoming Events:**

**1/2, Game Night:** We'll kick off the New Year with a short lesson and lots of games!

**New January-February Series:** "Jesus in the Gospel of Mark," a study that will take us deeper into the story of Jesus and show us ways he can show up in our lives today.

**1/30, Tribe56 Lessons & Games Night:** Check out the return of our monthly combined Tribe night for all 5th & 6th graders, co-led by the senior high students!

## 24/7 Prayer Initiative - Pray each 28th day of the month in 2022

Thank you so much for joining us in prayer for spiritual revival and renewal. Our communities are in need of both. Jesus said His followers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We must become engaged in this battle for our community and nation's soul. However, until as Christians we experience revival in our own lives, it will be extremely difficult to restore our community and nation's moral foundations.

The Prayer Guide will help you as you join with many others to bring our needs before God throughout 2022. This guide is just that – a guide. It is designed to give you a starting place for your time of prayer. Here are some suggestions for making your prayer time a powerful, personal spiritual time. By the way – there are still times for you to sign up to help us. You can do so in the hall way at the tables – one for AM times and another for PM times.

Here is how to prepare for your prayer time:

1. Praise God for who He is.
2. Confess your sinfulness and need for cleansing.
3. Allow His Spirit to draw you near.
4. Listen as He speaks to you.

The month of January we will focus on Personal Revival.

You can pick up the following at the prayer sign up tables:

1. Personal revival references for help during your prayer time
2. How to Use the Prayer Guide.

For any questions you may have, please call Jan Hibner 765-277-3136 or Toni Reinke 765-969-6631.



— HAPPY —  
**NEW YEAR**

**20**  
**22**

### Join the Pickleball Fun

Beginning on Monday, January 10, from 6:30–8:00 pm, Duane Hodgkin and Randy Cashner will teach beginners (ages 18 and over; church members or attendees only) how to play pickleball. Pickleball is America's fastest growing sport for ALL ages and ability levels. Balls and paddles will be provided. If you think you "might" have an interest in becoming a part of this FUN FITNESS, and FELLOWSHIP, please indicate your interest and/or questions by emailing Duane or Randy (duanehodgin@yahoo.com or rcashner@icloud.com)

### New Amicus class will begin on January 9th

Ann Cashner will be leading the class at 8:45am. More info will be coming.

### Tornado Relief

The East District of Indiana UMC is planning to send relief teams to the damage done in Kentucky by the recent tornadoes as soon as UMCOR lets us know it is safe and helpful for us to go. If you are interested in serving on one of these teams, please contact Paulette Spicer (paulette.spicer@inumc.org) with your name and telephone number (cell preferred – let us know if you text). Our limit to how many teams we can send may be the number of trained response folks we have. There is an Early Response Team training in early January. If you are interested in that, please contact Rev. John Young (john.young@inumc.org) or click here for more information and registration.

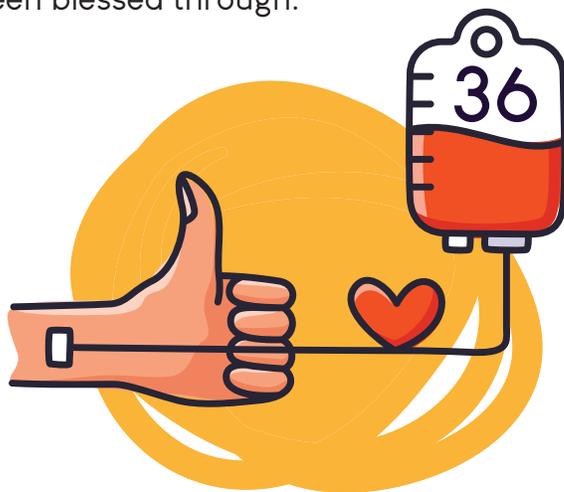
In the meantime, please continue to offer your prayers for all the people impacted by these storms. If you feel led to donate to the relief effort, please write UMCOR – KY Tornadoes in the check or donate online at [advance.umcmission.org](http://advance.umcmission.org).

## Year End Giving

2021 is coming to an end and so is your opportunity to give to this year's budget. Central continues to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world and is grateful for the many ways your contributions makes this possible. There is still time to offer a gift to fulfill your pledge, set up our work for 2022, or bless anew the church you have been blessed through.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

An update on the blood drive held at Central United Methodist Church on December 21. We ended with 47 people registered for the drive. With eleven no shows and with four others not being able to donate due to low blood pressure and other factors, we ended with 36 units of blood being drawn to help with the critical blood shortage we are experiencing. Thanks again to all who supported this drive.

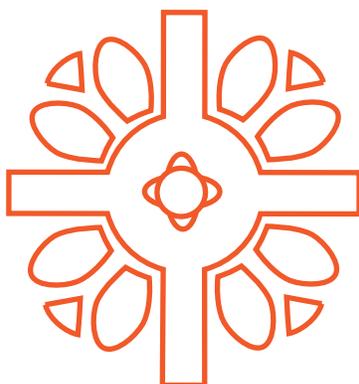


## Attending to the Homeless

Central will again be hosting a meal for the homeless during the annual Point In Time count on January 26th. The Point in Time Count is a nationwide, 24 hour census of our homeless. If you are interested in helping with the meal, please connect with Pat Jarvis. If you are interested in joining in the efforts of the count, please connect with Pastor Joseph. If you would like to donate to the bags which will be handed out on that day, the following items will be collected in the office until the 23rd – Hand/body wipes; Hygiene care (small sizes): toothbrush, tooth paste, deodorant, Shampoo/conditioner in 1, body wash, comb, razor; ponchos; flashlights; hand warmers; snacks-peanuts, crackers, tuna/crackers, etc; bottled water; blankets; gloves.

# PRAYER- PALOOZA

Central is praying 2022 through. We are joining with other Richmond area churches in covering the year in prayer through the 24/7 prayer effort. Our date is the 28th of each month and there are still spots available for you to commit to such prayer. To kick off this time of prayer, you are invited to join us for a Prayer Gathering on January 20th at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. We will share stories of prayer, ways of prayer, questions about prayer, songs of prayer, and be in prayer together. Lord, hear our prayers.



**Central United Methodist Church**

1425 East Main Street

Richmond, IN 47374

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# JANUARY 2022

 <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Sundays</b>            Sunday School 9am            Worship 10am            TRIBE 5pm         </p>						1
2	3 CHURCH CLOSED	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Monday Morning Connection 9:00am	11	12	13 Creative Hands 9:00am	14	15
16	17	18 Shalom Session 12:00pm	19 Lunch Bunch 11:30am	20 Friendship Circle 10:00am	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26 Lamplighter Assembly 10:00am	27 Creative Hands 9:00am	28	29

## Weekday Gatherings

### Mondays

Women's Prayer 12pm  
 Fireside Conversation 1:30pm  
 Brianna's Hope 6:45pm

### Tuesdays

Benevolence Team 1pm

### Wednesdays

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

### Thursdays

Joy Singers 4pm





PHOTOS FROM  
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON 2021



PHOTOS FROM  
TRIBE PROGRESSIVE DINNER