





Called to Make a Difference.

He is Risen Indeed! I pray this Resurrection truth echoes throughout 2022 for you and yours. It was such a wonderful morning of worship this Easter. Gathering together more fully than we have in years as the pandemic wanes to proclaim the glory of our God. Yet, praise be to God this is not the end of the story. God does not just deliver us from sin through the work Jesus on the cross, nor merely promise us eternal life after we die and at the resurrection. As we journey these 50 days towards Pentecost we remember the wonder that God calls each of us to live out transforming kingdom truths in the here and now. We all have a calling in Christ.

Jesus indeed was risen and offers eternal life, but there is so much more than merely going to heaven after we die. Have you ever wondered why we are still on earth if the whole point was to get people to heaven? In reflecting upon our continued presence here after coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus as savior and Lord, author James Choung puts it to us this way, "What are you saved for?" God calls us to make a difference. New creation will come fully at the final trumpet, but it has been breaking forth ever since that first Resurrection morning. We, as followers of Jesus, are invited to take up that work.

For this good news to be incarnated, God calls us daily to share our new life with others in love. There are both general and specific calls. We are to be good siblings, devoted spouses, respectful children, guiding grandparents, loving neighbors, etc.

Our relationships are reconciling revelations of the resurrection truth in our lives. Living them well brings Shalom to all who are around. We are also called uniquely to be janitors, teachers, administrators, factory workers, ministers, lawyers, bakers, counselors, civil servants, transporters, home makers, carpenters, managers, etc. Our work wields wonderful meaning as we struggle to bring about Shalom in light of the resurrection. God whispers to us all – Let us answer His call!

Call stories vary as they differ. God speaks to us in His own way. Some are in deeply in tune and have known their path as far back as memory goes. Others have found their call where their passion and the world's felt need have overlapped. Many take up work to support their primary relationships and come to sense God's call to that vocation later in life. Jennifer and I felt called to parent, but it took God speaking to Jennifer during camp worship for that to crystallize in foster care. What has been the story of your call?

Recently, I have been blessed to be part of the Wayne County Cares conversations which are attempting to imagine a more vibrant, connected, and resilient Wayne County across many areas of concern and promise. The genesis? Local residents were tired of empty seats at graduation due to untimely and preventable deaths of the youth in our community. They answered the call to share from their deep pain into the community's felt need and hope for meaningful change now abounds.

John Wesley spoke about himself as a brand plucked from the fire as he reflected on Zechariah 3:2 and remembered how he was 'saved' from a house fire at age 5. He



set off his clergy career with great zeal, but was consumed by ‘doing’ religion. After a failed missionary trip to the Americas, he felt exhausted – burnt out. At age 35, he received a second grace and had his heart strangely warmed listening to a religious service about Romans. This experience fanned again the flame of his call and the world has changed in its wake.

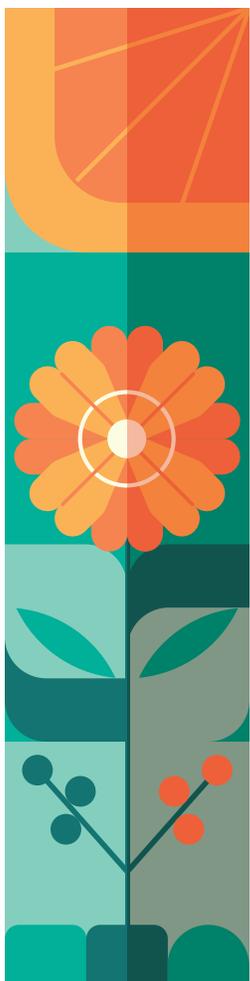
Central, it is my prayer we all are taking steps down the path of answering God’s call this month. Our God has overcome the world! Let us be of good cheer as we take up the yoke of God’s will – whatever it looks like in our calling. Your service this week, this year matters. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we are a people called together and sent into this world as outposts of God’s Kingdom.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Joseph



The Call of a Lifetime

In Romans 12:2 we read, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” (NRSV). Have you ever wondered about the will of God for your life? What is God calling you to?



In the context of this passage, Paul is ultimately highlighting the desire of God for our repentance, that we would be renewed after the image of Christ. But related to that ultimate will of God, we soon discover the many different ways we can live out God’s will in our own lives. At the heart of our prayer for God’s will to be done, we each have the opportunity to discern God’s will for us personally.

How do we discern the will of God? For John Wesley, God’s call came in the inner warming of his heart at a prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street in 1738. For others in the Methodist tradition, it was at the altar railing during a camp meeting. For some, like Francis Asbury, it was the consensus and call of the church at annual conference.

The key elements in understanding God’s call or discerning God’s will are typically twofold: the prayer of faith and the community of faith. In prayer we open our hearts by faith to receive from God, placing our will in deeper alignment with God’s will. Then, through the community of faith, the church, we can often hear the voice of God in the voice of others.

Some additional practical questions can help us discern God’s will in particular situations. I first discovered these questions by listening to a podcast by Catholic priest Fr. Mike Schmitz. When discerning whether a certain door might be God’s will, reflect on the following questions:



1. *Is this an open door?* In other words, is this truly an available opportunity? Can I genuinely walk into this? If the opportunity is not open, it may not be in God's will for you.

2. *Is this a good door?* Will this door be pleasing to God? Will this door be for my well-being and the well-being of others? If the opportunity is not good or healthy, God may have other doors for you to consider.

3. *Is this a wise door?* Does it make sense for me to walk through it? Will it create wise opportunities for me to serve God? If the opportunity would generate excessive risk or seems foolish to those that know you well, God may want you to consider the options extra carefully.

4. *Is this a door that I want?* This is the most subjective part of the process of discernment. If all the other questions above check out well, you ultimately have to decide if this is something you want to pursue. If so, confirm that desire with God in your heart and in conversation with other Christians.

Another question we could add to the list might include this: Which decision will generate greater love of God and love of neighbor? In Methodist terminology we might also ask it this way: Which decision will bring you to a deeper pursuit of holiness?

As you prayerfully wrestle with these questions and seek God's guidance, the right path will be made clear to you. Sometimes both options are equally open, good, wise, and holy. In that case, God is pleased by the faithful exercise of our own free will. As long as we are seeking him in prayer and engaging the counsel of the community of faith, we will know what the Lord is calling us to do. Then we can do it for God's glory.

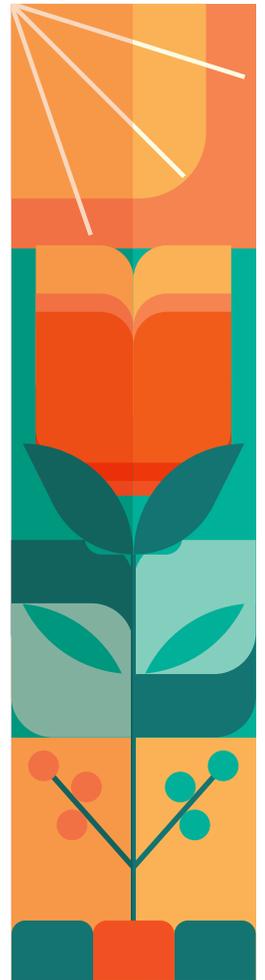
What is God calling you to do? How can you discern God's will for your life? How can you help others walk through their own discernment?

Pastor Phil 

TRIBE

Good things have been happening this month. We took a group of 15 to the Fusion music festival at Indiana Wesleyan University and had a blast. With all the awesome music, it was a fun day to hang out together. This month, we also finished our trek through the Apostles' Creed and have begun to explore some standalone topics to wrap out this school year. We're looking ahead to some incredible opportunities coming up.

Thank you again for all your support and prayers!



Upcoming TRIBE Events

May TRIBE: We get together each Sunday from 5-7pm at Central UMC. Always an awesome time!

May 8, No TRIBE: We will not meet on Mother's Day

May 29, No TRIBE: We will not meet on Memorial Day Weekend

End of the Year Party coming in June! Watch for details soon!

Music at Central UMC by Madeleine Demetriades, Director of Music Ministries

-Easter!

We had a spectacular Lenten season, Holy Week and Easter this year. During Lent, I led a hymn study using James Howell's book, *Unrevealed Until Its Season: a Lenten Journey with Hymns*. The participants and I had a wonderful time learning about the Lenten hymns that shape us. During Holy Week, Debbie Jenkins and I had a Joysingers Easter egg hunt and choir party (see photos on next page). We had an informal Maundy Thursday service in the Fellowship Hall, complete with hand and feet washing. The choir shared a lovely anthem. The Good Friday service was movingly somber. Easter morning, we experienced an exceptional professional brass quartet, the Wesley Ringers Handbell Choir, the Chancel Choir and the Joysingers Children's Choir. We presented a joint anthem with brass, bells and the choir. We also sang the Hallelujah Chorus with Frederick Chatfield accompanying on organ. About 40-50 people from the congregation came forward to sing with the choir. It was fabulous! I closed the service with the Widor Toccata. I was exhausted after the service, but my heart was full. He is Risen!

-Richmond Community Singers (Summer Choir Opportunity)

Central is pairing up with Tanner Puterbaugh, choral director, Richmond High School, and several other musical leaders in the community to offer a Summer Community Choir. Starting on June 8th, we will have twice weekly 2-hour rehearsals, culminating in an August performance. I am very excited about this collaboration! If this intensive choir sounds intriguing to you, please reach out for further information: madeleine@richmondcumc.com

-Choral Conducting Workshop, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music

I am so grateful to Central for sending me to an intensive choral conducting workshop this summer at the prestigious Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, OH. I will be working one on one with the conservatory's world class faculty, studying new choral pedagogies, historic and modern literature and performance practices. I will be attending from June 27th-July 2nd. I can't wait to bring back all that I learn to the choirs at Central for our upcoming fall season!

-Chamber Choir singing in May

The Richmond High School Chamber Choir will be coming to sing for Central's worship service on Sunday, May 22nd, 10:00am. They are led by Tanner Puterbaugh and will be accompanied by a





student string quartet. They will be presenting Elaine Hagenberg's Deep Peace, Sergei Rachmaninoff's Bogoroditse Devo from The Vespers and Eric Whitacre's Lux Aurumque.

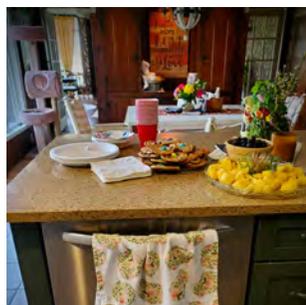
-Summer Children's Music Camp

Debbie Jenkins and I will be leading a children's music camp this summer! The dates will be Monday, July 18th through Wednesday, July 20th from 9:30am-11:30am, culminating in a worship performance on Sunday, July 24th. We will focus on teaching children how to use a hymnal, sing, and use percussion instruments. Ages are entering 2nd-7th grade. More information to come.

Important Dates:

Wednesday, May 25th: Chancel Choir and Wesley Ringer Bell Choir final rehearsals

Thursday, May 19th: Joysingers Children's Choir final rehearsal



Take Me Out to the Ballgame...

Central is sponsoring a baseball team at our local recreation league, Richmond Evening Optimist or REO. Almost every week night from May -June hundreds of people from all over the county gather at our local baseball/softball/volleyball complex at NW 13th and Peacock. Please keep the young families of our community in prayer as they find opportunities for such public activities to raise up our next generation. Come on out and support the team or just get to know some neighbors over a hot dog and bag of popcorn. Play ball!

General Conference Update

The 2020 General Conference, our worldwide decision making body, has been postponed for the third time due to pandemic related concerns. It is not scheduled to meet again until 2024. If you were unable to go our information session on April 25th, there are still sessions on May 1st after worship, and May 3rd over lunch at 12:05. Please keep our denomination in your prayers as we continue to live out our callings to follow Jesus together here in Richmond and beyond.

Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Our all-church mission trip to Henderson Settlement is set for the week of July 10 and plans are coming together. We'll have an informational meeting Sunday, May 1, at 4:30pm for anyone interested in learning more. If you have questions, please see Krissi Hughes



Wisdom

In the Month of May, Central will be reading together through some of the Bible's Wisdom literature. The Bible does more than tell us about Israel and Jesus – it forms our character. It forms our souls. A bookmark guiding our readings has been made available. If you were unable to grab one at worship, you can pick one up in the church office. We will be reflecting on the readings during worship and various small groups throughout the week. If you would like more information on a small group to gather with, please contact Pastor Joseph. Let us follow Paul's teaching in this season, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

National Day of Prayer

Thursday May 5th is the National Day of Prayer. Here in Richmond we have several opportunities to partake in lifting up prayer as a community.

Prayer Room for Prayer – Unveiled Church, 721 E Main.

9:00am – 6:00pm

Prayer Breakfast – Christ United Church, 3420 Backmeyer

8am – 9am (Make sure to get your tickets on Eventbrite)

Noon Day Time of Prayer – Jack Elstro Plaza, 47 N 6th St.

Noon – 1:00pm

Evening Prayer and Worship – Central UMC, 1425 E Main St.

7:00pm

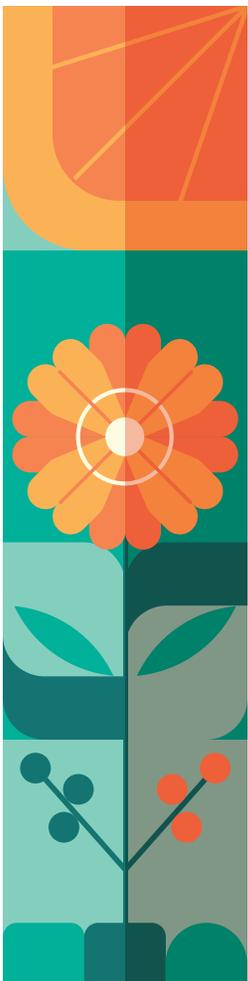


Central Blood Drive for Red Cross

Central United Methodist Church has been proud to partner with the American Red Cross and be a part of all they do. Our sixth blood for the Red Cross will be held on Thursday, May 5 between noon and 5:00. Did you know the Red Cross needs to collect more than 13,000 blood donations and more than 2,500 platelet donations each day and 84 percent of blood donations are given at blood drives like the one we are hosting. And did you know the blood collected by the Red Cross helps millions of patients in over 2,500 hospitals and other facilities across the country. The current blood shortage is critical, so now is the time to get registered. Go to redcrossblood.org and enter CUMCRICH into the box that says Find a Blood Drive. Find a time slot that is convenient for you and provide the requested information.

Y.M.C.A Memory Cafe

Join us for our next Memory Cafe on Friday, May 13th from 10-11am! This program's focus is to bless the special people in our community who live the experience of mild to moderate dementia. The Memory Cafe meets the second Friday of each month at the Y.M.C.A. for one hour., from 10:00-11:00 am. We have a planned activity and a craft or game suited to the adult with dementia and a snack. While we provide activities, we are also providing an opportunity for the caregiver to meet with other caregivers and a Chaplain to share concerns, problems or emotions.... Or just relax. The caregiver could also take advantage of the gym and get some exercise. This time is 'just for them.'





College Care Packages

Many thanks to all those who helped with the care packages for our college students and young adults! These were sent out with our prayers and blessings as the semester comes to a close.



Creative Hands

Creative Hands meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. Join us on May 12th and 26th for food, fellowship, and fun!

Hospital Visits

Do you have an upcoming surgery? Know someone who has been in the hospital? Let us know! In the past Reid would let us know when a member was ill but they no longer do so. We would love to come visit and pray with you but we need to know first. If you or someone you know is ever in need of a visit please contact the church office at 765-962-8543 or call Pastor Joseph's personal cell phone at 765-277-0682

Day of Service

It was good to fellowship and work together to serve in the community during our Day of Service on April 2nd. Here are some pictures from some of the service. Thank you to all who came and served! *"For you were called to freedom. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."* ~ Galatians 5:13



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.



MAY 2022

1	2 Prayer Walk 12pm	3 UMC Meeting 12pm	4	5 National Day of Prayer Service 7pm	6	7
8	9 Mon. Morn. Connection 9am	10	11	12 Creative Hands 9am UMW 1pm	13	14
15	16	17	18 Lunch Bunch 11:30am	19 Friendship Cir 10am Ad Council 6:30pm	20	21
22	23	24	25 Lamplighter Assembly 10am	26 Creative Hands 9am	27	28
29	30	31	Sundays Sunday School 9am · Worship 10am TRIBE 5pm			



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



Central United Methodist Church

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