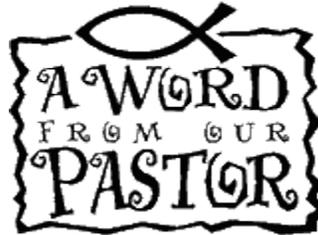


Richardson Park United Methodist Church
11 North Maryland Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19804-1305

Phone: 302-654-0961
Fax: 302-655-7446
E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org



*Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.*

1 Chronicles 16:8-11 (NIV)

February is not my favorite month. First, it's winter. It's cold. It's dreary. It gets dark really early. Even Punxsutawney Phil, that landmark of modern, scientific weather prediction, doesn't stay out of his borrow any longer than it takes to see if his shadow is there or not. (If he is not a big a fan of the weather at this time of year, why should I be?) Secondly, as a thinking, very practical, deeply analytical type of person, I am what most people might call "romantically challenged." My brain doesn't seem to be wired to think romantically or of romantic things. It's as if romance were some bizarre foreign language that I don't speak at all. *¿Sprechen sie d'amour?* The excuse that I have always used in the past is that I don't know what romance is, but this is pretty flimsy considering the number of movies dealing with romance, both dramatic and comedic, that exist in the vast libraries of Hollywood. Somewhere I had to have watched at least one that gave me some kind of a clue. Unfortunately, no matter how hard I try to exemplify Cary Grant on Valentine's Day, I usually end up smelling like Pepé LePew. *C'est la vie.*

The good news is that romance is not love, and love is not romance. Romance is about piquing an interest. It's based on emotion and feeling. Love is something all together different. It goes beyond mere interest and transient emotion straight to our very human core. It transcends our feelings and becomes part of us. Loving is an experience that changes a person. Romance can take place between two people simply sharing some time and space together. Love requires them to share their hearts and souls with each other. It's opening up the door of who we appear to be and inviting someone to look under the hood to see who we really are. Love is a state of being, and no one says this better than Paul in 1st Corinthians chapter 13.

One of the greatest experiences in my life has been the continual process of falling in love with Sarah, my wife. I constantly desire to get close to her soul and persistently seek to know her heart, at least most of the time. The closest thing that I can compare it to, in order to better describe this condition, is being a faithful Christian. *What? What was that last comment again?* being a faithful Christian. *That's what I thought you said. What on earth does that have to do with falling in love?* I'm glad you asked. *Gee, thanks.* You're welcome. . . Being a faithful Christian is about continually seeking to know the heart of God. Persistently trying to discern what is God's will for us and then trying to live that out. Everything that we do as Christians flows from this search and this understanding of love: worship, service, fellowship, prayer, giving, bible study, helping, reaching out, evangelizing, etc. All of these things are us trying to understand what God wants, and more specifically, what God wants from us as individuals.

So, are you falling in love with God? Or has the noise and business, the glitz and glamour, the *day in* and *day out* distracted you from this? It's never too late. One of the great things about true love is that it waits on us. Go ahead and give it a try. Invite God into your heart and see what happens in your life.

My prayer for you today is that the Holy Spirit touches you in a new and powerful way. I hope that you feel God and experience the presence of the Father, Son, and Spirit, right now wherever you happen to be reading this, and that you will, in turn, seek to know the heart of God.

Love always,

Pastor Tom

INNOCENCE IS PRICELESS

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.'

'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this? '

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked,

'Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:30?'

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Joey Pytel	2/1
Ashley Aiken	2/3
Edward Podgorski	2/4
Lillie Collins	2/8
Anna Crowe	2/8
Jeff Sheridan	2/8
Carol Cathell	2/10
Mary Sutor	2/11
Brian Crozier	2/12
Terri Antonine	2/13
Byrom Price	2/13
Ellen Willard	2/14
Katherine Oakmont	2/15
Elaine Spedden	2/17
Frank Pugh	2/18
Kathy Gibbons	2/20
Robert Truitt	2/20
Kristin Fleming	2/21
Bethany Pasmore	2/21
Greg Haynes	2/22
Morgan Coverdale	2/23
Ben Brindle	2/24
Bob Thomas	2/24
Angel Adams	2/25
Alice Brosch	2/26

Note: If your name is not listed on our birthday calendar, please call the church office at 654-0961. Thank you.

ZINGO



TAPES

Don't forget to bring your Zingo tapes to worship on Sundays. Just place them in the offering plates or in the wicker basket in the vestibule. **In January, we received a check for \$171.80.** Your support is appreciated.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



In February, Rebekah Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle	Tues., Feb. 3	7:00 p.m.
	Home of Marlene Johnson	
Ruth Circle	Wed., Feb. 4	10:00 a.m.
	Church Lounge	

Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle	Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle	Barbara Sayles

If you are interested in joining a Circle, please contact Marlene or Barbara for more information.

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

January 2009 \$73.70

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday. **AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.**



MISSION TREE



On Sundays in February, we are hanging **Hearts** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "heart" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. In February, our Mission tree will be located in the Sanctuary.

STEWARDSHIP RETREAT

Friday, February 20 7PM – 9 PM

Saturday, February 21 8:30 AM - 3 PM

Rev. Dave Buchanan will lead us through a workshop on what it means to be a steward of God's creation. On Friday evening, we will focus on the stewardship of RPUMC. And on Saturday, we will look at how faithful stewardship is connected to Scripture and Christian living.

Rev. Buchanan was ordained in the Reformed Church of America (RCA) and has served as a pastor for over 20 years in both RCA and United Methodist congregations. He is a member of the Troy Annual Conference and is currently serving as the Development Director for Camp Pecometh. He and his wife, Diane, reside in Newark, DE.

We will have light refreshments on Friday evening and lunch will be served on Saturday. We hope you will be able to join us for this very spiritual event. A sign-up sheet is located in the rear of the Sanctuary or you may call the church office to RSVP.

UPCOMING FURNITURE/ACCESORIES SALES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Saturday, February 7 9 AM – 1 PM

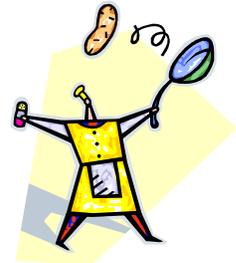
Thursday, February 19 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

The above sales will be held outside (weather permitting) and in the garage and the computer lab. These sales include furniture and accessories such as lamps, etc.

SHROVE PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 24

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



The men of RPUMC invite you to join them in Fellowship Hall for a time of fun and food as we prepare for the Lenten season. Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras is traditionally the time when Christians have used the rich food in their cabinets in preparation for fasting during Lent. Please join us for some delicious pancakes and fellowship.

COST OF TICKETS

Adults	\$ 4.00
Children	\$ 2.00
Family	\$10.00



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 PM - Sanctuary

KIDS' KORNER
Kristi J. Doughty

Express love everyday



February is one of the coldest months of the year but it's always warm at RPUMC – come share God's love and fellowship! Bring a friend to Sunday School and have even more fun while learning!

Here are the topics for February:

Pre-Kindergarten/K – Over the next several months, the youngest Sunday school class will be looking at Jesus' life during his ministry. We'll be using the gospel of Mark to learn more about Jesus.

Grades 1-3 – Storytelling is an ancient and honored art. Jesus knew the effectiveness of this form of teaching. He often used stories (parables) of familiar objects to teach a deeper lesson. People could relate to these stories and understand the spiritual truths Jesus wanted to teach. During February, we will study four of these parables: sowing seeds, the Good Samaritan, the unforgiving servant, and the prodigal son. Blessings from Ms. Marlene.

Grades 4 - 6 – will focus on Proverbs 2:6 to learn lessons about who to listen to (finding good counsel); how do I know God's voice (learning to hear God); what if it doesn't feel wrong (practicing discernment); and what if I make a mistake (recovering from wrong choices).

Grades 7 - 12 will learn about King Belshazzar and discover that there are consequences for our choices and we need to look to God to make good decisions (Daniel 5:1-31); Jonah and his adventure with the whale show that God loves us and wants the best for us even under strange circumstances (Jonah 1:1-17); speaking of LOVE we'll focus on love as the inspiration for Valentine's Day and how we can share that with others, and we'll discuss friendship.





MUSIC NOTES

Terri Weaver, Director

Chancel Bells

The handbell ensemble has 10 dedicated members who play our three-octave set. One of our members, Barbara Sayles, decided to retire from playing bells. Thank you Barbara for ringing Praise for many years!

Does someone you know play handbells, or would **YOU** like to learn? We rehearse every Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. We generally play handbells monthly and for special services, like Easter. Music knowledge is helpful but not required.

Please contact Terri Weaver.

Chancel Choir

We have voices in soprano, alto, tenor and bass ranges. We could use your voice, too. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings starting at 7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Thank You

As your Music Director, I am grateful for a supportive Chancel Choir, Bell Ensemble and gifted musicians who volunteer their time and talents. Plus, I love playing the largest church pipe organ in DE for a warm and gracious congregation. I would like to thank you for your very generous Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated

Faithfully, *Terri Weaver*

YOUTH EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1	11:45 AM – 1:15 PM	Super Bowl Special
Sunday, February 8	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Cards & Treats for Shut-in Visit Music rehearsal!
Sunday, February 15	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Deliver Valentine's To Shut-ins Joe Corbi's due 7 PM
Sunday, February 22	11:30 AM 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Bake sale after Service The Great Wilmington Scavenger Hunt
Thur., February 26	5:30 pm – 7:00 PM	Joe Corbi's Pick-up

UPDATE FROM RICHARDSON PARK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP)

SMALL AMOUNTS SOON ADD UP ...

ZINGO'S VOUCHERS

Don't forget to give CAP your **Zingo's Register Tapes**. Zingo's very kindly allows CAP to redeem your register tapes for cash. Last year we made over **\$320** from redeemed Zingo's register tapes.

ALUMINUM CANS

If your closets are un-stuffed, bring us **aluminum cans**. We redeem them for cash at the Wilmington recycling centre. Last year we made over **\$100** from recycling aluminum cans.

THANK YOU

CAP thanks you for your generosity and ongoing support ...

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

BHA Foundation
C.W. and Marjorie J. Schrenk Family Foundation
The Female Benevolent Society of Wilmington in the State of Delaware, Inc.
The Gilliam Foundation
The Laffey McHugh Foundation
Patricia A. Pugh of Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors; Franklin Pugh
Wilmington Trust

BUSINESS FRIENDS OF CAP – GOLD LEVEL SUPPORTERS

Castle Bag Company
Ralph A. Cicconi, Inc
Cosmos Restaurant and Diner
Delaware School and Office, LLC
Homalite Div, Big Corp

BUSINESS FRIENDS OF CAP – SILVER LEVEL SUPPORTERS

Wholesale Janitor Supply Co.
Dr. Karen Darrell and Dr. Joseph Goldberg

BUSINESS FRIENDS OF CAP – SILVER LEVEL SUPPORTERS

Olympiad Gymnastics
McDonald Safety Equipment, Inc.

FOOD FOR CAP

Don't forget to
need of:



bring food for CAP the first Sunday of each month. They are in

canned meats and stews, peanut butter and jelly,
hot & cold cereals, tuna, baked beans, and canned fruit.

RICHARDSON PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305

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Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

February 1
February 8
February 15
February 22

Sheldon Edwards
Carol Cathell
Terri Weaver
Jen Fitzgerald

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 1
February 8
February 15
At the Cross
February 22

Dennis & Marlene Johnson
Available
Chancel Bells & Choir
Melissa Hughes
Bob Evely

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of February, Rebekah Circle is responsible for the flowers.

* * * * *

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD FOR
CAP THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

* * * * *

Please submit your articles for the
March Messenger to the church office by
Wednesday, February 11. Thank You.

*The purpose of Richardson Park United Methodist Church is to help people
experience the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.*