

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?"

- Luke 9:23-25 (New International Version)

As I have reflected on the state of the world and the state of my spirit throughout these days of Lent, I have been awestruck by the amount of death in this world. Death from earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, death from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and Libya, death from illness and famine and peril and sword, and death from self-destructive behaviors that invade our neighborhoods like a plague out of the Middle Ages. I get a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach almost every time I read the news that we are not OK and that our best efforts to build a society that is good and benevolent have made things even worse. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday only reinforce these thoughts. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," are said as the sign of the cross is made in ashes on the hands and foreheads of believers, signifying the inevitability of death in our world. Even Jesus, the most innocent human in all of creation, was subjected to death—a death he did not deserve.

Then I think about the Good News. In the midst of this very troubling year, there is something at work in this world that death can never overcome, the ultimate power of Resurrection. There is nothing that can die that cannot be raised. God has promised us that and sealed this covenant on the third day. Death is never God's final answer. The question for us is do we really believe this? On an intellectual level, I'm sure that we do. We know that God is calling us into a glorious future, but in our gut, do we really trust God enough to stand up to the evil power of this world with love instead of violence and increasing hate? Do we really trust God enough to stand up to the sin in our own lives and own up to our failures instead of running from them? Do we trust God enough to give our lives so that others may experience resurrection with us? The world is constantly selling us death, are we buying?

While death comes in all kinds of forms, so does resurrection. Embrace the Easter promise. Embrace the cross and the empty tomb. Walk in the difficulty and hardship of this world and know that God has always been and will always be able to redeem it. God bless you on your journey to resurrection.

May the joy and love and hope of Easter be with you always,

Pastor Tom

Want to work for Christ?

Join us on Saturday, April 16 for a day of work and fellowship as we join other churches from around the area to prepare Camp Pecometh for the warm weather months. Anyone interested in investing some "sweat equity" in missions to the world is invited! Youth group members who are interested should see Pastor Tom and adults who would like to donate their time and talents are encouraged to talk to Rob Anderson. If you are interested in spreading the Gospel through work in our community, here is your chance. We will be meeting at 7:30 AM at RPUMC on April 16 to drive down to the worksite, and a cookout lunch will be provided for all servants who participate. Please join us if you are able!

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 17 – 10:30 AM

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 21
12:00 PM RPUMC Sanctuary
7:00 PM Peniel UMC

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



Friday, April 22 – 12:00 PM
Peniel United Methodist Church

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, April 24
6:30 AM St. James
Episcopal Church Cemetery
10:30 AM R.P.U.M.C. Sanctuary



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Dawn Logullo Davis	4/1
Tessa Logullo	4/1
Paul Weaver	4/2
Ruth Rubican	4/4
Ruth Gibney	4/5
Denise Grubb	4/6
Robert Boyd	4/8
Edward Rash	4/9
Kelly Gibbons	4/11
Joan Stadelman	4/11
Annmarie Haynes	4/12
Christopher Sutor	4/16
Rosalie Cascone	4/18
Amber Saienni	4/18
Richard Sutor	4/18
Julie Gibbons	4/19
Kiralyn Phillippe	4/20
Robert Boyd, Jr.	4/21
Katherine Burge	4/22
Robert Collins, Jr.	4/22
Howard Eney	4/23
Kathy Russell	4/23
Robert Evely, III	4/24
Alicia Silva	4/25
Christine Martnick	4/26
Shirley Delpizzo	4/27
Krista Moore	4/28
Daniel Swain	4/29

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



WESLEY TOWER BANKS
March 2011 \$109.20

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date is \$267.87. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday. AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



In April, Rebekah Circle will take care of the flowers in the church. All Circles will help with the Easter lilies.

Circle Meetings

Esther Circle	No meeting in April
Rebekah Circle	No meeting in April
Ruth Circle	No meeting in April

The Circles will meet after the Upper Room Meal on Monday, April 4.

Circle Leaders

Esther Circle	Yvonne Mitten
Rebekah Circle	Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle	Joan Stadelman

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

Health Kits for Migrant Farm Workers

Each year, our church participates in this much needed project of Church Women United. It is not too soon to begin purchasing items for health kits for the Delmarva Rural Ministries – they need all the kits we can collect.

Each health kit should contain:

1 toothbrush	1 new washcloth
1 4 oz. tube of toothpaste	1 new bath towel
1 sturdy comb	1 4 oz. bar of soap
1 deodorant	1 shampoo

Wrap the above items in the bath towel and tie with ribbon or a pair of shoelaces.

Health kits are due buy Sunday, April 10. Please bring your kits to the church office or give to Mary Alice Bair.

UMW (Cont'd.)

UPPER ROOM MEAL

**Monday, April 4
Meet in the Extension at 5:45 PM**

On Monday, April 4, the UMW will host the Upper Room Meal. This is a very meaningful worship time. Everyone gathers in the church Extension by 5:45 PM, comes together as a group and proceeds to Fellowship Hall. This service is conducted in silence (except for the readers). The cost of the meal is \$5.00. Everyone is welcome. Please see Pat Cummings for further details.



FASHION SHOW AND DESSERT TEA

Saturday, May 21 - 1:30 PM

“Fashions on a Budget” and Dessert Tea

In today’s economy, people are discovering areas to save money. Come to the UMW’s “Fashions on a Budget” and Dessert Tea on Saturday, May 21 in Fellowship Hall. You will be pleasantly surprised to learn how clever the girls of RPUMC can be! Don’t miss it. Following the fashion show, there will be a dessert tea. Tickets are \$8.00. Contact Marlene Johnson at 328-5806.

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**COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES
Each Wednesday at Noon**

April 6 Peniel UMC
April 13 Richardson Park UMC

There will be a different speaker each week. Please join the noon prayer services during Lent, followed by a light lunch of sandwiches and soup.

MISSION TREE



On Sundays in April, we are hanging “**Easter Eggs**” on our Mission Tree. Hang an “Easter Egg” on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Extension.

FOOD FOR CAP



Don’t forget to bring food for CAP the first Sunday of each month. They are in need of: Peanut butter, jelly, canned goods, pasta sides, vegetables (canned or fresh), baked beans, tuna fish, cereal, canned ravioli, canned fruit and anything non-perishable.

NEWARK UMC PRESENTS:

***The George Kirk Concert Series*
Free and open to the public.**



Sunday, April 3 3:00 PM
Frank Voltz, jazz harpist

Sunday, April 10 3:00 PM
St. Andrew’s Chamber Players
Fred Geiersbach, flute
Marian Lee, piano
Leah Ciranni, cello

Sunday, April 17 3:00 PM
John Quinn, organist

KIDS' KORNER



Hi everyone! Spring is really here! Easter is right around the corner – it's a time to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus that washes clean our sins and brings renewal to our spirits. God's Little Angels will be making Easter goody bags for children who live in shelters so any donations of wrapped candy or little toys would be greatly appreciated! Please leave them in the church office or see Kristi Doughty or Marlene Johnson with donations or any questions you may have. Kids and youth of RPUMC – don't forget to come to Sunday School on Easter Sunday for some fun activities and good food!

Room 3 will continue to "follow Jesus" in the month of April. We will use the Bible (books of Matthew, Mark and John). Through songs, skits, Bible readings, and hands-on activities, we will learn more about Jesus' life. The last two Sundays of April we'll focus on Jesus' entry on that special day and the celebration of Easter. What a special day we will have! Come join us in Room 3. Blessings from Ms. Marlene

Grades 4 thru 8 will be continuing to study 1 Peter and looking at sin – what's the big deal? They'll consider the unpardonable sin (can I do something so bad it'll keep me out of heaven?); God's grace and natural consequences (does God forgive people who sin on purpose?); and confessing sin and pursuing God (if I'm forgiven, what's the big deal about sin?).

Grades 9 thru 12 will be doing a study of Max Lucado's book "He Chose the Nails – What God Did to Claim your Heart" in which we'll discuss God's promises through the crucifixion, including promises in the soldier's spit, the Crown of Thorns, the nails, the two crosses, the garment, the torn flesh, the blood and the water, the burial clothing and the empty tomb.



THE KOINONIA GROUP

Frequently, we see the word Koinonia in the Sunday church bulletin or the monthly newsletter. Not everyone knows what that means, or who they are. Many years ago, as each Sunday School Class formed, it was given a name approved by the children and teacher. As the children grew and progressed to the next class level, they took their name with them. Eventually, they went off to school, married, and sometimes moved away. Some joined other churches near where they lived. One group, the Koinonia Class, continued to meet as a group and work on various projects.

What does the word mean? It is a Greek word used sometimes in the Greek writings in the Bible. When searched on the internet, there are various interpretations of the word: fellowship, association, community, joint participation, partner. The best found word that describes the Koinonia group at Richardson Park United Methodist Church is: "An association of people who share common beliefs or activities."

What do they do? Probably one thing you hear about is the semiannual yard sale. Another project they've added is Ye Olde Gift Shoppe which is open every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month. Many items are collected for the yard sale and there always are items left over that have to be stored or disposed of after the sale. Thus was born "Ye Olde Shoppe." All money raised through these sales goes to the work of the church or other worthwhile programs. This past year, over \$10,000 was raised by the Koinonia Group. The funds have been used to buy food for Richardson park Community Action Program's food closet, scholarships for children to attend Pecometh Camp, support of Neighborhood House, provide furniture and miscellaneous things for families in need, help send youth on planned trips, help the church to meet it financial needs, and various other projects.

Who can join the Koinonia group? Anyone. At present, the group consists of mostly older seniors who have been a part of the Koinonia from the beginning. It takes a lot of work to plan for and run the yard sales and gift shoppe. Any help that you can provide is welcome. The Koinonia group meets monthly for planning, praying, fellowship, and enjoying meals together. On occasion, the group attends plays and concerts, among other things. Anyone is welcome to join the group to share hugs, smiles, pleasant activities and good Christian fellowship.

The next time you see that the Koinonia group is meeting, having a yard sale or any other activity, please come visit with them. Learn and experience what Koinonia means. Experience God's love.

PIE SALE
Sponsored by the Mission Committee
Richardson Park United Methodist Church
Corner of Maryland and Matthes Avenues

PICK-UP DATE!!
Friday, May 6
2 PM - 5:30 PM

PIES - 10" DEEP DISH - \$10.00

Apple	_____ Qty.	\$ _____
Cherry	_____ Qty.	\$ _____
Coconut Custard	_____ Qty.	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

ALL ORDERS ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Please submit your order by Sunday,
May 1 by contacting:

Bob Evely at 528-0509
Betty Swain at 838-6044
Church Office at 654-0961

ALTAR EASTER LILIES

If you would like to place a lily on the Altar for Easter, please return this form to the church office by Thursday, April 14. Cost of each plant is \$8.00. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church and mark "Easter Lilies."

Number of Plants _____

Donor's Name _____

In Memory of _____
(for those not living) _____

In Honor of _____
(for those living) _____

In Memory of _____
and Honor of _____

Check/Amount Enclosed: _____

Shall we deliver your flower to a Church Shut-In? YES _____ NO _____

Please arrange to pick up your flowers immediately after the Easter worship service if they are not being delivered to a shut-in. Thank you.

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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“THE MESSENGER” APRIL 2011

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Office Phone: (302) 654-0961 Office Hours: 9 AM-1 PM T-F FAX #: (302) 655-7446
Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

April 3	Jen Fitzgerald
April 10	Sath Amara
April 17	Susan Durkee
April 24	TBD

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 3	Jim and Cheryl Chilcutt
April 10	Lynn and Bryant Lafferty
At the Cross	Clyde and Carolyn Nafzinger
April 17	Jerry & Joyce Toy
April 24	EASTER LILIES

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

Please submit your articles for the May Messenger to the church office by Friday, April 8. Thank You.

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

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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.