

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

— Acts 2:46-47 (New Revised Standard Version)

During the season of Lent, I have invited us to seek God through traditional “Means of Grace.” This is the term that our Founder, John Wesley, used to describe things that help us as humans connect with our God. Rueben Job, a bishop of our church, calls Means of Grace a way “to stay in love with God.” I hope that we embrace God’s sacrificial love for us through two important Means of Grace.

First, we are praying together every day at noon. Prayer is one of God’s great gifts to us and an opportunity to connect better with God. I invite you to join us as we pray each day at noon, and I encourage you to listen as well as speak to God during this time. If you are having difficulties thinking of something to discuss with God during your prayer time, ideas for each day have been included in our Sunday worship bulletin (which can be found on our own RPUMC webpage:

<http://www.rpumchurch.org/html/services.html>.

Second, we are communing together at the Lord’s Table every Sunday during Lent -- sharing the Lord’s Supper with one another and meeting the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Our own *Book of Worship* says, “The table of Holy Communion is Christ’s table, not the table of The United Methodist Church or of the local congregation. The table is open to anyone who seeks to respond to Christ’s love and seeks to lead a new life of peace and love. All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup. We do not refuse anyone who presents themselves with a desire to receive communion.

“The Wesleys’ recognized the power of God available in the Lord’s Supper and urged their followers to draw on that power by frequent participation. The grace available in and through the sacrament was active in conviction, repentance and conversion, forgiveness, and sanctification. John Wesley described the Lord’s Supper as ‘the grand channel whereby the grace of his Spirit was conveyed to the souls of all the children of God’ (“Sermon on the Mount—Discourse Six,” III.11).

During the years in which Methodism was beginning and growing, Wesley himself communed an average of four to five times a week. His sermon “The Duty of Constant Communion” emphasizes the role of the sacrament in the lives of Christians in ways that are keenly meaningful today. The Wesleys knew that Holy Communion would continue to be a powerful means through which divine grace is given to God’s people. Our sacramental understandings and practices today are grounded in this heritage.” (taken from *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*)

My hope is that our time in pray and in celebrating the Lord’s Supper have a deep and meaningful impact on your spiritual life—helping you to know the Father, the Son, and the Spirit in a whole new and profound way.

Praying and communing with you all!!

Pastor Tom



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays at Noon

March 6

Peniel United Methodist Church

Speaker: Bob Hall

March 13

Richardson Park United Methodist Church

Speaker: Rev. Vincent Oliver

March 20

St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church

Stations of the Cross*

*Lunch will not be provided.

***Please join the noon prayer services during
Lent, followed by a light lunch.***

Tina Holmes	3/1
Morgan Straughn	3/5
Paul McGinnis, Jr.	3/6
Frankie DelCampo	3/7
Janet Dickerson	3/7
Carmen Guelen	3/7
Steven Palmer	3/7
Stephanie Swain	3/7
Kim Cloud	3/10
John DuVall	3/10
Madison Keffer	3/10
Andrew Burgos	3/12
Dave Rogers	3/12
Calvin Brosch	3/13
Susan Eveland	3/15
Josefa Majik	3/15
Donald Painter	3/15
Ruth Carter	3/16
Kevin Cecelia	3/16
James A. Chilcutt	3/18
Makani Johnson	3/18
David Rice	3/20
Tom Beane	3/22
Michael Coverdale	3/23
Austin Painter	3/23
James Keffer	3/24
Sue Cummings	3/25
Imogene Deford	3/26
J. Robert Ashton	3/30
Helen Murphey	3/30

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



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10.

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR.



MISSION TREE



On Sundays in March, we are hanging **Shamrocks** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "shamrock" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our Mission tree is located in the Extension.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



In March, Ruth Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle	Will not meet in March
Ruth Circle	Wed., March 6 10:00 AM Church Lounge

Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle	Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle	Lee Powell

PRAYER SHAWL UPDATE

As of March 1, we have presented 30 plus prayer shawls to wonderful folks. We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, encouragement, and yarn contributions. We also make lap robes (blankets) for the V.A. Hospital. It is a small way to show people that we do hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

Blessings from the "Prayer Shawl Ladies"



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

February 2013 \$67.87

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date for 2013 is \$125.48. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday. **AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.**

KIDS' KORNER



Greetings from Room 3! The children have been learning about God through exciting, interactive projects. We learned about God's gift of forgiveness (the prodigal son from the book of Luke 15:11-24). Each child selected a bag with various items and a Bible verse. The children told the Bible story through a very interesting skit. The middle of February, we learned about love and kindness based on the story of Naomi and Ruth. This selection was from the book of Ruth, chapters 1-4. Of course, we ended with special pop-up cards about love and kindness. We also have made "paper quilts" to illustrate that God deserves first place in our lives. Please join us in Room 3 as we discover more about God!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



INDOOR/OUTDOOR YARD SALE

Friday, March 15	9 AM – 3 PM
Saturday, March 16	8 AM – 2 PM

Come out and shop and plan to join us for lunch. Jim Durkee again will be making a big batch of chili. There also will be an assortment of baked goods.

Please plan to drop off any donations before Wednesday March 13.



KOINONIA FELLOWSHIP

The Koinonia Fellowship met in the Extension on Friday, February 15. We enjoyed a delicious covered-dish dinner. These are always a delight as there are usually some new tasty dishes to try.

It was wonderful to see our dear friends from Broadkill Beach, Dick and Norma Allen, accompanied by their daughter, Debbie Freebery.

Plans for the Spring Yard Sale were discussed, as well as the urgent financial need of our friends at Sojourners Place. We decided to request that the church send the pledged amount of \$300 immediately and we plan to reimburse the church after the yard sale.

Since the yard sale will be held on our regular meeting date, it was decided to forego the March meeting. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. This will be one of our very popular game nights. Members are asked to bring a snack or dessert to share, and we will break into groups to enjoy various games. New members are always welcomed.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

A big thank you to all who have been donating to this fund. To date our total receipts amount to \$4,502.00. Please keep this project in your prayers and give as you are able. **NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL!**

Youth News!

Important dates for the Youth Group!!
Please put these dates on your calendar:

- March 3 — 4pm Regular Youth Group
- March 10 — 4pm Regular Youth Group
- March 17 — 4pm Regular Youth Group
- March 24 — 4pm Regular Youth Group
- March 31 — **NO YOUTH GROUP** (Happy Easter!)
- April 20 — 7am – 5pm Volunteer Day at Camp Pecometh

YE OLDE SHOPPE

Ye Olde Shoppe is open for browsing and shopping every Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM. The Shoppe also will be open the first Saturday of each month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Stop in and look for some special treasures for you, your family or your friends.

FOOD FOR CAP



Don't forget to bring food for CAP the first Sunday of each month. There is a container outside the sanctuary labeled CAP.

ZINGO TAPES!

It took almost a year for us to gather enough Zingo tapes together to submit them to the Linden Hill Road store for the Rebate Program, but we did it!! Earlier this month, we received a check from Zingo's for \$175.76 to add to our General Fund. Thanks to all in our congregation and our community who have contributed to this very special fund raiser. Keep em 'coming!

PIE SALE

Another pie sale will be held this spring. More information and pie sale forms will be in the April and May Messengers.

LOCAL MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY!!

RPUMC is looking for individuals or groups willing to step out in faith and participate in a local mission trip to our own neighborhood. If you can climb a ladder or swing a hammer, we need your help with a mission project a few blocks from the church. Later this spring, we are hoping to help a member of our community with some house repair work. If you would be interested, please let Pastor Tom (654-0961 or pastor@rpumchurch.org) or Rob Anderson (633-0201 or robanderson21@comcast.net) know. We pray that God opens doors and helps us with this work, but we will need your help, too. Come be the hands and feet of Christ in our world!

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY



Sunday, March 24 – 10:30 AM

HOLY THURSDAY

**Thursday, March 28
12:00 PM Peniel UMC
7:00 PM Richardson Park UMC**

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



**Friday, March 29 – 12:00 PM
Peniel United Methodist Church**

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

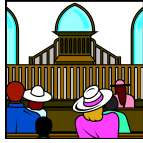
Sunday, March 31

**6:30 AM - Sunrise Service
St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery**

**7:00 AM - Pancake Breakfast
Calvary Presbyterian Church**

**10:30 AM - Easter Worship
Richardson Park United Methodist Church**





Laity Enlightenment

“What does love look like in public?” This question appeared on a white board in the music room at the First Unitarian Church where I practice singing with the DuPont Diversity Choir. I was immediately intrigued by the contents of the board as it was obviously used by some sort of worship planning team. On the board was a listing of dates with specific information given for each. Under the date, January 20, 2013, appeared this question, along with the word “preaching” and the name “Josh.” I assumed that on Sunday, January 20, Josh would be preaching on the subject of “What does love look like in public?”

Think about that for a moment. What comes to mind when you ask yourself this question? Now I'm pretty sure we're not talking about teenagers sneaking a kiss after school or couples necking on a park bench. As I pondered the meaning of such a question and what connection the preacher might possibly make on the subject, it brought to mind some very vivid images. But what took over in my heart was the strong desire to have been present to hear Josh preach about the subject that Sunday morning and to have fully understood the intended message for the people. So although I was not able to attend that service, here's my take on the subject matter.

So let me start with the Webster's Dictionary definition of the word “love.” In my particular edition of the dictionary, both parts of the fourth definition seemed to be the most applicable in the context of the question. It read as follows: 4 a: unselfish, loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another; b: a person's adoration of God. The word love appears many, many times in the Bible, and there are about 50 very descriptive references which define love in one form or another. We are probably most familiar with the apt definition given in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, often read at weddings:

“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

In another reference book, Nelson's Compact Bible Dictionary, it states [love is] “the high esteem that God has for his human children and the high regard which they, in turn, should have for Him and other people.” Deuteronomy 7:7-8 is another familiar Bible passage: “God is love” which speaks to the very nature of God.

So let's get back to the question, which Marlene Johnson actually gave as an assignment to all the United Methodist Women in the Rebekah Circle last month. She asked the group to bring pictures, writings, poems or stories that show God's love through people, so we could share them together. Although I missed the meeting, I had completed the homework assignment. I printed some pictures off the internet that showed people helping people during the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. One woman was shown bringing people into her home, cooking dinner for them and allowing them to plug in and recharge various electronic devices like their cell phones, iPads and laptops. Something tells me that that wasn't all she was able to recharge. I'm sure that the very spirits of those people she embraced received a good jolt of God's love during their brief time together. Pat Cummings told me she shared a letter she received from Sandy Swain many years ago thanking her for loving and caring for her and her children the first time they all walked into the Richardson Park Church! I feel certain that all the ladies produced similar testaments to the love of God shown through His people. And I think these examples answer the question, “What **should** love look like in public?” Perhaps this is a better question to ask.

Maybe I should have written this article for February when we celebrate Valentine's Day. But I believe that Valentine's Day, just like Christmas, should not be the only day reserved for special treatment of the heart. Every day is a good day to show genuine love and outward expression of God-like kindness, sharing and caring toward all people we encounter on this earth. If each one of us could share a single, heartfelt act of care and compassion toward another person each day, what **could** love look like in public tomorrow?

Your Lay Leader, Kathy Rogers

March 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10 AM Discipleship – St. James Episcopal 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel	2 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe
3 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship Team 11:30 AM Safe Sanctuary 12 PM SPRC Meeting 4 PM Youth Group	4	5 8 PM AA Meeting	6 10 AM Ruth Circle 12 PM Community Lenten Service - Peniel 7:30 PM NA Meeting	7 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch –RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6 PM Safe Sanctuary 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	8 10 AM Discipleship – St. James Episcopal 11 AM Free Lunch –Peniel	9
10 Daylight Saving 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg.	11 FH Reserved	12 FH Reserved 8 PM AA Meeting	13 FH Reserved 12 PM Community Lenten Service - RPUMC 7:30 PM NA Meeting	14 FH Reserved 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch –RPUMC 3:30 PM – Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	15 FH Reserved 9 AM YARD SALE 10 AM Discipleship – St. James Episcopal 11 AM Free Lunch-Peniel	16 FH Reserved 8 AM YARD SALE
17 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 4 PM Youth Group	18	19 8 PM AA Meeting	20 12 pm Stations of the Cross –St. Matthews RCC 7:30 PM NA Meeting	21 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	22 10 AM Discipleship – St. James Episcopal 11 AM Free Lunch –Peniel	23 Extension Res.
24 Palm Sunday 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Refreshments and Council Meeting 4 PM Youth Group	25	26 8 PM AA Meeting	27 7:30 PM NA Meeting	28 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch RPUMC 12 PM Holy Thursday Peniel 6:30 PM – Chancel Choir 7 PM Holy Thursday RPUMC 8:15 PM AA Meeting	29 12 PM Good Friday Service Peniel UMC	30
31 Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Sun Rise Service – St. James Episcopal 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Easter Worship						

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

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“THE MESSENGER” MARCH 2013

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Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

March 3	Kathy Rogers
March 10	Sheldon Edwards
March 17	Byrom Price
March 24	Ed Ide
March 31	Kristi Doughy

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 3	Tony and Glenda Donnelly
March 10	Jay and Pat Cummings
March 17	Joan Stadelman
March 24	Carolyn Swain
March 31	Easter Lilies

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of March, Ruth Circle is responsible for the flowers.

Please submit your articles for the April Messenger to the church office by Wednesday, March 13. 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.