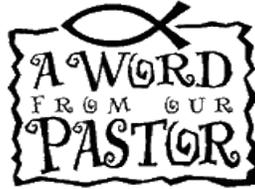


Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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Wilmington, DE 19804-1305

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



"New Life"

HOORAY! It is beginning to feel like spring as I write this in the second half of March. What a joy it is to see the flowers begin to push up through the ground again and to see the buds coming out on the trees! Once again, the earth is being renewed as winter gives way to spring – a time of rebirth and renewal.

For us as Christians, Easter is a celebration of the new life offered to us in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose in victory over sin and death. We are no longer held back by the sins of the past. We are free to pursue a new life in Christ – a life of joyful obedience and loving service to God. As the song says, "We are starting over, over again!" (Sung by Natalie Cole.) Wow! What a wonderful promise God has given. What an offer! Not to be missed!

So, don't miss it! Accept the forgiveness and new life offered in Christ! Accept God's love and love God back! And, because you are filled with the love of God, let that love overflow

as you share God's love with those around you in the world – in our community – in your family.

Easter is a great time to invite your friends to come and worship with us on Sunday morning. Everyone is eager to get out of the house after a long, cold winter; and this invitation could change someone's life. Such is the power of God!

You don't have to preach to your friends and family. I can do that. All you need to do is extend an invitation, "Come to church with me this Easter! I'll pick you up!" And remember, Easter is not just one day (April 5); Easter is actually a season that lasts seven Sundays. In fact, every Sunday is meant to be celebrated as a little Easter. That's why we worship on the first day of the week.

Happy Easter! I'll see you in church!

Grace and Peace,

Bruce
Pastor Cooke



HOLY WEEK

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 29 10:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2 7:00 PM
Communion

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 3
12:00 PM – Ecumenical Service
Richardson Park UMC
Pastor Cooke

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, April 5



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

10:30 AM - Festival Worship
Richardson Park UMC

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.



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
Kiralyne Phillippe	4/20
Robert Boyd, Jr.	4/21
Katherine Burge	4/22
Robert Collins, Jr.	4/22
Howard Eney	4/23
Kathy Rogers	4/23
Linda Keffer	4/24
Trisha Parks	4/25
Harriet Ann van Boven	4/26
Shirley Delpizzo	4/27
Debbie Freebery	4/27
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 2015 \$43.07

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date is \$167.94. 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.

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle Tues., April 7 7:00 pm
Extension

Ruth Circle Wed., April 8 12 Noon
Lounge

Circle Leaders

Rebekah Circle Linda Keffer
Ruth Circle Betty Swain

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

UMW FUND RAISER SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS LUNCHEON Saturday, April 11 - 12 PM

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring a luncheon to support their mission projects. Tickets are \$10.00. Enjoy sandwiches, salads, fruit, desserts and beverages. This would be a lovely occasion to have some of your friends join you to chat and chew together. Tickets must be purchased by Monday, April 6. Please contact Marlene Johnson to purchase your ticket(s).

YE OLDE SHOPPE

Ye Olde Shoppe is open for browsing and shopping every Thursday from 10 AM to 2 PM. The Shoppe also will be open the first Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop in and look for some special treasures for you, your family or your friends.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



It's spring!! The children and helpers have been very busy in Children's Church during the month of March. We have been preparing for Easter. Our Sunday class starts with the attendance (a basket for each child who receives an "Egg" each week: week 1 = forgiving; week 2 = helping; week 3 = caring and so forth until Easter Sunday. Jesus' stories, which we have discovered are called parables, help us learn. Through skits, we have brought to life these parables. The children learned to help other folks; that you can plant seeds but they need care to grow and blossom; and, even when people are not so nice, you need to forgive. These are the ways of Jesus. Special thanks this month go to Ruth, Alice and Beth. Have a wonderful Easter!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



MEMORIAL TREE UPDATE - 4/1/2015

Hope you all will stop by the Extension and see the names that have been added to the Memorial Tree. We have 40 names of loved ones on the tree and are receiving requests each week to add more names. Thanks to all who have honored their loved ones by adding their names to the Memorial Tree. Requesting a leaf in memory of a loved one is another way you can help support the programs of our church.

Guidelines for ordering a leaf (or leaves) and order forms are located on the table beside the Memorial Tree.

VBS NEWS

"EVEREST" Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power is the theme for VBS 2015. It starts on Sunday, July 12...mark your calendars and be ready to attend, have fun, and learn about God's world. There will be a planning session soon for the wonderful people who are willing to volunteer. You help make VBS a great success!

Have a great spring!



HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY SALE FUND RAISER

Proceeds to benefit RPUMC Missions

Homemade candy will be available for sale on Saturday, April 4 during the Koinonia furniture sale from 10 AM to 2 PM and on Easter Sunday, April 5 before and after worship. Cost is \$5.00 per half pound and \$9.00 per pound. All proceeds go to designated missions programs. If you would like to donate homemade candy, help with the sale of candy or have any questions about this fund raiser, please contact either Kathy Rogers at 302-999-0445 or the church office at 302-654-0961. We thank you for your support!

RICHARDSON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOTHING PROGRAM

Thanks to all who have donated to the Richardson Park School Clothing Program. Many coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots, as well as slacks, shirts, blouses, underwear and socks have kept the children at Richardson Park Elementary School and their siblings warm and comfortably dressed this fall and winter. The need at the school is ongoing and, thanks to the generosity of the United Methodist Women at RPUMC, we are continuing to help meet the needs at the school.

Following are items still needed at the school as well as sizes that are appropriate for the ages of the children:

Coats - Small (6-8), Medium (10-12), Large (14-16)

Slacks - 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and Husky sizes - navy blue or khaki

Shirts - Small, Medium, Large - navy, light blue, white, red (no logos)

Sweatshirts - Small, Medium, Large - navy, light blue, white, red (no logos)

Underwear and socks (both girls and boys)

Please keep the children in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to donate items, please drop them off in the church office with a note designating them to the school

As always, thank you for your support and caring for the children in our community.

Richardson Park UMC Homemade Easter Candy Sale Fundraiser

Proceeds To Benefit RPUMC Missions

Variety of
Fudges

Sale Dates and Times:

Peanut
Brittle

- Palm Sunday, 3/29/15

Before and after worship service
10 A.M. through 1 P.M.

Dietetic
Selections

Bark
Candy

- Saturday, 4/4/15

During Koinonia furniture sale
10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Chocolate
Bunny
Pops

And Much,
Much More!

Cost is \$5.00/half pound and \$9.00/pound

**** All proceeds to go to designated missions programs ****
(More Details on the Missions Programs to Follow)

If you'd like to donate homemade candy, help with the sale of candy or have any questions about this fundraiser, please contact either Kathy Rogers at (302) 999-0445 or the church office at (302) 654-0961.

Thank You for your support!

Perfectionism
by Rev. Constance Hastings, MSCC, NCC
Daybreak Counseling Services

As United Methodists, we know in the historic examination for those who would be deacons or elder in our connection, the bishop asks this question, "Are you going on to perfection?" Theologically, a candidate must reflect on his or her life journey in Christ and what God through the Holy Spirit intends for this person, especially in ministry. But for the average person, such a question may be construed to imply that expectations of the church and thus of God do not allow for mistakes of any kind. From there, emotional issues can grow and lead to feelings of unworthiness, anxiety and guilt, among others.

Perfectionism is a desire for excellence in some or many areas of life, but it also can carry the weight of fear of being judged by others such as parents, employers, friends or anyone who is perceived as watching over a person's shoulder, sometimes even God. While striving for excellence in school, athletics, or work is certainly encouraged and highly valued, there must be a balance in understanding standards must be reachable. The realization must be that it's ok to be among the best but not being *the* best is no real failure.

It's likely no surprise that perfectionist personalities are often formed during childhood. Over achieving parents may set very high expectations in the home, and unless they are sensitive to the child's emotional need to be accepted even when not perfect or just average, the child may develop issues surrounding his or her self-worth. In a similar vein, if there is major dysfunction in the home such as violence or addiction, the child may feel the need to be the "perfect one" who never causes trouble in the family. Regardless of its source, perfectionism can lead to emotional issues and scarring that last a long time.

To combat these tendencies, a reversal or change in self-talk may be necessary. Thoughts such as, "People will probably think less of me if I make a mistake" or "I will never be loved if I am a failure," need to be refuted. Parents especially should be affirming of a child's achievements that are less than the best while encouraging that trying again and learning from one's mistakes is of great value.

If you or loved ones have unrealistic expectations of themselves that cause anxiety, depression or related issues such as eating disorders or self-medication through drug use, professional help through counseling or psychiatric care is a necessary component to finding health and the ability to live without the fear of always being judged.

Finally, the bishop always follows the question on perfection with, "Do you expect to be made perfect *in love* in this life?" The source of that love is found in our God who gave everything through Jesus Christ that we may have abundant and eternal life. There is nothing that we can do to earn that love but just accept it in the creation that we are made and live in the power of the Holy Spirit. What more perfect love can there be but that?

"I have loved you with an everlasting love." Jeremiah 31:3

Daybreak Counseling Services is a nonprofit clinical pastoral counseling agency that not only addresses the presenting issue or problem but also allows for the inclusion of spirituality within sessions. It is supported through payments determined on a sliding scale basis, private grants, and individual donations. Rev. Constance Hastings, a nationally certified counselor and United Methodist deacon, sees clients at St. Paul's and Atonement United Methodist Churches with both day and evening hours. Call 302-745-1042 for information or to make an appointment.

(This article may be reprinted, but notification would be appreciated by emailing cmhncc@yahoo.com.)

April 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12 PM Lenten Service – Peniel UMC 6 PM NA Unity & Activities Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting	2 Holy Thursday 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 7 PM Holy Thursday Service Chancel Choir practice after service 8:15 PM AA Meeting	3 Good Friday 10 AM Disciple RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC 12 PM Community Good Friday Service RPUMC	4 Fellowship Hall Reserved 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe Mission Team Candy Sale
5 Happy Easter! 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children’s Church Mission Team Candy Sale	6	7 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	8 12 PM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM NA Policy Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting	9 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 8:15 PM AA Meeting	10 Fellowship Hall Reserved 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	11 Fellowship Hall Reserved 12 PM UMW Showers of Blessings Luncheon
12 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children’s Church 11:45 Education Mtg.	13	14 8 PM AA Meeting	15 7:30 PM NA Meeting	16 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	17 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	18
19 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children’s Church 11:45 AM Trustees Mtg. 11:45 AM SPRC Mtg.	20	21 7:00 PM CAP Board Mtg. 8 PM AA Meeting	22 7:30 PM NA Meeting	23 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	24 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	25
26 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children’s Church 11:45 AM Council Mtg.	27	28 8 PM AA Meeting	29 7:30 PM NA Meeting	30 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting		

RICHARDSON PARK
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“THE MESSENGER” APRIL 2015

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Parsonage Phone: (302) 654-8405 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Rev. Dr. Bruce Cooke, Pastor Cell Phone: 410-924-4454 E-Mail: becdgc@gmail.com



LAY READERS

April 5	Sherlynn Aurelio
April 12	Sheldon Edwards
April 19	Lee Powell
April 26	Brenda Tucker

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 5	Easter Lilies
April 12	Jerry Toy and family
At the Cross	Clyde and Carolyn Nafzinger
April 19	Lynn and Bryant Lafferty
April 26	Ruth Gibney

FLOWERS

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

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

Please submit your articles for the
May Messenger to the church office by Friday,
April 10. 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.*