

Richardson Park United Methodist Church  
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## We Are Family

The month of May is important every year for several reasons. The second Sunday in May (5-10-15) is Mother's Day. The last Monday in May (5-25-15) is Memorial Day, and as Christians we observe Pentecost Sunday this year on May 24. Pentecost is considered the "birthday" of the church since it was then that the Apostle Peter was moved by the Holy Spirit to begin to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For all of these reasons, one of the themes for May is often the Family: our own personal family (Mother's Day), our church family (Pentecost), and our family as a nation (Memorial Day).

When I first started out as a pastor, in the 1970's, I used to describe the local church as a kind of "second family" for many of us – a back-up and support system for our "nuclear" family: Mom, Dad, and 2.3 children (I never did figure how you got the .3 child). However, as the years have passed and families and the culture have changed, I have come to realize that the church may now be the "primary" family for many of us. Parents and children and grandparents no longer live "close" to each other – in several senses of the word "close." Therefore, when we have a need or a crisis in our home, it is often our

"church family" that we call on first. When someone is sick and others in the household have to work, we may rely on our "church family." When we have a birthday or some other milestone event to celebrate and our extended family is too far away to come, we celebrate with our "church family."

Likewise, on Memorial Day, when we remember those who have died in the service of our country, we remember that it often is our "church family" that comes first in times of tragedy and it is our "church family" that will still be with us when everyone else has gone back home.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

John Fawcett, 1782

Grace and Peace,  
Bruce  
Pastor Cooke



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Courtney Burke	May 1
Claudia McFarland	May 1
John Parks	May 1
Frank Anderson, Jr.	May 2
Joshua Bourdon	May 2
Brian Panaccione	May 2
Carolyn Nafzinger	May 3
Christopher Doughty	May 4
Muriel Campbell	May 5
Jacob Gommer	May 6
Johnathan Gommer	May 6
Katie Meadows	May 6
Destiny Dale	May 7
Zach Farley	May 7
Shirley Roberts	May 8
Katherine Banks	May 10
Christina Weah	May 10
Maegin Coverdale	May 12
Ed McFarland	May 13
Volena Sease	May 13
Richard Beane	May 14
Steven Ott	May 14
Brianna Jones	May 15
Patty Meadows	May 15
Danny Cathell	May 16
Bryant Green	May 16
Anna Mae Shewbrooks	May 16
Billy Bentley	May 17
Katie Chambers Klingler	May 17
Allison Perugini	May 17
Maria Ott	May 18
Robert McFarland	May 20
Daniel Arnold, Jr.	May 22
Tom Kennedy	May 22
Wendy Owen	May 22
Sydney Thomas	May 22
Karlee Boyd	May 23
Leonard Moore	May 23
Linda Connor	May 26
Brenda Tucker	May 26
Cameron Przywara	May 29
Jimmie Focht	May 30
Peter Davis	May 31

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

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



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

## Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle      Tues., May 5    6:00 PM  
Dinner    Charcoal Pit  
RSVP Linda at 444-7371

Ruth Circle            Wed., May 13    12:00 PM  
Church Lounge

**Unit Meeting – Sunday, May 3 in the Lounge.  
(Immediately following the Wesley Sunday  
School Class.)**

## 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.



**WESLEY TOWER BANKS**  
**April 2015                    \$112.02**

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Our year-to-date total is \$279.96. 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 May, we are hanging “**Flowers**” on our Mission Tree. Hang a “flower” on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00. Our tree is located in the Extension.

## MAY–JUNE BIBLE STUDY

The pastor's May-June preaching series is based on J. Ellsworth Kalas' book: "The Ten Commandments from the Backside," and he will be offering a six-week study of that book on Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning on May 12 through June 16 and on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. beginning on May 13 through June 17. All classes will meet in the Lounge and everyone is welcome.

The "backside" refers to "a different or fresh perspective in order to gain insights about our faith." In this case, we will be trying to discover the "affirmations" that can grow out of the 10 "prohibitions."

Bring a friend and join us. If you can't come on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, you may still hear these lessons in sermon form on Sunday mornings.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Greetings from Children's Church! All of us in room 3 (lower level) celebrated Easter with many activities. These included special songs led by Ms. Beth, Bible story booklets to take home, skits, and a very special Easter Egg Hunt! Thanks go to Steven Ott and Andy Hughes for their help on Easter Sunday. We investigated the "message in the egg" – "Jesus needs us to help." All of us shared ways we can be helpers and share God's love with other people. Now, we are getting ready for May. This will include a new bulletin board where attendance flowers grow each Sunday. There also will be a very special project for the month of May – you don't want to miss the excitement!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

## VBS NEWS

It's coming! Get ready for VBS 2015. Many people are working to make this year's VBS a wonderful and exciting Bible adventure! **Mark your calendars** – the kick-off for this exciting time is Sunday, July 12. Come and join us for "Everest." Look for more information in this newsletter; the registration form will be in the June Messenger. **We need volunteers to help.** Please contact Kristi Doughty if you would like to volunteer.

### IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Last year, many of you donated to support this endeavor by giving \$10 or more to purchase a mosquito netting in honor or memory of a loved one on Mother's Day.

The church received a thank you from United Methodist Communications. It stated that a mountain of insecticide-treated nets – provided through your gifts – are protecting families as they sleep. Children are in classrooms – kids who might otherwise not have lived long enough to go to school. Lives are being saved. However, the need is still there. Many more nets are needed. Therefore, the Church Council has voted to participate again this year with a special Mother's Day Campaign.

Please give careful thought to not only honor a loved one but to save lives as well. A donation of \$10 will provide one mosquito net.

When we say, "thank you for everything you've done and will continue to do" think of a child's smile, a mother's answered prayers and a village's rebirth. Think of revitalized churches, healthy children and togetherness as a denomination. Think of being God's hands and feet in a world starving for love.

God Bless You for Caring!

**RICHARDSON PARK  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Richardson Park Elementary School is presently participating in the Box Tops for Education Program. This program is one of the nation's largest school earnings loyalty programs and has been helping schools succeed since 1996. With over 250 participating products, it's an easy way for schools to earn cash for the things they need. Following is a picture of the Box Tops for Education Coupon that you will find on the product packaging and all you need to do is cut out the coupon and put it in the baskets located in the Extension, on the ledge in the back of the sanctuary, and the side entrance.



This is one more way that the RP United Methodist Women are supporting the local school in addition to the Clothing Program that is ongoing throughout the year. Thanks for your continued support in both of these mission projects.



**MEMORIAL TREE UPDATE – 5/1/2015**

We had new leaves in memory of loved ones added to our Memorial Tree in April. There are many who have passed and had supported RPUMC in many different ways; it would be a wonderful way to honor these individuals by adding their names to the Memorial Tree.

Thanks to all who already 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.

Memorial Committee

**PASTOR'S PREACHING SCHEDULE**

I concluded my series of sermons on "The Teachings of Jesus That Are Changing the World" on April 26. I will begin a new series on May 17 – After Mother's Day. The May/June series is on The Ten Commandments and is entitled: "What Then Shalt We Do?" I will be trying to describe the Ten Commandments, as Elsworth Kalas puts it, "from the backside"...turning "prohibitions" given to Moses into "affirmations"...positive statements of what we should be doing and not just negative statements about what we should not be doing.

I hope you will plan to attend and bring your friends to hear the following messages:

- May 17 (The Introduction)  
"What Shalt Thou Do?"
- May 24 (Commandments 1 and 2)  
"There Is Only One God"
- May 31 (Commandments 3-5)  
"How About a Little Respect"
- June 7 (Commandments 6-8)  
"Affirming Life and Liberty"
- June 14 (Commandments 7-9)  
"Faithful and True"
- June 21 (Commandment 10)  
"How Much Is Enough?"

Pastor Cooke

**LET'S SHARE A SMILE**



There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments" answered the lady.

## **AN EXCITING WORSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR US ON MAY 3**

Xpress – the 7-12 grade youth choir from Otterbein Church in Waynesboro, PA is very excited to come to Richardson Park UMC to share in music, drama, art and testimony. There are 18 students and four adults who can't wait to share with you on Sunday morning, May 3 and with the Sunday Breakfast Mission on Saturday evening, May 2. The heart of the message that the students will share is an excitement about loving and serving Jesus and the truth that God loves us no matter who we are or what we have done. Note from the Otterbein youth choir: WE appreciate you opening your doors and hearts to the students of Otterbein. WE are looking forward to a wonderful time of worshipping with you.

Dave Besecker, Director

### **WESLEY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

The Wesley Sunday School Class will not meet in June, July or August. It will begin again on Sunday, September 13.

### **DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CAP**

CAP has depleted their supply of baby clothes. They are in need of clothes from newborn to 24 months old. If you can help, please drop your gift off at CAP or leave in the church office.



### **ALTAR FLOWER OPENING**

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, we have an opening on Sunday, June 7. Please see Sandy and Ed Ide or call the church office.

## **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!**

We invite you to submit the names of all students graduating this year from high school, college, and graduate degree programs to the church office at 654-0961 as soon as possible. Please include the name and location of the school, plus the diploma or degree they will receive. These very special people and their accomplishments will be recognized at our June 14 Worship Service.

### ***YE OLDE SHOPPE***

*Ye Olde Shoppe is open the first Saturday of each month from 10 AM to 2 PM. If you can't stop in on Thursdays between 10 AM and 2 PM, we hope to see you the first Saturday of each month. Come, browse and shop. There are special treasures for you, your family or your friends. Furniture is available for sale on Saturdays.*



Please give a big thank you to our acolytes: Emmett Swanson, and Chad and Andy Hughes. We appreciate all they do to make our worship service special.

Also, if there is anyone who would like to join this group, please contact the church office at 654-0961.

## **BE HAPPY, BE HEALTHY!**

Most happy people tend to be physically active, socially outgoing, and helpful to others.

Taking part in a religious community involves socializing with others, a known antidote to the blues. And it can give you hope and a sense of meaning, which lessens the severity of depression.

The social support and interaction you get from church may also lower your levels of the hormone cortisol. Depressed people have higher levels than normal, and high cortisol may harm mental function. By reducing cortisol, church attendance may dampen depression's impact on the brain.

The fellowship you gain may even provide a buffer against the harmful effect of stress. Research suggests that emotional support from fellow church members helps prevent problems, like money worries, from harming your health. Building a closer relationship with God, on the other hand, can help you feel more optimistic and hopeful, which enables you to cope better with stressful events and illnesses.

### **VOLUNTEER WORK**

Seniors who begin volunteering score significantly better on thinking tests, are less depressed, and enjoy greater mental wellbeing and satisfaction in life. When volunteering, you meet people and expand your social network, a key to healthy aging. Volunteer work can give life a sense of meaning that keeps you going. Plus, it gives your brain a workout and the opportunity to learn new things.

You can volunteer in various ways at your church. No matter how you give of yourself, you'll get something back in health benefits. Love is something if you give it away you'll end up having more!

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT RPUMC**

- Deliver Meals on Wheels once every six weeks to approximately 12 persons. Takes approximately one hour of your time. Some volunteers do this on their lunch hour with blessings from their employer.
- Help with church office duties: prepare bulk mailings, prepare articles for monthly newsletter.
- Assist in Sunday School: work in nursery during worship; help in kitchen with food preparation and serving at the Free Lunch Ministry on Thursdays.
- Social Activities: social activities can keep your mind sharp. The Koinonia Fellowship meets the third Friday of each month. They enjoy covered-dish dinners, game nights, picnics and trips.

Choosing charitable and compassionate ways of connecting with people will help you live longer, too. Lending a helping hand to others can even give you more energy, ease aches and pains, and make you feel stronger, calmer, and better about yourself.

Erma Bombeck, author of "If Life is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?," once said, "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I could say 'I used everything you gave me.'"

Are you using everything God has given you? Try volunteering! Call the Church Office at 302-654-0961.

God Loves You and We Love You! Share your talents and enjoy volunteering at RPUMC!





## SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY CAMPAIGN

This year on Mother's Day, May 10, RPUMC will honor our mothers and other important women in our lives by joining with United Methodists everywhere to raise money for Imagine No Malaria, a ministry of the United Methodist Church. Imagine No Malaria launched the campaign so that mothers in Africa will be able to fight malaria and see their children grow into thriving adults. Eighty-five to 90 percent of deaths from malaria are women and children under the age of five.

We are making a difference! Today a child dies every 60 seconds from malaria; just a short time ago, it was every 30 seconds. The number of deaths per year has dropped from 1 million to about 655,000. Malaria is both preventable and treatable. There is currently a plan to eliminate malaria in our lifetime. It includes bed nets, medicine and training of health workers. A bed net costs \$10 and can protect four people from mosquito bites at night when the mosquitoes feed.

If you would like to give a contribution to help this worthy cause, please make your check payable to RPUMC and specify "Imagine No Malaria" on the memo line. One hundred percent of your donation will go directly to fighting malaria.

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### Special Mother's Day Campaign

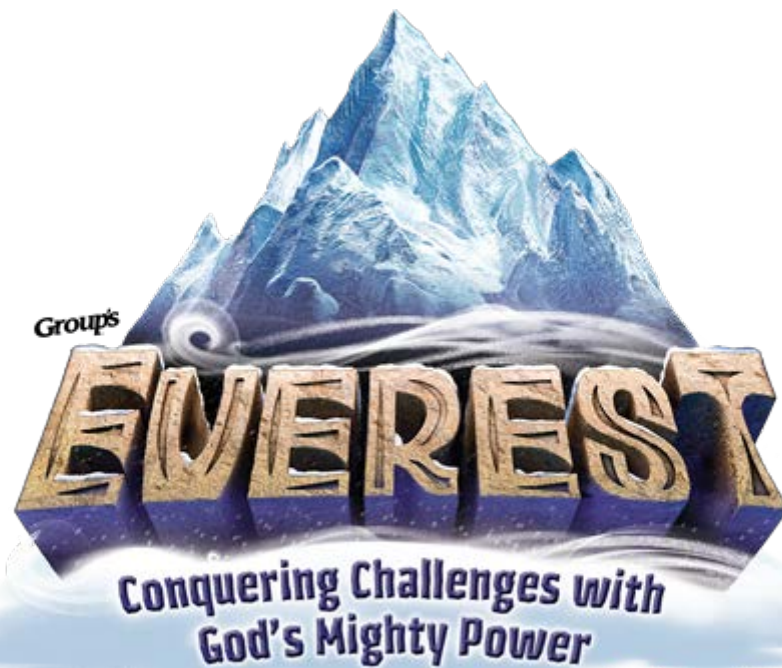
I/we \_\_\_\_\_ honor the following women:

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_





Richardson Park United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School

Save the date for our exciting VBS –Everest  
Sun. 7/12/15 – Thurs. 7/16/15 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.

We'll embark on an icy expedition where our kids learn to overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. Call the church office (654-0961) or speak with Kristi Doughty if you would like to help!

Each evening we'll start with dinner and fellowship then move through stations including games, storytelling, music, KidVid Videos & Imagination Station/ Crafts. We'll learn that:

God has the power to provide! God has the power to comfort!  
God has the power to heal!

God has the power to forgive! God has the power to love us forever!



# May 2015

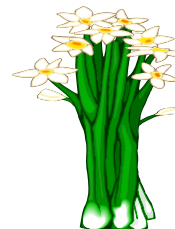
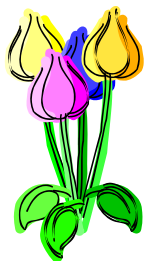
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	2 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe & Furniture Sale
3 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10 AM UMW Unit Meeting 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:45 AM Missions Meeting	4	5 6 PM Rebekah Circle – Dinner at Charcoal Pit 8 PM AA Meeting	6 6 PM NA Unity and Activities Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting	7 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	8 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	9
10 <b>Mother's Day</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Worship 11:45 AM Education Meeting	11	12 6:30 PM Bible Study 8 PM AA Meeting	13 10 AM Bible Study 12 PM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM NA Policy Group 7 PM RP Civic Assn. Meeting 7:30 PM NA Meeting	14 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch <b>No Bell Practice</b> 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	15 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC 6 PM Koinonia Game Night	16 <b>Fellowship Hall Reserved</b>
17 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:45 AM Trustees Meeting 11:45 AM SPRC Meeting	18	19 6:30 PM Bible Study 7 PM CAP Board Meeting 8 PM AA Meeting	20 10 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM NA Meeting	21 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	22 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	23
24 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:45 AM Council Meeting	25	26 6:30 PM Bible Study 8 PM AA Meeting	27 10 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM NA Meeting	28 10 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch 6:15 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	29 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	30 <b>Fellowship Hall Reserved</b>
31 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church						

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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Wilmington, DE  
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# “THE MESSENGER” MAY 2015

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## LAY READERS

May 3	Bob Collins
May 10	Carol Cathell
May 17	Pat Cummings
May 24	Yvonne Mitten
May 31	TBD

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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

Please submit your articles for the June Messenger to the church office by Thursday, May 7. Thank You.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

May 3	Roger Longest, Nancy Jaegers & Janis Williams RPUMC Congregation
At the Cross	Jerry Toy
May 10	Jerry Toy
At the Cross	The Collins family
At the Lectern	Mary Alice Bair
May 17	Julia Lynch
May 24	Tod and Yvonne Mitten
May 31	

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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.*

