

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
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I found a great story written by Melvin Newland called "Recognizing Jesus." I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. It reminds us to look for Jesus in all the business of the Christmas season and as we watch and wait for the New Year.

"Recognizing Jesus"

One of my favorite Christmas stories is about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him, he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.

Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.

When he came back to his little shoe shop, it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street." Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.

Take time to slow down and look for signs of Jesus daily. He shows up in the most unexpected way. Hope to see you on December 24th at one of the services.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Pastor Carolyn

RICHARDSON PARK U.M.C.
CELEBRATES ADVENT and
CHRISTMAS!



Sunday, December 10

11:30 AM

“Baby Shower for Jesus”
 Advent Covered Dish
 Everyone is invited.

Saturday, December 16

4:00 PM

A Christmas Musical
 “We’re Glad You Came”

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve

10:30 AM Worship Service
 Lessons and Carols

7:00 PM

Family Worship Service

Everyone is welcome!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Brindle	12/1
William Edwards	12/2
Devon Manley	12/2
Bryan Cummings	12/3
Brian Cox, Jr.	12/5
Marjorie Newton	12/5
Dorothy Scarborough	12/5
Don McFarland	12/7
Josiah Straughn	12/7
William Boyce	12/9
Zachary Casalvera	12/9
Andy Hughes	12/9
Billee Boyd	12/10
Emma Warfel	12/10
Carolyn Stafford	12/11
Dana Bourdon	12/12
Mary Lou Boyce	12/12
Rose Davis	12/12
Steven Ott, Sr.	12/12
Justin Farren	12/14
Melanie Mitten	12/14
Megan Edwards	12/15
George Smallwood	12/15
David Brown	12/16
William Klingler, Jr.	12/18
Dorothy Goss	12/19
Emma Mae Manley	12/20
Gladys Swain	12/21
Michael Toy	12/22
Cheryl Lynn Krebs	12/25
Barbara Przywara	12/26
Betty Swain	12/26
Bill Aurelio	12/27
Neal Davis	12/27
Jason Bourdon	12/29
Amanda Graham	12/31



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



In December, Rebekah Circle will take care of the flowers in the church and in January, Ruth Circle will take care of the flowers. Helped is needed to deliver poinsettias.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Coverdale	1/2
David Swain	1/2
Karen Collins	1/3
Paigely Boyd	1/4
Gabriel Klingler	1/4
Harold Spedden	1/4
Ken Horne	1/5
Wendy Walls	1/5
Donny Pasmore	1/6
Lee Powell	1/8
Cindi Beane	1/11
Joseph Watkins	1/12
Dillon Keffer	1/14
Julie Oakley	1/15
Hunter Saunders	1/15
Kiersten Hughart	1/16
Ginger Pettyjohn	1/17
Emmanuel Lee	1/18
Kenneth Saunders	1/18
David Goss	1/19
Jerry Paoli	1/19
Ruth Phillips	1/19
Tony Donnelly	1/20
Kristi Doughty	1/23
Jen Fitzgerald	1/31

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

Circle Meetings

Rebekah Circle No meeting in December
Tue., January 2
7:00 p.m. – Lounge

Ruth Circle No meeting in December
Wed., January 10
12:00 p.m. – Lounge

Unit Meetings Sunday, December 3 10 AM
Sunday, January 7 10 AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 **Annual Cookie Walk** **9 AM – 10:30 AM Extension**

The proceeds from this event will benefit the Richardson Park Elementary School clothing closet. We would appreciate your donations of cookies. Please label them because of allergies. Come take a “walk” down cookie lane and select from all those delicious cookies! The cookie elves will be there between 9 AM and 10:30 AM. The price for all of this fun is \$5.00 for a half-pound in a decorative bag. We appreciate your making cookies and/or purchasing them. If you have questions, please call Marlene Johnson at 328-5806 or Lee Powell at 995-1307. Come join the fun and enjoy the cookies!

Advent Covered-Dish Christmas Luncheon **and “Baby Shower for Jesus”** **Sunday, December 10 11:30 AM**

Bring a covered dish and share in wonderful fellowship after worship. Drop off a “baby gift” (unwrapped) and you will be helping CAP’s clothing closet. Below are some suggested items:

- New baby clothing (sizes 0-12 months)
- Canned formula – **needed most**
- Disposable diapers – **needed most**
- Baby blankets
- Small items such as bottles, pins, etc.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS THIS ADVENT SEASON

The beautiful decorations which will adorn our church during Advent are graciously provided by the following members of RPUMC:

<i>Advent Wreath</i>	<i>Phyllis Bowman</i>
<i>Altar Trees</i>	<i>Clyde & Carolyn Nafzinger</i>
<i>Altar Wreath</i>	<i>Pat Cummings</i>
<i>Altar Wreath</i>	<i>Ruth Gibney</i>
<i>Balcony Wreath</i>	<i>Raphael and Paulette Lazzaro</i>
<i>Door Wreath</i>	<i>Dave & Kathy Rogers</i>
<i>Door Wreath</i>	<i>Dorothy Scarborough</i>
<i>Door Wreath</i>	<i>Joan Stadelman</i>
<i>Door Wreath</i>	<i>Marvin & Betty Swain</i>
<i>Nativity Scenes</i>	<i>Koinonia Class</i>



THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC

*Every Thursday through December 21
9 AM - 1 PM and
Saturday, December 2, Christmas Shoppe
and Mini-Yard Sale
9 AM - 1 PM*

*The Shoppe at RPUMC will be closed the
month of January and will reopen
Thursday, February 1, 2018*



Book Club will meet next on Wednesday, January 10. We will be discussing our two most recent books, *The Kite Runner* by **Khaled Hosseini** and *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by **Fredrik Backman**. We have a great group in our Club and would love to share the experience with more of you! Hope to see you at one of our meetings."

NEW STAFF POSITION

Music Assistant for Contemporary Worship

The duties of this position would include:

1. Develop a 2nd Worship Service for RPUMC in the Contemporary Style
2. Recruit and grow a Contemporary Music Team for this service
3. Work with the Pastor and Music Director to meet liturgical requirements for this worship style
4. Support any and all worship and music activities of RPUMC
5. Support the Audio/Visual Ministries by assisting in preparation of worship related materials

If you are interested in the position, please send a resume to the church office.



WESLEY TOWER BANKS

November 2017 \$80.19

Thanks to everyone for remembering to bring your filled banks to church the first Sunday of each month. Our total to date for 2017 is \$759.41. Remember to pick up an empty bank as you leave the altar area on Communion Sunday. AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.



Thank you to members of the church for the cards and kindness that we received at the passing of our daughter, Ruth Ann Woodward. Your support was a blessing to us.

Carolyn and Clyde Nafzinger

Need for Altar Guild servers! How can you help?

1. Prepare the sanctuary for communion.
2. Make sure the vestments and altar are kept clean and presentable.
3. Change the banners for the appropriate seasons of the church.
4. Bake Communion Bread.

If you would like to volunteer for this once a month serving opportunity, please contact the office and let Harriet Ann know or speak with Pastor Carolyn.

December/January Tech Tip Use of WIFI in a public environment

In the first half of 2018, we will be implementing a WIFI network at the church. As the project progresses, there will be more information about how to use it; but this article addresses two very basic risks in using WIFI.

Risk 1

Any WIFI network is subject to snooping. That means it's easy for malicious individuals to capture and record data transmitted over the WIFI network and can lead to identity theft.

Risk 2

If any computer on the network (smart phones, tablets, personal computers) has been infected by a malicious virus it can infect any other computer which connects to the network. This

applies to all devices regardless of the manufacturer.

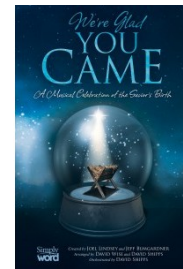
The purpose of this note is to alert you all to a coming change and allow you to plan how to protect your devices.

More information will be published as we get closer to implementation.



Memorial Tree Update – November 8, 2017

We celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 5, 2017 and recognized eight saints who were members or attended RPUMC for many years. They served and supported RPUMC with their time, service, and financially. Honoring and remembering these saints in a very special way would be to add their names to our Memorial Tree located in the Extension. If you are interested in honoring your loved one by adding their name to the Memorial Tree, guidelines for ordering a leaf and forms are available in the Extension or contact Glenda Donnelly on 998-5047.



A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 4:00 PM

The Chancel Choir and Friends will present "WE'RE GLAD YOU CAME," a Christmas Musical to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This "multi-media" presentation will include our children, soloists, and a wonderful afternoon of joy! Plan now to bring family and friends to this special Christmas event.

December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10 AM Disciple - Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	2 9 AM The Shoppe at RPUMC and Yard Sale
3 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM UMW Unit Meeting 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Missions Meeting 1:30 PM Choir Practice	4 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 279 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 329 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts 7 PM Family Promise	5 Kitchen and Hall Reserved 8 PM AA Meeting	6 6:30 PM Scout Board Meeting 7 PM Bible Study	7 9 AM The Shoppe at RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 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 AM Extension Reserved 9 AM UMW Cookie Walk
10 Fellowship Hall Reserved 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM REM Team Meeting 11:30 AM UMW Covered Dish and Baby Shower for Jesus	11 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 279 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 329 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	12 8 PM AA Meeting	13 7 PM Bible Study	14 9 AM The Shoppe at RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7 PM CAP Board Mtg. 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	15 10 AM Disciple - Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel UMC	16 9:30 AM Choir Dress Rehearsal 4 PM Christmas Musical 12:30 PM Koinonia Holiday Brunch
17 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 11:30 AM SPRC Mtg.	18 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 279 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 329 6:30 PM Boy/Cub Scouts Holiday Party	19 8 PM AA Meeting	20 7 PM Bible Study	21 9 AM The Shoppe at RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Mtg.	22	23 Fellowship Hall Reserved
24 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 7 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 Office Closed 8 PM AA Meeting	27	28 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	29	30

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9 AM Adult Sunday School
10 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church

January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting	3 6:30 PM Scout Board Meeting	4 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	5 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	6
7 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM UMW Unit Mtg. 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Missions Mtg.	8 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 279 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 329 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	9 8 PM AA Meeting	10 12 PM Ruth Circle 7 PM Book Club	11 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	12 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	13 Fellowship Hall Reserved 4 PM Scout Spaghetti Dinner
14 Human Relations Sunday 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM REM Team Mtg.	15 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 279 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 329 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	16 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 PM AA Meeting	17 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 7 PM Bible Study	18 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM CAP Board Meeting 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	19 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC 6:30 PM Koinonia Game Night	20 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved
21 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 11:30 AM SPRC Mtg.	22 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 279 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 329 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	23 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 PM AA Meeting	24 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved	25 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 11 AM Free Lunch 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting	26 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 10 AM Disciple – Peniel UMC 11 AM Free Lunch – Peniel UMC	27 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved
28 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Reserved 9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Church 11:30 AM Council Mtg.	29 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 279 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 329 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Cub Scouts	30 8 PM AA Meeting	31			

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

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JANUARY 2018

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Carolyn Williams, Pastor



READERS

December 3	Glenda Donnelly
December 10	Dave Rogers
December 17	Chuck Loopy
December 24	Paul Weaver
7 PM Service	Beth Warfel
December 31	Howard Eney
January 7	Gloria Williams
January 14	Lovedy Berkley
January 21	Rose Davis
January 28	Clyde Nafzinger

ALTAR FLOWERS

December 3	Rich Locke
December 10	Dennis and Marlene Johnson
December 17	Anna Mae Shewbrooks
December 24	Poinsettias
December 31	Sandy Ide
January 7	Robert Truitt
January 14	Anonymous
January 21	Gail Eney
January 28	Lee Powell

FLOWERS

For the month of December, Rebekah Circle is responsible for the flowers and for the month of January, Ruth Circle is responsible.

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

Please submit your articles for the February Messenger to the Church Office by Friday, January 12. 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.