

The **Messenger**

Richardson Park United Methodist Church

February 2019

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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.



“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Matthew 3:11 NRSV

How often do we forget how it felt when we came forward to be baptized as an adult? We sensed God’s Spirit moving and opened our hearts wide to receive the gift of baptism. Maybe you were baptized as a baby and confirmed your baptism when you were older through confirmation class.

A few weeks ago, the scripture reminded us that Baptism is a gift. Baptism, as a “first gift” from God, leads us in life toward paths of discovering and rediscovering God-given gifts, activating those gifts through the Holy Spirit, understanding how our gifts are interrelated to the gifts of other disciples in the body of Christ, and how important it is to stay true to the heart of our God-given gifts - the love of God in Christ.

This year I wanted to offer an opportunity for young people to experience this gift. In

an effort to create a confirmation class opportunity, Richardson Park UMC and Marshallton UMC are teaming up with St. Marks UMC to offer a confirmation class. We pastors are excited about this partnership and look forward to gathering the youth for these life changing class sessions

If you have a youth in 6th-8th grades and want to find out more about the upcoming confirmation class, please join us on Sunday February 24th for the orientation class being held at St. Marks UMC, 1700 Limestone Rd., Wilmington, De 19804. The class schedule will be handed out at orientation.

Blessings,

Pastor Carolyn

February Birthdays



Terri Snead	2/1
Anastasia Hayman	2/2
Edward Podgorski	2/4
Beverly Cuomo	2/5
Terry Bourdon	2/7
Bill Green	2/7
Carol Cathell	2/10
Mary Sutor	2/11
Brian Crozier	2/12
Terri Antonine	2/13
Cassandra King	2/13
Byrom Price	2/13
Ellen Willard	2/14
Robert Davis	2/16
Karen Gibbons	2/17
Elaine Spedden	2/17
Frank Pugh	2/18
Kathy Gibbons	2/20
Bettie Smith	2/20
Robert Truitt	2/20
Kristin Fleming	2/21
Bethany Pasmore	2/21
Morgan Coverdale	2/23
Ben Brindle	2/24
Bob Thomas	2/24
Kim Przybylski	2/26

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

Save the date!
Fellowship lunch
Sunday, Feb 17, right after service.
Soups and sandwiches.
Everyone's invited.
For more info contact
Linda Keffer at 444-7371

United Methodist Women

It is February and that brings to mind love and kindness. RPUMC certainly gives love and kindness to the UMW. With your continued support of our fundraisers, we were able to give money toward "Friends in Need Christmas", Neighborhood House, C.A.P., the Scouts and Door of Hope. Thank you!

Now mark your calendars – April 13 at 12:30 p.m. is the "Spring Garden Tea." It is our largest fundraiser of the year and you don't want to miss it. Please see Marlene for tickets (\$15.00).

We have one circle which meets on February 5 at 7 p.m. in the Lounge. It is a wonderful group of ladies. There is a devotion time, business segment, and social time. We are always excited to welcome new faces! Hope to see you at the meeting!

Unit Meeting

Sunday, February 3 at 10 a.m. in the Lounge

Circle Meeting

Rebekah Circle, Tuesday, Feb. 5
7:00 p.m., Lounge



Altar Flowers – February 2019

February 3 Claudia and Don McFarland

February 10 RPUMC Chancel and Bell Choir.

February 17 Bob Evelyn

February 24 Available

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on February 24, please contact Ed Ide (302)593-3430 or Sandy Ide (302)593-3395.

Boy/Cub Scouts

The scouts will have their annual Blue/Gold events and ceremonies on Sunday, February 10th in Fellowship Hall.

Scout Master's Minute

Are you looking for adventure?

Do you enjoy molding tomorrow's leaders?

Do you have time and energy to dedicate to today's youth?

Well, we have the position for you!!

Troop 339 is currently looking for fun loving, dedicated leaders to fill the role of **Assistant Scout Master**.

Here are some qualities that we are looking for:

1. Must love the outdoors.

We camp just about once a month in tents.
You need to supply your own camping gear.
We will help with what you need.

2. Must be willing to complete all online, classroom and overnight training.

It's not as tedious as it may sound. It's very easy and a lot of fun.

3. Must be able to attend meetings and activities.

We meet once a week for the troop meeting and try to have 1-2 activities a month on weekends.

4. Must be willing to go above and beyond.

We are a close group. We all have our roles, but there are times when we are asked to do more.

5. Must be willing to learn.

If you have never been involved in Scouts as a youth, that's OK!! We will give you the tools to learn everything you need to know to lead these boys into the future.

6. Must be willing to have FUN!!

We are not just a "Book Learning Troop."
There are a lot of things you can learn from the Scout Book, but isn't it more fun to go out and put it to practical uses and have fun doing it?

If you are interested in joining our group, contact George Przybylski at Troop339de@gmail.com or (302)351-5158, or reach out to Rob Anderson during Sunday Service.

Children's Ministries

Dear RPUMC Family,
I want to say "Thank You" to everyone who helped to bring our first Live Nativity to life this Christmas! We had a wonderful turn-out and brought the good news of Jesus birth to the Richardson Park community in a way that hopefully will remain with them and bring someone into a relationship with God that they never had before. I also want to say "Thank You" for the very gracious Christmas gift from the church family. I am honored to serve God and Richardson Park in the role of Children's Ministry and thank you for the opportunity to continue to do that work in the coming year. May the new year bring many blessings to you and your loved ones.

Peace,
Beth Warfel



Grief Share coming to RPUMC.

Pastor Carolyn will be leading a Grief Share program Saturday's 10:00am-12:00pm every two weeks in the church lounge: May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 10, August 24, September 7, September 21.

More information will be available in future Messengers.

2019 Communion Schedule

Each of you have graciously volunteered to help set up for Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

Please reach out to me if you need further explanation or have any questions. You can reach me at my email address: longestar6@aol.com or by calling me at 302-528-1465.

February – Claudia McFarland
March – Kathy Rogers
April – Debbie Freeberry
May – Janet Hughes
June – Linda Keffer
July – Carol Cathell
August – Carol Cathell
September – Janis Williams
October – Ginger Pettyjohn
November – Sandy Swain
December – Roger Longest



I appreciate all of you for helping with this ministry. Roger Longest

March Messenger

Please have articles and information for the March Messenger to the church office by Monday, February 11.
Email to rpumc@rpumchurch.org.

Greeters

Feb. 3 Debbie Freeberry and Beth Davis
Feb. 10 Shirley Snapp and Richard Beane
Feb. 17 Bob Collins and Karen Collins
Feb. 24 Kathy Gibbons and Neal Davis

Lay Readers

Feb. 3 Katie Klingler
Feb. 10 Paul Weaver
Feb. 17 Roger Longest
Feb. 24 Howard Eney

Book Club

Book Club will be taking a month off in February, but we have exciting plans in the coming months. On March 13th at 7 PM, we will have the Rev. Robyn Brown lead a Bible Study/Book Club on her novel, "Ben". Here is a link that you can use to purchase her book on Amazon.

https://www.amazon.com/Ben-Novel-Robyn-S-Brown/dp/1632134306/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

And on April 10th, we plan to attend a book signing and author Q&A by "Mudbound" author, Hillary Jordan at 7 PM at the Chase Center. Please join us for these exciting events.

Interesting reads we will enjoy in the coming months are "Believe It : My Journey of Success, Failure, and Overcoming the Odds" by Nick Foles and "The Next Person You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom.

At our January meeting, Book Club discussed "Bear Town" by Frederik Backman. If you see a book that you like or have one to suggest, or if you are just in the mood for lively conversation and good fellowship, please join us at a future meeting. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Paul Weaver

Contemporary Worship – Sunday at 4:30pm

Have you shared the "Good News" about our relaxed, Contemporary Worship Service? Perhaps you have a friend who can't make it on Sunday mornings, but Sunday afternoon at 4:30pm might be perfect. Didn't feel like getting up yourself? Sunday at 4:30 pm is your "do-over" opportunity to catch up. Invite a friend, or better yet, bring them! Have a cup of coffee or tea, enjoy some spirited music and find a blessing for yourself in the message. We hope to see you and your friends soon.

A Message from your Lay Member to Annual Conference – Brenda Tucker

A special General Conference will be held in St. Louis from February 23-26. Eight hundred sixty-four delegates will be voting on the future configuration of the United Methodist Church.

At the past few General Conferences of the United Methodist Church, there have been resolutions brought before the body regarding a change of language of the Book of Discipline (the rules of the United Methodist Church) to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ community. As you can imagine, there has always been much disagreement.

In May 2016, General Conference, (Portland, Oregon) authorized the Council of Bishops to create a **Special Commission on A Way Forward**. At that time, all legislation regarding homosexuality was suspended. A commission of 32 people was created to study the issue (homosexual marriage and ordination) in depth and bring to the bishops a plan. The commission members were diverse: ethnically, theologically, gender orientation, lay, clergy. The 2012 Discipline would stay in place while the commission did its work.

Vision of the Commission

*To design a way for being church that **maximizes** the presence of the **UM witness** in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much **contextual differentiation** as possible and balances an approach to different theological understanding of human sexuality with a desire for as much **unity** as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition.*

The Process would be undergirded with an intentional, global prayer effort, study of the scriptures, presentations by theologians, historians, financial leaders and representatives of, other denominations, hearing from agencies, boards, churches, and much conversation and sharing of hearts and perspectives.

The Commission met 9 times in person. They lived together with a “Covenant of Accountability” mandating respect, prayer, study, hospitality, and confidentiality. The Commission identified behaviors that needed to be avoided (harmful speech,

interrupting others, blaming, distracting, politicizing).

The Commission presented three alternative “sketches” to the bishops in November 2017. The sketches became “models” in early 2018 and have since been finalized as plans:

Traditional Plan

- Maintains the current Book of Discipline language and ban on homosexual ordination and same gender marriage.
- Establishes accountabilities for: bishops, pastors, and Boards of Ordained Ministry
- Encourages those who believe otherwise to seek a self-governing church option

One Church Plan

- Removes all the language in the Book of Discipline that bans homosexual ordination and same-gender marriages/unions
- No church or clergy is ever forced to act out of their conscience
- Exiting churches must follow trust clause and pay for unfunded pension
- Jurisdictions pay for their bishops

Connectional Church Plan

- Replaces the 5 US jurisdictions with 3 Connectional Conferences: Traditional, Unity and Progressive
- Each will have its own Book of Discipline, bishops and administration
- Each jurisdiction decides which conference to join
- Conference and churches allowed to switch to another

What the models/plans have in common:

- Each represents values that are within the Council of Bishops and the UMC.
- Each includes a gracious way to exit from the denomination for those who feel called do so.
- Each includes Biblical theology and mission.

We have been asked to pray every day through the special conference for the delegates, and all the church to make decisions with open minds and open hearts. Pray for the United Methodist Church.

For more information, go to <https://www.pen-del.org/> and UMPrays.org



February 2019



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Please pray for the Special General Conference to be held from Feb. 23-26.

1
10 AM Disciple –
Peniel UMC

2
12:30 PM
Extension Reserved

3
9 AM Adult Sunday
School
10 AM Fellowship
10 AM UMW Unit
Mtg.
10:30 AM Worship
& Children's
Church
11:30 AM Mission
Team
4:30 PM
Contemporary
Worship

4
6:30 PM Girl Scout
6:30 PM Boy Scouts
6:30 PM Cub Scouts

5
7 PM Rebekah
Circle
8 PM AA Meeting

6

7
9 AM The Shoppe
at RPUMC
11:30 AM Free
Lunch
6:30 PM Chancel
Bells
7:15 PM Chancel
Choir
8:15 PM AA
Meeting

8
10 AM Disciple –
Peniel UMC

9

10
9 AM Adult Sunday
School
10 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship
& Children's
Church
11:30 AM SPRC
Mtg.
4:30 PM
Contemporary
Worship
Scouts Blue/Gold

11
6:30 PM Girl Scout
6:30 PM Boy Scouts
6:30 PM Cub Scouts

12
8 PM AA Meeting

13

**14 Valentine's
Day**
9 AM The Shoppe
at RPUMC
11:30 AM Free
Lunch
6:30 PM Chancel
Bells
7:15 PM Chancel
Choir
8:15 PM AA
Meeting

15
10 AM Disciple –
Peniel UMC

**16 Fellowship
Hall Reserved**
12:00 PM Koinonia
Lunch – Ext.

17
9 AM Adult Sunday
School
10 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship
& Children's
Church
11:30 AM
Fellowship Lunch
11:30 AM Trustees
Mtg
4:30 PM
Contemporary
Worship

18
6:30 PM Girl Scout
6:30 PM Boy Scouts
6:30 PM Cub Scouts

19
7 PM CAP Board
Mtg.
8 PM AA Meeting

20
7 PM Bible Study

21
9 AM The Shoppe
at RPUMC
11:30 AM Free
Lunch
6:30 PM Chancel
Bells
7:15 PM Chancel
Choir
8:15 PM AA
Meeting

22
10 AM Disciple – St.
James

23

24
9 AM Adult Sunday
School
10 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship
& Children's
Church
11:30 AM
Council Mtg.
4:30 PM
Contemporary
Worship

25
6:30 PM Girl Scout
6:30 PM Boy Scouts
6:30 PM Cub Scouts

26
8 PM AA Meeting

27

28
9 AM The Shoppe
at RPUMC
11:30 AM Free
Lunch
6:30 PM Chancel
Bells
7:15 PM Chancel
Choir
8:15 PM AA
Meeting