

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Written by Rev. Carolyn Williams

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps" Proverbs 16:9

I found an article in "Women's Day" magazine which said this is the good news of Proverbs 16:9 "While we may think of big picture goals for 2022, God is already thinking how we're going to get there. He's two steps ahead of us at all times to make sure we do not fail."

This month the church council will be gathering to discern the goals and plans God has for Richardson Park's future. Whenever we make plans the first place to start is consulting God. We may know what we want but the question is, "What does God want?"

We will gather to open our ears and hearts to hear what the Holy Spirit wants to reveal on January 22nd at the Pecometh Retreat Center. We will be led in the process by consultant Kathy Denhardt, whose specialty is leading churches in this process. Pray for God to reveal His good and perfect plan for the future of Richardson Park UMC; the church that started under a tree.

Blessings,

Pastor Carolyn

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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

Blessed...that is what we are a new year begins.

The women of faith and congregation of RPUMC continues to amaze me! Throughout 2021 and following the guidelines established for Covid safety, wonderful things happened at our church.

Here are only a few of the highlights:

1. Cards for shut-ins at Churchman's Village, the V.A. in Elsmere and our members
2. Two full boxes of scarves, hats, gloves and socks
3. Children's clothing for Neighborhood House
4. Monetary gift for food closed at Neighborhood House
5. Monetary contribution to Friends in Need
6. Monetary contribution to Door of Hope
7. Our "free books for children" program-now in 3 locations- Elsmere Laundromat, free lunch and Pat's Barber shop on Old DuPont Road
8. Flower delivery to shut-ins

Wow! That is all I can say about those activities-- Thanks to all of you!

We are certainly ready to continue and increase our outreach activities!

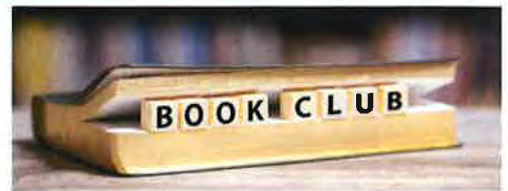
Get ready sisters of faith for our new year -first meeting will be held on January 9th, following the worship service in the extension.

Assignment:

1. Please start your "Daily Blessings Journal" If you have not started on the first of January
2. Read: Proverbs 31:17

Closing Prayer: O Lord, we give ourselves to you and say yes again. Bind us together in your service and mission to the world that you love. May others see your love and grace through our actions in your name. Amen

Blessings from Marlene



BY PAUL WEAVER

On Friday, December 10, we met at 7:00 PM in the lounge to discuss "The Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline. We had a very interesting discussion about the book.

On Friday, January 14, we will meet at 7:00 PM in the lounge to discuss "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom. Please join us for fellowship and interesting conversation.

Coming attractions will include "We Are the Brennans" by Tracy Lange and "A Little Hope" by Ethan Joella. We have also been holding our copies of the second book in Rev. Robyn Brown's trilogy, "SAM. A Ghost Story" in hopes that we can have her join us at the church soon. Rev. Brown's visit to RPUMC to discuss "Ben" was a book club highlight, and we are hoping that (in time), she will be able to join us again.

Thank you. Paul

FREE LUNCH MINISTRY

BY JOE TUCKER

Free Lunch program is continuing every Thursday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm with a grab-n-go lunch. We deliver a hot lunch in a take-out container at the main door of the church. Each person also receives a bag of crackers, power bars, a bottle of water, cup of pudding, etc. Our group of dedicated volunteers work Wednesday morning preparing food and 'bags of blessings' to hand out on Thursday morning. We are averaging about 50 meals a week. Contributions of items are always accepted. Currently, Free Lunch is in need of gallon storage bags at this time.

Some church members pick up meals and deliver them to family and elderly neighbors. Thank you to all volunteers who help on Wednesday and Thursday to prepare and serve free lunch!! Thank you. Joe



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

It's Coming, tax time again. Are you prepared?

It's that time of year again. It's time for the bad guys to step up their efforts to get access to your personal information and your money.

The threats come in many forms from phone calls to emails and malicious web sites. How do you know which is good and which is bad?

First recognize that all the threats have one thing in common - they are from a stranger, and all want to get personal information (credit card number, social security number, Medicare number, name, address, etc.).

Here are a couple quick tips for you to follow:

- Never, repeat never, click on a link in an email unless you verify where it goes first. To verify the link hover your mouse pointer over the link and the real link will pop up. If its not the same link address, don't click on it. Test this out on the links below.
- Don't give out personal information to a strange caller.

There are many more cautions but there is not room to list them here. Instead type in this link to a page on the AARP website and take advantage of their research: www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/

If there is a special topic you want to see just send a note rpumc@rpumchurch.org.

Thank you,
Jim

BAGS OF BLESSINGS

DONATIONS NEEDED

Please donate "single-served" food items such as granola bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, 16 oz. water bottles, snack crackers, cookies, peanut butter, etc. and zip-lock gallon sized storage bags in support of this important adjunct ministry to our Free Lunch program. Volunteers are needed to fill the Bags of Blessings which are given out at the Free Lunch Ministry on Thursdays. Any questions, please contact Kathy Rogers, Missions Chair



MEMORIAL TREE

BY GLENDA DONNELLY

Thanks to the great work of the Trustees and the BMG, we have a beautiful Memorial Tree to recognize all our loved families and friends who have passed.

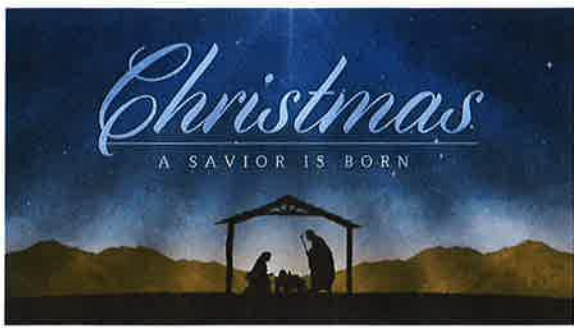
Take a moment and stop by the Extension and see the Memorial Tree. If you are interested in adding a loved one's name to the Memorial Tree, there are forms located on the table near the Tree. Any questions, please contact Glenda Donnelly a call on (302) 998-5047 or call the Church Office.

Thank you. Glenda

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 2-Robert Truitt
 January 9-Open
 January 16-Sherlynn Aurelio
 At the cross-Shirl Snapp
 January 23-Lee Powell
 January 30-Open

GREETER-Neal Davis
 LAY READERS-To be announced



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

We were blessed on the fourth Sunday of Advent when the children and choir retold the story in word and song of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Behind The Manger Scenes





ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

Hello RPUMC Family!

We are pleased to announce that **ONLINE GIVING** is **NOW Available!** During this time of social distancing and quarantine, you can still support the work and ministry of Richardson Park UMC through your tithes and offerings by either sending them in the mail or now by giving online through our website!

(Click the "GIVING" tab on our website).

www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html

Peniel Soup Kitchen
10:30 to 12:30—Every Friday
Pick Up Free Lunch—Goodie Bag For All

Looking forward to seeing all of our friends again. Please come everyone.



WELCOME!



OFFICIAL DE COVID-19 WEBSITE

coronavirus.de.gov

The website will provide you with information and updates on a regular basis. Find out where you can get vaccinated, and answers to frequently asked questions. Questions about the vaccine? Contact the Division of Public Health Vaccine Call Center at 1-833-643-1715. The call center is open from 8:30 am-4:30 pm, M-F, and 10 am-4 pm on Saturday. Or email Vaccine@delaware.gov

General questions about coronavirus? Call 2-1-1 or for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, please text your ZIP code to 898-211. For those with specific health-related questions, email DPHCall@delaware.gov



May His presence abide with you today and in the new year.

HAVE A BLESSED

Christmas

From,
Mary Alfaro

PS
miss you all



ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS!

Please remember that if you would like to dedicate altar flowers "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" a loved one, please submit your order and donation to the church office at least one week before.

Thank you.




The Shoppe at RPUMC

The Shoppe at RPUMC is open for shopping in the afternoons and by appointment only on Thursdays. Give Sandy a call (302) 593-3395 **Schedule your appointment today!!**





December 18, 2021

Dear Friends,

This year is quickly ending and all we can say is, "Thank God for small favors!" Although 2020 was a very challenging year, 2021 was "interesting" in its own right. The Lord has blessed us in many ways, and we wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the joys that we have experienced since our last letter.

Sammy has remained at Sussex Academy where he is a sophomore. He turned 16 in November and, yes, he is driving. I would urge panic and mass hysteria, but he's doing a great job behind the wheel. I have really watched him take driving seriously and he is now starting to correct my missteps on the road. Sammy continues to enjoy being a part of Troop 151. He has ranked up and is now a Life Scout. If you know of any Eagle caliber projects in the Salisbury area, Sammy would love to talk with you. As the pandemic has abated, he was able to go on more campouts and even attend summer camp. Pokémon has become a new favorite of Sammy's and you too can watch all the action on his YouTube channel Darksamster26:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz5InwpDEwTqydHE9EFzvfA>

Sammy is also a faithful servant. He runs the camera for the live stream in our contemporary worship service every week. He was also able to go on his first mission trip with Bethany, Donny, and me. We traveled to Johnson County, Tennessee to work on several projects with our church through the Appalachian Service Project. Sammy and the rest of us all had a blast.

Donny is now a senior at Sussex Tech High School. He is still in HVAC but has also found a passion for welding. We will see what becomes of this as he moves forward. He has accomplished so much in his time at Tech, but he is most proud of two things—his work as trumpet section leader for the Raven Nation Marching Band and becoming an Eagle Scout in Troop 186 earlier this year. Donny has persevered through several obstacles to get to this point. In addition to COVID, there have been other struggles, and we are so very proud of all that he has done. It will be our honor to watch him graduate next year, but there is still much to do before then. Donny is a faithful member of the Asbury Praise Band that plays every week in the contemporary worship service. During the autumn, he performed in a very cool modern production at school about isolation during COVID called *Alone Together*. In 2022 he will play

the lead role in *Shrek! The Musical*. (WooHoo!!) Plans for next year are in flux but the FAFSA is done, and all the college applications are complete. His preference would be to stay local and go to Salisbury University. We will see. The world is truly his oyster.

Bethany finished her freshman year at University of Delaware while living in Bethany Beach and working at Five Guys Burgers and Fries. In August she moved on campus into one of the honors dorms, Sypherd Hall, and has been going nonstop since then. She is majoring in education with a focus on elementary Special Ed. She also joined an *a cappella* group on campus called *Del-Re-Me*. We saw them perform in November and they are truly amazing. I am always impressed watching the kids on stage. They are so very talented, and I have no idea where they received these gifts from. Sarah and I can't hold a candle to them. They shine brightly. We are looking forward to spending time with Bethany during her winter break and getting to know her better as a young adult. She will certainly accomplish whatever she puts her mind to.

Katie had some big news this year. She and her significant other, Terry, eloped in September. It was a wonderful surprise. They are excited to be parents of two little ones, our very own Ainsley and Veya. Katie is having fun being a mother and is doing a wonderful job. It is heartwarming to watch her raise these two very special children. Ainsley had a great third birthday in June and Veya made her appearance on February 17, 2021. In addition, Ainsley is having a blast being a big sister, and Veya is just beginning to walk. She has been such a good baby while Ainsley has spent this year being lovable and precocious. The whole family continues to live in Portage, PA. I wish they were closer, as all parents and grandparents do, but it's more important that they are healthy and well. Praise God for them!

Sarah and I also continue to be well and enjoy our time with the kids and each other. Sarah said I need to add that I am driven and work non-stop at church. She's working hard too, still teaching at the local community college. We rejoice with you in the coming of our Lord again this year. We wish you all the best and may the blessing of God fall fresh upon you in the coming year.

Grace, Peace, and Merry Christmas,
Tom, Sarah, Bethany, Donny, Sammy, Katie, Terry, Ainsley and Veya



902 Ellegood St.
Salisbury, MD 21801
302-382-2907

January Birthdays

Michael Coverdale January 2
 David Swain January 2
 Karen Collins January 3
 Paigely Boyd January 4
 Gabriel Klingler January 4
 Harold Spedden January 4
 Wendy Walls January 5
 Donald Pasmore January 6
 Lee Powell January 8
 Cynthia Beane January 11
 Joseph Watkins January 12
 Dillion Keffer January 14
 Julie Oakley January 15
 Hunter Saunders January 15
 Kiersten Hughart January 16



Gail Cooke January 17
 Ginger Pettyjohn January 17
 Emmanuel Lee January 18
 Kenneth Saunders January 18
 David Goss January 19
 Jerry Paoli January 19
 Ruth Phillips January 19
 Anthony Donnelly January 20
 Kristi Doughty January 23
 Jennifer Fitzgerald January 31

Note: If your name is not listed on our birthday list, please call the church office.



RICHARDSON PARK UMC

Church Council Retreat

Retreat Leader
 Kathy Denhardt, PHD
 Denhardt Consultant

Please mark your calendar and join us for this retreat. It will replace the September Council meeting. Please Join us as we seek God for the future of the church.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22ND
9:00am-12:00pm
CAMP PECOMETH

401 JACK ELLIOT WAY
CENTERVILLE, MD 21617

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



TOGETHER

OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:

Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive



Sunday, January 16th


TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED
2 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:45AM Missions Mtg. - Lounge 4:30PM Contemporary Worship - FH	3	4	5 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge	6 9AM BMG - EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch The Shoppe at RPUMC Open for Afternoon Appointments Only	7	8 10:30 AM Koinonia - Lounge
9 9AM Adult Sunday School 10AM UMW - Lounge 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 4:30PM Contemporary Worship - FH	10	11	12	13 9AM BMG - EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch The Shoppe at RPUMC Open for Afternoon Appointments Only 6:30PM Bells 7:15PM Choir	14 7PM Book Club - Lounge	15
16 HUMAN RELATIONS DAY 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustees Mtg. - Lounge 4:30PM Contemporary Worship - FH	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY  Messenger Articles Due	18	19	20 9AM BMG - EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch The Shoppe at RPUMC Open for Afternoon Appointments Only 6:30PM Bells 7:15PM Choir	21	22 9AM-12PM Church Council Retreat at Camp Pecometh
23 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 4:30PM Contemporary Worship - FH	24	25	26	27 9AM BMG - EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch The Shoppe at RPUMC Open for Afternoon Appointments Only 6:30PM Bells 7:15PM Choir	28	29
30 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 4:30PM Contemporary Worship - FH	31					

The Shoppe at RPUMC, Parsonage and Annex will be **OPEN** by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** on Thursday afternoons. Please contact Sandy at (302-593-3395) to schedule your shopping visit

The Church Building will be closed on Saturday, January 1, 2022



RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305
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Website: www.rpumchurch.org

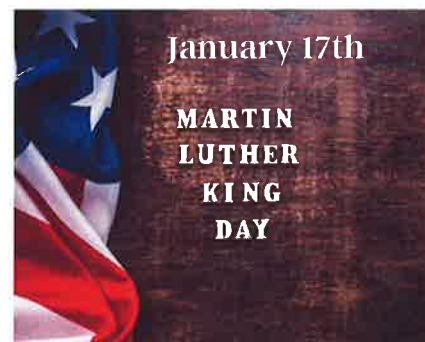
Rev. Carolyn Williams, Pastor
Cell Phone (302) 545-3528
E-Mail: pastor@rpumchurch.org
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Boyce



In-Person and Live Streaming Sunday Worship Services
at the following sites:

rpumchurch.org/html/streaming_service.html or
Facebook at: facebook.com/rpumchurch

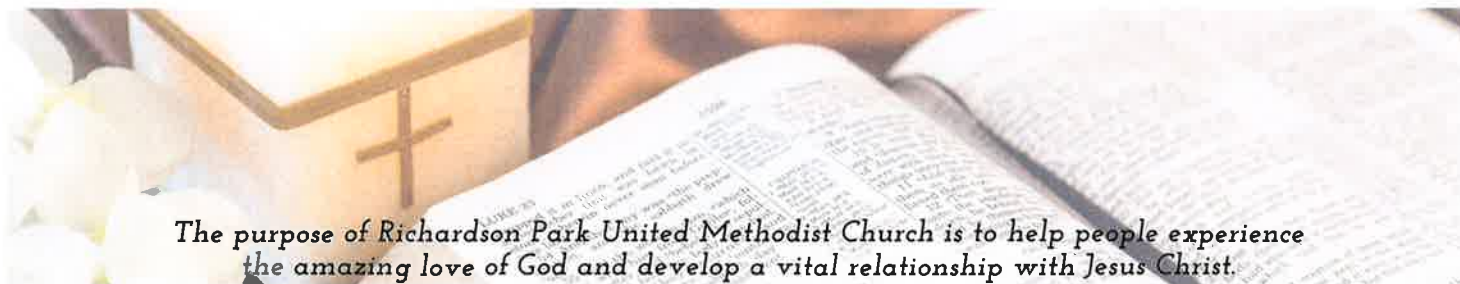
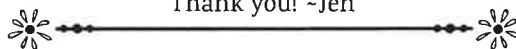
Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.
Worship and Children's Church.....10:30 A.M.
Contemporary Worship.....4:30 P.M.



Please have articles and information for the
February Messenger to the church office by
Friday, January 20th. Remember to submit all
announcements for the Sunday Bulletin no
later than Wednesday. Email to:

rpumc@rpumchurch.org

Thank you! -Jen



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the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.*