

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Written by Rev. Keisha R. Dukas

Let's talk about faith. I want to ask a fundamental question, how is your faith? As we examine our faith, we learn that our belief is necessary to experience God. Every day, we have an opportunity to engage with the fullness of God, which can ultimately deepen our faith. Yet as we inspire to go deeper, how often have tragedies, and unexplained phenomena challenged this experience? So, that heightened experience becomes shallow by the day. However, scripture informs our faith that God is our very present help in times of trouble. So, essentially, trust is essential to our salvation.

Scripture also informs us that without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) So, this month, we will focus on our faith and soul care. Strengthening our faith will influence our growth within our personal and corporate contexts. We can experience God deeper through faith and trust that "when I do not see God working does not mean God is not at work." By faith, we believe God is always at work.

Traditionally, John Wesley, founder of Methodism, would ask his covenant group, how is it with your soul? He understood the direct relationship between soul and salvation and how our faith is directly in the middle. For the righteous shall live by faith, and by faith we are justified. (Romans 1:16-17; Romans 5:1) So, as your Pastor, I would like to invite the church to practice soul care. Our soul demands care just like our bodies, and how we respond to that demand will directly impact our faith. How are we tending to the needs of soul care and faith?

Here are some helpful tips for practicing soul care:

- Read a passage of scripture a day.
- Engage in intentional prayer- set the alarm on your electronic device and set a sacred area to pray. You can have interaction in small prayer groups as well.
- Attend Bible study, Sunday worship, Sunday school, or prayer calls.
- Watch online sermons, record, evaluate and exchange notes with a covenant group.
- Or reach out to your Pastor for counseling and care.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Written by Rev. Keisha R. Dukes

...Continued

We are witnessing some of the most catastrophic events of our time, yet God is calling us to tend to our souls and strengthen our faith. Jesus invited his disciples to examine their faith during difficult times.

He replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20b)

Richardson Park UMC if we continue to heighten our faith, we will experience God. And if we encounter God, we will enlighten our belief. Essentially, this idea is rooted in our mission at Richardson Park to help others experience God and develop a vital relationship with Christ. In other words, we are invested in our faith as we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. So, allow me to ask again, "How is your faith?" As your pastor, I am praying for everyone! May God's grace be with you as we deepen our faith. In Jesus' name Amen

"O, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe,
That will not tremble
on the brink of poverty or woe!"

~O, for a faith that will not shrink, William H. Bathurst, 1831

Blessings,

Pastor Keisha



ALTAR FLOWERS

September 4-Ed Ide

September 11-Beth Robinson

-Cherie Krebs

September 18-Sandy Ide

At the Cross: Barbara Sales

September 25-Joe & Brenda Tucker

GREETER-Neal Davis

LAY READERS-To be announced



HAPPY
LABOR DAY

September 5th



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

RPUMC has a wonderful group of dedicated women. I was pleasantly surprised to see so many women attend our August meeting.

Now we are entering the season of Autumn. There is one more grouping for us to study in the "Fruit of the Spirit: faithfulness, gentleness and self-control". All of our members have already exhibited "faithfulness" throughout the summer months by attending circle and finding ways to share God's love with other folks- thank you! But- we cannot stop - we must continue to find areas where we can share these "fruits" so graciously given to us by God. Please attend the September 11 meeting directly following the worship service. We meet in the Extension for 30-35 minutes. This time is devoted to sharing ideas of ways we can and could help.

An idea was brought up in August concerning the need for everyday items many of us take for granted, and Food Stamps do not cover these items. So---you will find a small box in the back of the sanctuary which will stay and the items will be given out at free lunch Thursdays.

Items needed: bars of soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Thank you for your support.

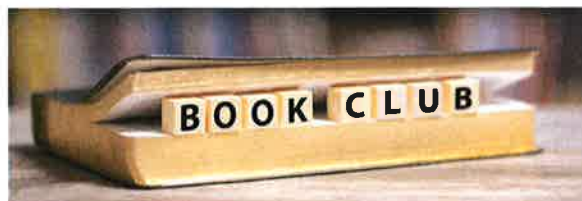
Now, my sisters in faith, your September assignment:

1. Attend the September 11 meeting
2. Share the ways you exhibit faithfulness, gentleness and self-control
3. Continue your "Daily Blessings" journal

Closing Prayer:

Teach me, Lord, to treasure the simple things of life- the touch of wind and snow, or rain and sun; the quietness of rest, the fair and healing sustenance of prayer. Amen

Blessings from Marlene



BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

On Friday, August 12, we met on Swain's back porch to discuss "West With Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Sandy treated us to homemade cinnamon buns. The change in location allowed Janet D. to participate despite her recent injury.

We will discuss "Home Front" by Kristin Hannah at our September 9 meeting at 7 PM. Location will be determined by Janet's rehab, but I expect we will meet at Swain's again. Contact me at 610-202-8055 with questions. Please join us for an interesting conversation and good fellowship.

We will read "Before We Were Yours", by Lisa Wingate for our October meeting and are considering "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. In addition, a number of our recent books have come from your suggestions; please keep those coming! I have been in touch with Rev. Brown about "Sam" in hopes of scheduling a visit from her in the coming months, perhaps in November or December.

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 100 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

Are your checks being taken to the cleaners?

For anything we do there is a way bad actors figure out how to use the methods to defraud people.

There is an old technique making a reappearance. It's called check washing. The steps are simple. Get a perfectly good check which has been filled out correctly, wash it with some chemicals to remove the ink, fill it out with a new payee and amount then deposit it. The result is the original payee does not receive payment making you delinquent and the funds are gone.

Where do the bad actors get the checks? The most common source is your mail. Ever leave a bill payment in your mailbox for pickup? It's not always the mail carrier picking up the mail. Or sometimes the bad actors gain access to the postal drop boxes.

What are ways to protect yourself? Use direct deposit, use special checks which resist washing, use special security pens which resist washing or use the mail drop boxes inside the post office. Finally always monitor your bank statement for irregularities.

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



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

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. 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



United Methodist Men's Annual Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 10 8:30AM-4:00PM Pecometh

Join us for a day of fellowship, sharing, and learning. We begin with continental breakfast followed by our morning program led by Rev. Dr. Rob Townsend.

After lunch, our afternoon sessions will include:

- *United Men's Ministry – James Turner
- *Live Bold, the Power of Prayer – Bill Paxton
- *Looking Back, Looking Forward – Allan Loomis

The Days music by: *Sons of Thunder*

Registration by 8/28 - \$50 Day of: \$60

Printable Flyer, details & registration form:

www.delawaredistrictumc.org/UMM2022.pdf



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

September has arrived! Wonderful news! Ms. Ginger, Ms. Ruth and I have been waiting for Children's Church to start. I do hope you are ready to come out. If you are 4-12 years old, there is a class for you. If you are over 12 years old, come be a helper. Mark your calendars for September 11th. Please meet in the sanctuary by 10:25 a.m. I will ask you to come up front for time with the children and then you will be invited to join me in the youth room. On September 18th, we will be able to tell Pastor Keisha what we are studying during time with children.

I hope you are excited-I can't wait for September 11!

There are plans for a Nursery, however Ms. Michelle and Ms. Alice need volunteers. This would be on a rotating schedule.

The Trustees have been working on a revision to "Safe Sanctuary". It will be ready soon. It's great of Rob Anderson and his team to do this for us.

Now-September 11th, we will be at church-and I hope you will too!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 11th



SAVE THE DATE!! UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES COMMUNITY DAY EVENT

Community Day at Brandywine Springs Park, Rudy Williams Pavilion on October 8th 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - FREE

We will partner with Cedars UMC, Peniel UMC, and St. Mark's UMC to reach out to the surrounding communities. Each church will have a table for their information. There will be food, music, games and lots of fun!! Come on out to Family Fun Day.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important outreach mission!

Blessings,

The RPUMC Missions and Koinonia Fellowship

hot dogs
snacks
water
juice boxes



ACTIVITIES



Save the Date - Oct. 8, 2022

United Methodist Churches Community Day

Cedars UMC - Peniel - Richardson Park - St. Mark's UMC



To be held at
Brandywine Springs Park
Rudy Williams Pavilion

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



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



GRIEF SHARE 2022-2023

GriefShare groups meet to help you face challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. (Griefshare.org) GriefShare meets once a month via ZOOM at 7-8 p.m.

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about the things you've never faced before.

"Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering."

If you would like to participate please contact Pastor Jennifer Christy at (410-810-0110)

Schedule of upcoming ZOOM online meetings:

- Session 8 Tues. Sep 6, 2022 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 9 Tues. Oct 4, 2022 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 10 Tues. Nov 1, 2022 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 11 Tues. Dec 6, 2022 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 12 Tues. Jan 3, 2023 7:00pm-8:00pm
- Session 13 Tues. Feb 7, 2023 7:00pm-8:00pm

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!



The Shoppe at RPUMC

The Shoppe at RPUMC is open for shopping on Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



PROCEEDS BENEFIT MISSIONS/OUTREACH

Holy Land Tour Opportunities

District Superintendent Archie authorized the following link from a local tour agent offering a variety of Holy Land tours for 2023.

<http://www.etstours.com/larue>



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.




September Birthdays

James Durkee September 1
 Tyler Hughart September 2
 Jean VanVliet September 4
 Ed Ide September 6
 Maggie Painter September 6
 Bob Gamble September 7
 Richard Locke September 7
 Molly Mucha September 7
 Madison Mucha September 10
 Mary Alfaro September 11
 Richard Allen September 11
 Sami Davidson September 12
 Norma Allen September 13
 Karen Davis September 15



Trish Earvase September 15
 Annette Ott September 16
 Jessica Saunders September 16
 Carolyn Williams September 16
 Sharon Wright September 17
 Mark Cummings September 18
 George Przybylski September 19
 Marlene Johnson September 22
 Andrew Opalach September 23
 Alexandria Caldora September 24
 Alex Przybylski September 29
 Pat Cummings September 30
 Amy Przywara September 30

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

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Shoppe at RPUMC, Parsonage and Annex OPEN for shopping Thursdays from 11AM until 2PM	1	2	3 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. – Lounge	1 9:00AM BMG – EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch 11AM–2PM The Shoppe at RPUMC	2	3
4 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6 7-8PM Grief Share – Session 8 via ZOOM	7	8 9:00AM BMG – EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch 11AM–2PM The Shoppe at RPUMC	9 7:00PM – Book Club – Lounge	10
11 Patriot Day 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM UwiF Mtg. – Lounge	12 6 PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH	13 FH Reserved 6AM-10PM Voting – Election - FH	14	15 9:00AM BMG – EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch 11AM–2PM The Shoppe at RPUMC	16	17
18 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Trustee Mtg. – Lounge	19  Messenger Articles Due 6 PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH	20	21	22 Autumn Begins 9:00AM BMG – EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch 11AM–2PM The Shoppe at RPUMC	23	24
25 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	26 NO Cub Pack 339 Mtg.	27	28	29 9:00AM BMG – EXT. 11:30AM Free Lunch 11AM–2PM The Shoppe at RPUMC	30	

Please remember to submit all announcements for the Sunday Bulletin no later than Wednesday to the Church Office or via email to: rpumc@rpumchurch.org. Thank you! Jen



The Messenger



September 2022

RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Keisha R. Dukes, MDiv
Cell Phone (443) 447-9101
E-Mail: pastor@rpumchurch.org
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Boyce



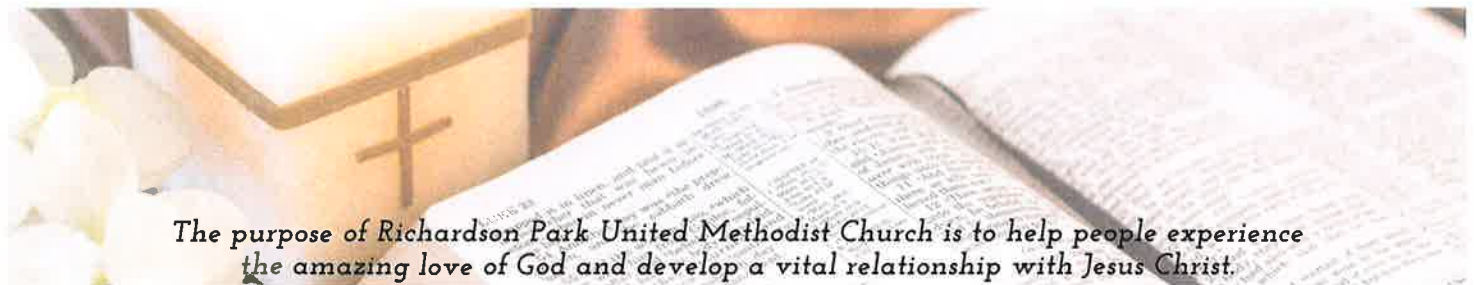
In-Person and **Live Streaming** Sunday Worship Services at the following sites:

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

Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.
Fellowship Time.....9:40 A.M.
Worship and Children's Church.....10:30 A.M.



Please have articles and information for the October Messenger to the church office by Monday, September 19th. Remember to submit all announcements for the Sunday Bulletin no later than Wednesday. Email to: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Thank you! -Jen



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.