



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Written by Rev. Keisha R. Dukes

On our United Methodist logo, there is a flame and a cross, which has significant meanings. Theologically, the cross symbolizes God's saving grace through Christ, and the flame represents the Holy Spirit. Biblically, the day of Pentecost inspired the unification and power of the Holy Spirit and the apostles' tongues were cloven with fire. (Acts 2:3)

Historically, this logo illustrates John Wesley's story of his New Birth. The story is that while Wesley, Founder of the Methodist movement, was listening to a reading of Martin Luther's commentary on the Romans' Epistle, instantaneously, his heart felt strangely warmed. He believed that warmth resulted from the flame sparked in his heart, the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we enter February, we honor Black History Month and President's Day, (just to name a few), but for the church, it is the beginning of Lent season. Lent Season consists of 40 days where we slow down to examine the cross and check the flame of our faith.

With repentance and forgiveness through faith, we prepare ourselves to observe and remember the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. This month let us walk and prepare ourselves for Christ's suffering which humbles us and the Holy flame which is the blessed assurance of being children of God. May our struggles keep us near the cross and may the holy flame glow within. And as God's love fills our hearts, may we share the same good news that lit our eternal flame. The good news of God's kingdom through the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit!

Let us PASS IT ON!

Love you and there is nothing you can do about it!

With light and hope,

Pastor Keisha

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 Women in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

Heart-shaped boxes filled with candy, cards with hearts, even clothing with hearts--February must be here! This month abounds with love. The most important love, by far, is the love God shared with us- Jesus.

This month during our United Women in Faith meeting, we will share how God's love has helped each of us- not in the exact way it has helped others. When I think of love, I am reminded of the love RPUMC shared in December. You brought cards for shut-ins in senior housing and the nursing home at V.A. There was another outpouring of love- the clothing items you brought in for the Shortlidge Academy on West 18th Street in Wilmington! They, in turn, shared photos of the children wearing some of the articles of clothing. What a wonderful example of God's love!!

As we started our study in January, we will continue how we are connected through our faith and dedication to helping other folks. Our group meets on the second Sunday of the month directly following the worship service in the extension. Please come and join with these wonderful sisters in faith. The meeting will be February 12th.

Now, my sisters in faith, your assignment:

- 1.) How do you share God's love with other people?
- 2.) What motivates you to share?
- 3.) Attend our meeting!

A thought to remember:

Love...

puts up with anything

Trust God always

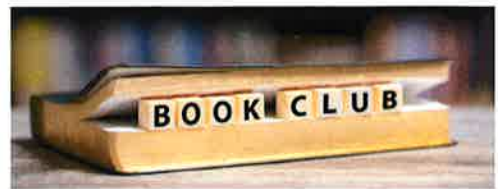
Always look for the best

Never looks back

But keeps going to the end

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Blessings from Marlene



BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

On Friday, January 13 at 2 PM we met at the church to discuss "Gentleman and Players" by Joanne Harris. We had an interesting and enjoyable conversation.

We will discuss "Sam" by Rev. Robyn Brown on February 13 at 2 PM at the church. We are hoping to schedule a Zoom call with Rev. Robyn Brown to discuss the book. If you have been thinking about joining the Book Club, this book and meeting would be a great time to jump in!

We will be reading "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus, "The Neighbor's Secret" by L. Alison Heller and "The Lies I Tell" by Julie Clark in the coming months. In addition, a number of our recent books have come from your suggestions; please keep those coming!

Thank you. Paul



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

It is February 2023!

We have started studying the New Testament of the Bible! We learned that baby Jesus is growing by leaps and bounds. We followed him to the temple where he sat with the teachers (Rabbis). His parents thought he was lost! No, he was going about God's business.

Please join us as we travel in Jesus' footsteps. Where will He go this month? Join us in the sanctuary at 10:25 a.m. After time with youth with Pastor Keisha, we go to our room. What will be at the discover center? Will we make a little book? What will we do? Come and discover what has been planned. I will tell you that one Sunday in February, we will make a special bird feeder! I won't tell you which Sunday though. Come and discover.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

What is Email Hijacking

Email hijacking is when a bad actor takes over your email account and sends emails to everyone in your contacts or they spoof your account using an account that looks like yours.

How do you know if your email has been hijacked?

- A common way is people in your contact list start asking why you are sending a lot of emails to them.

How do you fix the problem:

- Change your email password to a longer, more complex password.
- Set up dual factor authentication on your email account.
- Make sure your anti virus is up to date and scan your computer.
- Delete any strange looking emails.
- Notify people in your contact list about what has happened so they can delete the emails.
- If you are not sure what to do call the support desk for your anti virus vendor.

How to prevent hijacking:

- Do not click on any links in an email or on a website you do not trust.

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



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

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 plastic grocery shopping 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



ALTAR FLOWERS

February 5-Sherlynn Aurelio

At the Cross-Fran Tebutt

February 12-RPUMC Chance & Bell Choir

February 19-Open

February 26-Bob & Karen Collins

LAY READERS-To be announced



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!



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.



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 13 Tues. Feb 7, 2023 7:00pm-8:00pm
last meeting of this session

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER CLASSES FOR 2023

MARCH 24-25
APRIL 28-29
MAY 19-20
JUNE 16-17

ALL CLASS WILL BE HELD AT WHATCOAT UMC
DOVER UNLESS NOTED.

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



PROCEEDS BENEFIT MISSIONS/OUTREACH

February Birthdays

Terri Snead February 1
 Anastasia Hayman February 2
 Edward Podgorski February 4
 Beverly Cuomo February 5
 Terry Bourdon February 7
 Carol Cathell February 10
 Mary Sutor February 11
 Brian Crozier February 12
 Terri Antonine February 13
 Cassandra King February 13
 Byrom Price February 13
 Ellen Willard February 14
 Robert Davis February 16



Frank Pugh February 18
 Kathy Gibbons February 20
 Bettie Smith February 20
 Robert Truitt February 20
 Kristin Fleming February 21
 Bethany Pasmore February 21
 Morgan Coverdale February 23
 Donna Daniels February 23
 Ben Brindle February 24
 Bob Thomas February 24
 Kim Przybylski February 26

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



**Richardson Park
 United Methodist Church**

**Join us for prayer,
 ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Every Tuesday Evening

PRAYER CALL LINE

**Confrencece number (605) 468-8733
 Code: 6102741#**

LINE OPENS AT 5:45 pm

*"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.
 When he finished, one of his disciples said to him,
 "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
 ~ Luke 11:1*



Keisha R. Dukes, Pastor



Delaware District Board of Laity

The Delaware District Board of Laity currently has 2 volunteer positions open. They are in need of a secretary and treasurer.

For more information contact:

Rosalyn Harris rorz1948@aol.com
 Karen Jones kbstigars@gmail.com



Winter Spiritual Retreat (February 19-23, 2023)

Our spiritual retreats offer flexible options for participants to set aside time away. Whether you are seeking solitude or connection (or both!), we offer a variety of optional activities and worship opportunities.

Choose the length of your stay and your arrival day during registration.

Register at: <https://www.pecometh.org/spiritual-retreats>



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling begins her new podcast.

Thursdays at the Table

Asking good questions, engaging in deep conversation and telling the whole truth can change the world. In her new podcast Bishop LaTrelle Easterling invites you to join her for Thursdays at the Table as she is joined by leaders from across the connection, serving up new insights and interesting ways of experiencing our lives together.

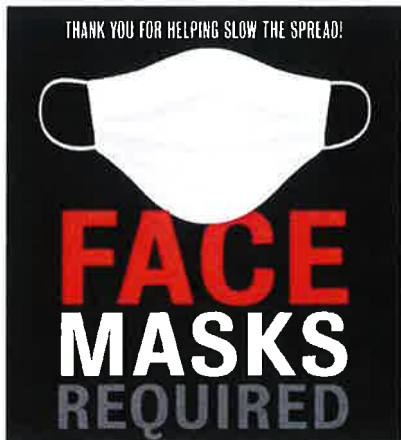
New podcasts are the first Thursday of each month.

You can join at 8 a.m. or listen any time on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts or at pdcbbc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge	2 GROUNDHOG DAY 9AM BMG - EXT. 11am-2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch - FH	3	4 Closed First Saturday - The Shoppe at RPUMC
5 SCOUT SUNDAY BLUE & GOLD CEREMONY 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UMIF - Ext.	6 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. - Pinewood car cut night	7 7-8PM Grief Share - Session 13 via Zoom	8	9 9AM BMG - EXT. 11am-2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch - FH	10	11
12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	13 2PM Book Club - Lounge 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. - FH	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 	15	16 9AM BMG - EXT. 11am-2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch - FH	17  Messenger Deadline Articles Due	18 CUB PACK 339 - URBAN AIR 11AM Koinonia - Ext. (covered dish)
19 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustees Mtg. - Lounge	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY NO Cub Pack 339 Mtg.	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 12PM Noon Online and In-person 	23 9AM BMG - EXT. 11am-2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch - FH	24	25 10-1 PM - Leadership Committee Training - Lounge
26 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	27 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. - FH	28				

The Shoppe at RPUMC, Parsonage and Annex will be OPEN for shopping on Thursdays' from 11AM-2PM





The Messenger



February 2023



RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Website: www.rpumchurch.org

Rev. Keisha R. Dukes, MDiv

E-Mail: pastor@rpumchurch.org
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Boyce



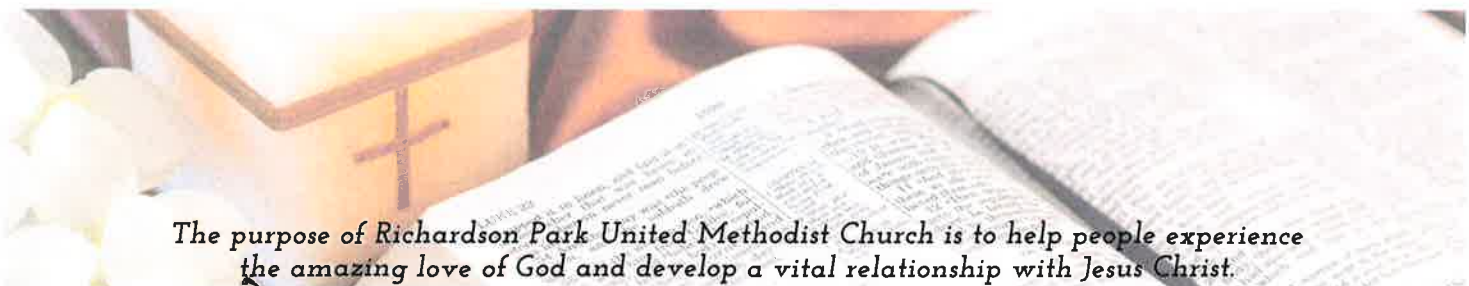
In-Person and **Live Streaming** Sunday Worship Services at the following sites:

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 March Messenger to the church office by Friday, February 17th. 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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