

JUNE 2023



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*Written by Rev. Keisha R. Dukes*

Greetings, Beloved of God,

I consider June the "halfway point" because it is the year's sixth month. As I reflect upon this idea, the image of a marathon race comes to mind. **Note I suggested a marathon because life is circular rather than linear.** Our goal is not just a destination but to experience the goodness of God in the land of the living, which means now. (Psalm 27:13) During a marathon, the participant reaches a checkpoint where they do not break but receive some water or nutrient fuel for continuity.

The only difference in the marathon of God's Kingdom is that the Lord bids us to come and rest. In Hebrews 12:1 and 2 Timothy 4:7, Paul compares our faith journey to running a race. In other words, our journey is an ongoing event of twists, turns, ascensions, and descensions like mountains and valleys with swift movements at a steady pace. And will all of life's adventures, we are called to break and rest!! (An empty pitcher cannot pour into other glasses!)

During this checkpoint month, some may pause from ministry engagements as they prepare for summer months, while many others will continue in the race. May the God who calls for rest renew your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Another checkpoint is preparing for a transition of Pastoral leadership. Starting July 1, RPUMC will be excited to welcome Pastor Chris Pennington, and his family, as he grabs the baton and continues to lead the people of God. May the God of transition prepare the pathway for change.

Take a deep breath and trust God at the checkpoint. I hope you have a safe summer as you grow in Christ and the community. I pray for a smooth transition of Pastoral leadership, and as a church, may you honor the one sent as Lead Cultivator. Now it is time to run and see what the end will be!

*"Done made my vow to the Lord,  
And I never will turn back,  
Oh I will go, I shall go  
to see what the end will be."*

**From African American Songs, Spirituals, Religious and Secular. 1898**

With light, love and resurrection blessings,

*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

Many years ago it was a tradition that our group would not meet in June, July and August. It was so pleasant to be able to meet again in person during 2022 that we voted to continue throughout the summer. At our meeting on May 14, 2023, it was decided to not meet this year in the summer months. I assured our group of dedicated women that when we meet in September, there will be many exciting opportunities for us!

During 2022 we contributed over 2000 dollars to many worthwhile organizations. These groups included Friends in Need, Neighborhood House, Door of Hope, Heifer and winter clothing to a neighborhood school. I think you will agree this was a successful year for our group of caring women. In addition to these areas of giving, our cards for the V.A. nursing area and Churchman's Village is still active. One other area which is the most exciting for me is the "Children's Book Program" - yes, children are reading!!

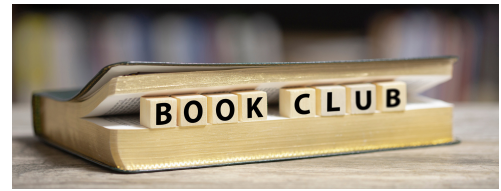
Now, my sisters in faith: Your June assignment:

- 1.) Invite someone to church
- 2.) Show kindness
- 3.) Enjoy the month of June!

A thought to remember:

"To love by freely giving is its own reward. To be possessed by love and to in turn give love away is to find the secret to abundant life".

Blessings from Marlene



## BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

On Thursday, May 4th, we met at the church, to discuss "Sam" by Rev. Robyn Brown, one of our favorite authors. We had an interesting discussion of the book and look forward to the third book in Robyn's trilogy. Our June meeting will be on Friday, June 9th at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah for that meeting. We have enjoyed several of her books. I just finished reading "Winter Garden" and believe that it is the best of the bunch.

We will be reading "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus, "The Only Woman In The Room", "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!

Sending prayers for healing to Janis Williams, one of our loyal members, who took a spill on May 4th and has fractures in both hands. Get well soon, Janis!



## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

It is June! I know all of you are excited for the end of the school year and the lazy days of summer!

On May 28 we celebrated the exciting things and people we "met" in our journey this year. We started in the Old Testament and continued into the New Testament. Think about your favorite Bible story and why you like it. Maybe you enjoyed our crafts, songs or mystery table. You might have enjoyed the experiments best.

I do hope you enjoy every moment of your summer. I will be here every Sunday during the summer months if you want to stop by and say "Hi"!

Remember we start Children's Church in September!

See you the second Sunday in September.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



## TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

### How Good is Your Password?

Last month's article was about account takeover and how to protect your account. One of the ways to protect yourself is a well-constructed password. This article explains how to construct a strong password.

There are 26 characters in the English alphabet. If you have a 4-character password using just lower-case letters there exist 14,950 combinations. If you use both upper- and lower-case characters, the number of combinations goes to 270,725 which is a bigger number but still relatively easy to be generated by a program. If your password is 8-characters, the number of combinations goes up to 752,538,150 which is much harder to guess and would take longer to crack. Now if your password consisted of 24 characters the number of combinations goes to 426,384,982,032,110 (approximately).

The point is the longer the password the stronger it is. The problem comes when you try to remember and or type in a longer password. This is where the pass phrase comes to the rescue. Instead of a single long password try typing a sentence. For example, here is a sample pass phrase - "mydoghasfleas" (without quotes). Make it harder by capitalizing some letters - MyDogHasFleas. Now add some numbers - MyDogHas3599Fleas. One more sample - add some special characters - !MyDogHas3599Fleas@. A strong password that is easy to remember.

Experiment with different lengths and styles and see how creative you can be.

If there is a special topic you want to see, just send a note to [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)

## 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



## 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

## PAPER RECYCLING CAN

Please be aware that effective 3/3/23, Richardson Park UMC is no longer participating in the Paper Retriever program and the collection container has been removed from the back parking lot. The initial objective of gaining a very small revenue stream along with a positive environmental impact, based on the reuse of clean paper, is no longer viable. We thank the many people who contributed to this program over the past several years! We welcome any new ideas for Sustainable Solutions that can be incorporated into the operations of the church. We will continue to look for ways to nurture and protect the people of our church, surrounding community and God's Green Earth. Thank you, Kathy Rogers

## 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



## ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

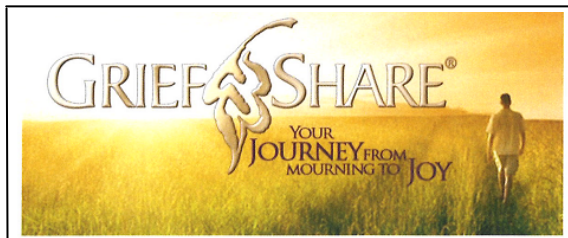
ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

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](http://www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html)



## GRIEF SHARE 2023

GriefShare groups meet to help you face challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. (Griefshare.org) GriefShare meets once a week online via ZOOM from 6:30pm-8:30pm on Mondays. You are encouraged to join on any week. Sessions are self-contained. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future 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. If you would like to participate please contact Judy Barker, GS/Director/Leader at (302-994-1939)

Schedule of upcoming ZOOM online meetings:

Session 13 Mon, June 5, 2023 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Session 14 Closing Mon, June 12, 2023 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

## 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.



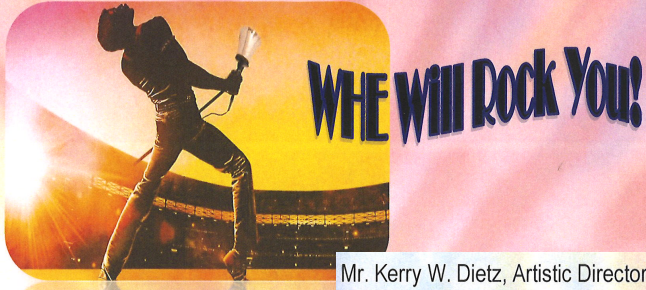
## The Shoppe at RPUMC

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



PROCEEDS BENEFIT MISSIONS/OUTREACH

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble presents...



Mr. Kerry W. Dietz, Artistic Director

**Sunday, June 4 3:00 PM**  
Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church  
101 Old Kennett Pike  
Wilmington, DE 19707

Featuring some of the songs we've loved to sing and dance to for decades such as "Dancing Queen," "Stairway to Heaven," a Beatles medley, "Rock Around the Clock," and "Bohemian Rhapsody." We are coming to a location near you!

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble (WHE) is the only community based handbell ensemble in the Wilmington, DE area. We have two CDs for sale for your listening pleasure, "A Little Bit of Christmas" and "Theme Songs to Ring By." Both are available for purchase online and at our concerts.

To learn more about WHE, visit our website at [www.wilmingtonhandbellensemble.org](http://www.wilmingtonhandbellensemble.org)  
Donations welcomed; please use QR code.

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble is a sponsored ministry of St. Paul's UMC, Wilmington, DE.



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. Tune in **June 1** for the next podcast.

You can join at 8 a.m. or listen any time on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts or at [pdcbwc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html](http://pdcbwc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html)

## PASTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

BY STAFF PARISH  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Pastor Keisha is leaving us for a new appointment at the end of June. She will be on vacation for the month of June, so her last Sunday with us will be May 28th. We wish her all the best at her new appointment and in all future endeavors.

We will welcome Pastor Chris Pennington on Sunday, July 2nd. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Chris when you see him and welcome him to RPUMC. And please pray for Pastor Chris and the Staff Parish Relations Committee and assisting him with a successful transition.

## JUNE ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

With Pastor Keisha leaving us, it should be noted that all administrative meetings (that includes: Council, Finance, Trustee, SPRC and Nomination Leadership committees) are put on hold for June until Pastor Chris Pennington's transition in July.



## New Al-Anon Meeting

Women's Al-Anon Family Group is an open meeting available to all women on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 525 Polly Drummond Hill Road, Newark, DE 19711. Please use the main front entrance of the church.

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relative and friends of alcoholics who share experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems.

If you have any questions please call 302-731-9495, Ext. 10.





# June Birthdays



Susan Durkee	June 1
John Tebbutt	June 2
Nicholas Perugini	June 4
Brisa Peterson	June 5
Katie Parker	June 10
Sharon Pierce	June 11
Billy Sorensen	June 11
Ruthann Will	June 13
Yvonne Mitten	June 15
Maria Andraya Ott	June 16
Jeannine White	June 18



Kayla Brown	June 19
Carolyn Wootten	June 20
Rob Anderson	June 21
Alicia Ott	June 23
David Pruitt	June 23
Carolyn Swain	June 23
Natalie Woodward	June 23
Charlene Workman	June 23
Franz Kappel	June 25

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**



**Happy  
Flag Day!  
June 14th**

## FREE LUNCH Announcement

*Thank You*

*For your support*

**Thank you Teri Williams!**

**We are possibly handing out over 100 lunches and we want to thank all the present working volunteer staff. Teri Williams has resigned due to health concerns. We may need more staff. If you are interested, contact us. Blessings, Joe Tucker**



### ALTAR FLOWERS

June 4-Open

At the Cross: Fran Tebbutt

At the Cross: Ginger Pettyjohn

June 11-Rob & Michelle Anderson

June 18-Glenda Donnelly (UWiF)



At the Cross: Bob Collins

June 25-Janet Dickerson

LAY READERS-To be announced




# JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Please Note: All Administrative Meetings for the month of JUNE are on hold.</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge	<b>1</b> 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11AM-2PM <b>OPEN</b> First Saturdays' - The Shoppe at RPUMC
<b>4 Peace With Justice Sunday</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>5</b> 6PM Cub Pack 339 LAST Mtg. - FH 6:30PM-8:30PM Grief Share Session 13 - Zoom	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	<b>9</b> 2PM Book Club - Lounge	<b>10</b> Cub Pack 339 Picnic/Awards
<b>11</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>12</b> 6:30PM-8:30PM Grief Share Closing Session 14 - Zoom	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Flag Day</b> 	<b>15</b> 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11AM Koinonia - Ext.
<b>18 Father's Day</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>19 Juneteenth National Independence Day</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Summer Begins</b> 	<b>22</b> 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	<b>23</b>  Messenger Deadline Articles Due	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>26</b> Cub Pack 339 - Mini Golf	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	<b>30</b>	

The Shoppe at RPUMC, Parsonage and Annex will be OPEN for shopping on 'Thursdays' from 11AM-2PM and First Saturday this month of June.

COME ON OUT AND SHOP  
FIRST SATURDAYS' AT  
**THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC**  
**June 3rd | 11 AM-2 PM**  
PRE-LOVED GOODS  
DISCOVER GREAT FINDS



 @rpumchurch.org  
proceeds benefit  
missions/outreach



RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305  
Office: (302) 654-0961  
E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org  
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



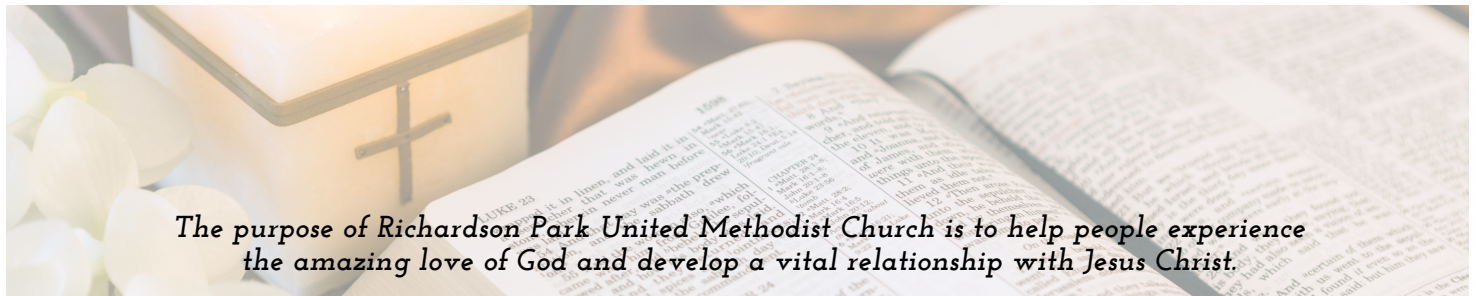
In-Person and **Live Streaming** Sunday Worship Services at the following sites:

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 June Messenger to the Church Office by Tuesday, June 20th. 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.