

SEPTEMBER 2023



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Written by Rev. J. Chris Pennington

The Heart of the Matter

Tomorrow morning, "the surgeon began, "I'll open up your heart..."

"You'll find Jesus there," the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed "I'll cut your heart open," he continued, "to see how much damage has been done..."

"but when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there," said the boy.

The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly. "When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up, and I'll plan what to do next."

"But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart."

The surgeon had had enough. "I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well."

"You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there."

The surgeon left.

The surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes from the surgery, ...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure.

Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis: here he paused, "death within one year." He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. "Why?" he asked aloud. "Why did You do this? You've put him here; You've put him in this pain; and You've cursed him to an early death. Why?"

The Lord answered and said, "The boy, my lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock, and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain, and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow."

The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. "You created that boy, and You created that heart. He'll be dead in months. Why?"

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.

The Lord answered, "The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for He has done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb." The surgeon wept... The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered, "Did you cut open my heart?"

"Yes," said the surgeon.

"What did you find?" asked the boy.

"I found Jesus there," said the surgeon.

Dear Richardson Park Family,

The old hymn goes, "In my heart there rings a melody, there rings a melody with heaven's harmony;

In my heart there rings a melody; There rings a melody of love!"

As we enter this season of fall, I pray that Jesus is living in your heart and that you feel His precious love raining down on you day by day.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Chris

*You're
Invited*



Bring a Friend



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

The summer months have flown by! We are now in the month of September. My united sisters in Faith- are you ready for our first meeting of the fall months? I am anxiously awaiting our meeting on September 10! We meet in the extension following the worship service. It will be great to hear about your summer months. I know you have been sharing the light of God with family, friends and folks you meet along the way. How are you accomplishing this wonderful light?

I have a question which we will discuss on the 10th. We are not United Methodist Women but United Women in Faith. How do you feel about this change? I know how I feel. We will take 5 minutes to discuss this title change on September 10th. Remember our meetings only last 30-35 minutes. I invite all of you to stop by and discover what we do and plan to do.

Now, my sisters in faith- September's assignment:

- 1.) Attend our first meeting of fall
- 2.) How have you shared God's light this summer
- 3.) Be thankful for each day

A thought to remember:

Thank God for being an ambassador by showing folks kindness, a smile or just listening.

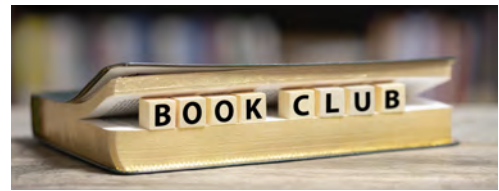
Blessings from Marlene



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



BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

Our August meeting was postponed and was held on Friday, August 25th at the church. We discussed "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus and had one of our most interesting discussions, and enjoyed fellowship with good friends. Our September meeting will be on Friday, September 8th at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "The Librarian of Burned Books" by Brianna Labuskes.

Our October meeting will be on Friday, October 13th at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "The Only Woman In The Room" by Marie Benedict.

In the coming months, we will be reading "The Spectacular" by Fiona Davis, "I Know Who You Are" by Barbara Rae-Venter, "The Senator's Wife" by Liv Constantine, "The Longest Ride" by Nicholas Sparks, "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land and "The Neighbor's Secret" by L. Alison Heller.

This is the longest coming attraction list we have ever had and I love it! A number of our recent books have come from your suggestions, please keep those coming! Thanks, Paul



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

I just flipped my calendar and guess what? It's September! I have been waiting for this month. Why? Children's church starts on September 10th.... great!

We will meet in the back of the sanctuary and go up to our room at 10:30 a.m. Everyone will be glad to see you at church. What will we do? You must come on the 10th and discover what adventures are planned. I do hope to see you on the 10th and find out what exciting times you had this summer!

Remember: September 10th at 10:30.

We are getting closer to September! I hope each of you have been enjoying the summer. We have now reached the month of August...soon it will be September!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

Can you recover your computer if hard drive fails?

Last month introduced the subject of recovering data that has been lost. The first topic is how to recover an operating system. Next month we'll cover applications and data.

The following steps will recover a lost operating system. Before attempting to recover verify if you have hard drive issues as you may need to replace that first. Finally keep in mind these procedures apply to Windows only.

Reset or reinstall Windows. The following steps were copied from: [https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/reset-or-reinstall-windows-cd352bd8-4cb6-411a-f2f5-](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/reset-or-reinstall-windows-cd352bd8-4cb6-411a-f2f5-1814bd8d453c#WindowsVersion=Windows_11)

1814bd8d453c#WindowsVersion=Windows_11

"There are three options that allow you to reset your PC. If you've tried just about everything else and your PC still isn't running well, resetting it might fix the problem.

Option 1

Open Recovery settings or select Start - Settings - Update & Security - Recovery. Under Reset this PC, select Get started.

Option 2

Restart your PC to get to the sign-in screen, then press and hold down the Shift key while you select the Power icon - Restart in the lower-right corner of the screen. After your computer restarts, select Troubleshoot - Reset this PC.

Option 3

Select Start, then press and hold down the Shift key while you select the Power icon - Restart to restart your computer into Recovery Mode. After your computer restarts, select Troubleshoot - Reset this PC. Any of these three options will get you started, but once you're in the process, follow the steps as they are presented to you. If none of the preceding three options work or your PC won't start at all, you can use installation media to Reinstall Windows. Go to the Microsoft software download website, download the media creation tool, then use it to create installation media on a DVD or USB drive. From there, see Reinstall Windows for more detailed steps."

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 at (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



New Women's Al-Alon 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.

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



*Humor in Preaching
This is NO joke!
SAVE THE DATES
Monday, September 25 from
4-9 PM at Asbury UMC,
Salisbury
OR
Tuesday, September 26 from
9 AM - 2 PM at Grace UMC,
Wilmington
\$35 each
Sponsored by the
Dunkle-Mackey Preaching
Seminar*

REGISTER TODAY

Asbury UMC, Salisbury:

<https://www.asburyweb.org/dunklemackey>

Grace UMC, Wilmington:

<https://gracechurchwilmington.org/dunklemackey>



Register now for a day of fun and fellowship at "United Methodist Got Talent." Beginning at 11 a.m. on Sept 30, youth and youth leaders of the BWC and Pen-Del will spend the day together at Camp Pecometh enjoying games, inspirational talks, music, and a talent show. All youth are invited to attend; performing is not required. The cost is \$5 per person for lunch, snacks, games, and more. For every four people registered, the fifth is free using the discount code Talent!

Contact ccook@bwcumc.org for more details.

UMC's Got Talent Virtual Audition Information

Youths interested in performing must fill out the [audition form](#)! We welcome acts of all kinds -- spoken word, dancing, skits, comedy, singing, chalk stories, and more -- and most sizes. We can accommodate 1-25 people performing at a time. We require the completion of this form -- including uploading a video -- **no later than Monday, September 25, 2023**, to ensure all acts are appropriate (clothing, gestures, and language) and meet the time requirements. Skits may be up to 5 minutes, everything else must be 3 minutes or less.

Acts will need to provide all equipment/materials necessary to perform. We will provide up to 3 microphones, a stage, and a sound system. Plan on arriving at 10:00 a.m. for a sound and stage check.

Website link: <https://www.pen-del.org/newsdetail/umcs-got-talent-audition-form-and-information-17483609>



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling continues her podcast.

Thursdays at the Table

Asking good questions, engaging in deep conversation and telling the whole truth can change the world. In her 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 **September 7** 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

DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING



Rev. Archie will be having a Delaware District Clergy meeting on Wednesday, **September 27th @ 10:00am**. The meeting will be held at Whatcoat UMC, Dover. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. All appointed Delaware District pastors should attend.

More details to follow.....

Sexual Ethics Training



We have tentative dates of September 29 & 30 for the next Sexual Ethics Training class. It's on the Conference website under Event Calendar as a save-the-date. It will be via Zoom. More details to follow as they are confirmed.





Crafting Night at RPUMC

In preparation for the upcoming Family Fun Day, we will be making two simple crafts in the Extension at 6:00 pm on Monday, September 25th, 2023. Please join members of the Koinonia for an evening of Fellowship and Fun!



GRIEF SHARE 2023

GriefShare a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare groups meet to help you face challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. (Griefshare.org) GriefShare meets once a week on Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:30pm.

To join the group contact: John Jennelly, Coordinator (302) 383-4704 or register online. Online registration go to: Griefshare.org enter zip code 19804. Click on Aldersgate United Methodist Church GriefShare and follow prompts. You are encouraged to join on any week. Sessions are self-contained.

Meeting	Date	Time
Session 1 - Is This Normal?	Thu, Sep 21, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 2 – Challenges of Grief	Thu, Sep 28, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 3 – The Journey of Grief – Part One	Thu, Oct 5, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 4 – The Journey of Grief – Part Two	Thu, Oct 12, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 5 – Grief and Your Relationships	Thu, Oct 19, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 6 – Why?	Thu, Oct 26, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 7 – Guilt and Anger	Thu, Nov 2, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 8 – Complicating Factors	Thu, Nov 9, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 9 – Stuck	Thu, Nov 16, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 10 – Lessons of Grief – Part One	Thu, Nov 30, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 11 – Lessons of Grief – Part Two	Thu, Dec 7, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 12 – Heaven	Thu, Dec 14, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm
Session 13 – What Do I Live for Now?	Thu, Dec 21, 2023	4:00pm-5:30pm



Multi-Church Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 7th, 2023

11am to 2 pm

at Brandywine Springs Park

Rudy Williams Pavilion

Food! Fun! Giveaways!

FAMILY FUN DAY!



Patriot Day

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
 Karen Davis September 15
 Trish Earvase September 15



Annette Ott September 16
 Jessica Saunders September 16
 Carolyn Williams September 16
 Patricia Pugh September 17
 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.

Wednesdays June-Oct 3:30 pm-6:30pm



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, please contact us. Blessings, Joe Tucker



TRAINING TUESDAYS ARE BACK

Tuesday, September 12th—Developing Missionally Vital Leaders

Explore a variety of leadership development opportunities.

Tuesday, September 19—Charting a Course Towards Vitality

Using a Missional Action Planning (MAP) framework, learn about resources for your church to grow.

To register for the ZOOM training, go to the Conference website (pen-del.org), then events.

Future training dates:

October 10, 24
 November 7, 14, 28
 December 5, 12

IMPORTANT You will receive a confirmation email with the zoom link immediately after registering. Please note that if you have unsubscribed from conference emails, you will not get the zoom link.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION EMAIL WITHIN 24HRS OF REGISTERING, PLEASE CONTACT CHRISTINE TROTT AT ctrott@pen-del.org By 4:00PM.

ALTAR FLOWERS

September 3-Ed Ide
 September 10-Cherie Krebs
 September 17-Sandy Ide
 September 24-Joe & Brenda Tucker

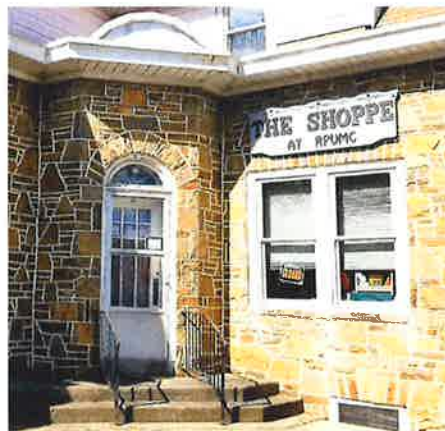
LAY READERS-To be announced

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9AM Adult Sunday School 9AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Worship Service	4 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	5	6 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge	7 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	8 2PM Book Club - Lounge	9 FH - RESERVED
10 GRANDPARENTS DAY 9AM Adult Sunday School 9AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UWif Mtg. - Ext	11 PATRIOT DAY 	12	13	14 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	15	16 11AM Koinonia - Ext.
17 Back To Church Sunday 9AM Adult Sunday School 9AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM - Trustee Mtg. - Lounge	18	19	 Newsletter Messenger Deadline Articles Due	21 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH 4-5:30PM - Grief Share - Aldersgate	22	23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN 
24 9AM Adult Sunday School 9AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Council Mtg. - Lounge	25 6PM Crafting Night at RPUMC - Ext.	26	27	28 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH 4-5:30PM - Grief Share - Aldersgate	29	30

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

COME ON OUT & SHOP AT
THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC
on Thursdays 11 AM-2 PM
PRE-LOVED GOODS
DISCOVER GREAT FINDS



The Messenger



September 2023

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. J. Christopher Pennington
Cell Phone (302) 229-5626
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

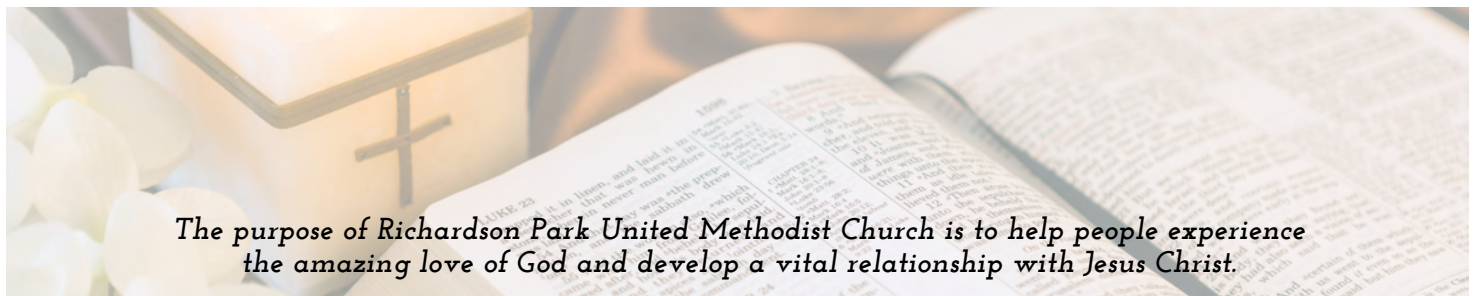
Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.
Fellowship Time.....9:40 A.M.
Worship & Children's Church.....10:30 A.M.



★ The Church Office & building
will be closed on
Monday, September 4 ★



Please have articles and information for the October Messenger to the Church Office by Wednesday, September 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.