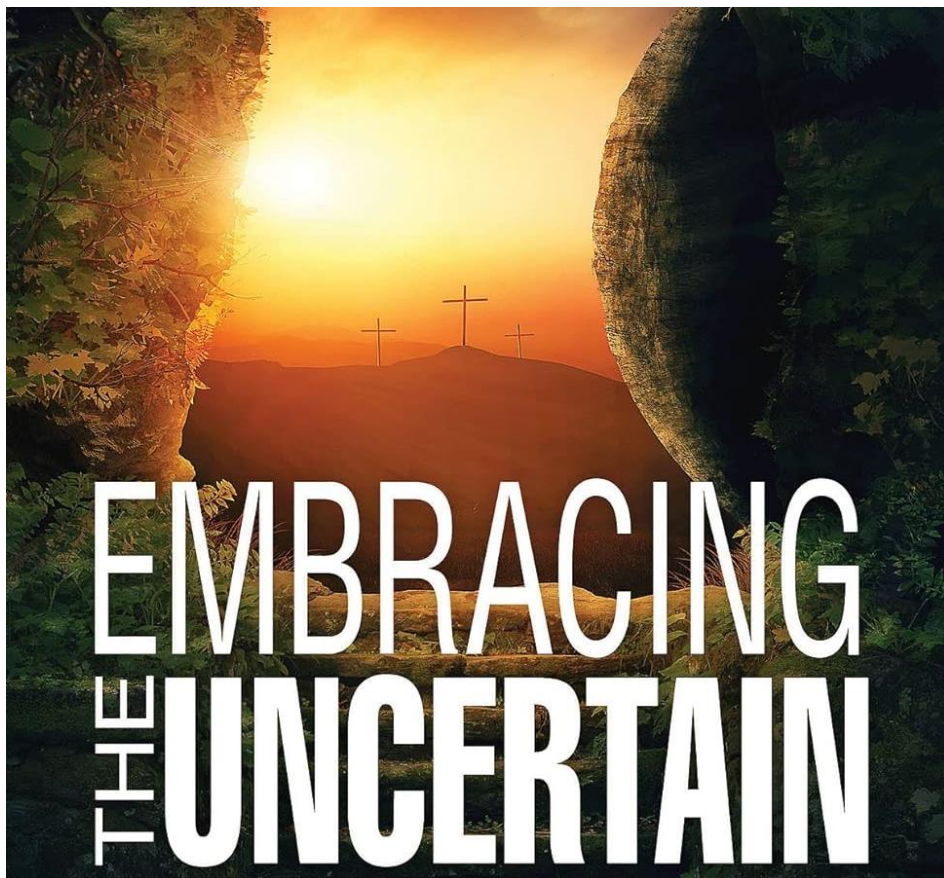




**Richardson Park United Methodist Church**  
*Celebrating Over 100 Years of Ministry*

*The mission of Richardson Park United Methodist Church is to help people experience the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ*

And He said to them,  
“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”  
*Mark 16:15 NRSV*



*Welcome to RPUMC Worship Service*

*March 17, 2024*

# Richardson Park United Methodist Church

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

## ENTRANCE

**PRELUDE** “Nailing My Sins to His Cross” W. E. Mercer

“Welcome to RPUMC! We greet you with the love and peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
We are a church committed to God’s mission and purpose for the world.  
We pray you are blessed in worship with us this morning.”

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey, the step of sacrifice.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we take this step.**

Leader: This requires the willingness to give all of your life to the Lord.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

**People: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day. AMEN.**

### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” UMH 382

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and healed. **AMEN.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** *Take this time to share your petitions with the community of faith that we may pray with and for one another by faith. (James 5:16 reference)*

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)**

### **RECEPTIONS OF TITHES & GIFTS**

**\*DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**\*SONG OF PREPARATION** “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus” UMH 349

**\*GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 19:1-10

**SERMON** “Zacchaeus and the Uncertainty of Surrender” Rev. Chris Pennington

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** “I Surrender All” UMH 354

## THANKSGIVING

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Take My Life, and Let It Be” UMH 399

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL AMEN**

**POSTLUDE** “Glory To The Righteous One” Isaiah 24:14-16

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*The flowers at the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Victor Williams, and my parents, Edison and Sylvia Longest by Janis Williams.*

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## THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17 – ST. PATRICK’S DAY**

9 AM – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – LOUNGE

10 AM–10:25 AM – FELLOWSHIP TIME – EXT.

10:30 AM – WORSHIP & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

11:45 AM – PARSONAGE YARD CLEAN-UP

**MONDAY, MARCH 18 – NO EVENTS SCHEDULED**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 19 – FIRST DAY OF SPRING**

11 AM – LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – LOUNGE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 – NO EVENTS SCHEDULED**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21**

9 AM – BMG – EXT.

11 AM–2 PM – THE SHOPPE & ANNEX at RPUMC

**OPEN** for shopping *Proceeds Benefit Missions/Outreach*

11:30 AM–12:30 PM – FREE LUNCH – FH

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22 – NO EVENTS SCHEDULED**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**

1–4 PM – EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – PALM SUNDAY**

9 AM – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – LOUNGE

10 AM–10:25 AM – FELLOWSHIP TIME – EXT.

10:30 AM – WORSHIP & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

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Altar Easter Flowers – If you would like to place a lily on the altar for Easter, please fill out the Easter Lilies Form and return the form by today Sunday, March 17th. The cost for each plant will be \$9.00. Make your check payable to : Richardson Park UMC and include “Easter Lilies” in the memo line.

Book Club – Our February meeting was held on Friday, February 9th at 1 pm at the church. We discussed “The Neighbor’s Secret” by L. Alison Heller. Our March meeting will be held on Friday, March 8th at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss “Seventy Times Seven” by Alex Mar. We received our books from New Castle Reads, “The Violin Conspiracy” by Brendan Slocomb. This is the book we will discuss at our April meeting on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the church. We will attend the event with the author on April 30, 2024, 7 pm at the Chase Center. We will meet for dinner before the event. Coming attractions include “I Know Who You Are” by Barbara Rae-Venter, “The Senator’s Wife”, by Liv Constantine, and “The Guest List” by Lucy Foley. And if you would like to join us and have a book to share with the club, please let me know. A number of our recent books have come from your suggestions, please keep those coming! Thanks, Paul

Easter EGGStravaganza – Join in the excitement at our Easter EGGStravaganza with an afternoon of community family fun! On Saturday, March 23rd beginning at 1 pm to 4 pm at RPUMC you are invited to come on out for a hoppin’ good time with the Easter Bunny for egg hunting, bounce house, food and more! So, don’t forget your camera! Rain date scheduled for Sunday, March 24th at the same time.

Fellowship Time – Sunday Social has resumed and meets from 10 am until 10:25 am in the Extension before morning worship. Join us for fellowship. We will have snacks, coffee and tea to enjoy. Donations of prewrapped snacks, if you are able to contribute, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Dottie & Rose

Flower Containers – We love delivering altar flowers to shut-ins and they love the visit BUT we are in need of containers. I have found the 1 lb. metal coffee cans do work very well. Please donate these so we can continue this wonderful program. Blessings, Marlene

Free Lunch – Free Lunch program is continuing every Thursday 11:30 am-12:30 pm. We prepare a hot lunch in a take-out container at the main door of the church. Each person also receives a ‘bag of blessings’. Our group of dedicated volunteers work on Wednesday mornings preparing food and the ‘bags of blessings’ to hand out. We are averaging about 100 meals a week now. Contributions of items are always accepted. Some church members pick up meals and deliver them to family and elderly neighbors. Thank you for your contributions.

Free Bread – Peniel UMC has free loaves of bread available every Thursday 9am to 12:30pm, Friday 9am to 12:30pm and on Sundays from 11:15am to 12:30pm. Feel free to stop in to get a loaf or two. Come to the fellowship hall entrance located under the canopy on the parking lot side of the church.

Lenten Bible Study – Please join Rev. Tony Arrington and Pastor Chris for a Lenten Bible Study, *Embracing The Uncertain by Magrey R. deVega*, on Tuesdays, beginning February 20th at **11 am** in the Lounge at RPUMC. To sign up, please give the Church Office a call (302-654-0961) or send an email to

rpumc@rpumchurch.org

Yard clean up – This morning, after worship we will have a clean-up day for the Parsonage yard in preparation for Easter EGGStravaganza. Please consider joining in as we are in need of volunteers to help with this project.

The Shoppe – is **Open** for shopping on Thursdays from 11 am until 2 pm. Stop on by The Shoppe & Annex, grab a deal or two and be sure to tell your family and friends! Thank you everyone for your support! *Proceeds Benefit Mission/Outreach All welcome!*

**Easter**  
**EGGS TRAVAGANZA**  
Saturday, March 23

Join us for an afternoon of community family fun!

This free event will run from 1-4 pm  
at Richardson Park UMC

Children will have a hoppin' good time  
with the Easter bunny for egg hunting,  
bounce house, food and more!

11 N Maryland Ave., Wilmington, DE 19804

**All are Welcome!**

Rain date March 24  
Same time

@rpumchurch.org

## YOU'RE INVITED

We would like to extend a warm invitation for you to join us for a Palm Sunday service. We would be honored to have you join us as we celebrate this meaningful day.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Our service will include a procession with palm branches, music, and a dramatic reading from our pastor, Rev. Chris Pennington.

We hope to see you there!

# Palm Sunday

The service takes place at 10:30am and will be held at 11 N Maryland Ave., Wilmington, DE 19804



CROWDS LAID PALM BRANCHES AT HIS FEET IN A SYMBOLIC GESTURE OF HUMILITY AND PRAISE



## HE IS RISEN

### Celebrate the miracle of Easter at church.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 10:30am



This Easter, we hope you can join us as we experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Richardson Park United Methodist Church, 11 N Maryland Ave., Wilmington, DE 19804

# Prayer Requests



Barbara Sayles, JoAnn and Sam Guidry, Charlene Workman, Jerry and Mike Paoli and families, Randy, Olivia and Gillian Ide, Gregg, Joy and Abbi Ide, Shirley Davis, Beca, Anthony and Kaiden DiGiacomo, James Baird, Kim, John, Nick and John III Sagrati, Tyler and Becky Heatwole and Niko, Dave Jones, Al Heatwole, John, Lauren and Luca Sagrati, homeless animals, Amy Gould and family, Sister Morgan, Connie Pondok, Sean Short, Kim and Dakota, Jessica Etter and family, Felicia Etter and family, Julia Lynch, Crozier family, Dianna Deaton and family, Cherie Krebs, Shirley Delpizzo, Steven, Tonja, Natalie, Hillary, Sharon, Amanda, Mozes, Sisk family, Cathell family, Norvell family, Darryl and Jeanne Remedio, Gary and Sue Pinkowski, John and Donna Mahoney, Gene and Tracy Filliben, Millie Bradshaw, our armed forces, all law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency personnel, the United States, Israel, justice, liberty, Elizabeth C. Keeth, Pat Rodenhiser, Beth K., Brenda Williams, Susan and Ken Malone, Houston A. Rogers, Troy Rogers, Grant Rogers, Theresa Gommer and family, Jim King, Sandy and Dave Swain, Jim Durkee, Harold Ritter, all people in nursing homes and hospitals and staffs, doctors and nurses, teachers and students, military families, law enforcement, all homeless and hungry families, Millie Bradshaw eye concerns, gun violence everywhere, NYPD and NYFD, Philadelphia Police, Wilmington Police Department, all Veterans, Ukraine/Gaza, travel mercies, highway safety, newborns and children, Brenda and Dan Dan, Ronnie and Hannah, Eric, Kate, Denise/Sherrie, Przywara family, Hayes family, Daimon, Michael, Heather, Carol, Wayne, patience, Devon, Alice/Ed, Haley DeJesus, Alizé DeJesus, Arrabella, Cassandra King, Rebecca King, James King, Reggie King, Richie King, Annabelle King, Tundra King, Steven Beaver, our armed forces, World Peace, Joe and Brenda Tucker, Janet Dickerson, Ed and Sandy Ide, all clergy everywhere, Terri Williams and family, Cheryl and Jim Chilcutt and family, all elderly and the homebound, children of our church, our prayers

## SERVING TODAY

WORSHIP LEADER: JANET SAUNDERS

GREETER: MARIE WALKER

MUSICIAN: JANET BRUSH, ORGANIST

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 3/10/24 48

LIVE ENGAGEMENT- WORSHIP 6

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

## *About RPUM Church*

The first services were held under a large tree in 1907 at the corner of Belmont Avenue and DuPont Road. The first church building was completed in 1908 at Glenrich Avenue and Eureka Street. The church relocated to its current location in 1926, and the present sanctuary was built in 1950. Richardson Park United Methodist Church has had a long and distinguished ministry in the community dedicated to producing fruit that is pleasing to the Lord. This tradition continues today.

**REV. J. CHRISTOPHER PENNINGTON**

**11 North Maryland Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19804-1305**

**Phone:** (302) 654-0961 **Fax:** (302) 655-7446 **Pastor's Cell:** (302) 229-5626

**OFFICE HOURS:** 9 AM – 3 PM M-F **E-mail:** [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)

**Web:** [www.rpumchurch.org](http://www.rpumchurch.org) **Facebook:** [@rpumchurch](https://www.facebook.com/rpumchurch)