

MARCH 2023



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Written by Rev. Keisha R. Dukes

Lent season is a special season designated on our liturgical calendar where we observe the life, death, and burial of Jesus Christ. After Lent, the church enters the "Hallelujah" season called Easter. Before the glory we must first acknowledge the pain and grief of Christ. Lent is a time for the church to observe Christ's suffering. Our faith tradition holds his suffering as the catharsis for our sins. (Romans 5:8; Philippians 2:5-11) although it was our sin that caused his suffering. (Hebrews 2:17)

Traditionally, Lent is our response to Christ's sacrifice as a church. We typically abstain, or fast, from practices that distract us from growing in Christ while identifying with his suffering. (*Special Note: The practice of Lent has changed drastically throughout the centuries. I am referring to a more recent practice of Lent*)

Paul mentioned in Romans 6, "Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Some individuals refrain from certain practices, which are not limited to, eating chocolate or drinking coffee. Yet, as a spiritual leader, I would like to ask: ***is what you abstain from leading you to repentance?*** "Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning." So rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD your God. (Joel 2:12)

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.

Continued

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

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Lent is not about *"beating ourselves up but building ourselves up in the Lord."* Our growth begins with the gift of repentance. Hear the Lord today, turn to God, and live. The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:6) Therefore, "Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" (Ezekiel 18: 31-34)

Take time to create healthier spiritual practices, attend Bible study, join in prayer, attend worship, and make time for personal devotions. As the hymnologist declared: "Look and live, my friend; live, look to Jesus now and live. According to God's word, it is only that we look and live!"

Be encouraged this Lent to look and live! "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at Hand" (Matthew 4:17)

With light and hope,
Pastor Keisha



UMCOR SUNDAY

TOGETHER
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME
GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive



TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

March 13th

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?

United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit UMC.org/yourimpact

HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT UMCOR?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**, we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that **100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*





United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

It's a wonderful day to awake in God's world. Although it seems impossible, the season of Lent has arrived. Time goes by so quickly that we must savor every moment God gives us.

Our dedicated group of United Women in Faith find time to share the word of God through action. Each one of our women are dedicated workers: preparing food for the free lunch program, assisting in the worship service, delivering groceries to shut-ins, gathering children's books, visiting shut-ins and delivering communion--the list goes on and on.

In February we talked about taking time for ourselves so we can share God's word with other folks. Please join us the second Sunday in March on the 12th as we have our meaningful Lenten service. The meeting is held in the extension following the worship service. There will be a place for you at the table.

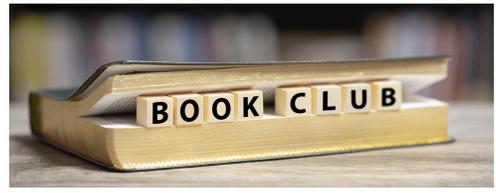
On March 12th, the card box will return to the back of the sanctuary. Hopefully, there will be enough Easter cards donated for the V.A. and Churchman's Village.

Now, my sisters in faith, Your assignment:

- 1.) Bring your completed take home paper which you received in February;
- 2.) Do you do anything different during the season of Lent?
- 3.) Attend our meeting on March 12th

A thought to Remember: Gracious Father, remind me again and again that Your grace always exceeds my need.

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 this month on March 15th at 2 PM at the church. We have scheduled 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 March 2023!

We are continuing our study of the New Testament as we walk in Jesus' footsteps.

Please join this wonderful journey! We are now meeting in the sanctuary on the second Sunday of each month for "Time with Youth". The other Sundays we will gather in the back of the sanctuary and will go to our room at 10:30 a.m. What activities will be waiting for us? What is at the discover center? Will we have an activity to complete or won't we? Will we make a little book. In March we will study a few parables and learn what a parable is.

Come and discover what happens on Sunday mornings in Children's Church!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

Tax Tips You May Be Able To Use

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll and tax professionals.

The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information. Recognize the telltale signs of a scam. See also: [How to know it's really the IRS calling or knocking on your door.](#)

Here is a phone call I have personally received:

“A scammer claimed to be able to suspend or cancel my SSN. It's yet another attempt by con artists to frighten people into returning 'robocall' voicemails”.

The contents of this tip and many others can be found at:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>

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





ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

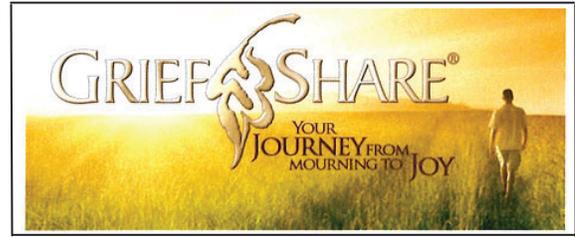
ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

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 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 1	Mon, Mar 13, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 2	Mon, Mar 20, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 3	Mon, Mar 27, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 4	Mon, April 3, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 5	Mon, April 10, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 6	Mon, April 17, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 7	Mon, April 24, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 8	Mon, May 1, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 9	Mon, May 8, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 10	Mon, May 15, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 11	Mon, May 22, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 12	Mon, May 29, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
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.



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

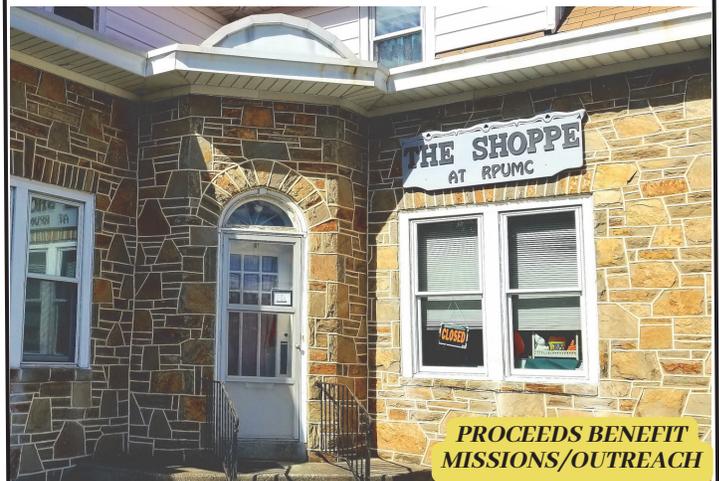
Please remember that if you would like to dedicate altar flowers "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" a loved one, please submit your order and donation to the church office at least one week before.

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



**Ham & Cabbage
Dinner Fundraiser**
MARCH 16, 2023/ PICKUP 4-7PM
PENIEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 115 E MARKET ST, NEWPORT, DE 19804
**DINNER \$15.00 INCLUDES: HAM, CABBAGE, &
 POTATOES**
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY MARCH 5TH
MORE INFO: (302) 994-9519
OR WWW.PENIELUMC.ORG

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.**

**FYI: The United States Postal
 Service increased the price for a
 regular letter from 60¢ to 63¢.**



**Note: The IRS Mileage Rate for
 2023 has been set at 65.5¢ per
 mile.**



New Al-Anon Meeting!



Women's Al-Anon Family Group is an open meeting available to all women on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm 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.

A Different Type of Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that the person who cut us off in traffic last night could be a single mother who worked 9 hours that day and was rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress could be savoring this moment, knowing that based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is LOVE. It is not enough to share that love with only those we hold dear. Open our hearts not just to those who are close to us but to all humanity.

Let us be slow to judge, quick to forgive, show patience and have empathy.

Amen



March Birthdays



Morgan Straughn March 5
 Beth Warfel March 5
 Paul McGinnes, Jr. March 6
 Ryan Warfel March 6
 Janet Dickerson March 7
 Steven Palmer March 7
 Stephanie Swain March 7
 Kim Cloud March 10
 John DuVall March 10
 Madison Keffer March 10
 David Rogers March 12



Dennis Daniels March 15
 Susan Eveland March 15
 Don Painter March 15
 Kevin Cecelia March 16
 James Chilcutt March 18
 Jackson Beane March 19
 Tom Beane March 22
 Michael Coverdale March 23
 Austin Painter March 23
 James Keffer March 24
 Sue Cummings March 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



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



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 March 2nd for the next podcast.

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

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge	2 9AM BMG – EXT. 11am–2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH	3	4 11AM-2PM OPEN First Saturdays – The Shoppe at RPUMC Cub Pack 339 – Bowling
5 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	6 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH	7	8	9 9AM BMG – EXT. 11am–2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH	10	11
12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UMIF – Ext.	13 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH 6:30PM-8:30PM Grief Share Session 1 – Zoom	14	15 2PM Book Club "Sam" – Lounge	16 9AM BMG – EXT. 11am–2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 Cub Pack 339 – Pinewood Derby 11am Koinonia – Ext. (covered dish)
19 UMCOR SUNDAY 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustees Mtg. – Lounge	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH 6:30PM -8:30PM Grief Share Session 2 – Zoom	21	22  Messenger Deadline Articles Due	23 9AM BMG – EXT. 11am–2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH	24	25
26 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	27 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH 6:30PM -8:30PM Grief Share Session 3 – Zoom	28	29	30 9AM BMG – EXT. 11am–2pm -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH	31	

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

**COME ON OUT AND SHOP
FIRST SATURDAYS' AT
THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC**

March 4th | 11 AM-2 PM

PRE-LOVED GOODS

DISCOVER GREAT FINDS



 @rpumchurch.org
proceeds benefit
missions/outreach



ALTAR EASTER LILIES

If you would like to place a lily on the Altar for Easter, please return this form to the church office by Sunday, April 2nd. Cost of each plant is \$9.00. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church and mark "Easter Lilies" in the memo. Thank you.

Number of Plants _____ x \$9.00 = _____

Donor's Name _____

In Memory of _____
(for those not living) _____

In Honor of _____
(for those living) _____

In Memory of _____
and Honor of _____

Check/Amount Enclosed: _____

Shall we deliver your flower to a Church Shut-In? YES ___ NO ___

Please arrange to pick up your flowers immediately after the Easter worship service if they are not being delivered to a shut-in
Thank you.





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:

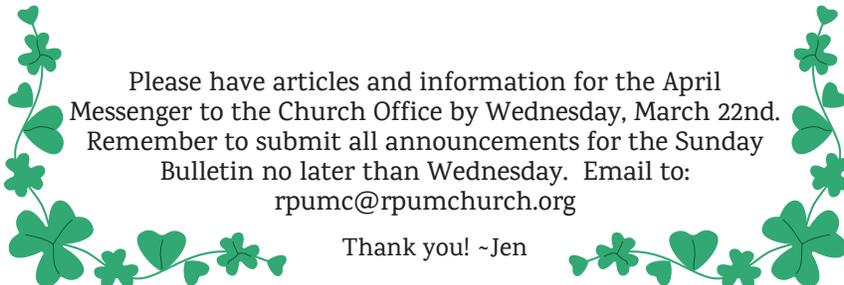
rpumchurch.org/html/streaming_service.html or Facebook at: facebook.com/rpumchurch

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 April Messenger to the Church Office by Wednesday, March 22nd. 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.