

OCTOBER 2024



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*Written by Rev. Chris Pennington*

For many people, October 31st is a day to dress up in costumes and travel from door to door asking for candy. In some traditions, it is even required that kids tell a joke before receiving candy! For many Christians, especially those of the Lutheran tradition, October 31st is Reformation Day. On this day we celebrate God's work through his servant, Martin Luther, to preserve the message of the gospel as the free gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ through faith alone.

As many of us likely know, on October 31st, 1517 tradition holds that Martin Luther nailed 95 theses or disputes on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, the location of the University at which he taught. The theses were written against the teachings of indulgences, purgatory, and other beliefs and practices of the church that were inconsistent with the clear teaching of the Bible. As a pastor of Wittenberg's Town Church, Luther was concerned about the large number of believers who no longer came to confession and would justify this with the indulgence that they bought. Indulgences were slips of paper, sold by officials of the church and signed by the pope. These slips of paper granted God's forgiveness of sins and reduced time in purgatory for the purchaser. The church was selling God's gift of forgiveness of sins that was intended to be free!

Luther's resistance to the practice of indulgences and others was seen as a threat by the leaders of the church and led many in the Christian church at the time to disagree with him. The church eventually labeled him as a heretic and excommunicated him. As a result, Luther took his reform movement outside of the church in order to preserve the true teachings of Scripture. The Reformation movement and indeed the whole Christian church are founded on the following biblical teachings:

Grace alone:

At the center of the Christian faith is the assurance that salvation is based on the unearned free gift of God's grace. Though we are sinners, disobedient children, deserving of God's wrath and anger, we receive the riches of his love and forgiveness.

*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.*



### Faith alone:

God's gift of grace is received through faith in what Jesus has done for us. Our good works and the good things that we do flow out of having a right relationship with God, but these good things do not have the power to make us right with God. In St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians he says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (2:8-9). This is the teaching that separates Christianity from all other world religions. Other religions point to what we have to do in order to be made right with God. Christianity points to what Jesus has done for us to make us right with God. Through God's Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, our faith is created and sustained.

### Scripture alone:

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It alone is the source for what we believe and what we practice in the Christian church. All other gifts that God has given to us and to the church such as tradition, experience, and human reason function to serve our understanding of the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the Scriptures are used to judge the validity of these things, not the other way around.

### Christ alone:

Our basis and assurance of salvation is the person of Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection. Christianity is both inclusive and exclusive. The Gospel writer John tells us that, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (3:16). Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

During the month of October, I encourage you to take some time to remember Reformation Day and the core teachings of Christianity that were preserved by God through Martin Luther. Be comforted by the fact that God continues to work through particular people in particular places to turn people from sin and error so that they might flee for refuge and safety in the cleft of the rock of Jesus Christ alone. Take solace in the truth that God continues to curb you from sin and error and preserve your life in Christ alone through his holy Word and Sacraments. As Luther said in stanza two of his famous hymn, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God: "For us fights the valiant one, whom God himself elected. Ask ye, who is this? Jesus Christ it is, of sabaoth Lord. And there's none other God; he holds the field forever."

In Christ,  
Pastor Chris



### **November 1st is All Saints' Day**

We will celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 3rd with a Service of Remembrance. On that day you are invited to come light a candle in honor and remembrance. If you cannot join us on that day, we will light a candle for you. The names of those we love and have lost will be read during our service. If you would like to include your loved one, please reach out to the office (302-654-0961) to make sure your loved one's name is on our list of people being honored.





United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

The leaves are hanging colors and falling to the ground - why, it must be Autumn! It's wonderful to observe the changes God provides. Now, my dear friends, this means additional ways to share the love and blessings God has given to each one of us.

At our September meeting, 14 women attended. What a way to start! I thank each one of you for supporting our mission outreach and providing all of those goodies for Rally Sunday. This was a start to our programs. Get ready for more opportunities.

Our October meeting is on the 13th following the worship service. Please join our lively group of women in the church extension. One of the ways you can help is during Laity Sunday. This is a way to show the congregation we exist and help spread God's love by action which can lead to change.

My friends, please continue to share God's love with the folks you meet each day - a greeting or a smile can mean quite a lot.

Now - your assignment:

1. Read Psalm 16
2. Attend our meeting on October 13
3. Come to Laity Sunday and wear your flower pin.
4. Enjoy every day!

Blessings from Marlene

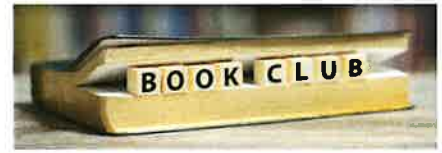


## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

Have you noticed leaves falling from the trees? What colors are the leaves? Why is this happening? Cooler weather is on the way and that means Children's Church has started! It was wonderful to see so many of you on Rally Day. I hope to share time with you this month of October. I wonder what will be at the Discovery Center? Will the hula hoop come back? Will our friend Hercommer visit? You must come to Children's Church to place a sticker on the attendance chart, light a candle, sing a song and learn more about God.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



## BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

Our September meeting was held on Friday, September 20th at 2pm at the church. We discussed "We Are the Light", by Matthew Quick. We had a lively, very interesting discussion.

Our October meeting will be on Friday, October 11th at 2pm at the church. We will discuss "The Family Game" by Catherine Steadman. If anyone has trouble getting a copy please let me know. I have access to 2 copies.

Coming attractions include "I Know Who You Are" by Barbara Rae-Venter, "Hidden Pictures" by Jason Rekulak, "The Housemaid's Secret" by Freida McFadden and several books by Ariel Lawson ("The Frozen River" and "Flight of Dreams").

Thanks, Paul

## 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 from Fellowship Hall. 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 130 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

## 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



## TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

Every month it's a challenge to write on a new topic and have it be relevant to as many readers as possible. There is no reasonable way, in the space allotted for these tips to cover all the topics. To address that issue it may be worth looking at the types of protection needed and discuss how they work an easy application to start with is virus protection.

What exactly does an anti virus program do? A virus program is distributed by embedding the virus code in a normal legitimate program. The method of discovery was simply examining all data disks for an easily identified string of characters. As the hackers got better, and techniques evolved more and more virus code was created and distributed in legitimate applications. Anti-virus vendors needed to identify and test for thousands of character strings. Even today the primary function of anti-virus software is look for known character strings associated with virus code. Ever notice how many anti-virus updates are received. The updates carry the new character strings that need to be searched for.

The greatest weakness of anti-virus programs is keeping up with all the strings that must be tested for. In summary the primary purpose of an anti-virus program is search for and eliminate identifiable character strings. There are a number of other tasks that have been added over the years and those will be covered another time.

If you have any questions or suggestions send an email to [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org) or call the church office.



**October 14th**



## 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

## FLOWER CONTAINERS NEEDED

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 from Marlene



## 10 PRAYER SECRETS

Supernatural Power  
for Your Breakthrough

## BIBLE STUDY

BY REV. TONY ARRINGTON

From Pastor Tony's Desk...

Attention: Church and community members!

I am excited to introduce my first teaching opportunity and offering for RPUMC: "10 Prayer Secrets, Supernatural Power for Your Breakthrough" by Hakeem Collins. It doesn't matter if you are a seasoned prayer warrior or a new comer to prayer, this book will propel your prayer life beyond your wildest expectations.

Come and join in as the Lord opens our spirits and invites us to be purpose driven with our prayers and powers us to see the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit working through us in miraculous ways! Classes will be held in the Lounge at RPUMC on Tuesdays from 1pm to 2:30pm starting on September 17th. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up now at [rpumchurch.org](http://rpumchurch.org) and get your book!



## ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

**Hello RPUMC Family!**  
 We are pleased to announce that **ONLINE GIVING** is NOW Available.

You can support the work and ministry of Richardson Park UMC through your tithes and offerings by either sending them in the mail or 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)

## Peniel Soup Kitchen

PENIEL UMC CHURCH

*Soup Kitchen*

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY  
 FROM 10AM to 12PM

OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS  
 A HOT MEAL

115 E Market St, Newport, DE 19804

**FREE BREAD**

**Thursday 9:00am - 12:30pm**  
**Friday 9:00am - 12:30pm**  
**Sunday 11:15 am - 12:30 pm**


PENIEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 115 E. MARKET STREET NEWPORT, DE 19804



### 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.





### Women's 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.



### 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 October 3rd for the next podcast. You can join at 8:00am or listen any time on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts or at: [pdcbbc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html](http://pdcbbc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html)



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Boyd October 1  
 Brittany Brown October 1  
 Allison Cox October 2  
 Chrysta Martin October 3  
 Dee Dee Painter October 3  
 Jane Thomas October 3  
 Tim Williamson October 3  
 Edward Przywara October 4  
 Alissa Ayala October 6  
 Lincoln Klingler October 6  
 Roger Longest October 6  
 Mike Phillips October 6  
 Cheryl Chilcutt October 7  
 Angela Buhner October 8  
 Jessica Donnelly October 9  
 Tony DiMauro October 10  
 Logan Phillips October 10  
 Kaia Phillips October 10



Melissa Hughes October 11  
 Chelsea Chilcutt October 12  
 Sarah Pasmore October 12  
 Dan Freebery October 13  
 Emma Perugini October 13  
 Dennis Earvase October 16  
 Yvette Hayman October 17  
 Riley Kaucz October 29  
 Patrick Donnelly October 22  
 Lovedy Berkley October 26  
 Dianna Deaton October 26  
 Paulette Lazzaro October 26  
 Eric Fleming October 27  
 Tod Mitten October 27  
 Scott Cloud October 28  
 Ashley Lang Blevins October 30  
 Anthony Steward October 31

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



**thank you**  
 PASTOR

LORD, THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING  
 OUR PASTOR TO SHEPHERD OUR CHURCH

Pastor Appreciation 2024

WORLD COMMUNION 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

October 6th

TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

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

*Thank You*

Thank you to the members of RPUMC who so graciously helped with the preparations for the Memorial Service on September 14 for my husband, Bob Thomas. I could not have planned and carried out all the decisions and tasks associated with that day without the involvement of many people in the church. Many thanks as well for the cards and other expressions of sympathy. I truly feel the love and support of my RPUMC family.

With sincere appreciation,  
 Phyllis Thomas

Come join  
 Scout Troop 339!

MONDAY NIGHTS  
 AT 6:30 PM

Contact troop339de@gmail.com

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

October 6-Beth Robinson  
 At the Cross: Fran Tebbutt  
 October 13-Susan Watkins  
 October 20-Nancy Quillen  
 October 27-Kathy Rogers

# OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 1PM-2:30PM Bible Study - Lounge	<b>2</b> 6:30PM Scouts Board Mtg. - Lounge	<b>3</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>4</b>	<b>5 FH RESERVED</b> OPEN First Saturdays'-The Shoppe & Annex at RPUMC
<b>6 WORLD COMMUNION DAY</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School - Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time- Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1PM-2:30PM Bible Study - Lounge	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>11</b> 2PM Book Club- Lounge	<b>12</b>
<b>13 PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time- Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UWif Mtg.- Ext.	<b>14 COLUMBUS DAY</b> 	<b>15</b> 1PM-2:30PM Bible Study - Lounge	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	 <b>Newsletter</b> Messenger Deadline Articles Due	<b>19</b> 11AM Koinonia Mtg.-Ext.
<b>20 LAITY SUNDAY</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School -Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time- Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustee Mtg.- Lounge	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1PM-2:30PM Bible Study - Lounge	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School - Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time - Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 HALLOWEEN</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH 		

## COME ON OUT & SHOP AT THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC

on Thursdays 11 AM-2 PM  
and select FIRST SATURDAYS'

**PRE-LOVED GOODS**  
**DISCOVER GREAT FINDS**

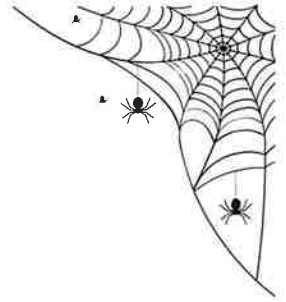


Thank you for supporting the mission.



@rpumchurch.org

PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
MISSIONS/OUTREACH



*The Messenger*



October 2024

**RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305  
Office: (302) 654-0961  
E-Mail: [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)  
Website: [www.rpumchurch.org](http://www.rpumchurch.org)

Rev. J. Christopher Pennington  
E-Mail: [pastorchris@rpumchurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@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:

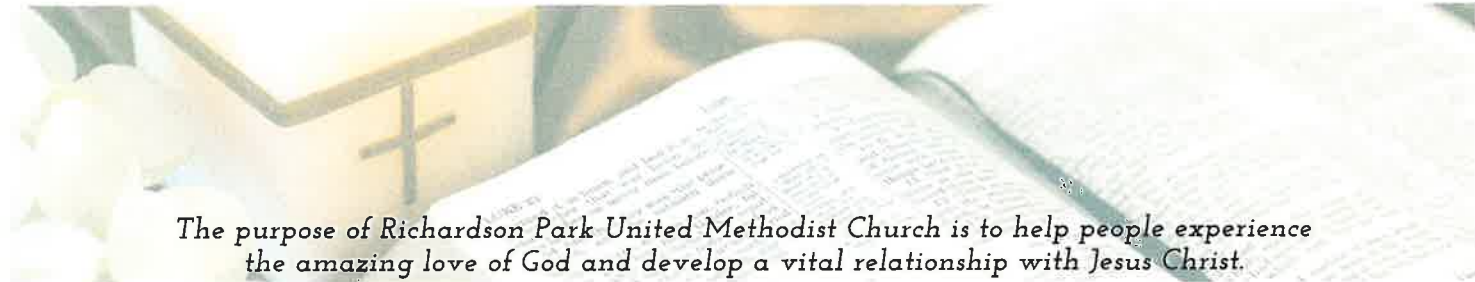
[rpumchurch.org/html/streaming\\_service.html](http://rpumchurch.org/html/streaming_service.html) or  
Facebook at: [facebook.com/rpumchurch](https://facebook.com/rpumchurch)

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



Please have articles and information for the November Messenger to the Church Office by Friday, October 18th. Remember to submit all announcements for the Sunday Bulletin no later than Wednesday. Email to: [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)

Thank you! -Jen



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