

**SEPTEMBER 2024**



## **A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR**

*Written by Rev. Chris Pennington*

As we begin the uncharted territory of the new school year, I thought I'd reflect on learning. We are called to be life-long learners. After all, faith is not a goal to be reached, not a destination at which we ever arrive, but a journey we take that lasts us our whole life. While there may be rest stops and detours along the way, for the most part, we are called to continue traveling that path, trusting that Christ walks with us along the way. This journey of faith involves our whole self ("Love God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength"). It involves worship, prayer, and service, as we seek to experience and live out our faith. But we're also called to seek an understanding of our faith (as much as that can be attained), and that involves study. Whether we are 2 or 102, we are called to be learners, to put our brains to use for better understanding God's word and God's will for us. We can learn in several different ways.

One way we learn is for information. When we do this, we focus on facts. We delve into history and context, seeking to understand the author's objective and meaning. Learning for information is like a research project in which we are discovering knowledge about God. I love this kind of learning, but it's not the primary way God calls us to be learners. The information we learn should lead to formation. That means the information is meant to take root in our hearts and help reshape us into followers of Christ. Learning for formation helps us understand right from wrong, seek purpose and meaning, and look for how God is at work in our lives. Learning this way allows the information we gather to form our thinking and acting. While this is an important step in the journey of faith, it's not the final one. The ultimate goal of learning is transformation. As the information forms us, we are changed from who we were to who God wants us to be. Paul says in Romans, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." Through our learning, we are transformed as we grow from knowing about God to knowing and being known by God.

Let's keep our kids in our prayers this fall as they go about the task of learning but let's also challenge ourselves to be the best students we can be!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Chris

*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

September is here! This means our circle meetings will resume. It will be wonderful to see all of you. We will be meeting following the worship service on September 8th in the extension. At our meeting we will have a short devotion, plan our contribution to Rally Day on September 15th and discuss a few other issues.

So many of our Women in Faith are busy year round with volunteer work at the church. Let me name a few:

1. Assist at the Shoppe
2. Prepare "bags of blessings"
3. Work during free lunch
4. Visit and send cards to shut-ins
5. Deliver altar flowers
6. Bring children's books to be delivered
7. Set up in the extension for Sunday morning fellowship time.

Yes, the United Women in Faith are a great group. If you would like to join us, stop by on September 8th- we will love to see you!!

Continue to share God's love with folks you meet each day. . . a smile or a greeting means quite a lot.

Your assignment:

1. Attend our meeting on September 8th
2. Read Psalm 55:22
3. Wear your flower pin.

Blessings from Marlene

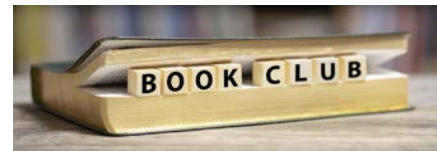


## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

September is here! I hope to see all of you on September 8. We will meet in the back of the sanctuary and go as a group up to our room. I can't wait to hear what adventures you had this summer! I wonder what will be at the Discovery Station? Will you receive a sticker for attending? You will need to come on September 8 to find the answers! I will be looking forward to seeing you!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



## BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

Our August meeting was held on Friday, August 9th at 2pm at the church. We discussed "The Guest List", by Lucy Foley. We had a lively, very interesting discussion.

Our September meeting will be on Friday, September 20th at 2pm at the church. We will discuss "We Are the Light", by Matthew Quick. 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, "Family Game" by Catherine Steadman, "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

Is WIFI wired or not wired?

Back in the beginning days of personal computers there was no such thing as WIFI as all computers were connected by wires. Did not matter that much as there was no internet. Machine to machine communication was largely confined to data centers using wires or sneaker net (a machine to machine connection involving the use of sneakers). Buildings were connected by communication equipment and wires. The next iteration of machine-to-machine communication was accomplished over standard telephone lines. Each computer was connected to a modem which was connected to a phone line (aka wire).

This evolved into networks. The wires became better, and the internal infrastructure became more complicated. Every location with a computer had a wired connection which led to a switch. Every floor in a building had a switch which was connected to another switch. Devices called routers determined which switch to send data to. Still a wire to every computer.

All these wires are way to complicated for the average user so ways were needed to distribute data in a less labor-intensive manner. So they figured out how to send network signals using radio. Now networking could be achieved using one wire from outside the home or business and then distribute the signal using radio. Each computer has a radio to receive and send signals in a manner which emulates wired connections. All this works great if the walls are thin and don't block signals. When this happens, a wire is added to the wireless router, which is connected to another wireless router closer to the blocked computer.

So, at the end of the day is WIFI wired or wireless? Asked another way, will wireless work without wireless. If your answer to that question is no then is wireless really wireless?

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



## 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



### ALTAR FLOWERS

September 1-Ed Ide

September 8-Cherie Krebs

September 15-Sandy Ide

September 22-Joe & Brenda Tucker

September 29 - OPEN





## 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  
**September 5th** 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)



Join Us!

You Are Invited To:

National Back to Church Sunday at

Richardson Park UMC for

**RALLY DAY 2024!**

Sunday, September 15th at 10:30am

Live worship & Children's Church



Come join us for vibrant Worship and  
Sunday School!

Following Worship we will have fun  
for all with games, lunch and more.

**A great day of worship & celebration!**



**Fun and games for the whole family!**

Learn about RPUMC:

- All are Welcome
- What makes Richardson Park an amazing community
- Our dedication to our community - local & global
- Our Sunday school program that teaches children values of kindness, compassion and generosity through bible stories

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

**All are Welcome!**

Rain or Shine



# 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  
 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



**Come join  
 Scout Troop 339!**



**MONDAY NIGHTS  
 AT 6:30 PM**

**Contact [troop339de@gmail.com](mailto:troop339de@gmail.com)**

## BIBLE STUDY

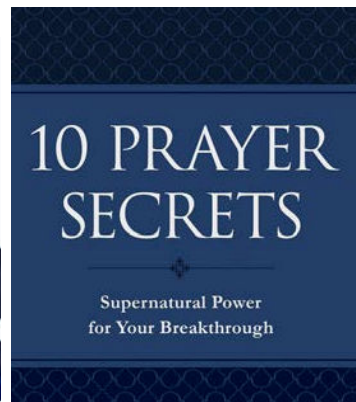
BY REV. TONY ARRINGTON

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 11am to 12:30pm starting on September 17th. A light lunch will be served. Please sign up now at ([rpumchurch.org](http://rpumchurch.org)) and get your book!



# SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> No Adult Sunday School this week 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship Service	<b>2 LABOR DAY</b> CHURCH OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSED 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30PM Scouts Board Mtg. - Lounge	<b>5</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> CLOSED First Saturdays'-The Shoppe & Annex at RPUMC
<b>8 GRANDPARENTS DAY</b> No Adult Sunday School this week 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UWIF Mtg.-Ext.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11 PATRIOT DAY</b> 	<b>12</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>13</b> 2PM Book Club-Lounge	<b>14 FH RESERVED</b>
<b>15 RALLY DAY! BACK TO CHURCH PICNIC ON THE LAWN</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11AM-12:30PM Bible Study - Lounge	<b>18</b>	<b>19</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>21</b> 11AM Koinonia Mtg.-Ext.
<b>22 FH RESERVED AUTUMN BEGINS</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School -Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustee Mtg.-Lounge	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11AM-12:30PM Bible Study - Lounge	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School - Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time -Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>30</b>					

**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*



September 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  
Cell Phone (302) 229-5626  
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.



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



Please have articles and information for the October Messenger to the Church Office by Friday, September 20th. 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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