

FEBRUARY 2025



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*Written by Rev. Anthony A. Arrington*

Greetings Richardson Park Family,

As we step into the month of February, there is so much to celebrate! This month, we are not only excited about the big win from the Eagles, but also about the ongoing story of unity, love and grace. It's a time to reflect on the victories in our lives, honor the rich history of Black Americans, and celebrate the love that binds us all together through Jesus Christ.

First, let's take a moment to celebrate the Philadelphia Eagles' victory in the NFC Championship! What an incredible achievement, filled with determination, teamwork and perseverance. Whether you're an avid Eagles fan or not, this victory is a reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together, put in the effort, and trust in each other's strengths.

As we reflect on the excitement of this win, we can draw parallels to the victories in our own lives. Just as the Eagles relied on each other's unique talents to secure the championship, we too are called to work together as a community to fulfill the mission God has given us. **1 Corinthians 12:12-14** reminds us that though we are many parts, we are all one body in Christ. We celebrate not just the win, but the spirit of unity that makes it possible.

February is also a time to honor Black History Month, a month dedicated to recognizing the profound contributions, struggles, and resilience of Black Americans throughout history. We celebrate leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, and so many others who paved the way for freedom, justice, and equality.

Their courage and faith in God's love carried them through struggles, and it is through their sacrifices that we continue to build a more inclusive society. We can look to their example and be reminded of the importance of standing up for justice and showing love and compassion for all people, just as Jesus taught us.

As we reflect on these heroes of faith and strength, we pray for continued progress, healing, and unity within our communities. Let us remember that **Galatians 3:28** tells us, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

### **Valentine's Day - A Celebration of Love**

As we approach Valentine's Day, we're reminded of the greatest love story of all: the love of Jesus Christ.

*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.*

Valentine's Day often centers on romantic love, but it's a beautiful opportunity to reflect on God's unconditional love for us--a love that transcends all boundaries.

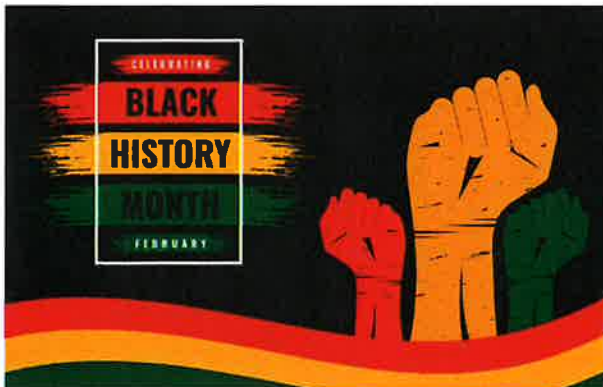
Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate expression of love. **John 15:13** tell us, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." This Valentine's Day, let's not only cherish the relationships we have with our loved ones but also celebrate the boundless love of Christ, who calls us to love one another as He loves us.

Let us show this love in our communities by caring for those around us, reaching out to the lonely, supporting the marginalized, and extending grace to those who need it most.

All things are tied together in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Whether we're cheering for a team, honoring a legacy, or celebrating relationships, we are all called to love and serve one another.

Let's continue to reflect God's love in all we do, knowing that His grace is sufficient and that through Him, we are more than conquerors. Together, let's live out the call to love one another deeply, honor the past, and walk into the future united in Christ's love.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tony





United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

February is the month we think of the groundhog prediction of the weather. It is also a month of Love (Valentine's Day). As United Women in Faith, we associated love with God. Isn't that the way it should be?! Our group of like-minded women share God's wondrous love every day- Thank you!

On February 9th, this wonderful group of women will meet following the worship service. The short meeting is held in the church extension following worship. Yes, I did say a short meeting. We have attended a wonderful worship....so we can begin our meeting. What will be on the agenda? Come and discover new ways to share God's love, share other's ideas and seek new adventures. Of course, we always have wonderful conversations to share.

Now, my sisters in faith:

1. Attend our meeting in the extension on February 9 following worship service
2. Share how you shared God's love and caring in the past month- you know I will ask!
3. Read Galatians 5:22.

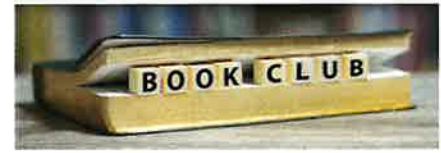
Blessings from your sister in faith, Marlene

## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

I have missed many of you in the month of January! You missed exciting adventures- making stand-up people that shared the story of Jesus' birth, a new attendance chart for January 2025 and the discovery center! We even made doors that opened to welcome Jesus! Don't miss the excitement of February! If you attend at least 2 times in the month, you may select a book from the special book table and a bookmark. There are songs to sing and candles to light- we look forward to seeing you! Meet at 10:30am in the back of the sanctuary- I will be waiting for you.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



## BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

Our January meeting was held on Friday, January 10th at 2 pm at the church. We discussed "Winter Street" by Elin Hilderbrand. We had a lively, very interesting discussion.

Our February meeting will be on Friday, February 14th at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "Must Love Flowers" by Debbie Macomber. If anyone has trouble getting a copy, please let me know. I hope to have access to an extra copy.

We received information on the New Castle Reads event for 2025, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7 pm. Our book club has been registered to receive copies of the book. We are planning to attend again this year. The author and the book (Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt) appear to be very interesting.

Coming attractions include "The Wedding Planner" by Danielle Steel, "Dreamland: A Novel" by Nicholas Sparks, "Hidden Pictures" by Jason Rekulak, "The Housemaid's Secret" by Freida McFadden, and several books by Ariel Lawhon ("The Frozen River" and "Flight of Dreams").

## 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



## TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

This article is intended to present some information for thought and to get you to think about an impending problem.

How many of you take photos with your cell phones with the expectation of viewing them in the future?

Back in the day we used some sort of camera and took photos on a roll of film. Then take the film to the drug store or photo shop and have the negatives printed on paper. Do you still have those prints? With proper care they last for a long time.

Then came digital cameras. No more film processing right? Well maybe not. My first digital camera recorded images on a floppy disk. I still have the camera but it's getting hard to find floppy disks, the ones I do own have a self life and finding a computer to read floppy disks is difficult.

Next came digital cards, thumb drives, cd's and other digital media. Notice how over time the formats of storage media keep changing.

All these things are food for thought as you take the family photos on your cell phone. How long do you think the formats being used to store the photos will still be readable as the cell phone hardware evolves? 10, 20 or 30 years from now. Will we still be able to read or look at the pictures we are taking now? Give it some thought. Next month the topic will be how to store and protect your data.

If there is a special topic you want to see just send a note to [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto: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

## 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

## 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



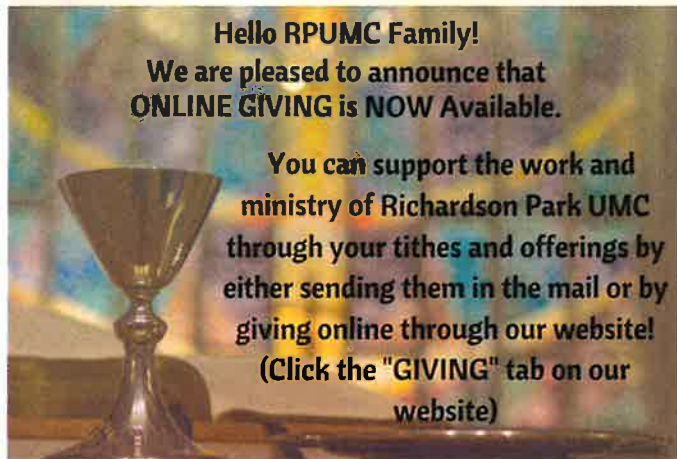


## ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

### 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)



### 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.

### Recovery Bible Study

For people recovering from drug, alcohol and other addictions, the traditional church is not always the most comfortable place. But two United Methodist deaconesses are changing that with a new Life Recovery Bible Study.

On January 8, 2025, a new online group will begin that combines the best of 12-step recovery programs, the Bible, and the writing John Wesley, Methodism's founder, explained Deaconess Colleen Moskov of St. Mark's UMC in Easton.

The materials used in the group were created by Deaconess Kathy Loomis, who created curriculum for a similar Recovery Bible Study in Colorado. It is designed specifically for United Methodists in the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Area to combine recovery and spirituality in meaningful and relevant ways.

The 75-minute bi-weekly sessions begin January 8th at 6:30 p.m. Those who wish to participate should contact Kathy Loomis, ([kathy.loomis@belongchurch.org](mailto:kathy.loomis@belongchurch.org)) who will send them details about the meeting a few days before the gathering. All are invited. For more information, contact Colleen Moskov at [colleenmoskov@gmail.com](mailto:colleenmoskov@gmail.com).

It can be found on the website: <https://www.pen-del.org/newsdetail/recovery-bible-study-18748243>

### Urgent Call for Volunteers Strengthen Our Disaster Response Team Today!

The Peninsula-Delaware Disaster Response and Recovery Team urgently needs your help. Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, our pool of trained Early Response Team (ERT) members has drastically diminished. These teams, typically composed of six to eight members skilled in various disaster recovery tasks, are crucial for effective disaster response. Currently, only two trained members remain in our Conference, severely limiting our ability to respond to emergencies.

We need more volunteers to step up and get trained. Basic ERT training is just 8 hours, with advanced courses taking 4 hours each. Training can be arranged at your church, and multiple churches can collaborate to host these sessions. Volunteers do not need to be church members but must align with our UMC beliefs.

Click the link below to sign up for training or to get more information. The Disaster Relief Team will reach out to you with all the details you need and answer any questions you might have. Your participation can make a big difference!

<https://pendel-reg.brtapp.com/DisasterRelief>

**Come join  
Scout Troop 339!**



**MONDAY NIGHTS  
AT 6:30 PM**

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

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Terri Snead February 1  
 Anastasia Hayman February 2  
 Edward Podgorski February 4  
 Beverly Cuomo February 5  
 Terry Bourdon February 7  
 Carol Cathell February 10  
 Mary Sutor February 11  
 Brian Crozier February 12  
 Terri Antonine February 13  
 Cassandra King February 13  
 Byrom Price February 13



Ellen Willard February 14  
 Robert Davis February 16  
 Kathy Gibbons February 20  
 Bettie Smith February 20  
 Robert Truitt February 20  
 Kristin Fleming February 21  
 Bethany Pasmore February 21  
 Morgan Coverdale February 23  
 Donna Daniels February 23  
 Ben Brindle February 24  
 Kim Przybylski February 26

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

## The HOPP Expands Across Delaware & Maryland

The Harvest Outreach People's Project (The HOPP) is excited to announce its expansion across Delaware and into parts of Maryland in 2025. Guided by our mission of "Connecting People from Place to Place" by providing access to Food, Social Services, Health, and Tech, we are committed to serving families and strengthening communities throughout the region.

This month, we invite you to join us for **New Castle County's Pack and Pray at Asbury UMC, 300 E Basin Rd, New Castle, DE**, on January 22nd from **9 AM - 1 PM**. This event is a wonderful opportunity to come together in service as we prepare food and resources for families in need. We encourage everyone to serve with us as we live out our calling to be the hands and feet of Christ.

In February, we will host **Kent County's first-ever Pack and Pray event** as part of our growing outreach. To support this expansion, The HOPP is seeking **churches, mission teams, and organizations** to serve as monthly distribution locations each **4th Friday**. These partnerships are vital to ensuring families across the region have consistent access to the resources they need.

If your church or organization is interested in joining us in this impactful mission, please reach out to Mike (Mikab@Bethesdaumcde.org) or Travis by calling **888-323-HOPP (4677)**. Together, we can extend our reach and deepen the impact of The HOPP in 2025.

As we grow, we remain committed to our mission of "Connecting People from Place to Place" and ensuring that no family is left behind. Thank you for your prayers, support, and dedication to this transformative work. Together, we are building stronger, healthier communities.

**HOPP**  
THE HARVEST OUTREACH PEOPLE'S PROJECT

**NEW CASTLE COUNTY**

# 4TH FRIDAYS

"connecting people from place to place"

**FEB 28**

1-888-323-HOPP (4677)  
WWW.THEHOPP.ORG

**FOOD GIVEWAY SITES**

ASBURY AFRESH UMC // 10:00AM 300 E. BASIN RD, NEW CASTLE	BETHESDA UMC // 12:00PM 116 E. MAIN ST. MIDDLETOWN
WILMINGTON MANOR LIONS CLUB // 10:30AM WESTERN SENIOR CENTER 11 BASSETT, NEW CASTLE	DALE LEE HAVEN UMC // 12:00PM 143 E. LAKE ST. MIDDLETOWN
PENIEL UMC // 11:00AM 115 E MARKET ST NEWPORT	BUTTONWOOD UMC // 12:00PM 1700 WILMINGTON RD NEW CASTLE
WILMINGTON UNITED LIONS CLUB // 11:00AM	ALDERSGATE UMC // 12:30PM 2313 CONCORD PIKE, WILMINGTON
CONSCIOUS CONNECTIONS 22 E 23 RD WILMINGTON	SIMPSON UMC // 12:30PM DELIVERY ONLY, WILMINGTON
RICHARDSON PARK UMC // 11:00AM 11 N MARYLAND AVE. WILMINGTON	LINDA'S ANGELS CHILD CARE // 1:00PM 6 PARKWAY CT NEW CASTLE
TREE OF LIFE // 11:30AM 109 GLASGOW DR, NEWARK, DE 19702	INTERFAITH COMMUNITY HOUSING // 2:00PM 613 N WASHINGTON, WILMINGTON
UNION UMC // 10:00AM 345 SCHOOL BELL RD, BEAR, DE	



## PARTNERS



# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>  <b>February</b> First Saturdays'- at The Shoppe & Annex at RPUMC
<b>2 GROUNDHOG DAY</b> <b>UMC SCOUTING SUNDAY</b> <b>FH RESERVED</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time- Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UWIF Mtg.- Ext.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge 6:30PM SPRC Mtg. - Ext.	<b>6</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>7</b> 2PM Book Club- Lounge	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time- Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>14 VALENTINE'S</b> <b>DAY</b> 	<b>15</b> 11AM Koinonia Mtg.-Ext.
<b>16</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time- Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustee Mtg.- Lounge	<b>17 PRESIDENTS'</b> <b>DAY</b>  <b>Church Office &amp;</b> <b>Building Closed</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Messenger</b> <b>Deadline</b> <b>Articles Due</b>	<b>20</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>21</b>	<b>22 FH RESERVED</b>
<b>23</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time- Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch-FH	<b>31</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*



February 2025



**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. Anthony A. Arrington  
E-Mail: [pastor@rpumchurch.org](mailto: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:

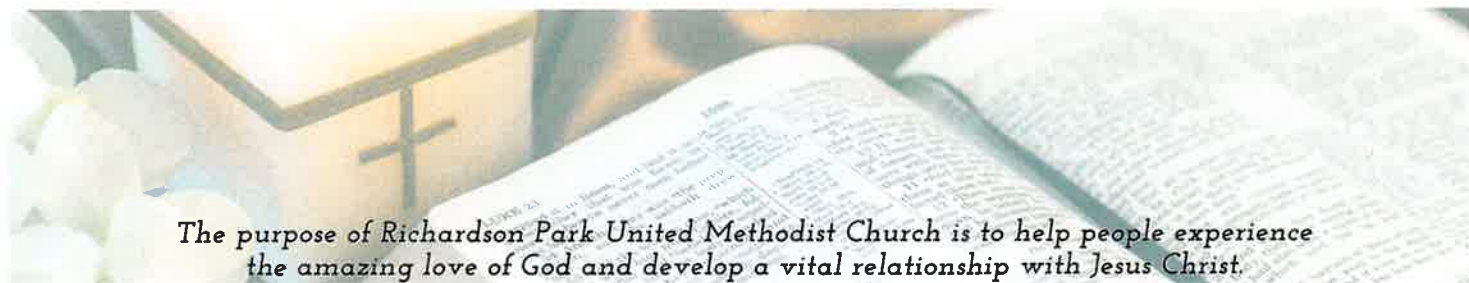
[rpumchurch.org/html/streaming\\_service.html](http://rpumchurch.org/html/streaming_service.html) or  
Facebook at: [facebook.com/rpumchurch](https://facebook.com/rpumchurch)

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

**February 17th**  
 ★★★ HAPPY ★★★  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY**  
 ★★★★★★★★★★  
 The Church Office & building  
 will be closed  
 Monday, February 17th



Please have articles and information for the March Messenger to the Church Office by Wed., February 19th. 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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