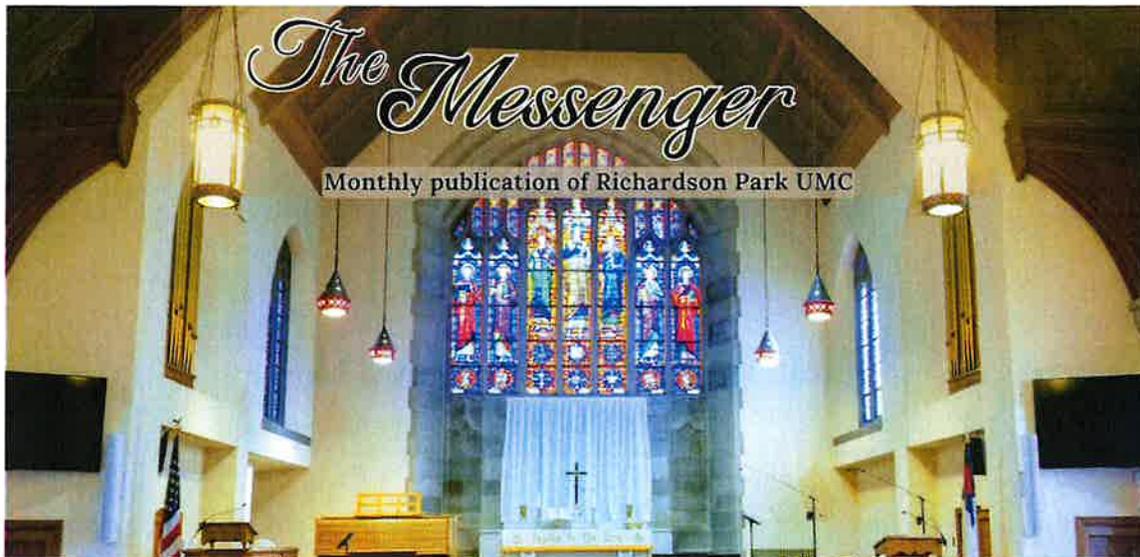


MARCH 2026



**FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK**

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

The Christian's prayer life deserves special attention during this season of Lent, because it is so important to how we claim and hold onto our spiritual strength for living a righteous, loving and godly way all year round.

We pray so that we can grow in our capacity to stay steady and resilient in showing our reverence for the Lord Jesus and his image and likeness. We pray to maintain immovable faith in him - faith that will always sustain us whenever we are faced with temptation, doubt, fear and weakness. And especially during this Lenten season we pray so that our attitudes, our thinking and behavior toward the sacrifice of Christ for our salvation is what it ought to be to reflect our commitment to Christ as our Savior and Lord. The center of attention is not on ourselves, but on the Lord God, as in the psalmist David's prayer, which we know as Psalm 51.

In Psalm 51 David asks God to create in him a clean heart, and to put a new and a right spirit in him. David pleads for a heart set on God first and foremost, a heart able to be holy, reverent, kind, honest, moral, patient, loving, understanding, gentle, humble, patient and committed.

David asks for a heart that's been cleansed of wanting to hold grudges; of handing on to old hurts; and being satisfied in laziness and complacency.

Once David has a clean heart he believes he must have a new spirit. He wants to be built up and fixed with a renewed free will that desires and intends to live for God and through God too. David believes a right spirit from God will help him to resist temptation and keep him consecrated for the Lord God's praise and glory.

The Lord God wants us too broken of negative attitudes that block and stop our feeling sorrow about our sin. The breaking of our will to commit sin is the sacrifice we make that is acceptable to God, as well as our evidence of a contrite heart, our true remorse.

God simply desires to transform us and exalt us into better disciples of His Son. Our prayers for a clean heart and new and right spirit this Lenten season is our promise and commitment that we will not fight God in doing so.

Rev. Candy Miles, Pastor

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

A quote from Psalm 90:17 is appropriate for our dedicated Women in Faith. "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us: establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands."

So many of our wonderful women continually find "work for their hands". It is always exciting to share what work we have found to do and spread God's Love as we complete these tasks. Don't ever stop!

It was decided at our February 8th meeting to have the 2026 yearbook. There are a few different pages and a listing of activities we pursue. You will also find a picture of the group that attended the gathering after our meeting. What a wonderful time we shared. Thank you to everyone who made our time together special.

Our next meeting will be on March 8th. This will be our Lenten Remembrance. We will meet in Fellowship Hall following the worship service for this meaningful time together. Please plan to attend and share this time together.

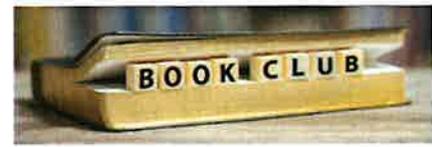
Now, my sisters in Faith:

1. Mark your calendars for our special Lenten Remembrance on March 8
2. Read: 1 John 4:7-12.

A closing prayer:

Lord, help me to show tenderness and unfailing love to my family and friends. Help me show folks Your caring through my actions. Amen.

Blessings from Marlene



BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

Our February meeting was held on Friday, February 13 at 2 pm at the church. We discussed "Still Life" by Louise Penney and had a great discussion.

Our March meeting will be held on Friday, March 13 at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "The Queens of Crime" by Marie Benedict. Please note the date change for April. We are meeting on the first Friday of April, the 3rd at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "The First Ladies", the book that was handed out at the February meeting. On Wednesday, April 8, the New Castle County Reads event is at the Chase Center at 7 pm. I have made a dinner reservation for 8 at 5:15 pm at Timothy's on the Riverfront. Please let me know if you plan to attend both events.

Coming attractions include "Before Dorothy" by Hazel Gaynor, "Withered Hill" by David Barnett and several books by Ariel Lawhon ("The Frozen River" and "Flight of Dreams").



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

February was an exciting month - all of the snow - that meant snow days! I hope you kept warm and enjoyed fun in the snow - but I have missed many of you.

Now, March is here . . . maybe warmer weather. I hope to see you as we explore the season of Lent. We discovered that Jesus has grown as we read our Bible stories each week. What adventures did Jesus have? Guess what - you will discover these through Bible stories and activities!

See you on Sunday morning. Meet in the back of the sanctuary at 10:30 and we will go quietly as a group to our special room.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene





TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

VPN's are advertised all over the internet world. Are they worth it? Here is a brief description that may help you.

A VPN - short for **Virtual Private Network** - is a tool that creates a secure, encrypted connection between your device and the internet. Think of it as a private tunnel that hides what you're doing online from prying eyes.

What a VPN Does

- Encrypts your internet traffic
- Hides your IP address
- Protects you on public Wi-Fi
- VPN shields you from snooping
- Helps bypass geographic restrictions

Why People Use VPNs

- To keep their browsing private from internet providers or advertisers
- To secure sensitive work or personal information
- To avoid tracking on public or shared networks
- To add an extra layer of security when traveling

What a VPN Doesn't Do

- It doesn't make you invisible online
- It doesn't protect you from malware
- It doesn't replace good security habits (strong passwords updates, etc.)

If you have any questions or suggestions send an email to rpumc@rpumchurch.org or call the church office.

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 140 meals a week. Contributions of items are always accepted.

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. Blessings, Joe



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



ALTAR FLOWERS

March 1 - Tony & Glenda Donnelly

March 8 - Fran & John Tebbutt

March 15 - Janis Williams

March 22 - Ruth Phillips

March 29 - OPEN

At the Cross: Richard Locke



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

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

March 15th

TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

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

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.



Come join Scout Troop 339!

MONDAY NIGHTS AT 6:30 PM

Contact troop339de@gmail.com

GRIEF SHARE
YOUR JOURNEY FROM MOURNING TO JOY

GriefShare is a 12-week program of support for anyone who is grieving the loss of a family member or friend. It is structured around group discussion with focus, video seminars on a variety of grief and recovery subjects, and personal study and reflection.

You're not alone—join our grief support group to connect with others, share your story, and find healing in a safe, compassionate space where understanding and hope grow together. The Grief Share group will be jointly co-led by, Sarah McGee LACMH, and Rev. Mary Browne of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. The group is free, although donations to the church are always welcome. Please call the church office to register at 302-731-9495 or NewarkEbenezerUMC@verizon.net ..

GriefShare helps people meet the challenges of emotional struggles, confusion, and the isolation they may be feeling. It is the opportunity to connect with other people who can understand the deep hurt a person feels after the loss of a loved one. GriefShare is not only for people who may be feeling acute grief because of a recent loss, it is also a resource for people who may have experienced the death of a loved one some time ago but find they may have questions about the recovery process and feeling optimistic about the future.

Recovery & Support Group

Beginning on Thursday, January 15th, 2026.
Ebenezer United Methodist Church

525 Polly Drummond Hill Road
Newark, DE. 19711
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

PACK & PRAY
DAY OF SERVICE

JOIN US EVERY MONTH ON THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE 4TH FRIDAY AS WE PREPARE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR 3000 FAMILIES!

NEWCASTLE COUNTY KENT COUNTY

March 25
9AM - 1PM EST

New Castle County
ASBURY UMC - 300 E BASIN RD - NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
Kent County
WHATCOAT UMC - 341 SALISBURY RD - DOVER, DE 19904
1-888-323-HOPP (4677) - WWW.THEHOPP.ORG

HOPP
THE HOPPERS' LOVE FEEDS PEOPLE'S NEEDS

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

4TH FRIDAYS
"connecting people from place to place"

March 27 at 11am

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 114 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 CONSCIOUS CONNECTIONS 22 E 22 RD. WILMINGTON	ALDERSGATE UMC // 12:30PM 2313 CONCORD PKE, WILMINGTON
RICHARDSON PARK UMC // 11:00AM 11 N MARYLAND AVE. WILMINGTON	SIMPSON UMC // 12:30PM DELIVERY ONLY WILMINGTON
TREE OF LIFE // 11:30AM 109 GLASGOW DR. NEWARK, DE 19702	LINDA'S ANGELS CHILDCARE // 1:00PM 6 PARKWAY CT NEW CASTLE
UNION UMC // 10:00AM 345 SCHOOL BELL RD. BEAR, DE	INTERFAITH COMMUNITY HOUSING // 2:00PM 613 N WASHINGTON, WILMINGTON

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.

Pull in RPUMC's 2nd Parking Lot

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



HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS

Join New Castle County Paramedics as they present this program on when to act and what to do when someone is in cardiac arrest



Richardson Park UMC

Thursday, March 19, 2026
 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Registration at the link or QR code below.
<https://forms.gle/5KRoW7AwBf1X1r9p8>



For more information:
 Lorraine Williams (NCC*EMS Community Outreach Coordinator)
Lorraine.k.williams@newcastlede.gov or 302-395-2736

This is an education class, not a certification program

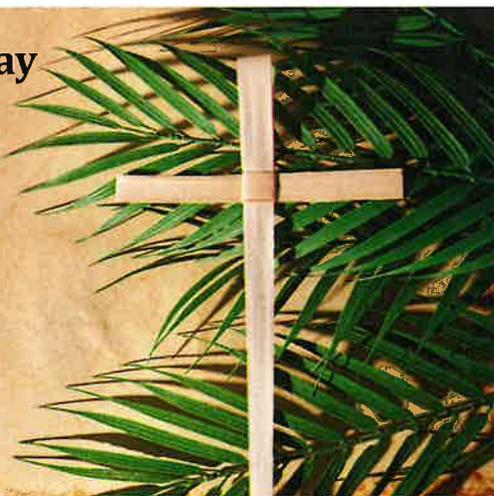
PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29TH

All are Welcome!!
 Please join us as we wave Palms and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Service can be attended in-person or may be viewed online broadcasting Live.

Palm Sunday

Join Us
 March 29th
 at 10:30 am

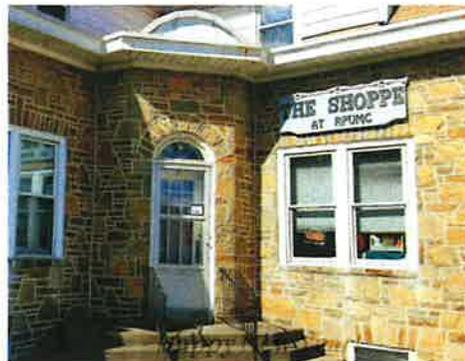
Online and
 In-person
 Worship
 Service



MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	2	3	4 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg.-Lounge	5 9AM BMG-Ext. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM - Free Lunch-FH	6	 11AM-2PM First Saturdays' at The Shoppe & Annex at RPUMC
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UWIF MTG.-FH	9	10	11	12 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM - Free Lunch-FH	13 2PM Book Club-Lounge	14
15 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustee Mtg.-Lounge	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 The Messenger  Articles Due	19 9AM BMG-EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM - Free Lunch-FH 6PM-8:30PM - CPR Class - FH	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING 	21 11AM Koinonia Mtg.-Ext.
22 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	23	24	25	26 9AM BMG-Ext. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM - Free Lunch-FH	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 9AM Adult Sunday School-Lounge 10AM Fellowship Time-Ext. 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	30	31				

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



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, March 29th. Cost of each plant is \$12.50. Please make your check payable to Richardson Park United Methodist Church and mark "Easter Lilies" in the memo. Thank you.

Number of Plants _____ x \$12.50 = _____

Donor's Name _____

In Memory of _____
(for those not _____
living) _____

In Honor of _____
(for those _____
living) _____

In Memory _____
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.





The Messenger



March 2026



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. Candy Miles, Pastor
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.....10:00 A.M.
Worship & Children's Church.....10:30 A.M.



Please have articles and information for the April Messenger to the Church Office by Wednesday, March 18th. 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.