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September/October Upper Room Devotionals are available in the Narthex, the History Corner, and the Welcome Center.

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

This is My Story

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

A few churches ago, there was a gentleman in the congregation whose frequent opening line was, “so...what’s your story?” It was a personalized way in which he asked *how you were doing or how the day was proceeding*. I came to appreciate this customized greeting as it raised the larger question of what kind of story am I writing today? What narrative am I penning with the words that I speak; the decisions that are made?

After all, we all have a story. We are formed and shaped by our settings and backdrops, the characters that come into our lives may shift and change but they will leave an indelible mark. There is conflict and resolution, and there is drama (hopefully we don’t feed the drama too much)! Yes, we are all authoring a story every single day that we are given. Every day is a page written that folds into a larger witness and follows a bigger story line and direction.

We can see our story as isolated or distinct – a siloed adventure with us as the team leader navigating the things we can influence and responding to events beyond our control. Or we can come to understand our lives as part of a larger narrative—that of God’s story in Jesus Christ, of redeeming relationship and saving community. As we allow our story to intersect with God’s larger story—that we are part of God’s created order and intentioned to live a life made new by God’s saving grace—the daily tone and tenor of our days changes. We author days where the Holy Spirit has freed from us from the entanglement of selfishness and the grip of fear. We are released into a trust and hope that makes us into more generous and gracious people.

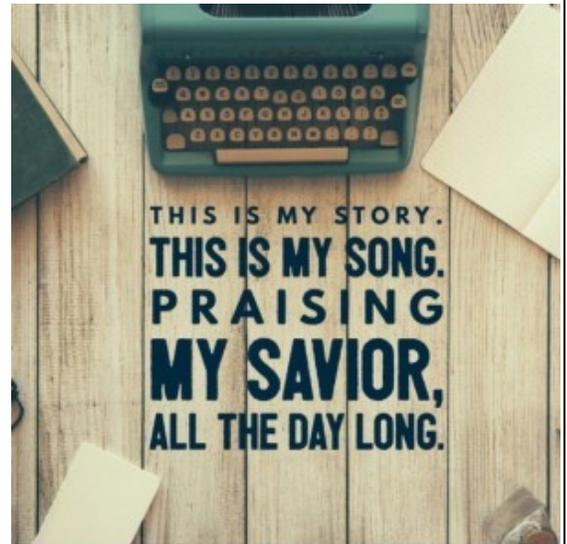
This September in worship, we are going to be considering a sermon series called *This is a Our Story*. We will cameo several biblical characters and how their lives were changed as they allowed their life to return into the larger story of God’s. We also will have the privilege of overhearing some members of our church family give a testimony of how their life’s story has been shaped and changed by yielding into the relational narrative of Christ.

So-what is your story? What are you authoring in light of the gospel? This September, join us for worship and together, let’s write the gospel story more fully with the living of our days.

Upcoming Worship Series: This Is My Story

- September 1** **This Is My Story: Labor Day**
- September 8** **This Is My Story: Forgiveness**
- September 15** **This Is My Story: For Such a Time as This**
- September 22** **This Is My Story: Behind the Scenes to Support the Center**
- September 29** **This Is My Story: I Saw the Light**

All of us have a story. A series of instances that include triumph, mistakes, confident strides forward, and stumbles sideways that become the living of our days. When we seek to be a Jesus follower, we realize how our stories are truly connected within a larger narrative of God's redemptive love and purpose. This sermon series will hone in on our some of our biblical ancestors in the faith to see how their stories were transformed by the power of God. This series will include testimonies of how God has worked within the lives of some of your church family members!



September Birthdays

September 1

Dino Sadler

September 2

Kimberly Jagnarian
Angie Williams
Bob Wilson

September 4

Elliot Eastman

September 8

Kristen Cornett

September 10

Wayne Barrack

September 11

Lynn Rasor

September 12

Nancy Traylor

September 13

Jim Moeller
Cindy Sanford
Laine Hubley

September 14

Eirnin Buchholz
Hannah Clark
Bill Mullen

September 15

David Jagnarian
Meg Walunas

September 17

James Davia
Margaret Kidd

September 18

Jack Hiatt

September 20

Christie Bondurant
Hannah Johnson

September 21

Khev Alexander
Adelynn Wood

September 22

Judie Little
Adam Markey

September 24

Jean Dailey

September 25

Hunter Moum
Spencer Moum
Brooke Hensley

September 26

William Goodship

September 27

Jake Johnson

September 29

Amen Franklin

September 30

Diana Best





SUNDAY MORNING 9:30



- (Room 211) Good News
- (Room 202) Contemporary Christian
- (Room 106) Preschool (3 years & fully potty trained until they start kindergarten)
- (Room 109) Early Elementary (K-2nd grade)
- (Room 105) Older Elementary (3rd-5th grade)
- (Youth Basement) Youth (6th-12th grade)

While it doesn't seem to be getting any cooler, the calendar claims that fall is almost here, which means we're settling back in after summer travels and getting back into a more routine schedule. It's also the beginning of a new program year, and I want to highlight our adult offerings. If you have any questions or would like to register, contact me at ed@riverroadumc.org. We have three offerings on Sunday morning, including a new offering at 10:45am:

Contemporary Christian

Grow in wisdom and love as we engage in a variety of studies, have in-depth conversations about Scripture and the world around us and support each other in discipleship and in life. This fall we will be studying Paul's Letters.

Leader: Randy Reaves

Location/Time: Room 202/9:30 am

Good News

The Good News class practices in-depth Bible study to help us take in the full depth and breadth of Scripture in community with fellow disciples.

Leader: Dr. Jim Davia

Location/Time: Room 211/9:30 am

Hitched

A small group for couples, Hitched will help us find God's grace in our everyday lives. This group will meet at 10:45am, and there will be options for childcare. If you need childcare contact Danielle Rinker at danielle@riverroadumc.org Hitched will kick off with a brunch on Sunday, Sept. 15 and its first series will be on Gary Chapman's "The Five Love Languages," Giving couples tools to understand how each other gives and receives love in their own unique way.

Leaders: Diana and David Hudson

Location/Time: Room 205/10:45am

We also have three offerings on Sunday nights. Our Sunday night kick off is on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 5pm. The main course and drinks are provided; please bring a side or dessert to share. Small groups begin on Sept. 22, with dinner at 5pm and groups from 5:30pm-7pm:

Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey

This course offers seven steps to help you take control of your money, plan for your future, and get out of debt. It also includes 16 weeks of online lesson viewing access and 90 days of the Every Dollar Budgeting Tool. **Cost is \$105** per couple/family unit.

Led by Jimmy Benson & Randy Reaves in Room 206, September 22-November 17

Job and the Life of Faith: Wisdom for Today's World

The book of Job explores the life of faith and wrestles with life's hard questions. Why do bad things happen to good people? Is there a relationship between living a good life and freedom from suffering? How do we live with unanswered questions? Join us as we grow in wisdom and in community as we listen to this timely book.

Led by Pastor Ed Kross in Room 205, September 22 – November 3

Disciple Fast Track: Into the Word, Into the World

Through this 24 week study of Genesis and Exodus and Luke and Acts we will discover three spiritual disciplines each week and how they can increase our love for God and our love of our neighbors. Participants can choose to do the entire 24 week study, or choose to study Genesis and Exodus in the fall or Luke and Acts in the spring, with each study lasting 12 weeks.

Led by Becki Mann and Bob Wilson in Room 202.

The Genesis and Exodus study will be from Sept. 8 –Nov. 24.

RIVER ROAD

YOU  H

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER WHAT'S NEXT?

The youth at River Road have been doing some great things this August! We started off jumping around at Boomerang and it was nothing short of amazing! The group then rallied up again at the Flying Squirrels Family Faith Night at the Diamond. The youth then helped serve their community by preparing and serving dinner for our CARITAS guests!

We have had such an amazing Summer and the fun is just getting started! We are super close to kicking off our Fall Youth Group Schedule! Our official kick-off will be Sunday, September 15th for a family cookout and hang!

Below is a more detailed schedule of the awesome events coming up this Fall!

RIVER ROAD YOUTH - FALL SCHEDULE 2019

SEPTEMBER

15TH - YOUTH/SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF
 22ND - YOUTH GROUP
 28TH - TENTH AVENUE NORTH CONCERT
 29TH - YOUTH GROUP

OCTOBER

6TH - YOUTH GROUP (OUTING)
 13TH - YOUTH GROUP
 20TH - PUMPKIN CARVING/COSTUME YOUTH GROUP
 27TH - YOUTH GROUP

NOVEMBER

3RD - YOUTH GROUP (OUTING)
 10TH - YOUTH GROUP
 17TH - TURKEY BOWLING
 24TH - YOUTH GROUP

Contact Jake Joseph

Email : youth@riverroadumc.org

Phone : (804) 396 - 9255

Reminders:

September 1st we will return to our normal worship schedule!

8:30- Traditional. Childcare available for children 3 and under in the nursery.

9:30- Contemporary. Children's Sunday School is at 9:30 am in the Education Wing.

11:00- Traditional. Children's Church is available for children 3 years old - 5th grade. Nursery available for 2 and under.

Move-up Sunday- September 8th at 9:30 am. Come meet your new teachers for the school year. Pancakes and fun will be had by all!

M+M kicks off on September 15th at 5:00 pm with a family cookout! Everyone is welcome! Programming begins September 22nd for ages K-5th grade.

Nursery

Professionally-staffed Nursery is offered in room 108 for infants, toddlers and preschoolers for all three service times (8:30, 9:30, 11:00) and Sunday evenings (September - May 2019) from 5-7 pm.

Sunday School Classes

Toddler - 2-3 years

9:30 am in room 111. Led by Meg Eastman, Elizabeth Buchholz, Arissa Mueller, and Jill Snead

Preschool-potty trained 3, 4 and 5-year-olds

9:30 am in room 101. Led by Penny Condrey, Tracy Wood, Carrie Francisco, Meg Walunas, Meg Eastman, Alana Ritenour, Alicia Moosally, and Elizabeth Buchholz.

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

9:30 am in room 107. Led by Jaimey Honea, Cheryl Bowles, Kim Cosby, and Megan Gilliland.

3rd-5th Grade

9:30 am in room 109. Led by John Honea & Robin Ely.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT ALL OUR WORSHIP SERVICES! Please attend worship with your children, grandchildren, and guests! Worship attendance is very important, even at a young age, for spiritual development. We are ALL created for worship! Worship bags, Storybook Bibles, and activity binders are available at all three services.

If you feel like you need somewhere quieter to worship during the 11 am service, the Cuddle Room is available in the back of the sanctuary with a live feed of the service and activities for your child. Please see an usher if you have any trouble finding these things.

M+M is back! We kick off September 15th at 5pm. Please come for a family cookout.

Programming will be begin for M+M on September 22nd from 5-7pm.

Dinner is served from 5-5:30 pm. From 5:30-6:15 K-2 will be in the choir room with Joy Price. 3-5 will be in room 109 for missions with Danielle Rinker. At 6:15 K-2 will come down to missions and 3-5 will finish up the night in the choir room. 5 and under are always welcome in the nursery.



Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle – September 10

The Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle, led by Percy Flippen and Jane Bren, will meet September 10, 10:00 AM, Activity Room. The Circle is starting back after taking the summer off. All women are welcome.

Women's Prayer Breakfast – September 12

The monthly Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet at 8:30 on Thursday, September 12, at Metro Diner in Short Pump, 11525 W. Broad Street. No reservation needed—just come on out and join the group—bring a friend.

Book Club – September 23

Details for September's meeting are:

Hostess: Ann York
 Location: Ann's home, 2800 Chancel Lane, Henrico 23233
 Date: September 23 (Monday)
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Book Title: *Before We Were Yours*, Lisa Wingate

Save the Date – October 25-26 Virginia Conference UMW Annual Meeting

This year the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Conference UMW will be in Richmond.

Dates: October 25 evening (Friday):
 6:00 PM Dinner
 7:30 PM Ice Cream Social, 150th UMW Birthday Cake
 October 26 all day (Saturday):
 9:00 AM Registration, light breakfast
 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM (approximately) Annual Meeting
 Location: Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond
 Keynote: Harriet Jane Olson, Since 2007 Chief Executive Officer of
 UMW National Administrative & Policymaking Arm
 Cost: \$15, due by October 15
 Registration forms will be available at:
 FA/AW Circle Meeting
 Women's Prayer Breakfast
 In the Commons Area



United
Methodist
Women

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Run2Rebuild Richmond 5K Fun Run

Saturday Sept 21, 9:00 am

This is our 8th year hosting this citywide event! Organized by our own Tom York, the race raises funds for Rebuilding Together and raises awareness of Rebuilding Together within the community. We need sponsors, volunteers, racers, walkers and people to provide cakes that will be the prizes! \$30/adults, \$10.00/kids. For more info, contact Tom York at tomyork627@gmail.com or 804-517-2350 or go to: Run2Rebuild.com.

KAIROS Prison Ministry Closing Ceremony is Sunday Sept 22

Continuing the work of Jim Gould and visiting those in prison as Jesus called us to do, we invite you to carpool with us to the Closing Ceremony at Deep Meadows Correctional Center. On Kairos weekend, prisoners are introduced to the person of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of the Kairos volunteer team. At Closing, Kairos participants describe their weekend, which is a hugely moving experience. Your presence demonstrates God's unconditional love. Make sure to contact Laurel Marks at laurelmarks@yahoo.com or 804-304-7340 so that we can process the necessary but simple paperwork.

Lunch and Learn: Poverty and the Barriers to Moving Beyond

Sunday Sept 29

There is a lot for us to learn about the struggles of those we serve in ministries such as Open Table, Ginter Park Food Pantry, and CARITAS. As you know, Open Table connects individuals or families experiencing economic or relational poverty with a faith based team that becomes community to transform lives. Our own Angie Williams, as Managing Director of Development for Open Table, and River Road's Open Table, will present a program to help us all better understand the systemic barriers that contribute to maintaining poverty. The Missions Committee is providing a soup lunch. We pray that all will plan to stay. No cost, no rsvp.

Appalachian Service Project (ASP) is October 10-13

This is our annual 4-day mission trip to repair homes of those who are unable to do it themselves and where winter is harsher. This year we are going to Tennessee. All welcome! For more info or to volunteer, contact Jeff Williams at 4jswilliams@gmail.com.

We Hosted CARITAS August 10-17

During our CARITAS week, Doug Jolley, who directed the mission project, witnessed transformation among guests and our volunteers. When the women arrived the first night, they looked anxious, tired and beaten down, but by the final night our guests seemed happy to be here with us, accepted and loved. Among us, they felt like family. Thank you church family for all the food donated. Thank you to the 33 who helped set up, take down, wash, drive, coordinate meals and stayed overnight. Thank you to all who made lunches and served dinner, including 24 who stepped out to work with church family they may not have previously known. Shout out to our wonderful Youth and St Catherine's Varsity Field Hockey team. We hope you received a blessing and made a friend. Thank you Doug Jolley for being the best House Dad in the world. Most of all, thank you for the prayers for our guests.

Ginter Park UMC Food Pantry and Clothes Closet is Wednesdays 9-12

Thank you to all who donated underwear for children returning to school! Thank you Meg Eastman and all our children for your donations brought on Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday. Thank you to all who volunteer and bring food, paper grocery bags with handles, gallon ziplock bags and clothes. Drop them in the Missions cabinet in the Welcome Center. For more information, contact ellenreaves@verizon.net or 804-229-4277.

MICAH NEWS

Thank you RRUMC for the school supply donations!! The kindergarten and 1st grade teachers appreciate your generosity each year!

Thursday, September 12th-Micah citywide 2019-20 Kick Off

Sunday, September 29th-reading workshop for RRUMC tutors

Interested or want to get connected for the 2019-20 school year? Contact Mary York, 804-310-6975, tmews.york@verizon.net, who coordinates River Road's Micah volunteer efforts at Oak Grove Elementary School.

Thanks be to God for the work he gives us to do together. For more information about Missions, contact ellenreaves@verizon.net or 804-229-4277.



**RIVER ROAD
UNITED METHODIST**
LOVING PEOPLE TO LIFE

8800 River Road
Henrico VA 23229
Phone: 804-740-7061
Fax: 804-740-3367
Preschool: 754-0227

September 2019

**Articles for the
October 2019
Connections are due
September 23, 2019.**



We're on the web at
www.riverroadumc.org

EDUCATIONAL FORUM:

The second Educational Forum in the discernment process will be

Sunday, September 8 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm.

An evite will be sent soon.

FALL COOKOUT:

September 15 5:00 pm

Fall is almost here and it's time to get back into the rhythm of community and spiritual growth. Join us for a cookout at 5pm. The church will provide the main dish and drinks. Please bring a side or dessert to share. On Sept. 22 we'll have Sunday dinners at 5pm and growth opportunities for all ages from 5:30pm to 7pm.

Open Arms Christian Preschool



We are so excited about our new school year! Our Preschool is growing and able to serve more children and families in our line of Ministry! It is a blessing to be able to have a wonderful faith-based, educational, and loving environment for the families of our church & community!

September 3rd marks our first day of school and we will have approximately 60 children that will be joining our preschool program this year! Because of the growth we are experiencing we have opened a new classroom (a 2nd two year class) and welcomed some new faces to our staff as well! Please take a few moments to walk to the Children's Wing of the church and take a look at the great things happening at RRUMC Preschool! OACP will also be hosting a Back to School Pizza Party on Friday, September 6th from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. All families & friends of the church are invited to join us! RSVP via evite <http://evite.me/P1KxSNRTFV> or contacting the Preschool Director.

We are also looking for anyone that would be interested in helping at the Preschool as a substitute. If you or anyone you know is available to be on our substitute list please reach out to the Preschool Director, Nora Hamlet, at 754-0227 or openarms@riverroadumc.org. We look forward to a wonderful school year!

