



Inside this issue:

Worship Series & Birthdays	2
Small Groups	3
Youth	4
Children	5
Women's Ministry	6
Missions	7
Maternity Leave and Open Arms Christian Preschool	8

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



First things First

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you. - Matthew 6:33

I have seen a pattern emerge within many a life's trajectories. When people take time to establish priorities, name their primary values, and identify what is most important in any genre of their living, they experience a surge of energy and purpose that is unparalleled and life changing.

I have seen this occur within people's professional lives as they determine top values and then structure their time around these touchstones. When parents make time to talk about what is most important in the adventure that is parenting- they step out with a united confidence and alignment as they navigate electronic usage, friend drama, and school plans that become vocational realities. I have seen people set exercise goals and aided with a fit bit, a healthy eating app or a race coming up they embrace a more energy-infused lifestyle. Other folks establish going to school or engaging in a training program as means to a more sustainable path for them and their families. Enrolling in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University has helped millions of people (including tens of us at RRUMC) establish living debt free as the aim while providing tangible ways to make that freedom happen. Hopefully at this point in the article, you are identifying when you have pulled up to name priorities specifically and live them out intentionally and how this commitment has changed the current of your life for the good.

Knowing the power that priority identification coupled with a plan for living out priorities holds in our lives, it is no surprise that Jesus established significance living for his disciples. In Matthew chapter six, during Jesus' pinnacle teaching (literally this is from the sermon on the mount), he says "seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness and all things will be added to you." In other words, intentionally seek to allow God's will, ways, means, and values to become yours. In fact Jesus asks us to allow this to become not merely another priority in the mix, but to become the overarching and foundational aim in all aspects of our lives. In other words Jesus urges us to allow seeking God first to become our FIRST.

Also, please note, that except for .01 percent of the population hardwired with a strong will and an iron interior discipline, we will always need to recalibrate to our priorities - to seeking God first. Actually even the .01 percent will need to do this as well. Because we all have the tendency to drift, deny, minimize, and sink to the lower bar rather than walk the higher road (our Christian tradition calls this sin). And yet at an even more resounding soulful volume, our Christian tradition through the self-giving of Christ on the cross, shouts out GRACE which is the open door to return to that which is most important and life-giving. This month in worship, which is our stewardship season, we will focus on HOW we can make seeking God even more our FIRST. We hope, we plan, we prioritize to see you all in worship! Peace, Pastor Darcey

Stewardship season is the entire month of October. Commitment Sunday is October 27 with one united service at 10:30 am. Please mark your calendars. This is when you have the opportunity as act of worship to bring your Estimate of Giving Card as your tithes or giving for 2020.

Upcoming Worship Series: Stewardship First

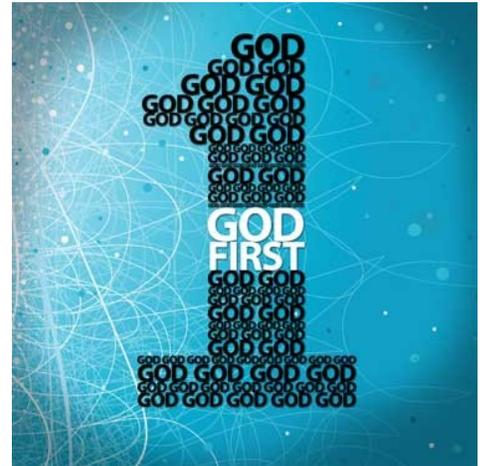
October 6 Stewardship First: First Things First

October 13 Stewardship First: Starting at Home

October 20 Stewardship First: The Unlikely Role Model

October 27 Stewardship First: Giving Like God

Along with everything pumpkin spice, the month of October is our stewardship season. For the four weeks in October, we will look to the teachings of Christ in Matthew 6:3: Seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness all these things will be added to you. When we seek Christ and ask to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, our very definitions of needs and wants changes. Over time and by yielding to God, our priority becomes our relationship with Christ and pleasing God. Seeking God first frees us to be loving, confident, and generous in the pattern of Jesus.



October Birthdays

October 3

Carrie Pecht

October 6

James Gilmore

October 8

Lynda Weston

October 9

Marcia Diamond

October 10

Lila Smith

October 12

Bob Hardiman
Daniel Markey

October 13

Emily Kleinholz
Lara Malbon
Mike Reaves

October 14

Elvie Hardy

October 15

Kane Alexander
Michael Fishwick
David Harless
Paul Mershon

October 16

Amy Fishwick

October 17

Chip Cunningham
Cleo Edsall
Doris Hardiman
Dave Johnson

October 18

Jackie Stansbury

October 20

Chuck Hulcher
Darcey Johnson

October 23

Charlotte Allred
Doug Jolley
Randy Reaves
Mary Kathleen Vaughan
Jesse Wingate

October 25

Blandine Noel

October 26

Maria Francisco

October 27

Jon Francisco
John McLarin

October 28

Gurleen Ferguson
Robert Lewis

October 29

Laurel Marks
Rachel Payne

October 30

Alice Jesudian
Sam McCracken





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)

We have three offerings for adults 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

Someone I've really grown to respect is Richard Beck. I've never met him – I know him mostly through his blog. He lives his faith in ways that are ordinary but compelling. He worships at a storefront church with people who have struggled with homelessness and addiction. He leads a Bible study in prison. He's a professor but he doesn't want to live in an ivory tower.

As we get back into the routine of school, sports, and work it can feel like we're in a rut. As a friend once put it, we're in a place where the days go by slow but the years go by fast. Below is a post from Richard in its entirety that I hope helps us see this ordinary time in a different way:

"I was talking to one of my students recently about the temptations of youthful spirituality, how when you are young you get addicted to the buzz of the worship high and then go searching for a more intense fix. You become a worship junkie.

From your high school youth group on being close to God is being ON FIRE! Because God is AWESOME! That's the temptation for youth, being trained to associate God with adrenaline and the Spirit with excitement.

What I told my student was this.

What no one ever shares with you when you're young is that Christianity is boring. No one tells you that. That Christianity, for the most part, is boring.

No one tells you that Christianity is a 70 to 80 year grind in becoming more kind, more gentle, more giving, more joyful, more patient, more loving.

You learn that God isn't in the rocking praise band or the amped up worship experience. What you learn after college is that Holy Ground is standing patiently in a line. You learn that Holy Ground is learning to listen well to your child, wife or co-worker. Holy Ground is being a reliable and unselfish friend or family member and being a good nurse when someone is sick. Holy Ground is awkward and unlikely friendships. Holy Ground is often just showing up.

Being more and more like Jesus is a million boring little things.

No one ever tells you that when you're young.

Just like no one ever tells you just how risky and revolutionary it all is."

- Ed Kross

RIVER ROAD

YOU  H

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER WHAT'S NEXT?

The youth at River Road have been doing some great things this September! We're getting back into the swing of school schedules and fall sports, but had an awesome Kick-Off Cookout to start up our Sunday Night Programs! We're looking forward to an amazing year and cannot wait to get started!

Our first official night of youth group was September 22nd for youth ages 6th - 12th grade! Our theme this year is "Together We Go" to show that we all are somewhere in our faith journey, but no matter where we are: Together We Go! Below is a more detailed schedule of the awesome events coming up this Fall! All are welcome!

RIVER ROAD YOUTH - FALL SCHEDULE 2019

OCTOBER

6TH - LLOYD FAMILY FARMS

13TH - YOUTH GROUP

20TH - PUMPKIN CARVING/COSTUME YOUTH GROUP

27TH - YOUTH GROUP

NOVEMBER

3RD - SCAVENGER HUNT

10TH - YOUTH GROUP

17TH - TURKEY BOWLING

24TH - YOUTH GROUP

Contact Jake Joseph

Email : youth@riverroadumc.org

Phone : (804) 396 - 9255

Reminders:

M+M has started back up! Join us Sunday evenings at 5 pm for Music + Missions. Contact danielle@riverroadumc.org for more information.

Nursery

Professionally-staffed Nursery is offered in room 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 Sunday School - for ages 2-3

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

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

9:30 am in room 108. Led by Penny Condrey, Tracy Wood, Carrie Francisco, and Meg Walunas.

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 and 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 with a live feed of the service and activities for your child in the back of the sanctuary. Please see an usher if you have any trouble finding these things.

Important Dates-

M+M is back! We kick off September 15th at 5 pm. Please come for a family cookout. Programming will begin for M+M on September 22nd from 5-7 pm.

Dinner is served from 5-5:30pm. 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 – October 8

The Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle, led by Percy Flippen and Jane Bren, will meet October 8, 10:00 AM, Activity Room. All women are welcome.

Women's Prayer Breakfast – October 10

The monthly Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet at 8:30 AM on Thursday, October 10. We will meet at First Watch, 1403 Huguenot Road (just before Chesterfield Towne Center). No reservation needed—just come on out and join the group—bring a friend.

Book Club – October 28

Details for October's meeting are:

Hostess: Ann York
 Location: Ann's home, 2800 Chancel Lane, Henrico 23233
 Date: October 28 (Monday)
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Book Title: *The News of the World* by Paulette Jiles.

Morning Group:

Hostess: Bess Traylor
 Location: Bess' home, 11129 Woodbaron Ct, Henrico, VA 23233
 Date: October 28 (Monday)
 Time: 1:00 PM
 Book Title: *The News of the World* by Paulette Jiles.

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: Reville 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



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

The Missions Committee voted to give \$1000 to UMCOR for hurricane relief in the Bahamas. We thank God for your offerings that allow us to help God's people.

Appalachian Service Project (ASP) is October 10-13

It's not too late! 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. Thank you Jeff.

Parsonage Deck Building Saturdays – Oct 5,19, and 26

We are still seeking volunteers. We have a great design and strong leadership to improve and increase the outdoor living space for our wonderful pastor and her family. Work starts at 8 am, food provided. Thank you to all who helped us get started on Sept 28. Contact Tony Barnette at tony.jean@verizon.net or 804-347-7462.

Shalom Farms Volunteer Day, Saturday Oct 5, 9-12 noon

Working at our great big United Methodist garden is great for individuals and families. Contact Jim Banta at jamesbantacorp@gmail.com if you can go!

Richmond District UMC Pansy Sale to Benefit Shalom Farms

Multi colored flats (32 plants) of pansies will sell for \$20 and will be available on Sunday October 20, by preordering only. Contact ellenreaves@verizon.net or 804-229-4277.

Pack a Thanksgiving Dinner Box for a Struggling Family

Again this year we are helping HEARTH, Henrico Emergency Assistance to Reduce Threat of Homelessness, by providing Thanksgiving Dinners for people identified by Henrico County Department of Social Services as needing help at the holidays. This is a great project for families and small groups. The Missions Committee will provide a box and the list of items to buy. Be looking for the Welcome Center display later in October. Thank you Jane Boaz (jcboaz@hotmail.com) for organizing this ministry.

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

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. Volunteers always welcome; contact ellenreaves@verizon.net or 804-229-4277.

September was a busy month in Missions! Thank you Church Family!

Thank you to all who raced, volunteered, or baked a cake for **Run2Rebuild Richmond 5K Fun Run**, and for the great organization of Tom York. We had a record number of racers and that brings greater awareness of the good work Rebuilding Together does. Thank you to all who helped pack and deliver **CARITAS** lunches, and to Karen Carter who took the lead on this project that makes sure those who are homeless have a lunch to help them through their day. Thank you **Open Table** for educating us on the struggles of those in poverty and thank you to all those who helped provide lunch Sept 29. Thank you most of all to those who joined us for Lunch and Learn. Thank you to all who went to Deep Meadows Correctional Center for **KAIROS**' Closing Ceremony. It was a powerful day of inmates sharing their hurts and regrets and acceptance of God's unconditional love. Our congregation lost KAIROS momentum last year when we lost Jim Gould but those who attended this year came back knowing this is a ministry we will support going forward. We saw how much those cookies and prayers and presence at Closing meant. Thank you Laurel Marks for organizing us!

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

October 2019

**Articles for the
November 2019
Connections are due
October 21, 2019.**



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

Maternity Leave A Time for Growth

As you all know, Pastor Darcey Johnson together with her family, Rev. Drew Johnson and Hannah and Grace are expecting a new member of the family in mid November. Pastor Darcey Johnson will be on maternity leave from November 1st through January 31st. (Depending upon baby Johnson's arrival, there may be a week shift at the beginning or end of this time).

Pastor Darcey will be tending to a smaller flock during maternity leave and we thank the church in advance for honoring this time as they adjust from being a family of four to a family of five.

The staff and leadership have worked diligently to ensure a smooth maternity leave that includes dynamic worship and preaching over these three months. We will be sending out a more detailed plan that includes the worship, leadership, and communication plans.

We are expecting that just as this is a time of growth for our Pastor and her family, that our church will grow in faith, trust, and depth in Christ during maternity leave.

Thank you, and feel free to reach out with any questions you may have,
Dave Johnson

Open Arms Christian Preschool



It's been a great start to our new school year! We had 28 new students along with many returning students start Preschool in September. It's been so much fun each week seeing all the great things the preschool students are engaging in. They have enjoyed learning about their new friends and getting to know their new teachers & classrooms. The children also started Golf lessons in

September. Sportz4Life comes every Monday to conduct golf lessons for our little ones! They also have loved having Music and Chapel with Pastor Darcey & Ms. Joy Price each week. We can't wait for all the fun to continue through the Fall. In October we look forward to Pony Rides & Pony Pictures, our annual Family Field Trip to the Pumpkin Patch and our annual Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner (Friday, October 25th 5:30-7:00pm). Invitations to the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser will be coming out soon. If you would like to attend please RSVP to the Preschool Director, Nora Hamlet at 754-0227 or openarms@riverroadumc.org. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

