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**January/February
Upper Room
Devotionals are
available in the
Narthex, the History
Corner, and the
Welcome Center.**

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

--Galatians 6:9

At times we may wonder if it really matters? Does it matter to speak clearly but compassionately when it would be seemingly appropriate to speak our minds with cutting words and harsh tones? Does it matter to tell the truth or act with integrity in small matters when none but us will know the difference? Does it matter if we choose to help a stranger knowing that it will not go viral and our actions be lauded by thousands of likes or hundreds of views? Does it matter to participate in worship, study God's word, pursue God's will - in other words attend to the matters of faith? In other words, does it matter to relentlessly and tirelessly seek to do good with the days that we are given?

A resounding response comes from scripture and specifically, Paul's letter to the church in Galatia. Apparently some of the folk in that faith community were struggling with these very questions. They were feeling weary and stretched as they sought to do good and walk with mercy, particularly when they felt they were swimming upstream against the cultural tides. Paul wrote to them with a word of encouragement to remind them that ultimately what they say and do and how they spend their time and lend their resources does matter immensely to the God who made them. Paul reminded them that among all of their goals, their resolutions and the apps they downloaded to keep focused in the new year, the most important effort they could make is to keep doing good in the name of Christ.

We may find from time to time, like the Galatians, that we feel weary about seeking to do good. We may also have moments where we ask, does this matter? From the words of God's word that emanate from the heart of God, please hear this response. It matters. It matters that you notice the friend at school who is struggling and reach out. It matters that you consider your consumption and how it is affecting God's world and its people. It matters that you spend the time when you seem to have no time left. And in those moments when you feel tired and weary and you wonder if it matters, remember that you have an entire tribe called the church who will shoulder the burden and pray you into resolve. Who will remind you that when it comes to doing good in the name of God, the most important thing is not to give up.

Grateful, profoundly grateful, to be church together,

Pastor Darcey

Upcoming Worship:

February 2 - Requirements	Rev. Lindsey Baynham
February 9 - Salt & Light	Rev. Darcey Johnson
February 16 - Redefining Perfection	Rev. Darcey Johnson
February 23 - Build Your House on Stability	Rev. Darcey Johnson

Maternity Leave Update

Pastor Darcey will be returning to active leadership this month. She will be leading worship on February 2nd and preaching on February 9th. Thank you to all the staff and church leadership who ensured that the maternity leave was a time of powerful ministry!

February Birthdays

February 1

Delaney Weston
Reid Weston

February 4

Claire Benton

February 6

Soyon Chang
Amanda Jagnarian
Abraham Rhodes
Juanne Alexander

February 7

Alicia Talley

February 8

Alain Markey
Jimmy Benson

February 9

Danny Barrett
Khasara Dye
Temple Barrett

February 10

Gib Seese
Ben Blevins

February 11

Sue McGlamery

February 12

Bernard Fuemmeler

February 15

Ed White
Kathleen Fulton
Brandon Oubre

February 16

Ina Mae James
Beverly Morrison

February 19

Stephanie O'Neill

February 20

Ellen Reaves

February 23

Emileigh Benson
Josh Neighbors

February 24

Lupe Blevins
Patty Willis
Martha Hotinger

February 26

Daisy Banta

February 27

Leslie Gayne

February 28

John Honea



SMALL GROUPS

February 2019



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 two offerings for adults on Sunday morning:

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.

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

CREATION CARE

On the Creation Care front there is both (some) good news and (too much) bad. It's encouraging, for example, that 1) "U.S. companies are underwriting the European Union's ambitious climate goals, fueling the bloc's green-energy transition with power deals that cut emissions and costs" (WSJ, 1/21/20, p. B3); 2) "The European Union plans to dedicate a quarter of its budget to tackling climate change" (RTD, 1/15/20, p. A18); 3) "ordered by the International Maritime Organization, the United Nation's marine regulator...[a] major switch in maritime fuel aimed at reducing emissions from ships is proceeding smoothly" (WSJ, 1/15/20, p. B7); and 4) Microsoft is pledging to "invest \$1 billion as part of a wider climate commitment...and...would be 'carbon negative' by 2030" (WSJ, 1/17/20, p. B1). And it's perhaps ironic that in CHINA! "[b]y the end of the year, non-biodegradable plastic bags will be largely banned from major cities, and single-use straws will be prohibited in restaurants across the country" (WSJ, 1/21/20, p. A8).

On the more dispiriting or even alarming side, the WSJ recently headlined that the "Economic Impact of Climate Change Is Here" (1/17/20, p. A2); and the current administration (President Nero)? while suggesting that climate change is simply "gloom and doom" thinking, "is trying to cripple...one of the most effective laws ever written to protect the environment..., the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act,...written into law by President Nixon [It] requires that major energy and infrastructure projects receiving federal funding or requiring federal approval must undergo environmental reviews." (NYT, 1/13/20, p. A27). Even on the home front, William Leighty's column in the RTD (former chief of staff for both Governors Warner and Kaine, and board member of the American Bird Conservancy) evaluated Governor Northam's 2020-2022 budget as "extremely well crafted...[i]n all areas except one - environmental stewardship" (1/20/20, p. A19).

What can 'we' do? Speak up and, as Emma Harris recently suggested, keep three (key) actions in mind: 1) Maintain your personal efforts to lead a 'greener/more sustainable' life but 'ditch the shame' about not being 'green enough' (i.e. "The belief that this enormous, existential problem could have been fixed if all of us had just tweaked our consumptive habits is not only preposterous; it's dangerous"; 2) **Focus on systems, not yourself**; and 3) **Join an effective group** (NYT, 1/12/20, p. SR 7). Amen.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

The youth at River Road have been doing some great things this January! The youth have had an awesome time at the lock-in and cannot wait for the amazing things we have planned in-store!

WHAT'S NEXT?

The youth have some fun things coming up including pancakes, bowling, and maybe even some laser tag! Be sure to follow us on Instagram and check your emails for the latest updates of our upcoming scheduled events!

RIVER ROAD YOUTH - WINTER SCHEDULE 2020

JANUARY

26TH - VALENTINE CARDS FOR COLLEGE FRIENDS

FEBRUARY

2ND - SUPER BOWL: NO YOUTH GROUP

9TH - YOUTH GROUP

16TH - YOUTH @ BOWL AMERICA

23RD - YOUTH GROUP

Contact Jake Joseph

EMAIL: youth@riverroadumc.org

PHONE: (804) 396 - 9255

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 [@riverroadyouthumc](https://www.instagram.com/riverroadyouthumc)

 River Road United Methodist Church

CHICK-FIL-A WEDNESDAYS!

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 7AM-8:30AM

The youth are invited to come grab some breakfast and hangout before school at Chick-fil-a on Parham Rd. Come on out for a fun time of fellowship, friendship, and food all before the sun comes up!

February 2020 Newsletter

**Save the Date for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th, 2020!
We will have a table setup in the Welcome Center to sign up for
volunteer opportunities!**

Nursery

Professionally-staffed Nursery is offered for infants, toddlers and preschoolers for all three service times (8:30, 9:30, 11:00) and Sunday evenings (September 15th- Palm Sunday 2020) from 5-7 pm.



Sunday School Classes

Toddler

A special class specifically for transitioning out of the nursery. 2-3 years olds welcome! Once potty trained they will move up to the preschool class.

Led by Jill Snead, Arissa Mueller, Meg Eastman, and Elizabeth Buchholz.

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

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

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

9:30 am in room 110. Led by Cheryl Bowles, Megan Gilliland, Jaimey Honea, and Kim Cosby.

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 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

No M+M on 2/2/20

Children will sing on Palm Sunday at the 11:00 AM service



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 – February 11

The Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle invite you to learn about the signs of human trafficking in our community, Tuesday, February 11 from 10:00am—11:30 pm. Bonnie Price, Bon Secours Administrative Director of Community Health Advocacy, will be our guest speaker. All are invited to join us.

Women's Prayer Breakfast – February 13

Our monthly Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Thursday, February 13th at Joe's Inn Bon Air. We'll meet at 9:00 AM (30 minutes later than usual). Joe's Inn is located in the Buford Road Shopping Center at the corner of Forest Hill Avenue and Buford Road just off Huguenot Road. The address is 2616 Buford Road 23235. No reservation needed. Hope you can join us!

Book Club – February 24

Details for February's meeting are:

Morning Group:

Hostess: Bess Traylor - 11129 Woodbaron Ct., Henrico, VA 23233
 Date: February 24 (Monday)
 Time: 1:00 PM
 Book Title: *Educated* by Tara Westover

Evening Group:

Hostess: Ann York - 2800 Chancel Lane, Henrico 23233
 Date: February 24 (Monday)
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Book Title: *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton



UMFS Auxiliary Opportunity

Would you like to help provide moral and spiritual support to the children and teens on the Broad Street campus of United Methodist Family Services? Does helping plan activities where you can connect with the students on a personal level appeal to you? Then we need you on the UMFS Auxiliary! You'll be joined by volunteers from other local churches and have opportunities to support projects and meet needs on campus as well as help plan special events like the quarterly birthday parties, annual square dance, and annual high tea. The Auxiliary meets on campus the third Thursday of each month from 10-12 noon. Before you interact with the students, the staff will facilitate a background check for you. By representing RRUMC on the Auxiliary, you can also act as a bridge between our church and opportunities for the RRUMC family to serve and support the various projects of the students. The last few years, River Road has collected backpacks, flower pots for the greenhouse, Christmas mugs for their flower arrangements, outfitted a classroom with school supplies, donated scarves and hats for the tea, and even collected hot chocolate packets and teabags for their campus business project. Serving on the UMFS Auxiliary is a very rewarding experience! If you're interested or have any questions, please contact: Charlotte Allred by email at ApplesRPS@aol.com or by phone at 804-305-5423.

Yard Sale

IT WON'T BE LONG!!! The UMW Yard Sale is March 21, 2020. We will need your treasures (the ones gathering dust or stuffed in drawers) and your hands (many hands make light work). In recent years we have had such a good time because there has never been SO MUCH STUFF and that's what makes a "yard sale" successful as a missions project! Quantity! Quality gems go in our Boutique and are greatly appreciated as well! We will begin collecting items March 1st in the parlor (two weeks prior to the sale). Sale week, March 16-20, please come help organize, price and distribute from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will need many cheerful workers in different locations during the sale. We have extended it from 8:00 - 12:00 to 8:00 - 1:00! We found for the past several years there were people still buying at noon, which is a wonderful thing! More to come so check your bulletins at church for further Yard Sale Information! Let's make the 2020 Yard Sale the BEST YARD SALE EVER!

MISSIONS NEWS

Gifts for the Manger

Thank you for your generous donations to Gifts for the Manger and thanks to Karen Carter for organizing this mission. We collected more than \$10,000, \$3414 for Helping Children Worldwide, \$3374 for Open Table (seed money for River Road’s tables and future tables), \$3132 for River Road Mission Trips, and \$175 for miscellaneous other organizations.

Christmas Offering

Thank you for your donations to the Christmas offering, which was dedicated to Rise Against Hunger. We collected \$4726. We will be using that toward the 25,000 highly nutritious meals for people all over the world that we will be packing on April 19. At 33 cents/meal, we need \$8250 to fund 25,000 meals. Your generosity to Angel Tree, Gifts for the Manger, and the Christmas offering will make a real difference locally, nationally, and internationally. You are truly Christ’s hands in the world, illustrating the true meaning of Christmas.

CARITAS

We will be serving a meal for Caritas residents at their location in February. Watch for signups to participate in this important and longstanding ministry of our congregation.

New LGBTQ+ Mission

At the request of a church member and after prayerful consideration, we have added Side by Side, an organization dedicated to the support of LGBTQ+ youth as a mission for 2020. We will begin by delivering meals to the youth support groups hosted by the organization. If you would like to be involved in this mission, contact Karen Carter, ontheperch@gmail.com.

Ginter Park Food Pantry and Clothes Closet

We always need nonperishable food, paper bags with handles, gallon ziplock bags, clothes, as well as volunteers every Wednesday 9-12 for this year-round mission. Drop items in the Missions cabinet in the Welcome Center. Contact ellenreaves@verizon.net or 804-229-4277 for more information.

Thanks be to God for the work He gives us to do together. We always welcome participation in the many missions of the church. If you would like to join the committee, commit to a particular mission, or just learn more about missions at RRUMC, contact Ann Hodges, ahodges@richmond.edu or 804-339-9440.

THANK YOU

The church staff would like to express our gratitude to each of you who contributed so generously to the year-end love offering on our behalf. It is a pleasure and a joy to serve Christ with you! Thank you, and may God bless each of you in the new year!

In Christ’s Love,
The Staff at River Road UMC





RIVER ROAD
UNITED METHODIST
LOVING PEOPLE TO LIFE

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February 2019

Articles for the
March 2020
Connections are due
February 18, 2020.



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

Update on the State of the United Methodist Church

Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation

As reported through several news sources, a group of sixteen United Methodist clergy and lay persons (and a renowned mediator) formulated and proposed legislation to General Conference. The legislation is called The Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation.

A couple of things to note in regards to this legislation.

1. This is legislation that will be considered at the General Conference in May. Despite the press that the protocol received, only the General Conference can adopt legislation that can change the polity of the UMC.
2. We will provide additional information regarding the protocol and its potential impacts on local churches in the coming months.
3. As always, please be in prayer for the United Methodist Church and its witness in the world as we seek to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Open Arms Christian Preschool

Hello Church Family! We are all excited about the last few months of our Preschool Program. Beginning in February we have Open Enrollment for new students that are interested in joining our Preschool for 2020 Summer Camp and 2020-2021 School Year. If you have a child, family or friends that may be interested in joining our program please have them reach out ASAP. Our spots are limited and we anticipate all classrooms will be full for next school year. Please note that our youngest age group (Toddlers Ages 12 months – 23 months) can register at anytime and reserve future spots. This room has become very popular and fills up quickly! As soon as a family knows they want to send their children to our Preschool please have them contact the school. To secure a spot reach out to Nora Hamlet, Preschool Director at 804-754-0227 or email at openarms@riverroadumc.org.

