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May/June Upper Room Devotionals are available outside the keypad door.



GO -- FOLLOW

“GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am WITH you always, to the end of the age.”

Often within scripture, God’s call to do or follow includes the word, “go.” God said to Noah, go and build; to Abraham, go to the land I will show you; to Moses, go to Pharaoh and say let my people go. Whenever God was initiating some gracious action and enlisting God’s people in the process, the word “go” was often employed. Interestingly, Jesus shifted his verb usage slightly and leaned into the word “follow” when recruiting and equipping the disciples. One by one, Jesus approached the disciples with his own version of *come and follow me*. However, Jesus did crescendo with a resounding GO for his followers post- resurrection and just before he ascended to return to God. Jesus said to his followers, GO and make disciples in wider places than just Jerusalem with a greater cast of characters than the backgrounds of the current slate of disciples.

It is an interesting time to consider Jesus’s mandate to “go” and make disciples. Since the onset of COVID-19 in mid-March, we have all been limited on where we could physically “go.” And now with phases and stages of reopening occurring in our communities, we are considering our own comfort level with where we “go” and the plans that need to be in place in order to do so.

Throughout the church’s response to COVID-19, we have repeatedly communicated that while the building may be closed, ministry is very much open. In other words, we continue to follow and go where God needs us to be. In fact, this time of doing church in alternative formats and responding to community needs has INCREASED some of the ways we have been able to “go and make disciples” and serve as Jesus calls. For example, by the grace of God:

We increased our normal monetary giving to our ministry partners that serve people in the areas of feeding, sheltering, and health care services by 50% and are looking for additional ways to give as the year unfolds.

We have added another food pantry partner, Welborne Community Food Pantry, in addition to Ginter Park UMC.

We have over ten new people who have joined a small group at RRUMC.

In terms of our online presence, our total reach or views on Facebook is up 97% since mid March.

Our engagement on Facebook, the number of times people engaged with posts through reactions and comments, and shares is up 540%

Our comments on our Facebook posts are up 1100%

We continue to GO and seek to make disciples during this particular and challenging time in our world’s history. We of course acknowledge that we deeply miss gathering together in-person for corporate worship, small groups, and missional activities. Church leadership is working diligently within the Bishop’s time-line and requirements to offer this safely.

In the meanwhile and always, please be in prayer that we will be bold and humble to follow where God needs us to GO as RRUMC and please let church leadership know if the Holy Spirit sparks some ideas of ways in which we can build on go-ing into the world to make disciples who serve.

Peace in Christ,
 Pastor Darcey

Worship: One Anothering

June 14	Wait for One Another
June 21	Welcome One Another (Father's Day)
June 28	Forgive One Another
July 5	Jesus Going
July 12	The Church has Left the Building—Pentecost



June Birthdays

June 1

Lydia Taylor
Kate Meilink
Laura Rothenberg

June 2

Stephen Hayes

June 3

Peggy Barr

June 4

Susan Simmers

June 7

Grover Barrett
Mallory McCall

June 8

Corey King
Brock Benton

June 10

Chuck Irwin
Vicki Keith
Jackston McDuffie

June 11

Mercedes Castro

June 13

Mark Allred
John Vaughan, Jr.

June 14

Jamie Breedon

June 15

Jennifer Franklin
Ava Messer

June 17

Roxane Gilmore

June 18

Alicia Moosally

June 19

Dick Boaz
Caroline Vines
Christian Francisco

June 20

Jeni Benson

June 23

Tom Latta
Michael Wriston
Catherine Dameron

June 25

John Benton III
Emma Barrett
Brian Buckley

June 26

Brandon Smith
Grace Quagliano
Claire Stuckey

June 27

Jeff Eastman





SUNDAY MORNING 9:30

The children's classes are meeting by Zoom on Wednesdays.

See back page for info.



(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)

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: Zoom/11:00am

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: not meeting at this time

May 31 marks Pentecost this year. We often call Pentecost the birthday of the church, but the story of Pentecost has its roots in Genesis 1. The first command God gave to human beings was to go and fill the earth. But in Genesis 11 we find that humans wanted to hunker down together. We built the Tower of Babel as a kind of bright neon sign that people could see from far away and know that it was a safe place to gather. But God didn't want us gathered, he wanted to send us to the ends of the earth and bear his image to all of creation. So God created languages that made it both difficult to cooperate to build the tower and encouraged people to find others who spoke their language, and move away with them to find their own land.

On the day of Pentecost languages and sending play prominent roles. People heard Peter and the other disciples speaking in their own native language; the Gospel does not eliminate the diversity of languages and cultures, but makes it possible to encounter them without fear. But a few chapters later in Acts, persecution breaks out in Jerusalem, and apostles and disciples are scattered. But Acts tells us this persecution happened so the early church would spread out into the world.

As humans in general and the people of God in particular, it is in our nature to seek what is safe and familiar. We now find ourselves in a time of uncertainty. But this is precisely where we meet God, where we find our purpose and our callings. We don't have the ability to be the church gathered at the moment, so let's learn what it means for us to be Pentecost people who are sent by God, scattered by God, to be salt and light. Perhaps these strange times allow us to fulfill our Pentecost calling like never before. In this time of uncertainty may we be open to sharing in God's story and mission in ever more profound ways.

In Christ's Service,

Ed



JUNE NEWSLETTER

The youth at River Road have been doing some great things this month! For the safety of our church and in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have decided to continue our youth programming online! As we have heard before, the church doors June be closed, but God's ministry remains open! Please read below how you can connect with us!

RIVER ROAD YOUTH ONLINE

Here are some ways we are staying connected through this time!

Instagram - Follow Us @riverroadyouthumc

Weekly Inspiration: We will be posting frequently on social media with latest updates on blog posts, devotionals and even some fun videos!

RRUMC Youth Zoom Hangout - Sundays at 5PM

Sunday Night Youth: The youth will be gathering via Zoom with weekly check-ins, devotional time and fun games and activities!

Our New Series: In our weekly devotional time, we will be going through the book of Galatians and studying how our faith is not just a bunch of rules, but rather filled with goals!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jake Joseph

Email: youth@riverroadumc.org

Phone: (804) 396-9255

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 @riverroadyouthumc

 River Road United Methodist Church

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

During this time we're apart, we will be providing you with everything your children experience during one of our church services so they can experience church at home!

Watch and engage with your kids as a family with a video experience, activities, and devotionals throughout the week. Print out the activity if you can, and be sure to check out the Parent Cue App in order to connect what your kids learn into their everyday lives!

Toddler & Preschool: June and July are all about what we can spy with our little eyes. Get ready for I Spy! It's a great theme that not only helps us see the things that help us believe in Jesus, but it also goes right along with our VBS theme, Focus. Get it? Focus. I Spy. It's all about the eyes. Whether it's in our curriculum or VBS, we are helping preschoolers see so they can believe in Jesus. We will have one key question and bottom line for June and July. We don't think we can say these too much. They are that good. Get ready to ask, "who can believe in Jesus" and respond with, "I can believe in Jesus," over and over again.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "THESE ARE WRITTEN SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD." JOHN 20:31 NLV

In Elementary This Month: God has always been involved in the world He created. We see His handiwork on display in creation. We see God's love on display through Jesus, who came to rescue us. We respond to God in faith, believing in what we can't see because of what we can see. When we focus on what we know to be true about God and the world God created, we can have faith in what we can't see or fully understand.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR. IT IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE." HEBREWS 11:1 NIRV



FRANCES ALLEN/ALICE WEED CIRCLE:

Unfortunately, the Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle meeting will be canceled until further notice stop the spread of COVID-19 virus germs. Blessings to all and stay healthy.



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

In the interest of caution and maintaining everyone's health, our monthly Women's Prayer Breakfasts have been postponed for the next few months. We'll look forward to supporting each other and our local restaurants when it is once again safe to do so. Meanwhile, keep praying for each other, our church and community and all our brothers and sisters around the world.

CREATION CARE

Creation Care news and observations: Mostly troubling this month although if there is a 'silver lining' to covid-19, it's that (harmful) emissions and pollution levels have been, at least temporarily, significantly reduced. Here's some of the rest: 1) Although it is sometimes argued that we can't afford to address 'climate change' issues, the exorbitant human and economic costs of hurricanes, for example, continue to escalate, as reported in the NYT (i.e. "Climate change is making these storms more intense and destructive"; p. A 24); 2) In another recent NYT story, "Birds Will Be the Next Casualties of Trump's Regulatory Rollback, the paper reported that....According to internal agency documents....the Trump administration has discouraged local governments and businesses from taking simple precautionary measures to protect birds, and federal wildlife officials have all but stopped investigating most bird deaths...and...In recent weeks, the administration has scrapped a clean water regulation aimed at protecting streams and wetlands, and blocked an effort to require Americans to use energy-efficient light bulbs...and...plans to weaken vehicle emission standards and a rule restricting mercury, a toxic chemical emitted from coal-burning power plants"). All these actions obviously put creation care at increasing risk; & 3) In a disturbing new finding reported in "Harper's", it turns out that as the soil becomes warmer, it releases *significant* amounts of carbon dioxide (i.e. "warmer soils around the globe will emit the same amount of carbon dioxide as all the fossil fuels burned by humans in the last two decades" (6/20; p. 41).

Fortunately, there is also some encouraging news: 1) Locally, Mark Herring, our Attorney General, has joined Maryland's AG (Brian Frosh) in filing "a notice of intent to sue the EPA for failing to require two other states to implement plans to cut pollution in the Chesapeake Bay...as required by an agreement by the states in the watershed of the nation's largest estuary" (RTD; 5/19; p. A 5); and 2) In a 'technological' breakthrough in the construction business, Canadian architect Michael Green has created a "revolutionary" product and process (i.e. "mass timber": lighter, stronger, less expensive and *significantly* greener than steel and/or concrete) that can, and has already begun to, replace the traditional use of steel and concrete ("Discover"; 6/20; p. 13).

What can you/we do to protect God's Creation? Speak up! Join or support non-partisan, non-profit organizations on the front-lines of creation care (e.g. Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, Sierra Club, Ducks Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation and many others). And, of course, continue to pray. Amen...(Dr) Michael j Wriston, Chair, Earth Advocacy.

Thanks to all who have donated food for the Welborne food pantry. We have seen substantial donations each week, which have helped to feed the increasing numbers of visitors to the pantry. Each week shows an increase in need as more and more people lose jobs and exhaust savings. Ginter Park is reopening in late May and we will begin to provide food to that pantry as well, as we did before its closing. In particular, Ginter Park needs canned meats and peanut butter. They are also in need of clothes hangers and paper grocery bags. There will be a box (marked for clothes hangers) by the keypad door for you to put any clothes hangers and/or grocery bags you have to donate. We will provide updates through the app, so long as it is available, and the slack channel regarding the most immediate needs at Welborne.

We are also still collecting toiletries and underwear for CARITAS. Thanks to all who have already donated. What is needed is men's underwear in sizes M/L/XL and toiletry bags. To provide the toiletries, fill gallon-sized resealable bags with a standard size bar of soap, a disposable razor, shaving cream, men's deodorant, a toothbrush, toothpaste, and travel sized (3.4oz) shampoo, lotion, and alcohol-free mouthwash.

Our Easter offering has topped \$17,000, the highest total in recent years. We are deeply grateful for your contributions. Any additional contributions to missions will be used to address the needs of our missions partners resulting from the coronavirus and resulting economic dislocation.

Thanks be to God for guiding us through this difficult time and enabling us to continue to be his hands and feet in the world. For more information about missions, contact Ann Hodges, ahodges@richmond.edu or 804-339-9440.

CHRISMONS

Chrismon are ancient symbols for Christ or part of Christ's ministry: the dove descending down, fish, Celtic Cross, Jerusalem Cross, shepherd's crook, Chalice, shell, and others. The Sanctuary Christmas Tree is decorated each year with Chrismons which were made by members when the church moved from it's Broad Street site about 60 years ago (1961). These ornaments are in need of repair, restoration or replacement. A few have already been restored but many are still in need of personal attention. If you would like to participate in this effort, the ornaments are available to be signed out in a designated bin at the church rear entranced (by the key pad). They have been individually bagged (exercising sanitary protocol) with instructions included (should you need them). A sign-out sheet will be in the bin so that we know where the ornaments are going. A pencil is supplied but you may want to use your own. Return the repaired ornament to the bin in the same zip-lock bag marked with your initials. You will have questions and we are happy to answer them: Sandy Irwin 651-7572
Kate Meilink 525-8378.



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

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June 2020

**Articles for the
July 2020
Connections are due
June 15, 2020.**



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

Zoom Offerings

**Sundays: 11:00 am Contemporary Christian Sunday School Class
11:00 am Small Group
5:00 pm Youth Group**

**Wednesdays: 11:30 am Preschool Sunday School
12:00 pm Zoom in for Prayer
1:30 pm K - 2nd grade Sunday School
2:15 pm 3rd - 5th grade Sunday School**

**Thursdays: 11:00 am Prayer & Praise Service
7:15 pm Choir Zoom Meeting**

**Fridays: 2:30 pm Friday Fun Call Preschool - 2nd grade
3:00 pm Friday Fun Call 3rd - 5th grade**

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!

Open Arms Christian Preschool



Hello! The Preschool ended the school year a little differently this year, but with continued involvement from children and families at OACP! The classes held virtual “end of year” picnics and parties to celebrate the official end to the class on May 21st. It was a great year filled with lots of fun and learning, though it did not end as anticipated the last few months, the children and teachers all had a great time learning new ways to connect!

As we continue to navigate through the modifications to our program we are working on re-opening for Summer Camp on June 15th. We have an extensive plan, which includes limited class/group sizes to ensure the safety and health of the children, families and staff, but we are all excited to be back at Summer Camp soon! We are planning many fun activities with the children that are attending Summer Camp and can't wait to share!

