



RIVER ROAD **Connections**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
loving people to life

August 2020

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Join us for:

Drive In Holy Communion and a Blessing for students and Educators (Blessing of the back-packs) on Saturday, August 22 at 10am

CHURCH UPDATE

Greetings Church Family!

Ecclesiastes chapter three reminds us, "for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." As we move into the fifth month of this season of doing church differently in light of COVID, we want to provide you with a church update and ask for you to join us as we seek God's guidance to innovate during this "new normal."

As you know, the Church Council authorized the formation of a Healthy Church Team to meet weekly and monitor closely any developments as we seek to move back to offering in-person worship and additional in-person ministry options. Currently serving on the Healthy Church Team are myself, Chuck Irwin, Doug Jolley, Jake Joseph, Kate Meilink, John McLarin, Jeff Williams, and Robert Best. The HCT reviews the requirements of both the Governor's phase three (Commonwealth) and the Bishop's stage two (Conference). Currently, the form of in-person worship we are offering is a once a month Drive In Holy Communion Service. We will send out a scheduled date in August for the next drive in service! Due to the current requirements and restrictions that impact worship and safety concerns, we do not yet have a date set for in-person worship in the sanctuary or outside. However, we are making logistical plans for a return to in-person worship so that we can be ready when some of the Conference requirements are lifted.

That being said, we want to thank God for the ways that we have stepped out in new ways to serve and be connected to God and one another during the pandemic:

We continue to learn how to offer a powerful and relevant worship experience online. Through this platform we have broadened our reach and included new people in worship.

The addition of the Drive in Holy Communion Service allows us to remain safely connected as we worship Christ.

We have added a new community food pantry partner at Welborne UMC, in addition to our continual missional relationship at Ginter Park UMC. We also initiated a fund called the Samaritan Fund, to support church members and those in need during the pandemic.

The Congregational Life Committee is keeping in touch with members of our church family through phone calls, cards, emails, texts, and now driveway visits. They also ensured that our graduates were celebrated through yard signs and gifts and prayed for in worship.

Our full day care preschool, Open Arms Christian Preschool, re-opened on June 15th and is set to continue in the fall with a projected full enrollment.

Thus far during the pandemic, we have offered seven new small groups and times of prayer.

These are just some of the ways we are seeking to be church in this season of "new normal." We realize that we have to lean into the Holy Spirit and claim new and creative ways of sharing the gospel and caring for one another. Thank you for your continued prayers and insights as we are aiming to be bold and humble church!

We are the church in this and every season,
Peace, Pastor Darcey

Worship: Summer in the Psalms

August 2 Psalm 1
 August 9 Psalm 86
 August 16 Psalm 90
 August 23 Psalm 111
 August 30 Psalm 146



Join us online for worship at
 10am on
 Sundays.

<http://riverroadumc.org/sermons/>

August Birthdays

August 1

Randi Wingate
 Horace Payne III

August 4

Gloria Jeffrey
 Rob Neighbors
 Brittany Benton
 Jamie Benson

August 5

Ken Peterson

August 6

Ryan Neighbors

August 7

Michael Hubley

August 9

Jonathan Barrett
 Alyona Marks

August 12

Chuck Bartlett

August 13

Sherrie Franklin
 Leona Williams

August 14

Granville Patrick

August 15

Ken Atherholt
 Claire Rasor
 Joyce Painter

August 17

Tyler Kidd

August 18

Evelyn Hill

August 19

Bella Benson

August 20

Matthew Vaughan
 Ann Warren Harless
 Grace Johnson

August 21

Phil Cornett
 Brandon Rothenberg
 Christopher Jeffrey
 Matthew Jeffrey

August 22

Sandy Irwin
 Meg Eastman
 Madi Dameron
 Micah Chang

August 24

Ashton Gilmore

August 25

Dave Morris

August 26

Jim Taylor
 Beck Garnett

August 30

Daniel O'Neill Sr.

August 31

William Graeter
 Rhodes Ritenour





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

One of the joys I have serving at River Road is the Congregational Life ministry team. In these past months keeping connected with people, especially those who are more vulnerable to Covid, has been incredibly important. Since March, Congregational Life has been sending handmade cards to members in retirement communities who cannot receive visitors and making countless phone calls to check in with people. We have organized and delivered a monthly gift to vulnerable members living at home, from Easter flowers to (sugar free) sweets to firework and flag themed handmade bows to celebrate Independence Day. For high school and college graduates who have reached important milestones under unusual and unwanted circumstances, Congregational Life made and delivered gift baskets to let our graduates know that their church family celebrates their achievements with them. As the commonwealth has eased some restrictions we've begun making socially distanced driveway visits to remind people of the faithfulness of God and of the people of River Road UMC. Even through masks it has been a joy to see people face to face, to reflect and to see the face of God in one another.

Over the course of calls and visits, Congregational Life has heard stories of the faithfulness of this congregation, of the coordinated and spontaneous acts of kindness and connection that mean so much during these times. It is joyful service we have engaged in, and more are always welcome to join us. If you are interested in making a few calls, sending a few cards, and making a socially-distanced visit or two a month, let me know (ed@riverroadumc.org). The simplest of gestures – taking the time to send a card, to make a call, to make a visit – are also the most profound. I'm grateful for our Congregational Life team and for our congregation for showing up to offer and receive the grace of God found in offering our attention to one another.

In Christ's Service,

Ed



AUGUST 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 may 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!

STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING Socially-Distanced Events Happening This Summer!

Youth Summer Schedule: For the summer, we will not be meeting for our regular Sunday night programming. However, we will be scheduling virtual and in-person events to continue to be in fellowship over the summer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jake Joseph

Email: youth@riverroadumc.org

Phone: (804) 396-9255

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@riverroadyouthumc



River Road United Methodist Church

Don't forget to join us for a drive in Holy Communion Service on July 26th at 2pm in the church parking lot!

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!



In Toddler & Preschool This Month: I am wonderfully made in God's image! Do you ever think about yourself like that—that you are wonderfully made in God's image? We tend to forget about all of the wonder that went into making us as we become grownups. Time has a way of dulling our shine. It's part of the reason why people have to prod us to 'say cheese' when they take our picture. I think if we really, really, really believed that we are wonderfully made in God's image, no one would ever have to tell us to smile when they pulled out a camera. We would be smiling from ear-to-ear as we lived in the wonder that God made me! That is what we want for preschoolers. We want them to smile with confidence, because they know God made me.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE." PSALM 139:14, NIV

In Elementary This Month: Jesus showed us the greatest example of love when He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, He showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we treat one another with friendship and kindness. This month our focus is using our words and actions to show others we care.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP WHEN TROUBLE COMES." PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV

We're continually praying for you and with you. We hope you'll reach out for anything we can help with here at River Road!

Danielle

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:

August 13th Virtual Women's Prayer Breakfast

Please join other ladies from RRUMC on **Thursday, August 13th** by Zoom for our third Virtual Breakfast. Grab a cup of coffee, a muffin, or other favorite breakfast food and then join in for a chat at **8:30AM**. Here's a chance to hear what others are doing during this challenging time, and maybe even get some new ideas/ inspiration for yourself! We'd love to hear any prayer requests on your heart, so we can also lift those up until we meet again.

Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom, soon! Charlotte Via Allred

BOOK CLUB:

Book Club will attempt a Zoom Meeting for August 24, 7PM. Details will follow for the connection. The book we will be discussing is *The Girl With The Louding Voice*, by Abi Dare.

RICHMOND DISTRICT UPDATE

As you may know, River Road United Methodist Church is part of the Richmond District in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. There are sixteen districts that are led by a District Superintendent. The Richmond District is comprised of 66 churches and holds a membership of over 41,000, and is served by approximately 85 clergy. The district covers churches located in parts of Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, New Kent, and Powhatan Counties, and the City of Richmond.

The Bishop and the sixteen District Superintendents comprise the Cabinet who make clergy appointments and provide conference leadership.

On July 1st, our District Superintendent of the last four years, Rev. Dr. Pete Moon left the superintendency to serve as the Lead Pastor at Reveille UMC. We thank Rev. Moon and we welcome Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee as our new Richmond District Superintendent.

Dr. Lee was born in South Korea in 1964, and raised in a Christian home through the faith of his mother and grandmother. After graduating from Yonsei University, one of the schools established by Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries in 1885, he served three years in the Army as an officer. In 1990, he came to the States to further his theological education. He completed his M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary, and Ph.D., from Vanderbilt University Graduate School. He was ordained in the Tennessee Annual Conference as an elder in 1999, and transferred to the Virginia Conference in 2000. He previously served churches in Arlington, Danville, Winchester, and Alexandria districts. While serving a local church in Winchester, he also taught biblical studies at Shenandoah University. He has served on the District Committee of Ordained Ministries, Conference Board of Ordained Ministries, CEMCA, and Asian American Ministers' Associations. Rev. Lee and his wife, Kay, who is a registered nurse, have two children, Joshua and Sophia living in the Washington D.C. area.



Dr. Hyo Lee,
Richmond District Superintendent

Thanks to all who have donated food for the Welborne and Ginter Park food pantries. The need in our community is still great and these pantries are seeing increasing numbers of families each week. As the enhanced unemployment benefits end this month, expectations are that more people will be visiting the pantries in the coming weeks. Please continue to drop off food in the bin designated for that purpose by the keypad door. Special thanks to Karen Carter and Tony and Jean Barnette for making these deliveries to the food pantries each week.

We are also still collecting toiletries and underwear for CARITAS. Thanks to all who have already donated. Items needed are 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. Thanks to Karen Carter for delivering donations to CARITAS.

We will once again be collecting school supplies for the students at Oak Grove that we work with through the Micah Initiative. The Apple Tree School Supply Collection for our Micah partner Oak Grove Elementary has changed a little bit for this school year. There will be a RED bin beside the food pantry collection at the church's side entrance beginning July 26th at the drive in communion thru August.

We need-

PENCILS

MARKERS

COMPOSITION & SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS

Thank you for your continued support of the Oak Grove children and community!

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.



CREATION CARE

Creation Care mid-Summer news: Some encouraging, too much not so much: 1) "The Environmental Protection Agency... announced that it had limited states' ability to block the construction of energy infrastructure projects... promoting gas pipelines, coal terminals and other fossil fuel development. The completed rule curtails sections of the federal Clean Water Act". NYT, 6/2, p. A 27; 2) "Plastic pollution isn't just fouling the world's oceans. It is also in the air we breathe...There's no nook or cranny on the surface of the earth that won't have micro plastics." NYT, 6/12, p. A 16; 3) "Ohio Strikes a Blow in Algae Fight. Wetlands built around Grand Lake help filter farms' nutrient...Cleaning up bodies of water choked with toxic algae has proven difficult. The project to repair Grand Lake, once one of the most polluted by algae in the nation, is one of the clearest successes." WSJ, 9/19/19, p. A 3; 4) "The Trump administration will not impose any limits on perchlorate, a toxic chemical compound that contaminates water and has been linked to fetal and infant brain damage." NYT, 5/15, p. A 20; 5) "The Tennessee Department of Transportation now practices swath mowing, a strategy that allows wildflowers to bloom unmolested...[i]nstead of clearing the entire space... The mowed swath preserves clear sightlines for drivers while allowing wildflowers to grow....'We knew there was a problem with pollinators, and we saw an opportunity to help, so we jumped in to do it.'" NYT, 9/17/19, p. A 27; 6) "The Environmental Protection Agency has made it easier for cities to keep dumping raw sewage into rivers by letting them delay or otherwise change federally imposed fixes." NYT, 1/25, p. A 1; and 7) "In Copenhagen, the Danish capital, which pledges to become the world's first carbon-neutral city....a 410 foot smokestack is a cause for celebration...The Amager Bakke power plant...turns local trash into low-carbon energy...The 12-floor facility...offers a bird's eye view of the city...a 1480 foot artificial ski slope...a freestyle park, a slalom course, a fitness area...a ski rental shop, a ski school and...7000 bushes, 300 pine and willow trees and real grass... Admission is free." NYT, 10/27/19, p. TR 2.

So, what can *we* do to help preserve God's wondrous creation? *Speak up!* Become a member and support non-profit organizations on the front lines of creation care, as well as companies, individuals and candidates of either party running for office who actively support creating a greener, healthier and more sustainable world. Amen...As always, Michael (j Wriston), Chair, *Earth Advocacy*.



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

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August 2020

**Articles for the
September 2020
Connections are due
August 20, 2020.**

July/August Upper
Room Devotionals
are available outside
the keypad door.

**THE
UPPER
ROOM**
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



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

Zoom Offerings

Sundays: 11:00 am Contemporary Christian Sunday School Class

Wednesdays: 12:00 pm Zoom in for Prayer

Thursdays: 11:00 am Prayer & Praise Service

Fridays: 10:00 am Preschool Sunday School
10:45 am K - 2nd grade Sunday School
11:30 am 3rd - 5th grade Sunday School

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!



Open Arms Christian Preschool



We've had a wonderful Summer Camp at Open Arms! As we are going into August it's time for us to start preparing for Back to School at OACP! Our classes are close to full for the 2020/2021 school year. If you, your family, or friends have children ages 15 months – 5 years that would like to join us, reach out to our Director, Nora Hamlet at 804-754-0227 or openarms@riverroadumc.org to ask about openings!



OPEN ARMS
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Helping children grow with open hearts, open minds and open arms.