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**September/
 October Upper
 Room Devotionals
 are available
 outside the
 keypad door.**



Prayers Extend as the School Year Begins

It is hard to believe we are headed into the Fall season of 2020. Typically during this time of year many people in our church family are checking off items on their school supply lists, arranging binders, and preparing for that front porch first day of school “photo op.” While we know that everyone will be heading back to school, this year is unlike any other. Therefore, we want every family sending their student or grand-student back to school and every teacher making plans and then adapting to the new plan to know that their church family is praying for them. We have over thirty schools connected to our church community at RRUMC. We ask for God’s blessing - health, safety, wisdom, and learning - to be at work within every hall and workspace; each grade level and school board meeting; and every student, family, and teacher.

We pray for every student: Psalm 119:33a “Keep my steps steady by your word.”

We realize that many of our students, rather than walking out to the bus stop for school transport, will be walking into their living rooms and arriving at their desk workstation. Others will begin the school year in the building, yet things will be different. Masks will be worn and distance will be kept. We pray for a steady and safe school year for all students, from those in full day care and preschool to elementary, middle, and high school, and our college students.

We pray for teachers and school administrators: John 14 “My peace I give to you, my peace I leave with you.”

We think about teachers and educators who are finding the usual start of the school year concerns take a back seat to the level of adaptability they are being called to in 2020-2021. We know that the work of teachers at its heart is a work of hope. We know that educators help young people become and develop and shine. We thank our teachers for the care and love that they hold for their students. We pray for teachers who have anxiety about heading into this school year. We ask God to empower them and keep them well and fortified.

We pray for families: Matthew 19:26 “All things are possible with God.”

We know that many families will be transforming corners of their home or spare bedrooms into classrooms. Many will be juggling work and remote learning, all the while remembering to take a breath. We realize that everyone will have concerns about how things will transpire, whichever form school takes or doesn’t take this autumn. May we remember two things: that God in the Holy Spirit is with us every step of the way and that we will not be in this place forever.

We also remember before God:

We pray for students and teachers who have established health needs or a family member with a health condition during this time of pandemic. We pray for the hard decisions they are making about health and safety, schedule and employment.

We pray for students who were experiencing a gap in their educational opportunities before the pandemic and the increasing impacts they are now facing.

We pray for students who depend upon their school day for a full meal or nutritional help.

We pray for students and families stretched thin by mental health struggles or addiction issues.

Thank you for taking on and lifting up this call to prayer for our church family and larger community,

Pastor Darcey

Worship: New Normal:

Following Jesus to live differently, love deeply, and serve humbly

We have all experienced a number of new normals in the last several months. From week to week, and even day to day, we have had to lean into adaptability and ask God to build a sense of resiliency within us. Within the life of faith, we remember that following Jesus has always called us into "new normals" or ways of being in the world that ask us to live differently, love deeply, and serve God humbly. This seven week sermon series will focus on these invitations in Jesus' ministry from the gospel of Mark. What "new normals" of mercy, holiness, and commitment might Jesus be asking you to believe in and act from in your life right now?

**Join us online for worship at 10am on
Sundays.**

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



September Birthdays

September 1

Dino Sadler

September 2

Bob Wilson
Angie Williams
Kimberly Jagnarian

September 4

Elliot Eastman

September 8

Kristen Cornett

September 10

Wayne Barrack

September 11

Lynn Rasor

September 12

Nancy Traylor

September 13

Laine Hubley
Cindy Sanford
Jim Moeller

September 14

Bill Mullen
Hannah Clark
Eirnin Buchholz

September 15

David Jagnarian
Meg Walunas

September 17

Jim 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

Hounter Moum
Brooke Hensley
Spencer Moum

September 26

William Goodship

September 27

Jake Johnson

September 29

Amen Franklin

September 30

Diana Best





SUNDAY MORNING 9:30

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



(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

I remember in mid-March, back when I was young and naïve, and thought things would begin to return to normal by summer and this fall would be just like any other. As we all know, this is not the case. This is the time when I would be promoting Sunday night discipleship groups and wrapping up the Sunday night menus from September through November. While this is not a normal season, I am mindful of Paul's words to Timothy: "be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable" (2 Timothy 4:2). As we do so much work and education through video conferencing, another Zoom call seems unfavorable, but nevertheless we persist in growing in faith, hope, and love. We persist in celebrating each other's joys and in helping to bear each other's burdens. Such strivings are always in season.

While it will be a different fall, fall is still coming. There will still be opportunities for our children to learn the faith, for our youth to connect and grow, and for adults of all ages to pursue together the more excellent way of Christ-like love. Even if the means seem unfavorable, let us nevertheless persist in gathering and in growing. A fall schedule of ways to gather and grow is on the way. It is always the right time to show up together to become ever more a part of God's work in the world.

In Christ's Service,
Ed

Zoom Offerings

Sundays: 11:00 am Contemporary Christian Sunday School Class

Wednesdays: 11:00 am 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!



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

The youth at River Road have been doing some great things this month! We have gathered for outdoor, socially-distanced events and are continuing to find new ways to connect our youth! 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 @riverroadyouthmc

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

FALL SCHEDULE

Youth Fall Schedule: This Fall, as the situation surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing, we are scheduling events on church grounds that will be hosted outdoors while following all safety guidelines. For the month of September, we will be meeting Sunday nights from 5-6pm outdoors and socially-distanced. If you have any questions regarding our Fall schedule, please contact me using the information below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jake Joseph

Email: youth@riverroadumc.org

Phone: (804) 396-9255

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 @riverroadyouthmc

 River Road United Methodist Church



We are so thankful for all that could join us for the Blessings of Backpacks & Educators! If you weren't able to make it we'll be reaching out to schedule a drop-off of backpack tags. Please know that your church family is praying for you all this school year as you navigate all the changes. We're here to listen, pray, or offer help wherever we can.

In Toddler & Preschool this Month: We have been reminded over the past several months just how important it is to believe that God has a plan for me. Our world has changed. Everything we had planned changed. Hurt, disappointment, fear, loss, sickness... all of it has left us wondering, what will happen next? And, while we won't ever truly know what will happen next in any given situation, God does, because God has a plan for you, and God has a plan for me. This month, we are going to use the super sweet theme of Ice Cream Sundae, along with the life of Joseph, to teach preschoolers that God has a plan for them. When we put all of the parts of Joseph's story together—just as with an ice cream sundae - it gives us a sweet reminder that we can trust that God has a plan for me, and it is always best. We just have to wait until God is done putting all of the parts together. Our hope this month is that preschoolers will begin to understand that God loves them, and He has a plan for them—a plan they can trust is always best, no matter what.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU SAYS THE LORD." JEREMIAH 29:11, NLT

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. This month we'll focus on 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

Our preschool- 5th grade Zoom calls will be changing for the fall due to school schedules. I am sending out a poll to see what days and times will work best for families! Be on the lookout!

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:

September 10th Virtual Women's Prayer Breakfast: Please join other ladies from RRUMC on Thursday, September 10th at 8:30AM on Zoom for our Fourth Virtual PRAYER Breakfast! (Watch for a church wide email from Eva that week with the Zoom Meeting ID number or Conference Call number.) Grab a cup of coffee or tea and something to munch on while catching up with everyone. Hear how others are "moving forward" creatively with their lives and adapting to "new normal" Fall schedules, and let God inspire you through your sisters in faith! Bring your prayer requests so we can be in prayer for each other until the next breakfast gathering. Even through the current COVID challenges, meeting on Zoom has provided those who join in with fellowship and growing friendships! See you at breakfast!

BOOK CLUB:

Book Club will attempt a Zoom Meeting for September 28, 7PM. Details will follow for the connection. The book we will be discussing is American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins.

CREATION CARE

Things to celebrate, be concerned about or DO! A little good news, first: 1) Biologist Tim Lane (from Kentucky's Center for Mollusk Conservation) has led a successful effort to "rescue a species of mussel on the edge of extinction" (in Indian Creek, Virginia!)...Mollusks are nature's water filters, able to clean up big messes...and provide food...and..mollusk shells stabilize riverbeds and create habitats for other creatures" (Science News, 8/1/20); 2) "In June, California's Air Resources Board revealed its Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) regulation...Officials from fourteen other states (but not Virginia?!) have signed on to implement similar goals" ("E The Environmental Magazine", 8/13/20); 3) "California...finalized a legal settlement with four of the world's largest automakers (Ford, Honda, BMW & Volkswagen) that binds them to comply with its stringent state-level fuel efficiency standards....The differences in fuel efficiency will have profound impacts" ("NYT; 8/18/20; p. A 21); 4) "The Supreme Court ruled....that the Clean Water Act applies to pollutants that reach the sea and other protected waters indirectly through groundwater...The Trump administration filed a brief...saying that the law does not apply" (NYT, 4/24/20); and 5) "Fresh Kills Landfill (on Staten Island) has been rebranded as Fresh Kills Park...over the course of 20 years, the parks and sanitation agencies worked together...to restore or encourage tidal wetlands, to generate forests, scrublands and the wide-open fields of grasses. The Sanitation Department refines the methane and pipes it to Staten Island homes for cooking and heat" (NYT, 8/8/20, p. A 28).

Things to be concerned about: 1) "Methane levels in the atmosphere are at an all-time high....About half of that 12 percent increase was the result of expanding agriculture and landfills; the other half arose from fossil fuels...Methane can trap about 30 times as much heat...as the same amount of CO₂" (Science News, 8/15/20); 2) "The Trump administration formally weakened a major climate-change regulation... effectively freeing oil and gas companies from the need to detect and repair methane leaks" (NYT, 8/14/20 p A 24); and 3) "The Trump administration ...finalized its plan to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil and gas development, a move that overturns six decades of protections for the largest remaining stretch of wilderness in the United States" (NYT, 8/18/20, p. A 1).

Things to do: 1) Speak up! and urge and/or support office-holders and public officials who are working to create a more sustainable future and care for God's remarkable Creation; 2) Join/support those non-profit organizations who are working to do so every day (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, Ducks Unlimited, WWF, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club and so many others); & 3) *Reduce, Reuse & Recycle* (including 'e waste': "Just 17.4 % of the 53.6 million tons of e-waste generated in 2019 was recycled" according to Science News, 8/1/20).

Respectfully submitted, Michael (j Wriston), Chair, Earth Advocacy Committee, River Road United Methodist Church

Thanks to all who have donated food for the Welborne and Ginter Park food pantries, toiletries and underwear for CARITAS, and school supplies for the students at Oak Grove Elementary that we work with through the Micah Initiative. We are so blessed to have a generous church.

The food bin has been full each week and the need continues to be great. Ginter Park is serving over 100 families each week and Welborne over 50. Please continue to drop off food in the bin designated for that purpose by the keypad door. There is always a need for canned meats, soups and vegetables, peanut butter, rice and cereal. Diapers and toilet paper are also in need. We will update you periodically as to other needs using Slack and email. Special thanks to Karen Carter and Tony and Jean Barnette for making deliveries to the food pantries.

In addition to food donations, both pantries could use a few more volunteers to work. Ginter Park has volunteer shifts on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Welborne has shifts on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Monday evenings. Masks and social distancing are required. If anyone has the time and interest, please reach out and we will connect you with the appropriate people. You can also sign up directly at Welborne on their web page.

We are still collecting toiletries and underwear for CARITAS. 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.

In August we had an opportunity to provide lunch for men in the CARITAS work program. We were able to provide food from a local restaurant, helping restaurant workers as well. Your contributions to missions funded this effort.

Thank you for ALL the school supply donations for Oak Grove Elementary!

The virtual start to the school year will be challenging for all, but especially for children whose safe place is inside the school building. Your prayers and donations for Oak Grove students will make a difference!



The pandemic has provided new opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We are grateful for the many blessings God has provided us, enabling us to share with those less fortunate. For more information about missions, contact Ann Hodges, ahodges@richmond.edu or 804-339-9440.



**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 2020

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



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

Worship Plan September 2020

Worship on the Lawn

Sunday, September 6th, 13th, 20th at 9am



Drive in Holy Communion

Sunday, September 27th



Open Arms Christian Preschool

Thank you to everyone for the outpouring of support to the preschool as we navigated re-opening for Summer Camp. We were able to re-open June 15th and had a wonderful summer with the children and families. Our program was able to re-open safely with adjustments that were made to keep the children and teachers safe while having lots of fun!

We are excited to be able to offer our Preschool Program for the 2020/2021 school year! The teachers have been diligently working and have great plans to engage and educate the children this school year! We have a few more openings. If you, or anyone you know, has a child that is looking for a preschool program, please have them reach out to Nora Hamlet, 804-754-0227 openarms@riverroadumc.org, for more information regarding availability.



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