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**November/
December Upper
Room Devotionals
are available
outside the
keypad door.**

ALL IN...This Together

STEWARDSHIP 2020

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ~ Ephesians 4:4-6

I was talking with a person in our church family the other day who due to health issues has had to remain consistently distanced during the pandemic. With gratitude, they talked about how the church had reached out and tried to keep connected and in community through online and drive-in worship, small group participation, and personal contacts like phone calls and texts. At some point in the conversation they said, after all, “we have to remember that we are ALL IN this together.”

This is one of the foundational remembrances of what it means to be church—the community of faith and the body of Christ. That by God’s design and direction, we are all in this together. Not only during the highly unusual times in which we find ourselves now, but every time and season. It is God’s plan for us that we have a community of people that gather around our faith in Christ, that motivates and empowers us to be about God’s business in the world. This is why we have increased our missional commitments in 2020, because there are people who need a tangible reminder, through health care support or food provision, that God is with them and for them. That is what it means to be the church and serve like Jesus.

As we move into stewardship season 2020, we are focusing on ALL IN—how God is in all and through all **so that** we can be all in for Christ and for each other. Every Sunday in worship between October 25th and November 15th (Commitment Sunday), we will anchor ourselves in the biblical reminders of how God has been ALL IN for us and the ways in which this impacts our decisions and relationships.

One of these considerations will be prayerfully deciding what God is calling you and your family to give financially to the mission and ministries of the church for 2021. We recognize and appreciate that some families may be experiencing greater uncertainty and so we are particularly thankful for your discernment. The Stewardship Team will be reaching out with more details about this year’s stewardship process. More than ever, the church can be a powerful communicator of how God is ALL IN for us and thus we can be ALL IN for each other.

ALL IN for Christ and ALL IN for one another,

Pastor Darcey

Worship: All In

All In This Together

October 25th 2020 Stewardship: ALL IN to be ALL In. Pastor Darcey Johnson preaching Ephesians 4:1-16.
Testimony: Joyce Painter

November 1st 2020 Stewardship: ALL IN for ONE ANOTHER. All Saints Day
Rev. Dr. Craig Kocher preaching. Colossians 1:1-14

November 8th 2020 Stewardship: ALL IN for MISSIONS. Pastor Darcey Johnson preaching. James 2:8-17

November 15th 2020 Stewardship: ALL IN for CHRIST. Commitment Sunday Pastor Darcey Johnson
preaching. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and Proverbs 11:25

November 22nd 2020 Thanksgiving The Importance of being Grateful Pastor Darcey Johnson
preaching. Psalm 28:6-9 and Philippians 4:4-9

November 29th 2020 ADVENT: LOVE MAKES A WAY
Matthew 3:1-12 and Isaiah 40:1-5

Join us online for worship at 10am on Sundays.

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

November Birthdays

November 1

Chrisann Alexander

November 3

Becky Yost
Traci Craig

November 4

Dana Lang
Kelley Kemp
Alana Ritenour

November 5

Marge Stewart
Meredith Oubre

November 6

Betty Simmons

November 7

Ethan Wilbur

November 9

Charlie Cunningham
Hannah Gilliland
Layton Barrett

November 12

Terry Barrett
John Reaves

November 14

Emily Fuemmeler

November 15

Lydia Morris

November 17

Pat Atherholt
Jenna Potts
Thea Johnson

November 19

Dorian Dirom
Edwin Barrack

November 20

Aimee Barrack

November 22

Sandy Jolley
Emma Benson

November 23

Nancy Seese
Ian Conner

November 24

Marie Clarke
Patricia Mershon
Ali Cunningham
Ginnie Price
Jimmy Banta

November 25

Carrie Francisco

November 28

Sue Stenborg
Tom Bondurant
Karen Moeller
Lena Busscher

November 29

Patty Hill

November 30

Jay Davis
Christopher Hudson





Zoom Offerings



Sundays: 10:45 am Preschool Sunday School
 11:00 am Contemporary Christian Sunday School Class
 11:15 am K - 2nd grade Sunday School
 11:45 am 3rd - 5th grade Sunday School

Wednesdays: 11:00 am Zoom in for Prayer

Thursdays: 11:00 am Prayer & Praise Service

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!

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/9:00am

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 my mottos in life is, “What doesn’t kill me gives me a dark sense of humor.” I don’t claim it’s a good one. As I write this we are two weeks away from election day, and I’ve often thought to myself, “In only two weeks the 2020 election cycle will end and the 2024 election cycle will begin!” Vast amounts of money, energy, and emotion have been invested in this election. We are told this is the most pivotal election in our lifetime.

It has been meaningful for me to lead a study on the Sermon on the Mount with the presidential campaign as a backdrop. Elections do matter, but they don’t change my calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ. No matter who is in the oval office, I am to do works of goodness, justice, and mercy so God’s name will be honored, God’s character revealed, and the lives of friends and enemies will be better for them. No matter which party controls the Senate, I am called to love my enemies, to listen to those I don’t understand or who make me angry, and to seek the well-being of those with whom I disagree. No matter who is on the Supreme Court I am called to be perfect in mercy as God is perfect in mercy. It may be the case that presidential priorities, legislative agendas, and court ruling may help or hinder us in our calling as disciples, but they do not change our call.

Brene Brown has made a career of researching negative emotions such as shame, guilt, and anger. One of her insights is that it is hard to hate people up close. The Good News of the Gospel is that while we were persistent in sin, God did not condemn us from on high but drew close to us in Jesus Christ, returning our cruelty with mercy, our fear with faithfulness, our anger with forgiveness, our cynicism with hope. God reigns through the strange, hidden power of the cross and this is the best news of all. In my own life of discipleship I have a few key passages of Scripture that ground me when I become unsettled. One of them is the well-known passage of 1 Corinthians 13, often read at weddings. I will sometimes replace the word “love” in this passage with “God” to remind me of who I serve and who I am called to be like: “God is patient; God is kind; God is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. God does not insist on God’s own way; God is not irritable or resentful; God does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. God bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Whoever governs from the oval office, this is the character of the God who governs heaven and earth, and for this we rejoice!

In Christ’s Service,
 Ed



RRUMC YOUTH ONLINE

YOUTH@RIVERROADUMC.ORG

1. DAILY DEVOTIONS

*join our email list to receive
daily devotionals to follow*

2. ZOOM CHECK-IN

*join us on Wednesday's at 5:30pm
to check-in with other youth friends*

3. SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

*live on Sunday's at 5:15pm!
join us for an online version of youth group*

4. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

*follow us on Instagram for more
daily inspiration and information about
upcoming youth events*

News from *Creation Care* (October): Things to be thankful for, to be concerned about, or to DO! First, a few things to be thankful for:

1) Headline from the WSJ: "Election Won't Slow Renewable Energy: The past four years prove the industry is past its formative years and will persist no matter who wins presidential contest. . ." (10/1/20, p. B 12); 2) Also from the WSJ: "What if all food packaging came from plant-based materials and didn't impact the climate? At Tetra Pak, we already have plant-based materials. . .But we won't stop there. Our aim is to create cartons made solely from plant-based materials that are fully renewable, fully recyclable and carbon-neutral." (10/14/20, p. A 5); 3) "Petrochemical makers are pausing multibillion-dollar US expansions as the coronavirus subdues what had been rapid growth in the demand for plastics" (one of few benefits of Covid-19?) (WSJ, 10/16/20, p. B1); 4) Another (unexpected?) benefit of Covid-19: "The world's transition to cleaner sources of energy is gaining speed as the coronavirus pandemic accelerates a shift in investment away from fossil fuels" (WSJ, 10/14/20, p. B 1); 5) "The state Legislature on Thursday voted to make New Jersey the first state in the country to ban single-use paper bags in supermarkets along with all single-use plastic bags in stores and restaurants." (NYT, 9/27/20, p. 17); 6) The Atlantic just launched *Planet*, a new section devoted to climate change, along with *The Weekly Planet*; 7) "A new cocktail of enzymes that speeds up the degradation of plastic offers a step forward in finding a new form of recycling. . . Even with breakthroughs in recycling, a problem remains: How to get the plastic to recycling plants in the first place." (NYT, 10/4/20, p. 22); and 8) "Pope Francis has formed an unusual partnership with the agnostic Italian founder of the Slow Food movement while doubling down on calls to protect the environment from profit-driven development that...harms the world's poorest the most." (RTD, 9/13/20, p. B11). Much to be thankful for, but also...

Things to be concerned about include: 1) "The Great Barrier Reef, one of the earth's most precious habitats, lost half of its coral populations in the last quarter-century, a decline that...would continue unless drastic action is taken to mitigate the effects of climate change," (NYT, 10/15/20, p. A11); 2) "Prosecutions of environmental crimes have 'plummeted' during the Trump administration, according to a new report . . . 'the worst pollution prosecution numbers in the 14 years covered by our study.'" (NYT, 10/15/20, p. A 21); 3) "Nearly half of the continental United States is gripped by drought . . . exemplifying a trend towards more extreme weather as the climate changes." (NYT, 10/16/20, p. A 23); 4) "Protecting intact peatlands and restoring degraded ones are crucial steps if the world is to counter climate change. . . [P]eat bogs, wetlands . . . contain large amounts of carbon in the decaying vegetation that has built up over centuries. . . . Current estimates are that drained peatlands worldwide emit as much carbon dioxide annually as global air travel." (NYT, 10/10/20, p. A 12); 5) "The world endured its warmest September on record." (NYT, 10/8/20, p. A 12); 6) "Plastic waste has long been a visible - and growing problem - in oceans around the world, with refuse littering the shorelines of once-pristine beaches, stretching out across a wide expanse of sea in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and threatening sea life that ingests it. A new report offers a glimpse of one of the impacts below the surface: the scale of microplastics building up on the ocean floor. . . far more than on the ocean's surface, and it is the equivalent of 18 to 24 shopping bags of small plastic fragments for every foot of coastline on every continent." (NYT, 10/8/20, p. A 13); and 7) H.J Resolution 46 "would open the door to exploitation of the mineral and petrochemical resources beneath America's national parks." (Backpacker, 11-12/20, p. 19). Daunting but the key is..

Things we can do include: 1) Speak up! 2) With the elections coming up, make your (*Creation Care*) voice heard at the ballot box; 3) Subscribe to *The Atlantic* (and its spin-off, *Planet*); 4) Support local, and wider, efforts to protect and/or rehabilitate wetlands and other degraded or natural ecosystems (one of the priorities of The Nature Conservancy & Ducks Unlimited); 5) Minimize use of single-use (and other) plastics; 6) Join the Slow Food movement (e.g. Slow Food RVA) with its tenets to *buy local, cook more, and eat more mindfully and healthily and in harmony with friends and family*; 7) Toast to Tetra Pak, the state of New Jersey and, of course, the Pope; and 8) Join and support the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and a host of other non-partisan nonprofits working *daily* to create a more sustainable world (e.g.. The Nature Conservancy; Greenpeace; EDF; Ducks Unlimited; Sierra Club; Audubon Society; WWF, etc.).(:) Amen....Respectfully submitted, Michael j Wriston, Chair, Earth Advocacy Committee, RRUMC

Happy November, River Road Families!



I love this time of the year where we have cool mornings and evenings, and eventually cool days too. I appreciate all the changes that come with this season. This transformation of the seasons and the vivid change of colors reminds me of the continual transformation we live into as Christians. We are continually changing to be more like Christ. It is an ongoing process just like the season changes throughout the year. May we all remember that times of change, easy or hard, are beautiful creations of God and that He uses all seasons to make us into something new. Never forget that God is using this time to help transform your heart into something more!

We'll have many mission opportunities this month and next for families to be involved in! Blanket making, cards for Thanksgiving boxes, gift bags for UMFS families, and Angel Tree to name a few. Be on the lookout for more info on each of these exciting opportunities!

In Toddler & Preschool This Month: It's time to make thankful trees! Making thankful trees is so much fun! The colors get prettier and prettier as the trees get bigger and bigger. And, it feels so good to think about and write down what we're thankful for – for an entire month! This time of year helps us refocus on all the good in our lives. And there is SO much good when it comes to God. Because God is good! That is what we want preschoolers to learn this month. God is good and we have A LOT we can thank Him for. So, get ready to create those thankful trees and tell God, "Thank You" for all the good things He's made and done! We can't wait to celebrate thankfulness all month long! And, in case you didn't know, we are very thankful for you and all that you do to help preschoolers know that God made them, God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD." PSALM 107:1, NIV

In Elementary This Month: Gratitude sometimes feels like a lost art. Yet gratitude is an idea close to God's heart. Think about all of the Bible stories where people give thanks to each other, celebrate God with feasts and festivals—not to mention the Psalms filled songs of praise. Just take a moment to consider everything God has done for you: the world He made, the promises He's kept, the new life He offers through Jesus. This month we'll focus on remembering all of that, we can always be thankful.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS GOOD. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER." PSALM 136:1, NIRV

FRANCES ALLEN/ALICE WEED CIRCLE:



The FA/AW Circle met via Zoom on October 13th. Melinda Sledd opened our meeting with a prayer and devotion. In these strange Covid-19 days we are unable to meet in person but can keep in touch by Zoom and phone calls! The last time we met was March 10 at the Hermitage Birthday Party which was a huge hit. No one came down with anything either, which was such a blessing. Thank you God! Bess Traylor did an amazing job decorating. The cake and ice cream were delicious; the singing by Joy and Jake was beautiful and SO appreciated. On another topic, we missed many things this year: the March Yard Sale, the Easter Egg Hunt and entertaining the preschool with our salad lunch in May. However, we have Thanksgiving coming up and Charlotte has offered to fill the box and Judy will reimburse her. Thank you Charlotte and Judy! Last year we each brought something. This month we had three birthdays: Elvie 10/14, Jackie 10/18 and Gurleen 10/28. Joan mentioned that we won a District award for fulfilling eight categories! We thanked Bess Traylor for her ceaseless work with the residents of the Hermitage, as well as her Book Club enterprise! Thank you Bess and we have a pin for you! Also, we are collecting dvds and costume jewelry for Bing prizes for the residents!

Our next meeting will be on Zoom, November 10 at 10am. Hope to see you there. It was a good meeting even if it was virtual!

Pearcy Flippen (substitute scribe and co-chair with Jane Bren)

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST:

November 12th Virtual Women's Prayer Breakfast: Please mark your calendars now and join other ladies from River Road for breakfast on the second Thursday in November. We have found that meeting virtually on Zoom (or by Conference Call) has helped us stay in touch and foster relationships. We share what's going on in our lives, prayer concerns, and even helpful ideas for meeting some of the challenges we're all facing. It's an uplifting and enjoyable way to start your day! Fix your own favorite bowl of cereal or muffin and pour yourself a cup of coffee. Then settle in on your phone or computer for a chat via Zoom!

This group is open to everyone! You will receive a church wide email a few days beforehand with the Zoom ID number and Password/Conference Call phone number to make it easy to connect. Hope to see you there!

BOOK CLUB:

Book Club continues to meet via Zoom at the same time - 7PM on the fourth Monday of the month. Zoom information will be forwarded to everyone on the Book Club current list a few days before the meeting. If you wish to be included, please phone Ann York, 907-748-0446.

On November 23 we will discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee.

Keep reading everyone and the Club is always open to new members and book suggestions to read.

Ann York

All Saints Sunday

Sunday November 1st is All Saints Sunday, when we remember those who have shone the light of Christ with their lives to help guide our paths. We will be remembering in worship the "saints" who have lived and died and gone to be with God-both online and in person. ***If you would like the name and life of a saint named in worship***, please email this to our Church Secretary, Eva Booth at eva@riverroadumc.org by Friday, October 30th.

Missions and Congregational Life Project – Get Involved

Covid has made it difficult for us to stay connected to the people served by our mission partners like CARITAS and the Ginter Park Food Pantry. With colder weather on the way, the Missions Team and Congregational Life have created an opportunity to support the people these partners serve in a more personal way with something adults, teens, and children can do as part of our church family.

Tied fleece blankets are made without sewing. All that is needed is no-pill fleece, a ruler, tape measure, or measuring square, sharp scissors, and the ability to tie a knot. As you tie each knot we invite you to pray for our mission partners, the people they serve, and the person receiving the blanket.

Depending on what kind of anti-pill fleece is purchased, the cost for materials will likely be \$40-\$50. The blankets will require two 2.5 yard pieces of anti-pill fleece, which can be purchased from a variety of places from Wal-Mart to JoAnn Fabrics. If you buy in-store/curbside you should be able to get 2.5 yards. If you buy online you may have to buy two 3 yard pieces and trim them down. You can choose patterns for adults or for children.

Here are instructions on how to make the blanket:

Buy 2 ½ yards each of two anti pill fleece.

Lay out and trim selvages with scissors.

Put wrong sides together and trim to make sure all sides are pretty even.

Cut a 4” square out of all four corners.

Then cut a strip about 1 ½ wide and 4” deep on both sides of the square.

Then tie the two strips that are on top of each other in a knot and say a prayer for the receiver of the blanket.

Do this on all 4 corners.

Your blanket is now anchored.

Working one side at a time, cut your strips and then go back and tie that side and pray.

Continue until all 4 sides are cut and tied. Now you have a beautiful warm blanket for someone to sleep under!

You can also search YouTube for instructions by searching “tied fleece blanket.”

If you have questions as you make them, feel free to call Sandy Jolley at Sandy 501-282-3309

These blankets are a way for people of all ages in our church to love our neighbors to life by making something personal that will remind our neighbors and mission partners that we are with them and that God is with them. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve. Please have your blankets to church by Sunday, November 15, when we will bless them in worship before giving them to our partners at Ginter Park and CARITAS.

Other Missions News

We continue to support food pantries at both Ginter Park and Welborne with your generous donations. Both continue to serve record numbers of families. Special thanks to Paul and Patricia Mershon, A.C. and Judie Little, Ellen Reaves, Chuck Irwin and Karen Carter for volunteering regularly at Ginter Park and to Jean and Tony Barnette for delivering donated food each week.

Covid notwithstanding, we plan to collect Hearth of Henrico Thanksgiving boxes, Angel Tree gifts, and Gifts for the Manger as usual. These missions are more important than ever as so many are suffering during this pandemic. Watch for more information about how to be involved in these missions.

We are blessed to be able to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. For more missions information, contact Ann Hodges at ahodges@richmond.edu or 804-339-9440.



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UNITED METHODIST
LOVING PEOPLE TO LIFE

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November 2020

**Articles for the
December 2020
Connections are due
November 18, 2020.**



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

WORSHIP PLAN for NOVEMBER

As you know, church leadership seeks to offer both an online and in-person worship format.

For the month of November, the in-person worship format will be a **Drive in Worship Service at 10:30am** where you can either remain in your car OR there will be a designated area where you can set up your lawn chair and worship outside. We will provide more details in email or mail communication and an email sign-up will be forthcoming! You can also call the church office at 740-7061 to sign up for worship during the month of November.

Online will continue to begin at 10:00am.

Open Arms Christian Preschool



October was a fun time at OACP! The children enjoyed LOTS of fun learning about Farms, Farm Animals, and the Fall Season, and they got to visit the OACP "Pumpkin Patch"! OACP had a local farm deliver some straw bales along with LOTS of small pumpkins for our little ones to go out and gather! It was a great time had by all!

This month we will continue our Fall units and talk with the children about being Thankful and Blessed. We also have started weekly Chapel with Pastor Darcey (out in the courtyard with our older groups of children) and the children have LOVED seeing Pastor Darcey again and hearing the word of God! It's been so rewarding to see the many children we are welcoming into our Ministry this year enjoy all their experiences at OACP! We are currently taking children on our interest and waitlist for future availability. If you have family or friends that may be interested in having their children in our program, please have them reach out to Nora Hamlet, 804-754-0227 openarms@riverroadumc.org for more information.



OPEN ARMS
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

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