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**March/April  
Upper Room  
Devotionals are  
available outside  
the keypad door.**

**THE UPPER ROOM**  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Psalms 122:1 declares, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" This scripture has been on our minds and informed our work as the Healthy Church Team in coordination with Church Council as we prepare for a return to ***Worship in the Sanctuary*** on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. It conveys the joy and the expectation many of us feel as we anticipate being within sacred space with God's people in worship. We are excited and making plans for this to be a time of relevant and powerful worship that grows us in discipleship within pandemic safety measures put into place.

As you make your decision about how you and your family will engage with worship over the coming months, we wanted to highlight the plan for ***Worship in the Sanctuary***. Everyone received an email or a mailing of the plan. This provides greater detail as to what you can expect on a Sunday morning beginning April 11th.

As you make plans, we wanted to highlight some of the specific safety features in place:

- The Property Committee has overseen the installation of an air filtration system called *Global Plasma Solutions* throughout the entire church. This air filtration system works within the existing HVAC systems and uses "needlepoint bipolar ionization" to reduce the COVID-19 virus in the air.
- Surface cleaning will be done of high touch areas prior to worship.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available in the Welcome Center and the Narthex.
- Masks will be worn from car to car.
- Social distancing will be observed.

Also, we will be releasing a video after Easter that shows you in real time what you can expect. And remember we will continue to offer online worship every Sunday at 10am if that best meets your needs! Our goal is to meet people where they are with a God who sent Jesus to meet us now and forevermore. Also, please be in prayer for our church as we try to reach people for Christ and work towards the kingdom together.

Peace in Christ,

*Healthy Church Team*

## In Person:

# Living in the Power of the Resurrection

We will continue to offer worship on Sundays.

Worship in April will be 10am online and we are excited to announce 10:30 in the Sanctuary beginning April 11! We would love to have you join us for worship each Sunday!

Easter Worship will be on the lawn at 10:30am!

## April Birthdays

### April 1

Janey Campbell  
Grant Clarke  
Bridget Wood

### April 4

James Cather

### April 5

Molly Banta

### April 6

Andrea Franklin

### April 7

Michael Moosally

### April 8

Kay Quagliano

### April 9

Becki Mann

### April 11

Jimmy Dameron

### April 12

Joan Peterson  
Rory Buchholz

### April 13

Anne Grayson Craig  
Aubrey Cosby

### April 14

Justin Jagnarian

### April 15

Bill Bell

### April 16

Stacy Wood

### April 17

Sean Conner

### April 18

Robert Best  
Steve King  
Maria Thomas

### April 21

Stephen Rhodes

### April 22

Linda Vines  
Jordan Harless

### April 23

Michael Thomas  
Matt Benson

### April 24

Gerould Ward  
Harold Clarke  
Eddie Clark  
Alyssa Cather  
Will York

### April 27

Chip Mann  
Karen Duer-Potts

### April 28

Buddy Hiatt

### April 29

Douglas Peterson  
Sawyer Brokamp





## Sunday School Offerings



Sundays: 8:30 am Contemporary Christian Sunday School

10:45 am Preschool Sunday School

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

As I bring an end to my ministry at River Road United Methodist Church I want to express my gratitude for you. Your love for one another is evident. When someone was ill or grieving, I would get several phone calls, texts, or emails asking how you could help. Your love is evident in the way you increased your commitment to ensure people in our community have access to food, healthcare, and shelter during the pandemic. Evident in the ways you would encourage each other during small groups and share openly and honestly from your lives.

Having moved 18 boxes of books from my office and judging by the teetering piles of books on my nightstand, I like to read. One of the most important things I've read comes from St. Augustine in his book "On Teaching Christianity," often called "On Christian Doctrine." He wrote, "*So anyone who thinks he has understood the divine scriptures or any part of them, but cannot by his understanding build up this double love of God and neighbor, has not yet succeeded in understanding them.*" The point of reading the Bible, of prayer, worship, mission, small groups, any form of ministry or any church gathering is to increase our love for God and neighbor, fulfilling Jesus' great commandment that summarizes the entirety of Scripture. If we are growing in love, we are living according to the God revealed in Scripture. I have been encouraged by your many acts of love, from members of River Road helping to found CARITAS to provide shelter and opportunity to the homeless to seeing your persistent acts of love expressed in prayer, calls, texts, and visits. It is my hope I have encouraged you as you have encouraged me in the way of Christ-like love. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the church family, to share in your journey as you become ever more grounded in the work God is doing in you and through you.

One of the prayers in Scripture I come back to again and again is this prayer in Ephesians 2, and whenever I make this prayer my own I will be thinking of and praying for you: "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

In Christ's Service,  
Ed

## **sunday morning check-in.**

11:00 am.

(outdoors and socially-distanced)

## **sunday night live.**

4:30pm.

(live on Youtube @RRUMC Youth)

## **mid-week check-in.**

(individual reach outs during the week)



## **follow us on social media.**



@riverroadyouthumc



@RRUMC Youth



youth@riverroadumc.org

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Join us for Easter Service on the lawn April 4th! As we move into in-person worship starting on April 11 we will be offering nursery care (0-3 years old) and outdoor Children's Church to children up to 5th grade. The service will be at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary. We're so excited to offer this and can't wait to see everyone who feels safe joining us! Online worship will still be every Sunday at 10:00 AM.**

**In Toddler & Preschool This Month:** This month, we are going to be talking about something that is high and wide and deep. Do you know what it is? Yes, it's the love of Jesus. Jesus' love for each of us is so wide and long and high and deep that we can't even measure it! And, we are going to have so much fun introducing this truth to our preschoolers this month!

We start the month with the best Sunday of the year—Easter! How exciting that we get to share the story of Easter with our youngest friends this month. Some of them will be hearing for the very first time that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. Yes! Jesus is alive, and He wants to be our friend forever! We want to share the good news that Jesus is alive with our preschoolers all month long. We want them to hear over and over again that Jesus wants to be their friend forever. We want this foundational truth of Jesus' great love for them to live in each preschooler's heart.

**Our Memory Verse This Month:** "HOW WIDE AND LONG AND HIGH AND DEEP IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST." EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

Week 1: Easter: Matthew 26:20-30; 27:45-50; 28:1-7

Week 2: Breakfast on the Beach: John 21:1-14

Week 3: Early Church: Acts 2:42-47

Week 4: Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20

**In Elementary This Month:** When Adam and Eve decided that their way was better than God's way and broke God's rule, they changed the relationship between God and His creation. When once everything and everyone could be in the presence of God, now we were at odds with God. God could have done anything He wanted, including wiping us out and starting over. But instead, God decided to make peace with us. Ultimately God did this through His Son, Jesus. When Jesus rose from the dead, He paid the price for everything that was wrong and unfair in this world. Because of Jesus, we can have peace. We don't have to get even. Instead, we can reflect the character of Christ by caring for others and making peace.

**Our Memory Verse This Month:** "SO LET US DO ALL WE CAN TO LIVE IN PEACE. AND LET US WORK HARD TO BUILD UP ONE ANOTHER." ROMANS 14:19, NIRV

Week 1: Easter / God's Big Story: Colossians 1:20 and John 20:1-18

Week 2: Breakfast on the Beach: John 21:1-14

Week 3: Early Church: Acts 2:42-47

Week 4: Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20



**Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle – April 13**

Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle will meet April 13 at 10 o'clock on Zoom. Hope to see you then! Or hear you if you use the phone!



**WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST:**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Virtual Women's Prayer Breakfast:** Please mark your calendars now and join other ladies from River Road for breakfast on the second Thursday in April. 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. 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. Our next meeting will be April 26.

<b>CREATION CARE</b>
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News from *Creation Care* (March): Things to be thankful for, to be concerned about or to DO! First, *many* things to be thankful for:

Recommitting to achieving a carbon-neutral US economy by mid-century; 2) "Carbon Pricing Gains Traction....The oil industry's top lobbying group is preparing to endorse setting a price on carbon emissions"; WSJ, 3/2/21, p. A6, 3) "Nearly \$500,000 from the developers of the Mountain Valley Pipeline has been awarded in grants to promote conservation and outdoor recreation along a stretch of the Appalachian Trail"; RTD, 3/15/21, p. A4), 4) "battle for clean-energy assets is brewing between green-minded oil giants and utility companies (WSJ ,3/3/21, p. B 14, 5) "Houston's Energy Conference Goes Green...This year's CERAWeek is all about topics like carbon capture and investing influenced by ESG, or environmental, social and governance factors"; WSJ, 3/3/21, p. B5, & 6) "The West Virginia Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy and the Potomac Conservancy teamed up with a private landowner to protect 755 acres of the West Virginia landscape in the Potomac River watershed"; Chesapeake Bay Journal; Jan-Feb 2021, p. 7).

But not to lose track of ongoing concerns:

1) Despite renewed interest and support, at almost every level, for combating climate change and global warming, it remains true that "The United States has produced more greenhouse gas emissions than any other country in history. 2) Here in Virginia, "The overall health of the Chesapeake Bay has stagnated the last two years, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation reported...and...rated the Chesapeake's health a D+". Chesapeake Bay Journal, Jan-Feb 2021, p. 5) & 3) "The Water Control Board approved a ten-year permit for how poultry farms manage manure in Virginia...While the newly approved permit did add additional tracking and reporting requirements for the movement of poultry litter, the Bay Foundation said it fell short of fully addressing concerns about excess ammonia"; *ibid*; p. 7.

### **LENTEN MISSIONS AND EASTER OFFERING**

The Missions Committee is deeply grateful for your generous donations for shelter, hunger and children in poverty during the Lenten Season. We have felt the Holy Spirit moving and growing in River Road UMC. We appreciate your Easter offerings, which is how we fund our missions efforts throughout the year. Your generosity will enable us to continue to meet the needs of the least of these in our community. It is not too late to make an Easter offering. Contribute on the church web site or through a check with the designation of Easter Offering or Missions.

### **JANE BREN**

The Missions Committee is saddened by the passing of Jane Bren, who was a vital part of the committee for many years. Jane served as chair a number of times and led a variety of missions during her time on the committee, including CARITAS and Angel Tree. Jane's heart for missions also led her to participate in a number of missions trips, both in the U.S. and abroad. When God called, Jane said "Here I am, send me." And she went, living out the call to be the hands and feet of God in the world. She will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace in the arms of God.

### **FOOD PANTRIES**

We continue to collect food for both Ginter Park and Welborne, as the need remains great. Both pantries serve well over 100 people each week. Much needed items include peanut butter, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, canned milk, canned chicken and tuna, and mashed potatoes.

Thanks be to God for leading us to love our neighbors. For more missions information, contact Ann Hodges, [ahodges@richmond.edu](mailto:ahodges@richmond.edu) or 804-339-9440.

### **RACIAL JUSTICE**

There are two racial justice groups at River Road. The Racial Justice Study Group meets by zoom the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 6:00 pm. For April, the group will be reading and discussing *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stephenson. Future plans include reading *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson and studying the United Methodist Social Principles. New members welcome. For more information, contact Jaimey Honea, [jaimeyhonea@yahoo.com](mailto:jaimeyhonea@yahoo.com) or 254-485-5201.

The Racial Justice Task Group is beginning to work with Voices of Jubilee a choir of youth at Bon Air Juvenile Correction Center and exploring other avenues where RRUMC can engage in meaningful and vital connections, conversations, and dialogue relative to racial injustice and disparities. For more information, contact Roger Dowdy, [rdowdy-cp@mindspring.com](mailto:rdowdy-cp@mindspring.com).

<b>CREATION CARE - continued</b>
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Things we can 'do' include: 1) Speaking up! 2) Modifying our behavior (e.g. switching to plant-rich diets, and avoiding 'over-eating' (i.e. reducing waste and obesity); 3) Support local, and wider, efforts to protect and/or rehabilitate wetlands and other degraded or natural ecosystems. 4) Minimize use of single-use and other plastics; 5) Join the Slow Food movement; 6) Join & 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, Audobon Society, WWF, etc.); & 5) Subscribe (free!) to the Chesapeake Bay Journal (P.O. Box 222, Jacobus, PA 17407).

(:) Amen....Respectfully submitted, Michael j Wriston, Chair, Earth Advocacy Committee, RRUMC



**RIVER ROAD  
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April 2021

Articles for the  
May 2021  
Connections are due  
April 20, 2021.



We're on the web at  
[www.riverroadumc.org](http://www.riverroadumc.org)

## Congregational Life Minister

We would like to thank Rev. Ed Kross for his over four years as our Congregational Life Minister. Thank you for overseeing our care and visitation ministries! Ed will be serving full time as a chaplain at James River Hospice. May God's grace go with you as you live out your call!

## Congregational Life Director-Interim

The Staff Parish Relations Committee announces that Desda White will serve as the Interim Congregational Life Director for 10 hours per week beginning on April 5th. Her particular focus will be on empowering existing and new small discipleship groups and the ministry of the congregational life committee. Desda previously served on the RRUMC staff. Welcome back Desda!

## Open Arms Christian Preschool

We continue to have lots of fun & learning happening at OACP this school year! We were able to celebrate Read Across America by having silly spirit days themed around some of our favorite books! The children have been learning about kindness and how to show kindness and love to others. Spring was introduced and some great projects were started to see some spring flowers soon! We've also been learning about the resurrection of Jesus and the celebration of Easter as April 4<sup>th</sup>, is just around the corner.



Our 2021-2022 School Year Classes are now full, but if you have a child (or know a family that has a child) that is interested in getting on our waitlist for the next school year (or 2022-2023 school year – we already have students on this list) please have them reach out to Nora Hamlet at 804-754-0227 or email at [openarms@riverroadumc.org](mailto:openarms@riverroadumc.org) to get on our waitlist! We are ALSO hiring for Substitute Teachers and Assistant Teachers for the 2021-2022 School Year. Substitute Teachers do not need experience and have very flexible schedules based on needs for filling in the classrooms! If you, or anyone you know, is interested in either of the positions please reach out to Nora!



**OPEN ARMS**  
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

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