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

**THE UPPER
ROOM**
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

“Lord, Teach us to Pray”

These are the words the disciples asked of Jesus and his response to their request has become the bread (daily that is) and butter of how we as a community pray to God. Over time and through our ancestors in the faith, this scriptural response came to be known as the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is found in two of the four gospels, the longer version in Matthew 6:9-13 and if you want to get right to the point, read Luke 11:2-4.

The Lord's Prayer is significant because in it we hear Jesus teach us what to ask God for and what to talk with God about. Essentially the Lord's Prayer shows us what is important to God and what God wants to be important within our lives. The Lord's Prayer shows us the core issues that impact the quality of our lives and faith and thus how we impact the people and world around us. These core issues include the importance of asking for forgiveness and extending forgiveness (forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those...), the centrality of being thankful for what we have rather than longing for what we do not (daily bread). Ultimately the Lord's Prayer leads us into seeking after God's will in our lives and in the world rather than merely our own (thine will be done).

In June, we are going to begin a several week worship series called *Teach us to Pray* where we will focus on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. We hope that you will join us in allowing Christ to teach us how to pray and thus live the central tenants of our faith!

June 6—Teach Us To Pray: Learning Curve

June 13—Teach Us To Pray: Our Father

June 20—Teach Us To Pray: Hallowed Be Thy Name

June 27—Teach Us To Pray: Thy Kingdom Come

July 4—Teach Us To Pray: Daily Bread

July 11—Teach Us To Pray: Forgive Us As We Forgive Others

July 18—Teach Us To Pray: Lead and Deliver

July 25—Teach Us To Pray: Kingdom, Power, Glory, Forever

See you in Worship!

Peace,
Pastor Darcey

Teach Us To Pray

We will continue to offer worship on Sundays.

Worship in June will be 10am online and 10:30 in the Sanctuary!

We would love to have you join us for worship each Sunday!



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning June 7, the office will be open from
7am—5pm Monday—Thursday.

Eva will be working four ten-hour days.

We will have a volunteer in the office from 9am-
noon on Fridays.

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 13

Mark Allred

June 14

Jamie Breeden
John Vaughan, Jr.

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 School Offerings

Sundays: 8:30 am Contemporary Christian Sunday School



Thursdays: 11:00 am Prayer & Praise Service

Small Groups for Summer

The Contemporary Christian class invites you to join them on Sunday mornings in June via Zoom as they study and talk about 1st and 2nd Samuel - the stories of Samuel, Saul, and David. Class starts at 8:30am. Contact Randy Reaves for more information on the study and to get the zoom link: randalreaves@verizon.net

On Sunday evenings, Bob Wilson and Barb Abu Jaber will co-lead "The Chosen - What it Means to Be Chosen - an eight-week Bible study designed to bring both the Old and New Testaments to life in a brand new way." Meetings will take place on Zoom - start date is June 20. For more information or to sign up, contact Desda White: desda@riverroadumc.org

Teach us to Pray: Midweek Prayer, Wednesdays at Noon

These are the words the disciples asked Jesus and his response was what has become known to us as the Lord's Prayer. Beginning on Sunday, June 6th, we will seek a greater understanding of prayer through a Worship Series on the Lord's Prayer called *Teach us to Pray*. As a part of this series, we will also offer a ZOOM prayer time every Wednesday at noon (June 9th-July 28th) and "practice" different kinds of prayer to learn more about the power of speaking with and listening for God.

We hope you join us for this time of learning more about prayer through experiencing!

Peace,

Pastor Darcey

Desda White, Interim Director of Congregational Life

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 Sunday mornings for outdoor Children's Church!

Parents, you have the option to worship as a family or children are welcome to join us outside for Children's Church at 10:30 AM! Children and volunteers will continue to be masked and practice social distancing regardless of vaccine status.

In Toddler & Preschool This Month: Life can feel uncertain at times. The uncertainty tempts us to fear - we don't trust that things will be okay. The good news is that there is Someone we can trust in life no matter what is happening. And, we want to make sure our preschoolers know it! We are bringing out the music, dancing, and fun instruments to help teach our preschoolers that they can Press Play and trust God. In fact, it is so important to us that they know they can trust God that we are going to focus on it for two months! And, the Bible stories they will be hearing will give them plenty of reasons why they can trust God! As our preschoolers grow up and life begins to feel a little uncertain, we want to make sure they know they can Press Play and trust that God loves them, has a plan for them, will use them, and has the power to do anything in their lives.



Our Memory Verse This Month: "I TRUST IN GOD I AM NOT AFRAID." PSALM 56:11, NIRV

Week 1: Greatest Verse Ever John 3:16

Week 2: Jericho Joshua 5:13-6:27

Week 3: Gideon Judges 6-8

Week 4: Elijah and the Fire 1 Kings 18

In Elementary This Month: When it comes to confidence, we might try and base it on what we do well or what a teacher or parent might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something that lasts forever. We think that's found in understanding how God sees us. God created us, and God loves us. Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when you put your confidence in Jesus, you can truly see yourself how God sees you.

Our Memory Verse This Month: "I REMAIN CONFIDENT OF THIS: I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING." PSALM 27:13, NIV

Week 1: God So Loved the World John 3:16 (supporting: John 3:1-21)

Week 2: Israel Captures Jericho Joshua 5:13-6:20

Week 3: Gideon Judges 6-8

Week 4: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal 1 Kings 18:16-46

Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle

Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle will not meet for the summer. See you in September!



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST:

We will not meet during the summer. We will resume in September.

BOOK CLUB:

June has possibilities of meeting outside on my driveway. Bring your own chair. More information will be in the email I send out. For June 28 we will read *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Lydia will lead the discussion. July selection is *Atomic Love* by Jennie Fields. It is historical fiction about the Manhattan Project in Chicago.

For August, Mandy has suggested the Hunger Games Series, by Suzanne Collins. They are young adult fiction so we decided to read all three to discuss - *Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*. Mandy said she will gladly lead the discussion.

So, a lot of good summer reading!! If interested in the group, email Ann York at annyorkak@gmail.com If you wish to be included, please phone Ann York, 907-748-0446. Our next meeting will be June 28.

CREATION CARE

News from *Creation Care*: Things to be thankful for, to be concerned about, or to DO!

First a few things to be thankful for: 1) The success of the VCT (i.e., Virginia Capital Trail) which has stimulated plans to create "a network of trails that connect our region's communities...including...the Ashland to Petersburg Trail...the James River Branch Trail...and the Appomattox River Trail" (RTD, 10/2/20, p. A17); 2) "Landowner Fitz Gary donated a conservation easement...to the Nature Conservancy...on 1839 rugged remote acres in Highland County...to ensure permanent stewardship of the rich habitat, which includes mountain forests, streams, caves and picturesque beaver meadows....TNC's recent acquisitions of Harrell's Mill Pond and nearby lands expand our Piney Grove Preserve to almost 4000 acres and the overall protected area to well over 10,000 acres.... Having successfully deployed a \$4.2 million grant from the NRCS to help local farmers reduce pollution in the Clinch and Powell rivers, TNC's Clinch Valley program was recently awarded an additional \$2 million to extend the program" (TNC's *Our Virginia: 2020 Impact Report*); and 3) "Renewable power capacity grew at its fastest pace this century in 2020...as wind and solar farms sprang up across the world's major economies" (WSJ, 5/12/21, p. B2).

And a few ongoing concerns: 1) Deterioration of the local ecosystem. As Douglas Tallamy spells out so tellingly in his extraordinary *Nature's Best Hope*, we can *all* act to have a meaningful impact on creating a more sustainable world. We can strengthen our local ecosystem with a *diversity of native* plants including, for example, substituting hardy clover for sterile, feed and water me, golf course lawns in order to give shelter and sustenance to the insects (especially pollinating bees and butterflies - the very foundation of a healthy ecosystem) who cannot thrive on non-native plants; and 2) The worrisome shortfall of available biomass to "pull carbon dioxide from the atmosphere while providing a viable commercial product.... The truth is that the land needed to produce all that biomass poses a serious constraint" (Scientific American, August 2020, *The Biomass Bottleneck*); and, of course:

EASTER OFFERING

The Easter offering, which is all dedicated to Missions, totaled \$25,305. What a wonderfully generous gift from our congregation to be used for those in our community in need. Missions will carefully steward these gifts to live out our commitment to love our neighbors.

FOOD PANTRIES

We continue to collect food for both Ginter Park and Welborne Food Pantries. We have added Safe Harbor to our supported organizations. Safe Harbor provides emergency shelter to those who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence, or human trafficking. As the need for food at the pantries has fluctuated a bit in recent weeks, we have been able to provide food to Safe Harbor, which houses individuals and families on an emergency basis. We will continue to support these organizations as the need continues and as we are able through your generous donations. Much needed items include peanut butter, spaghetti noodles, canned fruit and vegetables, canned soups and beans, canned milk, canned chicken and tuna, ravioli/spaghettios, and diapers and wipes. Standard sizes are appreciated for packing purposes. We will update this list using the app and email as needs vary, or when particularly urgent needs arise.

In addition to food, Ginter Park has reopened its clothes closet and is again accepting clothing donations.

KITS FOR CONFERENCE

We are collecting items for Kits for Conference to be distributed to local mission partners. Sign up for hygiene items, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4FACAE2CAAF94-hygiene>, and/or school items, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4FACAE2CAAF94-school> and drop them at the church, or make a monetary contribution denoting "Kits for Conference" on the check or in the note box for an online donation. For questions contact Karen Carter, ontheperch@gmail.com.

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

CREATION CARE - continued

Things we can do include: 1) Taking a look online at B Lab, Good on You, or Done Good to see how socially responsible the companies or places you support with your consumer dollars are (*Smarter Living*, NYT, 9/16/19, p. B8); 2) Composting ("Food scraps and yard waste make up 30 percent of what we throw away. Composting is one of the biggest ways to have an impact.... Food scraps don't break down in landfills, they take up space and release methane" (Parade, 4/11/21, p. 14); 3) Taking the few steps necessary to have your property certified as a National Wildlife Habitat by providing the four essentials of *food, water, cover & places of shelter* (see NWF.org); 4) Replacing your noisy, polluting gas mower with an electric one; 5) Speaking up and advocating; 6) Supporting local, and wider, efforts to protect and/or rehabilitate wetlands and other degraded, or natural ecosystems (one of the priorities of The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited); & 7) Joining & supporting 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



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

June 2021

Articles for the
July 2021
Connections are due
June 20, 2021.



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

The Charles and Carol Burlage Missions Fund

It is with gratitude that the leadership of River Road United Methodist Church share the formation of The Charles and Carol Burlage Missions Fund, which will be stewarded by the Board of Trustees. This fund will, increasingly over time, support local "hands on" mission efforts as well as scholarships within The Open Arms Christian Preschool. This gift has been established by Carol in partnership, honor, and in memory of her husband Charles Burlage who had a God-given talent for business and a keen mind for many pursuits, including making better the communities where they lived and supporting people in need. We thank Carol for this generosity and look forward to how God will deepen our missional identity and widen the good we can do in the name of Christ!

Open Arms Christian Preschool

Summer Camp at Open Arms starts in June! We are all prepared for a great Summer with lots of fun camp themes including; Summer Safari, Adventure Land, Under the Sea, Carnival and LOTS more! We can't wait to have all our summer friends join us in the fun!

If you have a child (or know a family that has a child) that is interested in our program (for 2021-2022 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! 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 classroom needs! If you, or anyone you know, is interested in being part of this extraordinary Ministry at RRUMC please reach out!



OPEN ARMS
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

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