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

Confirming the Faith

June is a threshold month that holds within its days a number of celebratory moments. It is in the month of June that graduates will cross the finish line of education and prepare for the next chapter of employment, or more education, or further training. June is the month when school wraps up for all students who move into the summertime cadence of time at the pool and/or looking for a summer job. There is also a sense that more people will be adventuring this summer and making up for some lost travel time in the past years.

We also will be marking a significant moment as a church community. Sunday, June 5th at 11am is Confirmation Sunday where a number of youths will confirm their faith in Jesus Christ. As you all know, in the United Methodist tradition, we practice infant baptism which means that at the time of their child's baptism, we ask parents to make baptismal promises (resist evil, repent of their sin, accept Christ, affirm the biblical faith, connect to the church) with the intention that they will raise their child in the community of faith and in the current of Christian faith and action. Thus at Confirmation, a young person who was baptized as an infant makes these vows for themselves and agrees that they want to be a follower of Jesus. Or, if a young person was not baptized as an infant, they make those vows at their baptism and then they are confirmed along with their peers. We are incredibly excited to join together for a powerful time of worship to thank God and pray for these young people as they take this significant step in faith. We will also have a church wide meal (of course we will) after the worship!

Confirmation is a significant moment for our church family and for the entire company of heaven. So come and join together to reaffirm your faith and marvel as young people make a choice for Christ!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Darcey

Confirmation Sunday

Join us on Sunday, June 5 as we celebrate on Confirmands.

We will have **one united service at 11am** followed by a luncheon. Please bring a dish to share, chicken will be provided.



June Birthdays

June 1

Lydia Taylor
Kate Meilink
Laura Rothenberg

June 2

Stephen Hayes

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





get engaged

Dive into summer at River Road!

Sunday, June 19 | after worship
Donuts with Dads
& Father's Day photo booth

Friday, June 24 | 5:30-7:30pm
Friday Fun Night: Outdoor Games
Free hot dogs & chips, ice cream truck
For all ages!

Tuesday, June 28 | 10:00am
River of Lifers (adults 50+)
Virginia Museum of History & Culture
Cost: \$12 + lunch | RSVP by June 12

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO RSVP:
eva@riverroadumc.org

740-7061

As summer approaches, the month of June marks a time of milestones for our youth. Graduations from High School, Graduations from Middle School, Graduations from Elementary School to Middle School. These changes represent a time of excitement as to what lies ahead. These graduations also represent a time of trepidation as the comfort of friends and old routines change and uncertainty emerges. It is comforting to know that God is with us no matter what path we take. Let's celebrate the accomplishments of our High School graduates and the positive impact they have on our church family and the world ahead of them.

Andrew Markey

Anne Grayson Craig

Ethan Benson

Jack Stuckey

Kate Stuckey

Leona Williams

McRae Stuckey

Sterling Dameron

Zoe Bell

Youth will be hosting our First Friday Fun Night on June 24th - Looking forward to the summer!



Life Groups! Are you interested in joining a small group within our church to deepen connection with others, your family and your faith? During the summer, we will be working to create and build new life groups within our church. What is a life group?

- Group of people with shared interests or in a common stage of life
- Meet on a regular basis - either at church, at someone's home, or other location
- Devotional studies for mutual support as we build our faith in today's world
- Fun times!

Contact Tom (tom@riverroadumc.org or 804.517.2350) if interested, and we will find a small group home for you.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing"

- I Thessalonians 5:11.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Join us Sunday mornings! River Road Kids Discipleship Hour will be at 9 AM in the Sunday School wing and Children's Church will be held at 11 AM in the Sunday School wing.

Save the date:

- **June 19th Donuts with Dads**
- **June 24th Family Fun Night from 5:30 - 7:00 PM**
- **July 18th - 21st from 9:15 - 12:15 for VBS!**
- **July 29th Family Fun Night from 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Preschool Discipleship For June:

Have you ever seen the commercial where one person does something kind? Then, a person who witnesses this kindness is motivated to do something kind. That is followed by another person seeing this kindness who feels moved to also be kind. It's not just in commercials. It's in real life, too. Waves of generosity. Lives changed. And, it all begins with one act of kindness. During the next two months, we are going to be teaching our preschoolers that they, too, can Make Waves when they choose kindness—as well as love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Most importantly, we want them to know that Jesus is there to help them choose these things.

Because when Jesus is my friend forever, Jesus can help me do everything!

K-5 Discipleship For June:

We were created in God's image. God sent Jesus to show us the best way to be human. But God knew we'd need help. That's why God sent us the Holy Spirit. With the power of the Spirit, we can produce fruit that points others to Jesus. Every month, kids discover something about God's character and how they can reflect or respond to that character because they are created in God's image. You could call them character traits or virtues, but we call them Life Apps: something that God is doing in you to change the world around you. In other words, we show the world what God is like when we demonstrate these ideas. We're helping kids and preteens discover what the Apostle Paul called the Fruit of the Spirit throughout June and July. When we show the Fruit of the Spirit, we make waves and show others who Jesus is.



Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle

Thank you to everyone who baked, bought and helped with the "Mothers Helping Mothers" bake sale on Mothers Day. We raised \$1,021 for the Women's Shelter at CARITAS. Praise God for this wonderful and generous congregation. We will deliver the check personally. If anyone would like to go with us please contact Charlotte Allred.

Thank you for the large print books for The Hermitage Richmond Health Care. They will really enjoy them. If you have any more large print books, please contact Bess Traylor.

The next Circle meeting will be on September 13th at 10:00 am.



United
Women
in Faith

BOOK CLUB:

Book Club meets at Ann York's on the first Monday of every month, 7PM. June 6 we will discuss The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. It is the surprising story of Hedy Lemarr, the film star of the 1940's and 50's. Nancy Seese will lead the discussion. In July we will discuss Violeta by Isabel Allende. Ann will send an email reminder and details each month. Call her, 907-748-0446, if interested.

CREATION CARE

First, things to be thankful for: 1) "Volunteers learn ways to protect city's green spaces, bay's waters.... CBF's Volunteers as Chesapeake Stewards is their longest running adult education program, with free courses" (RTD, 5/19, p. A 1); 2) "The endangered California condor returned to soar the skies...for the first time in more than a century" (RTD, 5/4, p. A 13); and 3) "With massive new expansion now underway.... in Prince George County... aluminum extrusions maker Service Center Metals...is basically sold out... 'We were a green business before it was cool to be green'" (Metro Business, 5/2, pp. D 6-12).

Key concerns include: 1) "'Imagine a world without insects....trudging through a landscape littered with feces and rotting corpses - what a world devoid of maggots and dung beetles would look like. That's just a snippet of the horrifying picture of an insect-free future that journalist Oliver Milman paints in....*The Insect Crisis*....'Insects are being shifted to an unhappy state where there will be far more bedbugs and mosquitoes and far fewer bumblebees and....butterflies'" (Science News, 5/7-21, p 40); 2) "To slow climate change, the foods we eat deserve major attention...food-related emissions up from 20 percent to 33 percent...of the planet's greenhouse gas emissions. . . .[S]ix economies...have been responsible for more than half of total global food emissions, 3) "the most important delusion of the green movement today is telling itself that because the price of wind and solar technology has fallen so low that...it's 'game over' for fossil fuels. PRICE IS ONLYHALF THE STORY. If you can't install the transmission lines....and if you cannot set aside more land...it doesn't matter" (NYT, 5/18, p A 22); "A megadrought in the US that began in 2000 and that has been made worse by global warming has made for the driest two decades in 1200 years" (NYT, 5/4, p A3).

THANK YOU

We have had three successful mission projects in April and May, thanks to the support of the congregation

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

On April 24, seventy people of all ages in the congregation packaged 15,000 meals. In addition, we donated enough funds to the organization so that 15,000 more meals could be packaged. Special thanks to Rob Neighbors for leading this mission and to Jane Boaz for organizing breakfast.

REBUILDING TOGETHER

Thirty people from our congregation volunteered to repair homes in the Oak Grove/Bellemeade neighborhood on April 30. The families were very engaged with our members and helped work on the homes as well. Thanks to Randy Reaves for leading this mission and to Ellen Reaves for organizing the food for the volunteers. Also special thanks to our crew leaders, Laurel Marks, Jasper Mersereau, Tom York and Drew Johnson, who were very well-prepared and organized the work.

KITS FOR CONFERENCE

Thanks to all who donated items to prepare hygiene kits for conference. The kits will be provided to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) for distribution to people that have been forced to leave their homes due to human conflict or natural disaster. We appreciate Karen Carter's leadership of this mission.

ONGOING NEEDS - FOOD PANTRIES

We are grateful for continued support of the food pantries and Safe Harbor. Most-needed items remain peanut butter; tomato sauce in 15 oz. cans; 1 lb. spaghetti noodles; canned fruit and vegetables; canned soups and beans; canned chicken and tuna; ravioli/spaghettios; boxed cereal; oatmeal; non-refrigerated microwave meals; and diapers and wipes. Standard sizes are appreciated for packing purposes and no glass containers.

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35.

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) Planting native trees, flowers, plants and clover, nurturing moss and native, bee-friendly ground cover; creating rock gardens instead of sterile lawns; and replacing noisy, high-pollution gas-powered mowers and leaf-blowers with quieter, lighter, cleaner electric ones; 2) Speaking up, advocating and voting, not only at the ballot box but also by what we buy and how we spend; 4) Embracing the 7 R's of "shrinking our personal footprint": *Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rent (or borrow), Recycle and Rot*; and 5) Joining and/or supporting one (or several!) of the many non-partisan non-profits dedicated to creating a more sustainable world (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, EDF, Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, WWF, Wild Virginia, Amazon Watch, etc.) Amen....Respectfully submitted, Michael j Wriston, Chair, Earth Advocacy Committee, RRUMC



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LOVING PEOPLE TO LIFE

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June 2022

Articles for the
July 2022
Connections are due
June 20, 2022.



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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

May 31—September 2, the office will be open from
7:30am—5:30pm Monday—Thursday.
Eva will be working four ten-hour days.

A volunteer will be in the office from 9am—12noon on Fridays.



May marked the end of the 2021-2022 school year at OACP! We've had a wonderful year with all 5 of the classrooms full of children. On the last day of preschool we celebrated our graduating Pre-Kindergarten class with a graduation ceremony. We had 15 Pre-Kindergarten graduates and 70 family members in attendance. Immediately following the ceremony we celebrated with our entire school at an end of school year picnic. We had 120 people attend the picnic celebration where the children enjoyed bounce houses, petting farm, pony rides and yummy food! What a wonderful end to our preschool year!

OACP Summer Camp begins June 6th, if you, or your family or friends are interested in attending OACP please reach out to Nora Hamlet, 804-754-0227 openarms@riverroadumc.org.



OPEN ARMS
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

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