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**May/June Upper Room**  
**Devotionals are available outside the keypad door, in the Narthex, and in the Welcome Center.**

## Practicing Resurrection

We remember that in our tradition, Easter is not just a day but a season. We are in the Easter season for 50 days until the day of Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit came to form the church). Easter is a season for several reasons: First, biblically Jesus returned to spend additional time with the disciples after the resurrection. Second, Jesus needed to have the time and opportunity to teach the disciples within the reality of the resurrection. Third, and pragmatically, it takes some time to get your head around what the resurrection means! Jesus needed to coach the disciples to know that resurrection truly happened (and was available to them), and what it means to live in the light of the resurrection. In other words, they needed to practice resurrection. But resurrection is a big word and a weighty truth. So the appearances Jesus made after the resurrection highlight in more detail what it means to live within the power of the resurrection.

Think about what Jesus did when he came to the disciples post-resurrection. He forgave Peter for his betrayals. He came through their locked doors of fear and said, "peace be with you." Then he said it again to make sure they understood that God could find them in their real concerns and understandable anxieties and set them free. He challenged them to remain true to their new purpose when they tried to go back to fishing for fish rather than "fishing for people." Jesus also made them breakfast, forgave their sins, and continued to unpack what it meant to be a God follower.

Every week during worship in May, we will look at one of these post resurrection Jesus highlights from the gospels. We will do so in order to understand what it means to not only know about the resurrection, and what it means to believe the resurrection, but also to live within its power. And then just as the earliest disciples did, we will practice it—in other words, we will live it out in the days we have been given. Let's start with a quote by the poet Wendell Berry: So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world...Love someone who does not deserve it...Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts... Practice resurrection!"

Peace, forgiveness, and practicing Resurrection,

Pastor Darcey

# Join Us For Worship

## Upcoming Worship Series: Practicing Resurrection

Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall at 9am

Live-streamed on Youtube

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 11am

Live-streamed on Youtube

## May Birthdays

**May 1**

Jane Gresham  
Jane Boaz  
Tom York

**May 4**

Charles Messer

**May 5**

Grayson Clarke  
Caroline Davis  
Anthony Franklin

**May 6**

Teddie Lawrence  
Addie Kemp

**May 7**

John Simmers  
Charles Messer  
Griffin Gayne

**May 8**

Ansel Eastman

**May 9**

Carter Hayes  
Will Conner

**May 10**

Virginia Patterson

**May 13**

Olivia Moum

**May 14**

Stephanie Jeffrey

**May 15**

Pres Purdum  
Ernie Weston

**May 16**

Missy Markey

**May 18**

Jim Banta

**May 19**

Phil Brennan  
Noah Benson

**May 22**

Nancy Kuehl  
Ethan Benson  
Finnegan Buchholz

**May 24**

Bess Traylor

**May 25**

Dot Patrick  
Joan Brennan  
Stephanie Reed-Wriston

**May 26**

Laura Talley

**May 29**

Trenton Bone  
Perkins Smith

**May 30**

Elizabeth Buchholz  
Ella Garnett



## GET ENGAGED



Join us for **River Road 101** on Sunday, May 1 to learn more about life at River Road UMC.

New members and anyone interested in church membership are invited to attend.

RSVP to Lori Alford at [engagement@riverroadumc.org](mailto:engagement@riverroadumc.org).



Make a Mother's Day memory with your mom or another special woman in your life.

Bring your own device/camera and a volunteer will take your picture outside in the courtyard.

It is a great time to be a youth at River Road UMC! Our youth group has reconvened meeting Sunday evenings at church. We are blessed with a gifted group of youth, and it is wonderful to see the gifts on display:

- Scripture reading - both in private and in front of the whole church
- Yard Work and maintenance
- Artists and Photographers
- Hot Dog Cooking and Selling
- Musicians - Multiple talents from handbells to drums to vocals!
- Egg Stuffing, Hiding, and Hunting
- Social Media Influencers
- Basketball, Track, Softball, Gymnastics, Soccer, Lacrosse - the sports list goes on!
- Greeting, Ushering and Communicating. Always having a conversation!

A couple of upcoming dates on the church calendar for us all to celebrate with our students:

1. May 22nd - Graduation Sunday. We will recognize our high school and collegiate graduates. Time to paint the wall!
2. June 5th - Confirmation Sunday. We will have one service at 11:00 to welcome five confirmands into Church Membership. Lunch to follow for the entire congregation.

We have plenty of ways for everyone to be involved with our youth ministry. Just let Tom know if you'd like to be a part of what we have to offer. A reminder about our Here I Am app—youth can register on the 'River Road Youth' page to stay plugged in and informed as to the latest activities.

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Lent marked a time of small group discipleship across a number of areas as our River Road UMC community continues to meet, discuss, and learn from each other. Looking back at April:

- Our Racial Justice Group continues to meet, starting a new course about Having Courageous Conversations. Thanks Jaimey for pushing us forward!
- Three groups studied the book 'Courage', and we were blessed to spend some time with the author, Rev. Tom Berlin to conclude the study. Thanks Lori and Donna for leading the way!
- We had a group watch and discuss *The Chosen*, Season 2. "A discussion that helps make the followers of Jesus real people with whom we can relate". Thanks Bob and Barb for leading this group!
- Van Gogh and Lent provided a fresh perspective to a small group study. Thanks Roger for leading the effort!

Looking forward to May as discipleship groups continue. A couple of areas to highlight:

- Contemporary Christian Class continues to have a large group meet between services on Sunday morning, to study the book *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass.
- Adult Bible Study will continue on Mondays at 10 AM, with a six week study of Ephesians beginning May 2.
- We have a Faith Based Grief Support Group starting, providing a devotional study and space for those working through loss of a loved one.

*"But exhort one another every day, as long as it called 'today', so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" - Hebrews 3:14*

Let me know if you would like to connect with a group, have an idea for a new group, or would like to lead one of our discipleship ministries.

Blessings,  
Tom York

We are back to **TWO** worship services!

Contemporary in the Fellowship Hall at 9 AM and Traditional at 11 AM in the Sanctuary. We are SO excited to be offering both worship services and having the kids back in the Sunday School rooms!

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:**

**July 18th - 21st from 9:15 - 12:15 for VBS!**

**Preschool Discipleship For May:**

Preschoolers will ask questions countless times as they get to know the world around them. It's like they're beginning a lifelong Scavenger Hunt. This is the perfect opportunity for us to not only tell them what they are looking at but Who made it as well. That's why we are going to add another question to their inquisitive minds. Who made everything?

Who made the red ladybug? Who made the grey rocks? The white clouds? The blue bird?

We want preschoolers to know that God made everything. We want them to think of God as they explore and get to know this wonderful, colorful world we live in. And even more, we want them to know that the same God who made everything made them and loves them.

**K-5 Discipleship For May:**

God is strong and faithful, always working in our lives. We might get knocked down from time to time, but when we put our trust in God, we find the strength we need to get back up again. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience. No matter what happened, Jesus relied on God to help Him accomplish the mission set before Him. Because of Jesus, we can trust God no matter what. We can bounce back from whatever knocks us down and complete the mission God has for us.



### **FRANCIS ALLEN/ALICE WEED CIRCLE**

Join us on May 10th at 10:00 AM in the large Sunday School Room for our last Circle meeting until September. We will be having a salad luncheon to show our appreciation for the church staff, preschool staff and Circle members. Circle members should bring a salad or dessert to share.



United  
Women  
in Faith

### **MOTHER'S DAY BAKE SALE** **NEED BAKERS!**

On Mother's Day, the River Road United Women in Faith are sponsoring a Bake Sale to benefit a Richmond area women's shelter and recovery program. The Healing Place for Women, is a CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter) program which opened in late 2020 to address homelessness, unemployment, and substance-use disorder among women and offer ways to break the cycle. It is housed in a renovated warehouse on Stockton Street. The program offers 120 beds, a 24 bed emergency women's shelter, a furniture bank, classroom space, the Works program, and 47 sober-living apartments for program graduates. Residents live there in dorm-style bedrooms and work at the center full-time during the 7-9 month program. Once they are back on their feet, they can visit their children and loved ones in special suites for that purpose, which are exclusive to The Healing Place for Women.

On Mother's Day please remember these women, many of whom are also mothers and who are ardently working through their challenges towards healing, so they can be reunited with their children.

**To help them, please consider baking a homemade cake, pie, bars, muffins, cookies and/or working the sale that day. The more bakery goods we can sell, the more financial support we can give to the Women's shelter. Please drop off baked goods marked "Bake Sale" on Saturday, May 7th or Sunday, May 8th in the kitchen.**

Bless you and thank you!

### **BOOK CLUB**

Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7PM and are held at the home of Ann York. If you are interested, please call Ann, 907-748-0446, and she will email you every month with the details. The book for May 2 will be The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. On June 6 we will discuss The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict.

**CREATION CARE**

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

First, things to be thankful for: 1) Ford Motor already has 200,000 orders for its electric F-150 truck, the Lightning, priced well below the least expensive Tesla (NYTm 4/18, p. B1); 2) "TemperPack...which makes environmentally friendly insulation used for shipping...has evolved into a large-scale manufacturing operation...in eastern Henrico County" (RTD, Metro Business, 4/18); 3) "Goodbye to Plastic Food Packaging? Environmental concerns are leading home cooks to embrace other methods of keeping food fresh, from brown paper bags to reusable beeswax wraps"(WSJ, 1/22-23, p. C4) 4) "Richmond seeking federal help for \$1.3B project to end sewer's overflow into river" (RTD, 1/29, p. A1); 5) "New vehicles sold in U.S. must average 40 mpg of gas in 2026, up from 28 mpg" (RTD, 4/2, p. A1); 6) "Federal Protections for Migratory Birds to be Restored..; 7) "With the goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030—and eliminating it completely by 2050—the city of Richmond is seeking input on its...Equity Action Plan 2030, a 190-page document that details 49 different strategies" (RTD, 4/20, p .A1).

Key concerns include: 1) "Forever Chemicals'...(PFAS)...linked to an increased risk of some cancers, immune system suppression and problems with fetal development...[are in food wraps and just about everywhere].... [W]e'll never get rid of them. At least not in our lifetimes" (NYT, 4/18, p. B4); 2) In a national (NatureServe) study of imperiled biodiversity – with an accompanying map – virtually all of Virginia is depicted as of at least moderate risk (NYT, 3/13, p. 15); 3) "A single Bitcoin transaction requires more than 2000 kilowatt-hours of electricity...enough energy to power the average American household for 73 days" (NYT, 3/22, p. A3); 4)

*Continued on next page*

### KITS FOR CONFERENCE

As we have done for many years, our congregation will support the Virginia Annual Conference **KITS FOR CONFERENCE** campaign. This year we will be collecting items to fill 20 Hygiene Kits that will be provided to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) for distribution to those areas and people that have been forced to leave their homes due to human conflict or natural disaster. Participation can be in the form of a check made out to RRUMC, memo- Kits for Conference, and a personal shopper will be delighted to purchase needed items *OR* go to the attached link via Sign-Up-Genius and select the items you wish to purchase. Collection/Drop off will be in the yellow bin at the keypad door *OR* in the Welcome Center. All donations must be delivered to church by June 5<sup>th</sup>!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20fob4facae2caaf94-hygiene1>

As always, thank you in advance for your support of this important mission effort! For questions, please contact Karen Carter at [ontheperch@gmail.com](mailto:ontheperch@gmail.com).

### THANK YOU

To all who participated in Rise Against Hunger and Rebuilding Together. You have made a difference in the lives of many in Richmond and around the world.

And to all who donated to the Easter Offering. The Easter Offering funds our missions throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for your continued support, which has enabled our church to engage in multiple missions supporting a number of organizations and individuals. If you have not made your Easter contribution, it is not too late – just be sure to note either Easter offering or Missions with your donation.

### ONGOING NEEDS - FOOD PANTRIES

We are grateful for your continued support of the food pantries and Safe Harbor. Most-needed items are 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](mailto:ahodges@richmond.edu) or 804-339-9440.

<b>CREATION CARE - continued</b>
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"In an assessment of recent research, the World Health Organization concluded...that air pollution is 'the single largest environmental threat to human health and well-being'...The low quality of the air we breathe should be seen as a public health crisis" (NYT, 4/20, p. A 22); and 5) "Climate change could push more than 200 million people to leave their homes in the next three decades" (RTD, 9/14/21, p. A 10).

Things we can do include: 1) Planting *native* trees, flowers and plants, clover and moss, rock gardens and ground cover instead of sterile lawns that need to be fed and watered and replacing noisy, high-pollution gas-powered mowers and leaf-blowers with quieter, lighter, cleaner electric ones; 2) Speaking up, advocating and voting for *creation care*, not only at the ballot box but by what we buy and how we spend; 3) Embracing the 7 Rs of shrinking our personal footprint: *Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rent* (or borrow), *Recycle & Rot*. Amen....Respectfully submitted, Michael j Wriston, Chair, Earth Advocacy Committee, RRUMC



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May 2022

**Articles for the  
June 2022  
Connections are due  
May 20, 2022.**



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



## Open Arms Christian Preschool

The children at OACP had a wonderful time in April learning all about Spring and God's creations! They had an opportunity to see and experience the life cycle of a butterfly in their classrooms and release the butterflies into nature. There were many activities around gardening and the new creations that happen during the Spring season! The children also had two weeks of lessons focused on Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. It was a fun filled month for the children! Everyone is now into the final month of Preschool. In May, we will finish out the 2021-2022 school year and celebrate our Pre-Kindergarten graduates at the graduation ceremony!



OACP is now accepting registration for new families that may be interested in our program (Fall 2022). If you, or your family or friends are interested in attending OACP please reach out to Nora Hamlet, 804-754-0227 [openarms@riverroadumc.org](mailto:openarms@riverroadumc.org).



**OPEN ARMS**  
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

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