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Focus in and Gearing Up for Sunday Morning

Well, it is nearing that time when the back-to-school supplies are the seasonal feature in the grocery stores and families are both grabbing one last time away and lining up the schedule for a new school year. As we begin to lean in towards back to school, we want to communicate a recommitment to our Sunday morning schedule at RRUMC.

As you may know, church leadership for a time was considering a Sunday morning schedule that gave families the opportunity to worship together and have an hour of small group discipleship time for people of all ages. The pandemic gave our plan a boost and when we returned fully in person, we landed on the Sunday morning schedule of:

9am Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall

10am Small Group Hour

11am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

In the Fall, we will be lending prayer, staff, and strategic focus towards our 10 am small group discipleship hour. Our goal is to offer vibrant and relevant small groups that connect people to God and one another for all ages during the 10 am hour. Therefore, we are launching several new adult small groups during this time (in addition to the time tested Contemporary Christian Sunday School class). Further information on topics and sign-ups will be forthcoming. We also will be offering Small Groups for children and youth at this time. Our goal is to return to age cohorts for our children so they are once again in three or more different classes. Ideally this will be a helpful schedule for you and your family to both spend time in worship and grow in faith through a small group. We understand the time and calendaring demands that people and families are holding right now—that is in part the impetus for this new schedule.

We will launch this freshly embraced format on Sunday, September 11th and sign ups are coming your way!!

Peace in Christ,
 Pastor Darcey

 PS All we are saying is "give small groups a chance!" 

**July/August
 Upper Room
 Devotionals are
 available outside
 the keypad door.**



Upcoming Worship:

August 7—Kingdom Family Values Rev. Craig Kocher

August 14—Promise of a Child - Holy Communion

August 21—Jacob Wrestles with God

August 28—Faith at Work series

September 4—Faith at Work series

August Birthdays

August 1

Randi Wingate
Horace Payne III

August 4

Gloria Jeffrey
Rob Neighbors
Brittany Benton
Jamie Benson

August 5

Ken Peterson

August 6

Ryan Neighbors

August 7

Michael Hubley

August 9

Jonathan Barrett
Alyona Marks

August 12

Chuck Bartlett

August 13

Sherrie Franklin
Leona Williams

August 14

Granville Patrick

August 15

Ken Atherholt
Joyce Painter

August 17

Tyler Kidd

August 18

Evelyn Hill

August 19

Bella Benson

August 20

Matthew Vaughan
Ann Warren Harless
Grace Johnson

August 21

Phil Cornett
Brandon Rothenberg
Christopher Jeffrey
Matthew Jeffrey

August 22

Sandy Irwin
Meg Eastman
Madi Dameron
Micah Chang

August 24

Ashton Gilmore

August 25

Dave Morris

August 26

Jim Taylor
Beck Garnett

August 30

Daniel O'Neill Sr.

August 31

William Graeter
Rhodes Ritenour





Dive into some summer fun this month at River Road!

Faith Night at the Diamond

Thursday, August 18

Baseball, fun, faith, and fireworks! Tickets are \$10 (payable to RRUMC) and can be picked up on Sunday mornings or during office hours. Live music and player testimonies before the game (5:30pm). Game time is 6:35pm.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 21

Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to church as we pray for students and teachers heading back to school. Blessing of the Backpacks will occur during both the 9:00am and 11:00am worship services with refreshments following.

River of Lifers (adults 50+): Untangling Technology

Tuesday, August 23, 10:00am

Need some tips for using your Smartphone, tablet, streaming services, or other tech? Tom York will give us some useful tips for taming technology. Snacks will be provided.

Friday Fun Night (all ages): Praise & Worship + Outdoor Games

Friday, August 26, 5:30-7:30pm

Come out for a night of music, casual games, and Chick-Fil-A! Our very own praise band will provide the music. Donations will be accepted for dinner. Sign up here by August 21: [Friday Fun Night](#)

For more information or to sign up,
contact Eva at eva@riverroadumc.org or 740-7061.

Our Youth Summer continues! It is great to have an active summer again with vacations, overnight camps, jobs and other activities going in full swing. Youth continue to plug in across our various activities and keep the heartbeat of the church thumping. We have had a good time at an Escape Room, Busch Gardens and hosting our June Family Fun Night (BINGO!)

In August, we will have a youth mission outing to Shalom Farms on August 3rd and meet as a Full Youth Group on Aug 14th. Youth Sunday School continues at 10:00 every Sunday morning - all rising 6th graders and older are welcome to come on down to the basement to discuss our VOTW, share prayers, and just hangout.

It is especially heartwarming to hear of the positive impact of our youth with family, friends and those in need. Our church family is alive and well in the spirit of our middle and high schoolers. Thanks for your on-going presence and prayers in support of our wonderful group of youth at River Road UMC.

Stay in touch with all the happenings of our Youth on our Here I Am Church Engagement App - just search for River Road Youth on the initial sign-in page!



Adult Discipleship

Our Adult Discipleship ministry continues throughout the summer to meet the variety of spiritual needs within the church. During the summer, we have had the opportunity to host small groups focused on dealing with grief and the loss of a loved one, faith and entrepreneurship, and a new life group of couples within the church. Our faith helps us in all walks of life, and our adult ministry is here to create, develop and nurture small groups to support our ongoing faith journey.

As we enter the fall, I am working to establish new classes during our 10:00 Small Group hour. The 10:00 hour is a great time to bring together those who worship at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services to gather, learn, talk, laugh, pray and share their common interests and questions. Starting in September, our Contemporary Christian, Racial Justice and Youth Small Groups will all be meeting during this hour. I am working to have additional classes available - please let me know if you have an interest in leading a class or a topic of interest. We are blessed to be a part of the United Methodist Church that provides a wealth of material and small group support to leverage.

Contact Tom (tom@riverroadumc.org or 804.517.2350) with any topics of interest, 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.

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:

- **August 26th Friday Fun Night from 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Preschool Discipleship for August:

The most amazing work of art is the one we see in the mirror each day—people! God made everything, but people are God's most wonderful creation because we are the only creation made in God's very own image. God made us to think and figure things out, to create and invent, and to help others—just like God.

Every time we look in the mirror and look at another person, we are seeing God's masterpiece. We want preschoolers to know that they are wonderfully made because of WHO made them—THE awesome artist—God.

K-5 Discipleship for August:

Love starts and ends with God. Love has always been the point of how God has interacted with the world. Since the beginning of time, God's love has always been on display. That's why we chose love to kick off a year through the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, God inspired writers of Scripture, whose works come together to tell God's Big Story. But God's love isn't just about what happened in history. God loves US today! And we have the chance to share God's love with others, right here and now. We know that God loved us first. God loved us enough to send Jesus for us. In response, we can show how much we love God by loving others . . . and showing people how much they matter to us.



FRANCES ALLEN/ALICE WEED CIRCLE

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next Circle meeting on September 13th at 10:00 AM. Have a great summer!



United
Women
in Faith

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet August 1, 7PM at Ann York's, 2800 Chancel Lane. We will discuss Violeta by Isabelle Allende. September 5 will be Adriana Trigiani's new book, The Good Left Undone. It is about a family of gem stone cutters that make things for the Vatican. An unusual subject matter that takes place in Italy. Hope to see two new faces there, Jeni and Laurel ! Come with some titles to read next. Hopefully we can meet on my deck again. Keep 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 August 28.

CREATION CARE

Things to be concerned about:

1. "Climate Crisis Fades as Worry for US Voter...Inflation and Pandemic Sap Energy to Fight" (NYT; 7/18; p. A 1);
2. "Depleting Rainforest, Branch by Branch The logging industry in Congo uproots precious old-growth trees for use in furniture and home construction. . . . But the raiding of the forest by regular people in search of cooking materials is surprisingly destructive as well. . . . The scene plays out . . . all across the 1.3 million square miles of rainforest across the Congo Basin, home of the second largest old-growth rainforest in the world" (NYT; 7/14; p. A1);
3. "President Yields on Climate Plans as Talks Collapse. . . . President Biden bowed to political reality . . . conceding that he had been unable to persuade a holdout coal-state Democrat, or any Republicans in the Senate, to back legislation that had been his greatest hope to confront the climate crisis" (NYT; 7/16; p. A1);
4. "Minimum amount, in tons, of pandemic-associated plastic waste that has been deposited in the ocean: 25,000. . . . Percentage of material received by US recycling centers that is non-recyclable – 22" (Harper's Index; 2/22; p. 9);
5. "Great Salt Lake in Utah dips to historic low . . . as the ongoing mega-drought worsened by climate change continues" (RTD; 7/6; p. A 13)
6. "Ground Toxins Spur Losses for Maine Farmers. . . . They traced the contamination to hay grown . . . where material from wastewater treatment plants was spread . . . as fertilizer . . . containing long-lasting toxins known as forever chemicals (PFAS)"; (WSJ; 7/5; p. A3);
7. "For four years under President Trump, the US all but stopped trying to combat climate change . . . his presidency left the country far behind" (NYT; 5/31; p. A7);
8. "Study finds higher density of gas leaks where people of color live" (RTD; 5/23; p. C1);
9. "Climate change will result in 1000s of new viruses spread among animal species by 2070" (RTD; p .5)

ONGOING NEEDS - FOOD PANTRIES

Thanks to your generous contributions, we continue to supply food to the pantries at Ginter Park United Methodist Church, Belmont United Methodist Church and St. Paul's Catholic Church and to residents of the shelter at 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. Watch for weekly updates regarding particular needs.

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY

Oak Grove Elementary students, teachers and volunteers are so excited for the new school year! We need your help to ensure a successful start for everyone.

We are collecting school supplies for K & 1st grade at Oak Grove Elementary School.

[Click here](#) to view the wish list and to make a purchase. You can also make a cash donation to River Road UMC and earmark it for Oak Grove and we will do the shopping for you.

When checking out on Amazon, choose **Mary Valenza, CIS Coordinator's Gift Registry Address** as your shipping address. Please call the office if you have any questions. 804-740-7061

Thank you for your generosity and support of this wonderful community!

Contact Mary York for more information or questions. tmews.york@verizon.net

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16.

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. Try trading single-use coffee pods for a reusable K-Cup;
2. Replacing noisy high-pollution gas-powered mowers and leaf-blowers with quieter, lighter, and cleaner electric ones;
3. Consider pee-cycling (it saves water and "human urine has the very nutrients that plants need"; NYT; 6/19; p. 12)
4. Speaking up, advocating and voting (not only at the ballot box but by what we buy and how we spend);
5. Embracing the 7 R's of "shrinking our (personal) footprint": *Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rent (or borrow), Recycle and Rot*; and
6. Joining and/or supporting one (or several!) of the many 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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August 2022

Articles for the
September 2022
Connections are due
August 20, 2022.



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



Summer Office Hours

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Through Labor Day, the office will be open from

7:30am—5:30pm Monday—Thursday.

Eva will be working four ten-hour days.

The office will be closed on Fridays

Open Arms Christian Preschool

Our Camp program is coming to a close in August. The children have had so much fun this summer with the fun themes, activities, and especially water play days. We had special visitors in July visit us - Betsy Q performed for the school and we had great activities programs with Pop, Hop, & Rock. Also in July our OACP Campers participated in VBS week at RRUMC! The children LOVED engaging each day in all the stations and it was amazing to see them growing in Christ. Thank you to all of the Church staff and volunteers that made VBS possible. It was a wonderful week for the children!



This month all Preschool spots for the 2022-2023 school year are being confirmed. If 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.