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

Keeping it Small

The Exponential Power of Small Groups

In preparation for this article on our new small groups launching this fall (Sunday Mornings at 10am on September 11th), I asked some folks what being a part of small groups has meant to them and their faith.

Here is what they said:

“It made faith more real and Jesus more a part of my daily life.”

“I found the Bible intimidating and I was sure I would be the least knowledgeable in the room, what I found was a group of people hungry to learn more about scripture.”

“Being a part of a mission small group made me realize how God wanted me to live as an agent for justice in the world.”

“The power of small groups for me is hearing stories. People’s struggles, doubts, triumphs, epiphanies, all of it reminds me that it is messy and confusing and perfectly wonderful to be a person of faith.”

“I don’t know what I would have done without the support and love of my small prayer group through a recent loss.”

Sunday morning worship is vital. Serving in Christ’s name is central. AND if you want to intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus, the **clearest** path is to join a small group. This is where the Bible will come alive. This is where you can go deep on matters of faith and culture. Small groups are the venue by which you can experience the power of prayer and be energized for kingdom work. This month we are launching a series of new small groups as well as lifting up existing opportunities. Here is the line up – participating in one of these groups **WILL** deepen your faith:

Sunday Offerings:

Contemporary Christian Class:

Sunday Morning at 10:00am (Ongoing). Hybrid: In person and zoom
 This class alternates between straight up Bible study and studies on topical interests in faith.

Leader: Randy Reaves, Room 205/207

Adult Faith Learning Small Group:

Sunday Morning at 10:00am (starting Sept 11th). This small group will focus on the book Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans. Evans was a Christian author who wrote in memoir format about a time of deconstruction and Reconstruction in her relationship with faith and the church.

Leader: Donna Johnson, Room 208

Racial Justice Small Group

2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00pm via Zoom
 Racial Justice Learning Group

Leaders: Jaimey Honea and Laurel Marks

UPCOMING WORSHIP

August 28	Bread, Water, Wine—A Study of the Sacraments
September 4	Bread, Water, Wine—A Study of the Sacraments
September 11	Rise Again (and Again) The Work of Becoming Resilient
September 18	Rise Again (and Again) The Work of Becoming Resilient
September 25	Rise Again (and Again) The Work of Becoming Resilient
October 2	Rise Again (and Again) The Work of Becoming Resilient

September Birthdays

September 1

Dino Sadler

September 2

Bob Wilson

Angie Williams

Kimberly Jagnarian

September 4

Elliot Eastman

September 4

Evie Rinker

September 8

Kristen Cornett

September 10

Wayne Barrack

September 11

Lynn Rasor

September 12

Nancy Traylor

September 13

Laine Hubley

Cindy Sanford

Jim Moeller

September 14

Bill Mullen

Hannah Clark

Eirnin Buchholz

September 15

David Jagnarian

Meg Walunas

September 17

Jim Davia

Margaret Kidd

September 18

Jack Hiatt

September 20

Christie Bondurant

Hannah Johnson

September 21

Khev Alexander

Adelynn Wood

September 22

Judie Little

Adam Markey

September 24

Jean Dailey

September 25

Hunter Moum

Brooke Hensley

September 26

William Goodship

September 27

Jake Johnson

September 29

Amen Franklin

September 30

Diana Best





There are many opportunities for you to get engaged with discipleship, service, and mission this fall. Whatever your interests and gifts, you belong at River Road UMC!

Discipleship

- Sunday morning small groups at 10:00am
- Small group Bible studies and Life Groups
- Thursday morning Prayer & Praise service at 10:00am

Service

- Sing with the sanctuary choir or join the praise band
- Serve as a greeter/usher at the 9:00am or 11:00am worship service
- Help maintain the church grounds (landscaping, weeding, etc.)
- Read Scripture during the 11:00am worship service

Mission

- Volunteer at Run 2 Rebuild on September 24
- Become a tutor/mentor for kids at Oak Grove Elementary School
- Donate non-perishable food items for local food pantries

Choose community! Check out these opportunities for fun and fellowship in September:

Fall Kick Off Sunday

Sunday, September 11

Find your place in one of our 10:00am Sunday morning small groups, including new class options for kids, students, and adults. Be sure to grab some morning refreshments in the Welcome Center.

River of Lifers (adults 50+): Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Tuesday, September 27, 10:00am

Sandy Irwin will be our personal guide for a special tour of the VMFA and we'll enjoy lunch at the museum café (\$). Carpool from the church at 9:40am.

Friday Fun Night (all ages): Mini Golf at Patterson Golf Park

Friday, September 30, 5:30-7:30pm

We're taking this bonus Friday Fun Night on the road! Bring your own picnic dinner 5:30-6:00, unlimited mini golf 6:00-7:30pm. Cost is \$5 per person payable to RRUMC.

Sign up here by September 28: [Friday Fun Night](#)

What a wonderful summer! August marked a missions morning over at Shalom Farms and working on cleaning up our church van. We were also blessed to have Lindwee (along with Jasmine and Esther) return from their trip to Liberia in support of the Eva Huston Pantry!

We pray for school transitions, including our rising 6th graders engaging with our youth program for the first time, a number of youth starting at a new high school, and our 12th graders as they start to consider what might be next after high school. As the school year starts, our scheduled groups are listed below, and our full schedule of other fall events is coming together.

Youth Small Group Offerings

Youth Sunday School

Sunday Mornings at 10:00am. In-person

Activities and Bible Study for grades 7th grade and up. We will meet as a large group with the 4th-6th graders, then break into two smaller groups (by grade) for bible discussion.

Leader: Tom York

Youth Group

2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 5:30-7:00pm

Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers (6th grade and up).

Games, Music, Activities, Mission Projects, Prayer and Support

Leader: Tom York



Youth at Shalom Farms



Youth loading donations for Eva Huston Pantry



Youth working at Shalom Farms



Youth washing the church van

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Join us Sunday mornings!

River Road Kids Discipleship Hour will be at 10 AM in the Sunday School wing and Children's Church will be held during the 9 & 11 AM worship services in the Sunday School wing.

Save the date:

- September 11th we launch our new fall schedule with adult and children's Sunday School at 10 AM
- Mini-golf has been rescheduled for September 30 - see page 3 for details

Preschool Discipleship for September:

Our preschoolers are going to experience feeling sad, afraid, frustrated, and happy – sometimes all in one day! But here's the good news: We are wonderfully made in God's image, and God gave us all of these emotions!

We want preschoolers to know that they can trust God with all their hearts and talk to God about everything, including how they feel. And when they do, God will always listen and help them because God loves them no matter what.

K-5 Discipleship for September:

Throughout history, God has been faithful to us. God kept the promise to send Jesus to save us. When we remember that God will continue to be dependable, we can choose to trust God no matter what we face in life. The Bible shows examples of people who knew first-hand what it meant to trust God in many circumstances. This month, we focus on three of them who happen to be part of the same family: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through their stories, we'll discover how we can trust God no matter what we face.



FRANCES ALLEN/ALICE WEED CIRCLE

Circle will resume Tuesday September 13 in room 205/207. I am looking forward to seeing everyone for our first meeting after summer! I miss you all.

The Board (UMW/UWinF/Women of the church) is sponsoring a Kitchen Collection for the CARITAS families. A list of needed kitchen items will be sent out soon. Please bring the items to our next meeting and put them in the parlor. We are excited about being able to help these families, who are often in uncomfortable circumstances. There is a need certainly. I do know that we will deliver everything by truck from River Road to Caritas headquarters downtown. As you know, our Mother's Day Bake Sale was a success and the proceeds went to the CARITAS Healing place for women. We took the donation with us and a delightful young man gave us a tour of the facility as well. Our kitchen collection will be most appreciated.



United
Women
in Faith

On May 10th we had our lunch and ended the FA/AW Circle for the summer. Everyone brought a salad or a sweet to share with the preschool staff and the church staff. It was just lovely.

So, we will be back again on September 13, 2022 at 10:00 in room 205/207 and I am looking forward to seeing everyone then. If there are any questions please give me a call or text me at 363-8701. Invite a friend to join us! - Pearcy Flippen

BOOK CLUBS

We have 2 book clubs that meet monthly, one during the day and one in the evening.

Daytime Meeting:

The day time Book Club will meet Monday, September 12 at Bess Traylor's home, 11129 Woodbaron Court, at 2PM. We will discuss Magnolia Palace by Fiona Davis. Call Bess Traylor with questions, 804-747-7494. We Hope to see you there.

Evening Meeting:

Our evening Book Club meets September 5, Ann York's home, 2800 Chancel Lane, 7PM. That is Labor Day, but everyone indicated that would not be a problem. Under discussion will be The Good Left Undone, by Adriana Trigiani, a VA author. October 3 will be non fiction, Five Presidents by Clint Hill. The time era is Eisenhower through Ford. Book Club always meets the first Monday of each month. See you there!

CREATION CARE

Things to be thankful for: 1) First and foremost, the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act . . . allocating nearly \$400 billion estimated to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2030. (WP; 8/20; p. A5); 2) "A new initiative . . . to ensure the poorest communities have access to billions of dollars to replace their crumbling wastewater, drinking water, and storm water systems" (NYT; 8/3; p. A 14); 3) "Winds are powering Virginia's future. . . . The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project is a planned 176-turbine wind farm[,]. . . [o]ne of the largest offshore power facilities in the world" (RTD; 7/10; p. D 1).

EVA HUSTON PANTRY

In July, Esther Tuopay delivered the items collected from church members and preschool families in the spring to orphanages and schools in Liberia. View the pictures on the app to see the delivery to the children. Thanks to Esther and her family and to Karen Carter for leading this mission to make a difference in the lives of these children. Thank you for your donations. Stay tuned for the next collection. "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14.

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 (sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most needed) and wipes. Standard container sizes are appreciated for packing purposes and no glass containers. Watch for weekly updates regarding particular needs.

"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

Key concerns include: 1) High/climbing levels of toxic/cyanobacteria in Lake Anna (RTD; 8/21; p. A 1); 2) "Great Salt Lake in Utah dips to historic low . . . as the ongoing megadrought worsened by climate change continues" (RTD; 7/6; p. A 13); 3) "Climate hazards linked to 58% of infectious diseases" (RTD; 8/9; p. A10); 4) "Mexico, or large parts of it, is running out of water. . . . Residents Wait in Line for Hours, Fight One Another, Even Hijack Municipal Delivery Trucks" (NYT; 8/4; p. A 4); 5) "Since 1970, wildlife populations have fallen by two-thirds The World Animal Foundation has predicted that a third to a half of all nonhuman species will become extinct by 2050" (The New Yorker; 8/15; p .17).

Things we can do include: 1) Speaking up, advocating and mindful consumption; 2) Embracing the 7 Rs of shrinking our (personal) footprint: *Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rent (or borrow), Recycle & Rot*; 3) 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



**RIVER ROAD
UNITED METHODIST**
LOVING PEOPLE TO LIFE

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September 2022

**Articles for the
October 2022
Connections are due
September 20, 2022.**

**REGULAR OFFICE
HOURS**

Resume September 6

Monday: 7am - 4:30pm

Tuesday: 8am - 5:30pm

Wednesday: 8am - 4:30pm

Thursday: 8am - 4:30pm

Friday: 8am - 12:00pm



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



**RUN 2
REBUILD**

RICHMOND ★ 2022

5K | Fun Run | [Re]Fair

Bring your friends, family and coworkers together to run and walk for a worthy cause.

8AM-10AM: Community Fair *Free to attend*
9AM: 5k Run/Walk and One Mile Fun Run

REGISTER TODAY!

www.run2rebuild.com



**Saturday, Sept 24
River Road UMC**

8800 River Road, RVA

**REPAIRING HOMES,
REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES,
REBUILDING LIVES.**

...continued from cover

Weekday Offerings:

Adult Bible Study Small Group

Mondays at 10:00am (starting Sept 12) . In person at Church.

Currently studying the book of Mark

Leader: Lori Alford, Room 205/207

Community Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7:00pm (starting Sept 6). In person at Church.

Red Sea to the Jordan River, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

Leader: Mary Cirillo

New Life Group

Thursdays at 6:30pm. In person rotating across homes.

Faith support group of adults in their 20s/30s. Bible and book study.

Childcare provided.

Leader: Rev. Darcey Johnson

Music Ministries Small Group Offerings (ages 13 and up)

Praise Band

Practice: Tuesdays at 5:30pm

Leads music and worship for the 9:00am Worship service. Vocalists, Guitars, Piano, Percussion players desired.

Leader: Jimmy Dameron

Choir:

Practice: Sundays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 7:00pm

Leads worship and special music for the 11:00am Worship Service.

Leader: Joy Weaver

Handbell Carillon Choir:

Practice: Sundays at 7:00pm

Performs Special music monthly, typically at 11:00am service. No musical background needed, just a willingness to learn!

Leader: Susan Simmers