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Welcome September. I can hear Fall calling. This month we will be blessed by the call stories of clergy and lay folks in our congregation. God speaks to each of us in ways we can understand. For some that's a mountain top moment, for others it's a still small voice or a message from a friend. I have noticed most call stories shared with me have 5 elements: 1. people made quiet space to listen; 2. people meditated on Scripture; 3. people spoke with a trusted friend; 4. the person and friend joined together in prayer; and 5. the person had an excitement and passion for the purpose they discovered in this call. Where are you hearing God? What is Jesus pointing you to? Can you make time to sit with the Holy Spirit? Will you meditate on our memory verse for September? **"Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10** Pastor Sarah Sealand

Ever since I was really young, I knew I wanted to work with children. I started babysitting when I was 11 and loved playing with and supporting young children in their growth and development. Children under three were especially fascinating to me as they were learning something new almost every day! When I was about 16 I got a call from a family friend asking if I could do childcare for her synagogue while they had a special service. All the adults, including those that regularly provided childcare, wanted to participate in the service. It was at that moment that I felt my true calling. Providing a safe space for young children so that their parents can worship together and not feel burdened or worried is such a special gift I can provide. I have seen parents feel nervous and worried about dropping their kids off, worried they are going to cry, worried their worship time will be disrupted, or worried that others' worship time will be disrupted. Seeing the same faces in the nursery week after week, year after year, someone that knows their child and their family, can be comforting and feels supportive to families. Having my own children, I know how important those relationships are, and I feel truly called to support others so that they can worship in the ways most meaningful to them. I feel incredibly blessed to have been able to support the Nursery and the Children's Ministry team for the last 21 years.



Elizabeth Buchholz, Nursery Director, RRUMC

Music has long been the light illuminating my faith journey, from belting out "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so" as a very young child, believing it with all my heart, to more recently being assured and comforted by "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place," as I shared my husband Frank's long journey with dementia and now my days walking alone.

A defining moment occurred for me as a teenager standing around a campfire at a church camp in the Missouri Ozarks. The song was *Jacob's Ladder*, which I had sung so very many times. But this time, I heard it in a different way, "Sinner, do you love my Jesus?" with the following challenge, "if you love Him, why not serve Him?" It was at that moment that I felt I was making a decision for myself—a decision that had been made for me at my baptism as an infant and even in a sense at my confirmation at age 12. I do love Jesus and want to serve Him and had developed a sense of a call from God as seeing a need and knowing that I had what was needed to fill it. So my journey took on a new purpose. I changed my major at Washington University from chemistry to psychology and prepared myself for entering theological school. I am fully aware that I often fall short of fulfilling the promise that God's gracious gifts to me would allow. But I remain determined to make Jesus the center of my life and to try to bear witness to His love to those I encounter. Claire Gross, Member, RRUMC



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

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

### “Speak Lord”

A series on the many ways God calls us to serve.

1 Samuel 3:10

		<u>Sermon</u>	<u>Call Story</u>
<b>September 3</b>	Samuel 3:1-10	Lori Alford	
<b>September 10</b>	1 Kings 19:11-16	Sarah Sealand	Jimmy Dameron at 9am Laura Fanizza at 11am
<b>September 17</b>	Romans 16:1-16	Sarah Sealand	Connie Whetstine
<b>September 24</b>	John 4:1-26, 39-42	Sarah Sealand	Tom York

Throughout this series several staff and members will be sharing their call stories on Sundays, in the newsletter, and on the app.

## 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

### September 21

Khev Alexander  
Adelynn Wood

### September 22

Judie Little  
Adam Markey

### September 23

Debbie Gunter

### September 24

Jean Dailey

### September 25

Hunter Moun  
Brooke Thomas

### September 27

Jake Johnson

### September 29

Amen Franklin

### September 30

Diana Best





## River of Lifers [adults 50+] INTERNET SAFETY

with Eric Howell

Tuesday, September 19th @ 10:00am  
Fellowship Hall

Learn how to stay safe online, avoid scams, and dodge viruses.

Snacks will be provided. Invite a friend!

Questions? Contact Lori Alford at 740-7061 or [engagement@riverroadumc.org](mailto:engagement@riverroadumc.org)

ALL ARE INVITED:

## S'MORE FUN & FELLOWSHIP

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 | 6:00-8:00PM

A WELCOME EVENT  
FOR PASTOR SARAH SEALAND

ENJOY AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP  
WITH LIVE MUSIC, CHICK-FIL-A,  
OUTDOOR GAMES, & S'MORES

### RSVP

Online: [S'more Fun & Fellowship Sign Up](#)

Email: [engagement@riverroadumc.org](mailto:engagement@riverroadumc.org)

Phone: 804-740-7061



# YOUTH



Sunday Nights at 6:00! Plenty of other small groups, devotions and service opportunities to plug in as well.

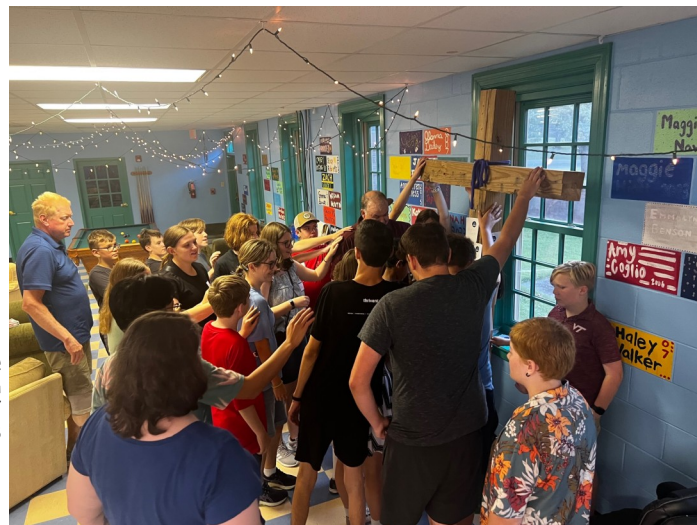
Donation Pick Up for Goochland Cares



Busch Gardens Day



Belmont Food Pantry Support moving frozen goods on a hot day!



Youth Group with the West End Circuit of UMC Churches

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday mornings, Adult Bible Study (rm 208) and Contemporary Christian (rm 207) will continue to meet during the fall. We also have two new classes starting up in September, open to all!

Starting Sept 3, during our Sunday School hour at 10:00, Vicki Keith will lead a devotion about "Treasures of the Word" in rm 202. Each week will cover a different scripture, with reflection and discussion on how the passage relates to our past, present, and future.

Starting Sept 18, Mondays at 10:00 in rm 207, Lori Alford will lead "Names of God". With scripture as a foundation, each week a different passage will be highlighted and discussed within the group.

We continue to look at a "Fast Track" Discipleship class. With a deep reading of the Bible, the class is composed of a 12 week program reading portions of the Old Testament and then a 12 week program reading the New Testament. This course has served as a foundation for many at River Road UMC. Let Tom know if you are interested in this deep dive into the Bible!

## 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 at the 9 & 11 AM worship services in the Sunday School wing.

### **Preschool Discipleship for September:**

An adult makes about 35,000 choices every day, but adults are not the only ones with choices to make. Children have their fair share of choices too—about 3,500 of them. Every. Single.

Day. Should I eat this snack or that snack? Should I play with this toy or that toy? Should I do this and share or do that and keep it all for myself? Knowing that our preschooler's 3,500 daily choices will one day turn into 35,000 daily choices is why we want to teach preschoolers that, when they have a choice between This or That, they can trust that God knows what's best for them.

### **Memory Verse for September:**

“GOD . . . KNOWS EVERYTHING.”

1 JOHN 3:20, NIV

### **K-5 Discipleship for September:**

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FRIENDSHIP AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

God created us for relationships. From the very beginning of the Bible, we see how important it is to have wise people in our life who help us understand how to honor God with our actions. When God sent Jesus, we were able to see the best example of friendship ever. Jesus showed us how much He loves us as He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, Jesus showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we take time to care for our friends.

### **Memory Verse For September:**

“A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP WHEN TROUBLE COMES.”

PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV



**FRANCES ALLEN/ALICE WEED CIRCLE****Attention all River Road Ladies!**

Want to get to know our new minister better? Here's your chance! Stop by Room 205/207 on **Tuesday, September 12th at 10 AM** to help welcome Pastor Sarah Sealand as she shares about herself and her journey. It's a perfect time for her to interact with and get to know each of us better, too. Everyone is welcome!

After Pastor Sarah's talk we'll have a regular business meeting which will include a discussion of the future path of our Circle. Also, a growing list of possible outreach opportunities for our RRUMC ladies at church and in the community will be handed out for input and to ponder and pray over before the October 10th meeting.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**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 meets the second Monday, September 11, at Bess Traylor's home at 2PM. We will review Mad Honey written by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. Call Bess Traylor with questions, 804-747-7494. We hope to see you there.

**Evening Meeting:**

Our evening Book Club meets the first Monday of the month. The first Monday of September is Labor Day so our September meeting will be the second Monday, Sept 11, Ann's house and Ann will lead the discussion on The Twist of the Knife by Anthony Horowitz. October 2 will be Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver and led by Marge Stewart. Contact Ann York at 907-748-0446 for more information.

### Loving People to Life Through Acts of Service

River Road UMC's first Serve Day will be Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. All are invited to be part of this day of service to bring hope and healing to our community. We'll begin at River Road with worship and prayer at 8:30am. Teams will depart for projects and serve from 9:00am-12:00pm, then return to church for lunch and fellowship.

**SERVE  
DAY**

**SATURDAY, SEP. 23RD**

**Projects available for all ages and abilities:**

**UMFS Serve Team:** Assemble and move furniture for UMFS offices (ages 12 and up)

**Cookie Serve Team:** Bake homemade cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry (ages 4 and up)

**Chamberlayne Heights Serve Team:** Yardwork and odd jobs (ages 12 and up)

**Lakewood Serve Team:** Assemble treat bags and play BINGO with residents (ages 4 and up)

**Hospitality Serve Team:** Prepare lunch for Serve Day volunteers (ages 12 and up)

**Prayer Serve Team:** Pray for Serve Day volunteers and ministry partners (ages 4 and up)

Click here to sign up: [Serve Day 2023](#)  
or contact Lori Alford at [engagement@riverroadumc.org](mailto:engagement@riverroadumc.org) for more information

**UPCOMING MISSIONS****Eva Huston Pantry**

We are collecting funds for the Eva Huston Pantry Christmas delivery. This year, due to instability in the country and the related high cost of shipping, we are collecting donations to purchase food in Liberia for the orphanages. A \$20 donation will buy a 25 pound bag of rice. A \$25 donation will buy a 25 pound bag of beans. A \$50 donation will buy 5 gallons of cooking oil. You can donate online, drop by the church office, or put a check or cash in the offering plate, noting the donation is for Eva Huston Pantry. Watch the jar in the Welcome Center fill with rice as your donations come in. Eat only rice and beans and donate your savings to the Eva Huston Pantry. Do this with your children to help them understand that some children in the world get only rice and beans to eat. Take the Eapen Challenge. George is eating only vegetables for several days each week for the duration of the collection and donating the savings to buy food for the children. Can you match or beat George's challenge? Let us know on the app!

**Helping Children Worldwide Presentation and Book Sale**

Mohamed Emmanuel Nabieu ("Nabs"), Director for Mission Advancement & Partnership at Helping Children Worldwide, has written a book about how he survived life on the streets in Sierra Leone and overcame severe trauma to find joy in bringing hope to vulnerable children. Nabs will join us on September 17 to talk about his book and his mission. You will have an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the book and to learn more about this mission that we have long supported. Many church members and groups currently sponsor children through this mission. Thanks to Connie and Mark Whetstine for arranging this important visit from our missions partner.

**ONGOING NEEDS - FOOD PANTRIES AND SAFE HARBOR**

Our food pantry partners are seeing record numbers almost every week. Most-needed items remain the same -- peanut butter; 15 oz. cans of tomato sauce; 1 lb. spaghetti; canned fruit and vegetables; canned soups and beans; canned chicken and tuna; boxed cereal; oatmeal; ravioli/spaghettios; non-refrigerated microwave meals; diapers and wipes (sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most needed). Standard, non-glass container sizes are appreciated for packing purposes. Watch the app, as well as email, for weekly updates that highlight particular needs. Thanks to Daniel and Stephanie O'Neill for leading this ministry.

"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. We are always happy for new mission volunteers. For more missions information, contact Ann Hodges, [ahodges@richmond.edu](mailto:ahodges@richmond.edu) or 804-339-9440.

**CREATION CARE TIP**

Will you use a reusable flask instead of buying bottled water? Not only will you save a bottle from going in the landfill but also the manufacture, transport, and resources to fill and seal that bottle. Kate King, the president of the National School Nurses Association spoke on the Today Show: "King recommends that children bring a water bottle that they can refill at school. She stresses the importance of children drinking tap water. 'Water in the United States is safe. Also, we have found since kids are drinking bottled water that's not fluoridated, they have more cavities,' she said. 'We want your kids to drink tap water that's fluoridated.'" Michael Wriston, Earth Advocacy Chair



**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**

**September 2023**

## River Road's Prayer Ministry

Prayer requests are an important part of River Road's Prayer Ministry. Prayer Request Cards are available in the Fellowship Hall, in the pew racks, and in other spaces around the church. Please use these cards to write down anything and anyone for whom you feel prayer is needed. Some of our River Road Prayer Partners pray for these requests daily at home. Other Prayer Partners are in the Prayer Space (in the Chapel) on Sunday mornings, and pray for these requests then as well. Your request can remain anonymous or you can request that someone from the church staff contact you. You can request that your request be sent to the congregation. Church member, Sam McCracken, is working on making Prayer Boxes for these prayer request cards. The first wooden Prayer Box, made by Sam, is already in use. Two more are being made. In addition, remember that the Prayer Space is open every Sunday morning for you to stop by for a quiet time of mediation and prayer. Quiet music plays and candles are lit. Between 10 and 11 am, two Prayer Partners are there praying as well. Taking time out of our busy lives to be quiet, even for a short time, can be a source of renewal.

**Articles for the  
October 2023  
Connections are due  
September 18, 2023.**

### REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

#### **Resume September 5**

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](http://www.riverroadumc.org)**



**OPEN ARMS  
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**

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

Open Arms Christian Preschool begins the school year program on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. We will welcome new and returning families to our Open House and Orientation on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Teachers will be there to introduce themselves, show children around the classrooms and talk to families about what to expect this school year at OACP. Families will have an opportunity to get more information about River Road UMC and learn more about what the school year will bring at the Orientation on that day. We are blessed to be able to share our church preschool program with 45 families this year.



We are still in need of Substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year. Please contact the Preschool Director, Nora Hamlet, at 804-754-0227, or email her at [openarms@riverroadumc.org](mailto:openarms@riverroadumc.org) if you are able to join our substitute teacher list!