

Richardson Park United Methodist Church
11 North Maryland Avenue
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Then Jesus told them this parable: Think of the fig tree and all the other trees. When you see their leaves beginning to appear, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that the Kingdom of God is about to come. Remember that all these things will take place before the people now living have all died. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

- Luke 21:25-36 (The Good News Translation)

The weather this year really has me puzzled. I have never seen the disparity of temperatures and conditions that we have seen this winter. It is sixty degrees and sunshine one Saturday and twenty degrees with snow and freezing rain the next. Right now, I have green grass in my yard, a couple of trees about to bud, and there's snow on the ground. I can't tell if it's fall, winter, or spring.

It all reminds me of twilight. (Twilight, as in the time of day, not the series of books by Stephanie Meyer—ask your kids or grandkids about *Twilight* if you have any questions.) It's not quite night, and it's not quite day. Celtic Christians have long thought that this was a very special time of day. As author Leonard Beechy puts it, "Celtic folks called it 'the time between the times,' the enchanted moments at dusk and dawn when the veil between this world and the world beyond us is thin, and we seem to breathe its air." It is a time of closeness to God and often a time of prayer for Christians around the world.

Twilight also reminds us that we live between times as well. Jesus has come and gone. He was born, died, rose, and ascended. His

physical time on earth has passed, and we wait eagerly for him to come to us again. Yet, we followers who have faithfully waited for two millennia for his return have been lulled to sleep. Excitement and anticipation were high in the early church for Jesus' second coming, but centuries of waiting and the daily grind of survival have worn us out. On top of everything, this year's weather has us confused as well. We've been waiting for so long that we've almost forgotten that we are still waiting.

So, WAKE UP! It's time for us to remember that Christ is as close as the next breath and as present as the sunshine or the snow. Let us be the people of hope, who may be living in between times, but are firmly focused on the future. Let us be spring for a world trapped in winter. Let us be the light of the world. The fig tree will bloom and the Kingdom of God is at hand. God bless us all with hope and patience.

Still waiting with you,

Pastor Tom

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Ashley Aiken	2/3
Edward Podgorski	2/4
Bill Green	2/7
Jeff Sheridan	2/8
Carol Cathell	2/10
Amy Roberts	2/10
Mary Sutor	2/11
Brian Crozier	2/12
Terri Antonine	2/13
Byrom Price	2/13
Ellen Willard	2/14
Katherine Oakmont	2/15
Elaine Spedden	2/17
Frank Pugh	2/18
Kathy Gibbons	2/20
Bettie Smith	2/20
Robert Truitt	2/20
Kristin Fleming	2/21
Bethany Pasmore	2/21
Greg Haynes	2/22
Morgan Coverdale	2/23
Ben Brindle	2/24
Bob Thomas	2/24
Angel Adams	2/25
Chuck Luppy	2/26

Note: If your name is not listed on our birthday calendar, please call the church office at 654-0961. Thank you.



MISSION TREE



On Sundays in February, we are hanging **Hearts** on our Mission Tree. Hang a "heart" on the tree in honor or memory of someone special to you. Minimum donation is \$1.00.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



In February, Rebekah Circle will take care of the flowers in the church.

Circle Meetings

Esther Circle Sun., Feb. 26 11:30 a.m.
Extension

Rebekah Circle Tues., Feb. 7 7:00 p.m.
Home of Marlene Johnson

Please contact Marlene for your assignment!

Ruth Circle Wed., Feb. 1 10:00 a.m.
Church Lounge

Our UMW unit is not one of the larger units but we are one of the most active in the Wilmington District!!! We are planning some wonderful activities in 2012. Please come and join us. For more information, please contact any member. Have a blessed year.

Circle Leaders

Esther Circle	Yvonne Mitten
Rebekah Circle	Marlene Johnson
Ruth Circle	Lee Powell

If you are interested in joining a Circle, please contact Marlene, Lee or Yvonne for more information.

WESLEY TOWER BANKS

November 2011 \$85.32

December 2011 \$57.15

Our total for 2011 is \$1,008.36.

January 2012 \$38.53

Thanks for remembering to bring in your filled banks the first Sunday of each month. Empty banks can be picked up as you leave the altar area each Communion Sunday. **AGAIN, THANKS FOR SAVING YOUR CHANGE.**



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 21 5:30 PM

Peniel United Methodist Church

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 22

NOON - Richardson Park UMC

7 PM - Peniel UMC

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Each Wednesday at Noon

- February 29 Richardson Park UMC
Speaker, Joseph Quinn
Elizabeth House
- March 7 Calvary Presbyterian –
Speaker: Carol Holt
Re-entry Mentors
- March 14 St. James Episcopal
Speaker: Buzzy Cooke
- March 21 Peniel UMC
Speaker: Stephanie
Armstrong
- March 28 St. Matthew RCC
Stations of the Cross

Please join the noon prayer services during Lent, followed by a light lunch.

KIDS' KORNER



Greetings from the Lower Sunday School - Grades K - 3. In January, we learned about Jesus' early life (when Jesus was about the children's ages). During February, we will learn that Jesus is able to care for our hurts, miracles were performed so people would believe in God, and Jesus' power came from God. This is an exciting time because we discuss how Jesus lived - no cars, no Burger King, and no computers!!! Songs and skits always are important in our class - we learn by doing! Come visit us in the Lower Level.

Blessings from Ms. Marlene

**A HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE WORKSHOP
ON THE
CALL TO ACTION LED BY BISHOP JOHNSON
AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP/MEMBER
TRAINING**

**Saturday, February 11 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Aldersgate UMC – 2313 Concord Pike**

If you are on a leadership committee at church, this workshop is for you. There will be sessions covering SPRC, Finance, Lay Leadership, Trustees, Evangelism, Missions, Worship, and Council. Please contact Pastor Tom or the church office if you would like to attend.

ALTAR FLOWERS DATE AVAILABLE

If you would like to present flowers on the altar, we have an opening for Sunday, February 26. The cost for two arrangements is \$30.00. Please see Sandy Ide or contact the church office at 654-0961 if you are interested in reserving this date.

Many thanks to our church family for the generous Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness and support are very important to us. May God bless you in the new year.

Tom, Harriet Ann, and Ella

ST. PATRICK'S PARTY
FIVE POINTS FIRE COMPANY
FRIDAY, MARCH 16
7 PM - 12 MIDNIGHT

The Five Points Fire Company is holding a St. Patrick's Party on Friday, March 16 from 7 PM to Midnight. Cost is \$30.00 per person which includes a buffet and beverages. The buffet is available from 7 PM - 8 PM. For more information, call 302-376-6025 or the EVENT LINE at 302-994-0114, EXT. 6. Leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you.

KOINONIA FELLOWSHIP

The Koinonia Fellowship met in the Extension on Friday, January 13. In the absence of our President, Sandy Ide, Ed Ide conducted a short business meeting. Julia Lynch was introduced and welcomed by the members.

Snacks and desserts were then enjoyed by all.

After eating our fill, we got down to the business of having fun. We had two tables playing Chicken Foot Dominoes, one table playing Mexican Train Dominoes and one table playing Pinochle. At times, the room was consumed in joyous laughter as everyone had a marvelous good time. This is what the Koinonias are about - Christian fellowship and love for one another.

The Koinonia Fellowship will meet on Saturday, February 18 at 5:30 p.m. with a covered-dish dinner in Fellowship Hall. PLEASE JOIN US!

YARD SALE
INDOOR/OUTDOOR (WEATHER
PERMITTING)

Friday, March 2
9 AM - 4 PM
&
Saturday, March 3
8 AM - 2 PM

YE OLDE SHOPPE

Ye Olde Shoppe is open for browsing and shopping every Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM. The Shoppe also will be open the first Saturday of each month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Stop in and look for some special treasures for you, your family or your friends.



FOOD FOR CAP

Don't forget to bring food for CAP the first Sunday of each month. We are in need of:

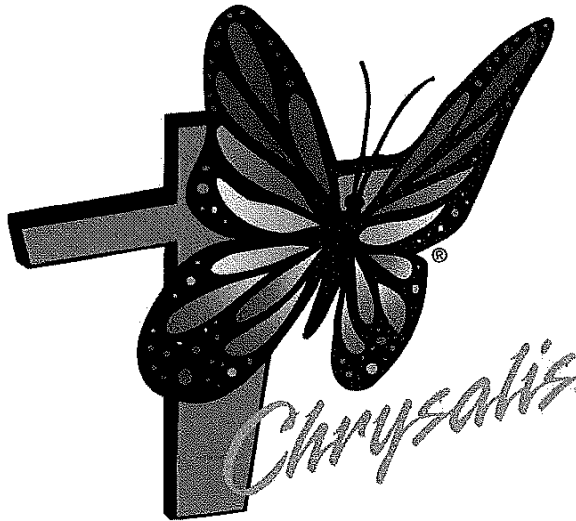
Cereal, oatmeal, boxed potatoes,
boxed sides, peanut butter,
jelly, peas, beans and
non-perishable items.

THRIFT STORE NEEDS..

Clean and sized clothing,
detergent and bleach,
paper products, diapers,
sanitary items, and
aluminum cans to recycle.



YOUTH NEWS



What is Chrysalis??

Chrysalis is the growth stage between caterpillars and butterflies. While on the surface it may look like nothing is happening, the delicate process changes a caterpillar into a butterfly with wings and beautiful colors. This symbolizes that by giving ourselves over to Christ, he can transform us into beautiful new creations.

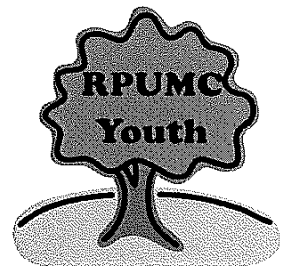
Chrysalis is a three-day spiritual renewal retreat that provides participants an opportunity to learn more about the faith, to experience Christian love and support, and a chance to make new commitments in their faith journey. The content of the three days focuses on God's grace, how one experiences Christ as friend in the body of Christ, and how one is called into discipleship, giving love to a needful world.

Wouldn't you like to know Christ more deeply?

Ask Pastor Tom for more details . . . Or to sign up for a Chrysalis weekend.

IMPORTANT DATES

- February 5 —
Parents Meeting,
Lounge 11:30a
No Youth Group
- February 12 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- February 19 —
Youth Group im-
mediately following
worship @ 11:30a
- February 26 —
Regular Youth
Group at 5:30pm
- April 13-15 — Girls'
Chrysalis Weekend
- April 27-29 — Boys'
Chrysalis Weekend
- May 19 — White-
water Rafting trip
to the Poconos



RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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654-0961



We  *Recycling!*

Please bring these items to our green and yellow bin:

Catalogs

Magazines

Newspapers

Junk Mail

TV Guides

Weekly Advertisement Circulars

Folders

Construction Paper

Poster Paper

(Please no phone books or cardboard)

Happy Valentine's Day!



February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Youth Group Parents Meeting</p>	<p>6 6 PM Discipleship Exp. - Peniel</p>	<p>7 7 PM Rebekah Circle 8 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>8 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>9 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:15 Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>10 10 AM Discipleship Exp. RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Healthy Initiative Workshop</p>
<p>12 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Mtg. 11:30 AM Education Mtg. 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>13 6 PM Discipleship Exp. - Peniel</p>	<p>14 8 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>15 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>16 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:15 Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>17 10 AM Discipleship Exp. RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel</p>	<p>18 5:30 PM Koinonia Fellowship</p>
<p>19 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM UMW Unit Mtg. 11:30 AM Youth Group</p>	<p>20 6 PM Discipleship Exp. - Peniel</p>	<p>21 8 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday 12 PM Community Service - RPUMC 7 PM Community Service - Peniel 7:30 PM NA Meeting</p>	<p>23 9 AM Ye Olde Shoppe 11 AM Free Lunch - RPUMC 3:30 PM Kids Café 6:15 Chancel Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8:15 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>24 10 AM Discipleship Exp. RPUMC 11 AM Free Lunch - Peniel</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council Mtg. 11:30 AM Esther Circle</p>	<p>27 Fellowship Hall Reserved 6 PM Discipleship Exp. - Peniel</p>	<p>28 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>29 Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:30 PM FaithQuest 7:30 PM NA Meeting</p>			

RICHARDSON PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305

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“THE MESSENGER” FEBRUARY 2012

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Parsonage Phone: (302) 652-6168 E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Tom Pasmore, Pastor



LAY READERS

February 5	Sheldon Edwards
February 12	Dave Rogers
February 19	Tammy Brindle
February 26	Yvonne Mitten

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 5	Charlene & Bruce Workman
February 12	Chancel Bells & Choir
At the Cross	Melissa Hughes
February 19	Bob Evely
At the Cross	Bettie Smith
February 26	Available

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the month of February, Rebekah Circle is responsible for the flowers.

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD FOR
CAP THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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Please submit your articles for the
March Messenger to the church office by
Wednesday, March 7. Thank You.

*The purpose of Richardson Park United Methodist Church is to help people
experience the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.*