

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*Written by Rev. Keisha R. Dukes*

When I was on social media, I saw the following post, ***"I held up an atlas and asked the world, where does it hurt, and the world replied, "ALL OVER."*** I believe this is our tragic reality, the world is in pain! Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer!

Pain is an indicator that something within us is hurting and requires attention. I can imagine Advent Season is God's way of saying, "I have seen your pain and have heard your cry. I promised my love, which is my grace, as the healing aid for the world. The world is in pain, and my grace is available through faith. All you have to do is believe in the salvific message of the angels:

***"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people, For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10)***

As I shared that post on my social media page, I accepted the world was in pain; however, I realized, we should offer Jesus because Jesus is the perfect example of Love because Jesus is Love! Therefore, let us be empowered to provide the world "the Prince of Peace" in times of war and hate, "Emmanuel" in times of fear and exclusion, and "the Light of the World" in times of darkness and chaos. During this season of God's wondrous power, may the world feel deep divine contentment in knowing God's grace is always extended. May we live to love and love like Christ from now into the New Year. I pray the world will experience God's love and we will be able to live in peace.

I can hear the heavenly caravan singing so clearly, "Joy to the World the Savoir Reigns!"

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all God's children.

***I LOVE YOU AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!***

*Pastor Keisha*



# United Women in Faith

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

Merry Christmas to all of you!!

December is such a wonderful month in the church. Our faithful and caring group of women always display their ability to remember other folks this time of year. It was decided to send money to Door of Hope located on Lancaster Avenue. This is a center to assist and teach soon-to-be mothers and young women who are already mothers. Don't worry- there is always an opportunity for you to share! On November 27th the big Christmas Box will appear in the back of the sanctuary. This year we hope to fill it with socks, mittens, gloves and hats for a local elementary school. The box will stay until December 18th. With your help, we can fill the box to overflowing!

A big thank you goes to Trish and Tim Williamson for keeping us supplied with children's books. Yes, we are still taking them to the laundromat in Elsmere and Door of Hope. Also, the children in Children's Church select a book once a month. What a wonderful outreach for our church- a label with Richardson Park United Methodist Church is placed on each book.

Another thank you goes to everyone who filled the card box for Thanksgiving. All of you generous folks have shared so many Christmas cards that those cards will be delivered the middle of December.

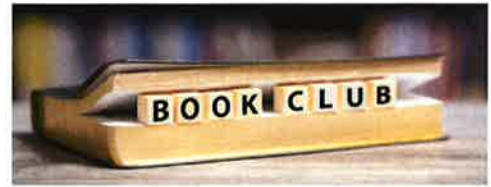
What caring and generous folks attend our church- Thank you.

Now, sisters in faith, your December assignment:

1. Attend our last meeting in 2022 on December 11th;
2. Read a scripture passage and share with us at our meeting.

A closing thought: Thank you, Lord, for those who brighten other folks days with gentleness and kindness during this blessed season.

Share this wondrous season, Marlene



## BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

On Friday, November 18, we met at the church to discuss "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. We had an interesting and enjoyable conversation.

We will discuss "Dear Santa" by Debbie Macomber on Thursday December 15th at 7:00 PM at the church. This is an easy read and a "Feel good" story, so if you have been thinking about joining the Book Club, this would be a great time to jump in!

We hope to read "Sam" in January and are hoping to schedule a Zoom call with Rev. Robyn Brown to discuss that book.

We will be reading "The Neighbor's Secret" by L. Alison Heller and "Gentleman and Players" by Joanne Harris in the coming months. In addition, a number of our recent books have some from your suggestions; please keep those coming!

Thank you. Paul



## Poinsettia Orders Due: December 11th



Would you like to purchase a poinsettia in honor of, in loving memory of, or in celebration of a loved one? If so, please fill out the Poinsettia Order Form located in the back of the sanctuary and submit it to the church office.



## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

December is here! What a wonderful time of the year for children as well as adults. During this month we will be learning about a very special gift God shared with all of us- Jesus!

We have been very blessed to have received a very special Nativity set. Pieces will be unwrapped and put in place each week. Wonder what we will find each week? You need to come by 10:25 a.m. to meet in the Sanctuary. After a moment with youth by Pastor Keisha, up to our room we will travel.

As a recap, we learned about a man called Abraham trusting in God. God led Abraham to a wonderful new land, Canaan. We reenacted his travels and even built an altar to God (built paper rocks) to worship. One of the highlights was learning sign language: Trust in the Lord with all Your Heart. May you have a blessed Christmas season!

## NURSERY IS REOPENING!

Our nursery is re-opening! A big thank you to Michelle Anderson and Alice Lang for volunteering to do this much needed ministry. It will be great to see our little ones and their parents.

However, we need substitutes to give these wonderful ladies a break once in a while. Please think about this exciting opportunity. Thank you for your support!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



### Advent Wreaths

The beautiful decorations adorning our sanctuary have been graciously provided by the following members and friends of RPUMC and *Given to the Glory of God.*

**Advent Wreath**

*In loving memory of Amanda and George Stewart by daughter, Phyllis Bowman*

**Altar Wreath**

*In loving memory of Ruth and Leonard Gibney by family*

**Balcony Wreath**

*In loving memory of Rick Cleaver, Corporal Chris Shea, Melvin and Lil Collins, Joyce Collins and Joyce Toy by Raphael and Paulette Cleaver-Lazzaro*

**Door Wreath**

*In honor of our sisters and brothers by Dave and Kathy Rogers*

**Door Wreath**

*In loving memory of Ralph and Dorothy Scarborough by daughter and son-in-law Nancy and Jim Quillen*

**Door Wreath**

*In memory of all deceased church members by Joan Stadelman*

**Door Wreath**

*In loving memory of deceased family and friends by Janet Dickerson*

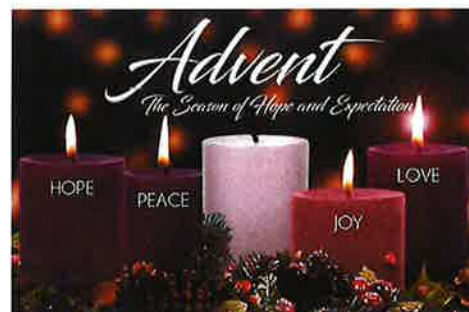


CELEBRATE  
*Christmas*

**Richardson Park UMC**  
11 North Maryland Ave, Wilmington, DE 19804

*Live Nativity*  
Sat 12/17/22 @ 5pm & 6:30pm  
Rain Date: Sunday 12/18/22

*Christmas Eve*  
Sat 12/24/22 @ 7pm





## TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

### iPads and/or iPhones Tips

For those of you with iPads and/or iPhones here are a couple of tips to try.

#### Take a Screenshot

Press the Home and Sleep/Wake buttons (or the Power and Volume Up buttons if you don't have a Home button) simultaneously and you'll hear a click. The screenshot is automatically added to your Photos library but a thumbnail appears on screen for a moment: tap on that and you can edit it before saving or sharing it.

#### Battery Health

Use Settings > Battery to discover the health of your iPad's battery and which apps are doing the most draining in the last 24 hours. This app list can help you identify apps that may be too demanding, or apps that are running in the background that you didn't know about.

#### Use the secret trackpad

If you touch the on-screen keyboard with two fingers in an app such as Mail, it becomes a trackpad: as your fingers move so does the cursor. It's a real boon for editing documents.

If you want to try more things Google iPad tips and have fun.

If there is a special topic you want to see just send a note to [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)



## MEMORIAL TREE

BY GLENDA DONNELLY

Thanks to the great work of the Trustees and the BMG, we have a beautiful Memorial Tree to recognize all our loved families and friends who have passed.

Take a moment and stop by the Extension and see the Memorial Tree. If you are interested in adding a loved one's name to the Memorial Tree, there are forms located on the table near the Tree. Any questions, please contact Glenda Donnelly a call on (302) 998-5047 or call the Church Office.

Thank you. Glenda

## BAGS OF BLESSINGS

### DONATIONS NEEDED

Please donate "single-served" food items such as granola bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, 16 oz. water bottles, snack crackers, cookies, peanut butter, etc. in support of this important adjunct ministry to our Free Lunch program. Volunteers are needed to fill the Bags of Blessings which are given out at the Free Lunch Ministry on Thursdays. Any questions, please contact Kathy Rogers, Missions Chair

## FREE LUNCH MINISTRY

BY JOE TUCKER

Free Lunch program is continuing every Thursday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm with a grab-n-go lunch. We deliver a hot lunch in a take-out container at the main door of the church. Each person also receives a bag of crackers, power bars, a bottle of water, cup of pudding, etc. Our group of dedicated volunteers work Wednesday morning preparing food and 'bags of blessings' to hand out on Thursday morning. We are averaging about 100 meals a week. Contributions of items are always accepted. Currently, Free Lunch is in need of plastic grocery shopping bags at this time.

Some church members pick up meals and deliver them to family and elderly neighbors. Thank you to all volunteers who help on Wednesday and Thursday to prepare and serve free lunch!!

Thank you. Joe



### ALTAR FLOWERS

December 4-Richard Locke

December 11-Dennis & Marlene Johnson

December 18-Sandy Ide

December 25-Poinsettias

GREETER-Neal Davis

LAY READERS-To be announced

# Thanksgiving



## HARVEST HOME

We assembled and distributed 12 Thanksgiving baskets, most in our history. In a year of rising prices, this presented serious challenges. But our church family responded, with food gifts and cash donations. In addition, our friends at the new Wegmans (and their manager, Stephen) provided us with a \$400 gift card.

We had a tremendous amount of help from members of the congregation, recommending families who were to receive baskets, purchasing and storing the food, providing the boxes used to deliver the food, assembling and delivering the baskets. And after the generosity and hard work of the congregation, 12 families were provided food to help them have a better Thanksgiving holiday.



*Thank you!*





## ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

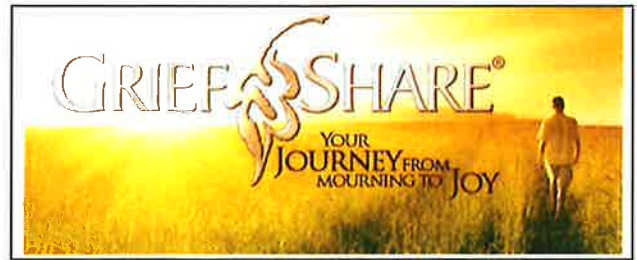


Hello RPUMC Family!

We are pleased to announce that **ONLINE GIVING** is **NOW Available!** During this time of social distancing and quarantine, you can still support the work and ministry of Richardson Park UMC through your tithes and offerings by either sending them in the mail or now by giving online through our website!

(Click the "GIVING" tab on our website).

[www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html](http://www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html)



## GRIEF SHARE 2022-2023

GriefShare groups meet to help you face challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. (Griefshare.org) GriefShare meets once a month via ZOOM at 7-8 p.m.

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about the things you've never faced before.

"Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering."

If you would like to participate please contact Pastor Jennifer Christy at (410-810-0110)

Schedule of upcoming ZOOM online meetings:

Session 11 Tues. Dec 6, 2022 7:00pm-8:00pm

Session 12 Tues. Jan 3, 2023 7:00pm-8:00pm

Session 13 Tues. Feb 7, 2023 7:00pm-8:00pm

**Peniel Soup Kitchen**  
**10:30 to 12:30—Every Friday**  
**Pick Up Free Lunch—Goodie Bag For All**

Looking forward to seeing all of our friends again.  
 Please come everyone.



**WELCOME!**




**Holy Land Tour Opportunities**  
 District Superintendent Archie authorized the following link from a local tour agent offering a variety of Holy Land tours for 2023.  
<http://www.etstours.com/larue>

  
**ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS**  
 Please remember that if you would like to dedicate altar flowers "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" a loved one, please submit your order and donation to the church office at least one week before.  
 Thank you.




**The Shoppe at RPUMC**  
 The Shoppe at RPUMC is open for shopping on Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



**PROCEEDS BENEFIT MISSIONS/OUTREACH**



**Richardson Park  
United Methodist Church**

**Join us for prayer,  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Every Tuesday Evening**

# PRAYER CALL LINE

**Confrencece number (605) 468-8733  
Code: 6102741#**

**LINE OPENS AT 5:45 pm**

*"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.  
When he finished, one of his disciples said to him,  
"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."  
~ Luke 11:1*



**Keisha R. Dukes, Pastor**



## *Blue Christmas*

A service of remembrance and hope

This time of year  
can be a mix of  
emotions that make  
it a challenge.

We invite you for a  
service of reflection,  
comfort, and hope  
for hurting hearts



Peniel UMC &  
Richardson Park UMC  
*December 11th at 5p.m. @*  
Peniel United Methodist Church  
115 E. Market St., Newport, DE 19804  
More with PenielMyWay.com

**JOIN US  
TUESDAYS**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Peniel United Methodist Church  
Richardson Park United Methodist Church**

**ADAM HAMILTON**

Author of *The Journey, Star a Saint Night, and Earth*

**INCARNATION**

REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF CHRISTMAS

**BIBLE STUDY**

**INCARNATION**

**REDISCOVERING THE  
SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS**

Examine the meaning behind the names of Christ giving historical  
and spiritual significance of his birth & how the meaning behind the  
names might affect the difference he makes in our lives.

**Tuesdays 11:00 am - 12:30 pm  
November 29 - December 20, 2022**

Peniel United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
115 E. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19804

# December Birthdays

Tammy Brindle	December 1
Jeffery Daniels	December 2
William Edwards	December 2
Devon Manley	December 2
Bryan Cummings	December 3
Brian Cox	December 5
Don McFarland	December 7
Josiah Straughn	December 7
Zackery Casalvera	December 9
Andrew Hughes	December 9
Billee Boyd	December 10
Emma Warfel	December 10
Carolyn Stafford	December 11
Dana Bourdon	December 12
Rose Davis	December 12
Steven Ott	December 12
Justin Farren	December 14



Melanie Mitten	December 14
Megan Edwards	December 15
George Smallwood	December 15
David Brown	December 16
William Klingler, Jr.	December 18
Emma Mae Manley	December 20
Gladys Swain	December 21
Michael Toy	December 22
Fran Tebbutt	December 24
Cherie Krebs	December 25
Gloria Williams	December 25
Barbara Przywara	December 26
Betty Swain	December 26
William Aurelio	December 27
Neal Davis	December 27
Jason Bourdon	December 29
Amanda Graham	December 31

Note: If your name is not listed on our birthday list, please call the church office.



## *Christmas Eve*

**Candlelight Service  
Saturday, December 24, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

We invite you to join us at RPUMC and invite your friends, family and neighbors as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and God's love that knows no limits. This service will feature music, a Christmas message, and candle lighting. We look forward to sharing the Joy of the season with you.

Hope to see you there!



# DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11AM–2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH 6:30PM – Live Nativity Mtg. – Lounge	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children’s Church	<b>5</b> 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH	<b>6</b> 7-8PM Grief Share – Session 11 via Zoom	<b>7</b> 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge	<b>8</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11AM–2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10AM UMiF – Lounge 10:30AM Worship & Children’s Church 5PM Peniel Blue Christmas Service – Peniel UMC	<b>12</b> 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. – FH	<b>13</b> Rehearsal – Live Nativity –time to be determined	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11AM–2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH 6PM Book Club – Lounge	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5PM and 6:30PM Cub Pack 339 Live Nativity – Parking Lot
<b>18</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children’s Church 11:30AM Trustees Mtg. – Lounge	<b>19</b> 6PM Cub Pack 339 Holiday Party – FH	<b>20</b>  <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Messenger Deadline</b> <b>Articles Due</b>	<b>21</b> <b>FIRST DAY OF WINTER</b> Happy  <b>First Day of Winter</b>	<b>22</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH  CLOSED The Shoppe at RPUMC until Jan. 21, 2023	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 7:00PM Candlelight Service  <b>Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b>
<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children’s Church 	<b>26</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9AM BMG – EXT. 11:30AM -Free Lunch – FH  CLOSED The Shoppe at RPUMC until Jan. 21, 2023	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR’S EVE</b>

The Shoppe at RPUMC, Parsonage and Annex will be **CLOSED** from December 22-January 19, 2023.



# The Messenger



December 2022



## RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305  
Office: (302) 654-0961  
E-Mail: [rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)  
Website: [www.rpumchurch.org](http://www.rpumchurch.org)

Rev. Keisha R. Dukes, MDiv  
Cell Phone (443) 447-9101  
E-Mail: [pastor@rpumchurch.org](mailto:pastor@rpumchurch.org)  
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F  
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Boyce



May this Christmas  
fill your homes with  
the peace and joy of Christ  
**Merry Christmas!**

In-Person and **Live Streaming** Sunday Worship Services  
at the following sites:

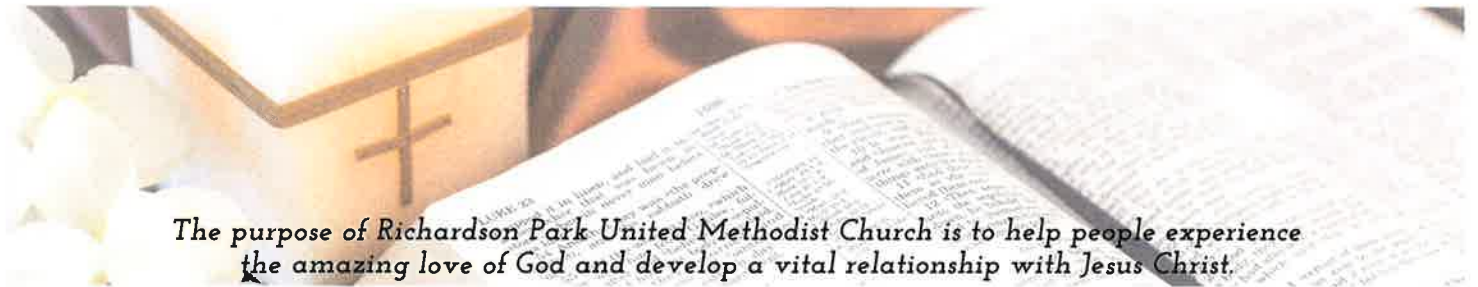
[rpumchurch.org/html/streaming\\_service.html](http://rpumchurch.org/html/streaming_service.html) or  
Facebook at: [facebook.com/rpumchurch](https://facebook.com/rpumchurch)

Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.  
Fellowship Time.....9:40 A.M.  
Worship and Children's Church.....10:30 A.M.



Please have articles and information for the January  
Messenger to the church office by Tuesday, December  
20th. Remember to submit all announcements for the  
Sunday Bulletin no later than Wednesday. Email to:  
[rpumc@rpumchurch.org](mailto:rpumc@rpumchurch.org)  
Thank you! ~Jen

The Church Office will be closed on  
Monday, December 26, 2022 and  
Monday, January 2, 2023



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.