



From the Pastor's Desk

Did you ever notice how early the Halloween and Christmas commercials start on tv? It seems like we barely get past the 4th of July when we get bombarded with adds for decorations, presents to buy for people, and pumpkin spice everything! While I love all of these holidays, both religious and cultural, I am someone who enjoys one holiday at a time. It probably comes from opening presents too quickly on Christmas morning as a kid. Now I like to take my time.

For example, since 1936 churches around the world have celebrated World Communion Sunday on the 1st Sunday of October. We will be apart of this celebration, honoring the fact that Christians from every part of the globe are all sharing in the Eucharist together. The third Sunday of October is known as Laity Sunday in the United Methodist Church, where we honor the work that everyone does in the church, not just pastors. We will be honored to have our own Lay Leader, Kathy Rogers providing us with the message on the 18th during worship.

I know the world likes to rush to the next latest and greatest thing, but when we can be present in the moment and slow down, we are better able to see God at work in the world around us. When we breathe and are mindful of this moment, we can see Christ in each person we meet. We are better able to see the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, calling us to follow the path of discipleship. So, I encourage all of you to enjoy this moment, breathe and listen for God in your life, and not rush too fast. As the philosopher Ferris Bueller once said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Casey

October is what I noticed on the calendar- hard to believe! This is the tenth month of 2026- and I know our group of dedicated women have been very busy showing God's love through the lives they live.

It is always exciting to come together after a break. We met on September 20 after the worship service. After our short devotion, we planned our part of Laity Sunday on October 18. I thank all of you who volunteered to assist!! Now, I wonder who will receive the "Special Mission Recognition" for 2026? I realize many of you and our gentlemen have been recognized in prior years. This special day is always wonderful and exciting!

I was pleasantly surprised to learn many ladies have been reading! Booklists are still available. We will celebrate this activity in December. Your certificate will be awaiting you.

Speaking of reading- two places where your donations go are pictured at the end of this article.

The Children's Church and Cosmos have new signs thanks to Kathy Rogers. One of our other locations is Door of Hope that is not pictured.



Now, my sisters in Faith:

1. Mark your calendars for October 11. This is our regular monthly meeting.
2. Mark your calendars for October 18 which is Laity Sunday.
3. Invite a friend to church.
4. Read: James 1:19

Prayer for October

Father, help me to listen to those around me and love them as You do. Amen

Blessings from Marlene

The Children's Corner

by Marlene Johnson

It is great to see so many members of Children's Church coming to learn about God! Now, my question- what did we learn in September? I think I will share with our readers- OK?

The first few weeks we learned about creation in Genesis 1. Our summer books recreated wonders that we actually saw: flowers, the ocean, sand, animals, sunshine, clouds, grass, birds and a whole lot of other exciting things. These are all things God shares with us!

We love to sing and not sit still too long- so we join in song and motions. We not only have fun but learn about God's love for us- what a fun way to accomplish learning about God's word.

As we closed in the month of September, a pocket prayer was said by everyone and taken home to share with others.

We are always glad to see new friends. Ms. Ruth and I are waiting for you!

Blessings from

Ms. Marlene



Tech Tips

by Jim Chilcutt



Every month it's a challenge to write on a new topic and have it be relevant to as many readers as possible. There is no reasonable way, in the space allotted for these tips to cover all the topics. To address that issue it may be worth looking at the types of protection needed and discuss how they work an easy application to start with is virus protection.

What exactly does an anti virus program do? A virus program is distributed by embedding the virus code in a normal legitimate program. The method of discovery was simply examining all data disks for an easily identified string of characters. As the hackers got better, and techniques evolved more and more virus code was created and distributed in legitimate applications. Anti-virus vendors needed to identify and test for thousands of character strings. Even today the primary function of anti-virus software is look for known character strings associated with virus code. Ever notice how many anti-virus updates are received. The updates carry the new character strings that need to be searched for.

The greatest weakness of anti-virus programs is keeping up with all the strings that must be tested for. In summary the primary purpose of an anti-virus program is search for and eliminate identifiable character strings. There are a number of other tasks that have been added over the years and those will be covered another time.

If you have any questions or suggestions send an email to rpumc@rpumchurch.org or call the church office.

Book Club

by Paul Weaver



Our September meeting was held on Friday, September 11 at 2 pm at the church. We discussed "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray and had a great discussion.

Our October meeting will be held on Friday, October 16 (This is the 3rd Friday, a change we discussed at our meeting.) at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "People We Meet on Vacation" by Emily Henry.

Our November meeting will be held on Friday, November 13 at 2 pm at the church. We will discuss "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury.

While it's a ways out, I am thinking about doing "In a Holiday" by Christina Lauren in December.

Other coming attractions include "Winter Stroll" by Elin Hilderbrand, "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi and "The Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali.

Thanks,

Paul

Altar Flowers and Containers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one, please notify the church office at least two weeks before the date. If you would like specific colors, include that information on your order form. Please designate if you would like to keep the flowers or would like them delivered to a shut-in. It would be lovely if you could deliver them. Shut-ins appreciate visits. We also need containers (large metal cans) to deliver the flowers in.

Harvest Home 2026



Harvest Home Sunday will be November 22 in 2026. Recommendations for people who should receive baskets should be given to Pastor Casey or Sandy Ide. The last day to add names to the basket list is November 16. Please drop off items you purchase from the list by Friday, November 20. Please drop them off in the church office or the financial office. Cash contributions are welcome.

HARVEST HOME SHOPPING LIST

Product	Amount per Family	Cash/Gift Card only	Can/Boxed
Apple juice	1		Yes
Canned Corn	2		Yes
Cranberry Sauce	2		Yes
Green Beans	2		Yes
Yams	2		Yes
Cheerios	1		Yes
Fresh Dinner Rolls	1		Yes
Grape Jelly	1		Yes
Instant Potatoes	2		Yes
Mac & Cheese	3		Yes
Spaghetti	2		Yes
Pasta Sauce	2		Yes
Apple Pie	1		Yes
Pumpkin Pie	1		Yes
Rice Krispies	1		Yes
Stuffing (Stove Top)	2		Yes
Turkey Gravy	2		Yes
Loaf of Bread	1		Yes
Creamy Peanut Butter	1		Yes
Soup	2		Yes
Sugar Free Powder Drink	1		Yes
These items will be purchased fresh. Please donate by Check or Cash.			
Butter	1	Yes	
Carrots (baby)	1	Yes	
Frozen Turkey	1	Yes	
Milk	1	Yes	
Orange Juice	1	Yes	
Cash gifts are always appreciated in any amount.			
*By Check, please make your check payable to Richardson Park UMC and put Harvest Home on the "For" line.			
Harvest Home In-Gathering Will Be Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026			

Memorial Tree

If you are interested in adding a loved one's name to the Memorial tree, forms are available in the office. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Free Lunch



by Joe Tucker

Free lunches are given out each week on Thursdays in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come for a lunch and a bag of blessings. Contributions to the bags of blessings are always appreciated. The items in the bags of blessings are bottles of water, packaged crackers, cookies, snack bars, pudding or fruit cups. There is discussion going on about changes in the program.

Announcements about a new format will be coming in the near future. Please contact Kathy Rogers if you would like to share your faith with the diners or Joe Tucker or Ed Ide if you would like to help with the meal. We'd like to thank all the faithful workers who assemble the bags of blessings, shop for food, help with the cooking, and those who assemble the meals and hand them out.



Trustee Times

by Kathy Rogers

As you probably already know, the Trustees are responsible for the maintenance, security and safe operations of the church facilities and property. The information in this article series is intended to provide readers with reminders, tips and general information regarding your personal safety and the use of the church as you visit, work and worship.

Did you know that all the church doors are not created equal? Some of the doors are wood, some are metal, some doors are standard (single) sized and some are double, some are fire rated doors and some are not. The fire rated doors around the church are heavier than standard doors and have an automatic closure mechanism that will close the door if smoke or

fire is detected by the fire and life safety system. For this reason, fire doors should not be held open with a chock unless necessary for continuous use and movement through a specific area. All door chocks must be removed from all doors after use so that the operation of the fire protection system is not impeded and the door is allowed to close in the event of a fire. When activated, closed and operating properly, a fire door can minimize damage and loss by stopping or slowing the spread of fire.

October is Fire Safety Month. Be prepared while at church. Know the location of the nearest exits wherever you are in the church buildings you visit. If you smell smoke or see fire, immediately exit the building and pull the fire alarm next to the door on your way out. Wait for the fire company to arrive and tell them what you did and why. If you hear an alarm while in the building, immediately head toward the nearest exit and get outside quickly. In case of a possible fire, do not use the elevator. If you cannot exit the building without the elevator, ask someone to help you or call 911 and report on the situation. Hopefully, we never have to do these things but it's always good to be prepared.

On October 1, 2026, the Trustees will meet with Courtney Gomez of the Delaware State Police to perform a safety and security assessment of the church buildings and property. The church already has several security systems in place, including appropriate signage, bright lighting and closed-circuit video cameras around all the buildings, but there's always room for improvement, right?

If you have any questions, feedback or suggestions, feel free to speak with one of the

Trustees - Rob Anderson, Ed Ide, Rich Locke, or Kathy Rogers. Your involvement, support and prayers are always welcomed and appreciated. Thank you!



Richardson Park United Methodist Church,
Thank you so much for your wonderful donations! We see many mothers walk in unsure of what to do, and then leave with support from the many donations like this helping sustain them in their needs. We are blessed by your kindness and diligence in supporting these women through hard times in their lives. Thank you!

- A Door of Hope Staff

COME ON OUT & SHOP AT
THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC
on Thursdays 11 AM-2 PM
and select First Saturdays'
PRE-LOVED GOODS
DISCOVER GREAT FINDS



Online Giving is now available!

You can support the work and ministry of Richardson Park UMC through your tithes and offerings by either sending them in the mail or by giving online through our website! Just click the "GIVING" tab on our website or visit www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html



October Birthdays



Karen Boyd	October 1
Brittany Brown	October 1
Allison Cox	October 2
Chrysta Martin	October 3
Dee Dee Painter	October 3
Jane Thomas	October 3
Tim Williamson	October 3
Alissa Ayala	October 6
Lincoln Klingler	October 6
Roger Longest	October 6
Mike Phillips	October 6
Cheryl Chilcutt	October 7
Angela Buhner	October 8
Jessica Donnelly	October 9
Tony DiMauro	October 10
Logan Phillips	October 10
Kaia Phillips	October 10
Melissa Hughes	October 11
Chelsea Chilcutt	October 12
Sarah Pasmore	October 12
Dan Freebery	October 13
Emma Perugini	October 13
Dennis Earvase	October 16
Yvette Hayman	October 17
Riley Kaucz	October 19
Patrick Donnelly	October 22
Lovedy Berkley	October 26
Dianna Deaton	October 26
Paulette Lazzaro	October 26
Eric Fleming	October 27
Tod Mitten	October 27
Scott Cloud	October 28
Ashley Lang Blevins	October 30
Anthony Steward	October 31

October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				<u>9AM</u> - EXT- BMG <u>11AM- 2PM</u> - Shoppe Open <u>11:30AM- 12:30PM</u> - FH- Free Lunch		<u>11AM- 2PM</u> - Shoppe and Annex Open
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<u>9AM</u> - Lounge- Adult Sunday School <u>10AM</u> - EXT- Fellowship Time <u>10:30AM</u> - Worship and Children's Church	<u>6:30PM</u> - FH- Scouts			<u>9AM</u> - EXT- BMG <u>11AM- 2PM</u> - Shoppe Open <u>11:30AM- 12:30PM</u> - FH- Free Lunch		
11	Columbus Day 12	13	14	15	16	17
<u>9AM</u> - Lounge- Adult Sunday School <u>10AM</u> - EXT- Fellowship Time <u>10:30AM</u> - Worship and Children's Church <u>11:30AM</u> - EXT- United Women in Faith	CHURCH AND BUILDINGS CLOSED			<u>9AM</u> - EXT- BMG <u>11AM- 2PM</u> - Shoppe Open <u>11:30AM- 12:30PM</u> - FH- Free Lunch	<u>2PM</u> - Lounge- Book Club	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<u>9AM</u> - Lounge- Adult Sunday School <u>10AM</u> - EXT- Fellowship Time <u>10:30AM</u> - Worship and Children's Church <u>11:30AM</u> - Lounge- Trustees' Meeting	<u>6:30PM</u> - FH- Scouts			<u>9AM</u> - EXT- BMG <u>11AM- 2PM</u> - Shoppe Open <u>11:30AM- 12:30PM</u> - FH- Free Lunch		<u>11AM</u> - EXT- Koinonia <u>12PM- 2PM</u> Trunk-or-Treat at Penial
25	26	27	28	29	30	Halloween 31
<u>9AM</u> - Lounge- Adult Sunday School <u>10AM</u> - EXT- Fellowship Time <u>10:30AM</u> - Worship and Children's Church <u>11:30AM</u> - FH- UMCOR Cleaning Kits	<u>6:30PM</u> - FH- Scouts			<u>9AM</u> - EXT- BMG <u>11AM- 2PM</u> - Shoppe Open <u>11:30AM- 12:30PM</u> - FH- Free Lunch		



The Messenger

October 2026

RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F

Please leave a message on the answering machine, if no one answers.

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.