



*Your church
family eagerly
awaits you at RUMC.*

Richmond United Methodist Church

A Note From Rev. Byron

We are very excited to return to worshipping together. From folks who have missed fellowship to those who have felt isolated and cut off, we are enormously eager to get back to the fundamental character of “church.” Our original goal had been to return to worship on June 14th, but as of the writing of this article we have now moved that time up to June 7th. Please remain flexible with us, however, because we are seeking to be good, wise, and faithful stewards during this time. We will provide a One-Call alert when we have final confirmation on our exact return.

We must also be aware, however, that there have been very good reasons for our separation – reasons that are still very tangible. As we come back together, therefore, we are required to implement some changes in order to be as safe as possible. Paul defined our approach in 1 Cor. 9:22, “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” Nothing is perfect, but we are “trying to think of others more highly than ourselves” (paraphrased from Romans 12:3).

First off, however, I must acknowledge the simple truth that gathering in large groups presents an inherent danger of contracting COVID-19. We are doing everything we can think of to minimize exposure, but if you feel uncomfortable being in worship, or if you are at high risk of complications should you get this disease, then God bless you and please stay home. Furthermore, if you are feeling ill, please stay home and get feeling better. If you have a computer but don’t know how to access the sermons, please contact the office and we will find a way to help you. Please stay safe.

For those who do feel comfortable returning to the church, we must nonetheless change our patterns to facilitate the best practices for reducing the spread of disease. (Let me just take this opportunity to apologize in advance, because everybody is going to be inconvenienced by the changes we are implementing.) The good news is that we are going to continue holding our services at the same times, in the same ways, and with the same spirit. Heck, we’re even adding a service on Saturday night so that we can keep posting on Facebook. Within the services, however, we will need to maintain social distancing from one another, which means no handshakes or hugs. Hand sanitizer will be available at each entrance to the church and we ask everyone to take a squirt. Masks are suggested, and we have a limited supply of disposable masks that will be at the information desk. These are intended for those with respiratory concerns or compromised immune systems who don’t have a mask of their own.

We further ask everybody who can to please enter and exit the church building through the double doors facing Sugar Street. For those with mobility problems who need the elevator, please enter through the door off of the parking lot by the kitchen. We will have a greeter at this door to provide assistance entering the building. Another greeter will be at the information desk at the main entrance to help with direction. Please note: we are asking everybody else to please use *only* the double-doors by the stairs leading to the rear of the sanctuary.

If you arrive before the first service has dismissed, please do not come upstairs or linger in the parlor. Instead, please enter the Fellowship Hall and stay six feet apart from other families.

The stairwell to the sanctuary on your right (as you enter) is reserved for people with masks. Similarly, the section of the sanctuary in front of the organ and the pulpit (that’s the stand the pastor stands behind during the service) is reserved for those with masks.



RICHMOND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 332
RICHMOND, OH 43944

RICHMOND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RICHMOND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

9:00 A.M. - **PRAISE SERVICE**
10:30 A.M. - **WORSHIP SERVICE**
Rev. Byron Bufkin

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MON. - THURS. 7:00 A.M. - NOON
CHURCH 740-765-4957 REV. BUFKIN’S CELL 740-381-5419

CHURCH WEB SITE: www.richmondumc.org
SECRETARY’S E-MAIL: secretary@richmondumc.org
PASTOR’S E-MAIL: brbufkin@yahoo.com

**“Reaching, Teaching, and Serving
in Christ’s Name”**

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Within the service itself, please be flexible and patient. Per the suggestion of the bishop in conjunction with the state government and medical professionals, we are not going to distribute bulletins, pass collection plates, hold Sunday School, “pass the peace,” have a kids’ sermon, or sing. The order of worship will be displayed on the screen. Boxes for offerings and prayer requests are available at each door of the sanctuary. The pastor will collect the prayer cards from these boxes during the opening minutes of worship. Parents are encouraged to bring distractions, entertainment, and snacks for your kids. And everybody is encouraged to hum with the songs.

Folks, I fully understand that these are not minor alterations. In fact, most of these preparations are a pain in the neck – I don’t know of anybody who is glad of these changes. And unfortunately, as the situation dictates we will probably need to do even more things differently – but only in the short term. Please remember that our worship should be an example of our faith. For a short season we are required to endure discomfort, but let us instead focus on God’s grace and provision that has brought us through this time. I don’t like suspending elements of worship that I enjoy, but I love being together in worship far more. We may not be able to be comfortable in our routine, but praise God that we serve a living Savior who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

So I am joyful that even with these inconveniences, we will soon be back together in worship. I am glad that we are livestreaming the Bible study on Tuesday nights. I’m elated that we are adding a third worship service on Saturday night (gather at 7:00 pm) to be livestreamed (starting at 7:30 pm). And I am immensely grateful for the love and compassion of our church family, for the grace you are extending to each other and to me. Thank you for “hangin’ in there,” because the end is in sight!

In Christ, Byron

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Due to COVID-19, the Leadership Council has voted to cancel VBS this year.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED

The health and safety of the East Ohio Conference clergy and laity are paramount. Bishop Tracy S. Malone, after prayerful discernment and in consultation with the Extended Cabinet, leadership of the Board of Ministry, and the Annual Conference secretary, has made the decision to postpone Clergy Executive Session and Annual Conference 2020 until the Fall.

Both Clergy Executive Session and Annual Conference will meet at Lakeside Chautauqua the last weekend in September. Clergy Executive Session will meet from 11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Sep. 25. The 51st Session of Annual Conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26 and will conclude by 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27.

In choosing new dates for the rescheduled Annual Conference session the deliberate decision was made to include Saturday as one of the meeting dates so that the conference will be more accessible to lay members. Lakeside is able to accommodate a weekend session because the rescheduled Annual Conference meets after the summer Chautauqua program season concludes.

JULY MEETINGS & EVENTS

July 1 - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting
July 2 - **1 p.m., Bible Study**

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts

July 5 - 1 p.m., 4H Meeting

July 6 - **Office Closed**

2:30 p.m., New Body Club

July 7 - **7 p.m., Bible Study**

July 8 - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting

July 9 - **1 p.m., Bible Study**

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts

July 13 - 2:30 p.m., New Body Club

July 14 - **7 p.m., Bible Study**

July 15 - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting

July 16 - **1 p.m., Bible Study**

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

July 20 - 2:30 p.m., New Body Club

6:30 p.m., Leadership Council Meeting

July 21 - **7 p.m., Bible Study**

July 22 - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting

July 23 - **1 p.m., Bible Study**

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts

July 27 - 2:30 p.m., New Body Club

6:30 p.m., Nurture Meeting

July 28 - **7 p.m., Bible Study**

July 29 - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting

July 30 - **1 p.m., Bible Study**

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

“I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face (with six feet between us). Peace to you.” 3 John 1:13-14

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, July 6
in observance of the
July 4th holiday



RELAY FOR LIFE

July 31 - August 1

6 p.m. - 6 a.m.

at Clarke Hinkle Stadium
702 N. River Ave., Toronto, OH



SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

Thank you UMC family,
“We very much appreciated all
of your many cards and
Prayers that was sent to Bob
and family.” **The family of
Robert Blackburn**

“Thank you for all the encouraging
cards and thoughts for me. This is my
4th week of 5 day a week treatment with
2 weeks to go. June 24, they will scan to
see if I’m cancer free.”

Jami Wedlake

JUNE MEETINGS & EVENTS

June 7 - 1 p.m., 4H Meeting

June 8 - 2:30 p.m., New Body Club

June 9 - 7 p.m., **Bible Study**

June 10 - 9:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting

June 11 - 1 p.m., **Bible Study**

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts

June 15 - 2:30 p.m., New Body Club

6:30 p.m., SPR Working Group

June 16 - 7 p.m., **Bible Study**

June 17 - 9:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting

June 18 - 1 p.m., **Bible Study**

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts

June 22 - 2:30 p.m., New Body Club

June 23 - 7 p.m., **Bible Study**

June 24 - 9:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting

June 25 - 12:30 p.m., **UMW Outing**

1 p.m., Bible Study

4:30 p.m., Praise Practice

5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts

June 29 - 2:30 p.m., New Body Club

June 30 - 7 p.m., **Bible Study**

WORSHIP CHANGES

- Please practice social distancing. Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask. Please take a squirt of hand sanitizer as you enter the building.
- For those who have challenged mobility, please enter the door by the kitchen facing the parking lot. This is the closest door to the elevator.
- For those who can, please enter the building through the double doors facing Sugar Street.
- The stairwell to the right as you enter from Sugar Street (which is behind the information desk) is reserved for those with masks. Please use the other stairwell if you are not wearing a mask.
- Please place your offering and prayer cards in the boxes located beside each entrance of the sanctuary. (Prayer requests will be gathered by the pastor immediately before the start of the service.)
- The right side of the sanctuary (in front of the organ and the pulpit) is for those more concerned with contamination. The pews will be wiped down before each service, and we ask that everyone in this section please wear a mask.
- For the immediate time being, Sunday school will not be meeting. We ask that if you arrive for the 10:30 service and the 9:00 service hasn't dismissed yet, please wait in the Fellowship Hall, keeping six feet between families.
- During the service we will initially not be having a children's sermon. We are asking parents to please bring coloring pages and snacks that your young ones enjoy.
- While we are going to have our musicians lead us in worship, we are asking the congregation not to sing. Feel free to hum.



THE BIG LIST OF “NO’S”

- No open communion
- No bulletins
- No “passing the peace”
- No loitering
- No Sunday School
- No passing the offering plates
- No kids sermons
- No candy distribution
- No singing
- No handshakes
- No huggin’
- No kissin’
- No cryin’
- No spittin’

YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO MEET VIRTUALLY JUNE 14

Virtual YAC will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 14. They will live stream their keynote speaker, Shane Claiborne, as well as the band, Tribe Collective, who will lead in a prerecorded time of worship. Please go to the link below for more information.

<https://www.eocumc.com/yac/> for more information.

SMALL GROUPS THAT ARE NOT MEETING

We hope to return to these activities soon.

Nursery
Sunday School
Children’s Church

2020 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS SUSPENDED

After much prayer and consultation, the leadership of East Ohio Camps is suspending the 2020 Summer Camp Programs at Aldersgate, Asbury, and Wanake, as well as CYF, ReachOut, and Institute.

At the present time, Aldersgate, Asbury, and Wanake are open as sanctuaries for those practicing social distancing to hike or walk and enjoy God's creation. Guests are asked to sign in and out following the posted procedures when you arrive at camp. In obedience of the laws of our land and our commitment to safety, our sites are presently closed to guests attending in groups and staying overnight. You are invited to visit the East Ohio Camps website and make an online donation to show your support of the life-changing ministries our camps offer to campers and their families.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Thomas “T.J.” Birney, son of Sherri Birney and the late Philip Birney, grandson of Ed and Gloria Mercer. T.J. is a graduate of Harrison Central High School. He plans to attend ATI in Wooster, OH in the Fall.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Mason Bufkin, son of Rev. Byron & Beth Bufkin, graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with a major in English and minors in Public Relations and Marketing. He is currently looking for a job in marketing.

Krysta Frye, daughter of Gary Frye and the granddaughter of Ed & Sue Frye. Krysta graduated from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University Camden, New Jersey. She earned her MD in Internal Medicine. Krysta will begin her 3 year residency in Internal Medicine at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia in June.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



OUR SYMPATHIES

To **Sam & Gay Warren & family** on the death of their brother-in-law, Bob Blackburn, who passed away April 11.



SR. YOUTH GROUP

Call Betty Powley
(740-543-8448)
for information.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UPCOMING EVENT:

June 25 - 12:30 p.m.
Summer outing

RSVP by: Monday, June 22
Call Marge Andres
740-282-8090



GIFTS WERE GIVEN

To the Memorial Fund in memory of **Tom Blackburn & Fred Ramsey**

To the General Fund in memory of **Fred Ramsey**

To the Sr. Youth Group in memory of **Fred Ramsey**