



*Your church family  
eagerly awaits you  
at RUMC.*

## Richmond United Methodist Church

### *A Note From Rev. Byron*



Religious organizations have a really bad history when it comes to setting prophetic dates. In fact, there are so many misses and false predictions that it's easier to identify the proper and acceptable prophecies that were legitimately fulfilled: there are none (outside of scripture). Paul the psychic octopus had a better track record of picking winners of the World Cup soccer tournament, and he was nevertheless chopped up and served as hors d'oeuvres.

We are warned in Scripture about the pitfall that comes from date-setting. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:36, "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Paul makes reference to Christ's instruction when he assures the church in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, "Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." And in Acts 1:7, some of Jesus's last words on Earth were to state, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."

And so, I would therefore like to think that my inability to firmly establish dates and times for our upcoming Lenten services is driven by the testimony of Scripture. Sadly, I don't think that argument holds up to the scrutiny of biblical exegesis. All attempts at humor and levity aside, we do face difficult times that are making attempts at scheduling more challenging.

I have greatly struggled to plan events in light of the restrictions we face as we struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic. Various mutations of this virus have been identified in the country, including one discovered in Columbus, Ohio (I can only assume this was a result of its disappointment that the Buckeyes didn't win the national title...). According to epidemiologists, this mutated strain is identical to the new strain in the UK, and it appears to be more transmissible as well as more intense. As such, another shutdown is highly possible.

Throughout this ordeal, we have sought to be good and wise stewards of the ministry of God. I fully understand that many folks do not have access to the electronic versions of sermons and Bible studies. And of course, I eagerly yearn for us to worship together, but I certainly do not want to put anyone at unnecessary risk. Many folks who have struggled with this virus agree with this sentiment.

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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](http://www.richmondumc.org)  
**SECRETARY'S E-MAIL:** [secretary@richmondumc.org](mailto:secretary@richmondumc.org)  
**PASTOR'S E-MAIL:** [brbufkin@yahoo.com](mailto:brbufkin@yahoo.com)

**"Reaching, Teaching, and Serving  
in Christ's Name"**

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After long consideration and prayer over the matter, I believe we are called to move forward trusting that those who feel uncomfortable attending will keep themselves safe. Of course, if we find out that someone who was in attendance comes down with COVID we will again shut down for two weeks. In the meantime, however, we are going to plan to have an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 7:00 pm, which will include the anointing of ashes for those who so desire. We will also have a Good Friday service at 7:00 pm on April 2, but at this time I'm not sure if we will try to have an Easter Sunrise service. The children's ministry is also planning to have a Vacation Bible School in July. As we get closer to this and more events, we will try to keep the congregation informed through announcements, Facebook, and this newsletter.

Now comes the hard part: we need everyone to continue being patient and filled with grace – not only for these events, but for our efforts to keep everyone informed. We may very well need to cancel various activities, perhaps even in a last-minute fashion, so please help keep everyone informed through phone calls and conversations.

And finally, please continue to lift up all of the ministries of the church in prayer, that we will not have further outbreaks or cancellations.

May God bless you richly as we enter the Lenten season!

In Christ, Byron

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL SERVICES



February 17 - 7 p.m.

Prepare for the  
Lenten Season with  
this special service.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 2 - 7 p.m.

at RUMC

## OUTREACH “LENTEN PROJECT”

We will be collecting change in mason jars that will be located on the back ledge in the sanctuary on Feb. 17. Proceeds will benefit the WEBA Food Pantry, which has been in existence for more than 20 years and helps families in Wolf Run, East Springfield, Bergholz and Amsterdam, but also Richmond and other communities.

**DEADLINE: Palm Sunday, March 28**

## FEBRUARY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Feb. 3** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal
- Feb. 4** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Feb. 6** - 7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service
- Feb. 10** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal
- Feb. 11** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Feb. 13** - 7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service
- Feb. 17** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal  
**7 p.m., Ash Wednesday Service**
- Feb. 18** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Feb. 20** - 7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service
- Feb. 22** - **6:30 p.m., Nurture Meeting**
- Feb. 24** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal
- Feb. 25** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
**2 p.m., UMW Meeting**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Feb. 27** - 7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service

## MARCH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Mar. 3** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal
- Mar. 4** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Mar 6** - 7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service
- Mar. 10** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal
- Mar. 11** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Mar. 13** - 7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service
- Mar. 15** **6:30 p.m., Admin. Council**
- Mar. 17** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal
- Mar. 18** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Mar. 20** - 1 p.m., Bridal Shower  
7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service
- Mar. 24** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal
- Mar. 25** - **1 p.m., Bible Study**  
**2 p.m., UMW Meeting**  
4:30 p.m., Praise Practice  
5:30 p.m., Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m., Boy Scouts
- Mar. 27** - 7 p.m., Fellowship  
7:30 p.m., Live stream Worship Service
- Mar. 28** - **Palm Sunday**
- Mar. 29** - **6:30 p.m., Nurture Meeting**
- Mar. 31** - 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service  
10 a.m., Women's Renewal



## OUR SYMPATHIES

To **Wilma Kough & family** on the death of her sister, Mary Thomas, who passed away Oct. 22.

To **Dennis & Sherry Hoobler & family** on the death of Dennis's sister, Jean Sheets, who passed away Nov. 14.

To **Larry Ratliff & family** on the death of his wife, Mary Lynn, who passed away Nov. 15.

To **Jackie Buckmaster & family** on the death of her mother, Velva Buckmaster, who passed away Dec. 3.

To the **family of Esther Reeves**, who passed away Dec. 9.

To **Mark & Gina Judy & family** on the death of Gina's dad, George Taibi, who passed away Dec. 22.

To **Pat McLain & family** on the death of her husband, Ed, who passed away Dec. 27

To **Dennis & Darla VanFossen & family** on the death of Dennis' mother, Millie, who passed away Jan. 29.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Now is the time to seek out and apply for scholarships to help defray the cost of attending college. The East Ohio Conference website simplifies your search. Go to [www.eocumc.com/scholarships/index.html](http://www.eocumc.com/scholarships/index.html) for a listing of all the scholarships, grants, and loans that are available across all levels of The United Methodist Church.

Most of the applications are due in March, so don't delay. Start your search today.



## BAPTISM



Congratulations to Blake & Jasmyrn Webber on the baptism of their son, Brooks Austin Webber, who was baptized on Nov. 15th.

Congratulations also, to grandparents, Rob & Jennifer Webber and Roger & Wendy Goshorn.

## THANKSGIVING OFFERING

**\$937** benefited the "Reach, Teach & Bless" Campaign to build a new dorm for female students at Africa University. Thank you for your generosity!

## OUTREACH UPDATE

Thank you for donating approximately **150 cans of chicken noodle soup** to Urban Mission Ministries for Thanksgiving. Thanks also to **Janice Kiaski & Carolyn Milhoan** for delivering them.

**Thank you to all who helped make this year's Christmas outreach a success.** Approximately 20 packages were randomly delivered in December to shut-ins as one facet of this. The other part involved delivering 100 Bags of Hope containing service information, Upper Rooms and other inspirational material and goodies. A group of church members delivered these on Dec. 20, walking throughout Richmond neighborhoods to leave them on porches.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

**\$883** was the total given. **\$100** will be donated to the Richmond VFD. **\$100** will be donated to the Wintersville VFD.

**\$683** will be given to Edison High School to help purchase a convention oven for the life skills class that includes special needs children.

Thank you for giving so generously to this outreach!

## TEACH, REACH & BLESS CAMPAIGN

**\$3099.00** was raised for "The Reach, Teach & Bless" Campaign to build and furnish a dormitory for women at Africa University.

Thank you so much to all those who donated!



## **SPECIAL THANK YOU**

Dear Church Family, "Thank you so much for the cards & prayers for us over these last few months. Your love and concern has carried us through and brighten our days."

Col. 3:14 "Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity" **Ed & Gloria Mercer**

"Thank you for the beautiful wind chimes. It's a nice reminder of her as they chime. Thank you for thinking of us." Love, **Dona & Joe Cavanaugh & family**

To The RUMC Family, "Your thoughts, prayers, and cards were greatly appreciated in helping deal with our loss. Matthew was loved by many and returned that love. We will always miss him and keep him in our hearts forever." **Judy Binkiewicz and family**

"Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Cancer Dietary Initiative. This support helps local cancer patients meet their nutritional needs while undergoing cancer treatment. Sincere CDI thanks to you & your congregation for your heartfelt donation." **CDI Board**

Dear Richmond UMC, "My 1st graders send a big "thank you!" They are loving the cardio desk drumming to get them up and moving. It really helps to get our wiggles out!" Sincerely, **Mrs. Trimmer and 1st graders**

RUMC Family, "Thank you for the uplifting cards, the pumpkins to display & share the amazing people in our church, and the angel bracelet. Your time & thoughts have been so appreciated." **Jami Wedlake**

Dear RUMC family, "Thanks so much for the gift boxes. We really appreciate being remembered. Thanks also for all the cards & prayers." God Bless, **Jim & Sandra Drylie**

"We thank all of you for the cards, calls and prayers during the loss of our sister, Jean Sheets. The love and fellowship was felt and appreciated by each one. May the Lord bless you as you have blessed us." **The family of Jean Sheets**

## **THANK YOU CONTINUED**

Dear Pastor Bufkin and Church Family, "Tom and I thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, calls, food and gifts we received from our church family as we recovered from our accident and Tom's heart problems. All were greatly appreciated. We're doing much better, but remain home bound until COVID-19 is under control. God bless you all." Our Love, **Tom & Barb Grimm**

Richmond United Methodist Church, "My sincere thanks for the lovely Christmas box! May God bless each member that contributed to it in any way. Happy, Healthy New Year to all!" **Ruth Glover**

Dear Church members, "Thank you very much for the nice Christmas bag that was delivered to our door on a snowy winter day. It was so nice to be thought of at this time." In appreciation, **Phil & Sandy Judy**

"Thank you so much for the wonderful gift box full of goodies for my mom. She was so happy to be remembered. Thank you also for the many cards received throughout the year. Thanks also to Janice & Ki for being Santa's helpers with the delivery. May God bless each of you in 2021." **Gay Warren on behalf of Catherine Colman**

Dear Church Family, "Thank you so much for remembering us at Christmas and all through 2020. Your calls and cards and kindness mean so much! It has been quite a time, but we know all things work for good to those who love the Lord. And He has blessed us with all His love and yours." **Ed & Gloria Mercer**

Dear Church Family & Friends, "Thank you for the cards, prayers and love you have given me. I am doing well and being very thankful. Miss being with you. I will keep the church in my prayers." With Love, **Linda Birney**

## **THANK YOU CONTINUED**

Dear Church family, "Thank you so very, VERY much for your great kindness to our family in the Christmas season. We sincerely appreciate the gifts and expressions of love shown to us as an illustration of Christ's love. You are all a tremendous blessing!

With Love, **Rev. Byron & family**

## **2021 UMW OFFICERS**

President - **Marge Andres**

Vice President - **Gloria Mercer**

Secretary - **Barbara Grimm**

Treasurer - **Joyce Proffitt**

## **FEBRUARY & MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS**



**Feb. 7:** Given by Sharon Coleman & PeeWee in honor of mother, Kitty Coleman and in memory of mother, Carol Pearce

**Feb. 14:** Given by Dave & Connie Somerville in honor of grandchildren

**Feb. 21:** Given by Tim & Tina Bryan in memory of Evelyn Bryan

**Feb. 28:** Given by Mike, Mark, Dave, Darrin, & Kevin Judy & families in honor of Phil & Sandy Judy's anniversary

**March 7:** Given by Linda Gubanez's family in memory of dad, Ed Nuske

**March 14:** Open

**March 21:** Given by the McElroy's in honor of Ron's 50th birthday

**March 28:** Given by Karen Hibbs in honor of Tasha's birthday



## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**February & March  
Meetings:**

**Thursday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.**

**Location:** Fellowship Hall  
**Program:** Marge Andres  
"Prayer and Self Denial"

**Thursday, March 25 at 2 p.m.**

**Program:** Connie Somerville

There will not be refreshments due to COVID-19.

**All women of the church are welcome to attend.**

## **SR. YOUTH GROUP**

**(Students: grades 7 - 12)**

Watch the bulletin or call Betty Powley (740-543-8448) for info.



## **GIFTS WERE GIVEN**

To the Memorial Fund in memory of **Mary Lynn Ratliff & Ed McLain**

To the General Fund in memory of **Mary Lynn Ratliff, Ed McLain & Evelyn Bryan**

To the Land Purchase Fund and Praise & Worship Fund in memory of **Ed McLain**