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



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”**

Volume 37 Issue 6/7

JUNE/JULY 2021

Circuit Rider



*Your church
family eagerly
awaits you at RUMC.*

Richmond United Methodist Church

A Note From Rev. Byron

I heard a story not too long ago about a Sunday school teacher trying to use an illustration from real life. “All right, kids, can you tell me what animal is furry, has a long, bushy tail, and climbs in trees?” The kids simply stared back at her, so she added another hint. “These animals are known for eating nuts.” Still the children looked back at her, refusing to say a word. Exasperated, she tried one more hint: “Dogs bark at them and chase them around?” Finally one little boy held a hand up and said, “Well teacher, I know the answer is supposed to be Jesus, but I’ll be dang if that doesn’t sound like a squirrel.”



When I read that story, I couldn’t help but reflect on giving children’s sermons through the years. Believe it or not, I don’t try to get the kids to say things that might embarrass their parents. (Granted, most of the time the kids don’t need any help from me...) And to be blunt, most of the time I’m trying to lead them down nice, easy paths to simple answers. But this approach also leads to an obvious problem that the Sunday school teacher faced: the kids pick up on things. They know that they’re supposed to say certain phrases whether they believe them or not. In some cases, they are coached before even leaving their homes that some statements are not to be uttered.

This problem is not isolated to our children, however. Many of us “seasoned” Christians have been coached and trained throughout many years of church membership to give certain “pat” answers. And yet again, only too often this approach leads us into the pitfall of not really thinking about our faith, of directly applying the tenets of Scripture to our daily lives in a meaningful way that changes us.

Paul told the Philippian church, “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose” (Philippians 2:12). Please remember that Paul is talking to believers, to members of the church he helped plant. Yet he reminds them that the work of sanctification is an ongoing matter; a continual effort to “work out your salvation” in order to better follow the will of our Lord.

“Fine. Great. Thank you for those statements of the obvious, Preacher. Exactly what are we supposed to do, how do we do this?”

Friends, the hard truth is that this is a hard truth. Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). So we should go to church and be active in some way, right? Paul elucidated on this concept by saying, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). So we should resist the urges to do the things we know we shouldn’t do? (Continued on page 2)

But yet again, I fear that these are just the “pat” answers we know that we’re supposed to give without really thinking about what is being asked. To work out our salvation with fear and trembling means to come before Jesus understanding how abominable our sin is in His eyes, but then to see the love and forgiveness that He wants us to embrace by confessing that sin and being holy. That means more than dressing up like Swiss cheese; it means trying not to sin any more, and actively working against the sin that is running rampant in our world.

I truly believe, my dear friends, that this effort must begin through disciplined study of God’s Word. As Paul tells his protégé in the faith, Timothy, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Therefore, as we come to the summer months of enjoyment and relaxation, I encourage the church to make reading our Bibles a practice of primary importance. Please bring your personal Bible to worship on Sunday mornings; bring along a notebook and a pen, too. My prayer in this season is that God will speak to us in new ways that change how we look at His will, at His Word, and at our lives. So I hope you can write down what God is saying, and then that we will continue working out our faith together as His body.

In Christ, Byron



MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST

WHEN: Monday, May 31

WHERE: Richmond UMC

TIME: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

MENU: Scrambled eggs, toast, pancakes, sausage, and beverage.

COST: Donation (Proceeds to benefit Boy Scouts Troop 20)



*Mark your calendar
for the*

RICHMOND COMMUNITY VBS

**Monday - Thursday,
July 12 – July 15
TBA**

Please contact **Heather Cooper at 740-282-0868** for this special opportunity to serve the kids of our community.

We are in need of people to help provide puppet shows with the pastor. If you are interested, please contact **Byron at 740-381-5419**.

JUNE / JULY MEETINGS & EVENTS

June 2	9:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting	July 1	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice
June 3	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice	July 3	1 - 6 p.m., Eagle Scout Ceremony & Banquet 7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service
June 5	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service	July 5	Office Closed 2:30 p.m., New Body Club
June 7	2:30 p.m., New Body Club	July 7	9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting
June 9	9:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting	July 8	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice
June 10	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice	July 10	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service
June 12	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service	July 12	2:30 p.m., New Body Club
June 14	2:30 p.m., New Body Club	July 14	9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting
June 16	9:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting	July 15	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice
June 17	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice	July 17	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service
June 19	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service	July 19	2:30 p.m., New Body Club 6:30 p.m., Admin. Council
June 21	2:30 p.m., New Body Club	July 21	9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting
June 23	9:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting	July 22	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice
June 24	12:30 p.m., UMW Outing 1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice	July 24	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service
June 26	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service	July 26	2:30 p.m., New Body Club 6:30 p.m., Nurture Meeting
June 28	2:30 p.m., New Body Club 6:30 p.m., Nurture Meeting	July 28	9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting
June 30	9:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting	July 29	1 p.m., Bible Study 4:30 p.m., Praise Practice
		July 31	7 p.m., Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Livestreamed Worship Service

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

"We have been so blessed by all the love shown us through calls, cards, food and prayers since our accident. May the Lord bless you as you have blessed us." Thank you so much, **Dennis and Sherry Hoobler**

Members of Richmond United Methodist Church, "Thank you for all the cards and prayers for Warner. Throughout the time he wasn't able to be there at worship, Warner regularly received cards and notes from his church family. I feel blessed to have had your help for Warner and me in his journey to his heavenly Father." Sincerely, **Ruth Sanders**

Rev. Byron, Kathy Ramsey and the rest of RUMC, "Thank you so much for hosting us recently for my mom's memorial service. Your willingness to help, your overall kindness and your flexibility with us was truly inspiring. We appreciate all you've done and the time you've given. My mom started going to RUMC as a little girl, so we couldn't imagine have the service anywhere else once we found out it was an option." Thank you again, **Lucy Muchmore & family**

"What a super ceremony on your part, a great honor to Cari. I will never forget your efforts." **Mike Bernhart**

"Thank you for the service and everything you did for not just my mother, but my grandpa, also." **Jett Bernhart**

"Thank you so much." **Gunnar Bernhart**

"Thank you so much for your continued support to the Cancer Dietary Initiative. This support is so appreciated especially during this pandemic because we have not been able to have any fundraisers. Sincere thanks for your heartfelt donation." **CDI Board**

THANK YOU'S CONTINUED

Rev. Byron & RUMC, "Thank you so much for your support during this difficult time." **Clint & Barb Sanders & family of Warner Sanders**

Dear Friends of Richmond United Methodist Church, "Thank you all for your very generous donation to the WEBA Outreach Food Pantry. We currently serve approximately 150-160 families per month. Your donation will help us to help others less fortunate. Your gift is a true blessing to the pantry." Sincerely, **Ann Wiley, Secretary, WEBA Outreach Food Pantry**

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters, "With Sincere appreciation for your kindness in giving me an Easter gift. If I had forgot what Easter is, this gift would have placed the remembrance in my heart and mind." Thanks forever yours in Christ, **Florence Williams (Sis Flo)**

Dear Richmond UMC, "Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Sycamore Youth Center for our area children! Your support make it possible for us to educate and feed over 300 children each week. May God bless you for your generosity!" With Joy! **Bobbyjon Bauman**

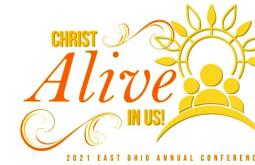
Richmond United Methodist Church, "Thank you for acknowledging me during service, the kind gifts to lead me through this next chapter of my life. Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. God bless you all!" With love, **Mallory Birney**

Thank you to **Connie Somerville & Linda Hout** for planting the geraniums around the church and to **Dave & Connie Somerville** for putting down the mulch. It looks really nice!



OUR SYMPATHIES

To Paula Jenkins & family on the death of her husband Raymond, who passed away March 31.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021: CHRIST ALIVE IN US!

Annual Conference 2021 is Wednesday, June 16 through Saturday, June 19. The worship services and business session presentations of this year's conference will be livestreamed from the John S. Knight Center in Akron. Clergy and lay members of Annual Conference will participate remotely via Zoom and vote online.

Visit the Annual Conference 2021 website. There you will find the latest information about Annual Conference, such as speaker bios, clergy appointments, information about this year's classes of ordinands, provisional members, and retirees, downloadable logos, and more.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UPCOMING EVENT:

June 24 - 12:30 p.m.
Summer outing

RSVP by: Sunday, June 20

Call **Marge Andres**

740-282-8090



NEW ADDRESS

Steve and Linda Hawkins' new address is 6045 Frys Lane Warrenton, VA 20187

CEMETERY PLOTS

The church has been given 44 cemetery plots at Fort Steuben Burial Estates. We would like to sell them as we really have no need to keep them. The present price for the plots at the cemetery is near \$1600 each. The church's asking price is \$600 each. The plots are located in the East Park sections A-12 plots, B- 8 plots, and C-24 plots. The East Park section is located immediately inside the main entrance. For more information contact the church 740-765-4957.

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, July 5
in observance of the
July 4th holiday.

**GIFTS WERE GIVEN**

To the Memorial Fund in
memory of Warner Sanders
and Cari Bernhart

**SR. YOUTH
GROUP**

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

**KROGER CARD
REWARDS**

If you would like to help
the Sr. Youth Group
raise money for their
organization, please sign-up for
Kroger Community Rewards!
Their **organization number is
PB919**. If you need more info., please
contact Betty Powley (740-543-8448)
or the church office (740-765-4957).

**SUMMER
CAMP IS
BACK IN
2021**

After much
prayer, consultation, and
creative thinking East Ohio
Camps Leadership has decided
to move forward with their plans
for Summer Camp programs in
2021 at Camp Aldersgate, Camp
Asbury, and Camp Wanake.
For more information, go to:
<https://www.eocumc.com/>

**JUNE / JULY
ALTAR FLOWERS**

June 6: Given by Betty
Hout in memory of
Howard D. Hout

June 13: Given by Barbara McElroy
in honor of our church

June 20: Open

June 27: Open

July 4: Given by Jennifer Lawrence
in memory of dad, Bud Jones

July 11: Given by Mike, Mark, Dave
Darrin & Kevin & families in honor of
mom, Sandy Judy's 80th birthday

July 18: Given by Linda Gubanez &
family in honor of Pastor Carol Smith

July 25: Given by Bob & Linda
Birney in memory of Ryne McCoy

**HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES**

Mallory Birney is the daughter
of Sherri Birney and the late
Philip Birney and the granddaughter of Ed &
Gloria Mercer. She is a Harrison Central
graduate. She plans to attend Kent State
University majoring in Early Childhood
Education and a minor in Business.

Aleni Knight is the daughter of Jeff and
Cindy Knight and the granddaughter of Andy
and Pam Smith. She is an Edison High School
graduate with honors. Aleni plans to attend
the University of Akron majoring in Nursing
while specializing in Pediatrics. She hopes to
eventually work as a Pediatric Nurse at Akron
Children's Hospital.

Eric James Longo is the son of Lindy
Longo and the late Joe Longo. He is an
Edison High School graduate. Eric plans to
attend Eastern Gateway Community College.
He is undecided on his field of study.

Emma Rianne Scott is the daughter of
Robert & Amy Scott. She is an Edison High
School graduate. Emma will attend West
Virginia University in the fall. She plans to
major in Public Relations & Advertising as
well as minoring in Event Planning.

**Congratulations to
all the graduates!**

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Malania Birney is the daughter of
Sherri Birney and the late Philip Birney
and the granddaughter of Ed & Gloria
Mercer. She will graduate from Kent
State University Magna Cum Laude with
a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political
Science. She will be doing a summer
internship in Athens, OH.

Charli McConnell is the daughter of
Tom & Mollie McConnell. She graduated
from West Liberty on May 8th with a dual
degree in History & Political Science. She
also received a minor in Criminal Justice.
Charli will be continuing her education by
attending Law School.

Celia Whisman is the daughter of
Bobbi and Kevin Whisman, grand-
daughter of Hope Eimer and the late Bob
Eimer and great niece of Marge Andres
and Jennifer Lawrence. She will graduate
from Appalachian State University School
of Graduate Studies with a Master of Arts
Degree in Psychology. She plans to
pursue a career in research in the field of
Experimental Psychology.

Corinne Whisman is the daughter of
Bobbi and Kevin Whisman, grand-
daughter of Hope Eimer and the late Bob
Eimer and great niece of Marge Andres
and Jennifer Lawrence. She is graduating
Summa Cum Laude from Virginia Tech
with a Bachelor of Science in Clinical
Neuroscience. She plans to further her
education in the medical field.