



MARCH 2026

RICHMOND FIRST TODAY

Growing *Disciples* who make a *Difference*

News from Your First United Methodist Church Family

From Ashes to Alleluia: Journey through Lent Spiritual resources found in the church library



By Carol Woolverton

Take this as your invitation to discover the Church's library, located on the second floor of the main building two doors past the Pastor's Office. Dedicated volunteers have reorganized and refreshed the collection. The books are in clearly labeled sections. Want to learn more about the New Testament? There is a section for that. How about Worship Music or Church History? There are sections for those, too. To take a book home, remove the card from the book and follow the directions on the card catalog by the library door. I enjoyed *Invitation to the Psalms* by the Jacobson brothers and *Joyful Noise!*, a songbook. There is a lot more to discover!

March Birthdays

- Jessie Rice: 1st
- Lainie Alsbrook: 4th
- Denise Ballard: 5th
- Graham Nystrom: 9th
- Bonnie Cosby: 14th
- Bruce Nettleton: 15th
- Anne Blakeney: 16th
- Sam Sallee: 18th
- Cheyenne Fox: 18th
- Kathy Vockery: 23rd
- Shad Stewart: 25th
- Pat Hoeksema: 27th



Spring Forward Sunday, March 8:

Remember to set your clocks forward an hour so you can enjoy Sunday worship!



Passover Seder

Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m. MMC Gym
April 2, 2026

Reserved Seating
\$15 per person \$45 per family
No cost for children 5 & under

Purchase tickets after
Sunday services
and at Church Office

News you can use: Serving your community

Join the 27th annual **Madison County Empty Bowls project** on **Friday, March 20** at First Baptist Church at 425 Eastern Bypass. Doors will be open between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for both dine in and take out. Your \$20 donation will include a handmade pottery bowl, vegetable soup, hoecake, and a drink. Your \$10 donation will include a quart container of vegetable soup. All proceeds to to God's Outreach Madison County Food Bank and, New Liberty Family Shelter and Food Bank, Home Meals Delivery, and Salvation Army of Madison County. Help stop hunger!

Applications for the **Amy C. King Scholarships** will become available in mid-March from the church office. Full-time Eastern Kentucky University students who are active in the Richmond First United Methodist Church ministries are eligible to apply. Students should have completed 24 hours of college credit and be in good academic standing. If you are interested in applying, please contact the church office at 859-623-3580 by email at office@richmondfumc.org

Wednesday Night Live Family Dinner

5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

March 4: Chicken Enchiladas
Bean Salad
Rice/Taco Chips
Refried Beans

March 11: Spaghetti w/Meatballs
Tossed Salad, Corn
Garlic Bread

March 18: BBQ Sandwich
Cole Slaw
Hash Brown Casserole
Green Beans

March 25: Turkey Tetrazzini
Watergate Salad, Rolls
Peas & Carrots

Spend a week at **Red Bird Mission** and support our Appalachian neighbors the week of **April 26 - May 1**. Jennifer Taylor will drive out Sunday, but if you can't come for the whole week, you can drive on your own.



Volunteer quarters are free, but registration is required. Plan to pay for meals cooked at the work camp or bring your own food to cook. The team primarily will help unloading groceries and produce donations, building and loading food boxes, and sorting in the Christmas room. Sorting, straightening, and stocking at The Community Store is an option, too. Contact Jennifer Taylor for more information at 270-535-6304 or cacgr2@yahoo.com.

Join your family at:

First United Methodist Church
401 West Main Street
Richmond, KY 40475
Phone: (859) 623-3580
office@richmondfumc.org

Sundays:

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
11 a.m. Thrive (MMC Gym)
12 p.m. Lunch

Wednesday Night Live:

5:30 p.m. Family Dinner (MMC Gym)
6:15 p.m. Class for Children, Youth, & Adults

Welcome our new members at Richmond First



Steve & Bonnie Cosby



Linda Morris & Mark 'Happy' Harrison



Cathy Goode



Sevi Brown, Brinley Taylor & Lainie Alsabrook

Celebrate the baptism of Bruin Everett John Muncie (right), son of Eric and Chelsee Muncie, and brother to Adley and Delainey.

Greet more new members:
Beth & Rob Roane



Take part in Holy Week

Help decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful **Easter Lilies**. You can purchase flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. Cost is \$10 each. In lieu of flowers, you can also donate to the sharing ministry. Deadline for ordering is **Wednesday, April 1**.

Order forms will be available in both services or call the office to order. Pay by Cash, Check or PushPay (choose Seasonal Flowers) or use the QR Code.



Wednesday, April 1
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. Children's Celebration

Maundy Thursday, April 2
6:30 p.m. Seder Meal & Service

Good Friday, April 3
6:30 p.m. Service, Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 5
7 a.m., Sunrise Service
9:30 a.m. Service, Sanctuary
11 a.m. Thrive, MMC Gym

Weekdays at Noon:
Richmond Community Service
at First Presbyterian Church

Youth Worship Night

Southern Hills UMC
Sunday, March 15, 5 to 8 p.m.
Led by our own Youth Praise Band



CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

All Church Zoo Trip
Saturday, March 21
Check with Amanda Bonner
More info to come

Looking ahead:

United Women in Faith Retreat “The Emmanuel Experience”: May 16-17
Vacation Bible School is headed for True North: June 8-12

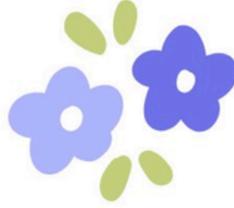
Grace Upon Grace: Spiritual Formation Retreat for Laity

The North District of the Kentucky Annual Conference is hosting a **Spiritual Retreat for Laity from 7 p.m. March 27 to 7 p.m. March 28 at Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center**. All laity of the Kentucky Annual Conference are invited to attend this program led by the Rev. Trish Archer, a Deacon from the North Carolina Annual Conference. Cost of this retreat is \$90 per person, which includes overnight accommodation and three meals. Register at <https://kyumc-reg.brtapp.com/LaitySpiritualRetreat>

Keep your Stewardship Pledge with Pushpay



Weather sometimes keeps the hardiest of church members away from worship services. Offerings tend to drop on rainy and icy Sundays. You can still keep your promised pledge through Pushpay, even if you are unable to put your gift in the offering plate. Link through this QR code or visit the church website. You may want to consider using Pushpay to make scheduled donations or special gifts. Thank you for supporting your church family. You are a gift from God.



Message from our pastor: Be intentional during Lent

Dear Richmond First United Methodist Church Family,

As we enter this season of Lent, we are invited into a journey of intentional togetherness. This year, our Lenten sermon series, “All Together,” calls us to grow closer to Christ and to one another—so that we may become disciples who make a difference in our community and beyond.

To deepen this journey, we will also be using a supplemental Lenten devotional called “Beyond Me.” This devotional will guide us beyond individual faith toward a shared life of discipleship, helping us reflect daily on how God calls us to grow in community, compassion, and mission. We encourage everyone to use this devotional personally and with family, small groups.

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. But this journey is not meant to be walked alone. At Richmond First United Methodist Church, we are walking together—in prayer, in service, in sharing our gifts, in God’s presence, and in faithful witness.

This Lenten journey is about growing closer to Christ and each other—so that our church becomes a community of devoted, committed, and empowered disciples. Let us walk this path intentionally, supporting one another, and trusting God to transform us from the inside out. Be at the look out for the Easter week schedule and be a part of God movement at Richmond First UMC.

May this season draw us deeper into God’s love and send us out to share that love with the world.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Eric Espada
Richmond First United Methodist Church
Growing Together in Christ—Making Disciples That Make a Difference.