

JULY 2026



RICHMOND FIRST TODAY

Growing Disciples who make a Difference

News from Your First United Methodist Church Family



Celebrating 100 years on Main Street in 2027

The Centennial Committee has already begun laying plans to celebrate Richmond First United Methodist Church's move to our current location. Congregation member R. K. Stone provided the brick, concrete, and stonework in 1927. Stained glass windows were brought in from Louisville. The final cost for construction was just over \$102,000, according to reports the ECU Special Collections and Archives.



The original church building remains a few blocks away on the corner of Irvine and Second Street. Be watching for more news on the Centennial.

Celebrating July Birthdays



Mallie Kleppinger: 9th
Jojean Barton: 10th
Judy Calitri: 15th
Salome Nnoromele: 16th
Mike Ballard: 16th
Joe Barker: 19th
Mary Sweet: 21st
Carol Woolverton: 27th
Michael Sharp: 29th

Form Your Foursome for the 8th annual Malcolm Poulter Memorial Scramble



Put together a four-person team and join the Malcolm Poulter Golf Scramble at Richmond's Battlefield Golf Course on **Saturday, July 11.**

Funds raised will support community programs. Proceeds go towards the Malcolm Poulter Memorial Fund and Men's Ministry Outreach.

Cost is \$50 per player or \$200 per team. Lunch will be provided. Sign up **deadline is Wednesday, July 8.** Contact Dave Alexander at 859-200-4288 or armycoach@gmail.com

Building the Community Prayer Ministry Together

The Richmond First Prayer Team invites you to nurture our community by keeping our church family and friends covered in prayer. Extend prayer beyond the boundaries of church buildings by reaching out in love and compassion for all our brothers and sisters. "One Hour of Prayer" is held each Monday at 5:15 p.m. in the MMC Chapel.

Voice your prayer concerns and praises with the Connect Card found in the sanctuary pews and on the Thrive tables. Fill out the prayer request section and drop it in the offering plate or the Sanctuary Prayer Box located at the foot of the cross by the altar. If you would like, your request may be shared on the church prayer text chain by calling the church office.

Messages will be shared with the team and the pastor. You also may request for someone to contact you.

Submissions also may be emailed confidentially to prayer@richmondfumc.org and the church website at <https://richmondfumc.org/connect/>.



Community

Faithfulness

Unity in Prayer

Above all clothe yourselves with love, which binds us together in perfect harmony, and let the peace that comes from Christ rule in our hearts, for members of one body you are called to live in peace. Colossians 3:14-15 (NLT)

May the Holy Spirit lead us to reach out and show God's love to all in unity and peace. Let us encourage each other to touch someone's life, sharing in love, hope, and joy. In your name, Father, Amen.

Join us for "One Hour of Prayer"

at 5:15 p.m.

each Monday in the MMC Chapel.

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 meals and classes will resume in September! Have a great summer!

Emerge Summer Mission Trip slated for July 12-16

The Unite District Youth Team is finalizing details for the Summer Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. Please let Amanda know if you are interested in joining the team **July 12-16**. We will have a great time together serving, worshipping, and enjoying fellowship.



Show our Aldersgate staffers some love

Richmond First young adults are representing our commitment to Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center this summer. Five EKU Wesley Foundation students and three church members are serving on staff to minister to children attending camp each week.



Let's show our appreciation and love for each of these staffers by putting together "goody" baskets and delivering them on July 8. You can contribute by:

- Writing notes of encouragement to Haley, Zach, MacKenzie, Lainie, Brinley, Sevi, Andi, and Stella.
- Donating snack items, particularly chips, candy, crackers, beef jerky, and other treats. Bottles of Ale 8 are a big hit!
- Donating card games, fidgets, water bottles, fun pens, and journals.
- Making a small monetary donation using the QR code or dropping a check in the offering plate designated for Aldersgate Goody Baskets.



Our young adults appreciate anything that lets them know they are loved. Bring contributions to the church office **by July 7** so we can make an early delivery the next day.



Join in Clean-up Day for The Wesley at EKU

The EKU Wesley students and board members are asking you to help them tidy up the Wesley Foundation kitchen and chapel areas beginning at **9 a.m. Saturday, July 11**. If you have spare cleaning supplies, that would be welcome, too. They would so appreciate the extra hands, that they will share danishes, donuts, and coffee. So, come for the fellowship and clean fun.



Mission Team needs a Leader

Our church has a passion for local and worldwide outreach and missions. We need a coordinator to plan where and when a team could maximize impact, set priorities, and recruit more volunteers. We already have some folks ready to support mission work, but they need a leader. Please pray about becoming that team coordinator and call Pastor Eric. Our church and our community needs you.

13 Days of Prayer BACK TO SCHOOL

Pick up **Back to School** bookmarks to share with all the students in your life. These bookmarks give words of encouragement for each day leading up to **start of school on August 13**. Look for them during Sunday worship in July.

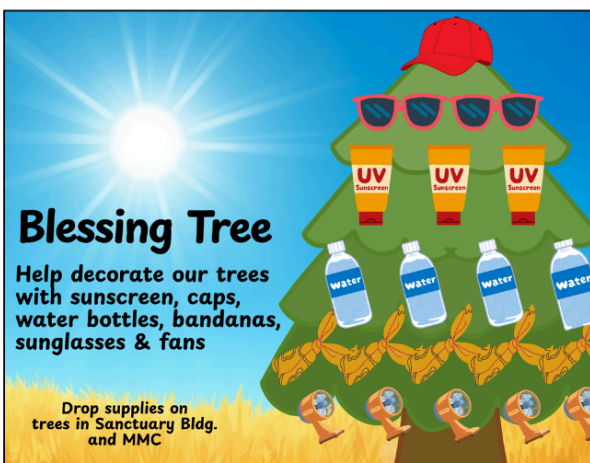
Shop and Share



Help United Methodist Men make a difference in our community. If you have a Kroger Plus Shopper's Card, go to Kroger's webpage:
<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow#!>

Register your card number, then please **LINK** your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card to First United Methodist Church Men's Ministry (#11679).

If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus Card, you can obtain one from the Customer Service desk at any Kroger or from a member of Men's Ministry.



Message from our pastor Season of New Beginnings



As I reflect on this past month, I am filled with gratitude for all that God is doing through Richmond First United Methodist Church. This season also marks my first anniversary of serving alongside you as your pastor. You are a blessing.

As I reflect on this past month, I am filled with gratitude for all that God is doing through Richmond First United Methodist Church. This season also marks my first anniversary of serving alongside you as your pastor. You are a blessing. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and faithfulness as we continue to live out our calling to be Devoted, Empowered, and Committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

We recently concluded our summer sermon series, **God's Creative Connection**, and as we move into July, we begin a series entitled **Breakthrough**, based on Romans 8–10. My prayer is that this series will deepen our trust in God's transforming grace as it frees us from condemnation, fills us with hope, strengthens us through the Holy Spirit, and calls us into His purpose.

This summer has already been filled with signs of God's faithfulness as we invest in our children and youth. Our **Vacation Bible School** brought children, volunteers, and families together. Every volunteer who helped make VBS possible planted the seeds of faith in young hearts. Meanwhile, our **Men's Ministry** sponsored one of our youth to attend a leadership camp at Asbury University. This summer, we celebrated one of our youth attending Leadership Camp at Asbury University through the support of our Men's Group. Experiences like these help young people deepen their faith, discover their God-given gifts, and return ready to plug in to the life of the church.

Our Men's Group has actively served and strengthened the life of our church. The Father's Day Pancake Breakfast was truly one to dream about—filled with great food and appreciation for the fathers and father figures in our congregation. We are also grateful for their leadership in sponsoring the **Malcolm Poulter Golf Scramble**. If you haven't registered yet, don't miss it!

As we look ahead, the same God who guided this church through generations of ministry is still leading us today. May we remain devoted to God's presence, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and committed to sharing Christ's love with our community.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Eric