



SEPTEMBER 2026

RICHMOND FIRST TODAY

Growing Disciples who make a Difference

News from Your First United Methodist Church Family



Celebrating September Birthdays



Anne Poulter: 1st
Larah Ballard: 2nd
Dot Roane: 2nd
MaryAnn Haynes: 4th
Buzz Cornelison: 4th
Enid Brock: 4th
Kathryn Bowers: 5th
Martin Brock: 6th
Haley Cartwright: 6th
Lucas Myers: 8th
Scot Hoeksema: 8th
Mike Phelps: 11th
Donna Hale: 13th
Dave Woolverton: 14th
Lauren Upchurch: 17th
Jane Yerace: 21st
Sanford Jones: 22nd
Ann Bailey: 22nd
Ruth Wolfe: 23rd
Rainey Hayes: 23rd
Kyle Nystrom: 24th
Anne Brooks: 24th
Mike Park: 28th
Bayley Bonner: 29th
Sarah Beth Speciale:
30th



Visioning Together: Imagine our future

Join your church family to celebrate God's work among us and discern God's vision for the future of Richmond First United Methodist Church.

We will gather in the MMC on Wednesday, Sept. 16, beginning with dinner at 5:15 p.m. and discussions at 6 p.m. We will reflect on our first year of ministry with Pastor Eric Espada and build on last summer's Onboarding conversations. Our goal is to develop a 3-to-5 year shared vision plan that will provide direction for our congregation and our ministries.

Wednesday Night Live is coming

Wednesday Night Live classes will start back up on Sept. 23. We can't wait to see you!

Wednesday Friends – ONE in THIRTY. A scripture study on some of the most familiar and glossed over scriptures that we know in the Bible. We will explore one verse every 30 minutes, totaling two verses per session. Room 202 in the MMC. Led by Pam Rye.

Devotional Quilting – Learn how to sew/quilt or build your existing skills. Participate in a weekly devotional and spend time building friendships as you create something beautiful! Room 114 in the MMC. Led by Jane Yerace.

Be Still Meditation Group – Time to quiet our busy minds, enjoy a short devotion, and embrace a calm silence. Come and be still with us as we find community in the practice of Christian meditation. MMC Room 204. Led by Sarah Beth Speciale.

Books of the Bible / Going Deeper – We will explore the current sermon series as well as jump into scripture. Room 213 in the MMC. Led by Pastor Eric Espada.

When God Whispers Your Name – Discover the path to hope in knowing that God cares for you. Room 212 in the MMC. Led by Ken Peters (Retired Pastor). Books are provided.

Praying together through the Season of Creation

Daily news highlights destructive and devastating weather events affecting the earth and its communities. Wildfires, floods, tornadoes, droughts, and extreme heat are familiar headlines.

God's creation is challenged by these events. The Season of Creation, September 1 – October 4, is an invitation for our church family to pray about the care of creation. How do we become better stewards of God's gifts entrusted to us?

Weekly Scripture and devotions will guide our prayers, meditations, and reflections.

Each Sunday, Scripture will serve as a focus: September 6, Romans 1:20; September 13, Colossians 1:16; September 20, Job 12:7-10 and September 27, Psalm 148.

Also, a devotion related to each Scripture will be in the announcements of the bulletin. Let us pray for the protection and the restoration of God's Creation.



By Jen Norton

Unity in Prayer

Join us for "One Hour of Prayer"
at 5:15 p.m. each Monday in the MMC Chapel.

Celebrate Creation

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God."

Romans 1:20 (NLT)

Father God, may we give thanks for your grace and the gift of life. Help us to learn to be better stewards in caring for the creation that you have given to sustain our lives. May we see through this gift how much you love us and may we feel your presence. Lord hear our prayer.

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 Sept. 23.



Support The Growing Place at Richmond First

The Growing Place provides an accredited program for children, infants through age four, to thrive at First United Methodist Church. New director Kristen McDowell is committed to continuing the success of this ministry and welcomes church members to consider volunteering and helping with resources for this important ministry.

Teacher Appreciation: Join a group who will plan and provide monthly thank yous for the teachers and staff. We will make gift baskets, send treats or special gifts to show how much we appreciate the work they do to make sure that TGP children are well cared for and loved.

Be a Prayer Partner: Pair up with a teacher or staff member to provide on-going, meaningful prayer for them. Meet these wonderful leaders at a special gathering on **Friday, September 18.**

Volunteer in the Classrooms: There are lots of opportunities to read to children, lead an activity or craft, or play games with them in the Fellowship Hall. If tidying or cleaning is more up your alley, there are opportunities for that as well. This can be a one-time visit, or it can be an on-going, regularly scheduled commitment.

Donate Batteries: Current Wish List items are AAA, AA, C, and D batteries. Donations can be brought to TGP office or a monetary donation can be made via PushPay or at the church office. Additional Wish List items will be posted as needed.

For more information on any of these opportunities to connect with The Growing Place, please contact Peggy Brewer at (859) 661-0864, or Maribeth Upchurch at (859) 314-2798.

Drawing Water

A DAY AT THE WELL

United Women in Faith Fall Retreat

Richmond First United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

October 10, 2026

All are Welcome

Register at Church Office or by Pushpay (\$25)



**Remember to drop
off *Operation
Christmas Child*
boxes at the
church by Sept. 6.**

Shop & 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.

Food pantry now open



Pushpay for
Food Pantry

We've reopened the food pantry to feed those who come to the church hungry. You can contribute to this effort by bringing non-perishable food to the church office or donating by check or PushPay (and we will do the shopping).

Message from our pastor

All in: God is Doing a New Thing

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19



Dear Church Family,

September 16 is a special night for us! It is our Visioning Night and the kickoff of Wednesday Night Alive. I am excited about what God has in store for us. This is an opportunity to come together and seek God's direction for the future of our church. I invite you to come ready—not simply to attend, but to give God and one another your very best.

God has already been moving among us this summer. We have shared wonderful moments together as a church family through inclusive events, summer camps, picnics, golf, the Women's Retreat in May, Father's Day breakfast from the Men's group, and opportunities to simply be together. We have welcomed new faces into our congregation, and now we are preparing for membership classes, confirmation classes, Wednesday Night Live, and Sunday School. This is more than a new calendar of activities. It is a new opportunity to live into God's vision for our church. Proverbs 29:18 reminds us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Vision helps us see beyond where we are today and imagine what God can do through us tomorrow. And Jeremiah 29:11 says that God has plans for us—plans filled with hope and a future.

So, what if we dared to see all the possibilities? What if we became even more intentional about building bridges? What if we opened our doors wider, welcomed more people, strengthened families, formed deeper relationships, and shared the love of Christ beyond the walls of our church? What if we truly committed ourselves to expanding the Kingdom of God—not just by growing our church, but by making disciples, serving our neighbors, and making a difference in the lives of the people God places around us?

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 3:20 that God is able to do "immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine." We are all in this together. We are a church devoted to Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and committed to making disciples and making a difference. Together, we can reach our community. Together, we can welcome new people. Together, we can strengthen our families. Together, we can expand the Kingdom of God.

The best may still be ahead of us. Come. Connect. Dream. Serve. Build. Invite. Give. Grow. We are all in this together—and together, with God leading us, we can make a difference. With excitement and hope!

Pastor Eric

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eric".