



OCTOBER 2026

RICHMOND FIRST TODAY

Growing Disciples who make a Difference

News from Your First United Methodist Church Family



Celebrate Community: Volunteer for Fall Festival

The annual Fall Festival is coming up Wednesday, Oct. 14. Celebrate with a Wednesday Night Live meal followed by an extravaganza of autumn activities.

This intergenerational event needs lots of volunteers. Here's where you can help:

- Decorate the MMC starting Tuesday, Oct. 13.
- Bring in Fall decorations to help make the space more inviting
- Volunteer to operate a booth or event: host a game, lead the cake walk, and lots more.
- Make desserts for the cake walk.
- Donate candy or little prizes for games and bingo.
- Attend and invite your friends and neighbors.

Check in with Amanda Bonner to find out where you can help.



October Birthdays

Cesia Espada: 11th
Richard Lowe: 12th
Louise Ridgley: 16th
Joel Bonner: 18th
Jennifer Taylor: 25th
Marsha Maupin: 26th
Ginny Whitehouse: 28th
Adrianna Francis: 29th
Bel Riley: 29th
Matthew Stewart: 29th
Chas Nystrom: 30th

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)

Living Out Our Vision: Taking Next Steps

The Visioning Session in September brought our congregation together to imagine what our church can become and how we can live out God's mission in our community. The ideas generated were inspiring and creative. Now, it's time to work towards their fruition.

Church Administrative Council members will develop teams and coordinate with church staff to address our key priorities:

- **Children, Youth and Families** = Kathy Combs (kscombs@hotmail.com)
- **Reaching New People** = Mike Park (mike.park@eku.edu)
- **Deepening Discipleship** = Scot Hoeksema (sdhoeksema@aol.com)
- **Community Engagement** = Barry Tait (rbctait@gmail.com)

Reach out to these leaders if you can take steps to help our congregation grow and serve. If one of these leaders reaches out to you, prayerfully answer the call.

To fulfill the program ideas generated in the Vision Session, our church members must take on new creative roles. Here's how you can take part right now.

SECOND ADULT:

Want stronger children and youth programs? Be the second adult required by Safe Sanctuaries at all activities. You don't have to lead programs (though that's certainly welcome), but a big need is for adults to be consistently present. This is the prerequisite for starting a bus circuit for Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday Night Live programming. If you can be one of the second adults, contact Amanda Bonner. (children@richmondumc.org)

GREETERS:

Want visitors to become new members? Practice hospitality as a greeter at one of the four church doors in first service or the MMC in Thrive. This connection is vital to making newcomers know that they are welcome. If you can be a greeter, contact April Cain. (aprilawncain@gmail.com)

TECH SUPPORT:

Want consistent live streaming and sound during worship services? Step up and learn new skills. You don't have to already have audio and internet capabilities. You just have to be open to learning. If you can give tech support a try, contact Paul Combs (tech@richmondumc.org) or Ginny Whitehouse (ginnywhitehouse2@gmail.com).

As you prayerfully consider your Stewardship 2027 gifts, consider how your time and talents can be part of your tithe, along with financial resources.

Unity in Prayer



PRAYERS
TALENTS
SERVICE



FAITHFULNESS
WITNESS
GIFTS
TIME

"For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

Lord, hear our prayer. Open our hearts to give back to you what you have generously shared with your people. May we be faithful stewards giving to our church community.

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

Class Spotlight: Defenders of the Faith

Join the Sunday evening class "Defenders of the Faith" meeting at 5 p.m. on Zoom each week. This intergenerational group dives into deeper questions about God's presence in our lives. The group is starting a new study: *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh. Reach out to Barry Tait at rbctait@gmail.com to learn how to connect.



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.



Calling All Youth: Sign up now for Fall Retreat

Join youth from churches across the East District of the UMC Kentucky Conference for an exciting weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun at Aldersgate Camp.

Cost is \$50. Scholarships are available. To ask about scholarships or contribute to the scholarship fund, reach out to Amanda Bonner or our newly named youth intern Zack Williams.

Register by Oct. 23 using the QR Code in the poster.

Spend time away from the world that can feel incredibly isolated and loud. Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." Join in the joy!

Wanted: Your Stories

Got a great story to tell about your life at Richmond First? Check in with Mike Park to have it included in a book of memories for the centennial of our church building. Type a 50-to-250-word story and send it to Mike.Park@eku.edu **before Oct. 15.**

Food pantry now open



Pushpay for
Food Pantry

We've reopened the food pantry to feed those who come to the church hungry. Contribute to this effort by bringing non-perishable food to the church office or donating by check or PushPay.

Learn more, Read more

Learn more about the Reading Program through resources available in the Church Library and the Welcome Center near the elevator. Sponsored by United Women in Faith, the program provides a way to learn more about people, places, opportunities, and issues important to United Methodists. All are welcome: men, women, youth, and seniors.

Copies of *response* magazine can be found in a binder in the Church Library. Readers may view the latest issue in the library, but please leave the most recent copy. The 2027 reading catalog is available in the library binder, along previous years. For more information, please call or text Jo Lynn Linville at 817-271-3941 or email her at jolinville476@gmail.com.

Gratitude in Action

Message from our pastor



Dear Church Family and friends of Richmond First,

I'm grateful for the life and energy we're seeing in our church this fall. Our confirmation class will help young people explore their faith and find their place in the church. Wednesday night classes will give us time to learn and grow together in a meal, community, and Bible studies. The women's retreat on October 10 offers space for prayer, spiritual growth, and friendship, while the fall festival gives us a joyful way to welcome our neighbors. Thank you to everyone preparing, teaching, inviting, and serving.

These gatherings are a beautiful way to live out our October stewardship series, Enemies of Gratitude. Each Sunday, we'll consider something that can crowd gratitude out of our lives: nostalgia, worry, entitlement, or greed. Scripture will invite us to remember God's faithfulness, trust God with what lies ahead, make room for others, and share what we have been given.

Stewardship is one way gratitude becomes visible. We see it when someone encourages a confirmand, joins a class, makes space for another person at the retreat, or helps a family feel welcome at the festival. We see it in the prayers, gifts, and service that make these ministries possible.

As we worship and gather this October, I invite you to ask: What has God placed in my hands, and how can I use it to bless someone else? I'm thankful to be part of a church where we can answer that question together.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ER' or similar initials.