

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." - Galatians 2:20a

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

by **Quinn Bennett** at QBennett@rrumc.org

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! These words are not enough to thank everyone for their support of Vacation Bible School this year. The joy, laughter, and love these kids received made this year undeniably the best year yet since I have been involved. Rocky River United Methodist Church is so blessed to have people that support their children's ministry. This year we had 38 youth volunteers, 28 adult volunteers, and 83 kids attending during the week. Enjoy the pictures because, truly, this is the best way to show you how thankful I am for the support you give to the children of RRUMC. If you would like to see even more pictures, go to our Facebook page. Until next year, Mrs. Quinn



REFLECTIONS ...

by Rev. Daniel F. Bogre

Dear Friends and Family of RRUMC,

Greetings to each and every one of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that your summer is going wonderfully well. I have included in this article a picture of the Sanctuary and all of the scaffolding set up for the facelift of that beautiful space. As I look at it, I realize that there are really just two ways you can look at it. You can look at it and be full of frustration and anger because the air conditioning is turned off. You can be grumpy because we are all squashed into one side of the sanctuary. You can also complain about what an inconvenience it is to have that space turned on its head.



OR! Or you could look at all of the scaffolding, the dust, the missing sconces, the chandeliers covered in plastic, and get very excited about the fact that the church cares so much for that space for worship that it is time to give it that much needed facelift. It can either frustrate you or excite you. As I was taking

the picture of the scaffolding, I was led to a text from 2 Corinthians 5:16-17, where Paul says, "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so



no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!" We can look at that work in the sanctuary, the parking lot getting resealed, all the work going on at Story Church through worldly eyes, which always seems to lead to anger and frustration. OR, or we can see them through the eyes of Christ. Those eyes always see with complete hope, incredible anticipation of the future, and excitement for what is about to be.

My prayer is that you will see all of those ongoing projects in the church at both of our campuses through Christ's eyes. We are so blessed to know that RRUMC is moving forward, growing, and living into our mission to help people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story. So, as you come into your church, look with excitement, joy, and anticipation as you navigate all of the ongoing projects to make RRUMC that much more beautiful, ready, and equipped to transform lives for Christ. Thank you, church family, for your patience and understanding. May God bless and keep you.

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Dan



Milestones

August Anniversaries

(50 or more years and those in five-year increments)

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|----|
| 8/2 | Bethany & Steve Harry | 20 |
| 8/3 | Nancy & Richard Blume | 55 |
| 8/16 | Keith & Anjanette Whitman | 15 |
| 8/17 | Holly & Paul Biacsi | 10 |
| 8/22 | Beth & Doug Dixon | 25 |
| 8/24 | Debbie & Frank Comery | 55 |
| 8/24 | Kristin & Tyler Patterson | 5 |
| 8/31 | Julie & Adam Nazette | 20 |

August Birthdays

(90 years or more)

| | | |
|------|-----------------|----|
| 8/14 | Elda Krach | 95 |
| 8/22 | William Minnich | 93 |

Weddings

Christopher Harrington and Grace Vinesky, united in marriage on June 24.

In Sympathy

Janet Geddes and family, in the passing away of her husband, Gary, on May 20.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

The Link-Up Bike Ministry is grateful for your generosity. We appreciate the financial gifts from our fundraiser/cookout, and the continuous donations of bicycles!

Contact us: linkupbikeministry@gmail.com

VBS MISSION PROJECT THANK YOU!

Our VBS children and congregation members donated a total of \$1699.77 to support Operation Kid-to-Kid, a cooperative program with World Vision that is working throughout 2023 to provide Bibles for children in African nations, Latin America, and the Middle East. Thank you for your generosity!



SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVE-AWAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Join us at Story Church, 9900 Madison Ave., Cleveland, on August 5, from 10:00am-12:00pm, for our annual backpack giveaway to support children and families in our community. Volunteers are needed on the day of the event. If you are interested please reach out to emilypeplinski10@gmail.com.



CRUISIN' RIVER 2023

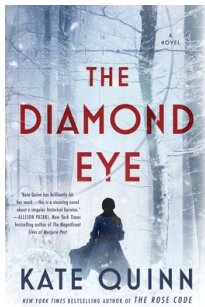
WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 9 & 23

Classic car fun returns to the church parking lot on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of August from 5:30-8:00pm. All makes, models, and years of cars and motorcycles are welcome, no entry fee! Food and beverages are available, there is music with a live DJ, as well as dash plaques and door prizes. For more information contact Steve Zayac at Stephen.zayac@gmail.com or 440.785.1489 or Michael Parry at Mparry3638@gmail.com or 440.773.1301. You can also look at Facebook (rockyriverumc) or twitter (RR_Harbor).

BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

Join us on Thursday, August 17, at 10:00am at the church as we discuss "*The Diamond Eye*" by Kate Quinn. Questions? List of future books? Contact Bruce Biggin at brbiggin@netscape.net or 216.544.5980. Always happy to see new faces, and regular attendance is not required.



CLEVELAND FOOD BANK

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

The next Food Bank night for adult volunteers (age 14 and over) will be on Tuesday, August 22, 6:00-8:00pm. The Food Bank is in their new location, 13815 Coit Rd. If you would like to car pool, we will meet at the church parking

lot at 5:15pm. Hope to see you then. To register, contact Dave Sagerser at dsagerser@aol.com or 216.525.0779.

LGBTQA+ SUPPORT GROUP

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

LGBTQA+ Support Group is a ministry of the Rocky River UMC which provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQA+ community and their friends and family to share their joys and concerns in a safe and confidential space. Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Thursday alternating every month on Zoom or in-person. **On Thursday, August 24, at 7:00pm, we'll meet via Zoom.** For more information and to get the Zoom link, please contact Mark Brandt at brandt486@gmail.com or Rev. Laurie Bruce at labruce83@gmail.com.



EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 54th session of East Ohio Annual Conference met June 7-10 in the John S. Knight Center in Akron with clergy and laity in attendance. The theme was "Faith Hope Love" based on 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3.

"Our mission is yet alive," declared Bishop Malone during her Episcopal Address. "Now is the time for us to focus forward. This is a time of remarkable opportunity in the life of The United Methodist Church." She emphasized that point by highlighting creative new ministries and innovative ways that local church congregations in the East Ohio Conference are engaging in discipleship in their communities. The bishop also shared a video provided by Africa University showing the construction progress of the new dormitory for female students that is made possible by the \$1.5 million raised and collected through the East Ohio Conference Teach, Reach, Bless campaign.



2023 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Clergy and laity worshipped together, celebrated five clergy being commissioned as provisional members, nine clergy being ordained as full members, and celebrated the ministries of 40 clergy who are retiring this year. They commemorated clergy, clergy spouses, and laity leaders who passed away since last year's conference and conducted important business of the East Ohio Annual Conference.

During the business sessions of Annual Conference 2023 members:

- approved re-districting the East Ohio Conference from 10 districts to 4 districts effective January 1, 2024,
- approved 5% increase across all pastoral minimum salary categories,
- approved the 2024 Conference budget of \$9,428,531, which is a reduction of 3.5% from the 2023 budget,
- approved a sexual ethics policy, a parental leave policy, and a professional standards policy,
- approved the disaffiliation agreements of 237 churches effective the end of June 2023,
- approved three resolutions: "Advocating for the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation," "East Ohio United Methodists Against Hate Crimes," and "Supporting the Christmas Covenant."

Brian Mitchell and Twyla Sales were Lay Members to Annual Conference.

Videos can be seen on the Annual Conference web site: eocumc.org. You can "View and Download the AC2023 Recap Video," "Read the AC2023 Recap Article," and "A Recap of the Services and Sessions of Annual Conference 2023 Faith Hope Love."



HELLO FROM STORY CHURCH AND TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE!

by Lisa Thomas, TBFS Director, LThomas@rrumc.org



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE! And we could not be happier!! After a short closure, Story Church and Twice Blessed Free Store are nearly ready to open the doors again! It's been an amazingly productive period and we will soon be ready to unveil all of the wonderful transformations, improvements, and additions!

One of the most notable upgrades is the addition of our brand-new first floor bathroom that is ADA compliant! This new facility ensures that all individuals, regardless of their physical abilities, can access and utilize the restroom comfortably. By creating an inclusive environment, we are able to continue to meet the needs of our diverse community. Thank you so much to our main campus family for funding and supporting this important project!

New carpet squares have been installed on the third-floor mezzanine level. This newly transformed space matches the sanctuary carpet beautifully, adding a polished and finished look to the whole space. The mezzanine level will be transformed into classrooms and meeting rooms for ministries to meet and grow where lives will be touched and transformed.

Painting has taken place downstairs on the lower level, rejuvenating the space, and creating a vibrant atmosphere for shoppers. In addition to the painting, we have reconfigured the layout of Twice Blessed Free Store. This reconfiguration allows for better flow and organization, making it easier for shoppers and volunteers to navigate the store. But the most exciting part about the reconfiguration is that it allows for the middle of the room to remain open; freeing the space for other activities and ministries to use.



With all of these new, exciting updates, we can't help but throw a party to celebrate! We will be hosting a BLOCK PARTY on Saturday, August 19, from noon to 6:00pm. We have an exciting lineup of activities planned, including a DJ from 2:00 to 4:00pm and a live band from 4:00 to 6:00pm. The block party will feature various vendors, including Sisters Haven, food, and plenty of entertainment to keep everyone engaged and entertained! **If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact Lisa Thomas at LThomas@rrumc.org or call or text at 216.543.1798.**



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR SECOND CAMPUS, MEET OUR SISTERS HAVEN NEIGHBORS, AND SEE ALL OF THE AMAZING UPDATES! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!!

August Calendar of Events Related to Story Church:

- Tuesday, August 1, 1:00pm - Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors (Lisa Thomas & Lynn Gorton)
- Tuesday, August 3, 5:00pm - SWAG Women's Ministry - Soak in the Son
- Saturday, August 5, 10:00am-12:00pm - Backpack Giveaway
- Monday, August 7, 3:00pm - Pastor Pal's Adventure Time Splash Day - Lots of Water FUN!!! (Kids pre-school to 2nd grade; MUST be accompanied by an adult)
- Tuesday, August 8, 1:00pm - Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors
- Thursday, August 10, 5:00pm - SWAG Women's Ministry - Protecting Your Heart from the Heat
- Tuesday, August 15, 1:00pm - Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors
- Thursday, August 17, 5:00pm - SWAG Women's Ministry - Making Waves
- Saturday, August 19, 12:00pm - Story Church BLOCK PARTY
- Tuesday, August 22, 1:00pm - Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors
- Tuesday, August 29, 1:00pm - Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors
- Thursday, August 31, 5:00pm - SWAG Women's Ministry - Sandcastles in the Sun

Story Church is located at 9900 Madison Avenue in Cleveland. RRUMC is located at 19414 Detroit Road in Rocky River. Questions can be directed to the TBFS Director, Lisa Thomas, at LThomas@rrumc.org.

LINK-UP BIKE MINISTRY

Don Jones & Rev. Matt from our Link-Up Bike Ministry recently spent a teach and hands-on morning with children from Westlake United Methodist's Kickin Summer Service Kids program. They started by explaining bicycle parts and functions. Then they looked at around 20 bikes donated by Bay Village UMC and fixed bikes (replaced tubes, adjusted cables, adjusted chains, etc.) and shared the way these bikes will bring God's help and justice to others in need of a bike. What could not be repaired was labeled as such. All bikes, repaired or not, were donated to Link-Up. According to the program leaders at Westlake UMC, they made a big impression! Rev. Matt and Don received a bunch of thank-you cards from the children. Below is a sampling of those cards.

Dear Pastor Matt and Don,
Thank you for teaching us about bikes and how to serve. Thank you for serving others. ~Olivia


THANK YOU
Pastor Matt
&
Don
-Avery

Thank you for teaching us how to fix bikes
God bless

Thanks for teaching me how to fix my bike!
-Asher


Matt, & Don
I love making and fixing bikes I had so much fun even though we only had time to do 1 bike it was really fun. GOD BLESS YOU

Thank you Pastor matt and Don
by Esten

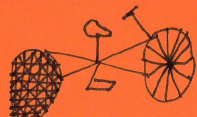


Matt and Don
down

Thank You For everything you did. The fact that you took time out of your life for us is generous. Please keep it up



Pastor MATT,
Don



- Dear pastor don you showed us how to refresh things that have broken down
-Sean

2023 EDUCATIONAL BENEVOLENT ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP

PURPOSE: To encourage youth and college students to take an active role in Christian involvement in the Rocky River United Methodist Church

2023 RECIPIENT:

Jennifer Zayac
Junior, Ohio Northern University
Graduated from Westlake High School

"My faith journey has impacted a lot of major things in my life. I have made most of my lifelong friends at church and youth group activities. ... We have become family over the years."

Congratulations Jennifer, we wish you much success!



NOW HIRING! RRUMC SPORTS MINISTRY COORDINATOR

RRUMC is hiring a Sports Ministry Coordinator. This is a part-time position averaging 20 hours per week at \$20/hour but with more hours during Upward season. For details go to <https://www.rrumc.org/blog/2023/6/26/rrumc-is-hiring-a-sports-ministry-coordinator>.



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DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH
Mailed July 26, 2023

Ministry

Daniel F. Bogre, Senior Pastor
Paul A. Bennett, Associate Pastor
Sheri B. Swartz, Director of Church Ministries
Quinn E. Bennett, Director of Children's Ministries
Lisa P. Sierk, Director of Endowment Ministries
Steven M. Young, Director of Youth Ministries
Lisa Thomas, Twice Blessed Free Store Director
Lynn K. Gorton, Faith Community Health Professional

Music Ministry

Jeffrey A. Acker, Organist
Matthew Dolan, Director of Music
Carmen G. Massaro, and Lynn Young, Handbell Choirs
Robert W. Kimmel, Harbor Worship Leader

Mission Ministry

Dr. Belinda Forbes, Managua, Nicaragua

Deadline for September Circuit Rider:
Wednesday, August 9, 2023

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

REMEMBER THESE LATE JULY DATES

July 26 - Cruisin' River
July 27 - LGBTQA+ Support Group
July 27 - SWAG (Women's Ministry)

SAVE THESE AUGUST DATES

Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Men's Prayer Group
Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Prayer & Conversation with the Pastors (Lynn Gorton & Lisa Thomas)
Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Thursday Morning Breakfast Group
Aug. 3, 10, 17, 31 - SWAG (Women's Ministry)
Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Harbor Worship Rehearsal
Aug. 5 - Backpack Giveaway
Aug. 6 - Communion Sunday
Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Open Gym Basketball
Aug. 7 - Pastor Pal's Adventure Time Splash Day
August 7, 14, 21, 28 - Women's Fellowship Group*
Aug. 8 - LIFT Picnic
Aug. 9 & 23 - Cruisin' River
Aug. 10 - Shawl Ministry
Aug. 17 - Book Club
Aug. 19 - Story Church Block Party
Aug. 22 - RiverMen
Aug. 24 - LGBTQA+ Support Group*

**virtual meeting via Zoom or other platform
green=at Story Church Campus, 9900 Madison, Cleveland*

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- 8:30am - Chapel Service
- 10:00am - Sanctuary Service
- 11:30am - Harbor Service in Beacon Hall, also livestreamed at www.rrumc.org

OFFICE INFORMATION

Our summer office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9am-4pm, and Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm, from Memorial Day until Labor Day. The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 4 for the Labor Day holiday. TBFS at Story Church is currently closed for cleaning, bathroom renovations, etc. except for events on list above and on page 4.

We (hopefully) are now using our new programmable door locking system starting and you will need to ring the doorbell for access to the church during working hours. Instructions will be posted on doors 1 (rotunda), 5 (ramp), and 6 (office). Please be patient with us (and bring your cell phone with you or call ahead if you do not have a cell phone).