

2024 LENTEN STUDY SIGN-UPS

**FEBRUARY 4, 11,
& 18**

Our all-church Lenten study, *"In the Footsteps of the Savior"* by Max Lucado will begin soon, with study groups

meeting various days and times. Our Lenten sermon series will also be based on this study. Sign-ups for study groups begin February 4 and continue through Feb 18. Books will also be available and cost \$17. This six-week study will take us to the places and introduce us to the people that shaped Jesus' life. Max Lucado will share key teachings and guide us through these places which include:

- Capernaum: where Jesus healed a woman with issues of blood and a synagogue leader's daughter.
- Sea of Galilee: where Jesus miraculously walked on water and calmed a storm.
- Mount of Beatitudes: where Jesus preached His famous "Sermon on the Mount."
- The Temple Steps: where Jesus proclaimed His authority.
- Garden Tomb: where Jesus defeated death and rose from the grave.
- Caesarea: where Peter discovered the salvation Jesus brought was for all people.

Plan to participate in this study whether through a study group or on your own. Time spent in this study of the Holy Land where Jesus walked and ministered will deepen your connection with the King of the Universe who became the Savior on the Cross.

Classes will be offered the following dates and times:

- Sundays, 11:15am-12:45pm, led by Pat Wilson, in room 209; begins Feb. 18
- Mondays, 6:30 - 8:00pm, led by Heather & Jason Lutz on Zoom; begins Feb. 19
- Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00am, led by Barb Reece, in room 209; begins Feb. 20
- Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm, LIFT group led by Lynn Gorton, in room 209; begins Feb. 13
- Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm, led by Rev. Bogre, in room 209; begins Feb. 21



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14

Please plan to join us on Ash Wednesday for our 7:00pm service in

Beacon Hall. The service will include the imposition of ashes and communion. The service will also be live-streamed.

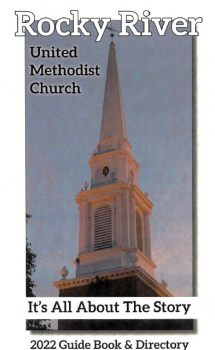
GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY UPDATE

**SEND YOUR UPDATED
INFORMATION BY SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 25!**

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for RRUMC. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions, and events, plus a complete directory of all members.

Does our church database have YOUR family membership record correct? Have you changed your phone number or e-mail address? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record, or have they moved out and now have new households of their own? Do you want / not want your record published? Please take the time to update YOUR family's information so our annual Guide Book & Directory contains the correct information. Update your Servant Keeper profile (preferred), e-mail the Church Office at office@rrumc.org, or call 440.331.7676. Thank you for your help!

Advertising Opportunity. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family listed at no cost to our church. It is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please e-mail the Church Office. Surveys by Guide Book Publishing show that families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.



REFLECTIONS ...

by Rev. Daniel F. Bogre

Hello Friends and Family of RRUMC,

My family and I went to Niagara Falls between Christmas and New Years in December. First of all, I had no idea it was only three hours and twenty minutes away. We were there in no time. We spent our first night on the American side and the second two nights on the Canadian side. I was amazed at how close you can get to the actual water of the falls, especially on the American side. At one of the railed overlooks, I know that I was no more than 10 feet away from the roaring water going over the edge. I could not get over the power, the noise, and the beauty of the whole thing.

As I stood there for quite some time just watching the water go over the falls, I could not get over that it just keeps coming. I read one sign that said the actual amount of water going over the falls is around 50% of what it should be because of all the ways the Niagara River is tapped and dammed upstream. That is 50%? WOW! I started praying and thanking God for that incredible gift that He has given us in the beauty and power of Niagara Falls. The water reminded me of something. God's grace and blessings flow into our lives the same way. In John 1:16, it says, "From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace." From God's fullness his grace never stops flowing into our lives. It is grace upon grace, like the waves rolling up on the shore or the water constantly rolling over the falls.

I invite you to imagine yourself standing under the falls of God's grace upon grace. Picture yourself being washed over and drenched in the grace that God has for you. That is what he did at Christmas. Sending His Son was to let us know that his grace will forever flow into our lives if we will just choose to stand under it and welcome it. The picture I have attached is from the Skylon Tower on the Canadian side, 47 stories up. My family and I had dinner there on our last night before returning home the next morning.

That picture is of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls. May it remind you that, in God's fullness, you have received grace upon grace.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Dan



February Anniversaries

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

2/11	June & Steven Bond	64
2/20	Marian & Roy McKinney	25

February Birthdays

(90 years or more)

2/6	Sally Mylett	90
2/7	Joanna Packard	90
2/9	Dolores Durham	91
2/16	Suzanne Stover	91
2/26	Jane Wilson	94
2/28	Philip Ardussi	90

Baptisms

Vivienne Joan Pumphrey, daughter of Raymond Pumphrey and Maureen Zappone, on January 7.

Births

Miles Jay Clifford, son of Chelsea & Traver Clifford, on December 11, in St. Louis. Proud grandparents are Suzanne & Jay Clifford; proud great-grandparents are Donna & John Clifford.

In Sympathy

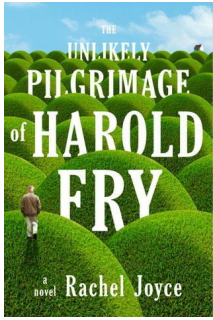
Family & friends of Sue Butler who passed away on December 25.

John Rowland and family, in the passing away of his wife, Carolyn Rowland, on January 4.

Thank You's

To the caring ministry of RRUMC: Dear Ladies, I want to thank you for your upbeat encouraging notes over the year. Yours, David Fahrland

A thank you was also received from OhioGuidestone for a donation to their general fund. It will help them provide access to transformative behavioral health and recover solutions for their clients.



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Join us on Thursday, February 15, at 10:00am at the church as we discuss "*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*" by Rachel Joyce. 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.

GRIEF CARE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Those experiencing grief are invited to join us on Thursday, February 15, at 1:00pm in the parlor. MaryElin Halek and Lynn Gorton lead this faith-based group to share devotions, prayer, and the comfort of friendship. Always confidential as people are going through many types of losses and are looking to find a safe place to find solace. Come, sit, and observe or feel free to share. This monthly group is to meet your needs as you process through your grief journey. For more information, please contact Lynn Gorton CLM, FCHP at LGorton@rrumc.org.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Attention caregivers, if you are caring for a loved one and would like to meet with

others from our church family in a similar role, please join our support group led by Marcia Hesselgrave and Leann Hofelich. Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 19, at 6:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Lynn Gorton, FCHP, at LGorton@rrumc.org.

LGBTQA+ SUPPORT GROUP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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 (usually) alternating every month on Zoom or in-person. On Thursday, January 25, at 7:00pm, we'll meet in the choir room. On Thursday, February 22, we will meet via Zoom. Questions or to receive the Zoom link? Please contact Mark Brandt at brandt486@gmail.com or Rev. Laurie Bruce at labruce83@gmail.com.



THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR ESTATE PLAN

by *Lisa P. Sierk, Philanthropic Advisor, Director of Endowment Ministries*



From late January until early April, we each spend some portion of our time collecting the necessary documents required for tax filings. While gathering these details, it is a suitable time to review and update beneficiary designations, to think about tax planning strategies for the coming year, including plans for charitable giving, and to consider updating or making estate plans.

Defining what you would like to accomplish and how your legacy will impact others takes careful thought and consideration. Here are some questions to consider for estate planning purposes as you are collecting and preparing your tax information:

- Who are your primary and contingent beneficiaries and how will assets be divided among them? When will the beneficiaries receive their inheritance?
- Do you have any specific bequests or do you wish that your bequests are used for specific purposes (such as education)?
- Are arrangements needed for the support of dependents?
- What charitable organizations, such as Rocky River United Methodist Church, have been important to you during your lifetime? How would you like to support them in your estate?

While this may seem like a lot to consider, please know that you are helping your family and heirs by having your financial matters in order and your wishes documented.

Questions? Please contact Lisa Sierk, at LSierk@rrumc.org.



WATCH YOUR STEP!

by the Safety and Risk Management Committee

The risk of slipping, tripping, and falling increases dramatically during winter months. To help you stay safe this season, we have put together 10 winter safety tips to prevent slips, trips, and falls:

Use special care when getting in and out of vehicles. Try to park your vehicle in a clear area and watch where you step as you get in or out.

Avoid carrying items that reduce your ability to see the ground in front of you. Whether it's one big item or five small ones, ask for help or take multiple trips so that you are never obstructing your sight.

Scan the path six or more feet ahead of you for trip hazards. Make sure your route ahead is clear of hazards such as rocks, clumps of snow, or a stray branch.

Walk slowly and take small steps. Walking slowly and taking small steps will help you maintain your balance.

Wear footwear that has slip-resistant soles. As the name indicates, slip-resistant soles lessen your chance of slipping on ice, snow, or water.

Plan ahead and give yourself sufficient time to get where you need to go. Whether walking or driving, leave your current location 5-10 minutes early in case roads and sidewalks are covered with snow and ice.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MARY ANNE & RICHARD CAVICCHI CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINAR - POWER, PURPOSE & LOVE: BECOMING CHANGE-MAKERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES



SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024, 4:00-7:30PM
REGISTER BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Keynote Speaker and Facilitator:

Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones

Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones is an Authorized Minister in the United Church of Christ and a creative thinker about how congregations and their buildings may best serve the community. She serves two churches (DOC/UCC) in Cuyahoga Falls and devotes much time to navigating creative building reuse and church building redevelopment projects with congregations around Greater Cleveland and Akron.

Each one of us desires to make positive change. Whether in our personal lives, in our churches, or in the wider community, we want to leave circumstances better than we have found them. The biblical witness affirms this story: ordinary people, called by God, are catalysts for realizing God's Kin-dom right in their own neighborhoods. Using the tools of grassroots organizing, this seminar will make the case that with God's help and the partnership of our neighbors, we can participate in the transformation of our churches, our neighborhoods and the broader community. We will discover and practice the art of relational meetings; we will unearth the power of community listening; and we will develop a toolkit for breaking down seemingly intractable problems into manageable tasks. This seminar will draw on the work of Robert Linthicum's book, "*Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community*," and will also include the voices of interfaith community leaders and organizers from Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

On March 3, there are two ways to attend: in person, meal provided, at RRUMC or on Zoom, with breakout discussion groups and a break. There is no cost to attend. Registration online at <https://www.rumc.org/cavicchi-seminar-sign-up>. Registration deadline is Monday, February 26. Questions? Contact cavicchichristianed@gmail.com.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21



**American
Red Cross**

There will be a blood drive from 9:00am-2:00pm in Beacon Hall. To schedule an appointment, go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: "RockyRiver" or call 1.800.733.2767. Thank you!

If you give blood in February, you get a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by e-mail.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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



Family Mission for TBFS: Soup in a Jar - SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, AT 3:00PM

Join us on Sunday, January 28, at 3:00pm for our Family Mission for Twice Blessed. Any ages are welcome from age 1 - 99. We will be making 75 jars of soup to be given to our family at the TBFS. All materials will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Quinn Bennett at QBennett@rrumc.org.

Sunday Funday - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, AT 10:00AM OR 11:30AM

Parents, have you ever wondered what goes on in Sunday school? Well here's your chance as February 4 is Sunday Funday. During the Sunday school hours, you will attend Sunday school with your kids and spend the time learning, worshipping, and taking communion together. It is a great time to get to know some of the other families in the church. Be ready to go back in time and enjoy being a kid again. So bring your goofy shoes because you won't just be sitting and you may just find yourself never wanting to go back to being an adult again. If you have any questions, please contact Quinn Bennett at QBennett@rrumc.org.



Mission Possible - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, AT 4:00PM; T-SHIRT DONATIONS BY FEBRUARY 6

Mission Possible!

Our next Mission Possible will be on Sunday, February 25, at 4:00pm. All ages welcome! We will be making jump ropes to help another church with their Operation Christmas Child boxes. For this project we need your **donations of colorful used T-shirts** (please wash before donating). T-shirts can be placed in the Children's Ministry donation basket in the Gathering Area by February 6! Questions? Contact Quinn Bennett at QBennett@rrumc.org.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

by **Steven Young** at SYoung@rrumc.org

Crossroads Youth Schedule for February

- 4 Crossroads 7:00-8:30pm
- 11 No Crossroads
- 18 Crossroads / Common Ground 7:00-8:30pm
- 24 (Saturday) Event - Bowling
- 25 Crossroads 7:00-8:30pm



Youth Bowling - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, AT 2:00PM

Join us for a fun and friendly bowling experience. You don't have to be skilled, just come to have fun. We will meet on Saturday, February 24, from 2:00-4:00pm, at Fairview Lanes and enjoy two hours of bowling. The cost is \$15 per person. We hope to see you there!



Youth Mission Trip 2024 - CAMP ASBURY - SUNDAY, JUNE 30 TO FRIDAY, JULY 5

Join us for the Youth Mission Trip to Camp Asbury, where you'll have the opportunity to serve the community, have fun, and grow in your faith. You'll get to participate in various work projects, both on and off the camp site, that will make a positive difference in the lives of people in the Cleveland area. You'll also get to enjoy some awesome activities, such as hiking, swimming, games, and more. And every night, you'll have a chance to reflect on your experiences and deepen your relationship with God and your fellow campers. Camp Asbury is a special place for the United Methodist Church, as it is an official UMC East Ohio Conference camp. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself! Sign up today and get ready for the best week of your life!



- Who: Students who have completed 6th grade to graduating seniors.
- Cost: \$325 (with potential cost savings of \$125)
- To Register: Pay a \$50 deposit (goes toward the cost of the trip) and email Steven Young at syoung@rrumc.org to sign up.



GREETINGS FROM TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE AND STORY CHURCH!!

by Lisa Thomas, Director TBFS



What an amazing season it's been here at Story Church! The Christmas decorations are finally down and put away until next year, but memories of the holiday still linger. As I sit and think about how blessed we've been, I think about our children's Christmas party and the over 175 smiling faces in attendance. We distributed over 180 toys and blessed the lives of so many children on that beautiful Saturday in December.

Needless to say, the party was a resounding success, and I owe it all to our dedicated volunteers who worked hard to bring the magic to life! From the games to the crafts, to the wonderful cookies that were baked, our volunteers went above and beyond to create unforgettable memories. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to this wonderful event. My heart is full of gratitude!

As we look ahead, we are buzzing with anticipation for our next big event – the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 16, from 1:00-3:00pm, as we embark on another fun-filled EGG-stravaganza!

Volunteers are needed so, if you are available and would like to help, please let me know! We are also collecting donations of candy and plastic eggs to make the hunt extra sweet!! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Friends, as we step into 2024, the excitement for what God has in store for Story Church is palpable. Our community continues to grow in love, fellowship, and service, and we are eager to witness the unfolding of God's plan in our midst.

Thank you, RRUMC family, for your unwavering support and commitment. May the spirit of joy and generosity continue to guide us as we embark on this new year together.

Peace and Blessings Always,
Lisa Thomas, director TBFS

Lthomas@rrumc.org
216.543.1798



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

by Aaryn Holland & Margery Wanosik, Co-Directors

rumns@gmail.com



Hello Rocky River United Methodist Congregation,

The Nursery School is back in full swing after a nice break for Christmas and New Year's. The students were excited to see their friends and share stories with each other. Teachers will begin assessing students for conferences which are held in early March. The goal is never mastery, just constantly repeating material and skills that the teachers know the children will need next year in kindergarten. One of our families graciously donated books for all of the children earlier this school year. The teachers created a little "book store" that the kids got to browse through and select a book to take home. Thank you Gainey Family!!!

February will bring lots of groundhog and Valentine's Day crafts and special little parties which the kids love. PreK will welcome special guests in the middle of the month for Special Person's Day. Pre 3s will soon start to have guest readers visit the classroom again and March will be here before we know it!



RRUMNS
students
late 2023 / early 2024

Rocky River United Methodist Church
19414 Detroit Road
Rocky River, OH 44116-1873
Ph: 440.331.7676
Fax: 440.331.7637
E-Mail: office@rrumc.org
Web: www.rrumc.org

DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH
Mailed January 24, 2024

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
Vanessa Wagner, Sports Ministry Coordinator

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 March Circuit Rider:
Wednesday, February 7, 2024

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

SAVE THESE LATE JANUARY DATES

Jan. 25 - Lydia Circle UMW
Jan. 25 - LGBTQA+ Support Group
Jan. 28 - Family Mission for TBFS

SAVE THESE FEBRUARY DATES

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Thursday Morning Breakfast Group
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Genesis to Revelation Bible Study
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Harbor Worship Rehearsal
Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 - TBFS Open
Feb. 4 - Communion Sunday
Feb. 4 - Sunday Funday
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Lent Study Sign-ups
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Open Gym Basketball
Feb. 4, 18, 25 (off Feb. 11) - Confirmation Class
Feb. 4, 18, 25 (off Feb. 11) - Crossroads Youth
Feb. 4, 18, 25 practice (ringing on Feb 11) - Joyful Sounds Handbell Choir
Feb. 4, 11, 18 practice (ringing on Feb. 25) - Fuller Sounds Handbell Choir
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Disciple IV Bible Study
Feb. 5 & 12 - Cooking with Christ Study Group
Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Disciple I Bible Study
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Men's Prayer Group
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 - Women's Fellowship Group*
Feb. 7 & 21 - Empty Nester's Euchre Group
Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Feb. 8 - Shawl Ministry

Feb. 13 & 27 - Lent Study (LIFT/Gorton)
Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday Service
Feb. 15 - Book Club
Feb. 15 - Grief Care
Feb. 18 & 25 - Lent Study (Wilson)
Feb. 18 - Common Ground Youth
Feb. 19 & 26 - Lent Study (Lutz)*
Feb. 19 - Caregiver Support Group
Feb. 20 & 27 - Lent Study (Reece)
Feb. 21 - Red Cross Blood Drive
Feb. 21 & 28 - Lent Study (Bogre)
Feb. 22 - LGBTQA+ Support Group*
Feb. 22 - Lydia Circle UMW
Feb. 24 - Youth Bowling
Feb. 25 - Mission Possible
Feb. 25 - Guidebook & Directory Updates Due
Feb. 26 - Cavicchi Seminar Registration Due
Feb. 27 - RiverMen

**virtual meeting via Zoom or other platform*

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

Office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm.