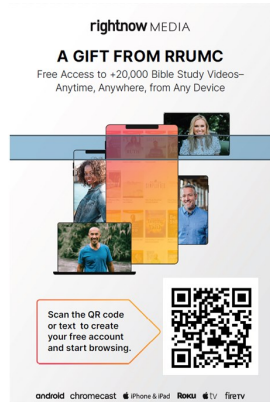


RIGHT NOW MEDIA

I'm excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**-the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** taught by renowned Christian leaders. We believe that RightNow Media is a tool that can help you live out your faith in every area of your life-at home, at work, and in your community. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in your family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content



anywhere, anytime. You should have already received an email invitation for FREE access to RightNow Media. You can also scan the QR code to the left to get started. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!



MEN'S ADVENTURE WEEKEND 2023

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 -
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

All men of RRUMC are invited to the annual Men's Adventure Weekend experience that begins with dinner on Friday, September 29, and concludes after breakfast on Sunday, October 1. The theme for this year is "MEN OF GOD" and the 40-hour experience is packed with faith, fellowship, food, and fun. The setting will be cabins at a campground within 90 minutes of Cleveland (no camping equipment necessary) and a fee of \$60/man will cover meals and lodging. For more information contact Pastor Paul Bennett at PBennett@rrumc.org or Michael Parry at 440.773.1301.



EXPLORE THE BIBLE: BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

TUESDAYS, SEPT. 26 - NOV. 7

Explore the Bible is back with a study focused on marriage. The culture around us, from social media to romantic comedies, presents a number of competing ideas about marriage, but few properly depict how difficult it is to maintain a healthy marriage. Everyone wants their marriage to be fruitful and full of joy, but how do we get there? What does it take to build a godly marriage? **From September 26 through November 7, on Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm**, our Explore the Bible study will engage these questions. The study will utilize "**Building a Better**

Marriage" by Pastor Earl McClellan. This is a video study with accompanying study guide drawn from RRUMC's new Right Now Media subscription. It will also include emphases on mutual encouragement and accountability, and fellowship, characteristic of our Explore the Bible studies in the past. Join us as we engage these important discussions around God's plan for our marriages. Contact the church office to sign up (440-331-7676 or office@rrumc.org) or Pastor Paul (pbennett@rrumc.org) with questions.



GIFTS OF MUSIC CONCERT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 -
3:00PM

Join us on Sunday, October 8, at 3:00pm for the first concert of the Gifts of Music 2023/2024 Season featuring Andrew Sords, violin; Mari Sato, viola; Joseph Johnson, cello; and Elizabeth DeMio, piano; playing works by Clara Schumann and Brahms.



REFLECTIONS ...

by Rev. Daniel F. Bogre



Dear Friends and Family of RRUMC,

I know that as you read this you are now deep into your post summer routine. For some that means school has started for the kids. For others it means that they have come back from their summer locations. For others it means that all the vacations are now in the rearview mirror. And for many it simply means that the seasons are changing, the days are getting shorter, and life seems to be getting a little more hectic. I know for my wife and I, summer just seemed like an extension of last year since both of my boys play football and it pretty much goes all summer long. I hope your summer was wonderful and enjoyable and blessed.

This time of year for the church means that the new "church year" begins. It coincides with the school year since that is when families get back into their school year routine. That also means we ramp up our offerings for Bible studies and small groups this time of year, as I mentioned in last month's Circuit Rider. Now that sign-ups are open, we are seeing record numbers of people becoming part of a Bible study for the first time or for maybe their tenth year in a row. This year we launch a six-year Bible study that will take you all the way from Genesis to Revelation. It meets each and every week, however, we know that you cannot make all of them and may actually have to step out of the study from time to time to eventually jump back in. So far 21 people have signed up for that one. There are 18 people signed up for Disciple 1. There are six people in Disciple 4. There are two women's Bible studies that will be averaging over 20 women in each. Explore the Bible is between 10-15 people. That does not count the 50-75 people we will have for Advent studies this Christmas and Lenten studies in the spring.

As you can see, this church is going to have a record number of people in God's Word each and every week. I told you in the last Circuit Rider article that every church I have been a part of grew by leaps and bounds when people were studying the Bible. I also saw new ministries bubble up in people's hearts who were in the Word. If this sign-up trend is any indication of what this church will look like moving forward, God is smiling right now.

I share this with you because I want you to know that you can and should be proud of RRUMC. We will never stop working to make sure that both of our campuses are not just one day a week churches. It is not about being busy, it is about being called. As people feel called and led by God to study the Bible, volunteer in our ministries, come to church on Sunday, give generously, pray fervently, and love exponentially, our church will always be growing into the church that God has always created us to be—a church helping people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story. After all, IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Dan



Milestones

October Anniversaries

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

10/2	Larissa & Tim Bungo	30
10/15	Connie & Wayne Sweet	58
10/26	MacKenzie & Douglas Dietzel	5

October Birthdays

(90 years or more)

10/2	Iris Abel	104
10/12	Justine Gertz	100
10/12	Edith Eva	92

Births

Reed Barrington Loucks, son of Jessica & Chris Loucks, was born on August 28; proud big brothers are Blake and Pierce.

In Sympathy

Family and friends of Mary Mae Maxwell, former member, who passed away on August 20.

Sandra Dempsey, in the passing away of her husband, Robert (Bob) Dempsey, on August 22.

Rob Calderwood, Jr., in the passing away of his aunt, Marcia Baum, on August 25.



Rocky River United Methodist
Nursery School



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

by Aaryn Holland & Margery Wanosik,
Co-Directors, rumns@gmail.com

Good Morning RRUMC Congregation,

RRUMNS opened its doors on September 5. The children attended an open house with their parents and met their new teachers. Some were excited while others hid behind parents' legs in shyness. Within a few weeks time, all will skip in, happy and confident with a new routine under their belts. October is a festive time at school with many spooky crafts and Halloween themed games. The energy and joy that the children bring to school truly is a blessing. The fall season fills us with many projects to tackle. Friendships are taking hold and a peaceful rhythm starts to take shape.



HYMN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Cleveland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites you to enjoy a selection of their organists' favorite hymns on Sunday, September 24, at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary.

LYDIA CIRCLE (UMW)



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AND

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Lydia Circle will start a new season on Thursday, September 28, in room 209 at 1:30pm. We will greet each other then talk about the months ahead. Patty and I will do refreshments. We always welcome new women into the circle. Our second meeting of this program year will be on Thursday, October 26. Please call MaryElin at 440.773.6569 with any questions. Hope to see you there!



CLEVELAND FOOD BANK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

The next Food Bank night for adult volunteers (age 14 and over) will be Tuesday, October 10 from 6:00-

8:00pm. Those who wish to car pool will meet at the church at 5:15pm. To register, contact Dave Sagerser at dsagerser@aol.com or 216.525.0779.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

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 second meeting will be on Monday, October 16, at 6:00pm. We plan to meet monthly on the 3rd Monday thereafter. Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Lynn Gorton, FCHP, at L.Gorton@rrumc.org.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

by Steven Young at SYoung@rrumc.org

Crossroads Youth Schedule for October

- 1 Crossroads 7:00-8:30pm
- 8 Crossroads/Common Grounds, 7:00-8:30pm
- 14 (Sat.) Event: Ramseyer Farms, 12:00-4:00pm
- 15 Crossroads, 7:00-8:30pm
- 22 Crossroads, 7:00-8:30pm
- 29 No Crossroads



Ramseyer Farms

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 12:00-4:00PM

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join the youth group as we travel down to Ramseyer Farms (4000 Ramseyer Lane, Wooster, OH 44691). We will leave from

the church at 12:00pm. Come on down to the farm and enjoy the day exploring, racing, sliding, jumping, playing, and making memories with over 50 fun activities for all ages. Space is limited. Cost is \$20 per person. Email Steven Young at syoung@rrumc.org to sign-up.

Common Ground - a New Youth Program

Common Ground is a new program in the youth ministry that aims to foster a sense of community and belonging among middle school and high school students. Once a month, the students will split up into groups based on their grade level and engage in fun activities, meaningful discussions, and inspiring talks about issues that they can have among their peers. It will be during Crossroads hours, 7:00-8:30pm. Common Grounds' meetings are scheduled for October 8, November 12, and December 10 of 2023 and on January 14, February 18, March 10, and April 14 of 2024.



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Join us on Thursday, October 19, at 10:00am at the church as we discuss "The Prayer Box" by Lisa Wingate. 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.

Hello October

NATIONAL ESTATE PLANNING AWARENESS WEEK

by Lisa P. Sierk, Director of Endowment Ministries

lsierk@rrumc.org or 216.926.1702

There are many days, weeks, or months that highlight something different. Let's take a moment to look at the 2023 National Estate Planning Awareness Week, October 16-22.

Have you been meaning to create or update your estate plans? Cross this item off your list! You can protect your future - and the future of your loved ones - by assuring your plans are in place.



This October, National Estate Planning Awareness Week provides a moment when we are encouraged to plan ahead and protect our loved ones by creating an estate plan. In addition to protecting those you love, I want to share one powerful way you can support Rocky River United Methodist Church in your estate plans that will cost you nothing during your lifetime - making a gift in your will. It's an important way to secure the work of our church for years to come and allows you to create a legacy for our amazing church, a mission that is close to your heart.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and learn how you meet Jesus Christ in the midst of your story!

lisa



LGBTQA+ SUPPORT GROUP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

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, October 26, 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.

PRAY LIKE JESUS

by Dave Huller, Lay Leader

The Lord's Prayer, when spoken thoughtfully, places our focus on the first member of the Triune God, God the Father. In his introduction to the prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, "Jesus clearly draws a contrast between the superficial, boastful spirituality of the Pharisees and the kind of humble spirituality he was trying to model for his followers." - Don Underwood, Pray Like Jesus – Rediscovering the Lord's Prayer.

In Matthew 6:5-8, Jesus specifically instructs his disciples, "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

The next time you recite the Lord's Prayer, ponder the first words, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." Allow yourself to be "immersed in this image of a transcendent God who has the power to breathe life into the universe and into each and every human being, a God who cares for us and our loved ones more deeply than we can imagine." - Don Underwood, Pray Like Jesus – Rediscovering the Lord's Prayer. Each of us were placed on this earth by a loving God and were a gift to our parents just as our children are gifts to us from "Our father who art in heaven!"

"The first phrase of the Lord's Prayer serves as an antidote to our selfie world. It reminds us of a powerful and transcendent and creative God in whose presence we feel small. It places us spiritually on our knees. It encourages us to adopt the spirit of appropriate humility. Every single day each of us makes a decision, either consciously or unconsciously: will this day belong to me, or will it belong to God? Will it be a selfie day or God's day? Will I live solely for myself, or will I live as a grateful servant of the one who created me? Meditating for a few minutes on the phrase, "Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" can help us to feel appropriately small in the presence of a big God and to begin our day more faithfully." - Don Underwood, Pray Like Jesus – Rediscovering the Lord's Prayer.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

by *Quinn Bennett* at QBennett@rrumc.org



TABLES AND TREATS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Sign Up to Volunteer Today

Sign up to decorate a table for Tables and Treats on Saturday, October 21, from 6:00-8:00pm.

Arrive by 5:00pm on Saturday to get your table decorated and ready for the night. Tables can be as simple or elaborate as you want. Best table will get their name on the plaque and bragging rights for the year. If interested; fill out the sheet below or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084BADAE2CA6FA7-tables1> to sign up. Thank you for all your help in making this happen. Any questions, contact Quinn Bennett at qbennett@rrumc.org.

You're Invited to Tables and Treats - Spread the Word!

Tables and Treats will be on Saturday, October 21, from 6:00-8:00pm. Please bring your children and/or grandchildren and invite their friends and families to come as well. See you then!

ROCKY RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRESENTS

TABLES AND TREATS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2023

6 PM - 8 PM

**RAIN OR SHINE BECAUSE WE ARE
INSIDE!**

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO
PARTICIPATE!**

Interested in Decorating a Table ???

Here's what you need to do.

- Decorate your card table (family friendly please)
- Supply and pass out candy (400 pcs)

Arrive by 5pm to get your table decorated and ready for the night!

Name on the plaque for Best Table!

Space is limited – register your table today by emailing Quinn Bennett at qbennett@rrumc.org or fill out the form below and return it to the church office.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

.....
Name

Email

Phone Number



Membership Class

Come and learn about
our Church

STORY CONNECTION (MEMBERSHIP) CLASSES

SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, & 22

Interested in learning more about the mission and ministries of RRUMC? Ready to consider church membership? Story Connection (Membership) Classes will be held on Sundays, October 1, 8, 15, & 22, from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Please contact the church office at office@rrumc.org or 440.331.7676 to sign up. Questions? Contact Pastor Paul Bennett at pbennett@rrumc.org.

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 September 20, 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 November Circuit Rider:
Wednesday, October 11, 2023

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

REMEMBER THESE LATE SEPTEMBER DATES

Sept. 20 - TAZA Dine to Donate TBFS Fundraiser
Sept. 21 - Book Club
Sept. 23 - Guardians Game (Youth Activity)
Sept. 24 - Moll Society Meet & Greet
Sept. 26 - Explore the Bible (Marriage)
Sept. 27 - Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study
Sept. 28 - Lydia Circle (UMW)
Sept. 28 - LGBTQA+ Support Group
Sept. 29 thru Oct. 1 - Men's Adventure Weekend

SAVE THESE OCTOBER DATES

Oct. 1 - World Communion Sunday & Bible Sunday
Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Open Gym Basketball
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 - Crossroads Youth & Confirmation Class
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 - Story Connection (Membership) Class
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Disciple IV Bible Study
Oct. 1, 15, 22, 29 (rehearse); Oct. 8 (play) - Joyful Sounds Handbell Choir
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 29 (rehearse); Oct. 22 (play) - Fuller Sounds Handbell Choir
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Women's Fellowship Group*
Oct 2, 23, 30 - Disciple I Bible Study
Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Men's Prayer Group

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Explore the Bible (Marriage)
Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - LIFT Bible Study
Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Wed. Morning Women's Bible Study
Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Thursday Morning Breakfast Group
Oct 5, 12, 26 - Genesis to Revelation Bible Study
Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 - Harbor Worship Rehearsal
Oct. 8 - Gifts of Music Concert
Oct. 10 - Cleveland Food Bank Volunteering
Oct. 12 - Shawl Ministry
Oct. 19 - Book Club
Oct. 21 - Tables and Treats
Oct. 24 - RiverMen
Oct. 26 - Lydia Circle (UMW)
Oct. 26 - LGBTQA+ Support Group*
Oct. 29 - All Saint's Sunday

**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