

"The Messenger"

June 2019
Volume 33.6

St. John's United Church of Christ

St. John's United Church of Christ is a diverse community forming a united congregation, seeking to grow our faith, share it with others, and serve God's people wherever the need is present. We are living God's love and all are invited!!!

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Richmond, Virginia 23220

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Pastor

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Greetings All! June is upon us, for me personally I am already trying to think about how to get everything in I need to. Sandy and I are buying a house on June 7th and moving in as well as the wedding on July 7th. If you have somehow missed it let me share again with you our invitation to share in our wedding during the 10 am service on July 7th followed

by a coffee hour reception. A nice part of doing it during church is all are welcome and no invitations. My friend, The Rev. Ann Holmes will come and be our guest preacher as well as officiant that day. But before we get to July, we have an awesome June to get through. June 2nd we will Celebrate the 7th Sunday of Easter with Communion and the Baptism of Grayson Wyatt Agee, David and Marcie's grandson.

June 9th The Rev. Freeman L. Palmer our new conference minister will come to be with us and preach for our Pentecost celebration. **PLEASE WEAR RED.** This is the day we celebrate the Birthday of the church when the disciples were called to go out and be apostles living and teaching as Jesus did.

June 16th we will begin our new preaching series on the Outsiders with focus on the lonely and grieving.

June 23rd our service will include a baptism as we continue our series on the outsider.

June 30th we will explore Homelessness as a form of being an outsider.

In the meantime, this June we will also be taking the UCC offering to Strengthen the Church on June 9th the birthday of the church and on June 16th. We will collect to help with disaster relief through the disaster ministries of the UCC the remaining Sundays in June. The trustees will be getting quotes for repairing the AC and Heat or HVAC as well as other repairs. The council will lead us through our election for new council members and installation on **June 16** and the worship committee with Shirley will be planning for our summer music.

Like the disciples, we are also called in the season of Pentecost to get out there and be disciples, but I actually know many of you are already doing your mission and ministry in many places, so this month I would like to get information about the places you do ministry at a soup kitchen, or with refugees, at one of the places of mission we support where you spend time or a new place we should know about. Copies of the survey will be in this newsletter and available in the church. We are doing this so if others are interested in joining you in doing ministry, they know who can point them in the right direction.

Onto the season of the Spirit,

Pastor Linda



CALL TO THE CONGREGATION MEETING JUNE 16TH

In accordance with St. John's By-Laws, the Church Council calls you to attend a Congregational Meeting after church on Sunday, June 16th for the purpose of Electing Council Members, Trustees and Endowment Board Members, to approve the Dominion Power Right of Way and other items as deemed necessary. Please mark this date on your calendar.

The following new individuals will be voted on:

Nominated for re-election to the Endowment Board 3 Year Term and to join the Trustee Board

Jeff Hetzer is a lifelong member of St Johns currently serving on the Finance Committee, Endowment Board and a supporting role on the church Renovation Committee. Jeff has previously served on Church Council and the Board of Trustees. Jeff's wife is Lynn Snyder, an active member of St John's. During his working career which spanned 40 plus years, he provided service in the areas of management, operations and productivity improvement, and technical contract development. He earned an undergraduate degree in Urban Planning from Virginia Tech and has a Masters in Business from VCU.

Nominated for re-election to the Endowment Board 3-year Term

Don Stiegler has been a member of St. John's since 1959. He has served in many capacities; as a Church Council member, a member of the Endowment Board for 15 plus years, on the Finance Committee, as a Trustee, an Usher, on the Membership Committee and as the Sunday School Superintendent for 17 years. Don is retired from DuPont and is married to Beth.

Nominated for re-election to the Endowment Board 3 year Term

Helen Bunch has been a member of St. John's for over 50 years. She has served as an Altar Guild, Teller and was very active with The Fellowship Ministry. She also volunteered her time in helping with many church functions like the German Dinner, and the Arts, Crafts and Books Bazaar. She was formerly a Department Manager for a Controls company. She loved to play golf and makes flower arrangements with Ikebana of Richmond and still remains very active in the community.

Nominated to serve on Church Council

Daniel Martin has been a member of St. John's since 2015 and has served previously as a Teller at St. John's. He and his wife Jennifer have lived in Richmond since July 2014. They are originally from Cleveland, Tennessee. Daniel is a teacher and now works at Family Priority LLC. Daniel and his wife have two boys, Donovan and Henry, who are active in St. John's Children's program.

Trustees' Update

The Trustees, working with the other members of the Renovation Committee, have awarded a contract to Dunlap Engineering to design and prepare a bid solicitation for a new HVAC system for the church. Based on current timeline estimates, we hope to have the new system operational this fall in time for the winter heating season. We are also soliciting bids to replace and/or upgrade the mechanism for the elevator, repair roof leaks, repair the doors on the Lombardy Street entrance, and fix the broken concrete on the church sidewalk. Everyone is reminded that money was budgeted from the parking lot sale proceeds for new member outreach and development, and everyone is encouraged to share their ideas on how to pursue those goals with the Trustees or members of Church Council.

Dominion Power Right-of-Way Approval at Annual Meeting

People may have noticed that there is a new utility pole in the alley behind the church, next to the small parking area by the back door. Dominion Power needs to use a small "slice" of the parking area to anchor a guide wire for the pole, and so at the Annual Meeting the Trustees will offer a motion for Congregational consideration to grant Dominion a right-of-way for this purpose. Please contact Jeff Jacobs if you have any questions or concerns about this.



You will find in your bulletins over the next few weeks a survey St. John's would like you to participate in. We are asking that surveys be turned into the church office by the June 16th Congregational Meeting. We are asking the following:

I volunteer at: _____

I do ministry through my work at _____
where I _____

I am passionate about: _____



Church Council met for the monthly meeting on Monday, May 13, 2019.

Announcements: A Congregational Meeting will be called to elect and install members of Council, Audit Committee, and Trustees, and adopt a resolution for the Dominion Power right-of-way. The meeting will be held on Sunday, June 16, 2019.

Daniel Martin agreed to join Church Council. Scott agreed to continue to chair Congregational Life and Care. Betsy will be Vice President. A Treasurer and Secretary are needed. Messenger deadline is May 23.

Finance: Finance report was received the afternoon of the meeting so the committee was unable to review prior to the meeting. Council will need to define an appropriate way to use bequeathed money to honor Helen Karnap, June Sullen, and Fritz and Betty Will. Suggestions are: renovate women's restrooms, replace covering on stain glass windows, renovate upstairs kitchen, renovate lift, refurbish parlor, update room at Stuart Circle entrance, replace doors.

Restoration Committee: Signed contract with engineering firm. It is not feasible to separate repair/replacement of air handler from total job. Three potential contractors will receive the bid package for HVAC; bid package will be available mid-July. If all goes as planned, the current timeline will be: bid package available mid-July, contract in place by September 1, with installation of HVAC completed by mid-October. We are currently receiving bids for elevator motor replacement; received estimates for roof leaks and repair ceiling of second floor. The Worker's Comp audit resulted in a slight premium increase.

General Items:

A Pastoral Relations Committee will be formed to help Senior Pastor and congregation communicate effectively. Jeff Hetzer, Marcie Agee, Betsy Bighinatti, Chris Wing, and Dreama Terrill met to discuss the process to form committee and determined that a Senior Pastor job description is needed. The committee will consist of the pastor, a person selected by the pastor, a council member, and a congregation member.

As there is no Administrative Committee, and no one acting as Human Resources, the Executive Committee will take on the Admin Committee role.

Committee Updates:

- **Mission and Outreach:** Thirteen people from St. John's joined with Comfort Cases to pack bags. St. John's purchased over \$600 worth of items to supplement the items we collected. The Mission for the first two Sundays of June will be Strengthen the Church and the last three weeks will be UCC Disaster Relief. The July mission is Circle Center.
- **Worship and Music:** Discussed the music during worship.
- **Congregational Life and Care:** Faith Night at the Diamond is August 1. It was suggested that the committee follow up with visitors and touch base with people who leave St. John's.
- **Pastor's Report:** See Report. Council disagrees with the suggestion that a Discernment Committee should be formed and feels this is an Association duty.

Motions:

Minutes – April 8, 2019 approved as corrected.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



WE HAVE CHOSEN TO ACT ON THE BELIEF the Church is most like the Church when it is rooted in the gospel, remembering the worship in the sanctuary and present in the streets, the City Council chambers, the State House and the places of power witnessing to the message of Love and Justice. Your support of our ministry emboldens, empowers and allows us to step out in faith. We are grateful

beyond words—both for the money and for the faith and prayers the money represents, without which we would not be able to do our work. Thanks be to G-d!

— Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel, Center for Sustainable Justice at Lyndale UCC

BELOVED OF GOD, GREETINGS!

Each Pentecost, we celebrate the church as we have known it, the church we are, and the church that we can be, together. We lean on the story of connecting across difference and listen to the languages of hope spoken in the name of God. We are so grateful to be connected with your church in covenant, each of us seeking to build a just world for all, leaning closer to the world that God imagines for our communities. One of the ways our covenant is lived out tangibly is through the Strengthen the Church offering!

Your past support of the Strengthen the Church offering is greatly appreciated. Through this offering, your congregation contributed to the continued expansion and revitalization of the United Church of Christ. As called for by the General Synod, 50 percent of your offering stays in your local conference, and 50 percent is sent to the national work of strengthening the church universal: through grants towards new church starts, inspiring youth and young adults into leadership, and equipping pastors for ministry in the 21st century.

Please join us in common mission, vision, and purpose by taking up the Strengthen the Church offering on June 9th, 2019! Your promotional materials are enclosed. Additional resources can be ordered through UCC Resources and found at www.ucc.org/stc. Also, on the back of this letter, we have printed a suggested timeline for sharing the offering with your members.

Thank you for your continued support of your local Conference, the national setting, and the body of Christ. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Owen, Development Strategist, at owenj@ucc.org or 216-736-2169.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Chris Davies
Team Leader
Faith Education, Innovation,
and Formation

Ms. Jacqueline Owen
Development Strategist
Office of Philanthropy, Technology,
Identity and Communication



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

UCC ALL CHURCH READ ~ Pulitzer Prize-winning author Matthew Desmond, winner of numerous awards for his book which chronicles the lives of several families in the poorest neighborhoods in Milwaukee, will be the keynote speaker at the United Church of Christ **General Synod 32** in June. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, a *New York Times* Bestseller, will also be the subject of the denomination's 2019 [All Church Read](#).

Evicted, based on years of embedded fieldwork and data, points to eviction as a root cause of poverty. Desmond's keynote address will take place in the same city as his book, on **Saturday, June 22** at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. UCC congregations throughout the country are encouraged to organize book discussion groups around *Evicted* in ways and at times that best suit them and participate in the All Church Read. Everyone is invited to register to attend General Synod to hear Matthew Desmond's keynote or tune in to the live stream and listen to his address as a group or on your own.

Call to General Synod 32 — Join us in Milwaukee!

I am officially calling all delegates, visitors, and friends of the United Church of Christ to join us in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the 32nd General Synod, **June 21-25, 2019!**

The 32nd General Synod promises to be an inspiring and engaging event in the life of the Church. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Matthew Desmond, professor of Sociology at Princeton University and Pulitzer Prize winner for the book, "*Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*."

We have inspiring preachers for the worship services. During Friday's Opening Worship Service, The Rev. Kaji Spellman Douša; Sunday's Community Worship Service, The Rev. Traci deVon Blackmon; Monday's Worship Service, The Rev. Sharon Mei-Shem MacArthur and for the Closing Worship Service, The Rev. Dr. Amy Butler.

We will also celebrate the ministries of retiring Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations, Co-executive of Global Ministries, The Rev. Dr. Jim Moos and Mr. Don Hart, President and Chief Investment Officer, United Church Funds.

We will re-elect the General Minister and President and elect a new Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations, Co-executive of Global Ministries.

I invite you to bring a spirit of love, of compassion, of openness and of hope with you. I look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee! Until then, let the light of the living Christ shine in and through you, and be known to all whom you meet along the way.

John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President



www.globalministries.org

April 2019

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Dear Friends,

...so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. Romans 1:12

Where do you find hope and encouragement? The Central Moravian Church in Nicaragua finds hope during a time of political and social unrest through their church community. Jeanette Salley, Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Nicaragua writes, *During this time of unrest in Nicaragua, the church continues to celebrate God's love. Only now, the Sunday evening service begins earlier at 3:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. The church continues to have Bible study on Wednesday, only now it begins in the morning instead of the evening in order to spend more time together in the renewal of the purpose for their ministry.*

Many of us find hope and encouragement through our church and our community in the same way. Through a pastor's message, a time of prayer, or hugs and words of support from loved ones, we are renewed. Today, international partners of Global Ministries extend a message of hope and demonstrate Christ's love to individuals and communities around the world, including ours, through prayers and ministries of presence and action.

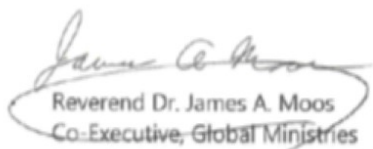
This summer at General Synod and General Assembly, Global Ministries will embark on the new 18-month **Southern Asia Initiative: *together in hope***. Global Ministries is grateful to be your connection to stay *together in hope* with individuals and communities in Southern Asia and around the world through the church partners of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Through partnership, we are encouraging one another's ministries. In a recent visit with the Christian Commission of Development in Bangladesh, the partners shared that it is the **presence** of Global Ministries that makes a difference, because Global Ministries is the only global church presence they have.

Together in hope, we extend support to global partners who empower girls and women through education. We work with partners who make strides to end human trafficking and who care for the environment through new and innovative projects.

Our gifts to Global Ministries are a way to demonstrate we are *together in hope* with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world. Now is the perfect time to give, so that all of God's people and creation share in God's abundant life for all. Please join us as we continue walking *together in hope*.



In Christ,


Reverend Dr. James A. Moos
Co-Executive, Global Ministries

Associate General Minister for Global Engagement
& Operations, United Church of Christ



Reverend Julia Brown Karimu
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
President, Division of Overseas Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Two Preaching Series This Summer!

June 16 - July 21 *"The Outsiders"*

Have you ever felt like a third wheel? Life on the outside of the "in crowd" can make it difficult to fit in, to feel "at home." Following the lectionary, with a little flex for my wedding weekend. We look at how in the Gospel of Luke Jesus' ministry with those on the so called "outside" are chronicled. What can we learn from these stories and Jesus' call to turn the inside out and the outside in?

- June 16- The Lonely
- June 23- The Tormented
- June 30- The Homeless
- July 14- The Neighbor
- July 21- The Traveler

July 28 - Sept 1 *"The Lord's Prayer"*

We pray it all the time, but do we stop to think about what we are actually asking of God? We look at the Lord's Prayer phrase by phrase, explore its meaning and focus on what a truly radical prayer it is. Each week we will also use a different version of the Lord's prayer to help us hear it. On September 1st we will bring our series to conclusion with a performance of the Lord's Prayer.

- July 28- Abba
- August 4- On Earth as it is in Heaven
- August 11- Give Us This Day
- August 18- As We Forgive
- August 25- Deliver US
- September 1- Do We Mean It?

JUNE 9TH 2019

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Mark Your Calendars!
 Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, Conference Minister of the UCC Central Atlantic Conference, will be our special guest preacher on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 10:00 am. Please keep watch for updated information

*Maldini's
Ristorante Italiano*

"The Fellowship" will meet for lunch on Thursday, June 13th at Maldini's Ristorante Italiano located at 4811 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, VA 23225. All are welcome to come. For additional information contact Lynda Merry @ 804-756-0270 or Beth Stiegler @ 804-272-3792.



Strengthen The Church is historically the UCC's Pentecost offering. As noted in the e-blast of May 23, this offering supports the expansion of ministries, growth of UCC local congregations and helps with new church start-ups. As we celebrate the birth of Christianity on June 9th, let us be as generous as we can to continue to support spreading the Good News in the world.

The Disaster Relief Fund Calls for \$200,000 in Donations, our June Mission. April and May have been very hard for the world, but thanks to your previous giving UCC Disaster Fund was able to respond.

April - Indonesia, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Hurricane Harvey work teams helping to restore damaged homes in Port Arthur, Texas

May - Cyclones causing the loss of 600 lives and hundreds of thousands displaced in Mozambique.

US Midwest, widespread and massive flooding following the 'bomb cyclone that drenched the area flooding placed with no history of floods.

The UCC has been there and continues to be a major contributor to the stability of the area. Anticipating more to come, the UCC Relief Fund needs your continued help. Use the blue and white mission envelopes in the pews or write Relief Fund on your check note line.



Mark Your Calendars Now! Congregational Life and Care is sponsoring "Faith Night" at the Diamond with the Richmond Flying Squirrels, being held on **Thursday, August 1st at 6:30 pm.** Come early for live music, pre-game dance performances and player testimonials. Enjoy fireworks from up close and inside the fences after the game. **Tickets are \$11.00** and may be purchased from Betsy Bighinatti. Tickets are limited so purchase them now to be sure you are included in the evening. Join us for a fun evening.

MUSIC FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

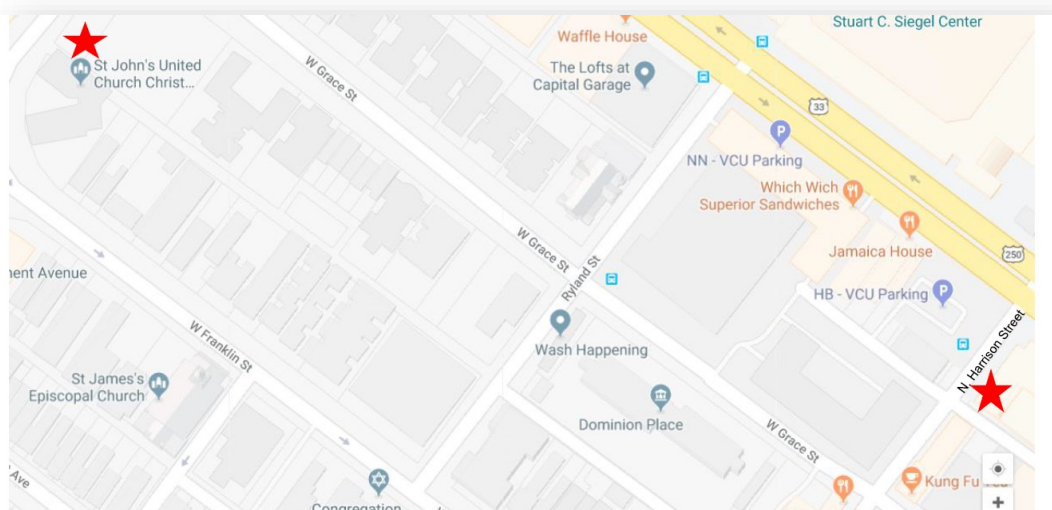
June 2nd
June 9th
June 16th
June 23rd

June 30th

Amazing Grace "My Chains Are Gon" Tony Sharpenstein
 Pentecost!!! "The Power of My Spirit" The Chancel Choir
 "Kumbaya" Daniel Martin, Guitarist
 "Thou Art With Me" Rob Osborn, Violinist; Gladys Quinanola, Soprano and Helena DeLigt, Alto
 "The Summons" (Will You Follow Me?) Chancel Ensemble with Soloists



Sunday parking is available at the VCU deck located at Broad and Harrison Streets. You will receive a ticket to access parking. Shuttle service is available one hour before service to transport members and guests from the parking lot to church and at the church following service and coffee hour. The bar code to use as you exit the parking lot, so you do not pay for parking, **is on the weekly bulletin cover**. Parking is also available on Sundays from 7 am to 2 pm on the island side of Monument Avenue. For more information, call the office at 358-9291.



St. Johns Church Shuttle

The vans will pick up at the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street and transport to the alley behind the church. **Shuttle service from parking structure to church begins at 9:00 am and will run until 10:15 am.**

After the church services are complete the shuttle will begin transporting the congregation from the alley behind the church back to the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street. **The return shuttle will begin at 11:30 am and run until 12:15.**



Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	June 2 Team 4	June 9 Team 4	June 16 Team 1	June 23 Team 1	June 30 Team 2
Welcome Team Leader	Helen Bunch	Helen Bunch	Richard Bighinatti	Richard Bighinatti	Lynn Snyder
Sound System	Jeff Michel	Jeff Michel	David Pittman	David Pittman	Will Atkinson
Tellers	Mark Souza Betsy Bighinatti				
Liturgist	Marcie Agee	Marcie Agee			
Facilities	Bud Higgins	Bud Higgins	Richard Bighinatti	Richard Bighinatti	Jeff Hetzer
Altar Guild	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Helen Bunch	
Fellowship Hosts	Betsy & Richard Bighinatti	Andrea & Rick		Charlie & Terri Weaver	Terrie Pendleton
Altar Flowers					

Teller Coordinator:
Bud Higgins
804-301-5059

Fellowship Host Coordinator:
Rev. Beverly Lindsey
804-275-7165



Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 am Worship Baptism "June Birthdays" Reception	3 5:30 pm Finance Team Meeting	4	5 7 pm Pastoral Relations Meeting	6 1:30 pm Music & Worship Meeting	7	8
9 10 am Worship Pentecost Sunday Rev. Freeman Palmer Guest Preacher	10 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	11	12	13 1 pm The Fellowship Luncheon @ Maldini's Ristorante	14	15
16 10 am Worship Call to the Congregation Mtg. Summer Preaching Series Begins	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10 am Worship Baptism	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 am Worship		<p>Missions:</p> <p>June 2nd and 9th Strengthen the Church June 16th, 23rd and 30th Disaster Relief</p>				

Happy Birthday
To Everyone
Born in June!

If you are celebrating a birthday
in the month of June,
please join us on Sunday June 2nd
in the Church Parlor for a
special coffee hour to honor you!

2	June Smyth	9	Phil Jones
4	Savannah Quick	13	Tony Sharpenstein
5	Georgia Pollard	19	Helen Bunch
6	Beth Oxenham	21	Thomas Pridgen
9	Peggy Ford	21	Ray White
		22	Matthew Walsh