

October 2019
Volume 33.10

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

503 Stuart Circle
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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804.358.9291

Rev. Linda Higgins
Pastor

Email:



office@stjohnsrichmond.org

Web Site:



Dear All,

Fall is coming, though today as I write this it seems hard to believe with the temp being in the 90s. I have always loved fall. I particularly love those moments of awe when a beautiful tree grabs me, or one single leaf amazes me with its beauty. In our busy lives sometimes, we miss those wonderful moments as we race from one thing to another. I encourage you to enjoy fall, when it gets here, see the beauty, enjoy and take in the wonder. I invite you to slow down and allow yourself to wonder, to be awe struck and to give thanks for all the wonder of life that surrounds you.

October in the church is also stewardship time. A time to plan for the coming year and how we will support the ministry of the church into the future as well as in 2020. Please plan to be with us for the stewardship breakfast and bring your pledge card to be dedicated during worship on October 20th. Also please plan to join us on November 3rd for the congregational meeting to discuss and vote on the budget.

Love and Prayers,

Pastor Linda

Linda Higgins



Mission Of The Month

Our October Mission of the Month:

ACTS – Area Congregations Together in Service

ACTS was founded by a core group of five Richmond area churches, including St. John's, who came together with an idea to combine, streamline, and coordinate prevention services for those who were just "one step away from homelessness" and who often showed up on congregations' doorsteps seeking help.

Today ACTS works in cooperation with more than 60 area congregations and other partner organizations throughout Richmond and the surrounding counties that refer families and hard-working individuals who for one reason or another find themselves unable to make ends meet. They are people who need financial and other assistance to get through their financial crisis and in many cases are not eligible for other financial resources. Often, they face the threat of eviction because of the situation they find themselves in. Trained case managers on the ACTS staff contact each referral and after an initial phone conversation will arrange a meeting with eligible clients during which their needs and solutions are discussed in depth.

In 2018 ACTS received 1,252 referrals and assisted 1,154 households.

Please join us during the service on October 13, when Billy Poarch, ACTS' Chief Executive Officer, will be with us to discuss its mission and activities.

We encourage you to support this vital organization. Checks should be made out to St. John's UCC, mark the memo line with ACTS. Cash should be put either into the pails on the 1st Sunday or into a blue mission envelope.



**World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering
October 6th**

John 13:34-35

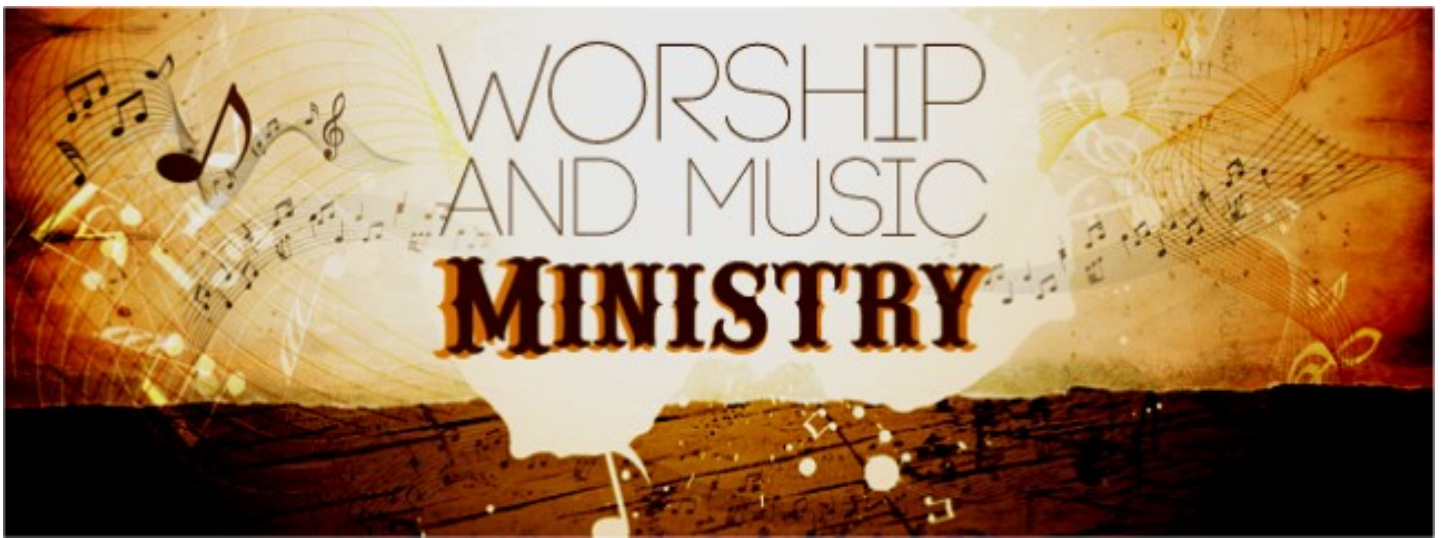
A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

When the rich young ruler asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan, a man who was scorned by the community for his beliefs yet it was this man who helped a stranger who was in peril and put him back on the road to recovery, at his own expense.

Our neighbors are everywhere, next door, around the block, down the road, and across the globe.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

We will be collecting the Neighbors in Need Offering on Sunday, October 6th. Please use the special envelopes available in your bulletin or indicate it on your regular offering the portion for Neighbors in Need.



We are so grateful to everyone who has volunteered to participate in some way to make our Sunday worship and fellowship time welcoming, meaningful and enjoyable. We thank the Welcome Teams, Altar Guild volunteers, sound and video technicians, choir members, liturgists, coffee hour hosts, those who have shared in a mission or stewardship moment and those who are “game” to take an extemporaneous role in a worship script. For those who may be new to the St. John’s Community, we want you to know that none of the above in that long list of ways to join in is closed to anyone. If you are unsure of where your talents or services are needed or how to join in the fun, speak to Beverly Lindsey or anyone you see doing something you think you could do.

Your Worship and Music Committee is in want of more people on our committee. According to the church by-laws, “the committee shall consist of not less than five (5) persons.” Well, we currently are a scant three plus Pastor Linda and Shirley Townsend. Some of our responsibilities include: evaluating the worship programs to ascertain if they are meeting the needs of the worshippers, working with the Pastor in developing worship services, evaluating the music programs, establishing a standard of quality for the church music, assisting in helping to plan special music programs/events. We are also responsible for enlisting people to participate in worship in the many varied ways mentioned in the first paragraph.

Yes, just the thought of sitting on a committee would probably drive most people screaming in terror from the invitation. Yet, if you have ever had a thought about or a memory of inspiring or creative worship, if you have ever experienced worship that truly touched your soul or awakened your mind or opened your heart, then God may be calling you to take a risk and join us and share how the Spirit has moved you. Worship is a quintessential part of our life together in Christ. It is way too important to leave to the oversight of just three people. You are needed. Besides, why should the Missions Committee have all the fun and all the volunteers?

As always, we urge you sign up to host a Coffee Hour or be a liturgist. The sign-up sheets are on the easel in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or concerns about either of those commitments, joining the Worship and Music committee or participating in any of the other aspects of worship, please call Rev. Beverly Lindsey at (804) 275-7165.

May you have a safe and blessed Autumn.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Fellowship Lunch October 10th

The monthly Fellowship Lunch will be held on October 10th at 1 pm, with a return to the popular Mosaic Restaurant, located in the River Road Shopping Center at 6229 River Road in Richmond. Please contact Beth Stiegler at (804) 272-3792 to reserve your place.

Finance Breakfast October 20th

Please plan to attend a breakfast sponsored by the Finance Committee before church on October 20th for a discussion of church finances and the proposed ministry plan/church budget for 2020. Feel free to contact members of the Finance Committee -- Betsy Bighinatti, Jeff Hetzer, Bud Higgins, Jeff Jacobs, Tony Sharpenstein, Don Stiegler, and Dreama Terrill -- if you have any questions, either beforehand or afterwards.

Call to Congregational Meeting November 3rd

The Church Council calls you to a Congregational Meeting after church on November 3rd to consider and vote on the proposed ministry plan/church budget for 2020 as well as to fill an open seat on the Church Council. All are invited to attend, but only church members may vote at the meeting. If you have any questions, or would like to consider serving on the Church Council, please contact Dreama Terrill.

Calling All History Buffs

As many of you know, last year St. John's celebrated its 175th anniversary, and we were able to assemble a wonderful display of pictures, memorabilia and artifacts to display during the celebration. With our upcoming renovation projects on the second floor, we need a team to help organize the contents of the church History Room so that its materials can be both usable and accessible. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jeff Jacobs at jwjacobs9@gmail.com.

Second Floor Clean-Up

Work on the installation of a new HVAC system and other renovation projects will be starting this fall, and before work can begin we will need to clean up (and clean out) a variety of materials on the second floor of the education/office wing of the church and a few other locations. We will be scheduling some clean-up days, both during the week and on a weekend, and would appreciate knowing who might be available to help out. We do intend to get assistance for the heavy lifting, so no church members' backs will be put at risk! If you are able to help, please contact Facilities Chair Richard Bighinatti at grandude42@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Drive Forward Virginia,
Saturday, October 5th**



**DRIVE VIRGINIA
FORWARD**

Join the Drive Virginia Forward coalition, including the Virginia Interfaith Center, in support of Driver's Licenses for All. Immigrants and allies will rally together at 1 p.m. at the Virginia State Capitol to call on our government officials to enact driving privileges for all.

**49th Annual Richmond CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, October 20, 2019**

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



It's that time of year again to engage our soles and souls in the rewarding labor of love to raise money and awareness to end hunger in Richmond and around the world. Many of you have walked the walk or donated in years past and we hope you will join the walkers for the St. John's Team this year or sponsor a walker. The more people we have walking, the more attention we draw to the need and the solutions. Besides, it is fun and a beautiful time of year for a leisurely, relatively short walk.

Please read the FACT SHEET below. Go to the CROP website – www.crophungerwalk.org/richmondva - to register as a walker or to donate. If you have registered in the past, you should be able to login using your same email and password. Otherwise, you can register as a new walker by clicking the "Register" box and filling out the info. You will want to then join the **St. John's Team**.

If you are unable to register to walk or donate online, please contact Team Captain, Beverly Lindsey for walk information and materials: revbevlinndsey@gmail.com or (804) 275-7165.
Let's be "a great cloud of witnesses" on October 20th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Women's Retreat
October 25th – 27th**



This year's Women's Retreat will be held October 25-27 at Kiptopeke State Park. This is a wonderful opportunity to have moments of fellowship and spiritual growth. Anyone interested in attending this year's Women's Retreat should fill out an application or contact Helena DeLigt at 804-484-4316 or hdeligt@comcast.net.

**RISC Community Problems Assembly
Monday, October 28th**



What community problems will RISC tackle next? Your votes decide!

Join us at the 2019 Community Problems Assembly as we hear personal stories of concerns shared across the Richmond region during our listening process, then VOTE* on the next community problem to address together with the power of organized people!

Plus:

- Hear the latest success stories from our work in elementary reading and healthcare job training.
- Find out how to get involved in RISC this year.
- Celebrate outstanding RISC leaders and new member congregations.

*Note: In order to vote, you must be a network member in a RISC member congregation for the current year. Network membership includes a commitment to bring at least three people to the Nehemiah Action Assembly in 2020, and attend 4 annual events to get informed, organized, and excited for the work of justice in our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2019 Potomac Association Fall Meeting Saturday, November 2nd

Save the date for this year's meeting. The theme is "Deepening Covenant."

Saturday; November 2, 2019

8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

945 G Street NW

Washington DC 20001

Museum of the Bible Trip Saturday, November 16th



First English Lutheran invites St. John's UCC to visit the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. The bus will depart at 8 a.m. and will return at 7 p.m. Once arriving, a guided tour is included that will focus on what there is to see on each floor. The museum has thousands of biblical artifacts and texts, one of the largest collections in the world. You will also have a rare opportunity to view a new exhibit, the Tapestry of Light: Intersections of Illuminations by Dr. Irene Barberis, artist. This immense 100-foot tapestry, shows six different images of St. John's Apocalypse as a means to convey hope in a troubled world. Incorporating nanotechnology, it is woven with luminescent, fluorescent, and phosphorescent fibers.

The cost is \$90 per person which includes bus transportation, admission to the Museum of the Bible and tour, and driver gratuity. Make checks payable to Signa Tours and mail them to Melissa Shaffer, which need to be received by **October 25th**. Please see the flyer, or call Melissa Shaffer, 703-216-2590 for complete information.

**Please Make Check Payable to SignaTours
and Mail to:**

Melissa Shaffer
10985 Founders Place
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
(804) 550-4727



Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	October 6 Team 1	October 13 Team 1	October 20 Team 2	October 27 Team 2
Welcome Team Leader	Richard Bighinatti	Richard Bighinatti	Lynn Snyder	Lynn Snyder
Sound System	David Pittman	David Pittman	Daniel Martin	David Martin
Tellers	Scott Siefert Tony Sharpenstein			
Liturgist		Kathy Friesse		
Facilities	Richard Bighinatti	Richard Bighinatti	Jeff Hetzer	Jeff Hetzer
Altar Guild	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Helen Bunch
Fellowship Hosts	Betsy and Richard Bighinatti	Andrea Miller and Rick Butler	Annie Blakey	
Altar Flowers			Elizabeth Burnette	

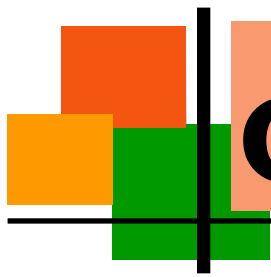
Teller Coordinator:
Bud Higgins
804-301-5059

Fellowship Host Coordinator:
Rev. Beverly Lindsey
804-239-2871

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



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!



OCTOBER 2019

Mission of the Month: ACTS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4 Annual Meeting CAC	5 Annual Meeting CAC
6 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Dinner Church Neighbors in Need Offering	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Dinner Church	14 Church Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19
20 Budget Breakfast 9 a.m. Stewardship Sunday 10 a.m.	21 Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting 1 p.m.	22	23	24 Music and Worship Committee Meeting 1 p.m.	25 Women's Retreat	26 Women's Retreat
27 10 a.m. Worship Women's Retreat	28	29	30	31		

**Please see Weekly Bulletins and E-Blasts
for Calendar Changes and Updates**



1	Chris Wing
3	JoAnn Jellison
6	Martha Cook
7	Mary Will
9	Rob Osborn
11	Anna Oxenham
19	Dorothy Cook
20	Sandy Higgins
21	Donovan Martin
22	Sarah Allen
23	Andy Trent
24	Fritz Will, III
24	Brittany Totty
26	Daniel Martin