



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

RICHMOND

First United Methodist Church Newsletter

BY: PASTOR SUNHWA

Grace is Sufficient

Hello, Richmond First! I am your pastor, Sunhwa.

Since I decided to become a pastor, the most common question I've been asked is, "What is your call story?" This story encompasses my relationship with God, how I came to faith, and how I answered His call to ministry. Over time, I have seen this question reflect how God's grace has shaped my life.

God's grace reached me before I even knew God. God loved me first. I am forgiven, and I have received salvation. Through God's grace, I continue to grow in my knowledge and love of God.

As I enter my fourth year of serving as a pastor, I cannot say it has become easier or better.

I recall my first sermon at a new church, titled "God's Grace is Sufficient." I still believe that my strength is perfected through God's grace. I am just as in need of God's grace now as I was when I began. I have come to understand more deeply that I could not fulfill this calling without God's grace. God's grace sustains me in times of doubt, weakness, and heartache. It keeps me in His calling and presence. I remind myself daily that God's grace is sufficient and that in my weakness, God's strength is made perfect.

Let's trust in God's grace to be sufficient in your life, our church, and throughout the world.



Important Dates

- 9/4-** Busy Hands 10am
- 9/5-** Leadership Board Meeting 7pm
- 9/6-** Vision Team Meeting 10am
- 9/8-** Joint Sunday Service at Trinity 10am
Good Old Days Parade/Hot Dogs
- 9/9-** Praise Group 6pm
- 9/11-** Busy Hands 10am
- 9/15-** Sunday Service 9:30am
Potato Sunday
UMM meet at Ken's Kitchen 8am
- 9/16-** Praise Group 6pm
- 9/18-** Busy Hands 10am
- 9/21-** Church Charge Conference 3pm
at Lake Orion UMC
- 9/22-** Sunday Service 9:30am
- 9/23-** Praise Group 6pm
- 9/25-** Busy Hands 10am
- 9/29-** Sunday Service 9:30am
- 9/30-** Praise Group 6pm

NOTES FROM YOUR LAY MEMBER



By Laura Pobanz

What's On My Mind These Days?

Did you know that before officials at the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco started using electronic tolling, drivers had to pay cash to cross the bridge. Sometimes, people found themselves at the toll booth without the money necessary to make the crossing. The drivers couldn't turn around because of the intense traffic. So, the toll booth operators came up with a solution. The driver could leave something of value and could redeem it the next day.

Over the years, drivers left such items as: a set of silverware, a new book, or a wedding band. One fellow left his dentures. Sometimes, the drivers, by choice or by forgetfulness, failed to redeem the items. In fact, one guy failed to redeem a diamond Rolex worth thousands of dollars. This caused one preacher to remark: "In order to get to the other side, they had to leave something behind."

This is a modern-day parable for our lives. In order to get to heaven (the other side), we have to leave something behind: our old selves. This is what the Bible means by crucifying our old lives of sin and turning ourselves wholly over to Jesus and God.

Galatians 2:20; "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



By: Donna Quick

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*Jesus said,
"Where two
or three
gather in
my name,
there I am
with them."*

*Matthew
18:20*

Most people have a favorite season, and each season brings a different kind of gathering. Fall 'gathers' us together... may we always include our Lord and Savior in our decisions. He will then strengthen us with His love and grace. Welcome to our Fall schedule!

We begin with 'Lunch at the Parsonage' with hostess Pastor Sunhwa on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 12:30pm. All women are invited! It is helpful to leave your RSVP with the church office or mention it to me. This time together always proves to be a blessing in strengthening our relationships!

We will, again be contributing to the Cass Community Schools 'Dress For Success' with cash donations.

October is the month we host a Baby Shower for the Macomb Co. Compassion Pregnancy Center. You may want to think about your gift as this time approaches.

AND, that brings us to November...Bazaar Month! See you at 'Busy Hands' every Wednesday 10-12! Be thinking about gathering 'White Elephant' items you may want to share, baked goods your known for... Especially to join in the fellowship and be strengthened in our relationships by being a part of the preparation and joy of sharing these offerings on Bazaar Day Nov. 9!

God bless 'U' and our 'Gathering'!

BAZAAR

By: Susan Foster

Busy Hands is busy making items for the Bazaar and looking for new ideas for things to make.

Have you seen anything you think we could make and sell? If so, take a picture or bring it to church to share the idea.

You are always WELCOME to stop by on Wednesday mornings from 10-12 to share ideas or just visit with us - have a cup a tea maybe a treat.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

By: Laura Pobanz

Each month we will asking church friends for one specific item to help stock our shelves and add variety. This month the requested product is Sloppy Joe sauce. Items can be dropped off at the church





The vision team will meet on September 6 at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Good Old Days Community Joint Worship will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on September 8 at 10am.



Church Charge Conference will be on Saturday, September 21 at Lake Orion UMC, 3pm.



There is now a sign-up sheet for Sunday coffee hour. You can bring a treat for Sunday Service.

If you would like to donate altar flowers from your garden or the store, there is a sign up sheet hanging in the back of the church by the picture frame.



If you have a prayer request, please fill out the yellow prayer request form and place it in the office on Sunday so they can be added to the weekly email on Monday. The Sunday bulletin is printed on Thursday morning so any requests after will not be able to be added until Monday weekly email, unless it's an emergency prayer of course!

OTHER

BACKPACK BLESSINGS



At the start of this month, we are serving 15 families. This number will grow with the beginning of the school year, and more families in need are identified. Many of the households are three generational as this is the only way they can make ends meet. This program blesses members of our community with healthy food to lessen the burden of today's grocery prices.

And just as we are a blessing to these families, we receive blessings in return. Recently, the Churchill Main music group played a concert for "Music On The Porch Day". A free will offering of \$306 was collected to support this ministry. A big thank you to all who were involved in this event!

We only deliver to those who do not have transportation and others pick-up each week on Wednesdays in the morning and late afternoon. While we receive most of our food through TEFAP (the emergency food assistance program) operated by the United States FDA and Macomb County, we still spend an average of \$100/week to ensure these families have food to offset their weekly budget. The food we give out each week is valued at \$100 per family and consists of frozen and canned meat, milk, eggs, bread and canned/boxed goods. Fresh food such as cheese, fruits and vegetables are provided when available from TEFAP or at a reasonable cost.

If you would like to volunteer with or donate to this great community wide outreach, please contact Laura Pobanz at (586) 727-2656.

KROGER

Last Quarter Total Donations Was \$55.35. Enter Richmond First United Methodist Church in the search button or our non-profit number AB956. Please let friends and family know so that they can register us as their non-profit organization also.



Music On The Porch



A large graphic of a treble clef and a musical staff, both composed of a dense pattern of small black musical notes. The staff extends from the bottom left towards the right.

Praise Team

Meets Mondays at 6pm

A colorful illustration of various craft supplies including jars of markers, a potted plant, a jar of scissors and buttons, a jar of paintbrushes, and a jar of glue. The items are arranged on a light blue surface against a white background with decorative sun-like patterns at the top.

Busy Hands
Wednesdays 10am

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3: Dale Quick
September 5: Amanda Ioco
September 9: Jean Breederland
September 13: Carl Merecki
September 20: Peggy Carroll
September 23: Nina Delcourt
September 24: Laura Pobanz
September 26: Greg Pilibosian
September 28: Maddison Quick



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 5, 2020:
Phil & Amanda Ioco

September 16, 1989:
David & Lindi Denny





We Are Praying For You!

- Joe Evans Family & Friends as Joe passed away
 - Elliot, 5 year old grandson of Susan Foster's co-worker, needs liver transplant
 - Scarlett, great niece of Ken and Darlene Kelly, neuro appointment goes well
 - Dredan McFall, Friend of Amanda loco, grand mal seizure
 - Ginny Foster, Susan Foster's sister-in-law, health concerns
 - Rick Pearsall, Patrick & Sandy McClellan's son-in-law, recovering from a bone marrow transplant
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- Those families with loved ones that have passed recently
 - Local and national leaders
 - Medical and health professionals
 - Service men and women
 - The students, teachers, and staff of the schools
 - Those seeking employment, housing, and everyday needs
 - The social unrest in our country

AUGUST FACTS & FIGURES



DATE	ATTENDANCE	GIVING TOTAL
August 4, 2024	41	\$2,760
August 11, 2024	31	\$1,345
August 18, 2024	37	\$688
August 25, 2024	44	\$1,648

August Giving Total: \$6,441
August Expenditures Total: \$9,562.53

CHURCH LEADERSHIP 2024-2025

CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Glenn Quick (2025)

LAY LEADER: Laura Pobanz (2024)
Habel, Derek (certified)

SPRC MEMBERS: Delcourt Mark (Chair, 2026)
Lyszczyk, Vicki (2025)
Kondek, Larry (2025)
Foster Amy (2026)

FINANCE TEAM: Livingston Tina (Chair)
Gutt, Christine (Treasurer)
Nieman, Sue (Financial Secretary)

TRUSTEES: Habel, Derek (Chair)
Light, Scott
Dickson, Jennifer

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Foster, Susan

NOMINATING: Pastor Sunhwa
Laura Pobanz
Foster, Susan



First United Methodist Church

Sunhwa Hopgood, Pastor

Office: (586) 727-2622

Office Hours:

Monday 10:30am-12:30pm

Tuesday 10:30am-12:30pm

Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm

Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm

Friday CLOSED