

**MAY NEWSLETTER 2025**

# ***RICHMOND***

**First United Methodist Church Newsletter**

BY: PASTOR SUNHWA

## Next Chapter!

“See, I am doing a new thing...” (Isaiah 43:19)

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

What a joy it was to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with all of you! This year marked my third Lenten season with you, and I am continually amazed by the spirit and dedication of this church. Every year, we’ve grown together—adding new expressions of faith, such as our Wednesday evening services, heartfelt weekly testimonies, powerful Good Friday reflections, and prayer.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this season meaningful—from preparing the Easter breakfast, to singing in the choir and Sunday School, to simply showing up with love and fellowship. You have made this journey truly joyful.

As we come out of Easter, I feel something stirring in our congregation. I see signs of growth, of readiness, of hopeful expectation. I believe God is leading us into our next chapter.

What does the next chapter look like?

### 1. Vision Casting & Strategic Planning

Now that trust has been built, it’s time to dream together. I believe God is calling us to discern a shared vision for the future of our church—through prayer, conversation, and listening to the Spirit.

### 2. Empowering Leadership

This is a time to develop committed leaders, nurture each other’s gifts, and step boldly into the ministries God is preparing for us.

### 3. Deepening Discipleship

We will continue to center our lives on worship, prayer, and growing in faith—together. Let us walk closely with Jesus and encourage one another on the journey.

### 4. Community Mission & Outreach

The love we share within our church is a gift—and now, we are ready to take that love into the world. Let’s serve our neighbors, build meaningful partnerships, and live out the gospel in action.

### 5. Sustainability & Legacy

We will think long-term: developing future leaders, caring for our financial health, and laying a strong foundation for the next generation.



## Important Dates

- 5/4-** Sunday Service 9:30am  
Holy Communion
- 5/5-** Praise Group 1:30pm
- 5/7-** Busy Hands 10am-12pm  
Young Adults Meeting 4pm
- 5/11-** Sunday Service 9:30am  
Potato Sunday
- 5/12-** Praise Group 1:30pm
- 5/14-** Busy Hands 10am-12pm  
UMW Gathering 12:30pm  
Young Adults Meeting 4pm
- 5/18-** Sunday Service 9:30am
- 5/19-** Praise Group 1pm
- 5/21-** Busy Hands 10am-12pm  
Young Adults Meeting 4pm
- 5/22-** Leadership Board Meeting 7pm
- 5/25-** Sunday Service 9:30am
- 5/26-** Memorial Day
- 5/28-** Busy Hands 10am-12pm  
Young Adults Meeting 4pm



# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



By: Donna Quick

“

***Like good  
stewards of the  
manifold grace  
of God, serve one  
another with  
whatever gift  
each of you has  
received.***

***1 Peter 4:10  
NRSV***

Our April meeting was enriched with a bit of nostalgia as we reviewed pictures from past occasions and looked over former celebrations and reminders of the mission causes we serve! We welcome all to our sisterhood that unites to meet for a cause. Busy Hands, every Wednesday, 10-12 we join in fellowship to prepare for our Annual Fundraiser, 'The Bazaar'! The second Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm we gather for a 'Regular Meeting'! The goal is to remind us of our Purpose with programming and fellowship focusing on our mission to women, children and youth. We invite you to join us as we... serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received! At our heart and in our soul, we are a faith-driven organization. Our beliefs bring us together, and our spirituality pushes us to do more! We hope you'll join us!

Remember: May 14 @ 12:30 Regular Meeting  
Every Wednesday 10-12N 'Busy Hands'

# BUSY HANDS



By: Susan Foster

We NEED YOU!! Plenty of jobs to do to help make items to sell at the Bazaar. Even more we need IDEAS for projects. Something you have or have seen that we can copy or what you would like to make. There are NO bad ideas.

Please join us for a time we can share and work on things. Always good conversation and some treats.





# WE ARE HIRING

Hello Church Family,

We are currently in pursuit of a new office administrator. Jen has graciously offered to continue to help us through this transition. She is now in the office on Saturday mornings only, and she is willing to help orient the next office administrator in this role. This would be a commitment of 6hrs/week in the church. If you are interested or are aware of someone searching for this type of position, please contact us either in person or via email.

Your Staff Parish Committee (SPRC)  
Amy Foster, Larry Kondek, Vicki Lyszczyk, &  
Amanda Ioco



*Confirmation Class will take place in May during the 9:30am worship service.*



*A weekly meeting for young adults and high school students starting at 4pm on April 30 and continuing through May on Wednesdays.*







*The Stewardship campaign committee meeting is coming up in May! The day and time will be announced soon.*

*John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."*





*New yellow connect cards have been printed. One side for prayer requests and the other side to update birthdays, addresses, anniversaries, etc. You can place them on the tithing plate or in the office.*

*If you would like to donate altar flowers there is a sign up sheet hanging in the back of the church by the picture frame.*



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



***PRAISE MEETS  
MONDAYS AT 1:30PM***



***VISION TEAM MEETS EVERY OTHER FRIDAY AT 10AM.***





# OTHER

## BACKPACK BLESSINGS



A big thank you to all who provided Jello and pudding this past month. This month we are requesting condiments of any kind: mustard, ketchup, salad dressing, etc.

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 \$55.16*** 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.





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# MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2: Amy Foster

Lily Yelencich

May 5: Kim Grose

May 7: Ben Kondek

May 8: Donna Quick

May 11: Christine Rowley

Mary Ann Rowley

Helga Wisswell

May 13: Amanda Brown

May 16: James Allen

May 17: Scott Light

May 18: Julia Hopgood

Lindi Denny

May 21: Noel Grose

Josiah Kondek

May 23: Ken Kelly

May 29: Carol Walters

Jennifer Dickson

May 30: Doug Logan



# MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 2:  
Joe & stacey Rowley





## *We Are Praying For You!*

- Funeral service information for David Allen Dibley, the son of our organist Joe Dibley, Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, May 17th at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Marine City. The family will receive visitors at the church prior to mass from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Following mass a luncheon will be held at the Algonac Lions Club. Arrangements by Young Funeral Home, China Twp.
- Ted Kondek, Larry Kondek's brother, recovery from surgery for oral cancer
- Rylie Jacques, our 2024 scholarship recipient, recovering from leg surgery
- Jim Summerer, Relative of Cecile Solden, health concerns
- Trevor Herm, health concerns
- Mark McKiernan, friend of the Quick Family, radiation
- Debbie Fuerstenau, battling cancer
- Rick Pearsall, Patrick & Sandy McClellan's son-in-law, health concerns
- 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



# APRIL FACTS & FIGURES



DATE	ATTENDANCE	GIVING TOTAL
April 6, 2025	56	\$5,869
April 13, 2025	55	\$3,089
April 20, 2025	87	\$1,015
April 27, 2025		

April Giving Total: \$ 9,773  
April Expenditures Total: \$11,856.85  
(Included in total \$3700 for Boiler work)

# ***CHURCH LEADERSHIP 2025***

***CHAIR OF COUNCIL: Glenn Quick (2025)***

***LAY LEADER: Laura Pobanz (conference only)***

***SPRC MEMBERS: Foster Amy (Chair, 2026)***  
***Lyszczyk, Vicki (2025)***  
***Kondek, Larry (2025)***  
***Ioco, Amanda***

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

***TRUSTEES: Habel, Derek (Chair)***  
***Light, Scott***

***MEMBERS AT LARGE: Foster, Susan***

***NOMINATING: Pastor Sunhwa***  
***Foster, Susan***



First United Methodist Church  
Sunhwa Hopgood, Pastor  
Office: (586) 727-2622