

THE MESSENGER

September 2022



LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Ramsey Saints,

In Psalm 28:1-2 David prays, "I pray to you, O Lord, my rock. Do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you are silent, I might as well give up and die. Listen to my prayer for mercy as I cry out to you for help, as I lift my hands toward your holy sanctuary."

I was recently reminded the power of hope that comes from believing in and trusting upon our God. David felt that if God was silent and not evident to David, that he would be better to give up and die than to live that way. I paused when I read that portion of David's prayer and asked myself, "Am I that dependent upon God's presence with me? Am I so connected to God and desirous of God that if I felt God was silent and not present, I would not want to live?" David's words are powerful in the depth of dependence upon God's presence that they represent.

So often we place our reliance, dependence and desire to exist in things and persons and not in our God; not placed in the God who loves us and longs for us. Wherever our reliance, our dependence and desires are placed is our God – or our god. Either in the one true God of the Old and New Testaments or in the god(s) we create for ourselves out of the things and persons God has placed in our lives. We may depend on, trust in and desire the things and persons God has given us rather than the Giver – God. The blessings of God to us – things and persons – are meant to bring joy and delight but not be our focus of worship. How easily we may shift our worship to the persons and things and take our worship away from the Source of those gifts.

The wonderful news of the gospel is that realigning the focus of our worship is only a prayer away. David exhibited that for us. So, we can join in with David's voice when we pray, "Listen to our prayer for mercy as we cry out to you for help, as we lift our hands toward your holy sanctuary."

With transforming hope,

Claudia

From a Pastoral Corner

"A single day in your courts
is better than a thousand anywhere else!" Psalm 84:10

Very soon, very soon, the school year begins. I am sure that both parents and children have already begun to make all the necessary arrangements. A new adventure is about to begin for some little ones who, full of fear and expectation, await that first day. And how nice it is to remember those first days of kindergarten, especially that first day when in their heads there are so many questions to ask and much to learn. I vividly remember my son's question that first day of school. While Gabriel and I waited together for the school bus, Gabriel, very worried, asked me, Mom, do I have to go to school many days? And I remember answering him, yes you have to go to school many days. Immediately, he answered me, but then I am not going to go to church anymore?

Oh the heart of a child! I think that the psalmist had that same feeling when expressing that one day is better in the house of the Lord than a thousand in any other place. If only we all had that same concern and that same feeling of both the psalmist and a child, everything would be different! It is my prayer that we all have that same feeling, that we always miss being in the house of God, being in communion with one another, cultivating and growing our relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ. Church, people of God, let us pray for each student and school staff in this new school year and for this new journey that as the church of Christ we continue to experience each new day. May the challenges and distractions of daily life not deprive us of being in the house of God. We pray,

Our Father in heaven, Emmanuel, God with us and Father of all old and new generations, we pray that your presence accompany each student and teacher ready to embark on this new journey. May the presence of the Holy Spirit be the faithful companion on the road. That from that first minute when the school bus drivers get on their buses to collect our most precious treasures, you are the one who shelters them with the same shadow of the omnipotent God. That when evil wants to infiltrate these schools, may your protection free them and may evil flee to the presence of the God of life. Thank you that in the name of Jesus we can declare this new school year as a year where the grace and mercy of the Most High God will once again abound.

Amen.



**FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON,
A TIME FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER HEAVEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our year goes from August to August and since 2021 - 2022 is finished, we would like to share a few things we have worked on and attended. One Annual Program we work on is the "Reading Program". A total of 96 books were read by our members and the categories were Spiritual Growth, Nurturing for Community, Leadership Development, and Racial Justice. Two members completed Plan 4 --- 20 books -- 2 per category. Our Conference Mission Encounter this year was "Who Can We Be Together"? --- Building Communities of Hope and Joy. This year's "Charter for Racial Justice" Program was "Mending Hearts for Racial Justice.". We heard from the creator and one of the artists of the Mending Walls Project RVA, Mr. Hamilton Glass. The Retreat for Women United in Faith, our Spiritual Life Retreat, was entitled "Blessed Wrestling" -- Who are we? These are just a few of the programs we attended throughout the year. We are sharing to let you all see a glimmer of what United Women in Faith do and are about. IT'S MISSION. It's about doing for others. We were a part of the Health Kits and Cleaning Buckets for Conference. We give of ourselves and our monies to missions; that is our purpose. We want to extend an invitation to all of the women in our church, or friends of our women to join us. Come to a meeting. Call Sue Newman, 271-0230 for more information. There is a lot to do, for all of us.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Do you know of someone that you would like to have share their musical gifts during the 10:00 am service? Do you know someone that likes to share their musical gifts at different churches? If so, please ask them if you can give their information and when they say, "Yes," please provide that information to the Director of Music at metzzo22@gmail.com.

The Ramsey Choir will be getting back together beginning the second Sunday in September. The choir will meet on Sunday mornings after service from 11:00 - 11:45 am in the Choir Room on the same level as the Sanctuary, and will look to sing once every other month and during cantatas. If you are interested, please let me know either by contacting the church office at admin@ramseymemorial.org or the Director of Music at metzzo22@gmail.com.



TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY

Ramsey Church us looking to add volunteers in the Technology ministry for our 10:00 am service. No experience is needed, training will be provided. You just need a desire to participate in service to God. The thought is that if we get enough in each area (sound, video, or camera) the volunteers would work one Sunday every 1-2 months. Please prayerfully consider serving in the Technology Ministry, and if you are interested, please let the church office at admin@ramseymemorial.org or our Director of Music at metzzo22@gmail.com.



The one thing I
ask of the Lord—
the thing I seek
most—
is to live in the
house of the Lord
all the days of my
life,
delighting in
the Lord's
perfections
and meditating
in his Temple.

Psalms 27:4



First Day of Fall

September 22,
2022 is the first
day of fall!



WELCOME TO THE THREE NOTCH'D DISTRICT

The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church is divided into districts of churches in geographical proximity to one another. Ramsey Church has been in the Richmond District for many decades. Beginning July 1, 2022, we are now a part of the Three Notch'd District.

You may say, "the WHAT?? District". The Three Notch'd District consists of the former Richmond District and Charlottesville District churches. Because of the merger of these two former districts, we needed a new name and Three Notch'd was chosen. Why? In the Richmond area, we have Three Chopt Road which merges with West Broad Street (US Route 250) in the far west end of Richmond. That same roadway is called Three Notch'd Road for most of the remainder of its path to Charlottesville and beyond. US Route 250 runs from the Richmond area to beyond Charlottesville, closely following the path of current Interstate 64. Back in the 1730's – almost 300 years ago – Route 250 was created as a roadway and the path was marked by three notches or chops in the trees lining the road. Hence a district named for the historical pathway that links many of the 139 churches now a part of the Three Notch'd District.

One other quick observation. Three notches/nails and a tree have a great significance to our lives – long before the trail through Virginia was formed. On a hillside outside Jerusalem 2,000 years ago three nails and a tree, with a God willing to die for us, changed our lives. We can hardly wait to see the lives that the Lord will change through the churches and her people on the new Three Notch'd District.



PLEASE ASK

In May Ramsey Church voted to change our governance structure to Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) beginning January 1, 2023. In the months ahead we will be laying the groundwork for this new structure and reconfiguring our current ways of governance. If you have questions about the process or the way it will work in 2023, please ask Pastor Claudia, Pastora Norma, Will Flynn (current Council Chair) or Tammy Howe, (current Lay Leader). We are blazing new trails and welcome your input and inquiries along the way.



RAMSEY REFRESH

Commentary on rebuilding the temple by Solomon 1 Chronicles 24:1:

"... But order and structure can free us to respond to God. Order brings glory to God as we experience the joy, freedom and calm that come when we have wisely prepared in advance."

It has been over a year since this project began. If you have not had a chance to see the transformation in Room 100 (across from the computer room), please stop by. This refreshed room was the craft room for VBS and can serve as a meeting room for other groups (an example of preparing in advance). The entryway to the right of the Sanctuary has also been refreshed. The Worship room has been organized and items no longer used or functional have been removed.

In the Fall, the room beside the CLC kitchen will be organized as well as the Computer Room. If you would like to help with any of these projects, please contact Joan McGowan at 804-513-8540.



CHURCH WORK DAY

There will be a church work day on Saturday, October 1 from 9:00am to noon. Check the bulletin or a special announcement closer to October 1 for what projects we will be working on.



We would like to welcome Natalie Aguilar Vega to our staff as Director of Children and Youth Ministries! You can contact her at natalie.aguilarvega@gmail.com or 804-503-5330.



GIVING QR CODE

Scan the QR code above to be directed to our online giving resource!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

CAMILA AGUILAR	SEPTEMBER 2
WARREN SMITH	SEPTEMBER 11
ANGELINA VEGA	SEPTEMBER 11
NORMA AGUILAR	SEPTEMBER 12
JOYCE SPAIN	SEPTEMBER 12
PEGGY EARLY	SEPTEMBER 13
RANDALL SAYLES	SEPTEMBER 14
STEVEN ALVARADO	SEPTEMBER 16
DARRIN ROBINSON	SEPTEMBER 16
BETTY LOU BRAME	SEPTEMBER 18
CAROLINE KASTELBERG	SEPTEMBER 20
LAURA ROBINSON JANET	SEPTEMBER 21
WOOD	SEPTEMBER 21
DAVID BISSET	SEPTEMBER 22
DARLENE BROWN THOMAS	SEPTEMBER 24
LYNNE AHLES	SEPTEMBER 25
KASEY BEVILLE	SEPTEMBER 25
JONATHAN ORTIZ	SEPTEMBER 26
RALPH CONNER	SEPTEMBER 30
ERIN SHRADER-AMASON	SEPTEMBER 30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

PAUL & PAIGE AUSTIN	SEPTEMBER 7
STEVEN & PAT MEADOWS	SEPTEMBER 13
MICHAEL & KATHERINE WALSH	SEPTEMBER 19
JERRY & JANE CUMMINGS	SEPTEMBER 21
CICERO & HELEN GAINNER	SEPTEMBER 21
WILL & LYNN FLYNN	SEPTEMBER 26
HOWARD & SHERRY FOX	SEPTEMBER 26



September 2022

September 2022							October 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3
<div>4</div> <div>10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)</div> <div>10:30am Escuela Biblica</div> <div>11:00am Ignite (CLC)</div> <div>12:30pm Servicio de</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>6</div> <div>4:00pm Cap City (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship Hall)</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship)</div> <div>7:00pm YABS (Together rn)</div> <div>7:00pm Administrative</div>	<div>8</div> <div>8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)</div> <div>11:00am Thursday</div> <div>5:30pm Estudio Biblico</div> <div>6:00pm James River</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8:00am 55+ (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10:00am Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div>
<div>11</div> <div>10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)</div> <div>10:30am Escuela Biblica</div> <div>11:00am Ignite (CLC)</div> <div>12:30pm Servicio de</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>13</div> <div>4:00pm Cap City (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship)</div>	<div>14</div> <div>2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105)</div> <div>6:30pm Amateur Sports</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship)</div> <div>7:00pm Trustees</div>	<div>15</div> <div>8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)</div> <div>11:00am Thursday</div> <div>5:30pm Estudio Biblico</div> <div>6:00pm James River</div>	<div>16</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>17</div> <div>10:00am Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div>
<div>18</div> <div>10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)</div> <div>10:30am Escuela Biblica</div> <div>11:00am Ignite (CLC)</div> <div>12:30pm Servicio de</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>20</div> <div>4:00pm Cap City (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship)</div>	<div>21</div> <div>6:30pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship)</div> <div>7:00pm Finance</div>	<div>22</div> <div>8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)</div> <div>11:00am Thursday</div> <div>5:30pm Estudio Biblico</div> <div>6:00pm James River</div>	<div>23</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>24</div> <div>10:00am Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div>
<div>25</div> <div>10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)</div> <div>10:30am Escuela Biblica</div> <div>11:00am Ignite (CLC)</div> <div>12:30pm Servicio de</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>27</div> <div>4:00pm Cap City (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship)</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6:30pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)</div> <div>6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship)</div> <div>7:00pm SPPRC (ZOOM)</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)</div> <div>11:00am Thursday</div> <div>5:30pm Estudio Biblico</div> <div>6:00pm James River</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6:00pm James River Home School (cic)</div>	<div>Oct 1</div>