



On the Journey ...

This is a difficult time in our world. With the background of the Covid-19 Pandemic, actions in our country have again shown us that racism is alive in our world. The very visible deaths of multiple people of color in the last few weeks name that after all the work and protests through the years, our systems continue to perpetuate a belief that people of color have less value in our country. White Oak Pond seeks to be a place where all God's children are seen as valuable and made in the image of God regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, or abilities. Still, we know that this is not enough. The gospel call mandates that as followers of Jesus, we love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and that we love our neighbors as ourselves. This love is not a sentimental love that I just hold in my heart; it is an active love that is powered by the Spirit of God. How will we move forward with this love driving us as a congregation?



I believe that the first step is one of listening and reflecting. For far too long, voices of people of color have been pushed to the side or silenced. As people of faith, we must begin by listening. As one who has privilege in the world by my race, gender and socioeconomic status, I cannot know what the outcast feels. So it is my responsibility to listen with a compassionate intensity to their experience and value their voices. I must also listen to the God who speaks daily and calls me to reflect on the life with which I have been blessed. Condemning the voices of the oppressed for speaking, and using violence to silence them, is not the way of the faithful and it cannot be condoned.

The next step is repentance and grieving. Our world is hurting and we must stop to ask for forgiveness for our actions and inaction, and then to quiet ourselves and walk with others in their grief. Grief denied only finds other ways to come out, and there is a lot of grieving that needs to happen in this world. Remember strength is moving through the grief, not suppressing or denying that it is there.

Finally, when we listen, reflect, repent and grieve together it will be the time to rebuild together. I am a person of hope; I try and live each day looking to the possibilities ahead as we see the signs of God's grace along the way. It is hard today to see a way through this... The heartache and pain that I see and feel on a daily basis seems to keep my stomach knotted constantly. Still, I cannot deny the presence of God as I continue to see glimpses of beauty every day. I have seen a unity of support for those oppressed that I have not seen in a long time, and I have heard the voices of those who have seen dark times in their past share with me God's presence through those times. Children continue to show me a hope for a more compassionate future, because fear and hate are not born into children. These issues of pain, fear, hate and hopelessness are not new; they have been around as long as humans have walked the earth, and we cannot go back to a time that they did not exist. This time is another step on that journey, a very difficult one, but another step nonetheless. Will you commit with me to the hard work that lies ahead? God will go with us and God's hope will lead the way.

Agape,
Rev. Chad

Pond Office Email Address

office@pondchurch.org

If you are not receiving correspondence from the church, please contact the office to confirm your email address. Also, check your spam mailbox. It has been reported that church emails have been found there. If so, change the settings in your email to mark the church email address as not spam or move to the inbox.

Pond's Four Values

We value **ACCEPTANCE.**

We value **DIVERSITY.**

We value **RELEVANCE**
(In the Current World).

We value **FUN & ENJOYMENT.**

A Bedtime Story

by Jenn Barclay

It's gone the same way every night for the last few days. First the stalling, followed by book reading, followed by more stalling, the but-I-need-some-ice or the ever popular I-need-to-go-the-bathroom, even though she went right before we came upstairs, or Russ's favorite, but-I-forgot-to-give-Daddy-a-kiss. She almost always protests when it's time for the lights to go out, and if I draw on her back with my finger, she'll want to guess what I drew instead of relaxing quietly. "But it's hard to be still and quiet!" followed by my, "Yes, but you can do hard things." She tosses this way and that, holds her hand in the air, asks for a different stuffed animal.

But then it happens.

She turns her body towards mine. She rests her head on my chest. That's when I know.

Her body quiets, as do her words, and she stops resisting, stops the bedtime fight, and releases, right in my arms, with sleep soon following.

You may want to give me pointers and offer suggestions for how we could nip this sleep thing in the bud, but tonight I'd like to offer this suggestion to you – we are often like 5-year-olds trying to avoid bedtime. We will do anything and everything - distract, distance, defy, plug our ears and flail our arms - in an effort to avoid being still before God. I am talking to myself here, y'all. If I'm being honest, prayer is really, really hard for me; distraction is much easier than discipline, and I've got a million things - important and absolutely not - vying for my attention. But tonight I'm challenging myself to



turn, lay my head on the chest of the One who loves us, and relax into that eternal, ever-present Love. I hope if being still and quiet has been a struggle for you, too, you might be encouraged to know you're not alone and to give it a go, as well.

I don't know why it's so hard to do, but what I do know is that we, like Carissa, can do hard things, friends. Good night.

The End.

VIRTUAL VBS

Gifted Vacation Bible School

This summer we all know will be a different, that does not mean that we will have to miss out on the fun of VBS. Every Tuesday in June we will have a different adventure in faith and **your registration is vital in letting us know who will be participating.** The great thing about this VBS is that any child, any where, can participate

VBS Schedule on Tuesdays

10am Morning ringing of the chimes and Opening Livestream. Families can complete crafts and activities throughout the day.

7:30pm We will gather back together on Zoom to break down the day, share our adventures, and connect.

VBS Zoom Meeting ID: 835 2226 3678

Link to Our Youtube to watch Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbnJAxHriLP1hMS4kJxXSg/>

Gifted VBS Website

<https://sites.google.com/fccrichmond.com/gifted/home>



LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CHURCH!

The place is getting spruced up, inside and out!



We could use a little help and some extra sets of hands!

Let us know if you are willing and able to help out with mulching and planting some flowers.



Please contact Margery Baldwin at 859-582-5785 or Denise at the church, 859-623-6515.



This Month's Birthdays

Richard Taylor	June 1
Emma Wehrly	June 3
Parker Morrett	June 4
Christopher Evans	June 7
Pavel Dimitrov	June 8
Terry Hosler	June 12
Ron Terry	June 18
Andrew Evans	June 19
Carissa Barclay	June 23
Georgianna Wehrly	June 24
Rosanna David	June 25
Kenn Riley	June 26
Elizabeth Cecil	June 27
Brenda Stratman	June 27
Jane Long	June 28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

This Month's anniversaries



Chris & Jennifer Vest	June 8, 2019
Mike & Elizabeth Jackson	June 23

*Celebration of baby
Spencer Michael born
to Chris and Jenny Vest*



****Also on Tuesday's 3pm-7pm
starting June 2, 2020****



Prayer Request

Covid-19 Virus Friends and Family dealing with the illness, diagnosis and care, 100,000 deaths in the US

Frontline Workers

Poor and the economically hurting in the state and country
100,000 deaths in US

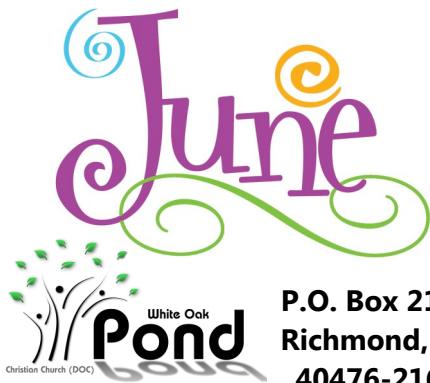
Violence and racism against our brothers and sisters of color
in this country

Daniel Oldaker - In Hospice Care, son of Lynne Oldaker

From the Treasurer...

MAY 2020 GIVING AND EXPENSES

	OPERATIONAL		MORTGAGE
OPERATIONAL INCOME	\$ 9,250.50	MORTGAGE GIVING	\$ 670.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSE	\$ 10,573.87	MORTGAGE EXPENSE	\$ 1,091.00
OPERATIONAL SHORTAGE	\$ (1,323.37)	MORTGAGE SURPLUS	\$ (421.00)



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Ms. Elizabeth Tapley

Nursery Attendant

Ms. Marcy Gagnon

Board Chair

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(859) 623-6515

Hours: Tu-F 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

June Upcoming Events

WORSHIP - continues virtually through

June ID: 475 475 310

Call in number: 312-626-6799

VBS - Every Tuesday in June at 10am and

7:30pm ID: 835 2226 3678

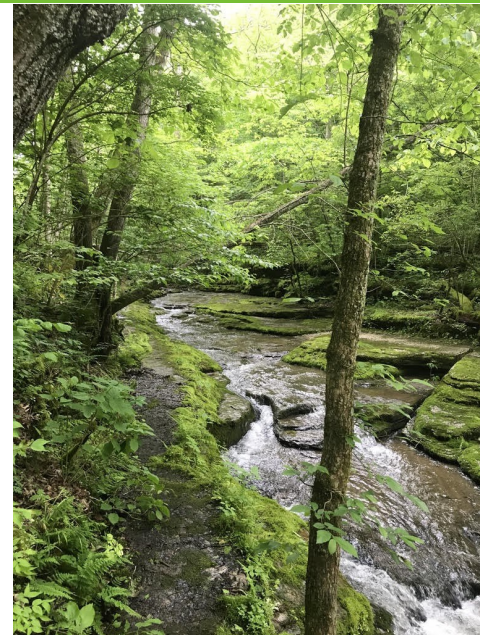
VIRTUAL LOGOS & LAGERS - Every

Wednesday, at 7pm

ID: 380 677 512

Pond YA after Dark - Wednesday, June 10 &

24, 2020 at 10pm - Our Young Adults will gather for intentional connections and faith conversations that seek to engage where they are in life. We hope it will be a space where our younger members can take a deep breath and refresh themselves during this difficult time. ID: 380 677 512



Pond Mission Statement

**“Accept One Person at a Time
to Christ’s Never-Ending Forgiving Love!”**