

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." - Galatians 2:20a*

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

by **Steven Young** at [SYoung@rrumc.org](mailto:SYoung@rrumc.org)

### Envelope Fundraiser / Youth Mission Trip

We are overwhelmed by the church's kindness and generosity through the youth mission trip envelope fundraiser. This church has made it possible for us to go on the youth mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With everyone's donations, we have raised over \$3,000 to serve the community and share the Gospel. A big thank you to everyone for being a part of this amazing journey with us. We appreciate everyone's support and prayers more than words can say!



### Congratulations 2023 High School Graduates!

You did it! You finished high school and are ready for new adventures. You have faced challenges and grown in faith and wisdom. You have been a blessing and a light to us and others. We are always here for you and we will pray for you and support you. We hope you will keep in touch with us and keep God in your life.



Name	High School	College (Major)
Gabriel Harmath	Rocky River	Ohio University (Business)
Charles Fadel	Rocky River	Ohio University (Journalism)
Jostahn Kuehner	St. Edwards	Ohio University
Yasmin Mayich	Rocky River	Cuyahoga Community College (Biology/Art)
Maxx Razor	Avon Lake	Entering the work force

### 2022-23 Confirmation

Congratulations to our 2022-23 confirmands: Alex Bogre, Nathan Bruwer, Emily Harry, Brooke Hogan, Gordon Hudson, Cody Kimmel, Cory Kraft, Bobby Lucas, Nicole Lucas, Miles Mayich, Nolan Overton, Luke Reitz, Jacob Revay, Ryan Revay, and Addison Schmeltzer. Please take a moment to welcome each of them as you see them on Sundays.



**Back row, L to R:** Nolan Overton, Gordon Hudson, Alex Bogre, Cory Kraft, Luke Reitz, Bobby Lucas.  
**Front row, L to R:** Emily Harry, Addison Schmeltzer, Nicole Lucas, Brooke Hogan.



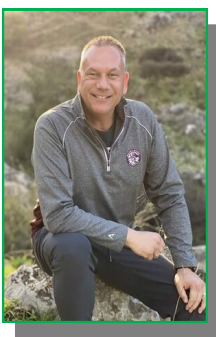
**L to R:** Ryan Revay, Jacob Revay, Nathan Bruwer, Miles Mayich, and Cody Kimmel.

### 2023-24 Confirmation

Next year's confirmation classes begin in the fall. Students going into 8th grade and above are eligible for confirmation. Email Steven Young at [syoung@rrumc.org](mailto:syoung@rrumc.org) to get more information about signing up.

## REFLECTIONS ...

by Rev. Daniel F. Bogre



Dear Friends and Family of RRUMC,

I wanted to take time in this article to celebrate a couple things that have happened recently in the church. There are many times that we are so busy working to help people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story, like our mission and vision states, that we forget to celebrate it when we accomplish it. On May 21, we confirmed 15 youth of our church. It was an incredible Confirmation Sunday. The first thing to celebrate is the simple fact that we had it. There are many United Methodist churches that have not had a confirmation class in years. I want to celebrate our youth director, Steven Young, and the incredible work he did again this year to bring those youth along in their faith so that they could claim Christ for themselves. A big thank you to Michael Parry as well, who was Steven's right-hand man throughout the entire confirmation year. Those two worked tirelessly to bring those youth to a point where they could answer the most important question a person will ever answer in their life. That question is, "Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?" All 15 answered, "I DO!" I thank God and celebrate the fact that those 15 teenagers are changed forever, and that answer means that they will truly know forever.

Their journey started all the way back at their baptism when their parents answered, "I Do!" to that exact same question. It was then incumbent upon the parents to teach their child about faith in Jesus, to live a life that modeled faith in Jesus, and to take them to RRUMC to see a church living out their faith in Jesus. I want to celebrate that in June we have three more babies being baptized. That means that three babies have now begun their journey that will hopefully lead them to their Confirmation Sunday 13 or so years from now when they will answer that question and claim Christ for themselves.

As a congregation, may we always take time to celebrate the fact that we not only have a mission and vision, which states, "It's all about the story. We exist to help people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story," but we are living into it wholly and completely. Those three babies and 15 confirmands are proof that Jesus Christ is still moving in the life of this congregation and changing the lives of the people within it. Please offer a prayer of thanksgiving this month for your church and the way Christ is alive and moving in and through it. Thank you, Lord!

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Dan



## Milestones

### July Anniversaries

(50 or more years and those in five-year increments)

7/3	Diane & Al Herstrum	58
7/11	Lynda & Richard Valentine	20
7/15	Janet & Gary Geddes	56
7/24	Theresia & Rustan Nugroho	20
7/25	Helen & Daren Stahl	25
7/26	Ann & Phil Ardussi	65

### Baptisms

Luke Phillip Reitz was baptized as part of confirmation on May 21.

Adrienne Scarlett Mazzella, daughter of Lisa & Adam Mazzella, on June 4; proud siblings are Connor, Devlin, and Sonora.

Heidi Anne Foss, daughter of Laura & Kyle Foss, on June 11; proud big sister is Hannah.

Emily Grace Suntala, daughter of Angela & Jon Suntala, on June 18.

### In Sympathy

Lisa Keifer and family, in the passing away of her father, Robert Dean, on May 26.

Family and friends of Mary Bruscino, who passed away on May 29.

Bethany Harry and family, in the passing away of her brother, Dan Patterson, on May 30.

### New Members

The following confirmands were received as new members on May 21, 2023:

Sanctuary Service: Alex Bogre, Emily Harry, Brooke Hogan, Gordon Hudson, Cory Kraft, Bobby Lucas, Nicole Lucas, Nolan Overton, Luke Reitz, and Addison Schmeltzer.

Harbor Service: Nathan Bruwer, Cody Kimmel, Miles Mayich, Jacob Revay, and Ryan Revay.

## 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY

The Church and Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4. Have a great 4th of July!





## SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVE-AWAY

**SUNDAYS, JULY 9, 16, 23, & 30**

The Mission/Outreach Committee is preparing for the school supply giveaway to support students, teachers, and schools in and around our Story Church campus for the 2023/2024 school year. Our goal is to impact the education of 200 students in elementary, middle, and high school. In addition, we hope to supply teachers and schools with needed supplies to enrich the educational experience.



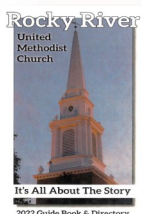
We will be collecting items from July 9-30. We will be taking collections through Amazon Wishlist and through in-person drop-offs at the church. Our goal is to distribute 200 backpacks this year through our Story Church location. Through the generosity of several of our members, we are off to a great start, but we are in need of supplies. Please look for additional information in the Sunday bulletins in the weeks ahead.

If you are interested in donating or volunteering for the event, please feel reach out to Emily Peplinski at: [emilypeplinski10@gmail.com](mailto:emilypeplinski10@gmail.com).

## CRUISIN' RIVER 2023

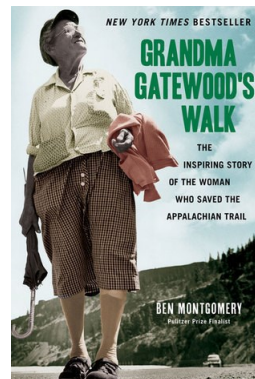
**WEDNESDAYS, JULY 12 & 26, AND AUGUST 9 & 23**

Classic car fun returns to the church parking lot on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of June, July, and August from 5:30-8:00pm. All makes, models, and years of cars and motorcycles are welcome, no entry fee! Food and beverages are available, there is music with a live DJ, as well as dash plaques and door prizes. ATTN: RRUMC YOUTH!! Great volunteer opportunity, have fun and bank some volunteer hours for the next school year or Confirmation/Crossroads/Mission Trip. For more information contact Steve Zayac at [Stephen.zayac@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.zayac@gmail.com) or 440.785.1489 or Michael Parry at [Mparry3638@gmail.com](mailto:Mparry3638@gmail.com) or 440.773.1301. You can also look at Facebook (rockyriverumc) or twitter (RR\_Harbor).



## GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY

Church members should have received their 2023 Guide Book and Directory in the US mail in May or June. It contains information on groups at RRUMC and a list of member contact information. If you didn't get your copy, we have a few extra in the Church Office.



## BOOK CLUB

**THURSDAY, JULY 20**

Join us on Thursday, July 20, at 10:00am at the church as we discuss "*Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail*" by Ben Montgomery. Questions? List of future books? Contact Bruce Biggin

at [brbiggin@netscape.net](mailto:brbiggin@netscape.net) or 216.221.5880. Always happy to see new faces, and regular attendance is not required.

## LGBTQA+ SUPPORT GROUP



**THURSDAY, JULY 27**

LGBTQA+ Support Group is a ministry of the Rocky River UMC which provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their friends and family to share their joys and concerns in a safe and confidential space. Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Thursday alternating every month on Zoom or in-person. **On Thursday, July 27, at 7:00pm, we'll meet in the choir room.** For more information and to get the Zoom link, please contact Mark Brandt at [brandt486@gmail.com](mailto:brandt486@gmail.com) or Rev. Laurie Bruce at [labruce83@gmail.com](mailto:labruce83@gmail.com).

## THANKYOUS

I extend my grateful thanks for all the prayers (that have been answered), visits, cards, support, and the beautifully knit prayer shawl. From a paralyzed left side and unable to speak or swallow I am doing well. I will do my best to live the quality life that has been extended to me. Blessings, Joyce Johnston

Dear RRUMC Congregation, We thank you for your contribution to the St. Matthew UMC Hot Meal H.O.P.E. Soup Kitchen. Your donation through your mission outreach ministry to feed the hungry enables us to continue this much needed program in the Hough Community. May God continue to bless you and your ministries in the community you serve. Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Sandra P. Beard, H.O.P.E Hot Meals  
Soup Kitchen and Monique M.  
Greenfield, Pastor



Thank you to the Backyard Ministry Team again. Roy McKinney and Kevin Hendryx painted my wooden fence that Mark Bacon and Roger Heidenreich rebuilt. - Twyla Sales



## HELLO FROM STORY CHURCH AND TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE!

by Lisa Thomas, TBFS Director, [LThomas@rrumc.org](mailto:LThomas@rrumc.org)



Hello from Twice Blessed Free Store and Story Church!! We have so much to celebrate and much to be thankful for!

Thank you to Quinn Bennett and the RRUMC Children's Ministry for providing 'Cookies in a Jar' to our shoppers here at TBFS! What a wonderful gift and what a fun project for all involved! Our shoppers LOVED them and were very grateful for the yummy cookie treat. Also, a HUGE heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Backyard Ministry and Armored Disciples MM members for coming out and painting the garage! What a difference a little coat of paint makes! It was a BIG job, but you made it look easy. Great job, gentlemen and thank you again for all your hard work.

Mark your calendars and get ready for an AMAZING transformation! Twice Blessed Free Store and Story Church will be CLOSED from June 24 - August 19 to undergo some much-needed updates. While we are closed for these eight weeks, we eagerly anticipate the installation of the first-floor bathroom, the carpeting of the mezzanine level on the third floor, and the flooring in the bistro area. Additionally, during this time, we will be obtaining estimates for two new murals that we intend to place within the church. We will be reorganizing and deep cleaning, restocking, and updating our computer system. And finally, our long awaited and much anticipated new sign will be placed out front letting our whole neighborhood know that we are STORY CHURCH!! So much is happening this month and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Take a look at our July calendar, it's loaded with lots of ways to get involved at our second campus this month. Hope to see you soon!

### July Calendar of Events Related to Story Church and Twice Blessed Free Store:

- Thursday, July 6, 5:00pm, at Story Church – SWAG Women's Ministry – A Taste of Summer – Bearing the fruit of the Spirit even when we go through the heat of summer.
- Monday, July 10 thru Thursday, July 13, 9:15am-4:00pm, drop off at RRUMC - TBFS Donation Drive - Items most needed are household items, linens and towels, pots and pans, and cookware. Please focus on summer clothing for this drive.
- Monday, July 10, 10:00 am, at RRUMC – Donation Sorting Tutorial
- Monday, July 10, 6:00pm, at RRUMC – Donation Sorting Tutorial
- Tuesday, July 11, 1:00pm, at Story Church - Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors
- Thursday, July 13, 5:00pm, at Story Church – SWAG Women's Ministry – Sink or Swim
- Saturday, July 15, 10:00 am, at Story Church – Prayer Walk – All are invited to walk and pray for our Cleveland neighborhood
- Monday, July 17, 10:00am, in Rocky River – Volunteers needed to transport donations from St. Chris to RRUMC. Please contact Lisa Thomas at [LThomas@rrumc.org](mailto:LThomas@rrumc.org) if you are able to help.
- Tuesday, July 18, 1:00 pm, at Story Church – Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors
- Thursday, July 20, 5:00pm, at Story Church – SWAG Woman's Ministry – When Life Gives You Lemons
- Saturday, July 22, 11:00am, at Story Church – Pastor Paul's Adventure Time Stories in the Grass with popsicles
- Tuesday, July 25, 1:00pm, at Story Church – Prayer and Conversation with the Pastors
- Thursday, July 27, 5:00pm, at Story Church – SWAG Woman's Ministry – Sand in Your Shoe



Story Church is located at 9900 Madison Avenue in Cleveland. RRUMC is located at 19414 Detroit Road in Rocky River. Questions can be directed to the TBFS Director, Lisa Thomas, at [LThomas@rrumc.org](mailto:LThomas@rrumc.org).

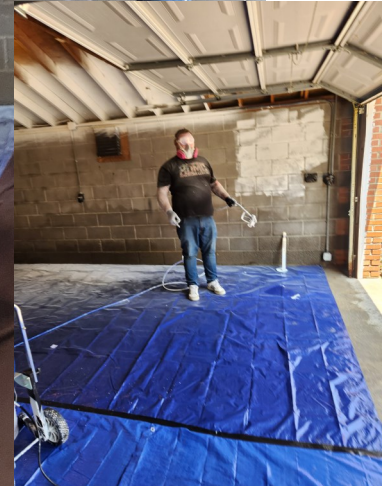
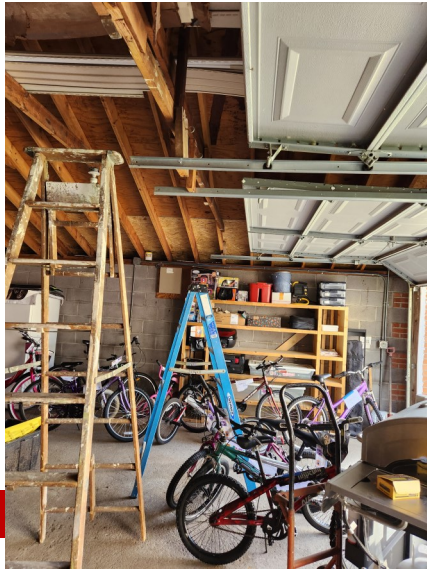


## STORY CHURCH GARAGE TRANSFORMATION

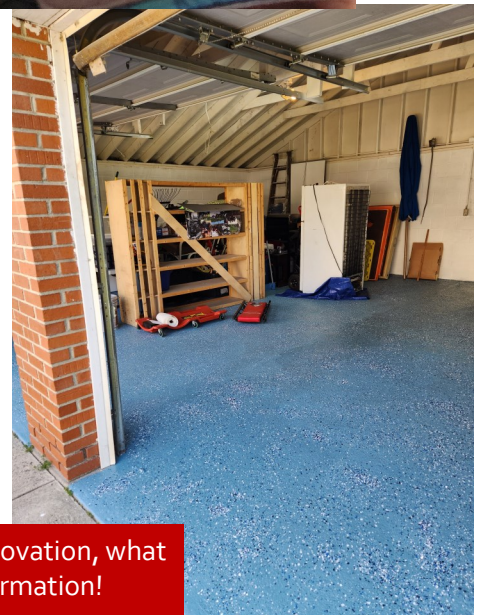
The Story Church garage has undergone a transformation which involved clean-up, then a degreased scrub, power wash, acid scrub, and 17 gallons of paint on the ceiling and walls and 3 more gallons of epoxy for the floor. The Backyard Missions (Mark Bacon, Kevin Hendryx, Herb Harpster, Gary Lanzen, Mark Parr, Jim Napier, and Roy McKinney) along with Frank Thomas and Mark Duvall from the Armored Disciple Motorcycle Ministry worked diligently on this project and accomplished this renovation over two weeks. Don Jones of our Link-Up Bike Ministry has been and will be storing bikes that are ready for pickup in the garage instead of in the welcome area of the Church so the Church can have a much nicer clean look. ADMM will be visioning what the space can be used for and the best way to organize while also making a spot for on-the-fly fixes that Link-Up may need to make instead of having to go all the way back to the shop. Thanks to all who helped in this project!



Before renovation



In process



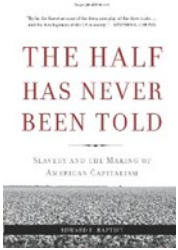
After renovation, what a transformation!



## JUNETEENTH NATIONAL HOLIDAY - BOOKS TO READ

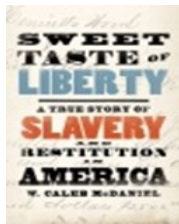
The following books related to the National Holiday Juneteenth have been donated to the church's Edith Wilson Library by the Cavicchi Christian Education Seminar.

### Books for adults:



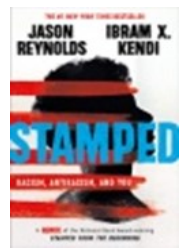
**"The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism" by Edward E. Baptist, 2014.**

The book reveals the alarming extent to which slavery shaped our country politically, morally, and most of all, economically. Until the Civil War, our chief form of innovation was slavery. Through forced migration and torture, slave owners extracted continual increases in efficiency from their slaves, giving the country a virtual monopoly on the production of cotton, a key raw material of the Industrial Revolution. The book offers not only a radical revision of the history of slavery but a disturbing new understanding of the origins of American power that compels listeners to reckon with the violence and subjugation at the root of American supremacy.



**"Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America" by W. Caleb McDaniel, 2019**

Henrietta Wood was born into slavery, but in 1848, she was taken to Cincinnati and legally freed. In 1855, however, a wealthy Kentucky businessman named Zebulon Ward, who colluded with Wood's employer, abducted Wood, and sold her back into bondage. She obtained her freedom a second time after the war and returned to Cincinnati, where she sued Ward for \$20,000 in damages--now known as reparations. In 1878, a Federal jury awarded her \$2,500.



**"Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America" by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, 2016**

The 2016 National Book Award winning history of how racist ideas were created, spread, and deeply rooted in American society. Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. He uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and legendary activist Angela Davis. As Kendi shows, racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred. They were created to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial inequities.



**"On Juneteenth" by Annette Gordon-Reed, 2021**

The essential, sweeping story of Juneteenth's integral importance to American history, as told by a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Texas native. Weaving together American history, dramatic family chronicle, and searing episodes of memoir, Annette Gordon-Reed's *On Juneteenth* provides a historian's view of the country's long road to Juneteenth, recounting both its origins in Texas and the enormous hardships that African-Americans have endured in the century since, from Reconstruction through Jim Crow and beyond.

### Books for Kids and Teenagers:



**"All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom" by Angela Johnson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, 2014**

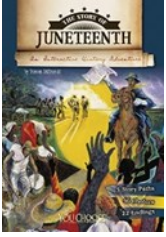
Through the eyes of one little girl, *All Different Now* tells the story of the first Juneteenth, the day freedom finally came to the last of the slaves in the South. Since then, the observance of June 19 as African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond. This stunning picture book includes notes from the author and illustrator, a timeline of important dates, and a glossary of relevant terms.



**"Juneteenth for Mazie" written and illustrated by Floyd Cooper, 2015**

Little Mazie wants the freedom to stay up late, but her father explains what freedom really means in the story of Juneteenth, and how her ancestors celebrated their true freedom.

Juneteenth books for kids and teenagers, continued:



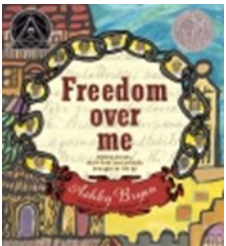
**"The Story of Juneteenth: An Interactive History Adventure" by Steven Otfinoski, 2015**

The Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War have brought an official end to slavery, yet some Southern slave owners are refusing to comply. The road to freedom is still long and hard for many African Americans, but you're not giving up. Will you: Overcome obstacles as you make your way north from Texas, looking to begin a new life of freedom? Seek out your family, from whom you were separated as a child, after emancipation? Fight back when you take work as an apprentice but find that you're still treated as a slave? YOU CHOOSE offers multiple perspectives on history, supporting Common Core reading standards and providing readers a front-row seat to the past.



**"Juneteenth Jamboree" by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Yvonne Buchanan, 2017**

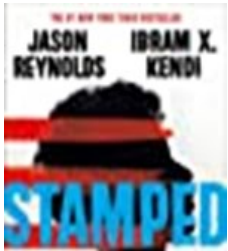
Joining her parents in a community celebration of Juneteenth, Cassie learns about the day when slaves in Texas were freed some two years after the Emancipation Proclamation and wonders why the news took so long to reach them.



**"Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life" by Ashley Bryan, 2016**

Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, Ashley Bryan offers a moving and powerful picture book that contrasts the monetary value of a person with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.

**Books for Teens and Adults:**



**"Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, 2021**

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning "Stamped from the Beginning" reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.

**Happy 4th of July!**



**Rocky River United Methodist Church**  
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Web: [www.rrumc.org](http://www.rrumc.org)

DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH  
Mailed June 21, 2023

### Ministry

Daniel F. Bogre, Senior Pastor  
Paul A. Bennett, Associate Pastor  
Sheri B. Swartz, Director of Church Ministries  
Quinn E. Bennett, Director of Children's Ministries  
Lisa P. Sierk, Director of Endowment Ministries  
Steven M. Young, Director of Youth Ministries  
Lisa Thomas, Twice Blessed Free Store Director  
Lynn K. Gorton, Faith Community Health Professional

### Music Ministry

Jeffrey A. Acker, Organist  
Matthew Dolan, Director of Music  
Carmen G. Massaro, and Lynn Young, Handbell Choirs  
Robert W. Kimmel, Harbor Worship Leader

### Mission Ministry

Dr. Belinda Forbes, Managua, Nicaragua

**Deadline for August Circuit Rider:**  
Wednesday, July 12, 2023

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

### REMEMBER THESE LATE JUNE DATES

June 22 - Book Club  
June 22- LGBTQA+ Support Group\*  
June 25 - July 1 - Youth Mission Trip  
June 27 - RiverMen

### SAVE THESE JULY DATES

July 2 - Communion Sunday  
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Open Gym Basketball  
July 4 - Church Office Closed - 4th of July Holiday  
July 6, 13, 20, 27 - Thursday Morning Breakfast Group  
July 6, 13, 20, 27 - SWAG (Women's Ministry)  
July 6, 13, 20, 27 - Harbor Worship Rehearsal  
July 9, 16, 23, 30 - School Supply Collection Sundays  
July 10 - TBFS Sorting Tutorial  
July 10-13 - TBFS Donation Drive  
July 10, 17, 24, 31 - Women's Fellowship Group\*  
July 11, 18, 25 - Prayer & Conversation with the Pastors  
July 11, 18, 25 - Men's Prayer Group  
July 11 - LIFT Picnic  
July 12 & 26 - Cruisin' River  
July 13 - Shawl Ministry  
July 15 - Prayer Walk  
July 17 - Transport Donations from St. Chris to RRUMC  
July 20 - Book Club  
July 22 - Pastor Paul's Adventure Time Stories

July 25 - RiverMen

July 27 - LGBTQA+ Support Group

\*virtual meeting via Zoom or other platform  
green=at Story Church Campus, 9900 Madison, Cleveland

### SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- 8:30am - Chapel Service
- 10:00am - Sanctuary Service
- 11:30am - Harbor Service in Beacon Hall, also  
livestreamed at [www.rrumc.org](http://www.rrumc.org)

### OFFICE INFORMATION

Our summer office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9am-4pm, and Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm, from Memorial Day until Labor Day. The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, for the Fourth of July federal holiday. TBFS at Story Church is closed from June 24-August 19 for cleaning, bathroom renovations, etc. except for events on list above.

We will be testing our new programmable door locking system starting June 26 and you will need to ring the doorbell for access to the church during working hours. Instructions will be posted on doors 1 (rotunda), 5 (ramp), and 6 (office). Please be patient with us (and bring your cell phone with you or call ahead if you do not have a cell phone).