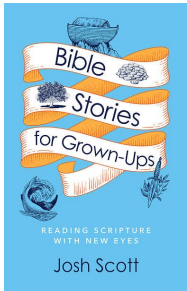


"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." - Galatians 2:20a



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: "BIBLE STORIES FOR GROWN-UPS"

THURSDAYS, MAY 25 - JUNE 29

All are welcome to join a six-week Bible study at the park located adjacent to the old Sweetwater Landing on Thursdays,

May 25 to June 29, from 6:30-7:30pm. In "Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes", Pastor Josh Scott looks at familiar Bible stories and reveals new details and interpretations for an adult audience. This six-week Bible study considers stories many read as children including: Noah's Ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus healing a blind man, and the parable of the talents. Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment. If interested, please contact Dave Huller at dhuller@cox.net or 216.410.4871. Materials can be purchased from Cokesbury or a vendor of your choice.

CRUISIN' RIVER 2023 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

**WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 14 & 28, 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 or 440.785.1489 or Michael Parry at Mparry3638@gmail.com or 440.773.1301. You can also look at Facebook (rockyriverumc) or twitter (RR_Harbor).



Join us on Thursday, June 8 at Houlihan's Westlake, OH to help raise funds for **Twice Blessed Free Store, Rocky River UMC.**

15 - 20% of all food proceeds from Thursday, June 8 from 5 PM to 9 PM will be donated to **Twice Blessed Free Store, Rocky River UMC** when you mention this flyer.
The more food proceeds, the higher percentage donated ...

Twice Blessed Free Store, Rocky River UMC

The Twice Blessed Free Store was created to help people meet their basic needs by providing free-of-charge clothing, household items and toiletries to area families. Donated goods are collected, sorted, and stocked with the purchase of some critical supplies, such as paper products, diapers, and toiletries, to assure they are in stock each week so that families in need have what they are most in need of



25651 Detroit RD | Westlake, OH | 440.808.9090 | HOULIHANS.COM

SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVE-AWAY

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.



Please look for additional information in the weeks and months to come as we work with the schools and community to understand the greatest needs. If you are interested in supporting the planning process, donating, or volunteering, please reach out to Emily Peplinski at emilypeplinski10@gmail.com.

REFLECTIONS ...

by Rev. Daniel F. Bogre

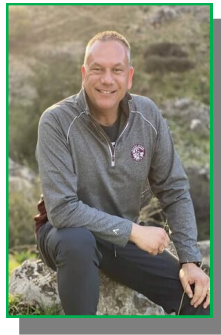
Dear Friends and Family of RRUMC,

I am once again very proud of RRUMC and still humbled and privileged to serve as your senior pastor. I feel that way because I know that, as you read this issue of the Circuit Rider, you see that it is introducing the ministries of June and the rest of the summer at RRUMC. I am proud of our church when I look at the three months ahead.

There are many churches that basically go into hibernation when it comes to June, July, and August. Many of the programs, ministries, and events that populate the calendars of churches from September through May end up being sidelined until the church "fires up" again after Labor Day. Our church, however, does not skip a beat when it comes to summer. In fact, it is summer that enables us to launch ministries that we cannot run during the year. For example, Vacation Bible School would be almost impossible to run if we could not use our outside space. Our car cruise ministry is impossible to do any other time of the year as those people will not bring out those prized possessions with a high chance of snow or rain in the forecast. I see that there are Bible studies that happen in the summer in the Cleveland Metro Parks. There are prayer walks that will also be taking place in those same parks. We have also started the "Holy Hitters" softball team. That is the first team since I have been here.

Those are just a few examples of how, in the summer, we do not shut down, we start up. The apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." At RRUMC, we want to make sure that through June, July, and August we are still becoming all things to all people by all means so that we might save some. In fact, those ministries that are active throughout the summer are not available any other time of the year so that we might actually reach different people than we might already be reaching. It is for that reason that I am so proud, honored, and privileged to serve such an amazing congregation. Thank you, church, for being so faithful to the mission and vision of RRUMC which still says, "It's all about the story. We exist to help people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story," even in June, July, and August.

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Dan



ENDOWMENT MINISTRIES: THE THEO & BELLE MOLL SOCIETY

by Lisa P. Sierk, Director of
Endowment Ministries

lsierk@rumc.org or 216.926.1702

Members of the Theo & Belle Moll Society are those who have included Rocky River United Methodist Church in their estate plans, or who make an outright gift to the endowment.

For many, leaving a bequest in your will, living trust, or with a codicil allows you to continue to use your assets in your lifetime, and you are able to leave a lasting legacy.

A bequest can be made in several ways:

1. You can gift a specific dollar amount.
2. You can gift a percentage of your estate.
3. You can gift from the balance or residue of your estate.
4. You can make a beneficiary designation of certain assets, such as an IRA or life insurance policy. RRUMC may be named alone or with other beneficiaries on these assets.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and learn how you meet Jesus Christ in the midst of your story.



EOC 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by Twyla Sales

The 54th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference will be held from Thursday, June 8, through Saturday, June 10, at the John S. Knight Center, Akron, OH attended by clergy and lay delegates. The lay delegates from Rocky River United Methodist Church are Brian Mitchell and Twyla Sales. The theme for this time of holy conferencing is "Faith Hope Love." During these three days we will remember, celebrate, and renew our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ - who make disciples of Jesus Christ - for the transformation of the world. There will be a Service of Commissioning and Ordination.

More information can be obtained at eocumc.com/eoac23. During the Conference you may click on "livestream" to watch.

"Now faith, hope, and love abide...the greatest of these is love!"

YOUTH MINISTRIES

by Steven Young at
SYoung@rrumc.org

High School Graduate Recognition!

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

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. Please contact Steven Young at syoung@rrumc.org by **Sunday, June 4**, if you are interested in participating in graduation Sunday.

Youth Annual Conference 2023 at Camp Wanake

SATURDAY, JUNE 17,

10:00AM - 10:00PM

All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to Camp Wanake for Youth Annual Conference (YAC) 2023. The theme is "Recharge" and the focus Scripture is Matthew 11:28.



There will be a full day of worship, games, hiking, food, and fellowship planned. Details will be sent closer to the event. Registration fee includes a t-shirt, lunch, and dinner.

Sign-up online or email Steven Young at syoung@rrumc.org if you plan on attending.

Youth Summer Schedule

Make sure you are connected with the Youth Ministry to get the latest on summer activities and projects.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

by Quinn Bennett at QBennett@rrumc.org

Ice Cream Sunday - SUNDAY, JUNE 11



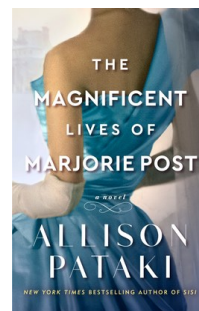
Please join us for Ice Cream Sunday on June 11 after Sanctuary and Harbor Services. We would like to take a few minutes for our families to get to know each other a little bit. If you have kiddos that do not attend Sunday School on a regular basis or your kids are still too young, this is a great time for you to get to know other families you may not know and enjoy a treat at the same time. We look forward to seeing you all there. Besides, who can say no to ice cream? Questions? Contact Quinn at qbennett@rrumc.org.

Vacation Bible School - Decorating

Come help decorate the church for VBS! We need you to make this year look like outer space. Whether you are able to climb a ladder or can only sit in a chair, there is something for everyone to do. Many hands make light work. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084BADAE2CA6FA7-vacation4> and sign up or contact Quinn and let her know when you are available. Thank you ahead of time for your help. The excitement can't begin without your help!



BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, JUNE 22



Join us on Thursday, June 22, at 10:00am at the church as we discuss "*Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*" by Allison Pataki. Questions? List of future books? Contact Bruce Biggin at brbiggin@netscape.net or 216.221.5880. Always happy to see new faces, and regular attendance is not required.

LGBTQA+ SUPPORT GROUP THURSDAY, JUNE 22

LGBTQA+ Support Group is a ministry of the Rocky River UMC which provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQA+ 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, June 22, at 7:00pm, we'll meet on Zoom.** For more information and to get the Zoom link, please contact Mark Brandt at brandt486@gmail.com or Rev. Laurie Bruce at labruce83@gmail.com.



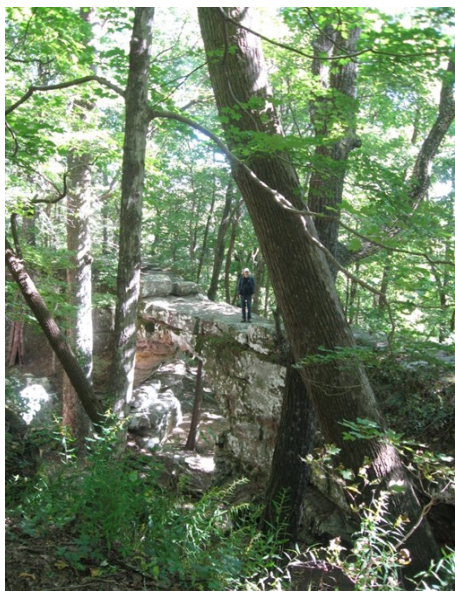
CLEVELAND FOOD BANK

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

The next Food Bank night for adult volunteers (age 14 and over) will be Thursday, June 8 (6:00-8:00pm). Those who wish to carpool will meet at

the church at 5:15pm. To register, contact Dave Sagerser at dsagerser@aol.com or

216.525.0779.



FOREST BATHING by Lynn Gorton, CLM

What is Forest Bathing and why is it good for our health?

Nature deficit disorder is an affliction of today. We spend so much of our time inside our homes or at work in buildings. We rarely take the time to go outside to see and experience God's beauty. Sadly, this affects both children and adults. The average American spends up to 93% of their time indoors and can often be on social media up to 10 hours per day! More time than they spend asleep.

In recent years, a Japanese medical doctor, Dr. Qing Li, recognized the effects of our daily routines becoming hazardous to our long-term health. He began researching how nature could affect better outcomes on health. Spending time in nature and walking among the trees became a focus to see what forest therapy could do on not only our physical health but our emotional and mental well-being. This well-known term of "bathing in the forest" became popular in 1982 in Japan.

Forest bathing engages all your senses and fully immerses you in nature. The practice encourages unplugging from technology and plugging into nature. We, as Christians, add prayer and the peace of Christ and it equals a time spent away and focused on connecting to the presence of God.

Dr. Li recognized for himself the effects of going into nature and becoming immersed in the beauty of the trees and forest while he was a stressed-out medical student. He went away for a week of forest camping and found it restored his physical and emotional health. That inspired him to begin researching the benefits of forests on human health and well-being. In 2004, he helped found the Forest Therapy Study Group, aimed at finding out why being among the trees makes us feel so much better.

After years of study, Li has found that spending time in the forest can reduce stress, anxiety, depression, and anger; strengthen the immune system; improve cardiovascular and metabolic health and boost overall well-being. Studies show it also impacts and helps regulate blood sugar levels.

Forest bathing is not about exercising - like hiking or jogging - it is simply about being in nature. Smelling the fragrance of the woods and being present. Relying on the innate and holy presence of God as we breathe in the calmness and tranquility of His majestic creations and exhale all your worries and concerns.

It is easy to start connecting in nature...

- Find a spot, it doesn't need to be deep in a forest for benefits. Try our beautiful MetroParks (<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/>).
- Engage all your senses...Let nature enter through your ears, eyes, nose, mouth, hands, and feet. Actively listen, smell, touch, and look. Drink in the flavor of the forest and release your sense of joy and calm.
- Don't hurry... slow walking is recommended... start with twenty minutes and work up to at least an hour on a regular basis.
- Try different activities...yoga in the woods, tai chi or meditation, prayer, take a picnic, write a poem, study plants, listen to the birds, walk with a friend.
- Appreciate the silence...one of the downsides of urban living is the constant noise. Silence is restorative, and a forest has its own healing sounds - rustling leaves, a trickle of water, birdsong, wind through the trees. If nothing else, when we connect with nature, we are reminded that we are a small part of a larger whole of God's creation. This can lead us to think more of others and how we are part of God's plan to work through the lives of others.



Head off to the woods and give forest bathing a try.

May you find a little peace in Jesus as you journey through the forest,

Lynn Gorton, CLM, Faith Community Health Professional, L.Gorton@rrumc.org



HELLO FROM STORY CHURCH AND TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE!



by *Lisa Thomas, TBFS Director*, LThomas@rrumc.org

April showers bring May flowers. And we've certainly had our fair share of rain here in Cleveland! But the rain didn't stop us from helping the women at Sisters Haven clean out their house at the end of April. Even though it was a little soggy, we still had an amazing day of ministry!

Speaking of ministry, our new women's ministry, SWAG (Sisters With Amazing Grace) launched last month. We are excited and hopeful that SWAG will be a great addition to the already wonderful ministries we have here at Story Church. I encourage any woman to please join us on Thursdays at 5:00pm as we get to know the women in our Cudell neighborhood. Help us bridge the gap between RRUMC and Story Church so we can build a stronger, more united church community where all women feel welcomed, supported, and empowered. We hope to see you there!



Earth Day Clean-up at Sisters Haven property on April 22.



STORY CONNECTION (MEMBERSHIP) CLASSES



Interested in learning more about the mission and ministries of RRUMC? Ready to consider church membership? Reserve the following 2023 dates on your calendar: **October 1, 8, 15, & 22.** Story Connection Classes will be offered on these four Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm. Please indicate your desire to attend by contacting the church office anytime at 440.331.7676 or office@rrumc.org. Feel free to contact Pastor Paul with questions (pbennett@rrumc.org).

ENCOURAGING WORD PODCAST



We urge you to take time to check out RRUMC's podcast, "The Encouraging

Word," with new episodes created regularly by Steven Young, Director of Youth Ministries, and Pastor Paul Bennett. Topics vary and include passages of Scripture, faith-related subjects, and insight on living out our faith in today's world. They also include an occasional guest interview. Scan the QR code to listen to the most recent episode (or visit our website (www.rrumc.org)).



Join Us
 Every Thursday at 5:00 pm
 at Story Church
 9900 Madison Ave.,
 Cleveland, OH 44102
 Be part of something
 wonderful and impactful at our
 second campus!!
 Help Us Make a Difference

"HOLY HITTERS" RRUMC SOFTBALL TEAM

Come cheer on the church softball team! Games are on Tuesday evenings at Clague or Roman Park in Westlake. A schedule of games/times/locations is posted by Beacon Hall and on the door at the top of the stairs near the Church Office.

THE CAVICCHI CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINAR

The Cavicchi Christian Education Seminar "Faith Stories? We All have one!" held on March 26 is now posted at <https://www.rrumc.org/cavicchi-christian-seminar-videos>.

Thank you to those who took the time to complete the follow-up survey. The committee has reviewed the comments and will consider all of them as we plan for next year. One person wrote, "I enjoyed the seminar because folks were encouraged to share aspects relevant to their own faith stories." Another individual said, "Participating via Zoom made it possible for me to attend because I live in New England." And a third person said, "It was a very pleasant and informative afternoon. The meal was wonderful."

You are invited to attend the next Cavicchi Christian Education Seminar Committee meeting on Monday, June 19, (Juneteenth), at 5:30pm on Zoom. We will be commemorating Juneteenth, and invite reflections, sharing, and brainstorming for future seminars.

Juneteenth is also thought of as Jubilee Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, and Black Independence Day.

- Juneteenth is observed on June 19 each year commemorating the emancipation of the enslaved African Americans back in 1865. President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 17, 2021.
- Back on January 1, 1863, then President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation outlawing slavery in the original confederate states. On June 19, 1865, Union Army general Gordon Granger under the General Order No. 3 enforced the freedom of enslaved people in the last held out state in the confederacy, Texas.

If you wish to attend the meeting, to get the Zoom link email cavicchichristianed@gmail.com.



MISSIONARY VISIT FOLLOW-UP



After Dr. Belinda Forbes' visit on April 30, a few people inquired how to get signed up for her newsletters. The link for that is:

<https://blogspot.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=79boeb1c846f111eb7f80818f&id=373fddd762>

June Birthdays

(age 90 and above)

6/2	Ralph Keating	93
6/4	Elaine Kirbach	101
6/15	Richard Sanders	90

June Anniversaries

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

6/6	Ilze & Andrew Bekeny	59
6/7	Betty & Henry Jacques	65
6/7	Andrea & Robert Kimmel	20
6/10	Nancy & Thomas Hamilton	53
6/11	Beth & Tom Hendricks	40
6/12	Margie & Hayden Powell	58
6/14	Jean & Joe Wehrheim	71
6/15	Donna & John Clifford	60
6/15	Carolyn & Jim Stevenson	55
6/18	Sandra & Robert Dempsey	57
6/18	Kim & John Thomas	40
6/23	Karen & Fred Harvey	51
6/25	Nancy & Charles Gustafson	62
6/30	Carolyn & John Rowland	77

Baptisms

Brooks Nelson Burney, son of Sarah Burney & Jeffrey Burney, on April 23. Proud big brother is Hunter.

Nina Rose Ngongang, daughter of Erin Burney & Narcisse Ngongang, on April 23.

Skylar Grace Keller, daughter of Paige Ferber Keller & Jacob Keller, on Apr 30.

Marriages

Congratulations to Megan Zurkey and Eric Blanchette who were joined in marriage on April 29.

In Sympathy

Ken Burney and family, in the passing away of his wife, Diane, on April 15.

Rev. David Lynn and family, in the passing away of his wife, Janet, on April 12.

Thank You

We want to reach out to RRUMC to express how much the support and prayers have meant to us following our son's auto accident.

Such care demonstrates what a family we have at the church. We will be eternally grateful.

- Virginia and Ted Ward

Thank you to all who shared cards, notes, and prayers for the Janet Lynn family. We send our thanks and love to each of you.

- Rev. David Lynn



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Hello Rocky River United Methodist Congregation,

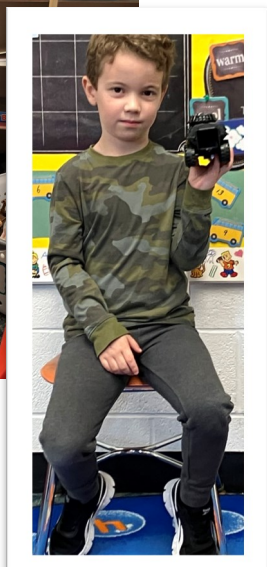
The Nursery School year will have come to a close as you read this June installment from the Circuit Rider. The month of May is always an exciting time and this year was no exception. The youngest students in our Pre3s class continued to welcome in guest readers to share favorite stories, the 3s had a butterfly release "party", the 3s and Pre-K grades put on spring shows for their loved ones, and we even had time for an ice cream party!

The preschool experience is an integral part of early education for social and emotional growth of each child. Our staff feels extremely blessed to play a role in each of our students' journeys toward that first day of kindergarten. RR Methodist is such a special place to be! RRUMNS would like to thank Rev. Dan and Pastor Paul for their willingness to read each month to our students. The children really looked forward to those days and always had lots of questions for the gentlemen.

We would also like to thank Pastor Paul, Lynn, Quinn, and Lisa for guiding us through various topics this year for our Wonder Walk program. Every few weeks, the Pre-K students got to visit a new part of the church that they may not have been in before and had a short lesson.

Rocky River United Methodist Nursery School would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all the support this past school year. We look forward to a new beginning in the fall! A blessed summer filled with fun and wonder to all.

Aaryn Holland & Margery Wanosik, Co Directors,
rrumns@gmail.com



Nursery School
Scenes
Spring 2023

Rocky River United Methodist Church
19414 Detroit Road
Rocky River, OH 44116-1873
Ph: 440.331.7676
Fax: 440.331.7637
E-Mail: office@rrumc.org
Web: www.rrumc.org

DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH
Mailed May 24, 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 July Circuit Rider:
Wednesday, June 7, 2023

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

REMEMBER THESE MAY DATES

May 25 - LGBTQA+ Support Group
May 25 - Bible Stories for Grown-ups Study
May 29 - Church Office Closed - Memorial Day

SAVE THESE JUNE DATES

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Thursday Morning Breakfast Group
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - SWAG (Women's Ministry)
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Bible Stories for Grown-ups Study
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Harbor Worship Rehearsal
June 3, 10, 17, 24 - TBFS Open for Worship & Shopping
June 4 - Communion Sunday
June 4, 11, 25 - Open Gym Basketball
June 5, 12, 19, 26 - Women's Fellowship Group*
June 6, 13, 20, 27 - Men's Prayer Group
June 6 & 13 - Chosen Study (LIFT)
June 7 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
June 8 - Shawl Ministry
June 8 - Plate It Forward Fundraiser
June 8 - 10 - East Ohio Annual Conference
June 11 - Music Appreciation Sunday
June 11 - High School Graduation Recognition Sunday
June 11 - Ice Cream Sunday
June 14 & 28 - Cruisin' River
June 17 - Youth Annual Conference
June 19 - Church Office Closed - Juneteenth

June 19 - Cavicchi Seminar/Juneteenth*
June 22 - Book Club
June 22 - LGBTQA+ Support Group*
June 25 - July 1 - Youth Mission Trip
June 27 - RiverMen

**virtual meeting via Zoom or other platform*

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- 8:30am - Chapel Service
- 10:00am - Sanctuary Service
- 11:30am - Harbor Service in Beacon Hall, also livestreamed at www.rrumc.org

SATURDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

9:55am - TBFS Service at the Story Church Campus, 9900 Madison Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102

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 Monday, June 19, for the Juneteenth federal holiday. If all goes well, we will be testing our new programmable door locking system during the summer, so please be patient with us (and bring your cell phone with you or call ahead if you do not have a cell phone).