Riverside Reporter
June 2021

Spotlight on our Mission:

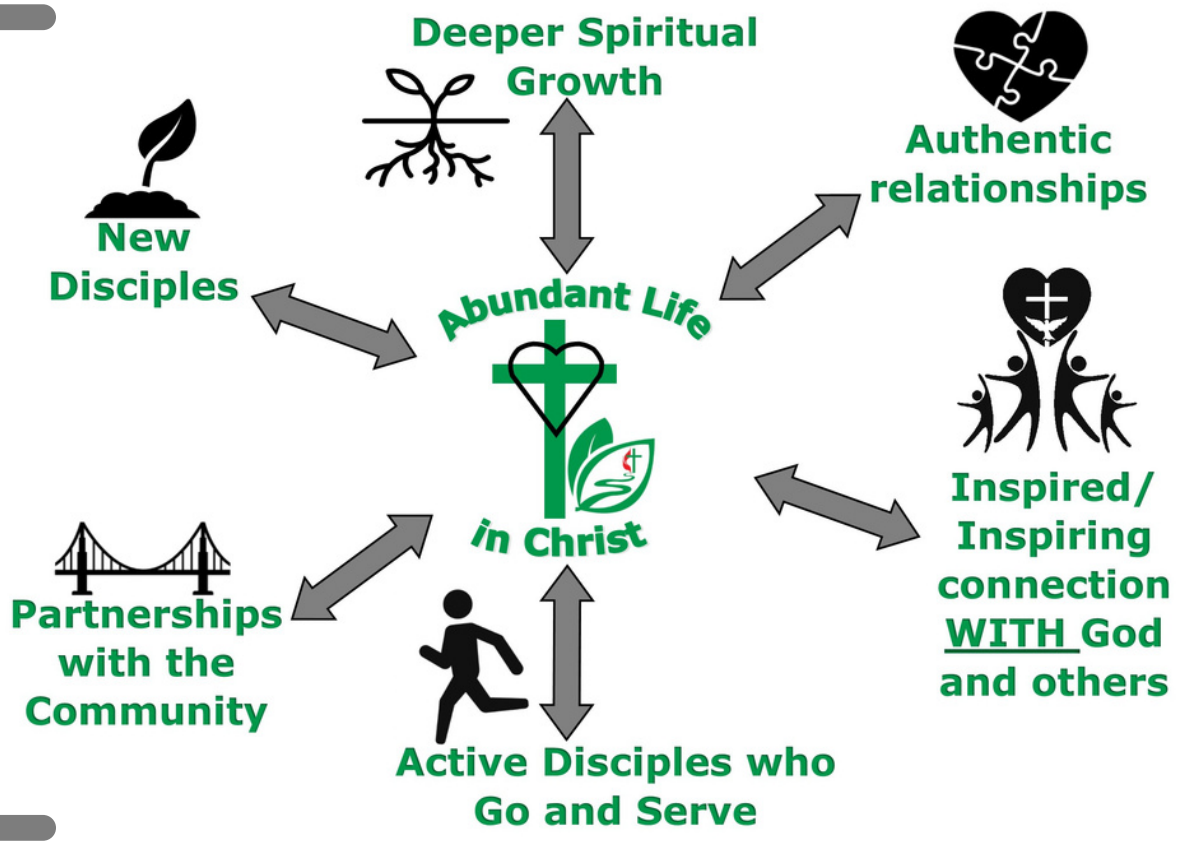
(i.e. why do we exist?)

To empower others to live life abundantly in Christ.

Am I living my life in Christ?
Am I empowering others to do so?
How are we experiencing God's *abundance*?

Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Our Vision: (Where is God leading us?)



Empowering

others

to live life abundantly

in Christ

Reflections on RPUMC's Mission:
(from the 2018 Strategic Leadership Team)

When I read this, I think of helping each other open the shackles that are holding us back in our faith walk. It reminds me it is not enough to hear sermons about the Gospel. Our Creator intends for us to live out the Gospel --Ron Richardson

By empowering others, we as a church are seeking to fulfill Jesus' teaching of lifting all children of God and in turn grow our personal connection with Christ. --Sarah Brinson

I need the word 'others' to remind me that faith in Christ isn't just for myself. It pushes me out of my comfort zone in a good way—in a bold and challenging mission way. --Kevin Crowell

What I love about this mission statement for RPUMC is that it invokes in me the concept of our church family. Each one of us empowering each other as we work together to live life abundantly in Christ. We cannot live out our Christian mission individually. God calls us to do so in community with others. And when we empower others to be the best person they are meant to be, we are, in turn, becoming the best person that God meant for us to be! You cannot do one without the other... An ABUNDANT LIFE in Christ is one of abounding fullness of joy and strength for mind, body, and soul. We can't do that alone. --Mark Cashen

The mission statement speaks to the rich history of Riverside Park United Methodist Church as a beacon of hope, while making a bold statement about the promising future in which we all empower the church in the service of Christ, our congregation and the community. --Bill Hodges

Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ I am able to live my life in peace because of His sacrifice & His teachings I can live my life abundantly knowing He will be with me in times of joy, in times of suffering, in times of sadness. This spiritually empowers me to walk beside others so we can help each other to live life and live it abundantly. --Tim Bush

Our Core Values

RPUMC Core Values (i.e. Who are we? What is too important to compromise?)
in other words, what values will always root us here at RPUMC?
Our common faith in Jesus Christ
The love and grace we experience in God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
The Word of God (importance of learning and reading the Bible)
Personal and spiritual growth through learning, gathering, and serving
A Spirit of loving warmth and hospitality
Our history and our roots
The gift of generations
Worshipping together as a community of faith
The recognition that we are in process, the mission and process of God
Our differences—and our willingness to wrestle with HOW we lovingly accept differences

Are we Living the Mission?

What does 'abundant life' even look like?

Not just privilege or success, but the kingdom-of-God kind of wholeness that bursts forth in spiritual fruit (see Galatians 22: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"); God's vision of abundant life happens where the meek, the small, the poor, the weary, and the unexpected/rejected find blessing. We see it lived out in communities of peace, justice, hope, and love (see 1 Corinthians 13 as a way of living).

Are we seeking God's vision of abundant life? If not, what's the distraction?

_AM_ I living my life in Christ?

My actions, words, thoughts, hopes, ways of spending time—are they 'in Christ'?
How does my life abide and rest in God? What practices/processes encourage this?

_AM_ I experiencing this God-promised abundance?

Where is it? Where is it lacking—where am I feeling dry or worn or weary? How can I better connect those places (or surrender them) to God?

_AM_ I empowering others to do the same?

Am I connecting and supporting other people in their faith? Am I serving and giving and blessing others? Am I aware that my faith isn't just 'for me' but to be shared? Am I actively working to break open the factors that hold others back from abundant living? Are we building a church whose witness is for the community around us?

Congratulations!

SENIORS AND GRADUATES

COLBY ALLEN

ZACHARY BRADLEY

JAMES CASHMAN

MALACAI MOORE

HANNAH STOMPS

KEVIN BRADLEY

SANDY ALLEN

AJ DISALVO

AARON FIGART

WILL GOODWIN

KYLE LITWIN

TY STRONG

LACY CRYER

ASHTON HAMPTON

JACKIE BEYER

Colby Allen, grandson of Bonnie & Jim Allen, is finishing at Creekside High School and plans to enlist in the Coast Guard.

Zachary Michael Bradley, grandson of Diane Carrigg, is the salutatorian of Mandarin High School and will be pursuing a degree in Engineering at the University of Florida.

James Cashman, son of Lee & Tom Cashman, is graduating from Duval Charter High at Baymeadows.

Malacai Moore, son of Ashley Alston, is completing his senior year at Lee High School.

Hanna Stomps, granddaughter of Dorsey-Ann Rhames, is finishing high school at Christ's Church Academy and will pursue a degree in Criminology at Florida State University.

Kevin Jensen, grandson of Diane Carrigg, graduated from Army Basic Training.

Sandy Allen, granddaughter of Bonnie & Jim Allen, received her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Lees-McRae College and will be the Head Tennis Pro at The Beech Mountain Club.

AJ DiSalvo, son of Leigh & Joe DiSalvo, is graduating from the University of Texas, Austin, with a degree in Applied Math. He will be commissioning into the US Army as a 2nd Lieutenant Infantry Officer.

Aaron Figart, son of Amanda & Larry Figart, graduated from UNF with a Bachelor of Fine Art in Digital Media.

Will Goodwin, grandson of JoAnn & Rich Goodwin, graduated from University of Louisville with a Bachelor of Art in Music.

Kyle Litwin, son of Amy & Mike Litwin, will be graduating from Wentworth Institute of Technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Lacy Cryer received her master's degree in Computing and Information Sciences from University of North Florida.

Ty Strong received his bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Liberty University and is pursuing a master's degree in Executive Leadership also from Liberty University.

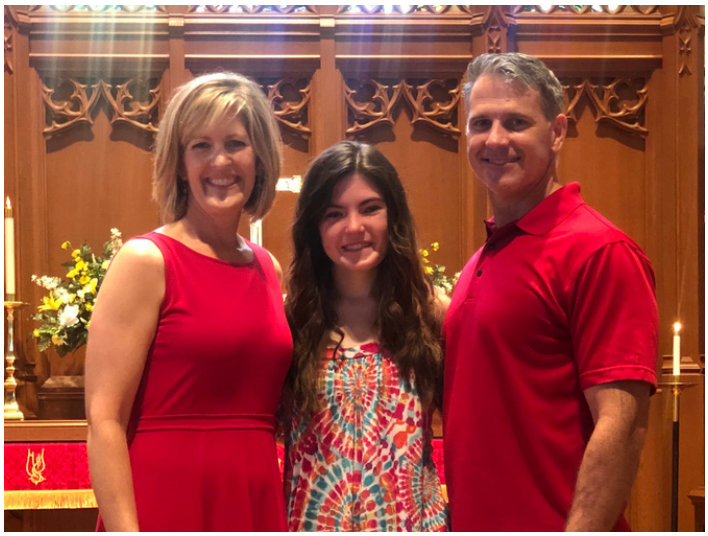
Jackie Beyer, daughter of Carol Beyer, received her Juris Doctor (law degree) from Wake Forest University and is working for the State Attorney's Office here in Jacksonville.

Ashton Hampton, step-daughter of Joye Hampton, graduated from University of Florida with a master's degree in mass communications and a Juris Doctor (law degree). She is preparing for the Multistate and Florida Bar Exams.

Jackson, Charlie, and Henry Morreale with their parents

2021 Confirmation Creed

We believe in God:
the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
We believe in God:
above us, beside us, and within us
We believe that even through pandemic and unrest,
God still calls us and allows us to use our spiritual
gifts: *leadership, artistry, wisdom, faith,*
administration, hospitality exhortation, intercession...
We offer what God has given us.
We believe in God's grace: open to all
We believe in God's forgiveness: offered to all
(despite our sins and differences)
And we believe in offering grace and forgiveness
to others (despite their sins and differences)
because God did it for us.
Amen.



Frankie Crowell with her parents

Scott LaFlash with his family

Ava and Jake Manalo with their family

What is this year's VBS theme?

"J.O.Y. : Finding joy in loving Jesus, loving others, and loving yourself as a child of God!"
(Psalm 100:1; Nehemiah 8:10; Luke 15:7; Galatians 5:22)

VBS Dates to know:

Monday, June 7-25th: Online registration is open for VBS!
June 25th: Last day to register and last day to reserve a "pop up VBS" kit
Sunday, July 4th (during worship): We bless the campus and pray for volunteers in worship
July 5-9th (9am-noon): Vacation Bible School!!

Reasons to be excited:

- We are hosting the YMCA in our facility, so we get to celebrate VBS with about 80 kids from around the Jacksonville community.
- Each day will have a "love your neighbor station" with a hands-on service project (birthday boxes for local food pantries, care bags for homeless shelters, greeting cards for neighborhood senior facilities, etc...)
- Instead of buying a packaged VBS curriculum, we get to fund service projects--and allow VBS to take on a more simple chapel-style feel with games and snacks that are simply fun and delicious.
- Live music!! (traditional organ and contemporary ukulele): Picture 100 kids in the sanctuary singing old-school favorites like *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* or "I've got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in my heart..."
- **We are also offering a "pop-up VBS" option--so if you want to host an afternoon devotion and project with a few other families in your neighborhood or at a local park, let us know! We *want* people to participate.**

Ways to Help:

1) Pray!!!! 2) Volunteer to be part of the week
3) Help with setup ahead of time 4) Give and support the missions of the church

Contact kids@riversideparkumc.com

Register now for summer camp at Warren Willis!

wwumccc.org/programs/summer-camp/

So many kids have spent the year in isolation and mostly connected to electronic devices, they could use a week away connecting with God and other young people. There is no better place than Warren Willis Camp!

Your student can register for any week of Warren Willis camp, but Pastor Emily will be leading worship for 4th & 5th graders during week 6: July 19-24.
Email kids@riversideparkumc.com if you feel limited by funds or transportation.

Deeper Spiritual Growth

As we spend this month looking at our church's mission ("to empower others to live life abundantly in Christ.") --we also pause to hear God's call on our lives.

God CALLS us to mission and service. God CALLS <u>US</u>.

"The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."
~Frederick Buechner

<u>A Call Story in Modern(ish) Life:</u>

Fanny Crosby, a Methodist, was born in 1820 and became blind when she was six weeks old. As she grew, she depended on her grandmother, who described the beauty of the world to her and introduced her to the Bible. With the encouragement of a woman named Mrs. Hawley, with whom they both lived, Fanny began memorizing passages from the Scriptures, and the poetry of the book spoke to her. In school, she got in trouble for making up poems; but she could not stop herself. Fanny believed that God had placed a gift within her.

"I seem to have been led, little by little, toward my work; and I believe that the same fact will appear in the life of anyone who will cultivate such powers as God has given them, and then go on, bravely, quietly, but persistently, doing such work as comes to their hands," she said. Crosby became a prolific poet, writing up to seven hymns a day. Her work includes "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" and "Blessed Assurance." When she died at the age of 95, Crosby had written more than 8,000 hymns.

<u>June Scripture Challenge</u>

Biblical Call Stories:

June 1-4
- Abraham: Genesis 12:1-5
- Sarah: Genesis 18:1-15
- Moses: Exodus 3:1-22
- Joshua: Joshua 1 :1-11

June 7-11
- Deborah: Judges 4:4-22 *(note that this moment is NOT dramatic for Deborah)*
- Gideon: Judges 6:11-18, 36-40
- Esther: 4:10-14 *(note that Esther didn't hear directly from God, but through community)*

June 14-18
- Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-18
- Isaiah: Isaiah 6:1-8 *(Isaiah's response is joyful! "Here I am, Lord! Send me!")*
- Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:4-19
- Ezekiel: Ezekiel 2:1-3:3,

21-25
- Zechariah and Elizabeth: Luke 1:5-25
- Mary: Luke 1:26-56
- John the Baptist: Luke 3:1-20
- Matthew: Matthew 9:9-13

28-30
- First Disciples: Matt. 4:18-22
- Simon Peter: Luke 5:1-11
- Paul: Acts 9:1-19

FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

A Community of Love & Forgiveness

Each year, an equal number of clergy and lay members from all Florida United Methodist Churches gather for worship, fellowship, and conference business. These sessions share reports of past and ongoing work; adopt future goals, programs and budgets; and ordain new clergy. The 2021 session of Florida's Annual Conference will be held virtually on Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12. Beth Joyner (who was our church's chair of finance for many many years) is RPUMC's delegate to annual conference. This year's theme focuses on our baptism promise to be "a community of love & forgiveness".

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the YMCA

Starting the first week of June, our facility will host a YMCA summer camp. Please be in prayer for the counselors, directors, and camp families who will be in our building this summer.

Partnerships with the Community

Every Detail Remembered™ | Dignity® MEMORIAL

A HUGE thank you to Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home (Dignity Memorial) who is helping to sponsor our Wednesday night meal ministry. At the beginning of the pandemic, Hardage-Giddens sponsored several weeks of meals--and they have decided to continue the partnership! They have given us a $750 grant (and the promise of another one later in the fall) to continue sustaining this vital work of loving our neighbors and feeding God's sheep.

Authentic Relationships

A few pictures from the May women's gathering. Stay tuned for a men's gathering in June.

Small Groups

The **College Age and Young Adults group (ages 18-35)** will be meeting this summer to serve and socialize (socially distant/in-person). Activities will include Wednesday Dinners (6/9, 7/14, 8/11), Autobahn outing (6/21), campfire social (TBD), and a poolside grill out (8/14) Contact Kaitlyn.Fuller@outlook.com or (352) 484-8087.

The **Becomers class** is meeting on Sundays between services. Join them in the Fellowship Hall or online. Contact Mark Mathews: mamathews10@gmail.com

Women's Group- On Saturday mornings, a women's group meets online for a book study. Contact Tami Crowell for more information at tcrwll@comcast.net

The **Covenant class** meets in-person in room 204 on Sundays between services. Contact Kevin Crowell for more information at kevin.f.crowell@gsk.com

Spiritual Growth Group: Celebrate and lift one another in prayer. Every/other Saturday morning @ 9:30am during via zoom. Contact Pastor Emily: pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com

New Members Class: June13th & 27th. Contact Pastor Emily for more information. New members will join on a Sunday in July.

Riverside Connections

Active Disciples Who Go and Serve

What are your gifts to share?

SUNDAY MORNING

READER/LITURGIST

Lend your voice!
Read scripture and other pieces for Sunday worship.
Could be recorded from home

Sundays (occasional)

TECH TEAM

Connect folks to the words of worship.
Britt will train you.
tech@riversideparkumc.com

once a month

GREET/HOSPITALITY TEAM

Help people feel welcome in worship. Stand by the welcome table and offer warm presence.

once a month

RIVERKIDS GUIDE

Go with our youngest disciples as they head off for age-specific activities during worship

once a month

DURING THE WEEK

NEWSLETTER HELP

Lend a hand!
Fold and place labels on the monthly newsletter

Once a month

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

Answer phones, greet visitors, help with administrative tasks.

once a week (or less)

WEDNESDAY DINNER SERVER

Feed God's sheep.
Several positions available (boxer, runner, greeter, deliver)

Wednesdays ~5-6:30pm
once a month

PAINT LINES FOR KIDS

We need some simple outdoor game boards (like hopscotch or foursquare) added to the concrete patio area.

one-time project

OCCASIONAL OR ONE-TIME

VBS VOLUNTEER

Week of July 5-9
(or ahead-of-time prep)

Help kids find joy and the love of Jesus through games, crafts, snacks, service projects, and prayer!

We also need a photographer and musicians a tech helper and group shepherds.

kids@ riversideparkumc.com

CHURCH CLIMBER

Adventurous spirit and steady feet needed.
Climb above the sanctuary to help change lightbulbs.

once or twice a year

DECORATE BULLETIN BOARDS

Are you crafty and creative?
We need one or two folks to bring new life to bulletin boards around the church.

special project

Trustees Update

Hello church family,

It is my pleasure to update you on what the Trustees have done to upgrade where we worship and where we meet to further our fellowship. This letter also asks for assistance and advice on the maintenance of our facilities.

We have beautified the 2nd and 3rd floors, and the office spaces by painting and carpeting them at the cost of $49,000. If you haven't seen them yet, please talk a walk through. We have also placed some comfortable furniture in the 2nd floor hallway. More will be coming, such as tables, artwork, and some greenery. The office will soon have some comfortable chairs, new artwork and decor, and the receptionist desk will be replaced.

The former Pastor pictures will be placed in the Fellowship Hall with new framing. A picture of our current Pastor will be placed in the office.

The Education Building, much of which is rented out to our neighbors next door, brings much needed revenue to Trustees to further the maintenance of our facilities. There are eleven rooftop air conditioners on this building for which we hold the responsibility. One was replaced in 2013, one in 2018 and in 2020 we replaced two of them at a cost of $18,000. There are seven originals left, all installed in 1993. We have gotten our money's worth out of them. We have asked for quotes to replace them. This would be a big ticket item. We may end up spacing the replacement out over a few years, replacing the worst of them two at a time.

We have had to patch the roof on both the Education and McCord buildings several times. The Education building needs to be reroofed first. We have incoming quotes for both roofs. This will be a big ticket item.

The drainpipes and gutters need work on Sanctuary and McCord buildings. We have a band-aid quote for drainpipes only and were told that Sanctuary gutters were not in the best of shape. If any of you have any contacts for commercial gutter and drainpipe work please feel free to contact me. Most of the residential companies are not able to perform the work we need. My contact info will be at the bottom of this letter.

Another spot of advice we can use is on sealing the Sanctuary and possibly some mortar work on the bricks. There are three areas that we have seen where paint is bubbling on the walls in the Sanctuary and it seems to be caused by water percolating through the bricks. The company we used to seal the building years ago is now out of business.

The lighting dimmer in the Sanctuary has three control points and only one is now working. If not repairable as is this may be a big ticket item.

We are currently reviewing our investments in the Trust. It is all in CDs and we are looking at investment options to determine if there is a better option.

Lights above the Sanctuary. It is an adventurous climb to go above the Sanctuary to replace the light bulbs. Instead of paying for the service to do so Tre and I do this job. I love going up there to do it as I love the bones of this church. But my days of doing this won't last forever. I am looking for someone that does not have a fear of heights and enjoys a bit of climbing to help in this fun task. I am in my 60s so a couple people a bit younger might be helpful! Please contact me if interested. This is a job that requires two people for safety reasons.

We have a list of items that need repair. Joye has engaged a new handyman and he is working out well. It is a very large list of repairs so may take awhile. If there are any here that are handy and like to fix broken things, please let me know and we can look at the list Joye has.

Thank you and I pray that Jesus is present in your life always,

Chris Schmitz, Trustee Chair
904-710-6829 (pls text as it helps me keep track) or email me at trustees@riversideparkumc.com

Easy Online Giving

Get the My Well Ministry Giving app today!

5 Ways to Give

- Go to www.mywell.org/give/rpumc
- Text rpumc to 40101
- Download the My Well Ministry app
- Go to riversideparkumc.com & click on Give
- Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or code reader

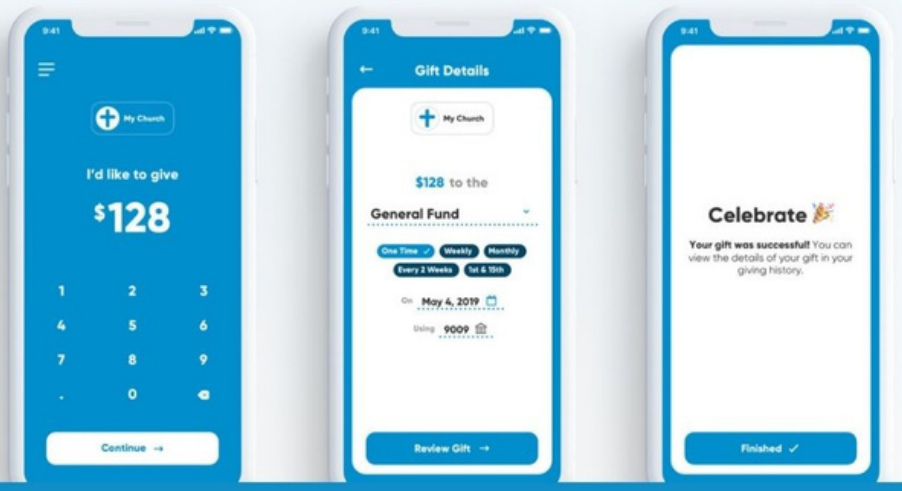
My Well is a nonprofit ministry that provides online giving at significantly lower costs than our previous provider. By using this new platform, we're able to put more of your tithe dollars to more ministry. Set-up an online account today for scheduled (recurring) giving or a one time donation.

Easy Online Giving 1..2..3!

1 Select Amount

2 Confirm Details

3 Review & Give!



Let your online shopping pay it forward by signing up with either or both of these two platforms; iGive.com and Amazon Smile. Register RPUMC as your charity and all your online purchases can benefit your church. iGive.com partners with over 2,400 retailers such as Hobby Lobby, Michael's, Office Depot, Staples, and Dollar Tree. Contact Joye in the church office if you have any questions, (904) 355-5491.

1st Mickey Hough
3rd Cass Bridges
4th Sistie Pope
5th Sarah Mardini
7th Allison Matthews
9th Tom Dudley
10th Faye Dale
11th Andrew Brinson
12th Kelli Neufeld
Nancy Schubiger
13th Pat Allen
Jordan Mardini
14th Kevin Jensen
16th Libby Murray
21st Brock Stomps
23rd Tami Crowell
Mark Hodges
Betty Sanders
24th Maddie Knight
25th Marc Antoni Julia
26th Emily Rehberg
27th Suzanne Forbes
28th Connie Hodges
Makenzie Monk
29th Caroline Jennings
Selena Owens
30th Betty Young

We celebrate the birth of Beau Jameson White on May 17th. Beau is the son of Aimee and James White and little brother to Lily White.

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee (Zoom)
Tuesday, June 18 @ 6:00 pm

Board of Trustees (Zoom & In-Person)
Monday, July 21 @ 6:00 pm

Church Council (Zoom)
Tuesday, July 22 @ 6:00 pm

Stewardship & Generosity

Give your gifts and tithes online:
Set up one-time or recurring giving through your bank's bill pay service. Or visit https://tinyurl.com/RP-Give

Give your gifts and tithes by check:
you can bring or mail them to
Riverside Park UMC
819 Park St. Jacksonville, FL 32204

Operating Fund
Year-to-Date as of 4/30/2021

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	$139,166	$108,135
Expenses	$152,999	$161,509
Deficit/Surplus	- $13,833	-$53,374

May God's love surround...

Home

- † Betty Nolen
- † Emory Cook
- † Shirley Early
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven & Theresa Jarvis
- † Geneva Rentz
- † Connie Skinner
- † Jim Todd

College Students

- Isabella Array
- Zachary Bradley
- Taylor Bohannon
- James Cashman
- Tommy Cashman
- Topher Cogburn
- Tre Devine
- Hogan Litwin
- Allison Matthews
- Emily Merton
- Kaden Neufeld
- Kyle Neufeld
- Matthew Popp
- Dallas Renne
- Kylie Rodriguez
- Hannah Stomps
- Dakota Storm-Lewis

All worship services will be in-person and streamed live on Facebook. Please check the website or the RPUMC Family group on Facebook for any updates. Worship service videos will be posted on YouTube and the church website the following business day.

June

Temporary Office Hours During COVID-19 Pandemic

9am—12pm or by appointment
Monday-Friday

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
		1	2 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3	4	5
6 **COMMUNION SUNDAY** 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Handbell Quartet	7	8 6pm SPR/Finance Committee Meeting	9 5:30pm Free Dinners 6pm Praise Team 7:30pm Chancel Choir YMCA Camp	10	11	12
13 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Handbell Quartet TBD—New Member Class	14	15	16 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir YMCA Camp	17	18	19
20 **FATHER'S DAY** 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Handbell Quartet	21 6pm College Age & Young Adults @ Autobahn	22	23 5:30pm Free Dinners 6pm Praise Team 7:30pm Chancel Choir YMCA Camp	24	25	26
27 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Handbell Quartet TBD—New Member Class	28	29	30 5:30pm Free Dinners YMCA Camp			

RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Empowering others to live life abundantly in Christ."

Worship with Us!

Worship Online:
Facebook live Sundays
@9am Contemporary
@11am Traditional

facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC
(the service is also uploaded to Youtube on Monday mornings)

Worship in Person:
in the Sanctuary
Sundays @9am & @11am
(everyone wears masks, designated pews are 6 feet apart, and hand sanitizer is at all entrances)

Church Office: (904) 355-5491
www.riversideparkumc.com
Temporary Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 9-12 or by appointment

Rev. Emily Knight, Pastor
pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com

Joye Hampton, Office Manager
j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com

John Larsen, Director of Traditional Worship
j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com

Millie Hudson, Director of Contemporary Worship
m.hudson@riversideparkumc.com

Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper
j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com

Rich Lewis, Organist
r.lewis@riversideparkumc.com

Britt Scott,
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Dorsey-Ann Rhames, Membership Secretary
membership@riversideparkumc.com

Tre Devine, Custodian
t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

Dakota Storm-Lewis, Family Discipleship Intern
kids@riversideparkumc.com

RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Jacksonville, FL 32204

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