



# RIVERSIDE REPORTER: DECEMBER 2021

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
~Charles Wesley



Expecting  
Jesus  
2021 Advent

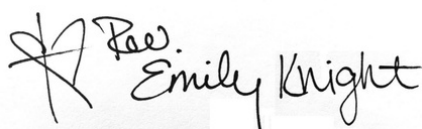


I remember a time when a friend invited me to join their family for an early Christmas celebration. Dinner was fun and everyone was nice, but I did NOT know they were also doing their full-blown family gift exchange. I didn't mind the surprise, but it was awkward to just sit there as presents were pulled from under the tree and opened by the tagged recipients. I felt like an outside intruder watching from the edge of the couch.

But then my friend's mom handed me a box. Tagged with *my* name. And suddenly, I was part of it all. I don't remember the gift itself (a blanket, maybe?) but I *do* remember that brown paper gift tag and the realization that it was ready before I even got there. I wasn't just 'allowed'--the gift meant they were *expecting* me.

I wonder if we sometimes do this with God at Christmas. We invite Christ to appear in the manger (and hang out for the family gathering) but we don't *expect* or allow Jesus to participate as part of it. So what if we did? What if we saw each day of Advent as a gift we gave to God: *Creator, Comforter, Savior...*

So it is with joy that I invite you into this 2021 season of Advent!  
As a church (and alongside another United Methodist Church in Jupiter, FL) we will spend December "Expecting Jesus" and marking each day with a different biblical name for God. From Creator to Christ, join us as we make room for the Holy One (the long expected Jesus) who meets us in a manger and knows your name, too.

  
Rev.  
Emily Knight



# Welcome new members of RPUMC!

***Prayers. Presence. Gifts. Service. Witness.***



**Dakota Storm-Lewis (shown here with fiancée, Ty)**



**Millie Russell**



**Albert and Yvonne Sloan**



**Carrie, Vinnie, and Eden Santa-Lucia**



**The Strong family (living into their name)  
Colleen, Anthony, Ty, and Andrew**



***Alleluia! New members covered the front of the church during the traditional service on Christ the King Sunday, November 21, 2021***

**Separate photos of these new members will appear in the January church newsletter:  
Jennie Bibb, Linda Robbins, and Rev. Mary and Rev. David Holladay**





25 Names of Jesus

# ADVENT DEVOTIONALS & DAILY COUNTDOWN CARDS

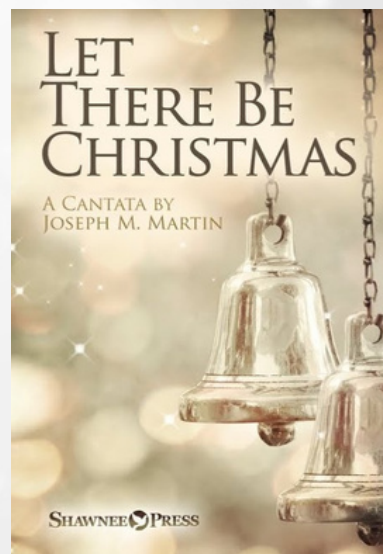


## Daily Countdown Cards

- Stack them by your coffee pot
- Carry them with you
- Hang them as a garland at home
- Set them as your phone's wallpaper

Available for pick starting 11/28 in the Narthex or church office

*Christmas Cantata*  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH  
\*WORSHIP TIME CHANGE\*  
10:30 AM ONE SERVICE  
(9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL)  
*Chancel Choir Praise Team*  
*Chancel Ringers*



## Senior Adult Fellowship Ages 55 and up

RPUMC Fellowship Hall  
Friday, December 3

**Bingo & silly gift exchange**

**Please RSVP**

(so we have enough food)  
Call: 904 355 5491

**Young Adult  
Christmas Party  
Monday, Dec 6th  
@6:30pm**

**RSVP w/ sub order to  
Kaitlyn Fuller by 12/4**  
[kaitlyn.fuller@outlook.com](mailto:kaitlyn.fuller@outlook.com)





*Yes! I(we) will support RPUMC's 2022 ministries and missions as an act of worship and glory to God!*

**Please return your pledge cards to the church office or offering plate or online by Sunday, 12/12/21**

## *Caroling & Luminaria*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 6:00 P.M.**

**JOIN US FOR CASUAL CAROLING  
AND LIGHTING LUMINARIA CANDLES.  
SANCTUARY FRONT STEPS**



## *Blue Christmas*

**THURSDAY, DEC 16TH 6PM  
IN THE RPUMC CHAPEL**

### **Blue Christmas Service 2021**

Holidays can be hard. If you're feeling the weight of the season or grieving a loved one, consider coming to our blue Christmas service on

**Thursday, December 16th @ 6pm. We will gather in the chapel (on the 3rd floor)**

to hear scripture, name burdens, and remember God's presence in the midst of loss. We will also light candles and hang ornaments in honor of those who have died--giving thanks to God for the gift of their presence in this world.

*Our neighbors, Riverside Presbyterian Church will also host a blue Christmas service, so if you can't make it to ours, you are welcome to join Riverside Presbyterian Church the following Tuesday, Dec 21st @7pm*



# FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

*faith formation groups*



*family bonfire night - November 20th*





**Thank you to everyone (new and old) who gathered to decorate the sanctuary this year! The space looks beautiful and we are excited to share it with the community this month. Glory to God!**







# Christmas Eve SERVICES

**3:30pm Early Traditional (in person only)**

**5:30pm Contemporary (also online)**

**7:30pm Traditional (also online)**

**To ensure space for social distancing, we will offer three in-person Christmas Eve services:  
(Candles and Communion at each; No reservations needed)**

## **3:30pm Traditional Service**

(in-person only; not online)

Come celebrate an early Christmas Eve service with Communion and the sounds of organ music and special soloists.

## **5:30pm Contemporary**

(also streamed online)

Join us as we gather to tell the Christmas story with carols, candles, and Communion. We will have some special elements just for kids, so all ages are welcome to join us in the sanctuary!

## **7:30pm Traditional Service**

(also streamed online) Gather in the warmth of the Sanctuary with choir, bells, and pipe organ.

We will tell the wonder of the Christmas story and raise candles during the final singing of "Silent Night". *Nursery care will be available during this 7:30pm service*



**Join us the Sunday after Christmas  
to celebrate the birth of Jesus with**

# *Lessons & Carols*

**One Worship Service  
at 10:30 a.m.**

**Kids wear pajamas.  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.**



## **Listening & Processing Session** *(in response to the November church conference)* **Tuesday, Nov 30th @6:30pm in the fellowship hall** **~Read Ephesians 4 before you come~**

Our November church conference had three items on the agenda. Two of these items (clergy compensation form and membership report) were approved unanimously.

However, we will need to reconvene in January to finish the election of leaders for 2022.

In the meantime, we are inviting participants to gather for a "Listening and Processing Session" in order to give space for sharing reactions. This will be in-person in the fellowship hall. All are required to read Ephesians 4 before attending. No voting will occur at this gathering.

## **Small Groups & Service**



If you're looking for a way to connect (or re-connect) to a Bible study, Sunday school, women's circle, ministry team or service opportunity within the church, stop by the bulletin board and grab a card! (or call the church office for more information) We will need help serving Communion and reading Scripture on Christmas Eve.

**" For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me..."**  
**~Matthew 25:36**

Wednesday dinners continue to be a space where we see Jesus. Especially since the weather has turned cold, our neighbors have needed a hot meal and a warm welcome. Folks have donated socks and blankets (one anonymous donor sent several boxes of beautiful fleece and waterproof blankets and we gave away all but one of them that very night!). We also give thanks to Hardage-Giddens funeral home for their generous gift to the Wednesday meals!





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.



#### Office Hours

9 am—3:30 pm  
Monday-Thursday

9 am—1 pm  
Friday

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	2	3 <b>11am Senior Adult Fellowship</b>	
5 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Chancel Ringers	6 <b>6:30pm Young Adult Christmas Party</b>	7 <b>12pm Circle of Hope and Joy &amp; Peace Christmas Luncheon</b>	8 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9	10	11
12 9:30am Sunday School/Groups <b>10:30am Christmas Cantata (One Worship Service)</b> 5pm Chancel Ringers <b>6pm Luminaria &amp; Caroling</b>	13 6pm Trustees Meeting	14 6pm SPR/Finance Committee Meeting	15 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 <b>6:30 pm Blue Christmas</b>	17	18
19 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Chancel Ringers	20	21	22 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3:30 pm Traditional Service 5:30pm Contemporary Service 7:30 pm Traditional Service	25 CHRISTMAS
26 <b>9:30am Sunday School/Groups</b> <b>10:30am One Worship Service</b>	27 (Office Closed)	28	29 5:30pm Free Dinners	30	31	





1st	Bryan Davis
2nd	Tennison Drewry
5th	Louise Julia Lilah Manalo
6th	Quinn Mathis Tripp Murray Bob Pope
9th	Byron Alvarado Nancy Newman
10th	Rick Devine Crystal Hough
11th	Bobby Brazell Tom Cashman
12th	Joe DiSalvo Julianne Kirchain
13th	Mark Mathews
14th	Brian Doran Kim Renne
18th	Kyle Litwin
19th	Frank Schwalbe
23rd	Jim Allen
27th	Gordon Middleton
29th	April Laflash

## Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee (Zoom)  
Tuesday, November 9 @ 6:00 pm

Board of Trustees (Zoom & In-Person)  
Monday, November 15 @ 6:00 pm

Charge/Church Conference (Zoom)  
Tuesday, November 16 @ 7pm

Church Council (Zoom)  
Thursday, November 18 @ 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 9/30/2021

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$322,488	\$261,829
Expenses	\$350,960	\$363,395
Deficit/Surplus	-\$28,472	-\$101,566

## May God's love surround...

### Home

† Emory Cook  
† Joe Dorsie  
† Shirley Early  
† Jo Herron  
† Steven & Theresa Jarvis  
† Betty Nolen  
† Jim Todd

### College Students

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





## October Memorials & Special Gifts

**Dan Francabandiero (memorial gift)**

*A gift to the pastor's discretionary fund from  
Mark and Jenny Cashen*

## Memorials for Connie Stone Skinner

*Bonnie & Earl Allen*

*Pam & Ruben Allen*

*Katherine Skinner Newton*

*Dorothy Risley*

*Arthur C. Skinner, III*

*Christopher F. Skinner*

*David Skinner*

## Zada Strobe

## Wednesday Night Ministries

*Hardage-Giddens*

### *Anonymous donation of waterproof blankets*

## Anonymous donation of socks

### Anonymous donation of blankets and socks

### *Anonymous donation of waterproof blankets*

## Memorials for Earl Carlson

*Jane & Mark Riechmann*

*Henry Rust*

Thank!  
You!

# Poinsettias for Christmas

Every year we decorate our altar area with poinsettias at Christmas. The flowers are purchased by members and friends to remember special people in their lives. The poinsettias will be displayed on Christmas Eve and can be picked up after the 7:30 service or after worship on Dec. 26th. If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettia, please use this form below and return to the church office with your payment no later than Monday, December 13th.

Poinsettias are \$15 each



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like a booklet mailed to you, please provide your address here:

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# of Poinsettias      Total \$      ☐ Check #      ☐ Cash

☐ In memory of or ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of or ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of or ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of or ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of or ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of or ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_





# 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](http://www.riversideparkumc.com)

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9-3:30

Friday 9-1

Rev. Emily Knight, Pastor  
[pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com)

Joye Hampton, Office Manager  
[j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com)

John Larsen, Director of Traditional Worship  
[j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com)

Millie Hudson, Director of Contemporary Worship  
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Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper  
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Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader  
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Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary  
[membership@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:membership@riversideparkumc.com)

Tre Devine, Custodian  
[t.devine@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:t.devine@riversideparkumc.com)

Dakota Storm-Lewis, Family Discipleship Intern  
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