

RIVERSIDE REPORTER: NOVEMBER 2022

A Thanksgiving Prayer

*Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you've done for us.
We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the wonder of life
, and for the mystery of love.*

*We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.
We thank you for our successes, which satisfy and delight us
— but also for the disappointments and failures
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.*

*Above all, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ
— for the truth of his Word and the example of his life.
We thank you for his dying, through which he overcame death
— and for his rising to life again,
in which we are raised to the life of your Kingdom.
Father, may we — at all times and in all places
— give thanks to you in ALL things. Amen.*

Quick! Think of something you're thankful for!

(I'm grateful for you, this church, coffee, cool weather, penguins...)

Now think of something you're *not* thankful for...

(ugh. change. toddler colds. disruptions to my plans. goat cheese...)

What do *both* of these categories teach? Especially the less pleasant things--how might that help you grow?

We need to grow. And often--growth happens more through less pleasant or unexpected moments. Thanking God for good things is easy. Finding ways to give thanks through ALL things? That shapes our hearts.

Rev. Emily Knight



November Events



First Friday Friends

Fellowship. Programs. Lunch.

Friday, November 4th @ 11 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Youth Lunch & Serve

Nov. 6th

Fellowship Hall
12:00 p.m.

All Saints Sunday November 6th



Remembering the Saints

During both services, we will read the names of church members and loved ones of members who have died in the last year. Candles will be lit as we remember and reflect on the lives of those we lost.

Join us in this season of Stewardship.

If you haven't received a pledge card, there will be cards available on November 13th.

Make a commitment as part of your personal ministry to give back to God through RPUMC. Participate throughout the coming year in executing your pledge and watch for the ways God's miracles continue. You will receive a blessing by doing so.



Commitment Sunday

NOV 13TH

**We invite you
to bring your pledge and
offering cards to the altar.**

Meetings

SPR/Finance

Tuesday, November 8th
6:00 p.m.
Zoom

Trustees

Thursday, November 17th
6:00 p.m.
Church Library

Church Council

Tuesday, November 15th
6:00 p.m.
Church Parlor

Women in Mission

Circle of Hope First Tuesday

The next meeting is Nov. 1st at 7 p.m. in the parlor. They will be discussing the next chapter in their book which features Rachel and Leah.



New Women's Group

Second Tuesday

The next meeting is Nov. 8th at 7 p.m. at Cory Lek's home. Please call the church office for the address. The new women's group will be deciding on their group name and mission.

Circle of Joy & Peace

Third Wednesday

The next meeting is Nov. 16th at 11 a.m. They will be discussing the next chapter in their book which features Rachel and Leah.



Women's Advent Brunch

WIM, mark your calendars NOW. Saturday, December 3 at 9:30 a.m. an Advent brunch will be held at Beau Rivage for all circle members. Details will be shared by each circle chair with members. Hope to see you there to celebrate the coming of Christ and enjoy the fellowship.



Circle of Joy & Peace with gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child

Wednesday Night Ministry

Fall is here and the weather is changing so our appeal is changing. **Our community will need long sleeve shirts, jackets, blankets (smaller sizes please), and hats.** Socks and ponchos are always needed throughout the year. We, the volunteers on behalf of Riverside Park UMC, have formed wonderful relationships with those who come to our door.

*"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; 35-36*

Everyone is invited to join us or just stop by on Wednesday. Thank you for your continuing support!
Bonnie Dudley, chair of WNM



*(above) a moment of prayer during
the uncertainty of hurricane Ian.
Instead of cancelling, the
Wednesday dinner team served a
simplified meal and delivered all the
extras to the closest storm shelter.*



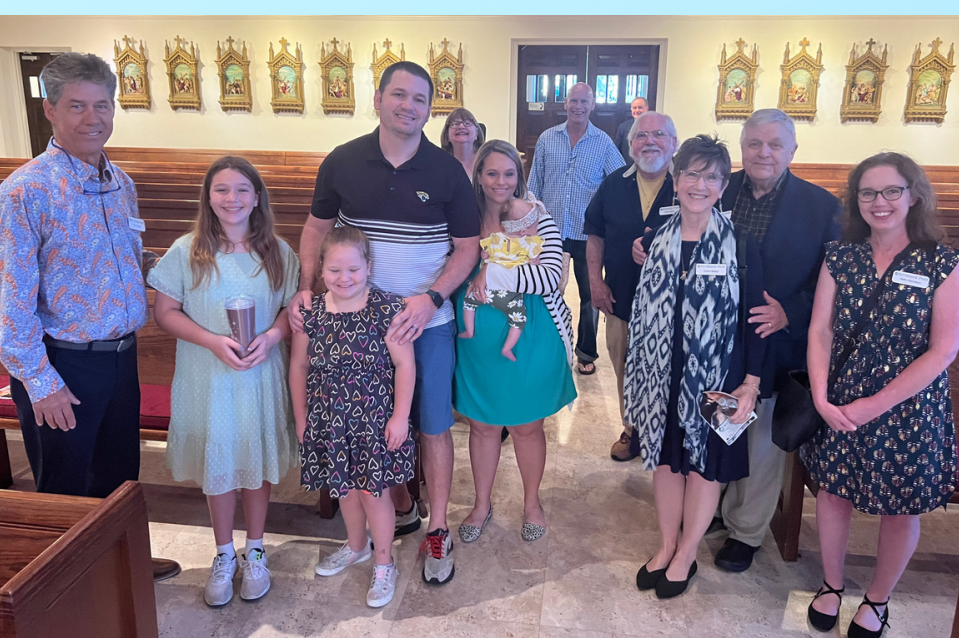
Racial Justice Ministry Update

by Beth Joyner

Recently, I was privileged to participate in a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Al to visit the Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum. The trip was sponsored by 904ward and as a member of our Racial Justice Ministry, I was eager to attend. Bonnie Dudley and Connie Hodges were also part of this journey, along with our neighbors, Julie Handley and Nancy Schneider from Riverside Presbyterian Church.

These museums chronicle the history of slavery, lynching, segregation and mass incarceration in our country in a meaningful and poignant way. From the design of the buildings to the individual exhibits, the visitor is invited to "feel" the experience. As you enter the Legacy Museum, the first thing you encounter is an ocean wall, with waves pounding forward one after another. "Out of body experience" was how Connie explained her reaction; I physically felt dizzy and started swaying. As you continue through the museum you continue to experience the acts of cruelty that are a part of our history, we often feel uncomfortable facing and discussing. Visiting the museums was definitely a humbling experience, but what made it meaningful were the "circle" meetings that the group held to discuss the feelings and emotions we experienced. These circle groups met before and after each visit to the museums and were facilitated by very skilled and knowledgeable professors from UNF. The group was a very diverse group of individuals who were strangers at the first meeting on Friday evening, but were truly brothers and sisters when we got off the bus on Sunday evening. **The willingness to be open, honest and vulnerable took strangers with very different life experiences and opened the door to loving, caring authentic relationships.**

Anyone interested in learning more about this trip, or interested in finding out how they can participate in future trips, please reach out to Bonnie, Connie or myself.



Our Church has new Faces!

We have had a huge number of guests join us in worship over the past few months.

Thank you, church, for continuing to be a warm and welcoming place.

Many thanks to Tim Bush who led October's "church campus tour."

Some of these folks are choosing to join RPUMC as new members on Sunday, November 13th.



Senior Adult Ministry now has a new name!

Join the "First Friday Friends" for a program and a free lunch (donations given will support the Inman Food Bank)--the first Friday of every month.

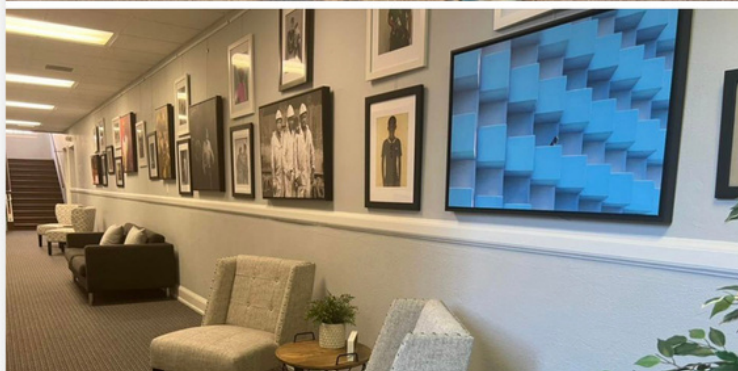


Our Hallway Gallery has a new name!

Thank you to all the participants in the Naming the Gallery Contest.

And congratulations to Cathy Salzer who submitted the winning entry.

Come visit the newly named "Grace Gallery" on the 2nd Floor of the McCord Building!



Come and see the beautiful and thought-provoking "I Am Your Neighbor" installation (photography by Ron Richardson of Testament Photography). And check the church website and/or youtube account to see some of the stories behind the photos.



RPUMC Family Ministry

A few of our students received their 3rd Grade Bibles (above left) and we continue to gather each Sunday morning to snack, study, pray and play (above right).

NEW NOTE: If your kiddo likes to sing, **we are hoping to gather a 'mini choir' of kids to sing a verse during the Christmas cantata.** To participate, during worship on December 11th, singers must attend a short rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 10th @10am AND at least one Sunday morning rehearsal (on Nov 20th or Dec 4th)



Save the Date

Family Ministry Advent Party
December 4th during the
Sunday School Hour (10 am)
 in the fellowship hall.
 Launch Advent. Eat food.
 (Also, we want to take a Christmas Card picture with all the RPUMC kiddos in Nativity Scene costumes.)



Thank you, Church, for donating ALL the many items for the UMCOR disaster relief buckets! It was amazing to watch shipment after shipment arrive (like blessings rolling in). Our students assembled 12 cleanup kits and were able to SEE the body of Christ at work (where all of us do our different parts).

Our next youth group 'Lunch and Serve' is November 6th at noon in the fellowship hall.



RPUMC Leadership & Nominations Report ~2023~

The names above and below represent committee and council members for 2023. Assuming this slate is approved at October 22nd charge conference, we want to say THANK YOU to those who will newly serve and continue. We also thank those who have faithfully served and will roll off at the end of this year (these names will be noted in our December newsletter).

Nominations Committee:

(with Pastor as chair and Tim Bush as vice)

·Continuing for next year: Tim Bush

Emily Rehberg, Leigh DiSalvo, Beth Joyner

Britt Scott, Bobby Brazell, Harriet Thurgood

·**New: Shirley Davis & Tami Crowell**

Board of Trustees

·Current and continuing:

Pam Pearsall, Robby Monk, Chuck Pickren,

Diane Carrigg. Joe DiSalvo. Danny Marks

·**New: Ty Strong, Larry Figart,
Alma Quails**

Staff Parish Relations/Finance Committee

·Continuing for next year: *Jeff Cornett*

Karen Fleming. Charlie Schubiger. Carly Gunby

·**New: Allison Matthews, Vinny SantaLucia, Radley Remo**

·Also part of this team: Layleader (Tim B.), Conference Rep (Beth J.), & Treasurer (Mark M.)

italics represent c/o 2023. Regular font represents c/o2024 **Bold text=2025**

Church Council 2023 (new members or new positions in bold)

- Lay Leader: Tim Bush
- Council Chair: Kevin Crowell
- **Vice Chair: TJ Grady**
- Annual Conference Rep: Beth Joyner
- **Recording Secretary: Debra Whitaker**
- **Children's Home rep: Eleanor Roukey**
- Beyond 50 Ministry: Jim Lewis
- Church Treasurer: Mark Mathews
- Membership Secretary: Nancy Schubiger
- Margaret's Memories: Nicole Remo
- Anti-racism initiative: Linda LaBell
- Women in Ministry rep: Bonnie Allen
- Family Ministry rep: Bobby Brazell
- Young Adult Leader: Kaitlyn Fuller
- **SPRC/Finance chair: Jeff Cornett**
- Connection/Care Team: JoAnn Goodwin
- Youth rep: Ava Manalo **and Anthony Strong (co)**
- Trustees Chair: elected in Jan. per Book of Discipline
- UMM President: Clark Burner
- Wednesday Night Ministry team: Bonnie Dudley
- Outreach/Evangelism: John Larsen
- Spiritual Growth & Nurture: Leigh DiSalvo
- **Family Promise Coordinator: Colleen Strong**
- **Grace Gallery: Ron Richardson**

Non-council Leadership Positions and Ministry Areas:

·Church Historian: Bettye Stilley

·Financial Secretary: Jack Barnard

Greeter/Hospitality Coordinator: Judy Marks

Worship committee will meet quarterly and function with task teams--led by pastor Emily



Advent 2022:

Begins Sunday, November 27th

In preparation (anticipation) for Christmas, we cover our sanctuary tree with gold and white symbols of Christ (the Chrismon symbols--see above). Many of us decorate our own homes (with trees, wreaths, lights, etc)—as signs and symbols that point us to the presence and the coming of Jesus into our world and lives. What do each of the symbols mean? And what does it mean to be a people who seeks the signs of Jesus?

"This will be a sign to you..." —Luke 2:12

Hanging of the Greens:

Sunday, Nov. 21st

~noon~

After the traditional service on Christ the King Sunday, please stick around to help assemble the huge sanctuary tree (with the Chrismon ornaments) fluff garland, hang wreaths, etc. It's fun!

Save the Dates

- Nov. 20 Hanging of the Greens
- Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 11 Cantata - One Service - 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 21 Blue Christmas Service - 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. Contemporary
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Traditional
- Dec. 25 Christmas - One Service - 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day - One Service - 10:30 a.m.





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 Christmas Day. They can be after the worship service on Christmas Day or the following week, Tuesday – Friday.

If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettia, please use this form and return to the church office with your payment no later than Monday, December 12th. The poinsettias are \$17 each.



PLACED BY: _____ PHONE #: _____

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A BOOKLET MAILED TO YOU PLEASE CHECK HERE _____ and PROVIDE ADDRESS BELOW::

Please circle 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: _____

IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF: _____



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION

NO. OF POINSETTIAS AT \$17.00 each _____

TOTAL \$ _____

CHECK # _____ **CASH** _____

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 7pm Circle of Hope	2 11am Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3	4 11am Yoga 11am 1st Friday Friends	5
6 COMMUNION 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 12pm Youth Lunch & Serve 5pm Bell Choir	7 6pm Yoga	8 6pm SPR/Finance Committee Meeting 7pm New Women's Circle	9 11am Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	10	11 11am Yoga	12
13 COMMITMENT SUNDAY 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	14 6pm Yoga	15 6pm Church Council Meeting	16 11am Circle of Joy & Peace 11am Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	17 6pm Board of Trustees Meeting	18 11am Yoga	19
20 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 12pm Hanging of the Greens 5pm Bell Choir	21 6pm Yoga	22	23 11am Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	24 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	28 6pm Yoga	29	30 11am Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir			



- 1st Adam Tompkins
- 2nd Cooper Crowell
Martha Swoope
- 5th Karen Fleming
- 6th Nicole Remo
Johnny Tompkins
- 8th Rachel DeLong
- 10th Fred Russell
- 11th Mason Bridges
Sharon Joos
Lyn Lewis
Sandra Pauley
- 12th Rachel Moseley
- 21st Ava Manalo
- 23rd Marty Holmes
Kirk Neufeld
Mary Lou Roberts
- 24th Mary Holladay
- 28th Jesse Manalo
- 29th Scott Allen
Vincent Santa Lucia
Emily Wilson

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 9/30/2022

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$322,992	\$336,491
Expenses	\$366,067	\$366,180
Surplus/Deficit	-\$39,132	-\$26,390

The finance committee is working to support next year's missions and ministries. We will invite members to offer up their 'loaves and fish' pledge cards on Sunday, Nov 13th. Please be in prayer for the WHOLE church's work of stewardship. We can do more together.

May God's love surround...

Home

- † Sally Alston
- † Emory Cook
- † Joe Dorsie
- † Shirley Early
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven & Teresa Jarvis
- † Jim Todd



College Students

- Zachary Bradley
- Taylor Bohannon
- James Cashman
- Tommy Cashman
- Frankie Crowell
- Tre Devine
- Brenna DuPries
- Gavin Grady
- Lindsey Grady
- Isabella Laffy
- Hogan Litwin
- Emily Matthews
- Emily Merton
- Kaden Neufeld
- Kyle Neufeld
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp
- Dallas Renne
- Hannah Stomps



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 Contemporary
@11am Traditional**

**We will have one service at
10:30am on 12/11, 12/25, & 1/1**

Church Office: (904) 355-5491

www.riversideparkumc.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9-3:30

Friday 9-1

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

Gealean Roeters, Family Ministry Administrator
families@riversideparkumc.com

Rich Lewis, Organist
r.lewis@riversideparkumc.com

Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper
j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com

Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
membership@riversideparkumc.com

Tre Devine, Custodian
t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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