

Riverside Reporter

July 2021

"A Call to Give Space for Joy" (a note from from Pastor Emily)

In the middle of May, I started keeping a journal of daily joys.

Nothing long or fancy--I literally pulled the calendar page from the church newsletter, hung it on the fridge and (in the little calendar boxes) wrote down a word or two each day to describe a moment that had life to it.

Some days the joys were simple moments:

morning sunlight. driving on a freshly paved road. dinner with a friend

Some days the celebrations were HUGE:

- *Maddie, our toddler, said "I love you" for the first time!*
- *Our cat went missing, but after about week, she returned. Missy was found! We rejoiced.*
- *On a Wednesday night dinner at the church, we ran out of extra meals and started to tell the last person "I'm sorry, we have nothing for you" --then realized that one person hadn't claimed their reservation. We had exactly the right number of meals!*

But several days were left blank.

It wasn't because joy wasn't there. I got busy and missed moments or simply didn't make time to pay attention. These weeks felt the heaviest (especially now that I look back)--not because they were the worst weeks, but because I wasn't operating from a space of wholeness within them. I *remember* a few *hard* days that didn't feel very joyful, but whenever I paused in front of that fridge calendar in the evening, I always managed to write *something* (even if it was tiny). And that moment of reflection and gratitude connected me to Christ in ways that strengthened my soul for everything else.

We are at our best when we give space for joy.

"The joy of the Lord is our strength." ~Nehemiah 8:10

**Not in some fake attempt to pretend everything okay,
but because we are stronger when we nurture our souls
and give space to seek God's presence.**

**Abundant life in Christ calls us to wholeness and
gratitude (and vice versa).**



"I look at joy as an act of resistance against despair and its forces. ... Joy in that regard is a work, that can become a state, that can become a way of life."
Willie James Jennings

"In the Jewish tradition, joy is something that happens when God finally does something that people have been waiting for."
N.T. Wright



Check the table inside the sanctuary entrance for our new worship arts station with journaling bibles, blank paper, and art supplies that might spark joyful expressions (like this one) during worship



Looking for Scripture to read this month?
How about the book of Philippians?
A chapter a week gets you through July!

- Quick outline of Philippians
- Rejoice! Christ is our life (Php 1)
 - Rejoice! Christ is our example (Php 2)
 - Rejoice! Christ is our glory (Php 3)
 - Rejoice! Christ is our strength (Php 4)

Where have you experienced or practiced joy?

If you have a picture or short video clip that expresses joy you've experienced, send it to pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com

We want to celebrate and share joyful moments during worship this month.



July Kids Messages

Get ready for old-school kids praise songs!

- *I've got the joy. Joy. joy joy down in my heart (where?)*
- *J is for Jesus*
- *Rejoice in the Lord Always*
- *Peace like a River (Joy like a fountain)*



Hymnals return to the pews!

We have missed (especially during the 11am traditional service) the comfort of holding a hymnal while singing, but no longer! Especially since the 9am service doesn't use hymnals, the covid team has decided the books can safely return to the pews! We will still offer sanitizing wipes on the back pew of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to wipe off their hymnal.

Memorials & Special Gifts

Dan Francabandiero (memorial gift)

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

Prentice Klicker (memorial gift)

A father's day memorial gift from his daughter, Jennie Bibb.

Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home made a generous gift to provide meals to the community through RPUMC's Wednesday Night Dinners. *We give special thanks to Matt Tucci and Brent Perry for supporting this ministry.*

We also thank the Chancel choir for the gift of their time, talents, and extra dedication this past year! THANK YOU!!!

The Chancel choir is on a well-deserved break this month, so look for special music and solos at the 11am service!

Gallery Display: ARTICLES OF FAITH

**Come and look at the gallery space on the second floor hallway.
The current display will be up for a few months (the plan is to rotate art and artists in order to generate conversation and foster connections with the community).**

Currently display: "Articles of Faith" (photography by Ron Richardson)

From its earliest moments, Christianity has been filled with architecture, symbols, sculptures, and effigies offering connections to the kingdom of Heaven. This installation offers the viewer an opportunity to engage with a broad spectrum of images and consider their place in the community of faith.

A note from the artist:

Testament: from the Latin word *testari*, meaning witness

Testament Photography was created as a vehicle where my photography and writing could be used to advance humanitarian and corporate projects that broaden people's perspectives and deepen compassion for their fellow man.

As far back as I can remember, I have loved looking at and making photos. I believe everyone has an interesting story even though they may not have a means to tell it. I want to be the conduit to get those stories told, heard, and seen. When someone tells me one of my photos or stories has made them feel like they were sharing the moment with that subject, I've achieved a certain level of success. If my images and narratives move people to act and make a difference, then I've accomplished my goal.

--Ron Richardson

TESTAMENT
PHOTOGRAPHY



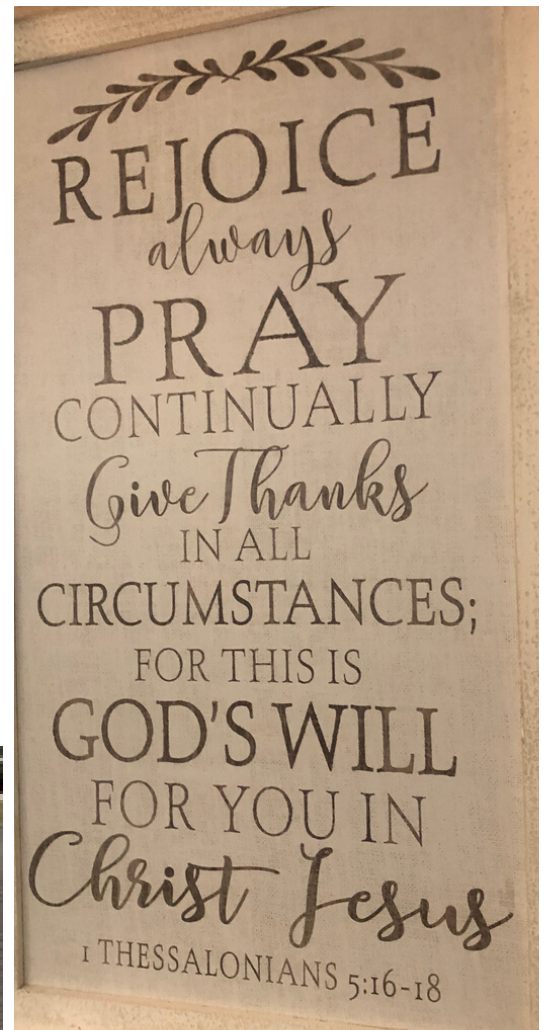
Gatherings with the artist are coming soon, but for now, we simply invite you to come and see.

Stop by during office hours (9-noon) or check out the hallway on Sunday mornings.

As the trustees continue to care for our facility and make it a space of welcome and abundant life, you may have noticed new touches...

Special thanks to Pam Pearsall and Bonnie Dudley for using their interior design skills to redecorate the office reception area and the 2nd floor hallway. It looks and feels more cozy and comfortable than ever before!

Thank You, Pam and Bonnie!





JOY! Vacation Bible School 2021: **July 5-9 9am-noon**

Our Prayer for VBS:

Lord, bring your joy.
help the details to happen
May the kids experience your joy,
community, and gratitude.
We're here to serve You.
In Jesus we pray, Amen.

Vacation Bible School 2021:

"J.O.Y. : Finding joy in loving Jesus, loving others, and loving yourself as a child of God!"

MONDAY: Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

TUESDAY: Nehemiah 8:10 The joy of the Lord is my strength!

WEDNESDAY: Luke 15:7 ALL of heaven rejoices when a single person repents!

THURSDAY: John 15:10-12 Jesus said, "let my joy complete... love one another."

FRIDAY: Galatians 5:22 The fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY...

Reasons to be excited about this year:

- We currently have 83 kids registered for VBS-including kids from the ymca summer camp
- Each day will have a "love your neighbor station" with a service project for the community
- We're going 'old school' with a simple chapel-style feel and a focus on Scripture and fun
- 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...*

RPUMC Family Discipleship

empowering kids and families to live life abundantly in Christ!

Pastor Emily will be at Warren Willis Camp: July 19-24

Pastor Emily will be leading elementary worship at Warren Willis Camp in Leesburg, FL during the week of July 19-24th. Please be in prayer for the campers, counselors, and leaders during that week.

This summer's curriculum focuses on Jesus' interactions with Peter (walking on water in Matthew 16:13-20, on the mountaintop in Matthew 17:1-13, at the crucifixion in Matthew 26:69-75, and on the beach after Jesus is resurrected John 21:1-19).

**If your family would like to join us for worship online,
camp services are livestreamed every Tuesday and Friday night:**

<https://wwwumccc.org/our-programs/parents-info/>





Some of our High School students gather for an impromptu summer coffee



Jake, Ava, and Lilah Manalo get their service on & help with Wednesday night dinners



Family Discipleship Challenge for July: Do something fun! Give space for joy and take a moment to pray while you do it (bonus points if you invite others to join you)



Family Game Night: Saturday, July 31st at the church. Time TBD/ (expect a Harry Potter twist at some point)



Parent check-in Sunday July 25th 3pm zoom (last Sunday of each month). Email kids@riversideparkumc.com for the zoom link



Save the date: Saturday, August 21st
Family Discipleship Visioning, Dreaming, and Planning

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." ~Ephesians 3:16-19



We love you! We will miss you!
We wish you the best, Dorsey-Ann Rhames!

A HUGE word of thanks and blessing to Dorsey-Ann Rhames who is moving to Louisiana. (Her son-in-law, Jim Stomps, was chosen to serve as head football coach for Westminster Christian Academy in Lafayette, LA). Dorsey-Ann has been a vital part of Riverside Park United Methodist Church for over twenty years: serving in several committee areas and giving time graciously (and generously) as our membership secretary and the coordinator/organizer for Sunday morning fellowship breakfasts. DA and her beloved husband, Vernon, were constant fixtures of goodness and love--so much that the fellowship hall is named after them both.

We will formally thank Dorsey-Ann and bless her years of RPUMC ministry during the 9am & 11am services on Sunday, July 11th
This place will not be the same without you, DA!

**We will return to regular office hours
on August 2nd.**

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Rockin' Back
to School**

**Saturday, August 7th
9:00 am - 11:30 am
Riverside Park
753 Park Street**

**FREE Backpacks & School Supplies for Kids
(Pre-K—Grade 12)**

FREE Haircuts and Kid's ID Cards

Riverside Connections



**Active Disciples
Who Go and Serve**

Empower others to live abundantly in Christ!

SUNDAY MORNING

READER/LITURGIST

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

Sundays (occasional)

DURING THE WEEK

NEWSLETTER HELP

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

Once a month

OCCASIONAL OR ONE-TIME

VBS Photographer

Drop in to take some
pictures of VBS activities!

kids@riversideparkumc.com

One time event

TECH TEAM

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

once a month

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

Answer phones, greet
visitors, help with
administrative tasks.

once a week (or less)

Prayer Team

We want a team of people
willing to intentionally
pray. Contact the office if
you are willing!

Occasional

GREET/HOSPITALITY TEAM

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

once a month

WEDNESDAY DINNER SERVER

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

**Wednesdays ~5-6:30pm
once a month**

CHURCH CLIMBER

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

once or twice a year

RIVERKIDS GUIDE

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

once a month

SEND LOVE TO OUR SHUT-INS

Send cards or make a visit to
some of the folks at home who
continue to stay at home.
Send love and con

occasional team

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

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.



**Temporary Office Hours
During COVID-19 Pandemic**
9am—12pm or by appointment
Monday-Friday
We will return to regular office hours on August 2nd.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
			YMCA Camp			
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY INDEPENDENCE DAY 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship	5 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	6	7 5:30pm Free Dinners VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9-12	8	9	10
			YMCA Camp			
11 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship	12	13 6pm SPR/Finance Committee Meeting	14 5:30pm Free Dinners	15	16	17
			YMCA Camp			
18 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship	19 6pm Board of Trustees Meeting	20	21 5:30pm Free Dinners	22	23	24
			YMCA Camp			
25 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 3pm Parent Check-In	26	27 6pm Church Council Meeting	28 5:30pm Free Dinners	29	30	31 Family Game Night (Time TBD)
			YMCA Camp			



- 1st Doug Matthews
- 2nd Cade Renne
- 3rd Carly Gunby
- 5th Henley Gunby
Susan Stone
- 6th Jennie Bibb
- 9th Joye Hampton
- 10th Paige Bush
Tim Riechmann
- 12th Caden Bridges
Bonnie Dudley
- 13th Rachel Bush
Will Markert
- 14th Mike Thurgood
- 15th Gealean Roeters
- 16th Matt Hemphill
- 17th Derrick Hittell
- 18th Scarlet Tompkins
- 19th Penelope Diao
Joanne Lipp-Carlson
- 20th John Cogburn
Nikki Griffin
- 22nd Kylie Rodriguez
- 23rd Chuck Pickren
- 25th Mia Anderson
Alex Anderson
Shirley Early
Alex Winter
- 27th Ashley Alston
- 28th Carmel Brown
- 29th James Cashman
Malacai Moore
- 31st Jack Barnard

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee (Zoom)
Tuesday, July 13 @ 6:00 pm

Board of Trustees (Zoom & In-Person)
Monday, July 19 @ 6:00 pm

Church Council (Zoom)
Tuesday, July 27 @ 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 5/31/2021

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$165,998	\$138,874
Expenses	\$187,439	\$201,890
Deficit/Surplus	- \$21,441	-\$63,016

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



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 Team Leader
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

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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