

Riverside Reporter: August 2021

How many United Methodists does it take to change a lightbulb?

In our case (here to the right) it was three. But the lights were in the sanctuary ceiling --which meant climbing several ladders, avoiding trip wires, and wearing headlamps through the attic.

Honestly, I was thrilled to learn and explore a new part of the building (I got to see the altar window from above instead of below!!!).

But I've also had new experiences that felt more terrifying than adventurous (like starting at a new

school or navigating through a pandemic where the ground seems to shift whenever we find our footing). And although the situations may feel very different, the navigating principles are the same: gear up wisely, lean on your crew, and take one step at a time. In the case of changing lights in the sanctuary, I was mindful that our lights were not The Light (that light never goes out or changes).

So whether this month looks adventurous or complex for you, my prayer is that you would navigate it one step at a time—in the light of Christ who leads and guides us.

Also: I will never take lightbulbs for granted again. ☺



As Riverside Park United Methodist Church, We are Formed by these Values:

- Our faith in Jesus Christ
- The love and grace we experience in God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- The Word of God
- Personal and spiritual growth through learning, gathering, and serving
- A Spirit of loving warmth and hospitality
- Our (rich) history and our (deep) 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 (even when it's not easy and we do so imperfectly)

In worship this month...



**Jesus:
Our Bread of Life**

**August 1st
Communion Sunday**
John 6:24-35
Ephesians 4:1-7,11-16



**Jesus:
Our Teacher
& Light**

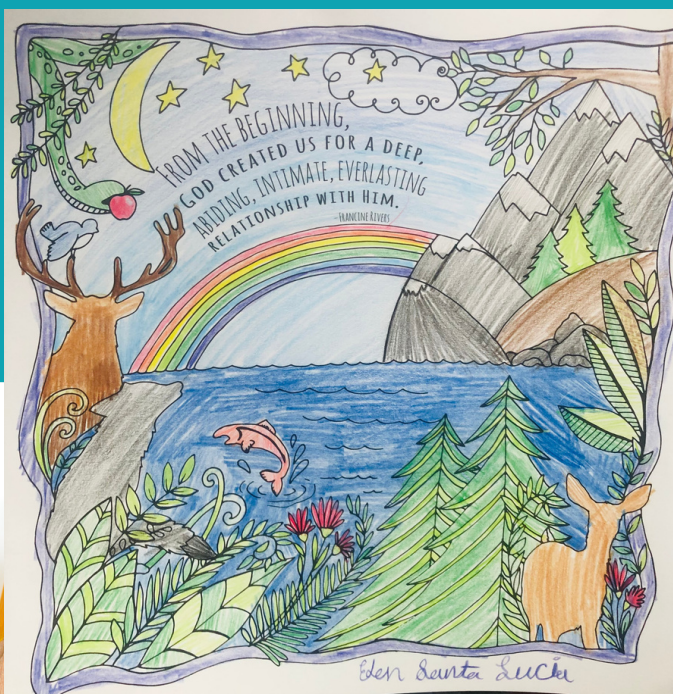
August 8th
**Blessing educators,
students and their families**
John 8:1-12
Ephesians 3:14-21



**Jesus:
Our Guide & Way**

August 15, 22, 29
"Into the Thick of It"
*(3-part mini series asking:
How do we navigate life when
we can't see where we're going?)*

Ephesians 5:15-20; Ephesians 6:10-20; James 1:17-27
John 15:1-5; John 10:11-16; John 14:1-7



Coloring supplies will remain in the narthex for a little while longer! Many of our adults and older students have enjoyed doodling sermon notes or simply filling a page with color--just like the Spirit who fills us with life. Check the back table for more options or to simply see what others have done!

Thanks to Eden (middle schooler) for sharing this one!





Gallery Display (2nd Floor): "ARTICLES OF FAITH" BY RON RICHARDSON

Have you noticed that the display flows between colored images and black and white? Have you noticed that the 'articles of faith' range from very very simple to incredibly ornate and complex? What IS it that makes something a symbol of faith or a holy space?

Art can generate very good conversations.

**To see the work. stop by during office hours or check out the 2nd floor hallway on Sunday mornings (and watch for more stories and conversations about these images)
Feel free to send your own questions to ron@testamentphoto.com**

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Sunday, Aug. 18 @ 3pm

email Linda LaBell at LSLABELL@yahoo.com
for the Zoom link and information

**UNITED
METHODISTS
STAND AGAINST
RACISM**



Young Adult Hang @ the parsonage

Friday, Aug. 13 @ 7pm

Contact Kaitlyn Fuller: kaitlyn.fuller@outlook.com

Memorials Gifts:

Dan Francabandiero (memorial gift)
A gift to the pastor's discretionary
fund from Mark and Jenny Cashen

Congregational Notes:

More guidance and information will be forthcoming from Church Council about the *Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation*. This legislation will be voted on at General Conference in August 2022.



FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021



A Community of Love & Forgiveness

Annual Conference Update

The Florida Annual Conference was held virtually this year, June 11 – 12, featuring a theme of Love and Forgiveness. Pre-conference workshops were offered June 7th-9th and provided insight into some of the initiatives and resolutions presented this year. I was excited to participate in three of these interactive virtual workshops with Linda LaBell participating in two. Even though all sessions were held virtually, you couldn't contain the enthusiasm of members from all over the state gathered together, united in their love and desire to serve a living God.

The Laity session, lead by our Conference Lay Leader Alice Williams, highlighted four distinct elements of laity:

- Purpose- a church driven by spirit-led individuals, democratic based with shared leadership
- Presence – faith is not static, it requires action; you can't be on the sidelines
- Partnership – ministry is about relationships, building bridges and connecting with others to spread God's love
- Passion- we should be striving to create a world as it ought to be, putting our thoughts and prayers into positive change

Bishop Carter spoke to the theme of Love and Forgiveness, sharing how the communion table represents God's love and the cross His forgiveness for our sins. The UMC cross and flame reminds us to be a community of love and forgiveness and to focus on being the light. He talked about the church as a "big tent", where all are loved and welcome to receive the grace of Jesus Christ; and that unity cannot be at someone's expense. In our journey towards holiness, we need connection to keep love alive.

The 2020 Fill the Table Initiative resulted in 5 million meals being distributed, demonstrating the impact we have when we work together and follow Jesus' directive to love our neighbors. You can take pride in this accomplishment as our Wednesday dinners were a part of those 5 million meals.



Annual Conference Update continued

During the business sessions, the budget, which was reduced by 5%, was approved. This is the third year in a row where the budget has been reduced which in turn reduces the apportionments we pay as a local church. The conference continues to examine expenses as they continue to work towards being fiscally responsible.

Other business items voted on during the conference were:

- Sale of Episcopal Residence – this is the housing provided for the bishop; a housing allowance will replace the home
- Option for Co-Lay Leader Structure – designed to share the leadership responsibilities of the lay leader

Six resolutions were voted and approved; full details on each resolution can be found on the Florida Methodist Conference website, FLUMC.org/ac. Look for “voting items” on the left panel. “Resolutions express our Church community’s beliefs and give us evidence that the Church means for God’s love to reach into situations faced each day, not just on Sunday mornings. Not all of us are intimately involved with each issue, but someone, somewhere, is.” If you have any questions about these resolutions please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to discuss with you.

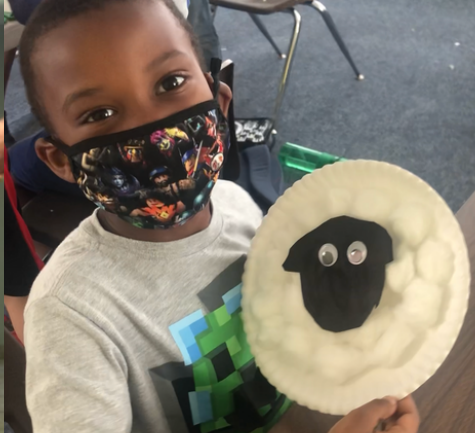
The conference also voted to close six churches and disaffiliate three. I personally found this difficult as one of the churches closed was started by my former father-in-law. It is always moving to attend the memorial and retirement services that honor our clergy and their spouses.

The recognition of licenses and services of commissioning and ordination saw 51 individuals committing themselves to God’s service. I was especially excited to watch the service of commissioning for Provisional Elders as two of the individuals were approved through the NE District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM). I was privileged to be part of the team that worked with Margaret Odom Tomkins and Katie Harrington as they prepared for approval for Provisional Elder. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey towards ordination.

I came away from the conference filled with hope. As a connectional church we make a commitment to one another to work together to spread God’s love. It is together, in this connection that we can light a fire that can change our local communities and even the world.

Beth Joyner
Riverside Park UMC’s
Lay Member for Annual Conference
(and joyful great-grandmother)





VBS 2021

J.O.Y

Loving JESUS. Loving OTHERS
& YOURSELF as a child of God.



RPUMC Family Discipleship

empowering kids and families to live life abundantly in Christ!

THANK YOU to the volunteers who made vacation Bible school possible!

THANK YOU to the whole church for giving and supporting this amazing ministry!

On our busiest day, we had 74 kids in attendance.

Kids who learned scripture and worshipped in joy!

...and made cards for neighbors, teachers, medical workers, JSO officers, and firefighters in the community.

...and made 'kid bags' (with coloring pages and snacks) for local food pantries.

...and 'manna bags' with socks & hygiene supplies for the homeless.

Truly, it was a wonderful week of scripture, games, snacks, and service!

We are currently working to coordinate Sunday school for youth and kids.

If you would be willing to help, please let us know!

United Methodist Back-to-School Blessing

Learning is a gift from God.

As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both.

Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day.

We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates and friends.

We ask that you bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

Amen.

FAMILY MINISTRY DREAMING/PLANNING

**SAT. AUGUST 21ST
10-NOON
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**PARENT CHECK-IN:
SUNDAY, AUGUST
29TH @ 3PM**

**EMAIL
KIDS@RIVERSIDEPARKUMC.COM
FOR THE ZOOM LINK**



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

Volunteer opportunities are available.

To sign up, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/RPUMC-RBS2021>

Backpacks with supplies will be given to five age groups:

- Pre-K and K
- Grades 1-3
- Grades 4 - 5
- Grades 6 - 8; and
- Grades 9-12

There will be no physicals this year but we look forward to adding that back in 2022. Activities include free haircuts, ID, scouts, library and perhaps a visit from the fire department (depending on availability).

We will return to our regular office hours
on Monday, August 2nd:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We do not have designated volunteers in the
afternoons, so if you know that you're
planning to stop in for a visit, a phone call
would be a helpful heads-up.

OFFICE
HOURS

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

Rockin' Back to School

Volunteers still needed for
a few areas.
Call the office or visit:
tinyurl.com/rpumcrbs

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**

CLEANUP COORDINATOR

One local way that we can
be a good neighbor is to
rally folks to help pickup
trash in the neighborhood.
We need a point person.

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.



Office Hours
9 am—3:30 pm
Monday-Thursday
9 am—1 pm
Friday

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship	2	3	4 5:30pm Free Dinners YMCA Camp	5	6	7 9-11:30 am Rockin' Back to School
8 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 3pm Anti-Racism Group	9	10 6pm SPR/Finance Committee Meeting	11 5:30pm Free Dinners	12	13	14
15 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship	16 6pm Board of Trustees Meeting	17 6pm Church Council Meeting	18 5:30pm Free Dinners	19	20	21 10-12 Family Disciple- ship Meeting
22 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship	23	24	25 5:30pm Free Dinners	26	27	28
29 FIFTH SUNDAY Offering for Florida United Methodist Children's Home 9am Contemporary Worship 11am Traditional Worship 3pm Parent Check-In	30	31				

AUGUST Birthdays

- 4th **Gina Brown**
Matt Take
- 5th **Clark Burner**
Harriet Thurgood
- 6th **Audrey Haupt**
- 7th **Geneva Rentz**
- 9th **Dan Marks**
- 10th **Janis Schmitz**
- 11th **Terrie Lee**
Frank Morreale
Eli Murray
Claire Weaver
- 12th **Lara Manalo**
Shirley Post
- 13th **Nick Laflash**
- 15th **Pam Allen**
- 17th **Diane Bowman**
- 18th **Allyson Popp**
Dallas Renne
- 19th **Derrick Hittell**
- 18th **Scarlet Tompkins**
- 19th **Tim Bush**
- 21st **Mary Soper**
Ty Strong
- 22nd **Bettye Stilley**
- 24th **Diane Carrigg**
- 25th **Carol Beyer**
Frankie Crowell
- 27th **Malcolm Remo**
- 28th **David Bowman**
Harper Gunby
Jeff Joos
Bill Markert
Brittany Scott
- 30th **Colby Allen**
Pam Pearsall
Bridget Ware

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee (Zoom)
Tuesday, August 10 @ 6:00 pm

Board of Trustees (Zoom & In-Person)
Monday, August 16 @ 6:00 pm

Church Council (Zoom)
Tuesday, September 21 @ 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 6/30/2021

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$213,545	\$169,613
Expenses	\$224,503	\$242,263
Deficit/Surplus	- \$10,958	-\$72,650

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

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

Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper
j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com

Rich Lewis, Organist
r.lewis@riversideparkumc.com

Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, 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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