



RIVERSIDE REPORTER: OCTOBER 2021

An Autumn Prayer

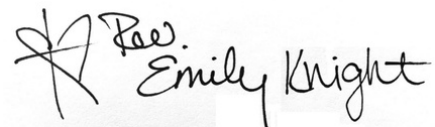
O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen

My prayer for you (for us) is wholeness.
Lord God, in your holiness, make us whole.

To me, there's a unity to wholeness (like the togetherness of groups gathering for Bible study or meals—or the mystical oneness of Holy Communion celebrated around the world). In Christ, we get to be part of a greater whole—the whole world.

And wholeness also feels like healing. Restoration. Release.
There's something about Autumn that feels like a deep breath. Like it gives space for all creation to rest for a moment and breathe out...
The days are still busy (especially for carpool parents and folks changing jobs) but the cooler temperatures just feel lighter, somehow (even in Florida). Maybe it's because the shorter days give space for rest—which we NEED after the past few years years.

So yes, my prayer this month is for wholeness. Because we need it.
Because wholeness and holiness intertwine. Because God WANTS to make us whole (and we can't get there by ourselves). We need wholeness, so we ask:
Lord God, in your holiness, make us whole.


Rev. Emily Knight



from Church Council...

Church council meetings lately have had some incredible mission-focused, life-giving, and crucial conversations! Here are some recent discussions...

We often discuss 'our church' but what does *our community* need?

Safe spaces to gather. Shelter (like with family promise).

Dinners. Food. *"We all need food in our bellies, God in our hearts, and to be loved."*

Signs of hope and light (like a lighthouse) Holy space for worship.

Connection, friendship, and support--especially for senior adults and families/parents

Cleanups in the neighborhood and park.

Love and acceptance (new ways of outreach)

"Sometimes getting TO the church is the hardest part. We need church to come to us."

How can we have difficult conversations in loving ways?

Pastor Emily sent a church-wide email at the end of the summer--sharing that church council would be discussing ways for the WHOLE church to be better informed and faithfully discuss denominational legislation called "The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation." This legislation won't come before the global General Conference until August of 2022 (and if it does pass, churches will have until *at least* August of 2023 should they decide to react). Church council's unanimous decision was that the first step is to seek information from our conference leadership. Our bishop's assistant, Rev. Alex Shanks, is currently working to schedule a presentation for us at RPUMC and we will share that date with everyone AS SOON as we know it. In the meantime, church council agreed on some healthy and faithful guidelines for HOW we want this conversation to unfold in healthy ways:

As the body of Christ, we want to AVOID...

- politicizing. hurt.
- bitterness. angst. nastiness.
- confusion and/or gossip.
- rushing and/or procrastinating
- secrecy/hiddenness
- damaging our Christian witness (i.e. are we acting like people who love Jesus?)
- distraction/stepping away from our purpose
- exclusion or pressure to "pick sides"
- an empty crumbling building that outlasts the people who are the body
- separating community/congregation (we are also part of the community and "the community" is also in our church)

As the body of Christ, we want to WORK FOR...

- continued love for one another (even with our disagreements and differences)
- understanding. information. (i.e. contacting the UMC conference leadership for clarity)
- deeper spiritual growth and connection to scripture
- Worship and community and mission to be at the front. We have to be in the present and respond to the needs around us.
- to seek understanding rather than trying to change one another
- Worship together. We worship well at this church, so this conversation should be connected to our connection to God: with communion and forgiveness.
- Scripture. Scripture. Scripture.
- Conversations and incarnational connection. "We need to ask questions. Have eye contact. See PEOPLE."



YOU'RE INVITED

VIRTUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE 2021

Thursday, Oct 21 | 7pm | Zoom

REPRESENT OUR CHURCH AND
CELEBRATE OUR MINISTRIES

The purpose of charge conference is *"to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church."*

We will gather online with several neighboring United Methodist Churches (Avondale, Ebenezer, Garden City, Highlands, Murray Hill, New Life Community, Simpson Memorial and Wesley Fellowship)--sharing ministry celebrations and challenges.

This year's charge conference will be online (via zoom) but the district is still asking participants to support local foodbanks. For more information, please contact the church office at (904) 355-5491 or j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com

Small Groups

Senior Adult Fellowship: On the first Friday of the month, join us in the fellowship hall for fun, food, and fellowship. Contact Jim Lewis for more info. lewisj2fla@yahoo.com

Faith Formation Groups: Contact Dakota at families@riversideparkumc.com

New Sunday School Class beginning Sunday October 3rd, Rev. David Holladay will lead a new class studying the Gospel of Mark. The class will meet at 10am Sundays in the church library (2nd floor McCord bldg.)

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

The **Becomers class** is meeting on Sundays between services in room #303. Join them in the Fellowship Hall or online. Contact Mark Mathews: mamathews10@gmail.com

The **Covenant class** meets in-person in room 204 on the 2nd floor on Sundays between services. Contact Kevin Crowell for more information.

Wednesday Night Ministries

(now called 'Wednesday night ministries' because we're doing more than just food) Church council has decided that free meals will continue at least through the end of the year, so please keep those donations and volunteers coming! (for our high school students: Yes, you can count volunteer hours for school) We will also start collecting socks and celebrate/share updates in worship on the third Sunday of each month.



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..." ~Matthew 25:35



Bill and Krissy bag up donated Girl Scout cookies for dessert (above). Bonnie, Tim, Tre, and Danny organize meals for pickup (below)



Annaleigh gets ice ready for drinks (top) and youth Servers: April and Scott box up meals for their first Wednesday (below)





Family Discipleship



Faith Formation Groups

In September we had the joy of starting our Faith Formation Groups, which will continue throughout the fall. These groups provide a space for families to experience community with one another and nurture their faiths through prayer, worship, and scripture. Oh, and snacks! If Jesus has taught me anything, it's the importance of breaking bread together.

We spend the first half of the hour as a large group, eating, praying and worshipping. Then we break into age-specific groups to read and talk about scripture. Student groups are led by volunteers (that could be you!) while parents gather together for their own discussion. All groups are currently focusing on the life of Jesus.

These groups are open to all and we would love for you to join us! We've been so blessed by our attendance numbers already (for real y'all, we had 26 people show up one week!) If you have any questions or would like to volunteer as a group leader, please reach out to Ms. Dakota at families@riversideparkumc.com.

When: Sunday Mornings @10

Where: Fellowship Hall

Save the Date!

- Trunk or Treat
10/24
- Family Bonfire Night
11/20
- Faith Formation
Sundays @10



Above: Parents discussing the importance of baptism in their families.



Above: PreK-2nd Graders learning about the life of Jesus.

Sunday Parents Lounge

We are also excited to announce the opening of our "Parents Lounge" during worship on Sunday mornings.

At Riverside Park, we love children and value having them in worship. We also recognize that the sanctuary is not always the easiest setting to watch service in with small children. We are opening up the Nursery for families that would like to attend worship in a space where their kids needs are met more easily.

There will not be a staff member or nursery attendant available during these times, but the space will be open and equipped during our worship services in a way that will allow these families to watch service together.

Margaret's Memories Update

Even with social distancing we have been busy!
Here is what has been going on:

- ♥ The Sewing Bee for Margaret's Memories and Tiny Treasures was a success for a new event. Thank you to everyone that participated!
- ♥ The Infant Loss Remembrance Day sponsored by many local hospitals is on October 24, 2021.
- ♥ Many High School young adults have been working on projects at home for volunteer hours.
- ♥ We continue to receive thank you notes and emails from families/friends to thank Margaret's Memories for giving the gift of memories. We are continually told all of the handmade items are very touching.



Save the Date

Coming Soon

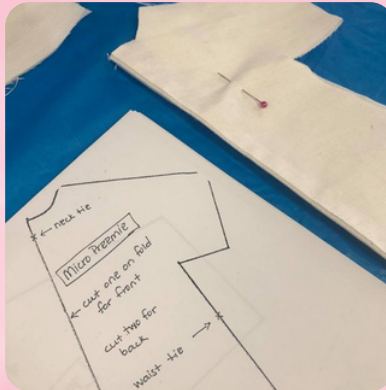
Date & Time TBD

Box Assembly Event

For more information, email Nicole at margaretsmemories@hotmail.com or call the church office at 904-355-5491. You can also "like" us on Face Book and visit our website: www.margaretsmemories.org
Thank you to everyone that makes this mission possible through your service, time, talents, and PRAYERS. Together we are...

...Saving Memories One Footprint AT A Time.

Nicole Remo



Our seniors, ages 55 and better are invited to lunch and fellowship on the first Friday of each month. The group will meet in the fellowship hall starting at 11am. Lunch will be served at noon followed by games such as Bingo. Prizes will be given out and fun will be had! Contact Jim Lewis for more information at (904) 655-4002.



Senior Adult Fellowship
Ages 55 and up
RPUMC Fellowship Hall
Friday -- October 1st

11:00 - Social Hour
12:00 - Lunch
12:30 - Bingo

Please RSVP
(so we will have enough food and prizes.)
Call: 904 355 5491

One of our 'unseen' ministries this month is Family Promise which works with families experiencing homelessness. We will host 3 families (with kids) 'off site' during the second week of October. If you would like to help pick up and delivery groceries, contact pastor Emily. We hope to host families on-site again in the spring, so be in prayer.



Join us for
Trunk or Treat!
Sunday, October 24th
treating 4:30-6:30
(setup @4)

Come decorate your trunk and pass out candy in a safe environment.

Contact Kaitlyn Fuller for more info:
kaitlyn.fuller@outlook.com



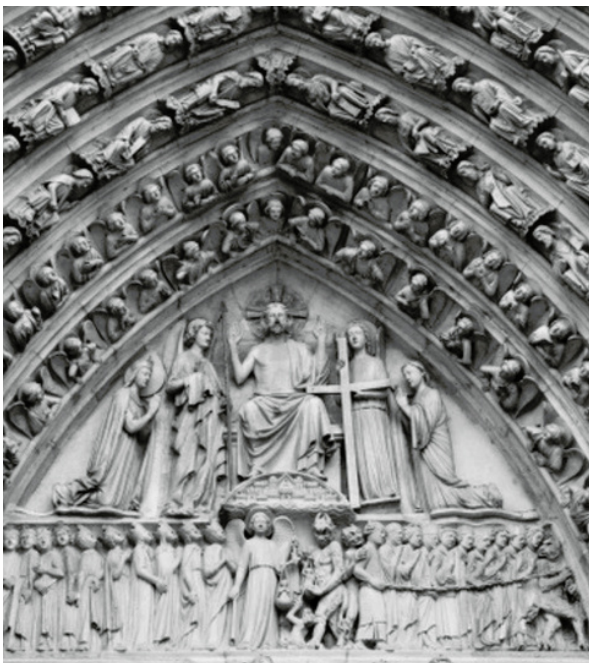
RPUMC's Gallery Project: "Articles of Faith"

Meet Ron Richardson of Testament Photography.

Since the pandemic has made it challenging for some to make it to church and view our first art installation, "Articles of Faith," in the McCord Building, we decided to bring the photographs to you a few images at a time along with some information about each one!

Ron Richardson, the visual artist responsible for the installation, explores the next five photos in the display. Consider these both as a group and as individual images. Collectively, they all deal with construction, both complex and simple, plain, and greatly detailed. They are geographically diverse, coming from France, Georgia, and New Mexico and feature Catholic and Baptist

denominations. As you examine these as a group, what common threads do you see? The first individual image I'll discuss with you is this crucifix. It is suspended on an outside wall near the doorway of a small church in rural New Mexico. Protected from the elements by a small overhang, the crucifix was crafted by one of the parishioners. If you look closely at the image, you will notice a section of a cutter bar from a tractor powered mower has been used to frame the crucifix. Further examination will show that, while the carving is crude, the artist has included some great details; the blood from Christ's wounds and a scraped knee incurred when he stumbled while carrying the cross. The addition of the rope around His waist was an interesting addition as is the tassel, even though it is way out of proportion to the rest of the carving. The final element I want you to see is where the artist exercised artistic license and painted the thorn tips and nail heads turquoise. Of all the religious artifacts I've seen on my travels, this is a favorite. I can almost see the artist creating it as a labor of love.



The second photo, which is about as far away stylistically from the crucifix as it is in terms of distance, is this panel from the exterior of Cathedral Notre Dame de Paris, which illustrates the final judgment. This central portal was completed around 1220. Arranged in rows around the outside are the saints and angels who are watching. Notice that while the characters are similar, each is different from the other. God is on the judgment seat. Below Him is an angel holding a scale tipping in favor of the just. To the left of the angel are the sheep, to the right are demons charged with leading the goats away. Take a moment to compare the expressions of the individuals in the respective groups.

RPUMC's Gallery Project: "Articles of Faith"

Meet Ron Richardson of Testament Photography.

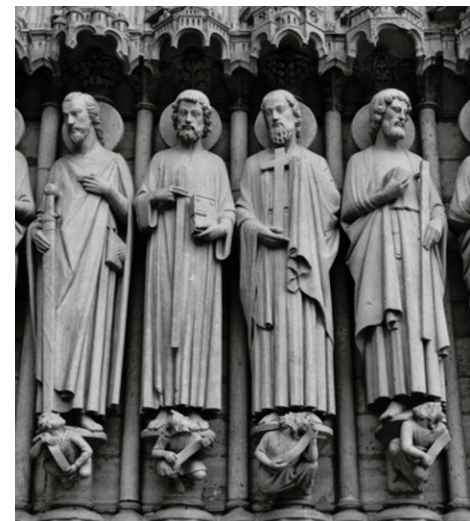
San Rafael church is located near the small community of La Cueva, New Mexico and was built from 1862-1870. Designed by the local French priest, the church features Gothic-type windows, doors, and high ceilings. These features and the use of rafters in the roof were unheard of in the area. San Rafael served the area until 1952 when it was abandoned. Over the next 38 years San Rafael church was ravaged by the elements but underwent a restoration starting in 1990 that culminated in its rededication in 1996. I was drawn to its unique design, select use of color, and the shade of adobe that just pops against the beautiful New Mexico sky.



White Plains Baptist Church was organized in Greene County, GA in 1806, and pre-dates the town of the same name, which was incorporated many years later, in 1834. According to church records, there have been four buildings on this same site, with the current sanctuary being completed in 1887. For me, this church is a study in contrasts. First, there is the choice of the use of dark green on the doors and shutters, which makes the white of the building look even whiter. That all the shutters are closed are there are two separate entrances made me wonder if the congregation was welcoming or a bit standoffish.

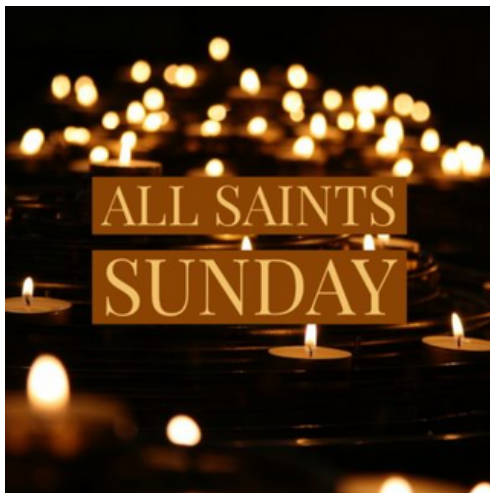
The final image in this group is another from the Cathedral Notre Dame de Paris. It features.

six of the 12 apostles. In this one, pay particular attention to the items each apostle carries. Also, notice the men underneath the pedestals occupied by the apostles. If you look at the bottom left and bottom right of the photo, you will see a bull and a lion, the symbols for Luke and Mark respectively.



I would love to hear your thoughts and questions on this episode, so please email me at ronald.j.richardson@gmail.com

Looking Ahead...



Send us names for All Saints Sunday!

All Saints Sunday will be November 7th

Each year on this Sunday, we read the names of church members who have died in the past year (since Nov 2020). This year has been especially hard for many, so we want to give extra space for grief and remembrance.

**If your loved one has died this year
(even if they weren't members of RPUMC)
and you would like their name read on All Saints Sunday,
contact Joye in the church office by October 30th.**

Nov. 7: All Saints Sunday
Nov. 14: Memorial Concert
Nov. 20: Family Bonfire Night
~Hanging of the Greens TBD~
Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 12th: Christmas Cantata
Luminaria Night & Caroling



Memorials & Special Gifts

Dorothy 'Dot' W. Fitzpatrick (memorial gift given to support Wednesday Night Dinners)

"Mom loved to love and feed people, so we are happy to support Wednesday dinners in her memory."

~Julie and Chuck Pickren (Dot's daughter and son-by-marriage)

Dan Francabandiero (memorial gift)

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

Amazon Smile Donation (Special Gift)

Amazon allows customers to designate a charity and then donates 0.5% of eligible purchases towards that cause. We received one of those checks this month!



- 1st** Chris Holmes
Hogan Litwin
Hannah Stomps
- 3rd** Caleb Diao
Reid Dupries
- 9th** Chase Cogburn
- 10th** DJ Flagler
Evan Ruffino
- 11th** Jennifer Cogburn
Jeff Cornett
Leigh DiSalvo
JoAnn Goodwin
- 12th** Christi Allen
- 13th** Kate Riechmann
- 14th** Diane Take
- 15th** Chip Pickren
- 16th** Melissa Matthews
Ron Richardson
- 18th** Radley Remo
- 20th** Laura Winter
- 23rd** Emily Knight
- 24th** Andy Beall
- 25th** Mary Middleton
- 27th** Emory Cook
Julie Hemphill
- 28th** Andy Carrigg
- 29th** Tony Wilbourne
- 30th** Emily Popp
- 31st** Bonnie Allen
Brayden Briscoe
Scott Laflash
Gordon Middleton, III
Chris Renne

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee (Zoom)
Tuesday, October 12 @ 6:00 pm

Board of Trustees (Zoom & In-Person)
Monday, October 18 @ 6:00 pm

Church Council (Zoom)
Tuesday, October 19 @ 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 8/31/2021

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$290,362	\$231,091
Expenses	\$303,559	\$323,017
Deficit/Surplus	- \$13,197	-\$91,926

May God's love surround...

Home

- † Emory Cook
- † Joe Dorsie
- † Shirley Early
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven & Theresa Jarvis
- † Betty Nolen
- † Connie Skinner
- † 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



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
families@riversideparkumc.com

Electronic Service Requested

Jacksonville, FL 32204

819 Park Street

RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 2717