

RIVERSIDE REPORTER:

JANUARY 2022

We are drawn to lighthearted people—to those whose company leave us feeling lifted. bright. welcome.

Light draws us in—like a beacon calling us home or a warm fire on a cold dark night. Light is warmth and comfort and—in the words of Jesus: life.

Jesus came that we might have light and life abundant. Light and life to share. Light and life to the depth of our souls.

Because we desperately need it.

“Light” carries a double meaning: there’s the light that shines in the darkness (John 1:5) and also the lightness of hearts unburdened, rested—even cheerful (“a cheerful heart is good medicine” Proverbs 17:22).

So what are the practices that keep us close to that warmth and light of Christ? What are ways to carry and cultivate the lightness Jesus talks about?

One of our church members shared that he works to name his burdens (rather than avoid them)—and ask for Gods help releasing them. One member said that her starting point is simply asking for God’s light (“because, right now, I don’t feel like I have it.) One person finds excuses to laugh and be grateful. For me, I have to make time to read Scripture and allow myself to sit in the literal sunshine. When I leave the dishes for a moment and go outside, that bit of sunshine and breathing somehow shines light and perspective on everything else.

So join us this month as we encourage one another to live in the light of Christ; to be lighthearted and share Gods light with others.

Jesus says “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
—John 8:12

“Come, you who are heavy burdened... Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” —
Matthew 11:28-30

“For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!”
—Ephesians 5:8

Rev. Emily Knight

Trustees Update

Hello church family and Trustees wish you all the best for the New Year!

Trustees work at first glance is all about the structure of the buildings we worship and learn in. And that is our job. But we do play a part in bringing the word of God to others, also. How we do that is by granting others the use of our facilities. They fill out a Facilities Rent/Use Request. Trustees then vote on whether or not to allow them to use our buildings. The administrator of that group then undergoes a security check and if needed they are issued a key and a code for the door they will use. There is usually a fee that goes along with the use.

Some of the groups that have taken advantage during the past year are: YMCA Summer Camp, two Yoga groups, String Camp, Girl Scouts are now meeting in Fellowship Hall, Elections uses Fellowship Hall for voting. We have had a violin recital and volunteers for Methodist Children's Home will be meeting, also.

All of these groups meet with some member of our church and all can feel the friendliness and welcome they receive. Trustees may not be knocking on doors and evangelizing but in our own way, we welcome them with faith.

We will be providing updates in the near future on steps to repair our facilities and how to fund those repairs.

God Bless you all,

Chris Schmitz, Trustees Chair

Welcome new members of RPUMC!

Prayers. Presence. Gifts. Service. Witness.



These new members were listed, but not individually pictured in the December newsletter. Welcome Rev. Mary and Rev. David Holladay, Linda Robbins and Jennie Bibb. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them.

YOU'VE BEEN BOOKED!

Riverside Park UMC

Young Adults

Enneagram Study

Mondays at 7.30pm February- April

Details from Kaitlyn.Fuller@outlook.com

Young
Adults

Every FIRST FRIDAY, our senior adults gather for fun, food, and fellowship. Join them January 7th at 11am. Please RSVP by calling the church office at (904) 355-5491.



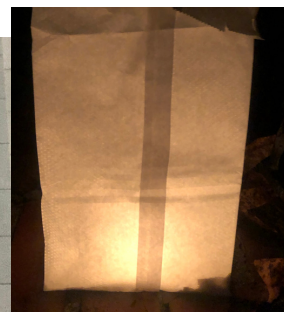
Senior
Adults

Thank you to the tech team for allowing dinosaurs and out of town guests to join us in worship. On Sunday, Dec 26th we had people in worship from Lafayette, Louisiana; Tallahassee, Fleming Island, St. Petersburg and even England.



Tech
Team

Advent, Luminaria & Caroling



Christmas Eve





- Margaret's Memories project
- DLC playground project
- Riverside Park Cleanup (with RAP and the friends of Riverside park)

9:30 a.m.

-

11:30 a.m.

Small Groups & Service

Our Wednesday night ministries team has been giving out free meals, blankets, socks, and jackets, to those in need. Tim Bush and Chris Schmitz carved the Christmas ham. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who keep this ministry going.



Needed: new blankets & socks

**Average
Meals per
week:
115**

Presentation Recap

We had tentatively put January 27th on the church calendar for a recap of Rev. Alex Shanks presentation on the *Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation*. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (904) 355-5491.



Stay Tuned...

...for more information on electing leaders. We will continue the church conference work of electing leaders for the next year. Date and slate to be announced.

Notes on being lighthearted from Danny Marks

Mark 12: 31 love your neighbor as you love yourself:

Many years ago I asked pappy about this because I was having an issue with someone. He told me the way he saw it and began to tell me how he tried to live his life. He started by quoting Mark. Then asked me a question about even though you may not like or agree with the person, if they were in trouble on the side of the road, would you stop and help them? As I answered yes, he said "that is loving your neighbor as yourself". Even though you love him that does not mean you have to socialize with him. This is one of the ways I kept my attitude in check.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in every circumstance

in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. My life has not been perfect and with a lot of pain. I have always kept this verse close to heart and remembering that things can always be worse and I have been blessed with all things I have and need.

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

This goes along with the first one. It is not my place to judge someone if I don't agree with them or know they have done wrong. I leave this up to GOD.

These are some of my verses that help keep me Smiling and Happy!

Thanks for the opportunity to share.

Danny

Memorials & Special Gifts

*Thank!
You!*

Dan Francabandiero (memorial gift)

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

Wednesday Night Ministries

Anonymous

Anonymous donation of waterproof blankets

**The Thomas M. Kirbo and Irene B. Kirbo
Charitable Foundation**



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
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Millie Hudson, Director of Contemporary Worship
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Rich Lewis, Organist
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Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper
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Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
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Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
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RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

1st	Holly Hess Barbara Hittell
2nd	Justin Wilson
4th	Hannah Soper
9th	Kim Moseley Luke Renne Bob Soper Frances Soper
12th	Nora Riechmann
18th	Jim Lewis
19th	Lily White
21st	Sally Alston Lee Cashman Red Earp
22nd	Kaitlyn Fuller Rich Goodwin Betty Nolen
23rd	Owen Lek Henry Lek
25th	Chris Schmitz
28th	Ron Rehberg
29th	Shirley Davis

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee (Zoom)
Tuesday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees (Zoom & In-Person)
Monday, January 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council (Zoom)
TBD

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 11/30/2021

	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