

RIVERSIDE REPORTER:

FEBRUARY 2022

True love.

1 Kings 3:16-28 is a story that I've always found fascinating (although a little disturbing). Two women—each with a baby—wake to find that one of their children has died. In her grief (and grief is painful and complex, so we need to be gracious to the woman here)—the mother who has lost a child switches the bodies so that both mothers claim the living child as their own. Without dna testing, there isn't a good way to prove anything, so the women bring their case before King Solomon. The king's solution (brutal but apparently wise) is to cut the living child in half and give some to each mother. Scripture gives us a logical little dialogue at this point, but I imagine the child's biological mother must have screamed and turned white. "No." She says, "Don't hurt him. Give him to her." The wise king then decrees that this woman (the one willing to put the boy's needs ahead of her own desires)—this is the true mother. Solomon is hailed as wise and just, but I've always thought the story spoke more about the mother's love. Love that puts others first. Love that manifests safety and well-being more than personal preferences. THIS is sacrificial love. Jesus kind of love. I can't imagine how much forgiveness and grace had to go into her decision. Certainly, I can give grace to the grieving mother as I read her story, but face-to-face and dragging-me-to-court-taking-my-kid —that grace would be a lot more difficult to offer. But maybe THAT is the heart of love. Sacrifice and seeking what's best. Even when it's beyond us. Certainly, that's what we see from Jesus on the cross.

Rev. Emily Knight



From Yvonne Sloan: "I saw this photo and quote and it reminded me of our 'lighthearted' theme".
"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."
L.R. Knost



Poem by Michele Hough

What Do You See?

Look around, what do you see?
Reach for the light that is inside you.
Do you see light to the left or right of you?
Do you know what that light might be? If you were a candle
would you shine bright or would you even be lit?
Reach deep down inside yourself, do you know how bright a
light you are?
You see, we are the Lord's candles to teach others His way.
Do you know how to receive his light?

Memorials & Special Gifts

Dan Francabandiero (memorial gift)

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

iGive.com

*Donations from purchases at Staples, Hobby Lobby
and Michael's.*

***Thank!
You!***



CHURCH CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, FEB. 17TH @ 7 PM

IN THE SANCTUARY

CHURCH-WIDE VOTING

FOR 2022 LEADERSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 2ND
6:30 P.M.



Racial Justice

Happy New Year Everyone! Members of the Racial Justice group attended virtually the Kellogg Foundation's 6th national event entitled "A Day of Racial Healing" on Tuesday, January 18th. For those who missed it you can watch by clicking on this link: <https://healourcommunities.org/day-of-racial-healing/> Note: There is a wealth of other information at this link for those of you who prefer to read. Members also participated in 904ward's "200 conversations for 200 years of Jacksonville."

Future events include our participation in: "Intro to Racial Discussions, Part I - February 8, 2022, 6PM - 8PM and Part II - February 15, 2022, 6PM - 7:30PM." This is open to all of our community and we are excited to be a part of this conversation in our city. Register Here: <https://www.904ward.org/introregistration>

Save the date: In honor of Black History Month The Melanin Market is holding the 6th Annual BlackHistory Parade on Saturday February 19th at 822 A. Randolph Blvd from 11-4. The Parade will begin at Matthew W. Gilbert and end in the Melanin Market where there will be a program, vendors, social and business organizations, and an array of vendors including food trucks. Those who wish to attend the parade can do so and others of us will gather at the church at 11:30 and carpool or caravan to the market and attend the program, and support small black owned businesses by shopping and eating lunch at the food trucks. This would be our first experiential event as we look to expand outward from our book discussions. Please let Linda LaBell know if you are interested in attending. All are welcome to this great family activity. (Phone: 389-6464, home or cell/text 904-553-6553). More information will be posted as it becomes available.

Women's Mission Circles at Riverside Park

Did you know that we currently have two active Women's Mission Circles at Riverside Park? These groups are focused on missions for women and children. Hopefully we will add another one or two this year but more about that later. We want to focus now on the two great groups we have. Below are descriptions of each circle. Please consider joining one of these or be thinking about helping start another. There is always room for another mission group.

The Circle of Peace and Joy

As a part of the Women in Missions, the Circle of Joy and Peace meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 o'clock in the church Fellowship Hall. There is a short devotion, fellowship, and lunch. Each person brings their own lunch and a drink (unless they want just water). A delicious dessert is provided by a different volunteer group member each month.

Our mission is Hubbard House and we bring items each month for the women and children there. We also are considering helping families of the Family Promise Project with small household items as they are provided housing.

We welcome all women of the church to join us for these enjoyable gatherings. Our next meeting - Feb. 16th.

The Circle of Hope

The Circle of Hope meets every month during the school year in the Parlor at 7 p.m. Refreshments are provided by two members and lighthearted conversation is always a part of this time. Then we get down to serious business.

We begin with a prayer and devotion. Then we plan for how we will serve our missions in the upcoming weeks and months. Our three focus missions are The City Rescue Mission facility on McDuff, The Pace Center for Girls in Arlington and Bayview Elementary School in the Lakeshore area. We have redecorated rooms at The CRM, we have provided needed items for the girls at Pace and provided needed items for Bayview children all year. We also adopt a needy family there for Christmas. We also contribute to other missions occasionally like The Florida United Methodist Children's Home and the Downtown Ecumenical Association.

Our circle has, for many years, sponsored a Super Bowl "Soup" luncheon on Super Bowl Sunday. Last year we changed from an in-house luncheon to jars of chili to go. That was so well received, we will be doing it again this year. Please see the article about the event in this Reporter. CHILI HAS TO BE PREORDERED.



We also welcome any and all women to join our group. Our next meeting is Feb 1st.

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 February 4th at 11am. Please RSVP by calling the church office at (904) 355-5491.



Senior
Adults

We are building a Care Ministry Team that meets once a month to help assure we are sharing God's love, support, and encouragement within our church family.

If you have a heart for writing notes/cards, visitation, phone calls or have other ideas to share, please call me (JoAnn Goodwin at 561-762-3727 or email jayegoodwin@gmail.com).

If you or a family member that could use this type of support or prayers, please call the church office at (904) 355-5491.

Care
Ministry
Team

Chancel Ringers

The Chancel Ringers will be participating in the Annual Florida State Handbell Festival 2022 on February 25-26 in Fruitland, Florida. Our ringers will rehearse with others for two days to prepare music and will present a concert on that Saturday, 3:00 p.m. Our members will also have the opportunity to take classes to sharpen skills and interact with handbell ringers from around the state.



Music for a festival like this is difficult. Our choir is more than up for the challenge and is putting in extra rehearsal time each week. The final concert will include 200 handbell ringers, all ringing at the same time. It will be fantastic!

Congratulations to our wonderful ringers!

Children's Home



As the Riverside Park United Methodist Church's Local Church Representative (LCR) to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH), I would like to thank our church members for their generous contributions to FUMCH. As you know, we designated this year's Christmas offering to the

Children's Home and you generously gave over \$1,100. This brought our collective giving to this important mission to more than \$4,900 for the fiscal year.

In 2022, our first Fifth Sunday offering will fall in January, followed by May, July, and October. Your contributions are crucial to the continued ministry of FUMCH that includes the following basic components: residential care (Enterprise), Safe Place-emergency shelter care (West Palm Beach), Therapeutic Group Home, Madison Youth Ranch, Independent Living Program, Legacy Scholars Academy, foster care, career development, the Early Childhood Education Development Center, and the Heart & Home Resale Shop.

If you have any questions about FUMCH, please contact me at cornettjw@gmail.com or call at (904) 613-1840. Thank you for your generosity. It truly makes a difference for these children and youth.

God bless you all,
Jeff Cornett



SERVICE DAY: #loveyourneighborhood

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day we had participants helping three different local organizations on Saturday, January 15th.



Making bracelets
and footprint cards
for
Margaret's Memories

Clean-up
at Riverside Park



Playground clean-up
at DLC Nurse & Learn



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 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3	4 11am Senior Adult Fellowship	5
6 COMMUNION 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Chancel Ringers	7	8 6pm SPR/Finance Committee Meeting	9 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	10	11	12
13 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship	14	15	16 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	17 7pm Church Conference	18	19
20 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Chancel Ringers	21	22 6pm Board of Trustees Meeting	23 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	24	25	26
27 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Chancel Ringers	28		Save the Date: Ash Wednesday Service 3/2 @ 6:30pm			

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

1st	Courtney Earp Vance Whitaker
7th	Rick Murray Cynthia Round
9th	Dan Fosmire
10th	Dakota Storm-Lewis
11th	James Rooks
12th	Colleen Strong Monica Tindall-Richardson
14th	Sandy Murphy
15th	Bob Brideson Gordon Rehberg
17th	Betty Cooper Joseph Lek Taylor Newman Anthony Strong
19th	Sandy Allen
20th	Henry Alvarado Kevin Earp
23rd	Topher Cogburn
24th	Joe Dorsie
27th	Amelia Cashen

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee (Zoom)
Tuesday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees (Zoom & In-Person)
Monday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Church Conference (for church wide voting)
February 17th at 7:00 p.m.

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	\$425,529	\$354,046
Expenses	\$451,782	\$485,075
Deficit/Surplus	-\$26,253	-\$131,029

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



Leadership & Nominations Report (updated)

Those who met: Tim Bush, Emily Rehberg, Leigh DiSalvo, Dakota Storm, Beth Joyner, Pam Pearsall, Chris Schmitz and Pastor Emily

We discussed several aspects of the 2022 slate of nominees (affirming much of our previous work--with additional feedback from others) but this was the biggest component we kept coming back to affirm:

- We want to build up and work towards our church's vision and critical ministry needs for 2022
- Leaders should be active, called, mission-and-future-focused, passionate, growing spiritually, and willing to put the church's needs before personal desires (i.e. "have a heart for Solomon's baby" -see 1 Kings 3:27).
- We want healthy and functional teams (i.e. teams large enough to equip/support the ministry work, but--especially for church council--not so large that meetings are unproductive)
- Church council is a missional body. We want church council to directly represent RPUMC missions and ministries (and vice versa)
- We want to affirm and honor leaders who still called to their current roles (especially those whose names were/are on the nominating report from last Fall)

Nominations Committee: (with Pastor as chair and Tim Bush as vice-chair)

Continuing for next year: Chris Schmitz, Emily Rehberg, Leigh DiSalvo, Beth Joyner

New: Britt Scott, Bobby Brazell, Chris Renne, Harriet Thurgood

Board of Trustees:

Current and continuing: Chris Schmitz; Susan Bush; Robby Monk, Chuck Pickren, Pam Pearsall

New: Diane Carrigg. Joe DiSalvo. Caroline Jennings. Danny Marks

Staff Parish Relations/Finance Committee:

Current and continuing: Frances Mathews, Kaitlyn Fuller, Rich Goodwin, Tim Riechmann, Jesse Manalo, Tim Ware, Cynthia Round, Jeff Cornett

New: Karen Fleming. Charlie Schubiger. Carly Gunby

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

Non-council Leadership Positions:

Interpreter of Connectional Giving (to communicate information about apportionments. to be elected and serve within the finance committee)

Camp & Retreat Rep: should be elected and serve within the family ministry team. ·

Church Historian: Bettye Stilley

Financial Secretary: Jack Barnard

Church Council 2022:

Current and continuing

Lay Leader: Tim Bush

Council Chair: Kevin Crowell

Annual Conference Rep: Beth Joyner

Recording Secretary: Joye Hampton

Children's Home Rep: Jeff Cornett

Beyond 50 Ministry: Jim Lewis

--continued--

Family Ministry: TBD (SPRC currently searching)--only church members would be able to vote

Young Adult Leader/Campus Ministry Rep: Kaitlyn Fuller

Vice Chair: Ron Richardson

SPRC/Finance chair: Jesse Manalo

Connection/Care Team: JoAnn Goodwin

Youth Rep: Brenna Dupries (Ava Manalo, alternate)

Trustees Chair: Chris Schmitz (pending Trustees election)

New or different for Church Council 2022

Church Treasurer: Mark Mathews (elected in interim by church council action 1/12/22)

Membership Secretary: Nancy Schubiger

Margaret's Memories: Nicole Remo

Family Ministry Team Parent: still awaiting response and discernment from nominee

Anti-Racism Initiative: Linda LaBell

UPDATED ADDITION Women in Mission Circle Rep: Bonnie Allen

UMM President: Clark Burner

Wednesday Night Ministry Team: Bonnie Dudley

Outreach/Evangelism: John Larsen and Jane Riechmann (co-chairs)

Hospitality/First Connections: Tim Ware

Spiritual Growth & Nurture: Leigh DiSalvo

UPDATED ADDITION Worship Team: Bridget Ware

New or 'Rebuilding' Ministry Teams: We also nominated 4-5 people to serve on each of the following teams (meaning a HUGE list of passionate people). The titles/descriptions below are still in 'edit form' and the people themselves are still being contacted and/or awaiting response. Participation in these teams is still open:

- Family Ministry Team (to empower students and families to live life abundantly in Christ—to support and encourage students and parents to grow as disciples and leaders for Christ)
- Wednesday Night Ministry Team (to vision, organize, and empower our Wednesday ministries to/with the community)
- Outreach/Evangelism (to witness God's love out in the neighborhood & connect with/offer invitation to our neighbors) •
- Worship Committee (to support and coordinate logistics within the worship experience--encouraging lay participation and abundant life in worship)
- Hospitality/First Connections (to welcome neighbors and guests who join us--creating a system and process for first steps and follow up) •
- Spiritual Growth & Nurture (to encourage thriving small groups and spiritual growth by supporting leaders, coordinating small group information, and creating spaces for people to connect)
- Connection/Care Team (to visit, send cards, and extend care to members who may not be able to join us for worship)



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

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

RIVERSIDE PARK



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