



2023

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

Refresh.
Renew.
Restart.
Reconnect.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
they are a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

“O sing to the LORD a new song, for he
has done marvelous things.” (Psalm 98:1)

RIVERSIDE REPORTER:
JANUARY 2023

Let's Connect

A new year is a great time for new resolutions, new goals, new habits! I want to take this moment to thank all of you who have already established the habit of filling out a "Connect Card". And for those of you who don't do it regularly please accept this invitation to start the new year off right!

The Connect Card is a great way for the church

office to do many things. If you have a new address, phone number or email address it's an easy way for you to let us know. If all your info is the same you do not need to provide it each time. Prayer requests are obvious. Please think of the Connect Card as your "hotline" to the church office!

As your Membership Secretary it is important for me to keep accurate attendance records. It helps us to notice when someone is missing from worship so that we can reach out to make sure everything is OK. If you are part of our online community we would still like to record your attendance... we are working on this! Currently we ask that you make your presence known during our Facebook Live worship by providing a comment in the chat box. In the next few weeks we hope to introduce a better system for online worshippers (if you know of one please let us know).

Please remember to wear your name tag every Sunday. It helps visitors and newer members learn names, and for those of us who struggle with "senior moments" it can be a big help! We have received tremendous positive feedback regarding the new name tags and I'd like to thank Tim Ware for organizing and managing this incredible aspect of hospitality. If you don't have a name tag please look for Tim on Sunday morning or... jot a note on your Connect Card!

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary

Family Promise

Please save the dates for the 2023 Family Promise families that will be at RPUMC

5/28/2023- 6/4/2023

9/24/2023-10/1/2023

More information to come.

For volunteer information please, email:
Ty_colleen@hotmail.com

Please complete a Connect Card every week!

This side is needed for recording attendance →

Prayer Request Card
RIVERSIDE PARK
Your prayer requests are prayed over by the Pastor and the Congregational Care/Connection Team. If you would like to be added to our prayer list, please call the church office at (904) 355-5491 or email j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com

CONNECT CARD
RIVERSIDE PARK
Thank you for being a part of the church family. Please complete this card.

← This side is for optional prayer requests

Cards are located in the back of the pews

Notary Services



Notary services are free of charge to members of the RPUMC congregation.

Our office manager, Joye Hampton, is a notary with the State of Florida and is happy to notarize your documents during office hours. (M-Th 9-3:30, F 9-1)

Thank you everyone (staff and volunteers) who pulled together to help with December worship. We had some incredibly holy and joyful moments and we had *many* new guests join us. We started Christmas Eve with fifty guest welcome bags and gave away all but five! Way to go, church! Keep inviting your neighbors and friends and family to join us! (And continue to offer a warm welcome to all who join us—welcome is one of the things we do well).

So—especially for December—thank you to all who served as greeters, ushers, communion servers, musicians, Sunday school leaders, acolytes, tech team, crucifers, nursery volunteers, communion stewards, office volunteers, prayer team, liturgists, candle lighters, ...and the list goes on! It takes a whole community (a whole church) to be the body of Christ. Thank you for helping to rebuild in 2022 and thank you for praying us into 2023!

This January, I will be starting a Thursday “pastor’s study group” (one online and one in-person) to further connect and reset our hearts for spiritual growth throughout the year. We will also discuss themes of spiritual growth on Sunday mornings: kicking off the year with a special January 1st service (combined @10:30)—to dedicate ourselves to God and celebrate Christ’s guiding light. And as service times return to normal for Jan 8th, we will remember the gift of forgiveness in Baptism (Restart) and then turn to ways of kicking off the year in newness.



**Grace and Peace to you
in the name of Jesus Christ.
May God bless you (bless us)
with courage and faith for the
new year!**

Rev. Emily Knight





Women In Mission

The small groups of the WOMEN IN MISSION showed the generosity of Christ during the Season of Christmas by doing the following ---

The **Circle of Hope** - who will meeting during the daytime now in 2023, took a needy family from Bayview Elementary school. They bought clothes for the family of 4. They got educational books and games, and toys for the two girls - a kindergartner and a toddler. They also furnished store gift cards to help with food. This family came highly recommended by the school. The Circle also furnished the girls at the Pace Center for Girls with new pajamas and some gifts for them to present to the significant woman in her life.

The Circle of Joy and Peace, our long time day circle, made boxes for Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse. And Some of the ladies also gave pajamas for the Pace Girls. They were all quite busy.

Our newest group - The **Sisters of Service** was just formed this fall. They are supporting "Blessings in a Backpack" where they write encouraging note cards that go home from school in backpacks of food with children that would not have food otherwise on weekends and holidays. As they grow they will be looking for other ways to serve.

Add a little bit of body text



Susan Bush and Josi Devine delivering Christmas gifts from the Circle of Hope



2023 Chili Sale



Plan now to order your chili for Super Bowl Sunday. This year our 'souper bowl' chili will be available on Sunday, February 12 ONLY as preorders. Thanks for supporting the Circle of Hope with its missions: Bayview Elementary, City Rescue Mission, and Pace School for Girls!

Sisters of Service

Second Tuesday

January 10th at 7:00 p.m.
Church Parlor

Circle of Hope

Second Thursday

January 12th at 11:00 a.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall

Circle of Joy & Peace

Third Wednesday

January 18th at 11:00 a.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall



Grace Gallery



If you haven't seen our current installation in Grace Gallery, check it out! We're proud to host work by our very own Emily Matthews. (Second floor in the McCord Building—just down the hall from the office)

Margaret's Memories



Margaret's Memories hosted 10 families at their annual Remembrance Ornament making night on December 19th.

Over 50 memory boxes were delivered to local hospitals including UF Health North, Baptist, and St. Vincent's Riverside.



Amanda Bethany Strong Scholarship

Applications for the Amanda Bethany Strong scholarship will open at the end of this month. Look for more details soon and contact the church office for an application.

Renovation & Repairs Project Update

Our renovation & repairs project continues to progress. Our contractor, Johnson Controls, has assigned a project lead who recently briefed the Board of Trustees on the project timeline. There will be three scopes (roofing, pressure wash & sealing of the Sanctuary & McCord buildings, and updating the HVAC system for the education building). Members from the trustees, finance committee and Task Team met virtually with a representative from the Florida UMC Foundation on December 5th, and we were delighted to hear they can offer our church funding at a 4% rate (significantly less than the 7.75% rate we were previously considering). Additionally, the UMC Foundation also has fund growth options that potentially put our church in a position to improve the return of the church's foundation trust fund. The Trustees look forward to presenting a second information brief once we get the project schedule and funding details finalized. As always, the Trustees stand by to answer any questions the church may have. --Joe DiSalvo

Water intrusion causing paint peeling & bubbling



Broken Gutters and Deteriorating Mortar



Racial Justice



Riverside Presbyterian Church returns the invitation to Riverside Park United Methodist for another Race Cards Discussion to be held on Tuesday, January 31 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in RPC's Bittering Hall. RPUMC hosted a Race Cards discussion earlier this year and now RPC is hosting one. RPC is inviting members from RPUMC as well as others from the community. The goal of Race Cards is to facilitate honest, authentic discussion around race in a way that is accessible to everyone. Participants gather in small groups with a trained facilitator to discuss preset questions from an actual deck of Race Cards created by 904Ward. Questions span participants' personal experiences, the current state of justice and race relations in our communities, and participants' take on concepts such as privilege and equity. All ages are welcome and will have a voice in their respective groups. Scan the QR code to register.



Small Group Book Study During Lent:



During Lent, the Racial Justice committee invites you to join us for a small group book study. Starting February 23, we will meet Thursday evenings from 7:00-8 PM to discuss the book, *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. *Waking Up White* is

the book Irving wishes someone had handed her decades ago. By sharing her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, she offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. It can be considered part memoir as Irving capitalizes on her own personal experiences to make her point. These experiences include a white woman coming to terms with her own perceptions and complex nuances that contributed to her point of view on racism in the United States.

More details will be forthcoming throughout January. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Linda LaBell, Nancy Schubiger, Connie Hodges, or Beth Joyner.

Taoist Tai Chi® Introductory Sessions
Begin on Tuesday, January 10, 2023
MORNINGS 10:30-11:30AM or EVENINGS 7:00-8:00PM



The Taoist Tai Chi Society® internal arts and methods incorporate stretching and turning into a sequence of 108 movements that reduce tension, improve circulation and balance and increase strength and flexibility. This first class will provide background information, a demonstration and learning the first 4 moves of the Taoist Tai Chi® 108 movement set. Classes will continue every Tuesday morning 10:30-11:30am & evenings 7-8pm through March 28, 2023. Additional information: jacksonville.fl@taoisttaichi.org or Linda LaBell: 904-389-6464

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.

January

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 NEW YEARS DAY COMMUNION 10:30 a.m. Combined Worship Service	2 NY Holiday OFFICE CLOSED	3 5:30pm Girl Scouts	4 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5	6 11am First Friday Friends 1pm Yoga	7
8 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	9	10 10:30am Tai Chi 6pm SPR/Finance Committee Meeting 7pm Sisters of Service 7pm Tai Chi	11 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12 11am Circle of Hope	13 1pm Yoga	14
15 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Greeter Training 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	16 MLK, Jr. Day Holiday OFFICE CLOSED 6pm Board of Trustees	17 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6pm Church Council 7pm Tai Chi	18 11am Circle of Joy & Peace 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19	20 1pm Yoga	21
22 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	23	24 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi	25 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26	27 1pm Yoga	28 11am Leadership Retreat
29 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	30	31 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Race Cards Event 7pm Tai Chi				

JANUARY

Birthdays

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

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://rpumc.mywell.org>

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 11/30/2022

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$436,568	\$411,267
Expenses	\$458,319	\$447,553
Surplus/Deficit	-\$21,751	-\$36,286

Happy New Year!

May God's love surround...

Home

- † Emory Cook
- † Joe Dorsie
- † Shirley Early
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven Jarvis
- † Carol Stelly
- † Jim Todd



College Students

- Zachary Bradley
- Taylor Bohannon
- James Cashman
- Tommy Cashman
- Frankie Crowell
- Tre Devine
- Brenna DuPries
- Gavin Grady
- Lindsey Grady
- Isabella Laffy
- Hogan Litwin
- Emily Matthews
- Emily Merton
- Kaden Neufeld
- Kyle Neufeld
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp
- Dallas Renne
- Hannah Stomps



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 Contemporary
@11am Traditional**

**We will have one service at
10:30am on 1/1**

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

Gealean Roeters, Family Ministry Administrator
families@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

Jacksonville, FL 32204

819 Park Street

RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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