

THE RIVERSIDE REPORTER



*Feed your soul.
Abide in Christ.
Follow Jesus.*

SPIRITUAL GROWTH. CONNECTION TO GOD. ABUNDANT LIFE IN CHRIST.

These values are core to our church. Heart to our mission. It's what we're building and where we are going. (Partially because we need it but also because our world and our neighbors need it). Also: Jesus says to do it.

In worship during January (and into February), we spent a lot of time discussing on-ramps for spiritual growth. Spiritual practices and holy rhythms to hold us centered. Lent is traditionally a time to DO those things... To practice what has been preached...

So here's a Lenten challenge.

40 days (starting Feb 22nd).

Pick a practice and try it.

Feed your soul. Abide in Christ. Follow Jesus.

**If you've heard of Whole30, this is Full40:
a challenge to live life abundantly in Christ.**

THE FULL40 CHALLENGE

40 days to practice living abundant life in Christ

To 'prepare the way' we will have an intergenerational bonfire (Sunday, Feb 19th @5pm) to burn the palm branches from Palm Sunday 2022 and use THOSE ashes for our Ash Wednesday service (Wednesday, Feb 22nd @6:30pm).

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22nd) and—at this year's service—several students will be "commissioned" to begin their confirmation journey, so we all get to take up the challenge together.

Can't wait to see you there!

*For
Emily Knight*



*Lent 2023
begins on Ash
Wednesday:
Feb 22nd
(a time of
growth)*

Finance Update



As of Jan 1, 2023, we have received 76 pledges totalling \$273,520.

Thank you to all who submitted a pledge card, declaring your financial support for RPUMC and of being an essential part of its ministries and God's work in our community and beyond. Your generosity is the foundational support of our life-impacting ministries. The act of pledging, while being an individual/family spiritual discipline, also

assists Staff Parish - Finance Committee members and other church leaders in planning and budgeting for all our 2023 ministry areas and expenses. Every gift, no matter the amount, counts and when combined together helps toward fulfilling our mission to empower others to live life abundantly in Christ.

Last year we received 78 pledges for a total of \$296,882. This year's current pledge total thus represents a reduction of \$23,362 in income that Staff Parish-Finance will have available for ministry and operational expenses in 2023. We recognize and understand that 2022 was challenging for many households, with costs for essential living expenses rising substantially, coupled with likely losses in retirement accounts due to market turbulence. Our church finances were impacted in similar ways, with unprecedented increases in utility costs and ever rising insurance fees. Our expenses outpaced giving and other income, which resulted in a significant budget deficit for 2022. Fortunately, we were able to manage this gap by taking assets from our reserve funds and were able to maintain all ministry area funding levels. However, our ability to continue to draw from reserves is limited. We anticipate again being challenged in 2023 by cost increases primarily or completely outside our control. In order to fully support our ministry programs and cover all the needed expenses in 2023, we need more support.

We ask that you prayerfully reflect on how you can support our church through your financial gifts and help ensure our vital ministry work continues unabated. If you have not returned a pledge card for 2023, please consider doing so - it is never too late. If you have made a pledge, please consider if you are able to do a little more. Together, and with God's abounding love and help, we will meet this challenge and excitedly look forward to continuing our mission in 2023.

Prayer: Almighty and gracious God, we thank you for all the blessings freely bestowed upon us. We know you have provided, are providing, and will provide. Help us Lord as we face the unknown of what 2023 will bring and know that through it all you are with us.

Church Renovation Project

Phase 1

Our church renovation and repairs are underway! The first phase of power washing the exteriors of the Sanctuary & McCord building began on January 17, 2023 (the second phase will be roof & gutter repair, and the third phase will be HVAC repair/replacement). To reiterate, the trustees have obligated \$477,000 from our foundation trust fund for this project (the total cost is \$801,300). The trustees transferred the 25% down payment (\$200,314) to Johnson Controls on December 28, 2022, so work could begin. The Florida United Methodist Foundation approved a \$499,000 loan for our church on January 10, 2023, which will be used to help finance the remaining balance. We got a second quote for the seven bathrooms renovation project and hope to select a contractor in February. The trustees (along with finance committee representatives) will begin meeting in February to discuss growth options for the remaining \$100,000 of our foundation trust fund. Bottom line, there are a lot of moving parts associated with the renovation and repairs, and the trustees will continue to work closely with our contractors.

Phase 2

Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in early February. This includes gutter and roof repair/replacement for the McCord building and sanctuary.

Phase 3

Phase 3 will be later in the year due to supply chain issues. On the roof of the education building, seven of the eleven HVAC units will be replaced. The framework for all 11 units will be replaced with curbs to prevent rust and water intrusion.



First Friday Friends

fun. food. senior fellowship.

On the first Friday of every month, our senior adults meet at 11 am for food, fun, and fellowship. Bring a friend or two.



Remembrance Lunch
let us honor the loved ones we miss
Feb 14th @noon
Rhames Fellowship Hall

Valentine's Day is a time to honor those that we love. And not all of our loved ones are still with us, so bring a lunch (bring a photo if you want) and let's gather to share a favorite story or a favorite memory of your loved one(s). Laughter and tears are welcome. Stories heal the heart.

Care Team



Pastor Emily, JoAnn Goodwin, and Emory Cook

The care team is working to coordinate take-home kits to bring communion to our beloved members who cannot travel and join us in worship. If you would be willing to send cards, visit, or bring Holy Communion to one of our shut-ins, please contact JoAnn Goodwin and the care team.





Youth Lunch & Serve (and Hike) Sunday, Feb 5th

Trip to Jennings State Forest. Leaving from Riverside Presbyterian Church at 12:15pm. Returning around 4:30pm.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Classes will begin Ash Wednesday (Feb 22nd) to Pentecost (May 28th). The group will primarily meet between Services on Sunday mornings. If you haven't been in conversation with Gealean and/or Pastor Emily and have a child 6th grade or older who hasn't been confirmed, please contact the church office for more information.

Family Ministry Bonfire & S'mores

Sunday, February 19th - 4:30 pm

Meet in the courtyard behind the McCord Building, enter through the gate in the small parking lot.



A word from the Acolyte Coordinator

Here at RPUMC we have an Acolyte ministry made up of elementary, junior high, and high school students and a couple adults. We are looking to grow the ministry in 2023 for Sunday morning worship (both services)

The commitment is one Sunday a month and of course on special celebrations such as Advent and Lent. Families and friends are welcome to serve together.



In case you are not familiar with the term "Acolyte" and what they do. Here is a short description: "In a Christian denomination an Acolyte is anyone performing ceremonial duties such as lighting altar candles. They report to the Pastor and Worship Director."

If anyone is interested in serving, please contact Colleen Strong at cllnstrong47@gmail.com for further information.

Worship & Service

Wanna serve God, use your gifts, and welcome others into the joy of God's presence? Here are some Sunday morning opportunities and places where we need some help (most of these teams serve once a month):

- GREETERS: welcome with warmth. give bulletins and invite guests and members into worship
- ***NEW(ish) team forming*** USHERS: serve behind the scenes to cover worship logistics: count attendance, open/close Sanctuary doors, pass plates during the traditional service, team up to bring offering securely to the church safe (it's true that an usher team isn't completely new, but it's re-forming after a while and the duties are slightly different than before)
- COMMUNION SERVERS—share the sacrament of grace with your siblings in Christ. First Sunday of the month.
- LITURGISTS (Scripture readers): Bring the words of worship and Scripture into audible life.
- TECH team: vividly the message through audio and visual aids
- ***New team forming*** ONLINE WORSHIP team—greet those who join us online. Brainstorm ideas for better connecting with our online community.

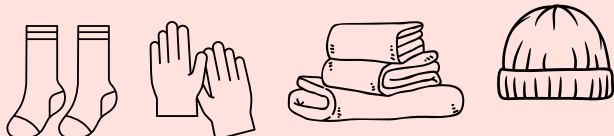
Pastor Emily will be working to fill these teams this month, so let her know where you feel God calling you!

Wednesday Night Ministry

Your gifts of Comfort and Joy gave such comfort to those who needed warm clothing in the cold December and now January weather. Joy and thankfulness were expressed over and over to those handing out the gifts of caps, gloves, socks, blankets, and warm meals.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Comfort and Joy tree and thank you to all our volunteers.

I was hungry, you gave me something to eat.
I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink.
I was a stranger, you invited me in.
I needed clothes, you clothed me.
Matthew 25:35-36



comfort &
JOY

Margaret's Memories Update

Here is what has been going on:

I had a meeting with the new Bereavement Pastoral Care contact at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville in January. It was nice to meet with her and explain what we provide at Margaret's Memories. Memory boxes and bereavement gowns were delivered at the time of the meeting.

Six completed memory boxes, six bags of supplies to complete a memory box, and 10 bereavement gowns were shipped to a small community hospital in TX.

Volunteers have been scheduling time to help with quality controlling, crafting, and other projects that make Margaret's Memories possible. We are prepping for the spring box making. If you would like to prep things at home please contact me. If you quilt, knit, or crochet we are in a need of large blankets for boys and girls.

Several Memorial Donations have been made over the last few months.

We continue to receive thank you notes and emails from families/friends to thank Margaret's Memories for giving the gift on memories. We are continually told all the handmade items are very touching.

Save the Date!

March 12, 2023--Bracelet Making in the Fellowship Hall

September 10, 2023--Bracelet Making in the Fellowship Hall

TBA: Spring and Fall Box Making

For more information email Nicole at margaretsmemories@hotmail.com or call the church office at 904-355-5491. You can also visit us on the web at www.margaretsmemories.org and "like" us on Face Book!

Thank you to everyone who makes this mission possible through your service, time, talents, and PRAYERS. Together we are Saving Memories One Footprint AT A Time...

Nicole Remo





Racial Justice Lenten Book Study

Starting February 23rd

During Lent the Racial Justice committee is sponsoring a small group book study of the book: *Waking up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. Starting February 23, we will meet Thursday evenings from 6:45-8 PM in the library. A zoom link will be provided along with a study guide as you read the following:

Week 1: chapters 1-5 (30 pages)

Week 2: chapters 6-16 (66 pages)

Week 3: chapters 17-28 (44 pages)

Week 4: chapters 29-33 (28 pages)

Week 5: chapters 34-45 (58 pages)

Week 6: chapter 46 (12 pages)

Please join us for this authentic conversation about race and religion. To register email Beth Joyner at: elizabethjo@comcast.net



Book Club

Starting April 13th

Starting on April 13, 2023 a new group of readers will begin to share their love of books.

Our first book will be *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin.

In a small town square of a sleepy Georgia town, seven year old Annie sits at her lemonade stand raising money for her own heart transplant. At a nearby store, Reese flips through the newspaper, thinking about the boat he is restoring. As a beat-up bread truck careens around the corner, a strong wind blows Annie's money into the road. Reese looks up in time to see Annie's yellow dress fluttering as she runs into the road. What happens next will change both of their lives forever.

We plan to meet at 1:00 PM in the library to talk about this heartwarming book.

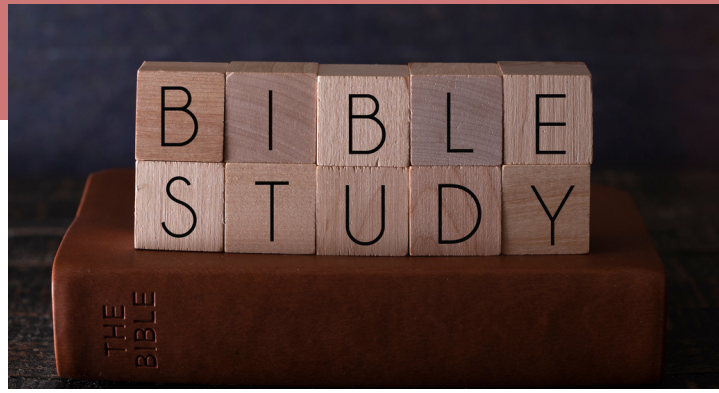
Please bring one or two books that you would recommend for future meetings. The Jacksonville Public Library has multiple copies of many books so we should be able to borrow copies for Book Club.

Please text Susan Russell (904-234-5823) or Nancy Schubiger (973-252-3771) if you are interested in joining this group or have questions.

Everyone is Welcome

Library Sunday School Class

Beginning February 5, the Library Sunday School Class will begin a study of Ephesians led by David Holladay. This class meets at 10am in the office library on the 2nd floor of the McCord building. All are welcome.



First Sunday Communion & Canned Goods February 5

Drop off non-perishable food items in the breezeway or McCord entrance for the Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry.



Just a reminder to tell you that the Trinity Lutheran Food Bank has reopened and is serving food again. So we would like to continue our tradition of bringing non-perishable food to church on Communion Sunday. We will be Spiritually fed by participating in Holy Communion and also help those in need in our community.

The Trinity Lutheran Food Bank is located behind their church on 1415 McDuff Ave. S. and is open the 2nd & 4th Thursday and Friday of each month.
4pm-6pm on Thursday & 10am-noon on Friday.

If you know of anyone needing assistance please let them know.

Some joy from January...



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 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	2 2pm Pastor's Study	3 11am First Friday Friends 1pm Yoga	4
5 COMMUNION 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 12pm Youth Lunch & Serve 5pm Bell Choir	6 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Tai Chi	7 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Tai Chi	8 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9 11am Circle of Hope 2pm Pastor's Study	10 1pm Yoga	11
12 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 10:30am Tai Chi 12:00pm Remembrance Lunch 7pm Tai Chi	15 11am Circle of Joy & Peace 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 2pm Pastor's Study 6pm SPR/Finance	17 1pm Yoga	18
19 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 4:30pm Family Bonfire	20 6pm Board of Trustees	21 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6pm Church Council 7pm Tai Chi 7pm Sisters of Service	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23 2pm Pastor's Study 6:45pm Racial Justice Lenten Book Study	24 1pm Yoga	25
26 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am Confirmation Class 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	27	28 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi				

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

1st	Courtney Earp Vance Whitaker
7th	Rick Murray Cynthia Round
10th	Dakota Wolter
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
26th	Beau Stillwell
27th	Amelia Cashen

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 12/31/2022

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$479,873	\$448,655
Expenses	\$501,056	\$488,239
Surplus/Deficit	-\$21,183	-\$39,584

Committee Meetings

SPR/Finance: Thursday, Jan. 16 @ 6 pm

Trustees: Monday, Jan. 20 @ 6 pm

Church Council: Tuesday, Jan. 21 @ 6 pm

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