

# THE RIVERSIDE REPORTER

---



Lent is the journey from ashes to Easter. From our mortality and fragility to the overflowing and everlasting life of Christ. *Life abundant*

So the question is: How do we grow the kind of spirituality that flourishes through ash? How do we build a faith that remains, resilient and sustaining, when everything else falls apart?

Also: What does “abundant life in Christ” even look like? (Because I think we can learn from each other on this one—each of us may embody it or experience it a little differently).

If you have (or are having) a positive experience of abundant life in Christ, I would love to hear it.

Send me an email, give me a call, or show up to one of our Thursday pastors studies to talk about it.

***Merciful God***

***Our lives are small and frail  
before the expanse of Your eternity.  
Our faithfulness comes in fits and starts  
while Your love never wavers.***

***Forgive us, Lord.***

***Call us, again, from the dust of creation.  
Claim us, again, in the waters of baptism.***

***In these forty days of Lent,  
guide us from ashes to resurrection,  
from the weight of sin to freedom,  
from repentance to rejoicing.  
Guide us to the fullness of abundant life in You.***

***We need you, Lord.***

***So come, Holy Spirit, Bringer of Life,  
Come and fill us with life anew.***

***May this season be Holy.***

***May our lives be Holy.***

***May our dry and brittle souls  
find breath and life in you, Jesus.***

***Amen.***



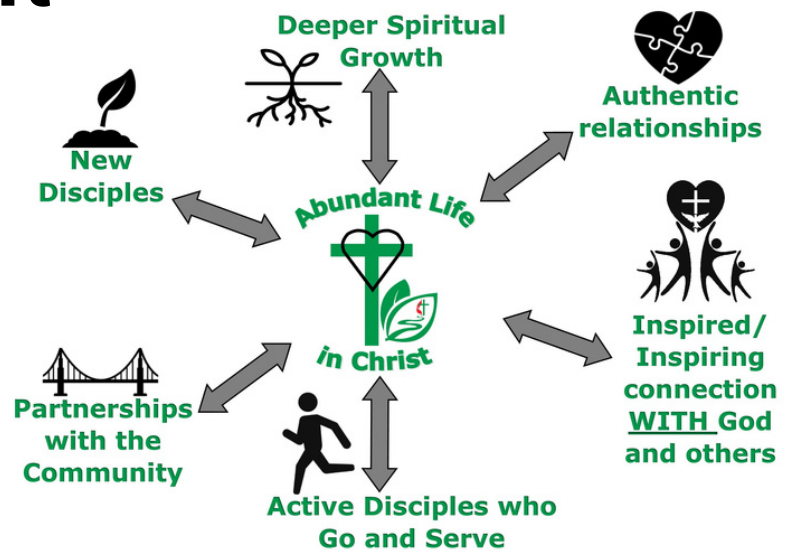
*Rev. Emily Knight*

# Trustees Update

Our church renovation and repairs continue; the first phase of power washing the exteriors of the Sanctuary & McCord building is 90% complete as of this writing. During this phase, 28 windows and lentils required some level of repair/replacement, which were outside our scope of work; however our general contractor fixed the issue at no additional cost. Gutter and downspout repairs and replacement are underway, and scheduled to be complete February 20th. Roof repair is scheduled to begin March 2nd. The 1st and 2nd phases are scheduled to be complete by March 20th (leaving the 3rd phase, HVAC repair & replacement, currently estimated to start August 17th). Bottom line, the church's repair and renovation project is going well, and our contractor (Johnson Controls) is doing a superb job keeping us informed on all aspects. Trustees would like to remind everyone that we anticipate the possibility of unforeseen issues that may arise outside the contracted scope of work, and we will be judicious and transparent on how we will deal with these issues. At the time of this writing the Trustees are on the verge of selecting a contractor for the 7 bathrooms renovation project; more information to follow. --Joe DiSalvo

## Church Council

Church council is focused on fruitful ways to embody our church vision. Last year we focused on authentic relationship and active disciples in service. For 2023, we decided to continue working on authentic relationships and also chose "deeper spiritual growth" and "community partnerships." Our goals look like this:



- Spiritual Growth: we want to see a 10% growth in in-person worship attendance and small group participation, we want bible reading plans in place for Lent (already done!)
- Authentic Relationships: church council members agreed to move pews once a month, and greet 4 new people each month,
- Partnerships with the Community: we have started with an inventory of our existing partnerships. It may surprise you to find out how many groups and ministries we already work with and support!

Please pray for growth in these Spirit-led areas of our church and vision.



# On reading the Bible in a Year: “If I can do it... anyone can!”

by Caroline Jennings

Being intrigued mostly with hearing how Jesus is not only in the New Testament but throughout the Old Testament always made me *want* to read the Bible. Reality - I saw a very large book with a lot of words, verses, and metaphors that I couldn't even start to unwrap. Then friends of mine introduced me to the Bible Recap - a chronological Bible plan. The best part of this plan is that after reading a few verses a day-it would match up with Tara Leigh Cobble's explanation of what you read (using her podcast or



Caroline & Bubby

watching her on YouTube.) Learning about her God Shots daily in where she saw God in the verses just read. This helped me understand so much more than what I could understand on my own.

On December 31, 2022, I completed the Bible and the plan. Now in my second year reading and using the same plan. I'm already looking forward to completing it again and starting my third year! Reading it each day has helped me to notice God in other places of my life, too.



---

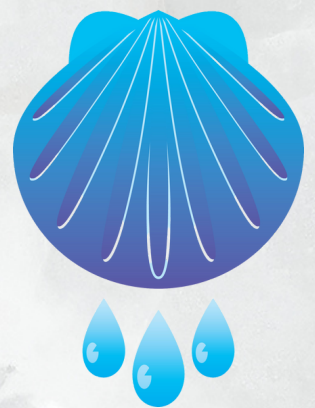
## “Baby Steps, Baptism, and Raising Kids in Christ”

Noon lunch on Sunday, March 26th

In the UMC, parents can choose to celebrate baptism with their babies because we believe God is at work in our lives before we know it (and because parents can choose to raise their kids as disciples of Jesus). Parents can also raise their kid in church and encourage them to choose baptism for themselves when they are older. Either way: Christian parenting means that we want to introduce our kids to Christ and the

church is here to support that decision. If you have little ones and you want to discuss baptism or ways to practice prayer and discipleship at home, join us in the fellowship hall for a noon lunch on Sunday, March 26th. RSVP to Pastor Emily by 3/19 so we can plan for enough food.

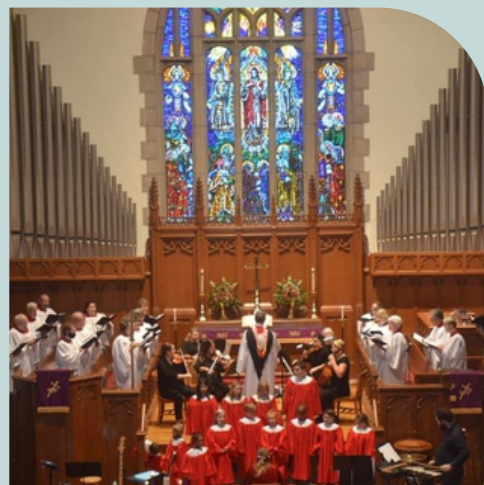
Nursery childcare will be available for this gathering.





# CHILDREN'S CHOIR RESUMES

Plans are for the Children's choir to sing on Palm Sunday, April 2 with the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals will resume on Sunday mornings in March, 10:05 a.m. in the fellowship hall beginning March 5. Singers will need to attend at least 2 of the 4 Sundays in March to sing on April 2. The choir is open to elementary school students or younger and will be led by John Larsen and Millie Russell. Please contact John at [j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com) for more information.



## SCOUT SUNDAY: MARCH 5TH

Our church will be observing "Scout Sunday" on March 5th, so we encourage any and all scouts to wear their uniform to church and contact Pastor Emily if your scout would like to be part of the service this Sunday. If you haven't heard: our church hosts a Daisy Girl Scout Troop and some of those scouts will be meeting with Pastor Emily to earn their "My Promise, My Faith" pin.



## KIDS' MOVIE NIGHT: MARCH 10 (AKA PARENTS' NIGHT OUT)

Parents - Take a well-deserved night out and bring your kids to the church for a movie night. Friday, March 10th, 6-9pm Contact Gealean at [families@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:families@riversideparkumc.com) for more information.



## VBS & SUMMER CAMP

Save the dates for Vacation Bible School and Warren Willis Camp.


**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 26-30**

**Warren Willis Camp**  
**July 10-15**



# RINGERS ON THE ROAD

Our wonderful Chancel Ringers will be traveling to Sebring, Florida on March 3-4 to participate in the Florida State Handbell Festival. They will join over 300 ringers for mass rehearsals and classes with handbell specialists. Our choir has been working since January on the difficult music. The festival will end with a combined concert at First Presbyterian Church, Sebring. Congratulations to these hardworking musicians!



# USHERS

Ushers work behind the scenes to make sure worship flows smoothly. We are now forming teams for both the contemporary and traditional services. You would serve one Sunday per month. Counting attendance, knowing the location of the nursery and restrooms, and bagging the collection are some of the responsibilities.

Are you being call to serve? Please contact John Larsen at [j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com) for more information.



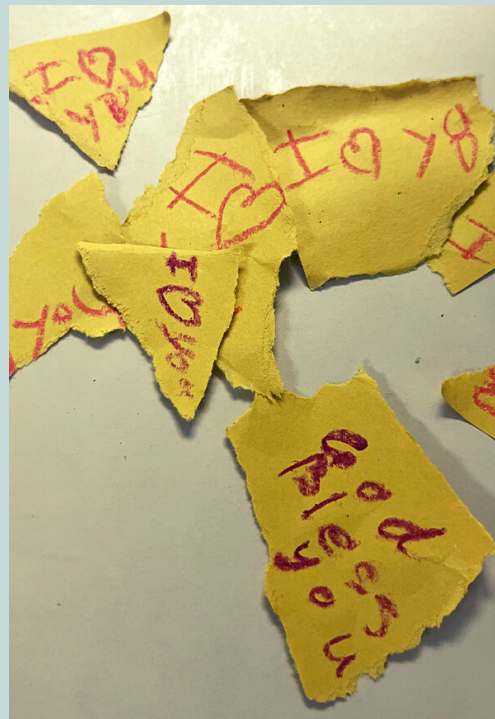
# WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY

Dan Marks did some necessary Spring cleaning of the donations to WNM. He filled 4 large bags of things that are not needed for our ministry such as household items, comforters, bedding, and towels. Some clothing such as shoes, suits, and children's things are not requested and will be donated to Goodwill.

WNM is in desperate need of men's (especially) and women's short and long sleeve shirts, jackets, rain gear, and new socks (black is preferred).

Thank you all for supporting this very hands-on mission of our church.

Thank you to all the many hands who help on Wednesdays.  
More are always welcome.





# NEW BOOK CLUB COMING THIS SPRING

You have plenty of time to read this Charles Martin book before our first meeting on April 13th! A number of people who have talked to me about this author really enjoy his books. Some even say this is their favorite book by Charles Martin.

We still have room in the library for more readers. *When Crickets Cry* is a book to remember. You can get a copy from the library or even from the Library Book Sale in Arlington or another used book site online.

Please let us know if you plan to come at 1:00 PM on April 13th in the church library.

Text or call Susan Russell: (904) 234-5823 or Nancy Schubiger: (973) 252-3771

We look forward to seeing you in April !

## GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING ON FIRST FRIDAYS

The First Friday Friends senior's group that meets, as their name indicates, on first Fridays has exciting news! A program committee has been formed to plan fun and meaningful programs each and every month. The committee is made up of Jim Lewis, who headed up our Life Center before COVID, Susan Russell who came over from First Methodist is the past year, Kim Bloomer, our dear friend and former Secretary, now at Trinity Lutheran, and Bonnie Allen. Susan planned fun and informative programs at First UMC for years and still has many resources.

On March 3rd we will have JSO Officer Jennifer E. Robinson who will speak on new scams which are targeting our senior citizens. This is a growing problem. She will have several other officers with her.

On April 7th, which is Good Friday, we will have lunch and visit the thoughtful reminders set up around the building. Reminders of that terrible Friday over 2,000 years ago. That terrible day for Christ which was so very "good" for us.

On May 7th, Susan has a great program which will help us get to know each other better. It will be fun, and bring back sweet memories.

We have several options for June and are fine tuning that now. Although the F. F. F. is set up for seniors- we will welcome all. No charge and a nice lunch is provided.

A couple of other Officers will attend



# HOLY WEEK

---



Sunday, April 2nd  
One service at 10:30 a.m.

followed by:  
Potluck Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall  
Easter Egg Hunt on the Playground

---



Thursday, April 6th  
Communion and Special Music  
Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.  
RPUMC Sanctuary

---



Friday, April 7th  
Stations of the Cross  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Enter through the breezeway doors to visit a series  
of multi-sensory prayer stations that walk-through details  
of the Good Friday story from Gethsemane to the grave.

---



April 9th  
Resurrection Sunday  
9 a.m. Contemporary  
11 a.m. Traditional





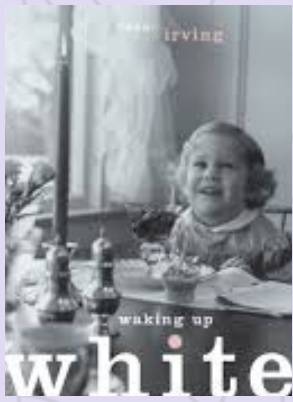
## Family Ministry Bonfire & S'mores



"Love bugs"  
in the church nursery



# LENTEN BOOK STUDY

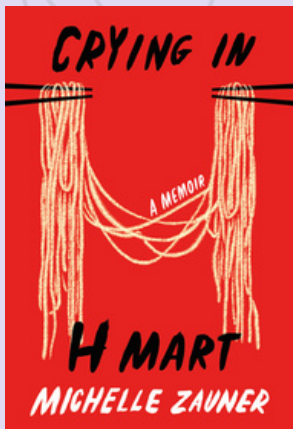


It's not too late to join the Lenten Book study of the book: Waking up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving. We will meet for the next 5 Thursday evenings from 6:45-8 PM in the library. A zoom link will be provided if requested. Contact Beth Joyner at: elizabetjo@comcast.net and she will send you the study guide.

## INTRODUCTION TO RACIAL DISCUSSIONS

Join 904WARD for Intro to Racial Discussions. This two-part series gives you the tools and the practice to discuss race more effectively.

Both sessions will be held on Zoom from 6-8 p.m. Part 1 is on March 20th and part 2 is on March 27th. Please scan the QR code with your camera to register for both sessions.



## MARCH BOOK CLUB

Join 904WARD for the March virtual book club to discuss “Crying in H Mart” by Michelle Zauner. Scan the QR code on the left to register. This New York Times Best Seller is an unforgettable memoir about family, food, grief, love, and growing up Korean American—“in losing her mother and cooking to bring her back to life, Zauner became herself”.

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS, BOOK LOVERS, AND DECLUTTERERS

So you have a surplus of citrus? Winter Produce? Are you dividing your bulbs and plants? Please bring all your surplus produce to the Yellow House on 577 King St. and place on their outdoor Community Cart. Yellow House is also collecting hygiene products and books for adults, teens and children for their “Little, Free, Diverse Library.”







- 1st Brenna Dupries
- 2nd Jonathan Smith
- 3rd Nylah Carter
- 12th Diana Laforty  
Jake Manalo
- 13th Julie Pickren
- 16th Amanda Figart  
Alicia Frank  
Andrew Strong
- 18th Brooks Stone
- 19th Dorsey-Ann Rhames
- 21st John Larsen
- 23rd Brandea Doran
- 25th Josi Devine
- 27th Mary Louise Burner  
Joe Lek
- 28th Maegan Alvarado  
Charlie Morreale  
Jackson Morreale  
Henry Morreale
- 29th Alma Quails

## Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee  
Tuesday, March 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees  
Monday, March 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council  
Tuesday, March 20th at 6:00 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://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 1/31/2023

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$27,888	\$42,113
Expenses	\$31,744	\$42,231
Surplus/Deficit	\$3,856	-\$3,625

## 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



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 6:45pm Racial Justice Lenten Book Study	3 11am First Friday Friends 1pm Yoga	4
5 <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>Scout Sunday</b> 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am Confirmation Class 10:05am Children's Choir 11am Traditional Worship	6	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 6:45pm Racial Justice Lenten Book Study	10 1pm Yoga 6pm Kids' Movie Night/Parents' Night Out	11
12 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am Confirmation Class 10:05am Children's Choir 11am Traditional Worship 10-2 Bracelet Making 5pm Bell Choir	13	14 10:30am Tai Chi 6pm SPR/Finance 7pm Tai Chi 7pm Sisters of Service	15 11am Circle of Joy & Peace 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 6:45pm Racial Justice Lenten Book Study	17 1pm Yoga	18
19 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am Confirmation Class 10:05am Children's Choir 11am Traditional Worship 5pm Bell Choir	20 6pm Board of Trustees	21 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6pm Church Council 7pm Tai Chi	22 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 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 10:05am Children's Choir 11am Traditional Worship 12pm Baptism Discussion 5pm Bell Choir	27	28 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi	29 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	30 2pm Pastor's Study 6:45pm Racial Justice Lenten Book Study	31 1pm Yoga	





# 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**

*(masks available for those who  
need one, designated pews are 6  
feet apart, and hand sanitizer is at  
all entrances)*

Church Office: (904) 355-5491

[www.riversideparkumc.com](http://www.riversideparkumc.com)

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9-3:30

Friday 9-1

Rev. Emily Knight, Pastor  
[pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com)

Joye Hampton, Office Manager  
[j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com)

John Larsen, Director of Traditional Worship  
[j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com)

Millie Hudson, Director of Contemporary Worship  
[m.hudson@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:m.hudson@riversideparkumc.com)

Rich Lewis, Organist  
[r.lewis@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:r.lewis@riversideparkumc.com)

Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper  
[j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com)

Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader  
[tech@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:tech@riversideparkumc.com)

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary  
[membership@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:membership@riversideparkumc.com)

Tre Devine, Custodian  
[t.devine@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:t.devine@riversideparkumc.com)

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

Jacksonville, FL 32204

819 Park Street

RIVERSIDE PARK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

