Join us for special Sundays in May



May 7th: Holy Communion



May 12th: Ascension Sunday & Mother's Day (join us as we honor all women).



May 19th: Pentecost Sunday (wear red or fiery colors)



May 21st: Trinity Sunday. Graduate celebration Sunday.



MAY 2024 RIVERSIDE REPORTER

It's cheesy, but I always think about blessings during the month of May: as in "MAY the Lord bless you and keep you... MAY you be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ... MAY the Spirit work within you to bear fruit...")



Blessings celebrate God's presence and gifts in the now AND they also promise hope for transformation as you continue... still... forward...

So, here are some continued blessings that I am celebrating NOW this month in our church:

- YOU are a blessing to us. Matt, Maddie, and I are thrilled to be re-appointed for another year at Riverside Park. We love being part of this church and I am grateful for the many ways you share your lives with us.
- There is a real desire to grow in relationship! Our men's ministry is re-launching, youth ministry is gathering up for summer, our young adults are floating fun ideas...
- The Grace Gallery project is just fun and beautiful. The current exhibit features self-portraits from high school students at Stanton.
- We have new spiritual growth groups forming for the summer (also known as "Pentecost prayer groups")
- Even with grief or hurt, this past month has witnessed some amazing outpourings of support and love for one another.

MAY Christ continue to lead and equip us. NOW and for the future ways we might bless others.

Fruily Knight



RPUMC Family Ministries

FOR YOUTH:

Sunday morning youth group has been fun! (Pictured above: students 'enact' the Lazarus story and bottom right: play a game of 'unicorn jousting'). We will have a parents' meeting on May 5th to set the summer calendar, so please plan to be there! Our 'camp' week at Warren Willis is July 8-13 but registration is NOW and spots are filling up.



FOR KIDS:

VBS is around the corner (June 24-28) and registration will open this month. Theme is "Kids of the Kingdom" (Bible stories with kids)

We also want families to work on memorizing scripture. Any verse is great, but we suggest: John 3:16-17, Luke 10:27, 1 Timothy 4:12

Be looking for upcoming kids choir dates!



Youth Parents Meeting Sunday, May 5th @ Noon Rhames Fellowship Hall (Taco Lunch Provided)



Welcome to our New Members!

Last month, 19 people joined RPUMC. We shared photos of a few. Here are some newly submitted photos of those not included last month.







Lise' Dabney

Brittany Bruce

Melissa & David Boor





Amy Collier

Stephanie Salzer

Class of 2007

Congratulations

to Durwood Foshee, District Superintendent, on his upcoming retirement. A

service will be held at 10:30 on May 18th at RPUMC. Call the church office for more info.

district-wide retirement

Graduate Sunday May 26th

We will celebrate graduates (high school and beyond) on Sunday, May 26th. Send your graduate's photo, name, and info to Joye at j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 19th wear red or fiery colors to celebrate the Holy Spirit



Pan Pearsall's Famous

CHICKEN SALAD

Pre-order yours now! Sandwich plates for lunch after worship and chicken salad by the pound will be sold. Order forms in Sunday bulletins or contact the church office.

PICK-UP MAY 19TH 10AM-1PM





Fundraiser for the DR Mission Team

Wednesday Night Ministry



FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT. I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK. I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN. I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME. I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME. I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.'

MATTHEW 25:35-36

It has been a while since I have had to ask for plastic grocery bags but WNM needs them now as the number of meals served is increasing. Please drop them off on top of the storage bins or in the little kitchen. Also our neighbors are always needing socks (preferably black), T-shirts (L-XXXL), and rain gear.

Thank you for your prayers, love, and support for this wonderful ministry.



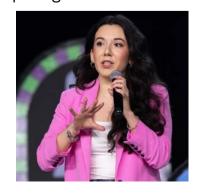
As this newsletter is being written, our UMC General Conference is happening—with delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S.

The 11-day gathering, which could attract as many as 7,500 people. Some 862 delegates, elected from around the world, will gather to set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other important business.

So far, we have heard a powerful address from Alejandra Salemi from Florida who the Young People's Address. She told those gathered that the younger generation is feeling the weight of the emotional, mental and spiritual trauma that comes with separation and disaffiliations (and the general anxiety that young people face in the world). And she spoke of carrying hope together:

"If you can't have hope right now, that is OK; I will have enough hope for the both of us. And then maybe when the gray storm clouds sweep over my soul, you can have enough hope for you and I in exchange."

Bishop Berlin is also doing daily updates via video, so check the Florida conference website: flumc.org



First Friday Friends ministry for senior adults

Meets in the Fellowship Hall on the First Friday.

Don't miss it! May 3rd will be our last gathering before the summer break. We will have a picnic and 'Show and Tell'. Everyone is asked to briefly share some interesting or funny events in your life. Come to chat and have coffee at 11:00 am as usual. followed by Show and Tell. At noon, we'll have Hot Dogs, etc. on the grill (we will eat inside). Come get your picture taken. You will be given your picture when they are finished. ENJOY YOUR SUMMER- see you in the fall! We'll start meeting again on first Fridays beginning September 6!



11:00 a.m. Coffee & Chat 11:25 a.m. Show & Tell 12:00 p.m. Lunch Hot Dogs on the Grill

Men's Ministry Kickoff Breakfast

When: Saturday, May 18th @ 9am

Where: The Southern Grill (800 Flagler Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32207)—just around the block from Treaty Oak.

Why: We want to meet one another and plan projects and gatherings for the year, so come ready to discuss three general questions: 1) What do you need or want in a men's ministry? 2) What projects or gatherings would you definitely show up to do? 3) What would you be willing to lead or help with?

Note: the plan is to each have breakfast at the restaurant, but if this cost limits you from participating, contact Pastor Emily.



Women Mission

11:00 a.m. **Rhames Fellowship Hall** (1st floor, McCord Bldg.)

Church Parlor (1st floor, McCord Bldg.)

Circle of Joy & Peace 11:00 a.m. **Rhames Fellowship Hall** (1st floor, McCord Bldg.)

Ministry Update: Family Promise of Jax

In early April, our church was scheduled to bring meals to the families and kids staying in the temporary shelter, but our meals were not needed because ALL THE FAMILIES MOVED INTO HOUSING at the same time! Our church did re-stock the pantry and fridge with plenty of supplies to support the next round of families who will move through the program, so thank you—church—for supporting families and kids through their experience of homelessness.

RPUMC's future hosting weeks for Family Promise of Jax: 8/4-8/11 11/24-12/1 (Thanksgiving)

Contact JoAnn Goodwin (our new interim coordinator) to help in upcoming weeks

We are grateful to Colleen
Strong for leading our
family promise team.
JoAnn Goodwin is currently
our interim leader.

2023 Statistics for Family Promise:

- We served 78 families with 318 family members through our Temporary Shelter, Family Support and prevention funding,
- 88% of families graduated from the Temporary Shelter successfully into housing.
- The average length of stay was 53 days in the Temporary Shelter.
- 84% of the families in the Family Support programs maintained or improved their income.
- 93% of the children in both programs are in school or childcare.
- 93% of adults in the Temporary Shelter were employed when they graduated.

WE STILL HAVE FOUR MORE COTTAGE MEETINGS. DON'T MISS OUT!

Come hear from the Board of Trustees and celebrate the recent renovations and repairs.



Thursday, May 2nd @ 6:30 p.m. Mary and David Holladay's home (Westside area) 1364 Mayberry Ln., 32221

Saturday, May 4th @ 6:30 p.m. Peggy and George Ridge's home (Southside/Mandarin area) 4866 River Basin Dr. N., 32207

Thursday, May 16th @ 6:00 p.m. RPUMC Fellowship Hall (Riverside area) 819 Park Street, 32204 Thursday, May 9th @ 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom





GROWING WITH CHRIST



DEEPER SPIRITUAL PURPOSE: CONNECT CARDS

It was a typical Tuesday morning at Riverside Park UMC as I began my weekly duties as your Membership Secretary. I greeted our Office Manager Joye and she told me that she had received a phone call from a gentleman who was attempting to confirm his parents' marriage here at RPMC (back then we were Riverside Park Methodist Church) in 1944. As I looked through our church record



Nancy Schubiger

books I was amazed at just how many weddings took place around that time... and then I remembered our American history and realized that so many service men and women were returning home at that time. Some weeks there were multiple weddings! Some weddings took place in the "Young People's Chapel". Others took place in the church office, and some were held in the bride's home! This information is all recorded for posterity. We were unable, however, to locate this particular couple. So I looked in a different location, where attendance records are kept. I was unable to find his parents there, but I stumbled upon another attendance card that brought tears to my eyes.

I would love to introduce you all to Jennie (Klicker) Bibb. Jennie was raised here at Riverside Park and was active as a child, teen and young adult. When she married she joined her husband's church, First Methodist downtown. Jennie recently returned to her roots and transferred her membership back to Riverside Park. The attendance card that brought tears to my eyes was her mother's. Mrs. P.T. Klicker was born in 1902, and was enrolled at Riverside Park Methodist Church at the age of 16. She had near perfect Sunday School attendance in the Wesley-Turner Class, according to the five year period covered by this index card. I shared this information with her daughter, Jennie, and she gave me permission to share her family's story. Jennie was raised with a deep connection to her faith and her church, and her attendance record is quite similar to her mother's!

I know there are times when filling out a Connect Card might feel like a silly exercise. Maybe you wonder why Methodists keep track of this sort of information. The short answer is we do it because the Book of Discipline requires it, but on a deeper level there is so much more to our record keeping. We are recording the history of people who seek to follow Jesus at 819 Park Street! It reminds me of reading through the Old Testament and the history that is recorded for us to read today. Sometimes it feels tedious, but there are lessons of the faithfulness (and sometimes the lack of it) of God's chosen people. So the next time you are asked to fill out a Connect Card (or scan the QR code in the bulletin), or take attendance in Sunday School, let us all remember that we are documenting our faithfulness to the Lord, in part by our presence in worship. Not just filling out a card.

By the way, we are still trying to track down Mr. and Mrs. Glen Ilgenfritz (nee Christiansen) who were married here on October 23, 1944 by Rev. Horton. Does anyone remember them?

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary

Reflect on the "deeper spiritual purpose" of everyday actions. Contact the church office to share your personal reflections so all of us can grow deeper in our faith.

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By the general secretary of the Church	Xe	July, Aug., Sept.	0	3		1	Ø	P	-		-	0	P	X	1		
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The Methodist Church School Record S	×	July, Aug., Sept.															

Staff Parish Relations Update

On April 14, 2024 SPR Chair Bill Hodges made the following statement to the congregation:

I am pleased to come before the congregation today to make a special announcement.

In the United Methodist Church this is the Sunday each spring when clergy appointments for the upcoming year are announced. Today marks the culmination of a process which began last fall of prayer, deliberations and consultation with clergy and laity that results in the Bishop and cabinet making the appointments.

Through the appointment making process, the connectional nature of the United Methodist Church is made visible and tangible .

In 2016, after Riverside Park's minister moved out of state, the Bishop and cabinet appointed a young associate pastor from Ocala as Riverside Park's new senior minister.

Rarely has God's will, a congregation's needs and the gifts and talents of a pastor come together so well as they did with the arrival of Emily Knight to Riverside Park.

As we welcomed Emily and Matt to Riverside Park that Sunday in July, 2016 only God could have possibly foreseen what would transpire over the next seven and a half years.

Yes, there have been some significant challenges including a global pandemic and a denomination working to discern the best way forward.

But also many joys including of course Emily and Matt welcoming Maddie into the world, a new ministry that has literally provided thousands of meals to the hungry and fellowship to the lonely and the addition of new church members who have brought a new vibrancy to the mosaic that is Riverside Park.

We are indeed blessed to have a spiritual leader during these tumultuous and sometimes scary times who helps make sense of it all through meaningful worship, loving caring relationships and outstanding leadership.

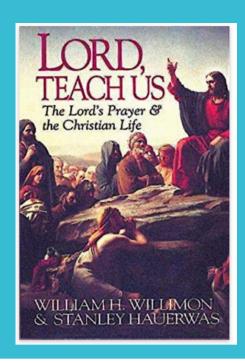
These are among the many reasons I am excited and honored to announce Pastor Emily Knight has been reappointed senior pastor of Riverside Park United Methodist Church.

I ask you to pray for Emily, Matt and Maddie and continue to hold them close in the love and support of Riverside Park United Methodist Church.

Prayer Groups Now Forming

Consider a "summer prayer group" a.k.a. "Pentecost prayer group"

2-8 people. 10 weeks long. (Mid-May through the end of July) Connect weekly (even via text)



You are invited to an experiment in prayer ...

In writing about the Lord's prayer, Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian minister and theologian, said, "We do well not to pray the prayer lightly. It takes guts to pray it at all. We can pray it in the unthinking and perfunctory way we usually do only by disregarding what we are saying." He goes on to add, ""Thy kingdom come ... on earth" ... And if that were suddenly to happen, what then? What would stand and what would fall? Who would be welcomed in and who would be thrown ... out? Which if any of our most precious visions of what God is and of what human beings are would prove to be more or less on the mark and which would turn out to be phony as three-dollar bills?"

Starting on Pentecost Sunday (May 19), we will begin a ten-week experiment based on the Lord's Prayer. It's a prayer most of us can reel off without even thinking about it. But it turns out that the Lord's Prayer has a lot to teach us about life as a Christian and our relationship with our heavenly Father. We will be using the book Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life by Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon.

We are inviting you to form into prayer groups of 2 to 8 members, with 2 to 4 being ideal. You can do it by yourself, but realize that the Lord's prayer is a communal prayer. As the authors point out, "The "Our" reminds us that we cannot pray without friends. The habits that the prayer forms can be acquired only through friendship with others that makes possible our friendship with God."

Each week, you'll be asked read a chapter in the book, discuss what you read, meet with your group, and exchange prayers. How you meet is up to you. You can do it virtually by text, messaging, forming your own Facebook group, or Zoom. Or, best option, you can actually get together once a week.

More details will be provided, but for now, be thinking about whom you would like to share this experience and get in touch with them. Maybe reach out to someone in your Sunday school class, circle, shared interest group, or just friends. If you are new to the church or need help finding a group, please contact Kevin Round (email kevin.r.round@gmail.com).

Tai Chi

Taoist Tai Chi® Introductory Sessions begin on Tuesday, May 7, 2023

Do your joints "snap, crackle and pop" every time you move? Does your body feel like a package of firecrackers has gone off inside you each morning? Do you suffer from chronic pain, arthritis, heart disease, chronic fatigue, high blood pressure, stress, limited mobility and balance issues?

Then come try Taoist Tai Chi Tuesday 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 August 29, 2024. Additional information: jacksonville.fl@taoisttaichi.org or Linda LaBell: 904-389-6464 (leave message).

Racial Justice

Spring Cleaning? Remember the giving cart at the Yellow House, 577 King Street, 32204. This is the perfect place to drop off unwanted cleaning, office and art supplies, pantry items, hygiene items and sundries and keep these items out of our landfill. Greeting cards, gift wrap, pens, pencils, and free items that come from organizations seeking money are also put to good use here along with books, magazines and other reading materials.

Calling All Gardeners: our spring crops are starting to bear fruit so please consider taking your excess to the Giving Cart at the Yellow House along with jars of flowers and fresh cut herbs to brighten someone's day.

Juneteenth. Mark your calendars now for a special Race Cards event for Juneteenth on Tuesday, June 18th from 6:00pm-8:30pm at the Jessie Ball Dupont Center. For more info go to: https://www.904ward.org/events

UMC GCORR (General Commission on Race Relations) has prepared a series of podcasts at https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice/racial-justice. They have also prepared a short pamphlet "10 things to Know about Asian Americans" at 10 Things to Know About Asian Americans — R-Squared which is an informative short read designed to stimulate our thoughts and prayers. Go to r2hub.org for more information.



Margaret's Memories Update...

Here is what has been going on:

Thank you to everyone that participated in the fundraiser meal at the Blue Bamboo. The funds from this meal are designated to pay for my travel and attendance to the Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance conference in May 15-18, 2024 and help defray the cost from my family. The conference will be held Chicago and is an important educational event that also provides networking with other bereavement organizations. Prior funds donated to Margaret's Memories will not be used to pay for the conference.

The conference fees:

- Pre-conference- \$250 ** Free won at last conference!
- Main conference \$595 (early bird price)
- Airfare \$334
- Lodging: I found an Airbnb close to the conference hotel that is more cost effective!

A special thank you to Joye Hampton for all of her administrative help setting up the ticket sales on line and help the day of the event.

The women's groups Sisters in Service and the Circle of Hope and many friends in the congregation made monetary donations to assist with conference/travel fees. Please know your generosity and support of Margaret's Memories has touched my heart in a way I just cannot put into words.

Memory boxes have been donated to UF Health North & Downtown; Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, South, Clay, and Nassau and to several individuals expecting a loss of a child or who delivered their baby at a facility that unfortunately did not have memory making opportunities.

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 fall box making. If you would like to prep things at home, please contact me. If you quilt, knit, or crochet we are in need of large blankets for boys.

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

Dates of Interest:

April 29- A gathering for Bereaved Parents 6 PM Fellowship Hall. This is a joint meeting with You Are Not Alone Support Group and Tiny Treasures Sewing Circle. We will be dismantling wedding gowns and formal wear. The material will be used to make Angel Gowns.

May 2- Community Resource Meeting- Baptist Medical Center/Wolfson Children's Hospital May 14 – 19 I will be attending the PLIDA conference

September TBA Bracelet Making

October TBA Box Making

If you need more information on the events please contact me!

For more information email Nicole at margaretsmemories@hotmail.com

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!



Committee Meetings:

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

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

Church Council Tuesday, May 21st at 6:00 p.m.

If we miss your birthday, please let us know.

If you move, please let us know.

Do you get our monthly newsletter in the mail? How about the weekly RPUMC Updates sent by email usually on Fridays?

Call the church office at (904) 355-5491 to update your information.

lst Darren Nettles

Maisie Remo

4th Elouise Pearsall

10th Judy Marks Anne McVay

12th Jon Brockel

14th Kevin Round

16th Tallulah Henderson

17th Michael Hodgkin

20th Susan Bush Hudson Gunby

21st

Quinton Scott

22nd David Hannah

23rd Debra Whitaker

28th Linda LaBell

29th Brian Alvarado Brooke Lawrence

Matthew Popp

30th Mike Litwin Anthony Owens

May God's love surround...

Home

- † Emory Cook
- † <u>Ted Di</u>Salvo
- † Joe Dorsie
- † Shirley Early
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven Jarvis
- † Carol Stelly
- † Jim Todd
- † Gordon Rehberg
- † Mary Lou Roberts

College Students

- Cooper Crowell
- Frankie Crowell
- Tre Devine
- Brenna DuPries
- Isabella Laffy
- Hogan Litwin
- Emily Matthews
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp
- Dallas Renne



All worship services are streamed live on Facebook and YouTube. Please check the website or the RPUMC Family group on Facebook for any updates. Worship service videos will be posted on the church website the following business day.



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

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	2 6:30 pm Cottage Meeting	3 11 am First Friday Friends	4 6:30 pm Cottage Meeting
5 COMMUNION 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12:15 pm Youth Parents Meeting 5 pm Chancel Ringers	S)	7 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Tai Chi	8 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	9 11 am Circle of Hope	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	13	14. 10:30 am Tai Chi 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Sisters of Service 7 pm Tai Chi	15 11 am Circle of Joy & Peace 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	16 6 pm Cottage Meeting	17 Newsletter Dead- line	18 9 am Men's Ministry Kickoff Breakfast 10:30 am Potluck & Retirement Celebra- tion for DS Durwood Foshee
19 PENTECOST (Wear Fiery Colors) 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am—1 pm Chicken Salad Sale 11 am Traditional Worship	20 6 pm Board of Trustees	21 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Church Council	22 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	23	24	25
26 GRADUATE SUNDAY 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	27 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	28 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	29 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	30	31	



'Empowering others to live life abundantly in Christ.''



Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary: @9am Contemporary @11am Traditional

Nursery care available Sunday school @10am Worship Online:
Facebook & YouTube Live
Sundays
@9am Contemporary
@11am Traditional

facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC tinyurl.com/YouTube-RPUMC

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 techeriversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary membership@riversideparkumc.com

Tre Devine, Custodian t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

819 Park Street Jacksonville, FL 32204

