

Embodied

**When my heart truly began to see God,
it was in the wind-faring Monarch and
seed-shedding Sunflower, twisting with the light.
They were the forms that first showed me how spirit
poured out over every thing made.
Their holy signature emerged like a hologram.**

**Something about their lack of pretense made
the Spirit's presence easier for my eye to catch.
In their silent, gentle holding of Heaven, my heart saw
hope soaking into the yellow-black stripes of caterpillars.
The invisible seeped into the earth and its fruit became
my portrait of God's unpictured person – the Intercessor.**

**The paradox of form revealing God's formless essence
at once took and gave me breath. A fluttering began in me
that echoed the insect's flight and the flower's warmth.
Suddenly, perception began deepening in people, too.
Rising to the surface of their smile was a love that
reached into me and begged me to join.**

**A joy that quickened by hands to open doors and pack suppers.
A desire that moved my feet far beyond what felt comfortable.
This invisible light sparked in me the belief that God could – had –
washed over me like the renewal of a rain-soaked garden.
I had only to learn a new way of looking at His created beings,
to know, in all my senses, how the holy is embodied.**

**God as Spirit emerged like gold in a miner's sieve.
The holy had been hidden in plain sight, awaiting my embrace –
the free and transforming gift of Grace.**

-pst



The poem on this month's cover is by church member, Page Thomas. She wrote it within hours of worship on Pentecost Sunday—reflecting on God's promise that the Holy Spirit would “pour out on all flesh.”

Page's poem beautifully illustrates the subtle nature of the Holy Spirit at work in the world around us—openig us to God's transformation of all the world.

This month (in this season of Pentecost) we study the elusive and humble Third Person of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit. The Comforter. Paraclete. Giver of Spiritual Gifts. “The Lord, the Giver of Life.” Mighty rushing wind. Still small voice...

The God who fills us with grace and breath and the life of Christ—inspiring us to creative faithfulness and making all things new.

Pour out, Holy Spirit...

Rev. Emily Knight



Worship series coming June 23rd: *The People of God*. We use this phrase in worship (“the Word of God for the People of God”), but what does it mean? Who *are* the people of God? If we look in the Bible, we find quite a range: From persons who wrestle with their mental health to unnamed strangers; From surprising leaders to “outsiders” who lose their way and (surprise!) end up “in.” Join us as we look deep into God's Word to better understand (and give thanks for) the remarkable complexity of God's People.

2024 GRADUATES

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)



Maxwell Cogburn

Son of John & Jennifer
Cogburn
Grandson of Susan Phillips
Graduating from Millennial
Christian School



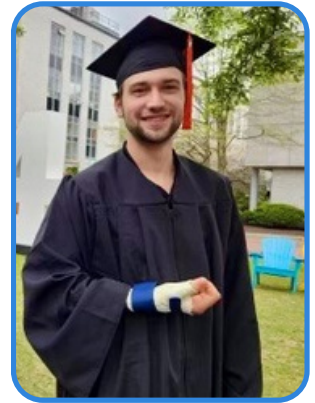
Logan Laffy

Son of Kurt Laffy &
Celeste Goldberg
Graduating Magna Cum
Laude
from Creekside HS &
with an AA from St.
Johns River CC
Will be attending FSU



April Laflash

Blessing to Darren &
Krissey Nettles
Graduating from
Riverside HS
Will be attending FSCJ



Harris T. Goodwin

Grandson of JoAnn &
Rich Goodwin
Graduating from
Northeastern University



Luke Renne

Son of Kim & Chris Renne
Graduating from
Mandarin HS
Will be attending UF
Honors College



Carter Richter

Granddaughter of Susan
& Fred Russell
Graduated from Daytona
State



Savannah Russell

Granddaughter of Susan
& Fred Russell
Graduated from
University of Florida

A Girl Scout Thank You

Thank you RPUMC for giving us the space we need for a fun and enriching 2 years! From crafting to engineering to lock-ins we are so grateful to have a safe and welcoming home for our troop! Love, the girls, parents and leaders of Girl Scout Troop 74942



Mother's Day with Neighbors

In honor of Mother's Day, our church partnered with the Riverside Park Apartments—donating and delivering flowers to each woman who resides there. Two of our preschool kids (plus a sibling—shown here) made hand deliveries.



We also donated (in honor of all the women of Riverside Park UMC) to the Baby Luv Center which provides diapers, wipes, formula, and parenting resources to families in Duval County.



Celebrating Baptisms

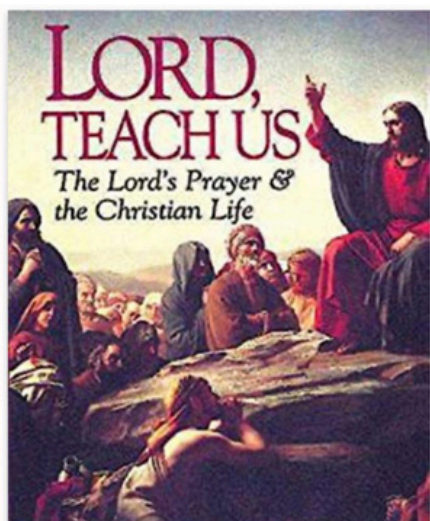
Astin Kent Linden and Beckham Stone Linden
Baptized May 5, 2024
Parents: Dan Linden and Samantha Haas-Linden

We will surround these children with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others.





Our “Forward in Faith” cottage meetings went well, so thank you to everyone who hosted or attended one! Please submit pledge cards (especially if they are in memory or honor of loved ones) by June 30th. Gifts can be give in one-time amounts or given over three years. If you missed a gathering, we will show the video in worship on Sunday, June 2nd and the office has a few remaining packets.



Summer Study and Prayer Experiment:

We encourage you to find a “prayer partner” for the summer (someone to pray for you and to encourage you to pray each week until August). Better yet: read the summer study book (Lord, Teach us by Hauerwas and Willimon). For weekly discussion guides and/or a link to a weekly zoom call, join the private Facebook group: “Pentecost Prayer Groups”

If you wish to participate, but do not have Facebook (or you need help purchasing the book) contact the church office.

The Amanda Bethany Strong Memorial Scholarship was established to embody an Isaiah 61:3 spirit of celebration: to celebrate RPUMC students for their merit and service to the church and community; and to celebrate God-given gifts and potential.

The Amanda Bethany Strong Memorial Scholarship



This year’s recipient is Frankie Crowell! Frankie was baptized and confirmed here at RPUMC and continues to be an active member—serving on the worship tech team. In her spiritual growth reflection, Frankie shared about how her faith has grown through the years: “Love from others has helped me with my faith and I feel the presence of God every time I feel loved.”

We will celebrate and present the Amanda Bethany Strong Memorial Scholarship during both worship services on Sunday, June 30th.

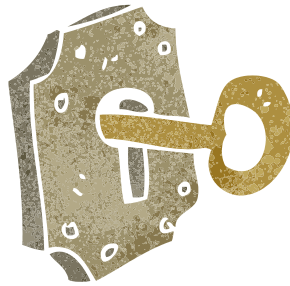




Youth Ministry

- June 1 Youth Group Lock-In
- July 8-12 Warren Willis Overnight Camp
- July 20 Beachy Day Trip
- August 17 Youth Church-wide Scavenger Hunt

Join us for Youth Group
Sundays at 10 a.m.
James Pickren Youth Room
Room #302



Youth Lock-In
Saturday, June 1st
5:00 p.m. dropoff



Vacation Bible School
June 24 - 28 / 9 - 12



Register
here

UNITED METHODIST MEN



The kick-off breakfast for men's ministry was well attended! A huge thank you to our lay-leader, Larry Figart, for running the meeting and for David Morcom who communicated via email.

The next meeting will be Sunday, June 23rd at 12:15 p.m. in Rhames Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend (some of this meeting will be planning for the upcoming pancake breakfast).



CHURCHWIDE PANCAKE BREAKFAST
HOSTED BY MEN'S MINISTRY
SUNDAY, JUNE 30 AT 10AM
RHAMES FELLOWSHIP HALL

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

Thank you ALL church family for supporting our chicken salad sale and for supporting the Dominican Republic Mission Trip. It was a huge success!

Our team will be going to the DR June 29th through July 6th. We look forward to returning with lots of pictures and stories of how God has used us to share the love of Jesus with the boys at Hogar de Ninos orphanage.

Thank you again for your support and for your continued prayers!!

Pam Pearsall (and Annaleigh) ❤️



Hogar de Ninos

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID WORKSHOP

Church family,

I am so thrilled to let you know that I have scheduled a training with the Baptist Foundation for any interested members of our congregation. The training will cover **Youth Mental Health First Aid, a free basic training for community members who come in regular contact with young people** through family, volunteering, in the workplace, or elsewhere. You don't need any formal training to attend.

Our group is scheduled on **July 18, from 8:30am-4:30pm. There are limited spots available for this free training.** Contact me at: kbentley.msw@gmail.com

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Let us be the adults our kids need us to be. I'm here to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Kindly,
Kimberly Julia



Women in Mission

The Circle of Hope (above) gathers for lunch before taking a break for the summer. The "Circle of Joy and Peace" will also pause their summer meetings, but "Sisters of Service" will meet as usual on Tuesday, June 11th at 7pm.



Bishop Tom Berlin visited our church in May during the DS's retirement service. Our bishop had great things to say about our sanctuary and our hard-working trustees.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY

Love in Action is our Wednesday Night Ministry. Our volunteers serve our neighbors with a delicious meal, water and lemonade, and t-shirts and socks, more importantly we give love, kindness, and prayers.

You can help by donating T-shirts (large sizes), black socks, and now that it's summer, rain ponchos.

Stop by and see Love in Action, Wednesdays 5-6:00 and possibly stay to help.

WNM is always so thankful for your support and your prayers.

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

GENERAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

General Conference is the top lawmaking assembly of the United Methodist Church and the only entity that speaks for the denomination. It convenes every four years, with delegates from the denomination's regions around the world. This year, the conference was held from April 23 – May 3 with over 700 delegates present. Over 1,000 petitions and resolutions were reviewed, debated, edited and voted on during this time. The entire conference was streamlined live for viewing.

At a post-conference briefing, Bishop Berlin noted three key observations from this conference.

- The delegates and the dialogue were respectful
- Delegates helped each other
- There was obvious caring for each other



This update only highlights key major actions. The full one-hour post-conference video, with complete details, can be seen using the QR code:

Major Actions:

- Regionalization Petitions Approved – this legislation involves an amendment to the church's constitution. This has to be approved by at least two-thirds of the total votes cast across all annual conferences and central conferences worldwide in order to take effect. If approved by two-thirds of annual conferences, it will take effect in 2025. It received support from delegates from every region.
- Removal of restrictive language related to L LGBTQ people. The General Conference voted by overwhelming majorities to remove from the United Methodist Book of Discipline discriminatory language and bans related to ministry by, with and for “self-avowed practicing” gay and lesbian people. This is effective at this time.
- Apportionment percentage decreased & budget approved & new retirement plan for U.S. clergy. Apportionment rate will decrease from 3.29% to 2.6% for 2025 and 2026.
- Adoption of revised Social Principles. This is the first overhaul of the Social Principles in nearly 50 years, they are contained in both the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions. They are statements that reflect official UM teachings on a wide range of topics. They are not church laws but intended to inform UM witness on issues of the day with a biblical foundation.
- Disaffiliation Policy ended; Re-Affiliation measure approved. This ends the disaffiliation policy that was added by the special 2019 General Conference. Annual Conferences affected by disaffiliation are required to develop grace-filled policies for re-affiliation of churches that want to rejoin the denomination.
- Two bishops were added to Africa while the US decreased the number of bishops from 39 to 32.
- Approved allowing deacons to preside at the sacraments beginning January 1, 2025.
- Approved a motion to allow four Eurasian conferences to leave the denomination and form an autonomous church.

Bishop Berlin stressed the importance of open and honest dialogue within the local churches. If you have questions or just want to discuss any of these changes, please feel free to contact me.

–Beth Joyner (contact the church office for Beth's email address)

Announcing...

Riverside Park UMC Concert Series

Free concerts for our congregation and the community.
Mark your calendars now.

**June 22 – Prelude String Camp
final recital, 11:00 a.m.**



**July 21 – River City Chorus
Concert, 3:00 p.m.**



**September 8 – 9B Woodwind Quartet
recital, 4:00 p.m.**



**December 15 – RPUMC Chancel Choir and
Praise Team Cantata, 10:30 a.m.**



and our signature concert,

March 13, 2025 - U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club in their only Jacksonville appearance, 7:00 p.m.



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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 5 pm Youth Lock-In
2 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	3 COMMUNION 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	4 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	5 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	6	7	8
9 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	10 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	11 10:30 am Tai Chi 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Sisters of Service 7 pm Tai Chi	12 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	13	14	15
16 FATHER'S DAY 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	17 Newsletter Deadline 6 pm Board of Trustees	18 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	19 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	20	21	22 11:00 am Prelude String Camp Recital
23 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12:15 pm Men's Ministry Meeting	24 9-12 VBS	25 9-12 VBS 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	26 9-12 VBS 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team	27 9-12 VBS	28 9-12 VBS	29
30 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Pancake Breakfast 11 am Traditional Worship		Note: The YMCA will host summer camp on our campus from 6/3-8/9.				



- 1st Mickey Hough
- 3rd Cass Bridges
- 4th Sistie Pope
- 5th Sarah Mardini
- 7th Allison Matthews
- 8th Mike Darragh
- 9th Brenda Chapman
Tom Dudley
- 10th Lise' Dabney
George Ridge
- 11th Andrew Brinson
- 12th Kelli Neufeld
Nancy Schubiger
- 13th Pat Allen
Jordan Mardini
- 14th Kevin Jensen
- 15th Kim Mathis
- 16th Libby Murray
- 18th Cyndi Rehberg
- 22nd Logan Laffy
- 23rd Tami Crowell
- 24th Beth Harralson
Maddie Knight
- 25th Marc Julia
- 26th Emily Rehberg
- 28th Connie Hodges
Makenzie Monk
- 29th Caroline Jennings
Selena Owens
- 30th Betty Young

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee
Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees
Monday, June 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council
no meeting in June

**If we miss your birthday,
please let us know.**

If you move, please let us know.

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

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

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





"Empowering others to live life abundantly in Christ."



Worship with Us!



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

Nursery care available.
Sunday school @10am

Worship Online:
Facebook live Sundays
@9am Contemporary
@11am Traditional

facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC
*(services are also uploaded
later to YouTube)*

Church Office: (904) 355-5491
 www.riversideparkumc.com
 Church Office Hours:
 Monday - Thursday 9-3:30
 Friday 9-1

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 pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com

Joye Hampton, Office Manager
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John Larsen, Director of Traditional Worship
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Millie Hudson, Director of Contemporary Worship
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Rich Lewis, Organist
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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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