

Riverside Reporter

OCTOBER 2024

Special Notes for October:

—October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

—Our church-wide gathering for the month is Trunk-or-Treat (Oct 27th)

—We will collect three “Grace and peace” items this month:

- Diapers and wipes for Baby Luv
- Candy for trunk or treat
- Socks for Wed. Ministries



*Grace and peace
to you in the name
of Christ!*

Psalm 29 is my favorite Psalm. The first time I remember reading it, I was outside on the dock at Warren Willis Camp (in Leesburg, Florida). When I sat down to read my Bible, the skies were blue and the sun was shining, but a huge clap of thunder echoed across the lake and I looked up to see storm clouds racing across the surface. (Incidentally, Psalm 29 describes God’s powerful voice hovering over the waters of a mighty storm—all while the heavens cry “Glory!” and “Majesty!”) Wind began to whip around me (while the Psalm describes trees twisting and land rippling). I have never felt a Psalm more deeply—especially when I came to the contrast of very last verse: “May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!”

PEACE. The might of Psalm 29 is that God’s peace is present in the midst of storms.

We gather this season to remember a powerful truth: even if circumstances shake or overwhelm us, God remains steadfast. Unshaken. In the words of Psalm 27: God is our light and salvation, the stronghold of our lives. Join us as we ascribe glory to the One who holds us firm amid the storms—the God whose goodness never changes (even if the leaves do).

*Peace.
Emily Knight*

WESLEYAN ROOTED

Sunday, October 6th:

Gather for Communion as we finish our “Wesleyan Rooted” sermon series with “Serve Impactfully.” Visit the conference website for additional sermons and resources: www.wesleyanrooted.org

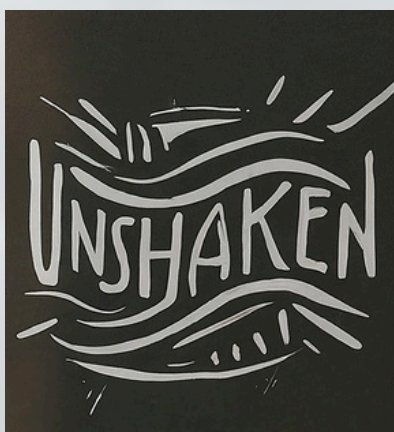
GROW
DEEPLY

READ
FAITHFULLY

LOVE
ACTIVELY

EMBRACE
WIDELY

SERVE
IMPACTFULLY



October 13, 20, & 27:

New Sermon Series: “Unshaken”

Psalm 24, Psalm 27, and Psalm 29

No matter the chaos around us, we take strength in the might, power and goodness of God. We ascribe glory to the Lord who is our light and salvation—the stronghold of our life. Humans falter, but God is UNSHAKEN.

Ten prayers for grace and peace —based on Psalms 24, 27, and 29:
(because God’s grace, goodness, and generosity is always steady)

1. Psalm 24:1-2

Creator of all, grant me the grace to recognize Your presence in every moment, bringing peace to my heart.

2. Psalm 27:1

Lord, be my light and salvation; let Your grace surround me, dispelling fear and filling me with peace.

3. Psalm 29:11

Strengthen me with Your grace, O Lord, that I may walk in peace amidst life’s storms.

4. Psalm 24:3-4

Help me to seek Your holy presence, Lord; may Your grace guide my steps and lead me to tranquility.

5. Psalm 27:4

Let my heart dwell in Your beauty, Lord; fill me with grace that I may find peace in Your sanctuary.

6. Psalm 29:2

I offer my worship to You, O God; may Your grace bring peace to my spirit as I honor Your name.

7. Psalm 24:5

Bestow upon me Your righteousness, Lord, that I may walk in grace and radiate peace to those around me.

8. Psalm 27:13

Help me to trust in Your goodness, Lord; may Your grace keep my heart steady and my mind at peace.

9. Psalm 29:10

Lord, You reign over all; grant me the grace to surrender my worries and find peace in Your sovereign will.

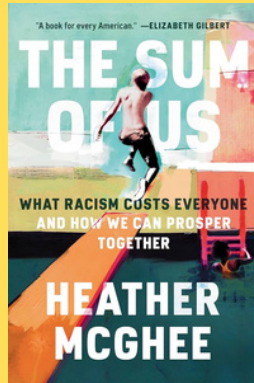
10. Psalm 24:6

Create in me a pure heart, O God; let Your grace fill me, so that I may embody peace in a troubled world.

Racial Justice

Book Discussion Group - starts October 3

The Racial Justice Team invites you to a discussion group on the book: "The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together." The UMC Justice Committee has developed a 3-part series which focuses on a deeper understanding of the book's themes from a theological lens. For this reason, it is important that you finish the book before we start our discussions in October. The dates we will meet are October 3, 10, 17 and 24th. The time is 6:45-8:15 p.m. and will be held at the church as well as on Zoom. Space is limited so please reserve your spot now by emailing Linda LaBell at Lslabell@yahoo.com and indicate your preference for an in-person or Zoom spot."



First Friday Friends

October 4th is our next get together for First Friday Friends. Our next program will be led by Nancy Schubiger a member of the church.

Are you afraid of your smart phone ? Does your flip phone terrify you ? Would you like to feel more comfortable about using your phone safely ?

Bring your phone (make sure it is fully charged) and bring any questions you have. We will learn how to scan a QR code (and when not to use one.) We will also learn how to use your phone as a flashlight, a Bible, and many other helpful tips.

If you do not have a cell phone you are welcome to join us too. If you are a cell phone savvy senior we hope you will share your knowledge with others.

Coffee and Chatting - 11:00 a.m.
Program - 11:25 a.m.
Lunch - 12:00 p.m.

Please call the office if you are bringing a friend so we can add them for lunch.

What a great time we had last month with the River City Dulcimers group. We had 43 people attending including the musicians. There are always room for more people to join us. For questions contact Susan Russell. For Susan's number, please call the church office.

Women In Mission

Sisters of Service

Tuesday, October 8
7:00 p.m.
Parlor (1st floor McCord bldg.)

Circle of Hope

Thursday, October 10
11:00 a.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall

Circle of Joy & Peace

Wednesday, October 16
11:00 a.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall



Wednesday Night Ministries

What a rainy September! It rained. It poured! The weather was so bad on the 4th of that month that we opened our doors to our drenched neighbors to come inside to eat supper altogether at the tables in the fellowship hall. Unexpected but so appreciated along with “trash bag” ponchos, socks, and coffee.

October will be drier and cooler hopefully so we will need outerwear and as always t-shirts (large to xxx-large) and socks (preferably new, black, and large).

Thank you for your prayers, love, and support.

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

ITEMS NEEDED



Mental Wellness & Connection Lunch

October 11 @ Noon

Bring your lunch and join us in the church library to hold space for conversation, prayer, and shared stories relating to mental health and wholeness. Part of the group's purpose is to extend Christ's love and comfort to persons living with (and persons supporting others who live with) mental illness.



Kairos Outside

You are invited to a Kairos Outside Open House on Saturday, **October 19th**, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Rhames Fellowship Hall. Come and learn how you can help and support this prison ministry. Kairos Outside ministers to women who have incarcerated loved ones or who have been in prison themselves.

Trustees Update

Your Trustees have been working hard to close out the end of fiscal year administration and respond to the extraordinary weather. We are preparing for the annual charge conference, and have updated the church's property inventory for insurance purposes. The excessive rain has caused some basement flooding and apparent roof leaking; all ongoing issues we are dealing with and will appropriately fix as soon as possible. Lastly, when it comes to our church's facilities management and maintenance, if we (the trustees) are missing something, please let us know (the more eyes on things the better). Contact the church office to report any maintenance issues.

--Joe DiSalvo and Pam Pearsall
Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees



Men's Fellowship



The Men's Fellowship Group is back after a Summer break. Thanks to everyone that turned out to help with the tree trimming and pancake breakfast. To be included in updates of meetings and activities please, contact Joe Springer (joe@jsanda.com). The Men's Group next activity is scheduled for **October 19th**. More information to follow.

DIAPER DRIVE



Baby Luv, a ministry under Community Health Outreach located at 5126 Timuquana Road, offers essential support to parents in need by offering baby supplies and resources. We provide diapers, wipes, and formula to approximately 45 moms every Wednesday from 9 to 11am.

Currently, we are experiencing high demand for diapers, particularly in sizes 3, 4, and 5. Your commitment to support a yearly diaper drive in October is a blessing and would greatly support our efforts in caring for these families.

Collection bins will be located in the church office, breezeway, and fellowship hall throughout October.

Chancel Choir

The choir that sings together...

Great attendance at a wonderful luncheon on September 22 for the purpose of building relationships and getting to know each other better.



RPUMC Concert Series

Thank you to the 9B Woodwind Quartet for their concert on 9/8.



Information coming soon on the next concert in the RPUMC Concert Series.



Youth Ministry Q&A October 20th @ Noon



Welcome, Ronin!

Ronin Ravanzo is our new Youth Director. Originally from Stuart, Florida, Ronin comes to us with several years of experience at Warren Willis United Methodist youth camp. A team member since 2019, Ronin led all of high school camp in 2023 and, this past summer, he was in charge of the camp-wide games and special activities. Ronin also plays lacrosse and guitar, loves football (go Jags!) and he knows way more about Pokémon than you might think.

Parents (and youth ministry supporters) are invited to join Ronin for a “Youth Ministry Meet & Greet” at noon on Sunday, October 20th.

Acolytes and Crucifer Training

October 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Want to help carry the light of Christ into worship? Want to (literally) lift high the cross? Starting as young as 3rd grade, kids can serve in traditional worship. Let us know if you want to be added to the list.

Contact Bobby Brazell if you have questions.



Help needed for nursery & Kids Club.

Do you take joy when kids experience the love of Christ? Consider serving on the rotation for nursery or kids club. The volunteer commitment would be one Sunday every/other month. Kids club lesson content and supplies are provided. Kids club is from 10:30-11am. Nursery volunteers cover the nursery during both worship services (but you work with a staff member who changes the diapers).

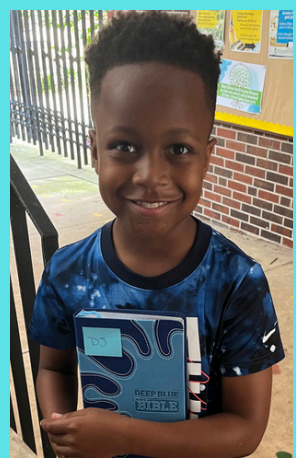
KIDS CLUB



In kids club last month, we followed the UMC's "Wesleyan Rooted" series—planting seeds for 'grow deeply' and celebrating a fun Bible measuring hunt for 'read faithfully.'

We also celebrated third grade Bibles! The image (left) is of Pam and Elouise Pearsall (nana and granddaughter) each with their own third grade Bibles.

Please continue to pray for these amazing 3rd graders who received their very own Bibles: Daquan 'DJ' Flagler, Luke Garmendia, Maisie Remo, Byron Alvarado, Eli Monk, Xavier Diao, Freya Crowder, and Elouise Pearsall.



trunk or treat

October 27th 4-6pm
RPUMC Parking Lot

Our Trunk or Treat event is free and open to the public. Get in the Halloween spirit by dressing up and decorating your trunk. We'll provide hotdogs, drinks, and candy to community neighbors.

Scan the QR code to see the volunteer opportunities and sign up for one or more.



Candy donations are needed now through 10/25. Please bring bags of individually wrapped mini candy. No full size candy bars or allergy items like peanuts, please. Collection bins will be in the breezeway, fellowship hall, and the church office.



Fall 2024 New Member Class

We had to get extra chairs to make room for our fall new member class! New members will join on 9/29, so names and photos will be in next month's Reporter. In the meantime, if you see a new face, introduce yourself. All are welcome at RPUMC.



Oct.
13th

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH

Every 2nd Sunday after the Traditional Service. Meet in front of the sanctuary.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

The SPR Finance Committee encourages you to show your appreciation to Pastor Emily.



Margaret's Memories Box Assembly Event

Volunteers are needed to help assemble bereavement boxes for our Margaret's Memories ministry.

Saturday, October 26th
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall



November News

RPUMC's 'Conversation Covenant'

for election season:

(because we can love alike even if we think differently)

1. Do no harm. Do good.

And "Take care that your spirits are not sharpened against those on the other side."—
John Wesley

2. Speak with a heart of peace and prayer first (otherwise just say "I am not at peace with this conversation right now.")

3. We will not use candidate or party names on campus—instead, we talk about values and issues.

4. We will NOT label one another.



A new Christmas tree was delivered. Save the date for hanging of the greens after worship on November 24th.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Saturday,
November 2nd
10-11:30am

Join us as we celebrate and remember our beloved furry friends.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 3rd

If you have a loved one who has passed away this year and you would like their name read, please contact the office by Oct 30th.



OCTOBER Birthdays

- 1st Peggy Greco-Ridge
Hogan Litwin
- 3rd Caleb Diao
Reid Dupries
- 9th Chase Cogburn
DJ Flagler
Bella McCorkle
- 10th Mackenzie Carrigg
Evan Ruffino
- 11th Jennifer Cogburn
Jeff Cornett
Leigh DiSalvo
JoAnn Goodwin
- 12th Rick Bible
- 13th Kate Riechmann
- 14th Diane Take
- 16th Melissa Matthews
Ron Richardson
- 18th Larry Figart
Radley Remo
- 19th David Holladay
- 21st Rebecca Garner
- 23rd Pastor Emily
- 24th Andy Beall
- 25th Mariah Cope
Mary Middleton
- 27th Emory Cook
Julie Hemphill
- 28th Andy Carrigg
- 29th Tony Wilbourne
- 30th Alletha Boling
Tessa McCorkle
Emily Popp
- 31st Scott Laflash
Mark Lemmenes
Gordon Middleton, III
Chris Renne

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee
Tuesday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council
Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees
Monday, October 21 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 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
- † Shirley Early
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven Jarvis
- † Gordon Rehberg
- † Carol Stelly
- † Jim Todd

College Students

- Zachary Bradley
- Cooper Crowell
- Frankie Crowell
- Tre Devine
- Brenna DuPries
- Isabella Laffy
- Logan Laffy
- April Laflash
- Emily Matthews
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp
- Luke 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

For more information:

Karate: kolbyskarateclub.com

Tai Chi: taoisttaichi.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Tai Chi	2 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	3 5:30 pm Karate 6:45 pm Racial Justice Book Study	4 11 am First Friday Friends	5 3 pm Karate
6 COMMUNION WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Acolyte Training 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	7	8 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Sisters of Service	9 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	10 11:00 am Circle of Hope 5:30 pm Karate 6:45 pm Racial Justice Book Study	11 12 pm Mental Wellness & Connection	12 3 pm Karate
13 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12 pm Young Adult Lunch 5 pm Chancel Ringers	14	15 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Church Council 7 pm Tai Chi	16 11:00 am Circle of Joy & Hope 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	17 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 pm Karate 6:45 pm Racial Justice Book Study	18	19 8:00 am Men's Meeting 9:00 am Kairos Outside Training 3 pm Karate
20 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12 pm Youth Parent's Meeting 5 pm Chancel Ringers	21 6 pm Trustees	22 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	23 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	24 5:30 pm Karate 6:45 pm Racial Justice Book Study	25	26 9am Box Making for Margaret's Memories 3 pm Karate
27 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 4 pm Trunk or Treat 5 pm Chancel Ringers	28	29 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	30	31 5:30 pm Karate		

"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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