

RIVERSIDE REPORTER

JANUARY

20
25

Dear RPUMC Family and Neighbors,

January often brings a sense of renewal, a chance to reflect on the year behind and look forward to new paths ahead, so As we step into a new year, I invite you to embrace the idea of "Traveling Light."

Throughout Scripture, we see many stories of people setting out on paths unknown yet marked by trust in God's guidance and provision. The wise men followed a star. The Israelites wandered in the desert. Jesus called disciples to follow him with nothing but their faith. And God was with them for every step. The Light of the World travels with us.

In our own lives, the journey of faith also involves letting go of burdens, fears, and distractions that weigh us down. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Traveling light is also about simplicity, release, and making space for God's grace that frees us for joyful obedience.

This month, let us reflect on how we might lighten our loads. This can be through forgiveness, letting go of past regrets, or shifting our focus from the pressures of the world to the peace of Christ. By doing so, we free ourselves to walk more closely with God and experience the freedom Christ offers as we journey together in faith.

May we all find joy and peace in traveling light, with hearts open to God's leading and a renewed sense of purpose for the year ahead.

Your Fellow Traveller,
—Pastor Emily

www.riversideparkumc.com

Employee Spotlight



TRE DEVINE

About Me

My position at RPUMC - custodian

I have been at the church for 11 years. My favorite Bible verse is Colossians 3:23. My favorite food is nachos. I have lived in Jacksonville for my entire life. I enjoy movies, playing in the dirt with plants and such, food, family dinners, adventures.

JANUARY EVENTS



11:00 A.M. USHERS

WE NEED 2 USHERS TO SERVE ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. OTHER SUNDAYS MAY BE AVAILABLE. SERVING IN WORSHIP IS A GREAT WAY TO MEET PEOPLE AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE HELPING OUR SERVICES RUN SMOOTHLY.

CONTACT JOHN LARSEN AT
J.LARSEN@RIVERSIDEPARKUMC.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS



11:00. coffee, hot tea and gathering to chat.
11:25 The games begin !

JANUARY 3RD WILL BE OUR FIRST MEETING FOR THE YEAR - 20WE WILL GATHER TO ENJOY BEING TOGETHER AGAIN IN A NEW YEAR. COME READY TO PLAY BINGO AND CHAT AND MAYBE WIN A PRIZE! WE ENJOYED A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SING ALONG AND A FUN GAME THAT SENT EVERY ONE HOME WITH SOMETHING SPECIAL.



Save the Date Chili Sale

Circle of Hope & Sisters of Service

\$10/quart of chili
Pre-order only by 2/2

Kitchen pick-up on 2/9
10am- 12:30pm
order forms available soon



TAOIST TAI CHI

LOOKING FOR MORE ENERGY?
FLEXIBILITY AND MOBILITY? RELIEF
FROM ACES AND PAINS? COME JOIN
US AT TAI CHI ON TUESDAY
MORNINGS FROM 10;30-12 STARTING
JANUARY 7TH. AND FOR YOU NIGHT
OWLS, OR THOSE WHO WORK DAYS,
WE HAVE A NIGHT CLASS FROM 7-8 ON
THURSDAY EVENINGS STARTING ON
JANUARY 9TH.

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
BUT PLEASE WEAR COMFORTABLE
CLOTHES AND CLOSE TOED SHOES.
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

Jan 12th

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH

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

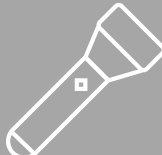
wednesday Ministry

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

As we look forward to the new year, we ask
Jesus to guide this ministry; to light our way.
I am the light of world. Anyone who
follows me will never walk in darkness.
John 8:12

In addition to our usual request for outerwear
at this time of year the gift of light (small
pocket flashlights) is our special request so
our neighbors will not walk in darkness.
Thank you all for your prayers, love, and
support as this ministry works to light the way
to Christ for all who come to our door.

ITEMS NEEDED



Dear Church Family and Neighbors,

January often brings a sense of renewal, a chance to reflect on the year behind and look forward to new paths ahead, so As we step into a new year, I invite you to embrace the idea of "Traveling Light."

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Your Fellow Traveller,
—Pastor Emily



Mental Health & Wellness Lunch

One out of every five persons has been diagnosed with a mental illness. Five out of five people (ALL of us) have the same basic needs for mental health.

A small group of church members have committed to bring their lunch and meet in the office library at noon every second Friday. (Next gathering is November 8th). The purpose is simply to hold space for conversations around mental health and wholeness. All are welcome: whether you are struggling, supporting others, or simply open to the conversation. Bring your lunch and join us for prayer and conversation. Or let us know if you would like us to pray for your mental health.



The women's Circle of Joy and Peace gathered for lunch and supported Samaritan's Purse for their Christmas project

Sunday School for Adults @10am

**Bible Searchers
(Room 202)**

*in-depth Bible study
taught by Rev. David
Holladay*

**Covenant Class
(Room 204)**

*open conversation
on living our faith in
practical ways.*

Mens Fellowship



Are you looking for a place to fit in? United Methodist Men's Fellowship is a group of men whose mission is to support the spiritual growth opportunities for all men of the church and to help them to mature as disciples as they encourage spiritual formation in others. When We Meet: 3rd Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Join us as we get to know each other, and we decide what we can do to help the Church and each other. For the December Newsletter: During our monthly 3rd Saturday meeting in December on the 21st at 9:00am in the Parlor, the Men's group worked out the plans for the 5th Sunday Pancake Breakfast to be held on the 29th. The Church will have a combined service that day so please note the time of this event. We will be serving from 9:30am until 10:30am. This is a free event. However, as always, ALL any donations are sent to Rising Hope, formerly known as the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

ARE YOU A HANDY MAN? Do you have some tools that are just sitting around wanting to be used? Thanks to those of you that stepped up and volunteered to help with the minor tasks needed at the church. We are planning a visit to the Riverside Park Apartments to lend a hand to the residents. The tasks may be as simple as moving a box or reaching something on a high shelf. We want these folks to know they are not forgotten. Again, no license or permits needed only a willing heart. More info will follow.

Give Joe Springer a call, text or email to let him know if you can help. joe@jsanda.com 904-240-6366

RIVERESIDE PARK UMC CONCERT SERIES



Chancel Ringers On The Road

Our wonderful Chancel Ringers will be presenting a concert at Starling at San Jose on January 19, 2:30 p.m. The program will feature a variety of selections presented in worship, plus a medley of songs by the Beatles and a sing-along version of "Over the Rainbow". Our hard-working ringers have recently participated in local and statewide festivals and have a good-sized repertoire. It was their desire to take their wonderful sounds out into the community.



Claflin University in worship February 16

The Concert Choir from Claflin University will be featured in a special combined worship service at 10:30 a.m. on February 16. Claflin is a historic black university located in South Carolina and is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Tentative plans may involve a catered luncheon after worship and a music selection combined with our own Chancel Choir and Praise Team. Please mark you calendars now for this wonderful worship opportunity.



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

RPUMC Council and Committee Leaders for 2025

Board of Trustees

- Pam Pearsall, Joe DiSalvo
- Frank Morreale, Jonathan Smith, Marc Julia
- **Alletha Bolling, Brookes Andrews,**

Staff Parish Relations/Finance Committee

- Chair: Bill Hodges
- Vinny SantaLucia, Rich Goodwin, Allison Matthews
- **Jo Ann Stephens, Kit Thomas**

Also on team: Layleader (*Larry Figart*), Treasurer (Mark M.), Financial Secretary (Beth Joyner), and Conference rep

New:stewardship and budgeting team: Charlie Schubiger, Craig Coffey, (to meet with Financial secretary, bookkeeper, treasurer)

Church Council 2025

(new members or new positions in bold)

- Lay Leader: Larry Figart
- **Vice Chair: Ian Charleton***
- Annual Conference Rep: Beth Joyner
- Children's Home Rep: Caroline Jennings
- First Friday Friends: Susan Russell
- Church Treasurer: Mark Mathews
- **Financial Secretary: Beth Joyner**
- Membership Secretary: Nancy Schubiger
- Margaret's Memories: Nicole Remo
- Racial Justice: Linda LaBell
- **Women in Ministry Rep: elected by circles in Jan.**
- Family Ministry Rep: Bobby Brazell
- Young Adult Rep: Timothy Keatley*
- SPRC/Finance Chair: Bill Hodges
- **Connection/Care Team: Yvonne Sloan**
- Youth Rep: Ava Manalo and Thomas Carrigg
- **Trustees Chair: elected in Jan. per Book of Discipline**
- **UMM President: Joe Springer**
- Wednesday Night Ministry: Bonnie Dudley
- Spiritual Growth & Education: Kevin Round
- **Family Promise Coordinator: Brenda Chapman**
- **Grace Gallery: Cathy Salzer**
- **Recording Secretary: Laura Whiteman**

Nominations

- Kevin Crowell, David Holladay, Kit Thomas, Layleader (Larry Figart), and membership secretary (Nancy Schubiger)

Riverside Apartments Board (as reps from RPUMC)

- Kevin Crowell
- Rick Bible, Bobby Brazell, Joe Springer, Tre Devine, Cory Lek, Karen Fleming, Ron Richardson, Beth Joyner, Joe DiSalvo, Pastor Emily

Breakout Projects for 2025:

- **Stained Glass Window Book (edit and update)**
- **Safety/Security Advisors (clarify needs and basic plan for Sunday mornings)**
- **Kid's Ministry Council (including playground meetups)**
- **Youth Ministry Council (including confirmation and youth Sunday)**
- **Adult Vacation Bible School**
- **"Worship in the World" pop-up worship experiences in the community**
- **Spiritual Retreat Weekend**
- **Hospitality team for church-wide meals**
- **New Directory Team**

RACIAL JUSTICE



NATIONAL DAY OF

RACIAL HEALING

01.21.2025

Join hundreds of volunteers from Jan. 17-20 as we uplift Dr. King's legacy of unity and tackle economic challenges in underserved communities in need of support across Northeast Florida. These meaningful projects were selected in collaboration with community and neighborhood leaders to reflect their most urgent needs, ensuring your efforts are focused on where they are needed most.

Sign up here: <https://uwnfl.galaxydigital.com/mlk-weekend-of-service-2025/>

Graphic for below is at <https://fcymca.org/together-against-hate/>
United Against Hate: Identifying, Reporting, and Preventing Hate Crimes
January 23, 2025 | 7:00pm

Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated (LEDI) exhibit in the Museum of Science and History (MOSH)
1025 Museum Circle
Jacksonville, FL 32207

The exhibit is available for viewing at 6:00pm.

This is free but you must register in advance at <https://fcymca.org/together-against-hate/>
The Rise of Jew-hatred and What's Being Done to Promote Change
January 28, 2025 | 5:30pm

with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Fernandina Beach, FL

Also free but location TBA so check this website for more information: <https://fcymca.org/together-against-hate/>

4E Leadership Summit Registration Open

NORTH EAST DISTRICT

Register Now

4E Leadership Summit

Empower, Enhance, Enable & Engage your ministry in the local church.

Special breakout sessions will be offered for those wanting to learn more about church council/finance/lay leader/sprc/trustees.

January 25, 2025

10 AM - 2 PM

Palm Coast UMC

\$10 PER PERSON

Registration will close on January 17, 2025



Bishop Berlin
Keynote Speaker

Join us for the 4E Leadership Summit. Empower, Enhance, Enable and Engage your ministry in the local church. Bishop Tom Berlin will be our keynote speaker. Special breakout sessions will be offered for those wanting to learn more about church council/finance/lay leader/sprc/trustees. This will be our first in-person leadership event since redistricting in July 2024. We hope that you will register to attend and connect with other leaders in the North East District.

DATE/TIME: January 25, 2025 - 10 AM - 2 PM
LOCATION: Palm Coast UMC, 6500 Belle Terre Pkwy, Palm Coast, FL 32137

COST: \$10 per person.

You MUST register to attend. No walk-ins.

DECEMBER 2024



Girls Scouts Thanks RPUMC

Because of the church's generosity with space and time we were able to have 50 girls and 35 adults at our Community 7 Girl Scout Christmas party! Many of these girls have never been to a Girl Scouts event because of the cost and this one was offered for free because the space was offered to us for free. Thank you!



january

Birthdays

1st	Barbara Hittell
2nd	Justin Wilson
8th	Susan Ridge
9th	Kim Moseley Luke Renne
10th	Alden Haupt
12th	Nora Riechmann
18th	Jim Lewis
20th	Tadd Manning
21st	Lee Cashman Red Earp Robin Lee
22nd	Kaitlyn Fuller Rich Goodwin
23rd	Owen Lek Henry Lek
25th	Chris Schmitz
27th	Emily Charleton
28th	Ron Rehberg
29th	Shirley Davis
31st	Andy Scully

Committee Meetings:

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

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

Church Council
Tuesday, January 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

January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	2 5:30 pm Karate	3 11 am First Friday Friends	4 3 pm Karate
5 COMMUNION EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	6	7 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	8 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	9 11:00 am Circle of Hope 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	10 12 pm Mental Wellness & Connection Lunch	11 3 pm Karate
12 BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12 pm Young Adult Brunch 5 pm Chancel Ringers	13	14 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Sisters of Service	15 11:00 am Circle of Joy & Peace 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	16 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 9 am United Methodist Men 3 pm Karate
19 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	20 MLK, Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 pm Trustees	21 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Church Council	22 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	23 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	24	25 10-2 Leadership Summit (Palm Coast) 3 pm Karate Youth Trip Rock the Universe
26 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	27	28 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate	29 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	30 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	31	

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 9AM-3:30 PM

FRIDAY 9 AM - 1PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

KARATE: KOLBYKARATECLUB.COM

TAI CHI: TAOISTAICHI.ORG



"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/RiversidePar
kUMC
(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

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 Russell, Director of Contemporary Worship
m.russell@riversideparkumc.com

Ronin Ravanzo, Youth Director
youth@riversideparkumc.com

Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper
j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com

Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
membership@riversideparkumc.com

Cam McCorkle, Media Development Artist
media@riversideparkumc.com

Tre Devine, Custodian
t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

819 Park Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

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