



RIVERSIDE REPORTER

MARCH 2025

This month begins the season of Lent, so (as your pastor) I invite you to choose a practice for the next forty days. Give something up (to mirror Jesus' sacrifice) or 'pick up' a practice that will help you experience Christ. Maybe start your day with a hymn or put a prayer next to your toothbrush. Maybe it's time to repent of that habit or finally do that thing which the Holy Spirit has been nudging you (inviting you) to try...

I also invite you to consider that you ARE invited: invited to Christ's table, invited to follow Jesus, invited into the Kingdom of God and eternal life. God *INVITES* us. *wants* us. How amazing is that?!?!? And what IS our response to God's invitation?

Who else in your life might appreciate an invitation? ...maybe to lunch. or to church. (definitely invite people to Easter Sunday) Even when we say no to things, it's nice to know that we are invited. valued. welcome.

And our neighbors need to know it, too. RPUMC is building a community where people are welcome and valued; a community reflecting the love and invitation that Jesus offers to us. And (like any good party invitation) people need to know it, too.

Rev. Emily Knight

Dear followers of Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration, there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation...

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.
[from the United Methodist Book of Worship]





Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a 40-day period of self-examination, repentance, and spiritual renewal leading to Easter, reflecting Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Lent is a time for believers to seek personal holiness and deepen their relationship with God through prayer, fasting, and charity. The number 40 signifies testing, preparation, and growth in the Bible (like the 40 years the Israelites spent in the desert (Exodus 16:35).

Prayer for Lent: Gracious God, as we enter this season of Lent, help us to remember the call to holiness and renewal. Guide us in repentance, strengthen us in our faith, and help us to walk closer with You through prayer, fasting, and acts of service. May Your grace transform us during this holy season. In Jesus' name, Amen.

RPUMC campus tour will be Sunday, March 16th. Meet Marc Julia at 10 a.m. in front of the sanctuary (or just inside if it's raining) for a walking tour or the campus.

New Member Classes begin Sunday, March 23rd. Join Pastor Emily in the office library (2nd floor upstairs from the fellowship hall), to learn more about our Methodist roots, our core values, and our missions here at RPUMC. The classes run for three weeks (3/23, 3/30, 4/6) and new members will join on Palm Sunday 4/13.



You are invited to an exhibit of quilting artistry. Quilting began as a necessity and evolved into an artform. Using materials and methods both old and new, this skill has been passed down through generations. Quilting artists and church members Shirley Davis, Peggy McCord, Harriet Thurgood and Bridget Ware continue the tradition and have generously agreed to share their beautiful quilts with us. Don't miss it!
2nd floor of the McCord Building

**Margaret's Memories
Bracelet Making
March 2 10-1
Fellowship Hall**

**First Sunday
Communion &
Canned Goods
March 2**

Drop off non-perishable food items in the breezeway or McCord entrance for the Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry.



*Ash Wednesday
Service*
Wednesday
March 5, 2025 6:30pm
RPUMC Sanctuary
Lent begins.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**HOSTED BY MEN'S MINISTRY
SUNDAY, MARCH 30 ~ 10 AM
RHAMES FELLOWSHIP HALL**



RPUMC Concert Series:

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



GPC

Gestalt Pastoral Care

Opening to Grace Retreat Day

Explore the *Unique* Way God is Working in You

Friday March 14, 2025

8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Riverside Park United Methodist Church Parlor
819 Park St, Jacksonville, FL 32304

Experience a model of healing ministry that integrates Gestalt growth work with spiritual companioning and healing prayer. Gestalt Pastoral Care trusts that God desires to heal holistically – body, mind, spirit, emotions, and social context – a way that is unique to each person.



To register or for more info
scan the QR code.



"Spring Cleaning and Family Fun is just around the corner. We will be pressure washing as much of the church grounds as we can on April 5th.

We are also excited about the Family Roots Market coming soon. All men are invited to attend the March 15th meeting to help with the planning for these events. Come have a cup of coffee and see what we are doing or where we are going next."

Thanks, Joe Springer UMM President

WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF JOY & PEACE



Wreath creativity by the Joy and Peace Circle members on 2/19/25. Thank you God! We are so blessed.

Come to one of our connection groups. New participants welcome!

Adult Sunday School @10am

Covenant Class
(Rm 204)

open conversation on living our faith in practical ways.

Bible Searchers
(Rm 202)

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



WOMEN IN MISSION

Tues., March 11
Sisters of Service
7 p.m.
Parlor

Thurs., March 13
Circle of Hope
11 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Wed., March 19
Circle of Joy & Peace
11 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

First Friday Friends: March 7th: Senior Adult Ministry

Join us on March 7th for a morning of coffee or tea at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by sharing memories about work experiences with guided questions at 11:25 am. We will learn more about our friends (only what you are willing to share). Each table will have a set of questions to guide them in the conversation and sharing. I can't wait to see how many retired teachers there are, for example. We'll conclude with a delicious lunch at noon.

This month we'll have of Shepherd's Pie, Salad & dessert

Plan to come on March 7th for a good morning.
Call the church office (904)-355-5491 if you have a question.



“Circle of Hope” visits BabyLuv & Community Health Outreach



Young Adults meet for Brunch



**April & Liam Mateo
in our church nursery**



Chancel Ringers visit the neighborhood at Starling San Jose Assisted Living Facility



Claflin University Concert Choir (with RPUMC chancel choir) leads worship

Wednesday Night 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



ITEMS NEEDED



Change is inevitable and change is “gonna” happen. March 9th we are springing forward into daylight savings time always an adjustment to more than our clocks. WNM changes as well adjusting to spring temperature clothing for our neighbors, light jackets, rain gear, and always socks and t-shirts (larger sizes please).

What is constant and never changes is WNM. Every week your ministry is greeting our neighbors with love, kindness, and prayer along with a meal and something to drink. We thank you for your consistent love and support for this important ministry for the Riverside neighborhood, Your WNM volunteers for more information text Bonnie Dudley 904-868-5370



Have you misplaced your Riverside Park UMC name tag? Or perhaps you never received one. If you would like to receive a magnetic name tag please call the church office (904-355-5491) or email churchoffice@riversideparkumc.com with the EXACT way you would like your name to appear on the name tag. You do not need to be a member to have a name tag; they are available to all who worship with us here at RPUMC. It is a wonderful way to help us all learn each other's names.

Racial Justice

Loving our neighbors (and living that out in our community) continues to be a core of our United Methodist faith.

Here in Jacksonville, we encourage you to check out the events and programs at 904ward.org (they are sponsoring events on March 11th & 12th to foster community connections). On a national scale, we want to share about the UMC's “General Commission of Religion and Race” whose mission is to challenge, lead, and equip the people of The UMC to become interculturally competent, ensure institutional equity and facilitate vital conversations about religion, race, and culture.

Find their website here: <https://www.gcorr.org/>



Linda Labell is our church's point-person for this work. Contact her for more information.



JOYE HAMPTON

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

What is your position at RPUMC?: I have been the Office Manager for 10 1/2 years.

What is your favorite food?: I love hibachi, especially filet mignon and scallops.

What is your favorite Bible verse?: Colossians 3:12

What do you like to do in your free time?: I like to watch tv, cook especially with my pressure cooker, make things with my Cricut, and snuggle with my mini golden doodle, Rossi.

STAFF UPDATES

Bobby Brazell



We are happy to announce that Bobby Brazell has accepted the role of Interim Youth Director. Bobby grew up in this church and, for many years, has been a beloved chaperone for youth trips and lock-ins. He is a regular presence for our students and has a deep passion for the youth ministries here at RPUMC. Bobby's wife, Jennifer, will also help with some behind-the-scenes communication and coordinating work. Welcome to staff, Bobby (and Jennifer)!

Cam McCorkle



SPRC is hiring Cam McCorkle as a part-time Facilities Manager to coordinate logistics and communication for facility maintenance needs. Cam is a familiar face around the church because of his media development volunteering, but Cam also has entrepreneur and artisan skills in the custom furniture business. As Facility Manager, Cam will oversee the regular maintenance checklist, coordinate repair projects with the United Methodist Men, and work with Trustees to gather bids for larger repairs and issues that arise.

Joye Hampton



In the December newsletter, we announced the retirement of our long-time bookkeeper, Jack. During this transition, we've relied on Church Treasurer Mark Mathews, Financial Secretary Beth Joyner, and Office Manager Joye Hampton. Joye's organizational skills and institutional knowledge are invaluable, so the SPRC is pleased to announce that she will take over bookkeeping duties for our church going forward. With the increase of bookkeeping duties, Joye will spend less time managing facilities.

Prayer in the Neighborhood by Myra Douglas

Our February focus on "Love Your Neighborhood" got me thinking about my home church in Ohio, and some of the things we did to pray for and include our neighborhood.

I was a part of the prayer team and some of the things we did were:

- Create a Prayer Garden. It was very small: a cross, a bench, and some flowering plants. We also included a prayer box where prayers could be placed if the person wanted to remain anonymous.

- God of Love and Power Prayer: Wherever we were (out in the neighborhood) we all prayed at the same time each day (at 7:14 am or 7:14 pm) and we encouraged each other to "pray where you are"

- Walked or drove through our areas of town and prayed over the homes and businesses. Asked those interested in what we were doing if there was a specific need we could pray over.

These are just a few of the activities we did over the years that really included prayer for our community.

(Below is one of the prayers we would carry with us. Feel free to change "Gilman" to "Riverside Park UMC".)

Connections from the Congregation



A Holy Wednesday Moment ~Niel & Denise Fleming

After serving for one our Wednesday night meals on the coldest night of the year, Denise & I took 8 or 9 leftover meals to several people we noticed at Willow Branch Park. We gave half to one very kind and gracious gentleman who said "he was a lot warmer now that that he had a few good meals in front of him".

The other lady was lying alongside the fence closest to the library. She was so stunned to look up and see us, as she was so curled up in a little ball. We both felt her initial reaction was "What are these people going to do to me?" but then that seemed to turn into, "Why are these people doing this for me?" She was absolutely overwhelmed with joy, which brought tears to both our eyes as we walked back to the car.



*God of Love & Power,
Unlock our hearts to your Spirit
and open doors to your
next steps for Gilman;
give us faith and courage
to step through. Amen*

Pray at 7:14 daily

HOLY WEEK

Save the Date

- ✓ Palm Sunday combined service and potluck lunch: Sunday, April 13 @ 10:30am
- ✓ Maundy Thursday Service: April 17th @ 6:30pm
- ✓ Good Friday Stations of the Cross: April 18th 9-7
- ✓ Easter Sunday: April 20, 2025: 9am & 11am Worship Services

Palm Sunday
Egg Hunt
for Kids:
4/13



EASTER LILIES AND HYDRANGEAS

Order forms available in Sunday bulletins or by contacting the church office.



Our Hosting Week: April 6-12th
RPUMC will act as 'host' (providing meals and groceries) for families with children who are transitioning out of homelessness. Brenda Chapman is our volunteer coordinator. Sign up here to help:

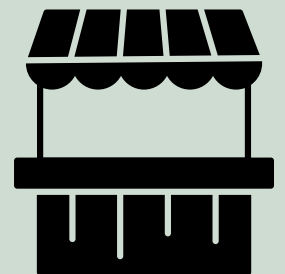


Coming Soon: The Family Roots Market (April 30th)

Hosted by Riverside Park United Methodist Men, this will be a lively community event that brings together youth, families, local businesses, and neighbors. We will host food trucks and vendors in our parking lot.

Wednesday, 4/30/2025 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(an early release day for Duval County Schools)



As Lent leads us to the hope of Easter and Resurrection in Christ, we give thanks for those who have gone before us to lead us in faith.

*Special note of love and remembrance:
A memorial gift in memory of Rev. Harry C. Baas was given by his granddaughter, Amanda McDonald*

MARCH

Birthdays

1st	Karen Bailey Brenna Dupries
2nd	Jonathan Smith
3rd	Nylah Carter
6th	Yolanda Rodriguez
7th	Jo Ann Stephens
11th	Eleanor Finch
12th	Diana Laforty Jake Manalo
13th	Wes Cox Julie Pickren
16th	Alicia Frank Andrew Strong
18th	Vance Meyer Brooks Stone
20th	Sharry Bible
21st	John Larsen Barbara Merton
23rd	Brandea Doran
25th	Josi Devine
26th	Amy Collier
27th	Mary Louise Burner Joe Lek
28th	Maegan Alvarado Charlie Morreale Jackson Morreale Henry Morreale
29th	Joe Springer Ellie Waters
30th	Andre Varunok

Committee Meetings:

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

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

Church Council
Tuesday, March 18 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.

MARCH

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 3 pm Karate
2 COMMUNION 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am Bracelet Making 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	3 	4 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	6 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	7 11 am First Friday Friends	8 3 pm Karate
9 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	10 	11 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Sisters of Service	12 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	13 11 am Circle of Hope 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	14 8:30—4:00 Opening to Grace Retreat	15 9 am United Methodist Men 3 pm Karate
16 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am Campus Tour 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	17 Newsletter Deadline 6 pm Trustees	18 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Kairos Outside Council 6 pm Church Council	19 11 am Circle of Joy & Peace 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	20 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	21	22 3 pm Karate
23 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am New Member Class 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	24	25 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate	26 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	27 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	28	29 3 pm Karate
30 5th Sunday 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am New Member Class 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	31					



RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"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
pastoreml@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

Brenda Scott, Organist
brenda.scott@riversideparkumc.com

Mary Holladay, Organist
mary.holladay@riversideparkumc.com

Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
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Tre Devine, Custodian
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