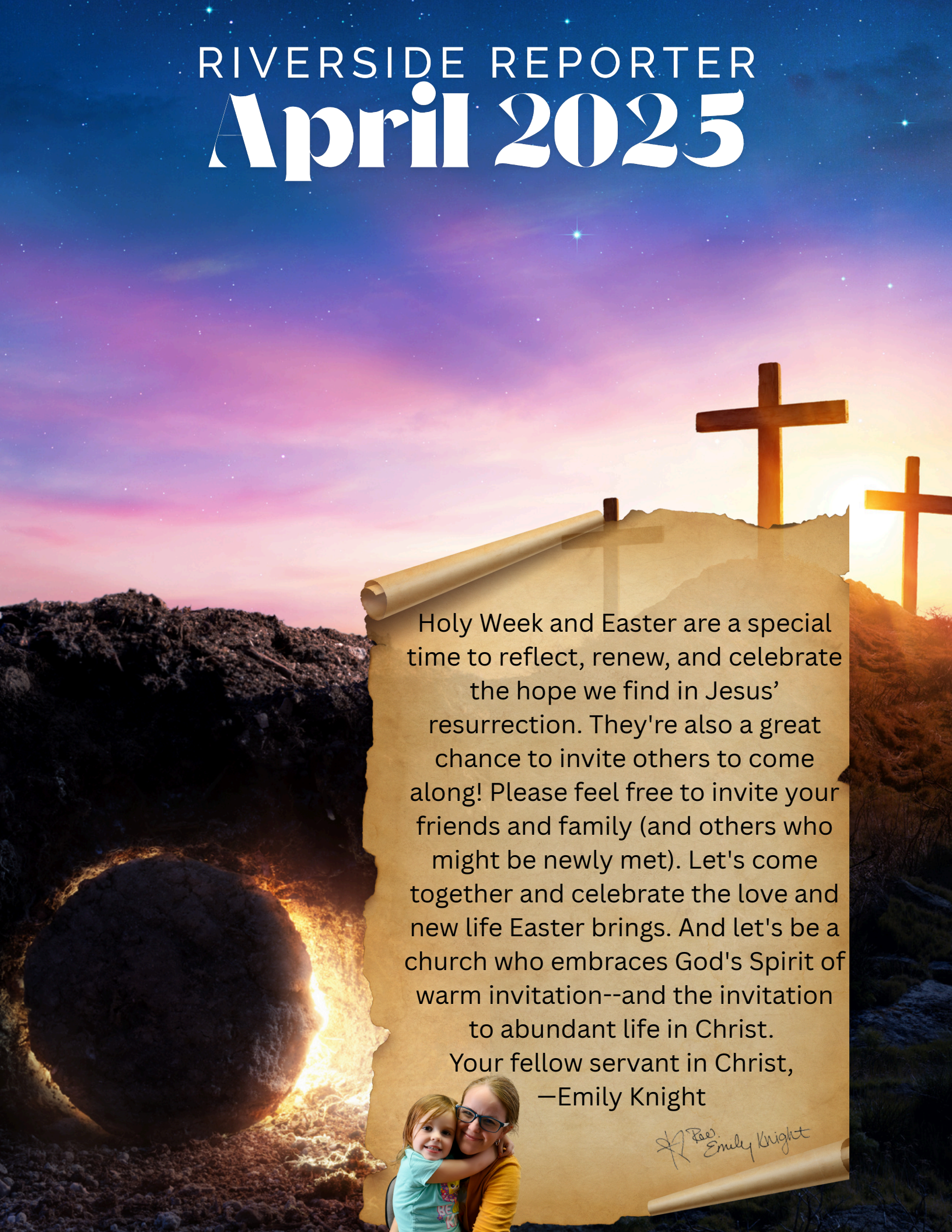


RIVERSIDE REPORTER

April 2025



Holy Week and Easter are a special time to reflect, renew, and celebrate the hope we find in Jesus' resurrection. They're also a great chance to invite others to come along! Please feel free to invite your friends and family (and others who might be newly met). Let's come together and celebrate the love and new life Easter brings. And let's be a church who embraces God's Spirit of warm invitation--and the invitation to abundant life in Christ.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

—Emily Knight

Rev. Emily Knight



HOLY WEEK 2025

From the waving of palm branches to Jesus' final breath on the cross, Holy Week leads us through the details of Jesus' final days and into the first days of Easter resurrection.



Palm Sunday: April 13

ONE ~combined~ 10:30am service

Maundy Thursday: April 17

6:30pm Communion Service

Experience Jesus' journey from Gethsemane to the Grave

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Open Good Friday 4/18 9am-7pm

Visit a series of multi-sensory prayer stations that walk through details in the Good Friday story—from Gethsemane to the grave.

Pray in the garden. Feel the thorns that mocked Jesus.

Add your name to the cry of the crowd.

Hear the hammer. Breathe out with Christ.

Hand sanitizer will be available throughout. All ages welcome.

Open 9am-8pm on Good Friday (4/18) Look for the welcome table in front of the breezeway entrance off of Park St.

Join us for Easter Sunday

Worship with us on Sunday, April 20th
9am Contemporary & 11am Traditional

Bring a flower from your yard to cover the cross in signs of life!

Invite friends to join us, too.

Both services will be livestreamed.



NAVY CONCERT Flee Club



GRACE
Gallery
**COMING
SOON**



Grace Gallery Welcomes Jacksonville Watercolor Society!

This April Riverside Park UMC will host the Jacksonville Watercolor Society's Spring Exhibition at our Grace Gallery (Second Floor Hallway of McCord Building). Jacksonville Watercolor Society supports watercolor artists, whether beginners or professionals, through a variety of educational opportunities and juried and non-juried shows. See more about the organization on their website jacksonvillewatercolorsociety.org
The show runs through May. Be sure to check it out!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Ministries

Wednesday ministries takes a team (we have teams who make PB&J sandwiches, sort desserts, folks who pour drinks and assemble meals, others deliver to the apartments)—but sometimes, there is also work outside of Wednesdays.

A heartfelt thank you to George Ridge for coordinating donations for Wednesday ministries! When items such as shirts, socks, toiletries, and tampons are contributed, we've typically stored them in cubbies near the entryway, while the excess has been placed loosely in bins within the fellowship hall. Where others perceived a chaotic mess, George recognized a chance to organize—and he took the initiative to get it done! The back corner area is now neatly labeled and folded, making it much easier to access when needed. Thank you, George, for identifying this need and taking on this important project.

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.... Matthew 25: 35-36

This is the verse that is the core of your Wednesday Night Ministry.

Pastor Emily lifted up another verse in a March sermon, the one commandment that Jesus gave us, "To love one another as I have loved you."

John 13:34 and John 15:12

I invite you sometime this month as we go through Lent in preparation for Easter then Holy Week and Easter the celebration of the risen Lord to "Come and See" love in action on Wednesday afternoons.

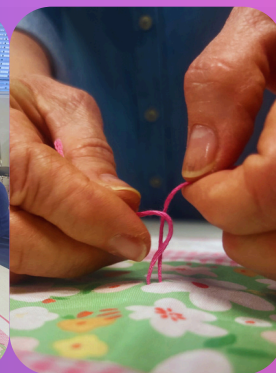
I am so thankful for all who support WNM with their prayers, time, donations, and love. I am also thankful for you and all that you are doing now!



ITEMS NEEDED



PRAYER Quilts



Karen Western had the beautiful idea of making "Prayer Quilts" as a sign of comfort and congregational care. The quilt itself is lovely, but intentionally made with strings unfinished—inviting others to say a prayer while hand-tying a knot. Each knot represents a prayer, offering a tangible reminder to the recipient that they are being lifted up in prayer.

So far, two quilts have been completed, and there are plans to assemble more. If you're interested in joining the Prayer Quilt project, please contact Karen or the church office. And if you see a prayer quilt around the church, we invite you to take a moment to pray over it and add your own knot.



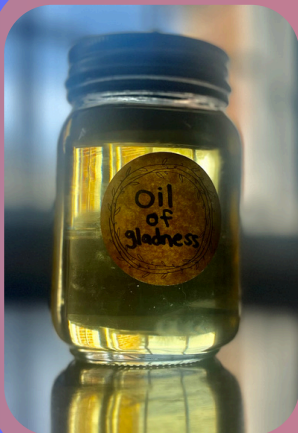
FIRST FRIDAY friends

Put April 4 on your calendars for another fun and informative meeting with our Senior Ministry. We will begin as always with coffee and tea at 11:00 AM. We are asking that you consider sitting at a different table this time. We have many interesting and enjoyable people who come to our programs (as we learned last month in our group conversations about our working lives and those of our families.) For April we will be learning about phones and computers Part 2 led by Nancy Schubiger. We came away last fall with valuable information and there is always something new to know. Nancy makes it easy to understand and is very knowledgeable. Lunch will be chicken salad with a croissant roll, fruit salad, and a dessert for April as usually yummy. We are looking forward to a gathering of First Friday Friends on Friday April 4th in the Fellowship Hall. Questions ? Call the church office 904-355-5491 or Susan Russell - 904-234-5823

KIDS club

During the month of April, Kids' Club will be learning about events during Jesus's ministry, especially those during Holy Week. Each week the kids will also learn about a different symbol that relates to Lent: a time when we are invited to spend time talking to God or learning more about Him through different practices. So far in March, we have talked about the color purple, the meaning of washing feet or hands (serving others), and the significance of the pretzel (prayer). Other symbols or objects will include a chrysalis or cocoon (God's timing), a cross (forgiveness), the bread and cup (covenant/fellowship), an egg or lily (anticipation/preparation), and a donkey (peace/humility).

MENTAL HEALTH & wellness



The Mental Health and Wholeness Group will meet on Friday, April 11th at noon, so please bring your lunch and come join us! If you are aware of anyone struggling with mental health issues, let us know, and we will pray for them during our gathering. Last month's meeting in March was a retreat focused on prayer and spiritual healing, which proved to be very impactful.

MARGARET'S memories

Memory boxes have been donated Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, South, Clay, & Nassau, St. Vincent's Southside, UF North & Downtown, and Memorial Hospital. We have also started donating memory boxes to local birthing centers. Not all families with a diagnosis not compatible with life desire a birth at a hospital. Some families choose a more natural "home" setting and delivery by Midwife. Boxes have been delivered to First Coast Midwifery and St. Augustine Birth Collective.

I have assisted with co-teaching Resolve Through Sharing Perinatal Loss Bereavement Care at: Baptist Heath – classes of RN's, Chaplains, and Nurses Aide Cherry Blossom Birth and Bereavement- class of Dulas and Nursing Students. Both opportunities were rewarding teaching people that will be working with families of grief.

Volunteers have been scheduling time to help with quality controlling, crafting, and other projects that make Margaret's Memories possible. We are preparing for the spring 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 have some supplies if you would like them.

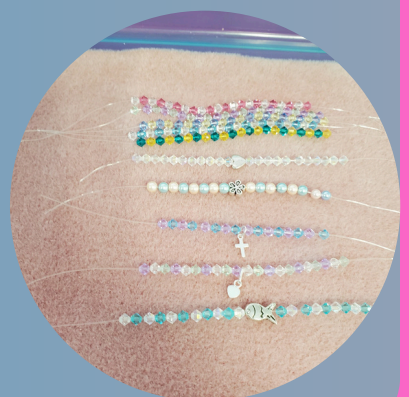
We continue to receive thank you notes and emails from families/friends to thank Margaret's Memories for giving the gift on memories. We are continually told all the handmade items are very touching.

Dates of Interest:

April 5, 2025, Bracelet Making – 10 Am in the fellowship Hall

Jun 14, 2025- Fun Family event fundraiser- details coming soon!

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



RIVERSIDE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
&
UNITED METHODIST MEN
PRESENT

BOUNCY HOUSE

FOOD TRUCKS

SKATE PARK

ARTS & CRAFT

GAMES

MUSIC

ART

TALENT SHOW

FAMILY ROOTS Market

30 APR, 2025
Open: 1-5pm

819 Park St, Jacksonville Florida, 32204

@familyrootsmarket



Family Roots Market encourages church members to sign up for space at the festival. \$30 for Church Members. Volunteers also needed !

MARCH memories





Favorite animal: penguins. When I was about seven or eight years old, I drew a really bad cartoon flamingo for a family game. Everyone kept guessing 'penguin' and the drawing became sort of a 'signature doodle.'

Favorite foods: pretty much anything with garlic and butter. Or chocolate.

Where did you grow up: Port Orange, Florida (just South of Daytona).

Where did you and Matt meet? We met at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. We ended up in a religion class together—he was a Psychology major, but wanted to take a class with his roommate.

What do you like to do on your days off? I love to bake, sing, hike, and play with watercolor painting (but nothing serious). I don't play them very much, but I also enjoy playing oboe and saxophone.

How long have you been in Jacksonville? I was appointed to RPUMC in July of 2016, but Matt has roots here in Jax—he went to Fletcher high school over at Jax Beach.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Gordon Rehberg



The family and I would like to express our appreciation for the many cards, calls, food, visits, prayers and other expression of love and sympathy that we have received from you, our church family, during these difficult months and recent weeks. They have offered us such comfort. Thank you.

Emily and Family

TRUSTING IN THE LORD WITH MY FAITH

Mariah Cope



Trusting the Lord is something that brings me peace and strength. I believe that I can trust the Lord with everything in my life, whether it's my Sunday school teachers, my neighbors, or even the moments when I'm singing and dancing to God. Trusting the Lord means knowing that He is always there for me and that I can count on Him to guide me through life's challenges.

One way I trust the Lord is through the amazing people He places in my life, like my Sunday school teachers. They teach me so much about God and how I can live my life to please Him. I know that God works through these teachers to help me grow in faith, and I trust Him to lead them in teaching me the right things. I can also trust God through my neighbors, who show kindness and love. God is always at work in the people around me, and that helps me trust Him even more.

Another way I trust the Lord is through worship. I love singing and dancing to God because it helps me feel close to Him. When I sing, I'm praising God for who He is and thanking Him for all the good things in my life. Trusting the Lord during these moments reminds me that He's with me, no matter where I am or what I'm doing.

I also trust the Lord with my prayers. I know that when I pray, God hears me, and He will always answer my prayers, even if it's not in the way I expect. Sometimes the answers come quickly, and sometimes I have to wait, but I trust that God knows what's best for me. When I pray, I'm putting my faith in God's timing and His plan for my life.

One of the best ways I can trust the Lord is by reading the Bible. The Bible is like a guide that shows me how to live and how to act. It teaches me the right way to treat others, how to love, and how to trust God with my heart. The Bible is full of wisdom, and when I read it, I feel like I'm learning how to follow God more closely. It helps me remember that I'm not alone because God is always with me, guiding me every step of the way.

Trusting the Lord with my faith is something I do every day, and it brings me comfort and joy. Whether it's through the people I meet, the way I worship, the prayers I say, or the Bible I read, I know that God is always with me, and I can trust Him to help me in every part of my life.



1st	Charlene Grand Oliva Take
3rd	Lorie Anderson Tre Devine John Wascom
4th	Fred Lee Eli Monk
6th	Kaylee Drewry Mateo Hernandez
8th	Theresa Keatley-Miller
14th	Peggy McCord
15th	Yvonne Sloan
17th	Ellie Roukey
18th	Sarah Brinson
19th	Tammy Morreale
20th	Frances Mathews
21st	Carole Rooks Tim Ware Nieve Wilbourne
22nd	Latoya McCorkle
24th	Noah Meyer
25th	Teresa Hanna
26th	Lib Creech Beth Joyner
27th	Millie Russell
28th	Kris Gunby
29th	Hal Catlin Rhys Weisman Michael Whiteman
30th	Suzanne Brooks-Cope Ivey Hannah

Committee Meetings:

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

Board of Trustees
Monday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council
Tuesday, April 22 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
† 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

APRIL 2020

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	2 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	3 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Tai Chi	4 11 am First Friday Friends	5 10-12 Margaret's Memories Box Assembly 3 pm Karate
6 COMMUNION 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am New Member Class 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	7 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am New Member Class 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	8 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Sisters of Service	9 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	10 11 am Circle of Hope 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	11 5:30 pm Karate 5:30 pm Tai Chi	12 3 pm Jacksonville Children's Chorus Concert 3 pm Karate
FAMILY PROMISE WEEK						
13 PALM SUNDAY 10:30 am Combined Worship 11:30 am Potluck Lunch & Easter Egg Hunt 5 pm Chancel Ringers	14 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	15 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate	16 11 am Circle of Joy & Peace 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	17 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 pm Karate 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm Tai Chi	18 GOOD FRIDAY 9 am - 7 pm Stations of the Cross	19 9 am United Methodist Men 3 pm Karate
20 EASTER 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	21 6 pm Trustees	22 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate 6 pm Church Council	23 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	24 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	25 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	26 3 pm Karate
27 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	28 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	29 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate	30 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir			



"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

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pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com

Joye Hampton, Office Manager
j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com

John Larsen, Director of Traditional Worship
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Millie Russell, Director of Contemporary Worship
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Brenda Scott, Organist
brenda.scottriversideparkumc.com

Mary Holladay, Organist
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Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
membership@riversideparkumc.com

Cam McCorkle, Media Development Artist
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Tre Devine, Custodian
t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

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