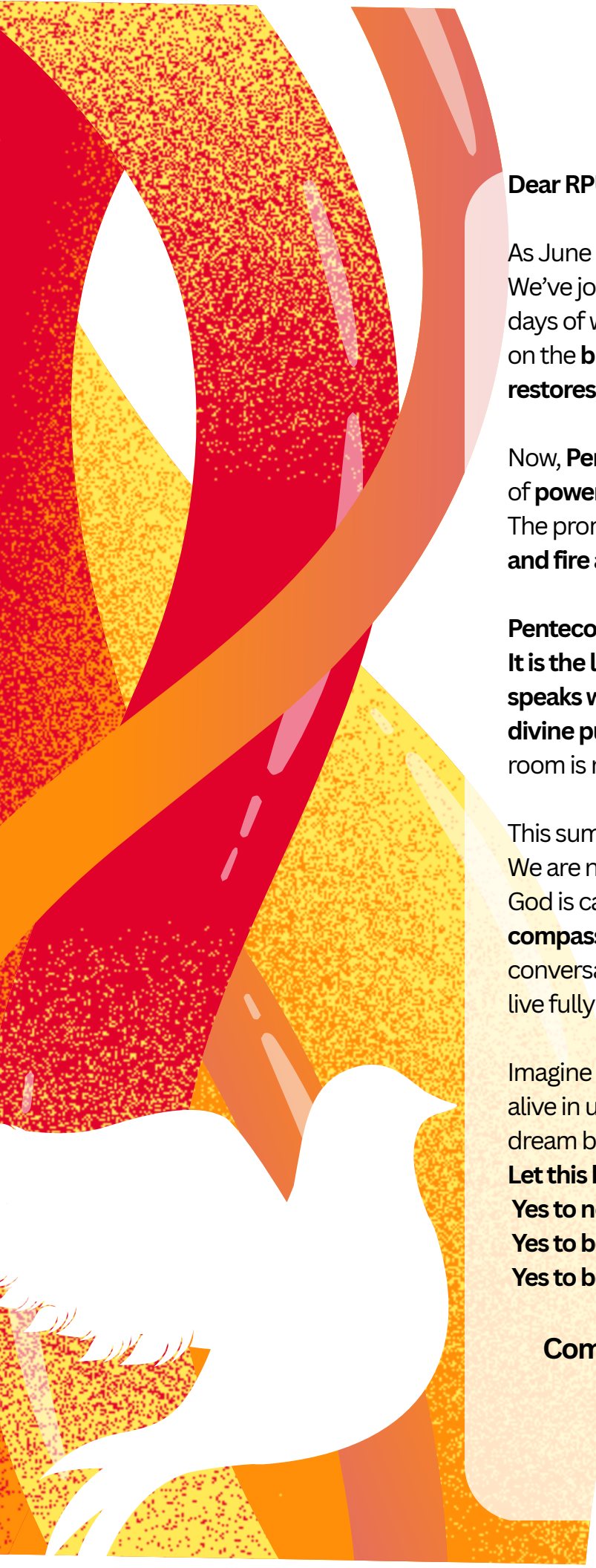


RIVERSIDE REPORTER

June 2025

Dear RPUMC Family,

As June begins, we find ourselves standing on holy ground. We've journeyed together from Easter's dawn through fifty days of wonder and renewal. In this season, we've reflected on the **breath of life** that Jesus offered — breath that **revives, restores, and sends us** into the world with purpose.

Now, **Pentecost is just ahead.** And with it comes the promise of **power**. The promise of the **Holy Spirit**.
The promise of a Church not defined by walls, but by **wind and fire and movement.**

Pentecost is not just a moment in history.
It is the launch of a living, Spirit-filled Church, a Church that speaks with boldness, loves without fear, and moves with divine purpose. That same Spirit that once filled the upper room is ready to pour out here. Our church. Our hearts.

This summer, we are not slowing down. We are **rising up**.
We are not settling in. We are **stepping out**.
God is calling us into a season of **Spirit-led action, compassion, and creativity.** Whether in worship, service, conversation, or quiet prayer, the Holy Spirit is inviting us to live fully awake and fully empowered.

Imagine what could happen if we truly believed the Spirit is alive in us... comforting, equipping, sending, and stirring us to dream bigger and love deeper.
Let this be the summer we say yes to the Spirit's wind.
Yes to new beginnings.
Yes to bold witness.
Yes to becoming the Church the world needs right now.

Come, Holy Spirit. Fall afresh on Riverside Park UMC. Breathe new life into us again.

With joy and expectation,

Rev. Emily Knight

Every two years, RPUMC invites middle and high school students to confirm their faith, either by affirming the baptismal vows that were promised at their infancy or choosing to be baptized for the first time.

This year's class consists of five talented students who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th (we will bless them in both worship services). Please support them with your prayers and come to worship ready to highlight your favorite Bible verse in their new confirmation Bibles.

Each confirmation class also writes a group statement of faith, and this year, they also included an illustration (see below).



2025 Confirmation Class: Tallulah, Ellie, Ria, Bella, Tessa

Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation

June 8th

Wear Red or Fiery Colors



2025 Confirmation Class Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of all that is good in creation,
the Protector of all people on earth,
who leads us through life and guides us (and others) to become disciples of Christ.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us and helps us through hard times.

We believe in God's Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who forgives us and loves us no matter what — our friend who encourages us to ask questions.

We believe there is power in Jesus' message to the world — a message of love, joy, light, and community, on earth as it is in heaven.

We believe in the teachings given to us by the Holy Trinity.
We vow to continue trusting in God's love, creation, and message.

We thank God for the gifts of music and the arts, and we ask for guidance to use them with Holy intention.
Amen.

AWAKENED TO GRACE

2025 Florida Annual Conference meets June 5-7 in Lakeland. Beth Joyner is our church's delegate. Please be in prayer for the work and worship of the Florida United Methodist Church.

Mental Wellness & Connection Lunch
Friday, June 13 at Noon

Bring your lunch and hold space for mental health and wholeness.

Come gather in the church office library to discuss mental health.

Gather at the River



2025 Summer VBS for Adults
6/23 @7pm, *6/25 @11am, 7/27@3pm
Snacks, crafts, Bible, music

We will host three vacation bible school gatherings for *ADULTS* (kids are welcome too, but we want adults to experience the fun and nostalgia of snacks, old-school church songs, and Bible-related crafts. **Two gatherings will be at the church: 6/23 and 7/27 but the June 25th at 11am gathering will be with our neighbors at the Riverside Park Apartments)** Each session studies rivers featured in both in the Old AND New Testament.



Parables & Playgrounds

'pop up' VBS experiences for kids and families at playgrounds around the city

Saturday, June 21st @10am

Saturday, July 19th @10am

Sunday, August 3rd @3pm

Congratulations



ALEX ANDERSON

Child of Lorie and Glenn Anderson
Graduated from Stanton College Prep



CALEB DIAO

Child of Claire Weaver
Graduated from Oakleaf HS



QUEEN EZABELLA ALLY'SIA MCCORKLE

Child of LaToya and Cam McCorkle
Graduated from Digital Academy of Florida



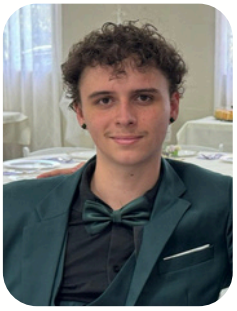
VANCE RUSSELL RICHTER

Grandchild of Susan &
Fred Russell
Graduated from Florida
Virtual School



ANTHONY STRONG

Child of Colleen & Ty Strong
Graduated from Fleming Island HS



THOMAS CARRIGG

Child of Andy Carrigg
Grandchild of Diane Carrigg
Graduated from Riverside HS



AVA MANALO

Child of Lara & Jesse Manalo
Graduated from Baker County HS



ABIGAIL BROOKE PRICE

Grandchild of
Rebecca and Woody Garner
Graduated from Bartram Trail HS



MACKENZIE RAE SWINDELL

Grandchild of Pam Pearsall
Great Grandchild of Emily Rehberg
Graduated from Nease HS



JAY VANDERLINDE

Grandchild of Molly Miller
Graduated from Beachside HS

2025 Graduates



ZACHARY MICHAEL BRADLEY

Grandchild of Diane Carrigg
Graduated from Univ. of Florida



MARIAH "MARS" WILKIEMEYER

Grandchild of Bonnie & Tom Dudley
Graduated from Westminster HS, Atlanta



LUCY GOODWIN

Grandchild of JoAnn & Rich Goodwin
Graduated from Coastal Carolina College



RICHARD "TRE" DEVINE

Child of Josi & Rick Devine
Graduated from FSCJ



EMILY MERTON

Child of Barbara Merton
Graduated from Florida Gulf Coast Univ.



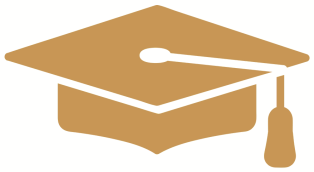
MAKAYLA ANN WHITE

Grandchild of Linda Robbins
Graduated from Florida Atlantic Univ.



VINNY SANTA LUCIA

Father of Eden Santa Lucia
Husband of Carrie Santa Lucia
Son-in-law of Yvonne & Al Sloan
Graduated from Barber School



DEUTERONOMY 31:8 (NIV)

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

How can we pray for our neighbors?

The Riverside Park Apartments will be going through some major renovations starting this July. Please play pray for the residents, the management of the apartments, and the construction workers. Let's hope this is a safe and easy process for all.

Sincerely, Kevin Crowell
(apartment board president)





Love kids? Help plant seeds of faith in little hearts by serving in the church nursery.

Studies have shown that kids have formed associations about God and church by 6 months old, so a warm and safe nursery really does affect faith growth. Your care can change a life—starting with the smallest.

April Joos who heads up the nursery needs an extra pair of hands for these scheduled Sundays:

Second Sunday of "odd months" (Jan/March/etc)

Third Sunday of "even months" (Feb/April/etc)

And we need someone for those rare 5th Sundays

Please call the church office for more information

Grace Gallery

Grace Gallery welcomes a new artist for June and July:

Chance Isbell is a multimedia artist from Jacksonville and a tattooist at Classic Tattoo in Murray Hill. A lover of watercolors, acrylics, making ambient music and spending time in nature, he is currently exploring AI learning models and creating new ideas within that space. Please come and experience what he has created for our gallery.





Wednesday Night Ministries

As we move into a long summer season the hot weather and thunderstorms will increase the needs of our neighbors for not only the basic socks and Tshirts but also shorts, rain ponchos, sunscreen, and sun hats.

WNM is so thankful for amazing donations recently. A benefactor friend supplied us with dozens of waterproof backpacks, ponchos, aluminum water bottles and even some bus passes.

The Sisters of Service donated 50 or so travel packs (seen to the left) that they filled with a T-shirt, a ball cap, and personal care items then distributed them to all our very appreciative neighbors.

Loving our neighbor and showing that love with these special gifts and with all your donations is what makes RPUMC's WNM ministry so wonderful. Thank you all for your prayers, love, and support.

The Amanda Bethany Strong Memorial Scholarship

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.

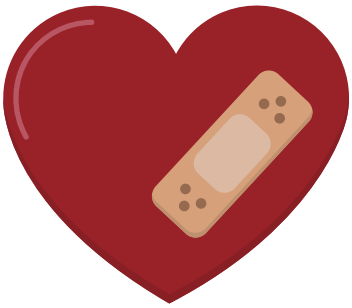


This year's recipient is Queen Ezabella McCorkle (aka 'Bella'). When the McCorkle family moved to Jacksonville a few years ago, Bella jumped quickly into serving Wednesday dinners and joining the acolyte/crucifer team.

"I am so grateful and happy to have found and made connections at RPUMC. Whether it's through volunteering at events or participating in group discussions, I find purpose in connecting with others and contributing to something bigger than myself. The lessons learned in church have inspired my desire to give back, giving me a sense of responsibility toward a community." ~Bella McCorkle

We will celebrate the Amanda Bethany Strong Memorial Scholarship during both worship services on Sunday, June 29th.

Connections from the Congregation



During a sermon earlier this year, Pastor Emily gave multiple examples of healing: some with positive endings and some where the struggles may still be present and the healing is not as definitive...

As an alcoholic my healing is not *complete* until God calls me home. It is a battle fought daily with healing steps daily. The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 pleads with God to remove his thorn. God responds, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And so it is with my addiction. God's grace heals me and walks with me. I am well aware that Satan lurks to convince that a one time drink is okay. God provides my healing and support each hour of each day. The support is my wife that he provided some forty years ago. My only responsibility is to ask, listen and, obey. Experiencing grace and help each day.
~Anonymous RPUMC Member

Thank you for your vital financial support (especially in the summer months ahead). We need you! Quarterly giving statements have been sent out via email. If you did not receive yours or noticed an error, please contact the church office.

Representatives from trustees and finance gathered for a productive 'executive committee' meeting--to look over all our accounts and clarify shared processes.
A reminder for the congregation: the work of trustees, finance, and church council committees are open, so contact the church office if you would like access to meeting minutes.





The UMC council of bishops has shared a new guiding vision statement for the UMC: **The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.**

In May's church council meeting, our leaders decided to add 'courageous leadership' to our own RPUMC vision

RPUMC KIDS CHOIR

SILLY SCRIPTURE SONGS

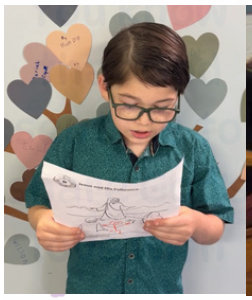
THIS SUMMER WE ARE KICKING OFF 8 WEEKS OF SINGING, PLAYING, AND DANCING TO SILLY SONGS BASED ON SCRIPTURE!

Sundays:
JUNE 1st - July 27th FROM 10-10:30AM

Email Millie Russell to stay in the loop with Kids Choir activities and performances!
Contact: m.russell@riversideparkumc.com

RPUMC Kidz Club

In kids club last month, kids made prayer jars and 'nest boxes' to represent the comfort of the Holy Spirit. They're praying and studying Scriptures like the Great Commission. Join us Sundays in the summer for more hands-on faith practices (10:30-11am). Plus: check out our 'pop up' VBS experiences at playgrounds throughout the city (6/21 @10am, 7/19 @10am, and 8/3 @ 3pm).









FAMILY ROOTS Market

June 6 4-8 p.m.
RPUMC Parking Lot

- Artists/Makers
- Food Vendors
- Agriculture
- Fun for all ages

Hosted by the RPUMC's United Methodist Men

aka 'Farm'
Now on a Friday

JUNE Birthdays

8th Mike Darragh

9th Brenda Chapman
Tom Dudley
Cam McCorkle

10th Lise' Dabney
George Ridge

12th Nancy Schubiger

13th Pat Allen

16th Libby Murray
Susan White

18th Cyndi Rehberg

23rd Tami Crowell

24th Beth Harralson
Maddie Knight

25th Marc-Antoni Julia

26th Emily Rehberg

28th Connie Hodges
Makenzie Monk

29th Caroline Jennings
Selena Owens

30th Kat Gunderson
Betty Young

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee
Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees
Monday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council
Tuesday, May 20 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
- Cooper Crowell
- Frankie Crowell
- Brenna DuPries
- April Laflash
- Emily Matthews
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp



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

The YMCA Summer Camp will be on campus 6/2-8/8.
The Prelude Chamber Music Camp will be on campus 6/16-6/21.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 **COMMUNION** 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	2	3 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate	4 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	5 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	6 **4-8 pm Family Roots Market** **Time TBA Youth Lock-In**	7 3 pm Karate
8 **PENTECOST (WEAR RED)** 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	9	10 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate **6 pm SPR/Finance**	11 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	12 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	13 **12:00 pm Mental Wellness & Connection**	14 3 pm Karate
15 **FATHER'S DAY** 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	16 **6 pm Trustees**	17 **Newsletter Deadline** 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate **6 pm Church Council**	18 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	19 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	20	21 **9 am United Methodist Men** **10 AM Kids VBS @ Playground** 3 pm Karate
22 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	23 **7 pm Grown-Up VBS**	24 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Karate	25 **11 am Grown-Up VBS at Riverside Park Apts.** 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	26 5:30 pm Karate 7 pm Tai Chi	27	28 3 pm Karate
29 9 am Contemporary Worship **10 am Pancake Breakfast** 11 am Traditional Worship	30					

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/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

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

Bobby Brazell, Youth Director
youth@riversideparkumc.com

Mary Holladay, Co-Organist
Brenda Scott, Co-Organist
organist@riversideparkumc.com

Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
membership@riversideparkumc.com

Cam McCorkle, Facilities Manager
facilities@riversideparkumc.com

Tre Devine, Custodian
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RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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