

# RIVERSIDE REPORTER

## NOVEMBER 2025

**“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”**

— Psalm 107:1

Dear RPUMC Church Family,

As we move through this season of gratitude, I want to say a heartfelt **thank you** for the many cards, kind words, and thoughtful gestures you shared for **Pastor Appreciation Month** and my birthday. Your encouragement means more than you know. **I am deeply grateful for each of you—and for the warm, loving heart that makes this church such a special place to serve.**

This month, we also pause to **remember the saints and loved ones who have gone before us.** We give thanks for their witness and the ways their love continues to shape our lives. And we take comfort in the **God who walks with us each day,** even through seasons of grief. As we read their names and light candles in their memory, we are reminded that we are part of a great communion of saints—past, present, and future.

In this **season of harvest and thanksgiving,** may we take time to look back and notice how we have grown—how God has been at work in our lives and in our church. I invite you to **offer your reflections and gratitude to God this month.** Take a quiet moment to pray, to give thanks, and to let gratitude draw you closer to the One who blesses us beyond measure.

And **as Advent begins at the end of this month,** we turn our hearts to reflection and deep hope—hope rooted in the promise of Christ’s coming light. May our thanksgiving lead us gently toward the expectant joy of the season ahead.

*Rev. Emily Knight*



Larry Figart & Laity Sunday



Jacksonville Area Churches gather for Charge Conference



Circle of Hope



RPUMC Chancel Choir  
AGO Choir Festival



zoe empowers



Our Zoe Kids in Mwendo, Rwanda

We have missional impact all the way in Rwanda! Our district (the 72 United Methodist Churches in North East Florida) is working together to support a Zoe Empowers group. Our 27 children and youth (above) in Rwanda have named themselves the *Dukore Group* (meaning “Work Together”). With our support, these kids will spend the next three years moving from poverty to self-reliance

**Why Zoe Empowers is remarkable:**

- Instead of handouts, Zoe equips kids with tools for life—vocational training, small-business skills, education, and community support.
- Over 95% of participants become self-sufficient within three years.
- Local leaders guide every step, ensuring lasting, culturally grounded change.

Together, we’re part of the district’s goal to raise \$27,000 by 2027, directly impacting our group of 27 children. October’s charge conference offering alone almost met the goal for 2025.

**One district. Seventy two churches. Global impact, together.**

# FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS: NOV 7TH

## Ministry and Fellowship for Senior Adults

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 7th. Nancy Schubiger will help us learn more about our cell phones. Just when we think we've got them figured out, there are always new changes.

Bring your phone and an open mind for Part Two of this program. We had Part One earlier, and now it's time for the continuation. Join us for coffee or tea at 11:00, offering a chance to chat with old and new friends. The program starts at 11:20, followed by lunch at noon, prepared by Elizabeth.

Also, save the date for December 5th for a Wonderful Musical Christmas Program led by John Larsen and Mary Holladay. We look forward to seeing you!



## WOMEN IN MISSION

Tues., Nov. 11  
Sisters of Service  
6:30 p.m. - Parlor

Thurs., Nov. 13  
Circle of Hope  
11 a.m. - Parlor

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

The Orange Park Chorale

Presents

# Alleluia

**November 8, 2025**  
4:00 PM

Riverside Park United Methodist Church  
819 Park Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204

*These concerts are free, the public is welcome.*  
*The Orange Park Chorale is a 501 (c)(3) corporation*

## DIAPER DRIVE FOR BABY LUV

Baby Luv, a mission of Community Health Outreach, provides essential support to around 55 children weekly by distributing 5,500 diapers monthly. In November, RPUMC will collect diapers, especially sizes 3-7, with donation bins at various church locations. Donations can be made on Sundays or during office hours, and Amazon orders can be sent directly to Community Health Outreach. The Mama Bear brand offers competitive prices, ranging from 16-41 cents per diaper.



# New Member Classes

## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Sundays Starting Nov. 2nd  
3-part class  
10 a.m. in the office library  
(on the 2nd Floor)

Pastor Emily will lead a series of classes (November 2, 9 and 16), culminating with the reception of new members on Sunday, November 23. If you have been attending Riverside Park UMC and feel that God is calling you to make a commitment to this as your church home please feel free to join us.

If you are curious about the history of our denomination, and/or of our local church, as well as the structure and teachings of the United Methodist Church, these classes will be very informative. It's also a great way to meet others who have been attending RPUMC alongside of you! If you are interested in participating in these classes, or have any questions please call the church office (904-355-5491) or email [membership@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:membership@riversideparkumc.com).



## Family Roots Market

Hosted by UMM  
in the large parking lot

Friday  
Nov. 7 4-8pm

**Come connect with neighbors!**

## Grace Gallery

**A Call for Art!  
Be a part of our the next  
Grace Gallery exhibit!**

Our next Grace Gallery exhibit will be a congregational art exhibit and we need your creativity to bring it to life! We're inviting artists, poets, photographers, writers, and creatives of all ages to submit original work that explores the theme: "Holy Disruption."

This showcase will be on display during advent (a time when we reflect on how the coming of Jesus shakes up our assumptions and calls us into transformation) so we invite you to ask, "What needs transformation? What needs to change in my heart, in our world, and in our community? What is being revealed to you about the places where complacency needs to be interrupted and where God's Kingdom vision has yet to take root?"

Prompt:

What areas of my life or community need transformation?  
Where does the world NOT reflect God's peace, justice, and wholeness?  
How can I be part of the disruption that brings hope and renewal?

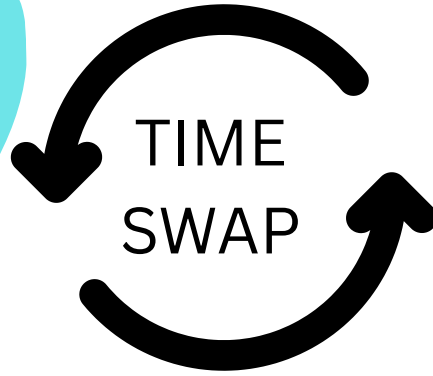
All submissions will be part of a collective Advent exhibit displayed at church throughout the season—a visual and spiritual reflection of the hope, disruption, and change Jesus brings.

**Deadline to submit: Friday, November 21  
Drop off: Church Office, Attn: Cathy Salzer (or submit to Cathy via email)**

# Kids Ministry

## KIDS CLUB

Sunday Mornings  
@10:00-10:30  
2<sup>nd</sup> room from nursery  
Bible lessons & games  
for pre-K to 5th grade.



## KIDS CHOIR

Sunday Mornings  
@10:30-11:00  
3<sup>rd</sup> room from the nursery  
Music & instruments  
for pre-K to 5th grade.

Starting November 2, 2025, Kids Club and Kids Choir are swapping times. Kids Club will meet at 10 am followed by Kids Choir at 10:30 am. This swap in half hours will allow our worship leaders time to transition from 9 am worship to Kids Choir more seamlessly. Thank you for your understanding and for trusting us with your blessings each Sunday. We look forward to worshipping and exploring God's Word with your kiddos as we enter this season of gratitude and anticipation. --The Family Ministry Team

**Families, come help hang the greens on November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
(we will have pizza) and keep an eye out for Advent resources!**

# Youth Ministry

**YOUTH  
retreat**

Friday, 11/21 to  
Sunday, 11/23

The RPUMC Youth Group will be going to Epworth by the Sea, a Methodist Retreat and Conference Center in St. Simons Island, Georgia for their fall retreat: **Encounter**. We will meet at the church at 5pm on Friday, 11/21 in the small parking lot by the Parlor. Please leave your kids with money for fast food on the way. All other meals until we return at 12pm on Sunday, 11/23 will be provided by the camp. You will need to bring clothes you can run around in, toiletries and sleeping bag (they have bunks and mattresses). If interested, please reach out to Bobby at [youth@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:youth@riversideparkumc.com) or 904-705-8699. Cost is \$210 and registration deadline is 11/10.

**The Youth Group meets on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in Room 302 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, McCord Bldg.) All 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome.**

# Wednesday Night Ministries



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 welcomed me, I needed clothes and you clothed me. Matthew 25:35

Your Wednesday Night Ministry continues Jesus's call to minister to our neighbors. Now that the weather is cooler our neighbors will need warmer clothing, socks, jackets, and throws/blankets. George and Jill have improved the distribution just by asking what their specific needs are and keeping track of it all.

We are serving the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and will love help with that dinner service. **This year Publix has not supplied us with turkeys so plan B is to purchase turkey from Restaurant Depot. Donations to help with that will be appreciated. So thankful for all who support WNM with your prayers, gifts, and love.**



**MOST NEEDED AT THIS TIME:  
JEANS, CARGO PANTS OR  
DOCKERS SIZE 32-36 AND  
MEN'S BOXER BRIEFS (LOOSE  
NOT TIGHT) SIZE LARGE,  
COLOR BLACK.**

Since August 1, 2025, RPUMC has served about 120 hot meals and distributed clothing and personal care items to the homeless on Wednesdays. On October 22, the ministry assisted 83 men and 37 women, all but one live outdoors. Meals are funded by the church, with other items donated by the congregation or through personal contributions, including two outside donors.

Thank you to everyone who has made contributions towards this important mission. An anonymous giver provided 48 waterproof fleece-lined blankets, 50 thermal shirts, tee shirts, wool caps, and socks. Howard and Sherry Coker contributed funds for waterproof backpacks, rain ponchos, bus passes, and other essential items. These gifts are deeply appreciated, though many recipients cannot thank the donors personally.

## Margaret's Memories

At the Box Making event in October, volunteers assembled 66 memory boxes. These boxes will be given to local hospitals so that they can provide them to families who lose a child to miscarriage, still birth or death shortly after birth. So far, Baptist Health has received 27 boxes and Flagler has received 10.



# Trustees Town Hall: Sunday, Nov 9th



**Parking Lot Town Hall**  
Sunday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>  
10 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**A Q&A with Trustees**  
*about possibly renting*  
*out our large parking lot*

## Exploring a New Use for Our Parking Lot

Our trustees are considering a partnership with ParkThrive, a company that helps churches and nonprofits make use of their parking lots during times they're not in use. ParkThrive works with many congregations, including United Methodist churches, and

provides a flexible, non-contract approach where both the church and company benefit only when the lot is used.

The idea could provide additional income for ministry while maintaining full control over church needs—such as event parking, weddings, or validated free parking for guests.

Before any decisions are made, we want to hear from you.

Join us for a **Sunday morning "Parking Lot Town Hall" (November 9th @10am)** to learn more, ask questions, and share thoughts. Your prayers and feedback will help guide the trustees as they discern healthy stewardship and faithful use of our church facility. No decisions have been made—this is a chance for open conversation and feedback.

# United Methodist Men



**Thank you to the UMM volunteers who have been doing some repairs and handyman projects around the church campus!!**

The United Methodist Men have a few things going on that may be of interest to the Church. On Saturday, Nov. 8, we will continue pressure washing the church walkways. We were able to complete the entrance areas in October and will be working on the public side walks on the West and North sides of the church. We will start at 9:00am and plan on stopping at 12. The pressure washer equipment is in place. We are looking for two more volunteers to complete the two teams. Also in November, we will have our monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall between services on Sunday, Nov. 16th. Join

us as we welcome our new president Stan Stokes and help decide what the Men's Group will be doing for next few months. We will host the 5th Sunday Pancake Breakfast on the 30th. This will be between services and everyone is welcome. Come and eat, bring your family, bring guests. This is a time for fellowship. As a reminder, the UMM donate all cost for supplies and necessities and ALL monies donated at the breakfast are sent to Residing Hope, formerly the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.



**Next Meeting:**  
**Sunday, 11/16 at 10 am**

The UMM want to know...  
*"What can we help you or your group with?"*



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
**HOSTED BY: UMM**  
**Sunday, November 30 @ 10am**  
**RHAMES FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## A Legacy & Planned Giving Conversation

Thank you to everyone who attended October's Legacy and Planned Giving Gathering—and special thanks to our hospitality team for the wonderful refreshments.

Rev. Ed New and Cindy Burmann from The Florida United Methodist Foundation shared an engaging and informative presentation about options for legacy gifts.

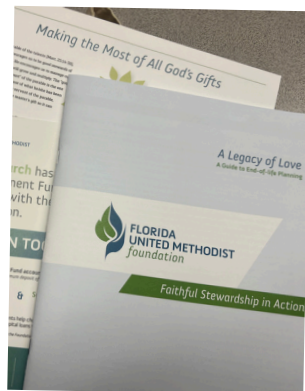
Reflections from a few attendees:

- “I appreciated the helpful resources and planning materials.” **(We have 4 extra bags and can get more—contact the church or finance office to get one!)**
- “I didn't realize you could open personal savings accounts with the Foundation—with 4% interest!”
- “This was a small but important step for RPUMC. The blessings of past givers still shape our ministry today.”

Did you know?

- The average person spends less than two hours planning their estate.
- Only 2% include their church in their will.

Our church has a long legacy of generosity. We continue that story together.



## A note of thanks...

to Pastor Emily and the congregation for all the prayers, visits, cards and meals during my recent surgery. Mark and I are grateful for all of you. You truly showed God's love through all of your actions of support.

Sincerely, Frances Mathews



## Saints Among Us in Fellowship

Our Finance Committee has used **memorial gifts** to purchase 40 new **chairs for the Fellowship Hall**—a heartfelt reminder that **our saints and loved ones sit among us in spirit when the church gathers** together in fellowship.

These memorial funds include (but are not limited to) **Joe Dorsie, Rich Lewis, Cathy Parker, Gordon Rehberg, and Shirley Early.**

## October Special Gifts

A very generous gift in memory of **Dr. Myrna Ginter** will support meals for the hungry on Wednesday nights.

The Julia family, in partnership with Bank of America, made a generous donation to support kitchen upgrades for our Wednesday night ministries through Bank of America's grant matching program.



## Advent 2025:

**Begins Sunday, November 30th**

Holy Disruption: This Changes Everything invites us to experience Advent as a sacred interruption – a time when the coming of Christ overturns our expectations and challenges the systems and comforts that keep us from God’s Kingdom. Like Mary and Joseph, we are called to let God’s arrival disrupt our plans and transform our hearts and communities.

**Throughout this season, we ask: What would change – in me, in us, in our world – if Christ was to come and rule (as we sing in “Joy to the World”) with truth and grace?**

**Hanging of the Greens:  
Sunday, Nov. 23rd  
~noon~**

**After the traditional service on Christ the King Sunday, please stick around to help assemble the huge sanctuary tree (with the Chrismon ornaments) fluff garland, hang wreaths, etc.  
It's fun!**

## Save the Dates:

- Nov. 23 Hanging of the Greens - 12:00 p.m.
- Nov. 30 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 14 Christmas Cantata - One Service - 10:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17 Blue Christmas Service - 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve - 4:30 p.m. Contemporary  
Christmas Eve - 7:00 p.m. Traditional
- Dec. 28 One Service - 10:30 a.m.





- 2nd Cooper Crowell  
Martha Swoope
- 4th Annaleigh Pearsall
- 5th Karen Fleming
- 6th Nicole Remo
- 8th Rachel DeLong
- 10th Austin Doran  
Fred Russell
- 11th Mason Bridges  
Nicholle Griffith  
Sharon Joos  
Lyn Lewis  
Sandra Pauley
- 12th Kim Cope  
Sam Moseley
- 13th Bryan Dowling
- 17th Juli Catlin
- 18th Brooks Andrews
- 21st Connie Keatley- Miller  
Ava Manalo
- 22nd Sue Springer
- 23rd Mary Lou Roberts
- 24th Mary Holladay  
Pat Jarvis
- 28th Jesse Manalo
- 29th Vincent Santa Lucia  
Emily Wilson

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 to update your  
information, (904) 355-5491

## November Committee Meetings:

Committee meetings typically begin at 6 p.m.  
and are held in the church office library.

### Finance/SPR Committee

Second Tuesdays:  
November 11

### Board of Trustees

Third Mondays:  
November 17

### Church Council

Third Tuesdays:  
November 18

May God's love surround our  
members on the home care list:

- † Jennie Bibb
- † Emory Cook
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven Jarvis
- † Carol Rooks
- † Fred Russell
- † Carol Stelly
- † Jim Todd



# NOVEMBER



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<b>2 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am New Member Class 5 pm Chancel Ringers	3 10:30 am Tai Chi 5 pm Girl Scouts	4 10:30 am Tai Chi 5 pm Girl Scouts	5 5:15 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	6 11 am Circle of Hope 7 pm Tai Chi	7 11 am First Friday Friends 4pm Family Roots Market	8 4 pm Orange Park Chorale Concert
9 Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am New Member Class 10 am Trustees Town Hall	10 11 VETERAN'S DAY 10:30 am Tai Chi 6 pm SPR/Finance 7pm Sisters of Service	11 10:30 am Tai Chi 5 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Church Council	12 11am Circle Joy & Peace 5:15 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	13 7 pm Tai Chi	14 12:00 pm Mental Health & Wholeness	15
16 Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am New Member Class 10 am United Methodist Men 5 pm Chancel Ringers	17 Newsletter Deadline 6 pm Trustees	18 10:30 am Tai Chi 5 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Church Council	19 5:15 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	20 7 pm Tai Chi	21 Youth Retreat	22 Youth Retreat
<b>23</b> Youth Retreat Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups 12 pm Hanging of the Greens 5 pm Chancel Ringers	24	25 10:30 am Tai Chi	26 5:15 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	27 THANKSGIVING Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
<b>30 5TH SUNDAY</b> Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Pancake Breakfast 5 pm Chancel Ringers						



# 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 and YouTube Live on Sundays**  
**@9am Contemporary @11am Traditional**  
**facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC**  
**youtube.com/@riversideparkumc2015**



**Church Office: (904) 355-5491 [www.riversideparkumc.com](http://www.riversideparkumc.com)**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday 9-3:30, Friday 9-1**

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