



ARE WE THERE YET?

A SUMMER SERIES ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

AUGUST 2026 RIVERSIDE REPORTER

What a blessing the last few Sunday worship services have been.

As we have explored our theme of “Are we there yet? On the road with Jesus”. Jessica Barber Scott started us out with a discussion of the Jews, on the road, wandering through the desert and waiting for God to signal when they should pack up camp and move, and when they should stay at camp and wait. She brought up what that means for us that God in his infinite wisdom wants us to be patient and that his timing is not necessarily our timing.

Then we had our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Osunlana remind us that no matter where we go on our journey, God will be with us also.

Next, Avery Garner shared with us the example out of Luke 24, when soon after the crucifixion two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus when they encountered Jesus walking with them, although they did not recognize him. This reminds us that even when we are taking hard journeys, Jesus will walk along side of us and help us get through them.

Next. I had the privilege of sharing that God walks with us because he wants a relationship with us. Because God walks with us, because God loves us, because God wants a relationship with us, we are in turn equipped to walk with one another, love one another, and create relationships with one another.

With each week building upon the week before, David Holladay answered the question...who should we love, and how should we love them? Through the reading of the stories of the Good Samaritan, and the Ethiopian eunuch (both on the road), we learned that we should love our neighbors, who our neighbors are, and that we should love them with mercy and compassion even when they come from different races, and cultures than us.

Finally, what is amazing to me is that the Holy Spirit has been able to use these five speakers, with the theme of “on the road with Jesus”, to build upon the message of the week before. I am very excited to hear what the Holy Spirit through Pastor Rachel Williams has to say to us as we continue to travel “on the road with Jesus”.

Larry Figart
Lay Leader RPUMC

- Aug. 2: Communion
- Aug. 9: Back to School Blessing
- Aug. 30: 5th Sunday Pancake Breakfast & Special Offering

OPENING OUR DOORS TO THE COMMUNITY



RPUMC Chancel Choir & Ringers
"How Sweet the Sound"



Prelude Camp Recital



River City Chorus Concert



With the blessing of the Trustees, we continue to reach out to our community. On May 31, our Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers presented "How Sweet the Sound" to a great crowd. June featured the Prelude Chamber Music Camp's final recital of strings, piano, and percussion. The River City Chorus returned to Riverside Park in July presenting a beautiful and meaningful concert to a full house. Donations were received to support Young Lives and stop trafficking.

In September, we are partnering with the American Guild of Organist's to bring the internet sensation Paul Fey to Jacksonville. AGO will cover the costs of bringing this internationally known artist to our sanctuary, and the concert will be free. Our Hospitality Committee will present a reception after the concert. Please mark your calendar now.

October 23 our Chancel Choir will travel to the American Choral Directors Association's State Convention in Orlando to participate in the opening concert and keynote address. The concert will feature representatives from an Islamic Center and Jewish faiths along with an Episcopal cathedral and an AMC church. All groups will combine for a final massed number.

The Orange Park Chorale will present their Fall Concert on November 14 in our sanctuary. This community chorus is directed by our own David Holladay and includes several members of our Chancel Choir.

It is our hope that "our" members will support these events. In most of our concerts, the pews are filled but not with RPUMC members. Please choose a concert and get ready to receive a blessing. Also, you can use this opportunity to help reach out to our community. It is a true blessing to hear visitors remark about our beautiful windows and sanctuary, marvel at our instruments, witness the great acoustics and realize that we have been serving this community for 135 years. Your attendance will add to this blessing.



The Chancel Choir returns to worship on August 9. We look forward to your return and you leading worship with your talents and hard work.

FINANCE UPDATE

I think I got ahead of myself last month when I prepared the newsletter article. I want to thank those people who graciously pointed out my mistake. I reported we were working within a \$2,500,000 budget when in fact the 2026 budget was approved with a figure of \$565,568. I apologize if this gave anyone grief in my reporting and counting practice.

Speaking of counting...Did you ever wonder what happens to the collections and offerings? We have a group of individuals that come to the church on Monday mornings for about an hour to receive the money and get it in the bank. These volunteers are in pairs of two and meet with the Financial Secretary once a month each for this very important task. If you have an interest in participating with these folks, let me know and I will get the process started. Again, these people are in pairs, and each pair comes to count the money once each month. If more people volunteer, we may bring that once a month down to every other month. If interested contact Joye in the office or me, Joe Springer – 904-240-6366 – joe@jsanda.com.

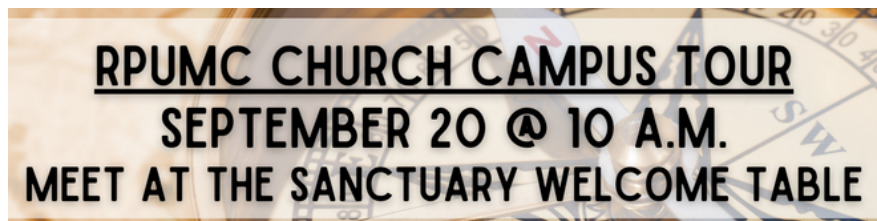
As we end the summer, let's not forget the thousands of people our church has helped, and many may more waiting to be helped. You may never know the lives you have changed but that person knows the Church that helped when they were down or out. All because you gave.

--Joe Springer, Finance Committee Chair

NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING SOON

Our next class for new members will begin soon! We will begin with a church campus tour on Sunday, September 20 which will be led by Marc Julia. This tour is open to ALL. Pastor Emily will lead a series of classes for 3 Sunday mornings (October 4, 11 and 18), culminating with the reception of new members on Sunday, October 25. 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.

A banner with a background image of a compass rose. The text is centered and reads:

RPUMC CHURCH CAMPUS TOUR
SEPTEMBER 20 @ 10 A.M.
MEET AT THE SANCTUARY WELCOME TABLE

A banner with a background image of puzzle pieces. The text is centered and reads:

NEW MEMBER CLASSES
STARTING OCTOBER 4 AT 10 A.M.
3 SESSIONS (10/4, 10/11, AND 10/18)
FOR MORE INFO: [MEMBERSHIP@RIVERSIDEPARKUMC.COM](mailto:membership@riversideparkumc.com)

GRACE GALLERY

An Exciting New Exhibit for Grace Gallery

Riverside Park's own Contessa "Tessa" McCorkle will be sharing her amazing artwork in August and September. She creates hand-drawn art, pastels and prints, as well as design visuals and has her own graphic design and photography business. Her unique style and personal vision have been shaped by her experience in digital media, graphic design and photography. Through her art, Tessa aims to share emotion, creativity and joy with others. Grace Gallery is in the second floor hallway of the McCord Bldg. You can follow her at [contessa_contour_arts](#).



Contessa McCorkle

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRIES

On Thursday mornings, a WNM volunteer picks up desserts and bread from the Riverside Publix. Sandy Murphy organized this for us and for the Riverside Park Apartments. The apartment residents receive most of the bread and all the cupcakes. 🍰 Come early on Wednesdays to help Barbara bag these goodies. The meat and most vegetables now are provided by UCOM in an arrangement that serves their clients with dinners from WNM delivered to them on Wednesday nights. Chef Karen, our wonderful new addition and all serving supplies are furnished by RPUMC. Donations to our ministry helps with these expenses. Your love, prayers, and support are greatly appreciated. The WNM Team

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will be preparing breakfast between services August 30th (Fifth Sunday) at 10:00 am. Come to the fellowship hall and enjoy pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, milk, and juice. Donations will be collected and all proceeds will be given to the Residing Hope Children's Home in Enterprise, FL.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

HOSTED BY: UMM

Sunday, Aug. 30 @ 10am

RHAMES FELLOWSHIP HALL

MARGARET'S MEMORIES



Here is what has been going on:

Memory boxes have been donated to St. Vincent's Southside, UF NICU & Quinn Shalz Funeral Home. A special thank you to the volunteers that have been able to deliver them!

A special thank you to all the volunteers that have been running this mission while I have taken time to be with family. Your love and support means more than I can express in words. We have received many beautiful quilts and blankets over the last few months. You can tell they are stitched with love. If you quilt, knit, or crochet we need large blankets for boys & girls.

- August 23, 2026: *Bracelet Making* 10 am - 1 pm or we run out of supplies
- September 2026: *Box Making* TBA
- October 2-4 2026: *Grief and Healing Retreat for Moms of Loss* -Camp Chowenwaw. Registration required- check out the website for more details.
- October 5, 2026: *Candle Making for International Wave of Light* open to all loss parents & grandparents please RSVP to Jenny at jenny.m.morrow@gmail.com All supplies will be provided. Please note this event is for adults only.

Save
The
Date

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 FaceBook!

RACIAL JUSTICE

Our friends next door at Riverside Presbyterian Church have invited us to join them on a meaningful pilgrimage to Selma and Montgomery from November 10-12, 2026.

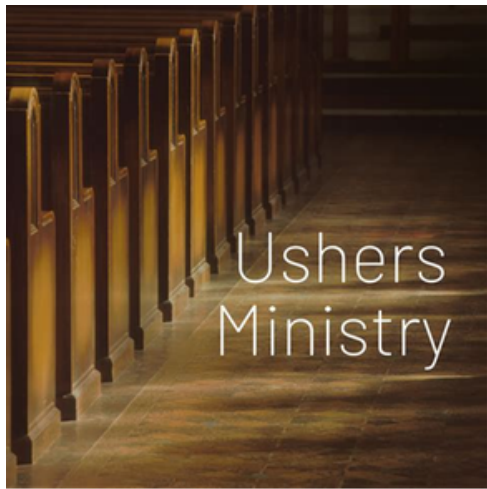
The itinerary includes:

- A stop in Selma to visit the National Voting Rights Museum and walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge
- Time in Montgomery to tour the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park

Trip cost is \$550 per person (double occupancy) or \$750 per person (single occupancy), which includes transportation via Annett Bus Lines, two nights at Home2 Suites Montgomery (with breakfast), site tickets, and bus driver gratuity. The registration deadline is October 5, 2026. The RPUMC office has brochures for anyone interested.

Anyone wanting additional information is welcome to reach out to Paul Arrington at parrington100@gmail.com or (904) 386-3576.

SERVING OR BEING SERVED?



Earlier this summer, Rev. Dr. Simon Osunlana started his sermon by talking about the people who followed Jesus to hear him speak. Many know the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 but did you know that "The disciples came along to serve, everyone else came to be served."

Do you need somewhere to serve? Right now, our ushers are looking to fill in their teams for the fall. Their work enables our beautiful traditional worship service to run smoothly. You get to meet new people, and you never work alone. The commitment is only one Sunday per month. If you need to miss, it is easy to trade with another team. Training will be provided.

Please contact John Larsen at j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com for more information.

MENTAL HEALTH & WHOLENESS

How do we as Christians care for and minister to people facing difficult or crisis circumstances while keeping ourselves spiritually, mentally and physically healthy? Is it possible to get too close to the situation, even when loved ones are involved? How do we know, and what can we do?

This will be the topic of our next RPUMC Mental Health and Wholeness luncheon at noon on Friday, August 14 in the church library. We'll be led by Steve Hart, pastor at San Marco Church Jacksonville and a public attorney who represents citizens involuntarily detained for emergency services during a mental health crisis (Baker Act). In the process of dealing with his clients and their families, Steve has gained insights that relate to his ministry more broadly.

Participants of our luncheon bring their own lunch and participate in the discussion to their liking. Our meetings focus on the intersection of faith and mental health. All are welcome, including guests.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Circle of Hope and Circle of Joy & Peace will resume meetings in September.

The Sisters of Service will be having "Girls Night Out" on Tuesday, August 11th. For more information contact Pam Pearsall at 904-616-5553.

Back-to-School
Blessings
 Sunday, August 9
 9am & 11am
 for teachers, students, parents,
 crossing guards, administrators...

**MENTAL HEALTH
 AND WHOLENESS**
Next Gathering:
Friday, August 14 @ Noon
Special guest: Steve Hart, Pastor
and Attorney Advocate for clients
with Baker Act cases
 SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
 IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

**Margaret's Memories
 Bracelet Making**
 Sunday, August 23rd
 Drop In: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Rhames Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Ministries:
 food, clothing & hygiene items
 3,959 free meals served
 since January 1st

SEND US YOUR STORIES OF GENEROSITY
 Generosity@
 riversideparkumc.com

BE A HERO IN WORSHIP!
JOIN THE TECH TEAM!
**HELP NEEDED WITH SLIDES
 OR SOUND OR LIVE STREAM**
**SIGN UP TODAY VIA
 CONNECT CARD!**

SAVE THE DATE
 09.18.2026
 PAUL FEY, ORGANIST
 RIVERSIDE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Abundant Life in Christ

- New Disciples
- Inspired/Inspiring Connection with God
- Community Partnerships
- Active Disciples who Go and Serve
- Deeper Spiritual Growth
- Authentic Relationships
- Empowered Leadership

Fuel the Mission
 Give Online: RPUMC.mywell.org
 (Please select ACH transfers for lower processing fees.)
 —or—
 Text "RPUMC" to 40101
 Thank you!

Our RPUMC Mission:
"To empower others to live life abundantly in Christ."

AUGUST Birthdays

- 2nd Carrie Santa Lucia
- 3rd Theo Henderson
- 4th Kent Peckenpaugh
Matt Take
- 5th Clark Burner
Kathy Fenwick
David Henderson
Abel Hernandez
Harriet Thurgood
- 8th Wayne Bailey
Thomas Carrigg
- 9th Denise Fleming
Danny Marks
- 10th Karen Western
- 11th Frank Morreale
Claire Weaver
- 12th Lara Manalo
- 17th Diane Bowman
Scott Brooks-Cope
- 18th Allyson Popp
- 21st Wynnne Russell
- 24th Diane Carrigg
Kristen Griffith
- 25th Cathie Clark
Frankie Crowell
- 26th Chandra Manning
- 27th Danielle Kessenger
Malcolm Remo
- 28th David Bowman
Harper Gunby
Jeff Joos
Brittany Scott
- 30th Pam Pearsall
Bridget Ware

**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 usually on Fridays?**

**Call the church office to update your
information, (904) 355-5491**

Committee Meetings in August

SPR Committee
August 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees
August 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee
August 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Church Council
August 18 at 6:00 p.m.

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

- † Jennie Bibb
- † Emory Cook
- † Jo Herron
- † Sandy Murphy
- † Carole Rooks
- † Wanda Smith
- † Carol Stelly



AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 10 am: Free School Physicals
2 Communion 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 10 am: Safety & Security Meeting 11 am: Worship (Traditional)	3	4 10:30: am Tai Chi 6 pm: SPR Meeting	5 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	6 7 pm: Tai Chi	7	8
9 Back to School Blessing 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 11 am: Worship (Traditional)	10	11 10:30: am Tai Chi 6 pm: Sisters of Service	12 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	13 7 pm: Tai Chi	14 12 pm: Mental Health & Wholeness	15
16 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 11 am: Worship (Traditional)	17 6 pm: Trustees Meeting	18 10:30: am Tai Chi 4 pm: Finance Meeting 6 pm: Church Council	19 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	20 7 pm: Tai Chi	21	22
23 9-1: Bracelet Making 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 11 am: Worship (Traditional)	24	25 10:30: am Tai Chi	26 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	27 7 pm: Tai Chi	28	29
30 5 th Sunday Special Offering 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Pancake Breakfast 11 am: Worship (Traditional)	31	 9/7 Labor Day (Office Closed) 9/13-19 Family Promise Week 9/18 Paul Fey Organ Concert 9/26 Leadership Retreat 10/24 Charge Conference				



RIVERSIDE PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Empowering others to live life abundantly in Christ."



Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary:

@9am Contemporary

@11am Traditional

Nursery care available.

Sunday school @10am

Worship with Us!



Worship Online:

Facebook and YouTube Live on Sundays

@9am Contemporary @11am Traditional

facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC

youtube.com/@riversideparkumc2015

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Church Office: (904) 355-5491 www.riversideparkumc.com

Church Office Hours:

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

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