

RIVERSIDE REPORTER

Special Notes for October 2026:

- **Bring Bibles to church on Sunday, October 4th**
- October is **Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month**
- Our church-wide gathering for the month is **Trunk-or-Treat (Oct 27th)** so we are collecting candy. Look for baskets near the Sanctuary doors.
- **New Member classes begin: Sundays @10am;** new members tentatively joining Oct. 25th
- Stewardship 2026: look for Testimonies and more information coming soon...



A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY:

As weather cools and autumn invites us into a new season, October gives us an opportunity to pause, listen, and notice where God is calling us next. In worship, we'll hear the call to follow Scripture, love God, and begin to open our hearts to dream God's dream for our world and our church.

This month will begin our fall stewardship campaign and we are working to building our 2027 leadership and ministry teams.

We are especially looking for people who are interested in ministries with children, youth, young adults, spiritual growth, outreach, senior adults, sharing God's love, and the administration teams that work to empower and support the church as a whole.

We need growth in these areas and we need people willing to serve, lead, dream, and help make these ministries happen. If you'd like to be part of these conversations, *please* let me know: pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com or call the church office (904)355-5491. There is a place for your gifts here and (more than that) your gifts are *needed*!

Pastor
Emily Knight

Building a Life of Prayer

CENTERING SILENCE

Follow along
with our kids
as they
build a life
of prayer.

BUILDING A LIFE OF PRAYER Four Pathways. One Journey with God.

Prayer can look many different ways.

Sometimes prayer is quiet, while other times we pray as we move through the world. We may pray with other people or discover that prayer can happen in the middle of ordinary life. Over the next couple of months, we'll explore Building a Life of Prayer—ways to notice God, respond to God, and make prayer part of our everyday lives. We'll explore four different pathways as opportunities to connect with God. Some practices may resonate with you more than others. Utilize the ones that help you draw close to God.

BE STILL — Rest in God's presence
MOVE — Pray with your body and the world around you
PRAY TOGETHER — Pray with and for one another
LIVE THE PRAYER — Meet God in everyday moments

We begin by trying to pause and notice that God is with us.

Being still doesn't mean everything around us has to be quiet—or that our minds have to stop wandering. It simply means room to turn our attention toward God.

We might sit quietly, take a breath, read or listen to Scripture, repeat a short prayer, or notice God through our senses.

And when our attention wanders, **we can always come back to God.**

A NEW PRACTICE EACH FRIDAY

Each Friday, look for **Building a Life of Prayer** in the church's Friday email. Click to read about a prayer practice to explore during the week.

Try it on your own, with your family, or with someone you love.

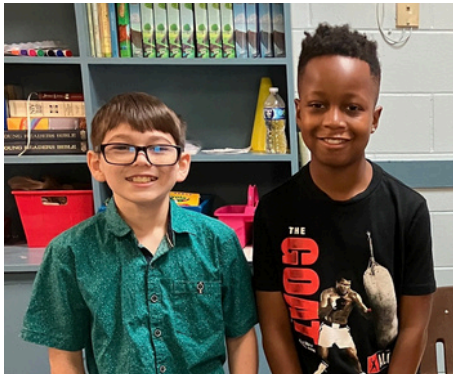
Each practice offers a different way to experience God's presence. As we explore, we may discover new ways of praying that become part of the rhythm of our everyday lives.

THIS OCTOBER: BE STILL *Resting in God's Presence*
"Be still, and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10

KIDS CLUB NEWS

This October, we're adding a short prayer practice to the beginning of each Kids Club lesson. We'll begin with Be Still, exploring simple ways to pause, listen, and make room for God. Along the way, we'll discover that prayer doesn't always need words—sometimes we can pray through breathing or simply paying attention to God's world around us. Each week, we'll try something new!

We'll also begin our next Firm Foundations unit, Building Our Faith! Through fun building stories and hands-on Bible Workshop lessons, kids will explore what it means to grow in Christ and build their lives on a strong foundation. Look for pictures from our September "Growing in Christ" lessons as we used Jesus' parables about nature to talk about how God works in our hearts.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Please take a moment to share your appreciation of Pastor Emily during the month.

Bring a card or gift card to the church office.

Send a short video of yourself sharing a word of thanks or a favorite sermon take-a-way.

Make a donation in her honor to RPUMC or Zoe Empowers.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 2026
will be Sunday, November 1st.

All Saints Sunday is a special day in worship when we light candles and honor those who have gone before us.

If your loved one passed away this year and you would like their name read during the All Saint's service, please contact the church office no later than October 28th.

You do not have to be a member in order to participate in this meaningful time of remembrance.



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

Have you been attending Riverside Park UMC and wondering if God might be calling you to make a deeper commitment? Or are you simply curious to learn more about who we are and what it means to be United Methodist? **This class is for everyone!**

Pastor Emily will lead three Sunday morning classes on October 4, 11, and 18, culminating in the reception of new members on Sunday, October 25.

Classes will cover:

- The history of the United Methodist Church and Riverside Park UMC
- The structure and teachings of the United Methodist Church
- What it means to make Riverside Park UMC your church home

The classes are also a wonderful opportunity to meet others who have been attending RPUMC alongside you!

If you're interested in participating—or simply have questions—please contact the church office at 904-355-5491 or membership@riversideparkumc.com.

We'd love to have you join us!



Bring Your Bible to Worship on October 4!

One of our favorite traditions at Riverside Park UMC is coming up! During worship, our third graders will receive their very own Bibles—a gift from their church family and a reminder that God's Word is always with them.

We invite everyone to bring a Bible to worship that Sunday. Bring the Bible you read at home, the one that has been passed down through your family, or simply the Bible you use most often. As our third graders receive their Bibles, we'll surround them with the Bibles that have been part of our own faith journeys.

This is more than a presentation of a book. It's a celebration of faith, learning, and the promise we make as a church family to encourage our children as they grow in their relationship with God.

So, grab your Bible and bring it to worship! Let's celebrate our third graders and this wonderful Riverside Park UMC tradition together.

WOMEN IN MISSION GROUPS

Thurs., Oct. 8
Circle of Hope
11 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

Tues., Oct 13
Sisters of Service
6 p.m. - Parlor

Wed. Oct. 14th
Circle of Joy & Peace
11 a.m. Fellowship Hall





Charge Conference

Arlington UMC 1400 University Blvd. N.
Followed by "Taste of Culture" Potluck Luncheon

Saturday, October 24th at 10 a.m.

Charge Conference is mandatory for all appointed clergy. **Members of church leadership**, new candidates for ministry, certified candidates, and lay servant ministers are also **encouraged to attend**.

Following the business of Charge Conference, we'll gather for a special fellowship meal, **"A Taste of Culture."** This meal is an opportunity to foster unity within our district by celebrating the many cultures represented among us and sharing a message of love within our community. You are also invited to wear cultural attire if you feel comfortable doing so.

Bring a covered dish that is special to your heritage or culture. When you arrive, you can drop off your dish in the designated area so it can be set up during the business portion of Charge Conference. Please bring a notecard with the name of your dish and a list of ingredients so those with dietary restrictions can make informed choices.

Finally, we will be collecting a **special offering for Zoe Empowers** to take to Charge Conference. If you would like to contribute, please note "Annual Conference Offering" on your check or in MyWell.



TRUNK OR TREAT

**SUN, OCT 25TH
4-6 PM**

**SIGN
UP**



Our annual Trunk or Treat is a favorite community event, and we need your help to make it happen.

There are several ways you can be part of the fun:

- 🍬 **Donate Candy:** Help us fill the trunks with treats! Bring individually wrapped candy to the church and drop it off in the designated collection area.
- 🚗 **Host a Trunk:** Decorate your car, dress up, and hand out candy to our trick-or-treaters. No elaborate decorations required—just bring your creativity and a welcoming spirit!
- 👤 **Volunteer:** Help with games, food, setup, cleanup, greeting, or whatever is needed to make the evening run smoothly.

Whether you bring a bag of candy, decorate a trunk, or lend a helping hand, there's a place for you at Trunk or Treat! Thank you for helping us create a fun and welcoming night for our church family and community.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

next gathering:

Friday, October 9 @ Noon

**Bring your lunch and join the conversation.
2nd Fridays in the Church Office Library**

Gratitude will be on the table for discussion at our October 9 Mental Health and Wholeness luncheon, led by our own Susan Ridge, licensed mental health therapist and facilitator.

Together, we'll explore what the Bible teaches about the joy, peace, resilience, community, and connection to God that can come from gratitude — alongside what science now tells us about the health benefits associated with the practice of being grateful.

On the second Friday of each month, Mental Health and Wholeness participants examine mental health through the lens of our faith, and our faith through the lens of mental health.

Participants include people who feel well, people who don't feel well, and people who are supporting someone who doesn't feel well. In other words, all people!

Guests — including people of all faiths or no faith — are always welcome.

RACIAL JUSTICE

Jacksonville NAACP Presents Till at Ritz Theatre October 27th

The Jacksonville Branch NAACP presents Till, the acclaimed film that tells the story of Mamie Till-Mobley's courageous pursuit of justice following the brutal lynching of her 14-year-old son, Emmett Till. The film reception and screening is from 5-8pm on October 27th at the Ritz Theatre and Museum. Doors open at 4:30. The cost is \$25/person. To register, <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-freedom-fund-luncheon>.

If you would like to attend contact Linda LaBell and we can meet at the church at 4:30 and carpool.

Last Call: Riverside Presbyterian Church is hosting a pilgrimage to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, 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.

To register go to: <https://bit.ly/montgomeryrptrip>

Anyone wanting additional information is welcome to reach out to [contact the church office]

MARGARET'S MEMORIES

Here is what has been going on: Memory boxes have been delivered to Flagler Hospital, St. Vincent's Southside and Baptist Medical Center. Thank you to the volunteers that have helped in quality controlling and delivering them!

On August 31st, I participated on a parent panel for a Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) Perinatal Loss Bereavement education class. The class is attended by health-care workers, social workers, and pastoral care personnel. September 24 I will be assisting teaching the RTS class at Flagler Hospital.



Upcoming Events:

October 2 -4: Mom of Loss Wellness Retreat - Camp Chowenwa

October 5: Remembrance Candel making - for parents and grandparents of loss

October 17: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day event

November 14: Memory Box Making Day

For more information: contact Nicole Remo at margaretsmemories@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRIES

This was the hottest summer on record! The heat prevented a few of our neighbors to make the trek to our doors but WNM was not curtailed. Tents went up and a new industrial strength fan helped provide cooling shade. Our amazing volunteers served gallons of water and lemonade and handed out sunscreen and hats. Thank you God there was only one Wednesday afternoon thunderstorm with dangerous lightning.

The transition from Laurie to Chef Karen was made easier by volunteers especially Susan Siegel whose mantra to me was "we've got this "

Thank you all who support WNM with your love, prayers, and gifts.

GRACE GALLERY



Grace Gallery Exhibit: Peggy Harrell

Visit the gallery on the 2nd floor of the McCord Building.

Peggy Harrell Jennings is an award winning visual and performing artist, educator and published author who resides in Jacksonville, Florida. She is a member of the Jacksonville Artists Guild, Orange Park Arts Guild, The Guild Gallery as well as the National League of American Pen Women and Florida Authors and Publishers, Jacksonville and Florida Historical Societies. She works primarily in oils and acrylics but also explores expression through multimedia clay and photography.

TRUSTEES UPDATE

West Side Sanctuary Entrance



You have noticed the temporary visqueen covering over the west side entrance doors into the sanctuary narthex. The Trustees are underway with the repair of the cast stone header over the doorway. A new cast stone header is being manufactured. Shop Drawings have been reviewed and approved. Color and finish samples are in process for Trustees to review and approve. The new cast stone header formwork is in process. At this time, we are anticipating a target date for installation of the new cast stone header to be early November.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as this important work is completed. Thank you for helping us care for and maintain our church facilities!

FINANCE UPDATE

It's Budget Time! Do you or your group have a need for next year?

When you think of the finances of the Church, I am sure some of you cannot wait to see the numbers, the accounts, the debits, the credits, the cash accounts the investment accounts the weekly numbers and how they match up to the budget that was created a year ago that was part of the annual audit. To others, it's just a bunch of stuff that someone else is handling.

2 Corinthians 8:19: "More than that, this brother was chosen by the churches to accompany us with the offering, which we administer for the glory of the Lord Himself and to show our readiness to help."

Behind the scenes, there is a group of people that have been chosen by our Church to administer our funds. These people do not do it for themselves; they do it for the glory of the Lord Himself. The offering plates are passed each service and magically... the light bill is paid, the replacement of the AC chillers is planned for, the repairs to the southern door are arranged, and more, and more, and more. You know what it takes to run your house, think of what it takes to run this House of God. I want to say thank you to our many people helping to manage the finances of the Church.

Part of that management is preparing for next year. A budget team is in place and is beginning to look at our details. In Luke 14:28-30, Jesus asks who would build a tower without first sitting down and counting the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it.

If you know you or your group has a need for support from the Church, we need to know who and how much is needed.

To be including in the 2027 budget, email Joye Hampton (j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com) or Joe Springer (joe@jsanda.com) with your questions or your needs.

PS - We can always use more help, if you are being led to invest some time with our team, let us know.



September Celebrations:

Top: Emily Rehberg's "Be Still and Know God" bag during our spiritual retreat series; First Friday Friends celebrates its last gathering with leaders Elizabeth Coley and Susan Russell and a concert by the River City Dulcimer Group.

Middle: Girl Scout Troop #62644 donated cookies to Wednesday Ministries; Wednesday friends and volunteers celebrated a birthday together.

Bottom: Staff member Cynthia Round shares her "word of the week"; German organist Paul Fey performed an incredible concert through partnership with Jacksonville's AGO



Dreaming and Giving for 2027

As we pray and prepare for our 2027 ministries, our Stewardship Team is returning to a fall estimated giving campaign. This month, we'll share stories and prayers as we reflect on God's dreams for our church—including growing children and youth ministries, strengthening outreach, and supporting intentional growth.

An **estimated giving card** is a prayerful statement of what you intend to give in 2027. It helps us plan our budget and invites us into intentional, faithful generosity.

We invite everyone (whether giving for the first time, seeking to give more regularly, or growing toward a tithe) to prayerfully consider your giving. **Cards will go out mid-October and should be returned by Sunday, November 15, when we'll bless them in worship.**

Our prayer: *"Lord, make generosity part of discipleship in our church."*

Save the Date

- All Saints Sunday: Nov 1st
- Blessing of the Animals (tentative) Saturday, Nov 14th
- Box-Making for Margarets Memories: Nov 14th
- Orange Park Chorale Concert: Nov 14, 2026 @ 4pm
- Hanging of the Greens: Sunday, Nov 22nd @noon
- Advent begins Nov 29th

Fuel the Mission

Give Online:

RPUMC.mywell.org
(Please select ACH transfers for lower processing fees.)

—or—

Text "RPUMC" to 40101



Thank you!

Coming in November Diaper Drive for Baby Luv

Critical need for sizes 4-8
Pull-ups: Sizes 2T-4T

Drop off in the breezeway, fellowship hall or church office.



Our RPUMC Mission:

"To empower others to live life abundantly in Christ."





Learn to play Mahjong

October 7 & 8 • 10-12 • Parlor

Join us for a two day event to learn the art of playing Mahjong. Space is limited, so reserve your spot now. Scan the QR Code to register. Order your official 2026 Mahjong card from the National Mah Jongg League. We will provide cards to use until yours arrives.



Once you've learned to play, join Faith Jones on Wednesdays from 10-12 in the parlor.

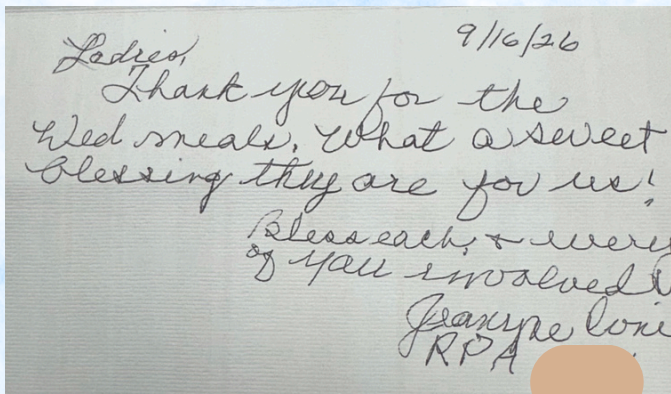
QUARTERLY giving statements

WILL BE SENT OUT IN OCTOBER
PLEASE BE SURE TO REVIEW YOUR STATEMENT

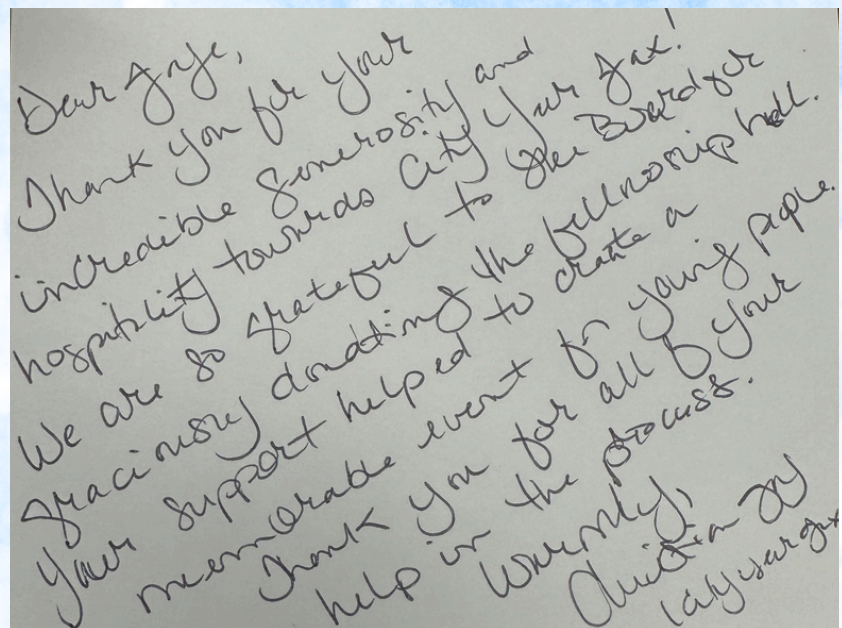
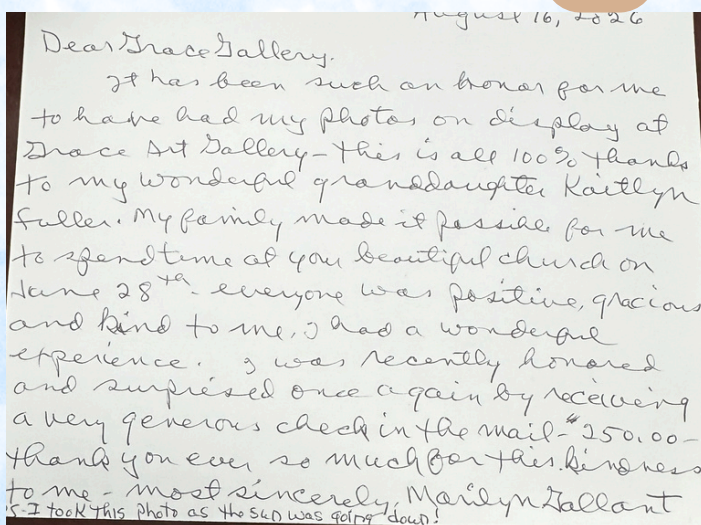
Thank you!



NOTES OF GRATITUDE



We've received thank you notes from a resident of Riverside Park Apartments for Wednesday Night Dinners, Marilyn Gallant for showing her art in Grace Gallery, and from Christian with City Year for allowing them to use our fellowship hall for a meeting.





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

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

Church Office Hours:

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 2717

819 Park Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



OCTOBER

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7 pm: Tai Chi	2	3
4 Communion Bible Blessing 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 11 am: Worship (Trad) 5 pm: Chancel Ringers	5 5:30 pm Candle Making/Margaret's Memories	6 10:30: am Tai Chi 6 pm: SPR Meeting	7 10-12: Mahjong Class 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	8 10-12: Mahjong Class 11 am Circle of Hope 7 pm: Tai Chi	9 12 pm: Mental Health & Wholeness	10
11 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 11 am: Worship (Traditional) 5 pm: Bell Choir	12	13 10:30: am Tai Chi 6 pm: Sisters of Service	14 10 am: Mahjong 11 am Circle of Joy & Peace 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	15 7 pm: Tai Chi	16	17 9 am: United Methodist Men
18 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 11 am: Worship (Traditional) 5 pm: Bell Choir	19 6 pm: Trustees Meeting	20 10:30: am Tai Chi 4 pm: Finance Meeting 6 pm: Church Council	21 10 am: Mahjong 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	22 7 pm: Tai Chi	23	24 10 am Charge Conference (Arlington UMC)
25 9 am: Worship (Contemporary) 10 am: Sunday School 11 am: Worship (Traditional) 4-6 Trunk or Treat	26	27 10:30: am Tai Chi	28 10 am: Mahjong 3:15 pm: Wednesday Night Ministries 7:15 pm: Chancel Choir	29	30	31



OCTOBER

Birthdays

2nd	Noah Thurgood
3rd	Caleb Diao Reid Dupries
5th	T.J. Laforty
7th	McKenna Peckenpaugh Susan Siegel
9th	Chase Cogburn DJ Flagler
10th	Evan Ruffino
11th	Jennifer Cogburn Jeff Cornett Leigh DiSalvo
12th	Rick Bible
13th	Kate Riechmann
14th	Diane Take
15th	Billy Kimbell
16th	Melissa Matthews Ron Richardson
17th	Peggy Greco-Ridge
18th	Larry Figart Radley Remo
19th	David Holladay
21st	Rebecca Garner
23rd	Pastor Emily
25th	Mariah Cope
27th	Emory Cook Julie Hemphill
28th	Andy Carrigg
29th	Trevor Cope Tony Wilbourne
30th	Alletha Boling Emily Popp

**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 October

SPR Committee
October 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees
October 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee
October 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Church Council
October 20 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
† Carol Stelly

