

# MAY 2023 RIVERSIDE REPORTER

## Join us for special Sundays in May



**May 7th:**  
Holy Communion



**May 14th:** Mother's  
Day (join us as we  
honor all women).  
Baptism Celebration



**May 21st:** Graduate  
Sunday, Ascension  
Sunday (with special  
organ tribute during  
11am service)



**May 28th:** Pentecost  
Sunday (wear red) &  
Baptism Celebration

Dear RPUMC Church Family,

Matt, Maddie, and I are thrilled to be appointed to Riverside Park for another year. Especially now—as the weather warms and the flowers hit full bloom, we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation and the hope that comes with each new season. May is a time of renewal and growth—perfectly paired to celebrate the resurrection and ascension of Christ and the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

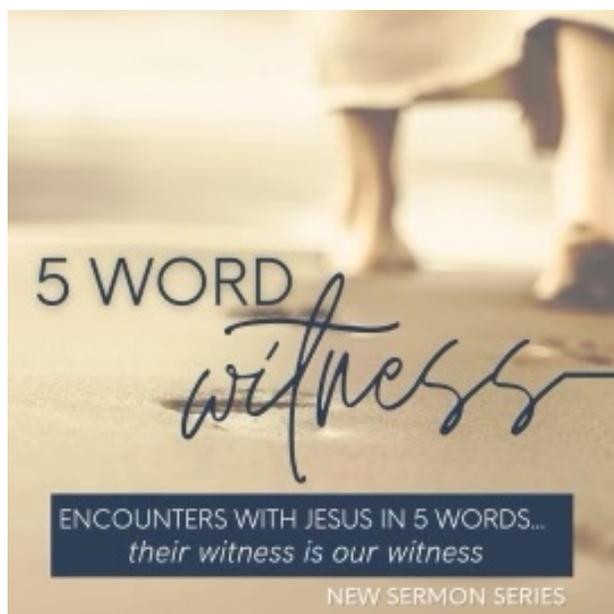


The calendar will show that our church is full of exciting events and opportunities, so we encourage you to join us as we come together to praise God and deepen our faith. One of our church's core values is "gathering together"—an act that is essential for our spiritual growth and well-being. There is something special about being in the same space, singing praises, and hearing prayers spoken aloud. It is a reminder that we are not alone—that we have each other to lean on.

So let's come together as a community, lift our voices in song, and give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. Let us claim our faith witness and recognize the moments where we have seen the Lord.

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please do not hesitate to reach out! MAY God bless you and keep you this month. Thank you for making this church the community we all love.

*Rev. Emily Knight*



Our mission:  
“Empowering others to abundant life in Christ.”



RPUMC  
CAMPUS  
TOUR  
April 30th  
@10am

## New Member Class

If you are interested in joining Riverside Park UMC or learning more, join Pastor Emily for a 3-part New Member Class:  
May 7, 21, & 28  
@ 10am  
in the parlor  
(next to the fellowship hall)  
Joining on June 4th



We are expecting to host our first family May 28- June 4, 2023. First let me clear up some confusion: Family promise is back to how it was prior to the pandemic. So our family will be with us at RPUMC. Planning is in full force. If you are interested in being a part of this amazing ministry. Please reach out if you are interested, (904) 903-0566.

Colleen Strong  
Family Promise RPUMC coordinator



We will celebrate graduates on  
Sunday, May 21st.

Send graduate photos, names,  
and info by Monday, May 15th  
[j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com)

Pam Pearsall's Famous  
**CHICKEN SALAD**

Sandwich plates for lunch after worship and chicken salad by the pound will be sold.

MAY 7TH



Fundraiser for the DR Mission Team

Sunday, May 28th

wear red or fiery colors for the Holy Spirit

**Pentecost Sunday**

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

Good Friday Lock-In with the Confirmands! Our Confirmation Students were able to enjoy going through the Stations of Cross as a group, then helped to break down and put away everything afterwards. They also enjoyed an Egg Hunt in the Sanctuary and fellowship with one another. Please continue to pray for these students as they approach Confirmation Sunday on June 11th.



VBS is on the horizon! We are excited to help our Youngest Members learn more about God and deepen their faith! We are in search of a few more volunteers to help us out June 26th-30th in the mornings. Please let Gealean know if you are able to help. A Zoom meeting will be held on May 7th at 5 pm for VBS Volunteers.



On May 7th our Youth will resume the monthly Lunch & Serve meetings. We look forward to helping get ready for the Family Promise visit later in the month.



Youth/Youth Parents- Be on the lookout for our Summer Activities Calendar which will come out soon!

In the Nursery, April built a tomb for Easter to show the kiddos that He Is Risen! She also dressed up as a Woman of Jesus' time. The kids were enthralled!

## FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS - MAY 5TH



First Friday Friends (Fellowship and lunch for older adults). Calling all of our fun loving friends to join us on the First Friday of May. Be prepared for a good time and an activity that will help us know one another better. Susan Russell has brought some wonderful resources from First United Methodist and she will share one with us. Come on down anytime you wish that morning but the activity will begin at 11:00 with lunch to follow.

# TRUSTEES UPDATE



Your Trustees are happy to report the church's renovation and repairs project is proceeding smoothly. The first scope-- exterior pressure washing and sealing is complete. The second scope-- roofing, gutters, and downspouts is currently underway and scheduled to be complete on or about May 8th. Our final scope, HVAC, is scheduled to begin August 9th. The total project completion date looks like October 31st.

JEA approved a \$1,050 rebate for our church's energy efficiency improvements. We have paid the down payment

for the bathrooms renovation and work will begin shortly. The Trustees continue to develop a fundraising campaign concept that we hope to initiate this summer ( initial plans to the right).

Lastly, two big shout outs to a) Danny Marks for squaring away our two overhead projectors in the sanctuary; and b) Dago Quiros, our fantastic handyman, (and Tre Devine) for installing safety rails in the sanctuary's attic, making it a lot safer to do any work up there.

## COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

The new Book Club met in April and we plan to meet again in May. While the group was small, we had an excellent discussion of our Charles Martin book. Our May meeting will be on **THURSDAY, MAY 18TH in the library at 1:00 PM.** Our book is ***The Light Over London*** by Julia Kelly. (2019)

While clearing out an estate, Cara finds a WWII era diary and a photo of a young woman in uniform. The young woman (Louise) is from a Cornish village. When she meets Paul, a dashing RAF pilot, she immediately joins the Gunner Girls- a female anti aircraft unit with the British Army. As the bombs fall on London, she and the other Gunner Girls show their bravery and resilience while performing their duties during deadly air raids.

As bombs fall on London, Louise finds comfort in the knowledge they will be together after the war. When a bundle of her letters to him are returned unanswered to her, she learns that a wartime romance can have a darker side.

The Jacksonville Public Library has 14 copies of the book, a large print copy, and Audiobook. Reserve your copy and begin reading this interesting story now.

Call Susan Russell if you plan to come or have any questions - 904-234-5823.



# Brick by Brick

“So we rebuilt the wall, because the people worked with all their heart.” —Nehemiah 4:6

Everything we love and cherish requires care and maintenance: our relationships, our homes, our vehicles. If we fail to maintain these, eventually they start to fall apart.

Our church is no different. These beautiful buildings require periodic maintenance and updating.

Now is the time for that maintenance and updates, to help ensure the next 125 years of ministry at Riverside Park UMC.

We have begun cleaning, sealing, and repairing the exterior and in the coming months the bathrooms will get a much needed update. We will also be replacing the A/C units in the education building.



The McCord was built during the great depression, the sanctuary at the end of World War 2. Neither were great times for a project, but the faithful of Riverside Park stepped forward.

**Will you help us make our buildings ready for another century of ministry?**

**Total Budget:**

**\$870,000**

**2023 Giving Goal for the Congregation:**

**\$202,300**

**(i.e. \$2023 for 2023)**



Cleaning, repairing, and sealing exterior walls and windows



Inspiration for our restroom updates.

## 3 year pledge

This will be a “2nd mile” offering and would not effect your ongoing pledge to the operating budget.

(Ex. \$20 per week x 3 years would be over \$3,000)

Sacrificial gift per week:

\$ \_\_\_ x 52 x 3= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Specific Projects

Update Women’s restrooms	\$12,000	3 available
Update Men’s restrooms	\$9,000	3 available
Replace HVAC units in children’s building	\$7,500	7 available
Update sanctuary restroom	\$6,000	1 available
Seal a wall	\$3,000	unlimited



### **Award-winning Memorial Composition to Premier in Worship (a memorial tribute to the Uvalde school shooting)**

Timmy Jackson has played trumpet in our traditional worship service. You may recognize him as the son of “Tim the drummer” from the praise team. Timmy is also a talented composer who recently won the “Henry Fillmore Composition Contest” (a state-wide contest sponsored by the Florida Bandmaster’s Association). For this contest, Timmy composed a musical tribute in memory of the students killed last year in Uvalde, Texas. Timmy’s piece will eventually be performed live by a full UNF ensemble, but its first live premier will be played by our organist, Rich Lewis. **During the traditional service on Sunday, May 21st (close to a year after the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary School) Timmy’s award-winning memorial composition will premier on our Riverside Park UMC organ as a musical tribute.** Special thanks to Timmy and to Rich for making this possible.

### **Tim Bush, we are grateful for your leadership and your servant’s heart!**

On Sunday, April 23rd, we announced in worship that Tim Bush has decided to step back from his official position as our RPUMC lay leader.

He has been praying over the decision for a while and, as much as we would love to keep him in this role forever, Tim has more than earned the right to take off the official title and show up simply as Tim.

“I am still going to serve the missions of this church. This decision won’t stop that.” Said Tim. This is a shift in roles –not a goodbye. In fact, when he broke the news to me, he served Wednesday dinners that very same evening.

He is still a greeter, a confirmation mentor, a church-tour-giver, a part of First Friday Friends and we have him on the calendar to share his testimony in June (so don’t miss that).

**Tim Bush is an extraordinary example of Christ-hearted service, so although I am sad to see the title shift and will miss working with Tim-the-lay-leader, we treasure our friendship with “just Tim.” That role is more than enough.**

**Tim’s final (official) advice to those in our church? “Nurture your personal relationship with Jesus, because THAT will free you to serve others and find abundant life in Christ.”**

Please pray for the nominating committee and whoever God might be calling to lead our laity in the interim.



# THANK YOU

## Thank you for your help during Holy Week:

- **RPUMC staff**
- **The Sisters of Service**, women's circle who coordinated the Palm Sunday lunch
- Palm Sunday dancers
- Millie and John for coordinating a Palm Sunday kids choir
- Ladies who setup the altar flowers
- Volunteers who stuffed eggs
- John and Tre who setup the courtyard cross
- **Guest musicians (especially the 9B Woodwind Quartet)**
- **Greeters who covered the Stations of the Cross and our special Holy Week services**
- **confirmation students who hid eggs for the egg hunt and cleaned up the stations of the cross**
- Confirmation teachers and leaders supporting our confirmation students
- Acolytes, banner carriers, greeters
- Musicians: praise team, choir, chancel ringers
- All who showed up to praise God and welcome our neighbors to worship!!



# GRACE GALLERY

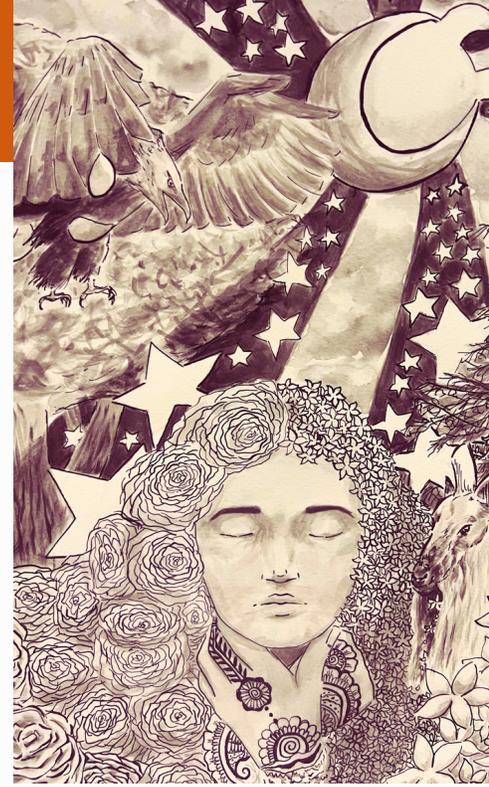
The students from Stanton College Preparatory School, whose art has been on display for the past two months, have made a \$200 contribution to our Wednesday night dinner ministry. I'm sure they would love to hear from the congregation regarding how much their art was enjoyed and how much their generosity was appreciated.

You can send a note to:

Ms. Carrie Santa Lucia  
Stanton College Preparatory School  
1155 West 13th St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32209

Coming to Grace Gallery the week of May 7, the works of Sharon Luther and Kim Drobneck. Make plans to see this installation of quilts, oil paintings, resins, and stained glass. Many pieces will be available for purchase with 25% of the sale price going to the church.

--Ron Richardson, Grace Gallery Coordinator



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY

Thank you to all who responded to our plea for warm items. Amazon boxes filled with hats, gloves, and blankets were amazing and are still being shared as we get cool snaps this time of year. Warmer weather is right around the corner which means T-shirts both short and long sleeve, sizes L-XXL are needed. Back packs and rain gear are always requested year round.

WNM is blessed to have so many volunteers "actively doing God's work here on earth" and all are amazing. "The Dream Team" signs up together and are so consistent and efficient hence the nickname. Thank you Pam Pearsall and Judy and Dan Marks and sometimes Pam's granddaughters.

WNM always needs help in the summer months. You can call the church or text me at 904-868-5370. Thank you, Bonnie Dudley

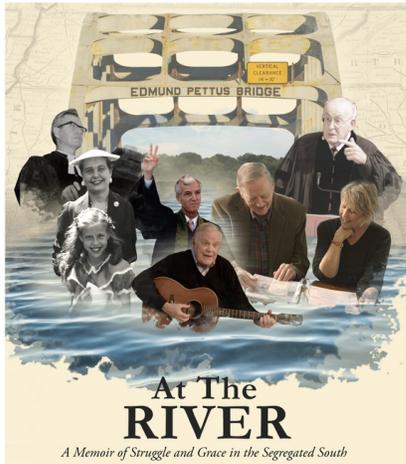
## "WHO'S WHO? AT RPUMC" BOARD

Have you seen the great bulletin board in the fellowship hall? Is your photo on there?

If not, send us a picture of you or your family and we'll add it to the board. This will help everyone learn faces and names. Thank you to Susan Russell, Ron Richardson and Nancy Schubiger for their work on this creative way for us to get to know each other.



# RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM



Palms Presbyterian, Riverside Presbyterian and South Jacksonville are partnering to bring two screenings of Carolyn Crowder's *At the River* to Jacksonville in May. The following information is from the filmmaker's electronic press kit.

*At The River* is a feature length documentary about a certain time and place in the deep south. In the Civil Rights era of the 50's and 60's many Presbyterian ministers stood on the banks of the cultural river of segregation and white supremacy. They opted not to stir the waters in their congregations and communities by speaking out. However, a few young southern Presbyterian ministers did brave those currents through their sermons, community organizing, and participating in marches and protests.

They faced dangerous, hate-filled consequences for these actions.

*At The River* chronicles their lives and their decisions, as well as director Carolyn Crowder's first-hand experience as a young white southern girl from Montgomery, Alabama. During those mean and turbulent times these ministers, through their love and example, had a huge impact on her life in helping her overcome her southern racist brainwashing.

*At the River* has been screened at churches across the Southeast. These will be the first screenings in Florida - on Wednesday May 10 at South Jacksonville and on Thursday May 11 at Palms. Carolyn Crowder will introduce the film at both events. Doors will open at 5:30 pm with the screening beginning promptly at 6:30 pm.

Admission is free for both events, however guests should register by May 5 for the screening that they plan to attend. The film is appropriate for youth age 16 and older.

Wednesday, May 10, 5:30 pm at South Jacksonville Pres. <https://tinyurl.com/ATR-May-10>  
Thursday, May 11, 5:30 pm at Palms Presbyterian <https://tinyurl.com/ATR-May-11>

More information about Carolyn and the film can be found at <http://carolyncrowder.com/>

## CALLING ALL GARDENERS, BOOK LOVERS, AND DECLUTTERERS

So you have a surplus of citrus? Extra produce? Are you dividing your bulbs and plants? Please bring all your surplus produce to the Yellow House on 577 King St. and place on their outdoor Community Cart.

Yellow House is also collecting hygiene products and books for adults, teens and children for their "Little, Free, Diverse Library."





- 1st Darren Nettles  
Maisie Remo
- 5th Brian Hough
- 6th Kyle Neufeld
- 10th Judy Marks
- 12th Jon Brockel  
Tony Quails
- 14th Kevin Round
- 17th Michael Hodgkin
- 20th Susan Bush  
Hudson Gunby
- 21st Quinton Scott
- 22nd David Hannah
- 23rd Debra Whitaker
- 29th Brian Alvarado  
Brooke Lawrence  
Matthew Popp
- 30th Mike Litwin  
Anthony Owens

## Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee  
Tuesday, May 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees  
Monday, May 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council  
Tuesday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m.

We usually list monthly income/expense numbers here, but finance committee wants to do more:

1. The schedule for mid-month newsletter printing doesn't reflect month-end data
2. This blurb space is small (easy to overlook)
3. This current format lacks context (We want to share data AND name celebrations AND offer reflection AND invite spiritual growth)

So stay tuned as we shift to quarterly finance updates directly from the stewardship team.

If you still want month-end data for April, call Jack Barnard in the church office on a Monday or Wednesday or email [j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com)

In the meantime: Thank you for investing in the work God is doing here on earth through RPUMC!

## May God's love surround...

### Home

- † Emory Cook
- † Joe Dorsie
- † Shirley Early
- † Jo Herron
- † Steven Jarvis
- † Carol Stelly
- † Jim Todd

### College Students

- Zachary Bradley
- Taylor Bohannon
- James Cashman
- Tommy Cashman
- Frankie Crowell
- Tre Devine
- Brenna DuPries
- Gavin Grady
- Lindsey Grady
- Isabella Laffy
- Hogan Litwin
- Emily Matthews
- Emily Merton
- Kaden Neufeld
- Kyle Neufeld
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp
- Dallas Renne
- Hannah Stomps



# May

All worship services will be in-person and streamed live on Facebook. Please check the website or the RPUMC Family group on Facebook for any updates. Worship service videos will be posted on YouTube and the church website the following business day.

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday 9 am—3:30 pm  
Friday 9 am—1 pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Tai Chi	3	4 2pm Pastor's Study	5 11:30am First Friday Friends 1pm Yoga	6
<b>7 COMMUNION</b> 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am New Member Class 10am Confirmation Class 10am Chicken Salad Fundraiser 11am Traditional Worship 5:00pm Bell Choir	8	9 10:30am Tai Chi 6pm SPR/Finance 7pm Tai Chi 7pm Sisters of Service	10 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	11 2pm NO Pastor's Study	12 1pm Yoga	13
<b>14 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am Confirmation Class 11am Traditional Worship 5:00pm Bell Choir	15 6pm Board of Trustees	16 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6pm Church Council 7pm Tai Chi	17 11am Circle of Joy & Peace 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	18 11am Circle of Hope 1pm Book Club 2pm Pastor's Study	19 1pm Yoga	20
<b>21 GRADUATE SUNDAY</b> 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Young Adult Brunch 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am New Member Class 10am Confirmation Class 11am Traditional Worship 5:00pm Bell Choir	22	23 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi	24 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	25 2pm Pastor's Study	26 1pm Yoga	27
<b>28 PENTECOST WEAR RED</b> 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 10am New Member Class 10am Confirmation Class 11am Traditional Worship 5:00pm Bell Choir	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi	31 3pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>FAMILY PROMISE</b>		



"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

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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