



JUNE 2023

RIVERSIDE

REPORTER

My earliest church memories connect with music. I remember singing the doxology long before I considered the words: “Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below...”

I also have a random handful of children’s songs that pop into my head from time to time—songs that I recognize now as actual Bible verses. As a child, I had no clue that I was singing scripture, but it’s fun to open my Bible now and read verses that automatically have a melody.

Sacred songs connect us to memories:

- “Here I am Lord” always reminds me of my call to pastoral ministry.
- “The Old Rugged Cross” was my grandfather’s favorite and “Swing Lo, Sweet Chariot” is a song I used to sing with my daddy, so I think of them each time those pieces are played.
- Once, I preached a funeral where “Jesus Loves Me” was part of the eulogy because each of the now-grown children remember their mom teaching that song at bedtime.

I use songs in prayer—borrowing lines and lyrics to settle myself into sacred moments. “Center” by Charlie Hall and “Heart of Worship” by Matt Redman are both songs that help bring me peace after stressful days.

Sacred music is also interesting. (Did you know that Duke Ellington is in our hymnal? Or that “O Holy Night” was written as part of the abolitionist movement? Did you know that “In the Garden” is meant to be from Mary’s perspective as she encounters the risen Christ outside of the empty tomb?)

This June and July, we are launching a summer sermon series based on sacred songs and hymns. If you have a favorite hymn (or a particular song that pops up in your prayer life) —let us know! I would love to curate a church playlist of RPUMC favorites!

Ree
Emily Knight



2023 GRADUATES



Jeb Allen

Grandson of Bonnie & Jim Allen
Graduating from The Bolles School
Will be attending Amherst College



Cooper Crowell

Son of Tami & Kevin Crowell
Graduating from Paxon School for
Advanced Studies
Will be attending FSU



Madison Eltrich

Granddaughter of Beth Joyner
Graduating from
Boston College of Law



Madison Folsom

Granddaughter of Linda LaBell
Graduating from Univ. of Georgia
Cum Laude
Planning to go to dental school



Sarah Quails

Granddaughter of Alma & Tony Quails
Graduated from Lakenheath HS England



Erni Quiroz

"Granddaughter" of Linda LaBell
Daughter of Dagoberto Quiroz
Graduated from Jacksonville Univ.
Summa Cum Laude



Libby Sikes

Granddaughter of Alma & Tony Quails
Graduated from Fleming Island HS

Congratulations!

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir continues to grow

We have had exceptional growth to our wonderful Chancel Choir during the past year. Our choir continues to set an example of dedication/service and their musicianship is beginning to be known throughout the city. The anthems you hear on Sunday morning represent weeks of hard work in preparation for worship. Honor and appreciation goes to ALL choir members.

An additional blessing is that all of the new members come with servant's heart and years of musical experiences to draw upon (see new members in photo). They have taken up the challenge of weekly rehearsals and singing in worship every Sunday...we're even adding dates for the community.

I thank God for His blessings and the decisions of all members to use their talents as part of their personal ministry leading in worship and bringing glory to God.

John Larsen
Director of Traditional Worship



New choir members, l to r. Timothy Keatley, Wayne Bailey, Brenda Chapman, Jasmine Merriweather, Ian Charlton, Julie Garmendia, Keith Hall, Terrie Lee, Emily Charlton.

Great additions to our music ministry!

Recently, Sandy Murphy, from our Riverside Park Apartments, heard about a beautiful Baldwin piano that was available as a donation to a church. Contacts were made, transportation arranged, and we now have a beautiful addition to our Parlor.

Also, a beautiful Kawai grand piano was placed online for sale. The piano was definitely a quality instrument and would be a wonderful addition to our other instruments. The piano's owner struck a deal with us for a reduced price and a donor from RPUMC stepped up with the necessary funding. The owner stated "This was my mother's piano. I think she would be happy knowing that it is being used in a church".

Both pianos will be used during the Prelude String Camp's week this summer and for special events in the future.



**First Friday of each Month:
Lunch & Fellowship for Senior Adults**

First Friday Friends will meet Friday, June 2nd at 11 a.m. The program will include Bingo, a devotion by Susan Russell, and chicken salad w/ croissants for lunch. This will be the last meeting until September. Everyone 55 and older is invited.



L to R: Jim Lewis, Sandy Murphy, Rachel DeLong, Bonnie Allen, Fred & Susan Russell

Last month, Susan Russell brought some fun activities for the group to enjoy.

FUN. FLOAT. FRIENDS.

**ITCHNETUCKNEE
SPRINGS**

**RPUMC College Age & Young Adults
Saturday June 10th @ 7am
Church parking lot, for carpool**

**\$15 for admission and single tub
Bring lunch, and swimwear**

**No disposable items can be brought
on the river**

Women In Mission

The Circle of Hope and the Circle of Joy & Peace will be taking a break during the summer. Their meetings will resume in September. Sisters of Service will continue meeting during the summer on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



Sisters of Service meeting in the Parlor

*Save
THE
Date*

Calling all women and girls! The WIM (Women In Mission) at Riverside Park UMC are hosting a Brunch on Sat. July 22nd at 10:00 am in the Rhames Fellowship Hall. The brunch will be followed by a separate "painting" event for those who wish to participate. We have a professional teacher, Shali Denton, who will lead us through two watercolor pieces. The cost for the painting event is \$15. These events are open to ALL women and girls in the church, come to one or both! Look for more information in the Sunday morning announcements and the July Reporter.



Youth Ministry

| | |
|-------------|---|
| June 2 | Youth Group Challenge Lock-In |
| June 4 | Last Lunch & Serve of the Summer |
| June 11 | Youth Group at 10 a.m. (Youth Room #302) |
| | Confirmation Day |
| | Ice Cream Social @ 4 p.m. for Warren Willis Campers |
| June 26-30 | Vacation Bible School |
| July 7 or 8 | Game Night (Date TBD) |
| July 10-14 | Warren Willis Overnight Camp |
| July 29 | Water/Lake Day |

**Join us for Youth Group
Sundays at 10 a.m.
James Pickren Youth Room
Room #302**

**For more information about family
ministry gatherings through the
summer, contact Gealean at
families@riversideparkumc.com**

**We are excited to share
that starting on June 11th,
our Youth Group will begin
meeting weekly at 10 a.m.
in the James Pickren Youth
Room on the 3rd Floor
(#302).**

**Ty Strong has volunteered
to serve as leader.**



Ty Strong & Family

Ty Strong; is a native of Eureka California. He accepted Christ while in grade school. He is the husband of Colleen and father to Dylan, Ashleigh, Janelle, Amanda, Anthony and Andrew. He has been active in Riverside United Methodist Church since 2018.

Ty retired from the United States Navy after 20 years of service. He served as a cryptologic technician, instructor, recruiter and career counselor. His education includes a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and master's degree in Executive Leadership from Liberty University.

Ty has traveled the world and has worked as a district manager for Waffle House and Verizon. He has worked in a boutique hotel in California and sold cars in Nevada. When he returned to Jacksonville he worked as an employment specialist for a work release facility before settling in the past seven years as a sales representative for a pest control company.

Ty has volunteered with a servant heart to lead the youth group. He is a man who loves God, God's people and His Word. He enjoys family time; relaxing, reading and learning whatever he can to share with others. He states he loves the young because they have so much to gain.

TRUSTEES UPDATE

The roofing scope of our church's renovation & repair project is scheduled to be complete by May 19th. Once complete, we only have the HVAC scope to complete (still programmed to start around August 1st and be completed by October 23rd. The bathroom renovations continue and is expected to be complete in early June. In addition the items pictured below, we'll have new paper towel dispensers, toilet paper holders, lights, partitions, grab bars, and fresh paint.



New Sinks



New Mirrors



New Soap Dispensers



During renovation

RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM



The Community Cart at Yellow House is about giving and receiving. It is filled with items of sustenance – those things that make us whole. At any given time, the community will find fresh produce, books, art supplies, messages of encouragement, hygiene products, plants and other items brought to this mutual aid effort by our friends. The RPUMC Racial Justice Team is asking for folks to donate items to the Community Cart located at 577 King Street. If you drop something off, please let Linda LaBell know by sending her a text to (904) 553-6553

Heather McGhee: The Business Case for
Community Building
June 5, 2:30 pm
Marriott Downtown Jacksonville
245 Water St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Join us for an engaging talk from bestselling
author and policy advocate Heather McGhee.

904Ward Book Club: Caste by Isabel
Wilkerson
Jun 21, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Zoom

Join 904WARD for our June Book club as we
discuss the book Caste by Isabel Wilkerson.

To register for these events, go to:
904ward.org/events

GRACE GALLERY



Grace Gallery is pleased to announce a new installation showcasing the talents of Sharon Luther and Kim Drobneck. Featuring textiles, oils, and resins with rich, bright colors, these works are a perfect complement to this time of renewal. Please set aside some time to view this art on your next trip to church and consider making a purchase. Buying art benefits RPUMC as the artists pay a commission to the church on each piece sold. Your generosity helps support the arts community, and you get something beautiful to brighten your home or office.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY

Summer for WNM is a challenging time of afternoon thunderstorms, travel, and time away from schedules so there is always a need for volunteers.

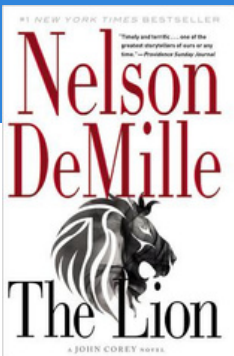
For our youth there is opportunity to gain service project hours with our ministry. You will have to sign up so we have the appropriate adults who have attended our CYP training and/or your parent. Call the church office or text Bonnie D at 904-868-5370.

We are an amazing constant presence in our neighborhood serving the needs of all who come to our door, food, t-shirts, socks, rain ponchos, and importantly prayers.

Thank you all for your support and prayers, Bonnie Dudley

I was hungry,
you gave me something to eat.
I was thirsty,
you gave me something to drink.
I was a stranger,
you invited me in.
I needed clothes,
you clothed me.
Matthew 25:35-36

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB



The Community Book Club June 15th 1 p.m. Church Library
Come and enjoy discussing a heart pounding novel that exposes the unending war on terror with its villains, heroes, and victims. Khalil known as The Lion, has methodically chased victims and then himself disappeared. When he reappears Agent John Corey will stop at nothing to find him. Nelson DeMille tells the story with dry wit and fast paced action. If you like exciting books don't miss this one.

The Jacksonville Library has this book in different forms, audio books, Kindle, sound recording, and traditional books. Be sure to put June 15th on your calendar for the book club. For more info., contact Susan Russell at (904) 234-5823.



This year's annual conference gathering of the Florida United Methodist Church will be June 8- 10 in Lakeland, FL

Our church's conference delegate is Beth Joyner. She will be offering a conference recap meeting in the church library on Thursday, June 15th at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.



Did you know we have yoga classes here at the church?
Wednesdays @ 2:30-3:30
Fridays @ 1:00-2:00
Contact Susan Bush for more information: (904) 226-3196

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Bridget & Tim Ware for designing and printing the Gratitude Journals that we gave to the women in church on Mother's Day.

Confirmation Class 2023

On June 11th, we will celebrate our confirmands as they take their vows to join Riverside Park United Methodist Church. As part of their confirmation classes, the students wrote their own creed:

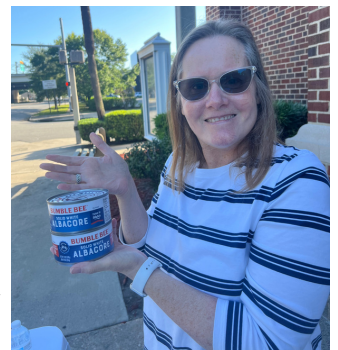
Confirmation Class 2023 Creed

We believe in the Father Almighty. We believe in the Holy Spirt that lives inside us and around us. We believe in the son Jesus Christ who came to die for our sins.

We believe in fellowship and forgiveness of others. We believe in the power of friendship that us by the church that was formed. We believe in being disciples of Christ through being goofy, having fun, inviting others, and welcoming all. God offers support to all in good and bad times and His love endures forever.

First Sunday Communion & Canned Goods

On the first Sunday of every month, we celebrate communion. As an reminder of Jesus's sacrifice for us, we offer canned goods and other non-perishable food items for those in need. Drop off your donations in the baskets in the breezeway or by the McCord entrance. They will be delivered to the Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry on Park Street.



Celebrating Baptisms



We will surround these children with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others.



Mackenzie Amaya Springer
Baptized on May 28, 2023
Daughter of: Amanda Springer
Granddaughter of: Joe & Sue Springer

Brian Austin Doran
Baptized May 7, 2023
Son of Brandea & Brian Doran
Grandson of Bridget & Tim Ware



PRAISE!

2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 26-30
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Visit the Florida United Methodist Children's Home:
AUGUST 26, 2023

TIME: TBD – but it will be an early car ride
Ever wonder:

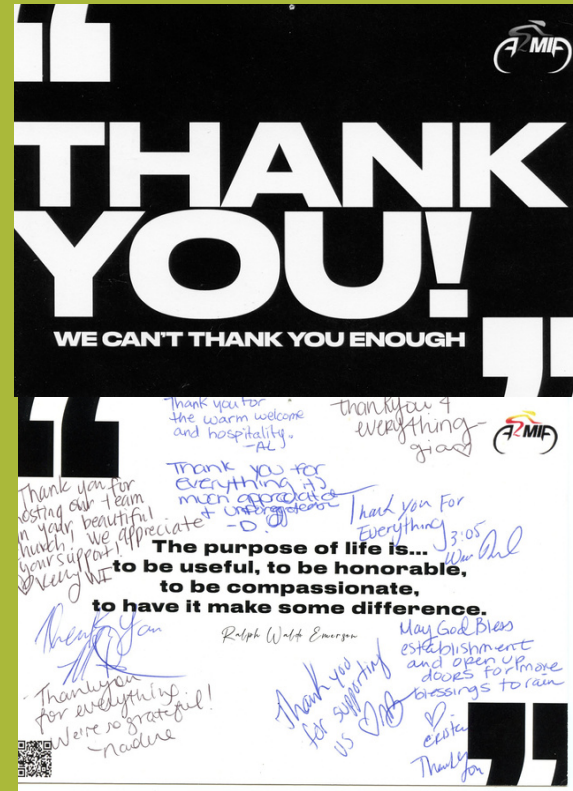
- ❖ Where is the Children's Home?
 - ❖ What does the campus look like?
 - ❖ Will there ever be another tour to the Children's Home?
- A TOUR OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME IS IN THE WORKS!

(our next Fifth Sunday offering will be July 30th and
Rev. Brian Carr will visit our church that Sunday)





Dear Church Family,
 Thank you! Thank you all for your support of the Dominican Republic Mission. We sold A LOT of chicken salad, and your additional gifts of prayer and encouragement mean so much!
 Andy (Scully) will be joining the mission team with me this year in representing RPUMC.
 Your gifts will be helping with transportation costs, mission supplies and a pizza and ice cream party for the boys.
 We cannot wait to share pictures and stories with you of the impact of your support.
 Thank you again. Love -
 Pam Russell



On the evening of May 6th, we hosted the A2MIF cyclists who were cycling from Atlanta to Miami to create awareness and fund programs that aid mental health.



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.

Applications were submitted earlier this year and though we are grateful for each one, the selection team has chosen to honor Tre Devine as the scholarship's very first recipient. The selection team noted the quality of his application and faithful perseverance in pursuing his degree. In his essay, Tre shared that engineering has been a life-long interest which started with playing with legos as a child. We also celebrate Tre's work and dedication (and additional hours that he volunteers) here at Riverside Park United Methodist Church.

On Sunday, June 25th, the scholarship will be formally presented during worship and we will have cupcakes in the fellowship hall to celebrate Amanda's legacy and the inaugural year of this brand new scholarship.





| | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st | Mickey Hough |
| 4th | Sistie Pope |
| 5th | Sarah Mardini |
| 7th | Allison Matthews |
| 9th | Brenda Chapman Tom Dudley |
| 10th | Faye Dale |
| 11th | Andrew Brinson |
| 12th | Kelli Neufeld Nancy Schubiger |
| 13th | Pat Allen Jordan Mardini |
| 14th | Kevin Jensen |
| 15th | Kim Mathis |
| 16th | Libby Murray |
| 18th | Cyndi Rehberg |
| 22nd | Logan Laffy |
| 23rd | Tami Crowell |
| 24th | Maddie Knight |
| 25th | Marc Julia |
| 26th | Emily Rehberg |
| 28th | Connie Hodges Makenzie Monk |
| 29th | Caroline Jennings Selena Owens |
| 30th | Betty Young |

Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee
No meeting in June

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

Church Council
Tuesday, June 13th 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
† 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



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
pastoremy@riversideparkumc.com

Joye Hampton, Office Manager
j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com

John Larsen, Director of Traditional Worship
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Millie Hudson, Director of Contemporary Worship
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Gealean Roeters, Family Ministry Administrator
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Rich Lewis, Organist
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Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper
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Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
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Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
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Tre Devine, Custodian
t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

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RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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 |

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 | 3 |
| | | | | | 11:30am First Friday Friends 1pm Yoga Time TBD Youth Lock-In | |
| 4 COMMUNION 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 12pm Youth Lunch & Serve 5:00pm Bell Choir | 5 | 6 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi | 7 2:30pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 8 | 9 1pm Yoga | 10 7am Young Adult Itchnetucknee Springs Trip |
| | | | YMCA CAMP | | | |
| 11 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5:00pm Bell Choir | 12 | 13 10:30am Tai Chi 6pm Church Council 7pm Tai Chi 7pm Sisters of Service | 14 2:30pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 15 1pm Book Club Time TBD Annual Conference Recap | 16 1pm Yoga | 17 |
| | | | YMCA CAMP | | | |
| 18 FATHER'S DAY 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5:00pm Bell Choir | 19 JUNETEENTH 6pm Board of Trustees | 20 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi | 21 2:30pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 22 | 23 1pm Yoga | 24 |
| | | | PRELUDE CAMP | | | |
| | | | YMCA CAMP | | | |
| 25 9am Contemporary Worship 10am Celebration for the Amanda Bethany Strong Scholarship 10am Sunday School/Groups 11am Traditional Worship 5:00pm Bell Choir | 26 | 27 10:30am Tai Chi 7pm Tai Chi | 28 2:30pm Yoga 5:30pm Free Dinners 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 29 | 30 1pm Yoga | |
| | | | VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9-12 June 26-30 | | | |
| | | | YMCA CAMP | | | |