



## RIVERSIDE REPORTER NOVEMBER 2023

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,  
CALL ON HIS NAME; MAKE KNOWN GOD'S DEEDS  
AMONG THE NATIONS; PROCLAIM THAT HIS NAME IS  
EXALTED." —ISAIAH 12:4

*Dear RPUMC family and friends,  
(A personal note of thanks)*

*I am deeply grateful to be a part of this community, so thank you for the many ways you have shown (and continue to show) kindness to me. Your cards and affirmations for both Pastor Appreciation Month and my birthday meant the world. You include my family in your prayers and I cannot thank you enough for BEING the church where my own child feels welcome (and even excited) to grow in her faith.*

*We keep one of the "blessing stickers" from Sunday morning kids club by her bed, so each night as part of our evening routine, we pray that month's Scripture over her. And each night, I'm grateful for the other parents who are doing the same with their kids. I am grateful for the adults who have given her the stickers and taught her the words from the Bible in the first place. I am grateful for those in the sanctuary and the whole church structure who make her feel welcome and special on Sunday mornings—because she is.*

*Every child of God (at every age) deserves to be welcomed into discipleship with the warmth and joy of Christ. And, church, I see you doing this for one another, but it takes on special meaning when the ministries I pastor also help to shape me as a parent.*

*So yes, I am deeply and personally grateful for your prayers, your presence, your generous gifts, and your service that gives witness to the work of Jesus Christ and the goodness of God.*

*I am blessed and honored to be your pastor and a part of our church.  
Again: thank you for all that you do and the ways that you are showing love in the name of Christ Jesus.*

*Rev. Emily Knight*



# All Saints Sunday 2023

Sunday, Nov 5th: Communion, candles,  
and a reading of church members  
and loved ones who have died this past year.



We give thanks to God  
for these church members  
who now rest from their labor:

**Earl James 'Jim' Allen**  
**James Brazier**

And for other family and friends  
whom we name before God  
On all saints Sunday, we will have  
additional candles to light.

God of us all, your love never ends.  
When all else fails, you still are God.  
We pray to you for one another in our need,  
and for all, anywhere, who mourn with us.  
To those who doubt, give light;  
to those who are weak, strength;  
to all who have sinned, mercy;  
to all who sorrow, your peace.  
Keep true in us the love with which we hold  
one another. In all our ways we trust you.  
And to you, with your Church on earth and  
in heaven, we offer honor and glory, now  
and for ever. Amen.



**Sunday, November 19th:**  
**Harvest Celebration**  
**Giving Thanks to God**

*We will collect canned goods  
throughout the month of  
November (in addition to the  
first Sunday) for our ministry  
partners at the Trinity Lutheran  
food bank*



**Sunday,**  
**November 26th:**  
**Christ the King**  
**Praise and honor**  
**to Christ who reigns**  
**on high!**

*(followed by  
Hanging of the Greens  
after worship)*



**Advent begins...**

*December 3rd will be the first  
Sunday of Advent 2023*

*Contact pastor Emily if you  
would be willing to help write  
a reflection for this year's  
Advent devotional.*



# Welcome to our New Members

*Come meet our new  
members at  
a reception on Sunday,  
November 5th  
at 12 p.m. in the parlor*

New members not  
pictured here:  
Molly Miller and  
Cathy Parker



Alletha Boling



Cathie Clark &  
Brooks Andrews



Elizabeth Coley



Niel & Denise Fleming



Woody & Rebecca Garner



Barbara & Emily Merton



Theo, Brandy, Tallulah, & David  
Henderson



Timothy Keatley,  
Theresa & Connie Keatley-Miller



George Ridge &  
Peggy Greco-Ridge



Corky & Kit Thomas



Bryan Dowling



Keith Miller



Susan Phillips



Tadd, Chandra  
& Kara Manning



Page Thomas



Wanda Smith



Amanda & Mackenzie  
Springer



Sue & Joe Springer



JoAnn Stephens



Susan Ridge



Karen Western with  
her husband Chris





**RIVERSIDE PARK**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## KIDS CHOIR & KIDS CLUB

**Sunday Mornings**  
**Songs & Instruments**  
**Bible & Blessings**  
**Pre-K to 5th grade**  
**Education room #402**

**(The room next door to the nursery).**

### Sunday Morning Schedule:

10-10:10 Sign-in  
10:10-10:30 Kids Choir  
10:30-10:50 "Kids Club"  
10:50 Closing blessing  
10:50-11am Sign-out

Our RPUMC family ministry verse is  
*Ephesians 3:17-19.*

*We will repeat parts of each blessing for the month, so please echo them at home as a prayer for your own family and kids. Turn them to prayers by replacing the word "you" with your child's name).*



**November**

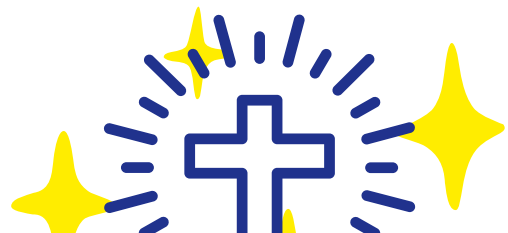
May you know the love of Christ  
that is beyond knowledge.  
(from Ephesians 3:19)



## Youth Ministry

The youth are settling into the rededicated James Pickren Youth Room and now are looking to give back. The youth are looking for ideas for service projects and any ideas or suggestions are welcome, please send them to [youth@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:youth@riversideparkumc.com). The youth group would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the cards we received for the youth day, we look forward to doing it again in the future. The planned lock-in for October has been rescheduled to Friday November 10th. If you have a child who is in 6th - 12th grade, they are more than welcome to come. Volunteers are more than needed to spend a few hours or all night.

Contact Ty Strong:  
[youth@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:youth@riversideparkumc.com)







# Young Adult Brunch

## November 12th

meet in front of the sanctuary  
after the 11 am service and walk to 5 Points

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Saturday,  
November 18th  
10-11:30am  
John Gorrie Dog Park  
(in Riverside Park)

All are welcome!



## from the Anti-Racism Team

Contact Linda Labell for links or more information for any of the following. [Lsabell@yahoo.com](mailto:Lsabell@yahoo.com)

- Together Against Hate: Anti- Semitism Jewish Community Alliance  
8505 San Jose Blvd.  
November 7, 2023 at 7pm
- November is Native American month. For 11 Facts about Native Americans go to <https://tinyurl.com/11FactsNativeAmericans>
- The Yellow House Community Cart 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 folks who are grateful and willing to share their surplus. Place your items on the cart any time, 7 days a week at 577 King Street, 32204.



## Hanging of the Greens: Sunday, Nov. 26th ~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!

## Poinsettias On Sale Soon

Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve services will be available to order soon. Call the church office for more information.



## December Dates to Remember

**Sun., Dec. 10th**

10:30 a.m. **Christmas Cantata**

One worship service  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

4:30 p.m. **Navy Band Southeast Concert**  
to Kickoff Luminaria

**Wed., Dec. 20th**

6:30 p.m. **Blue Christmas Service**

**Sun., Dec. 24th - Worship**

Morning worship will be as usual: 9am & 11am services followed by  
4:30 p.m. **Contemporary Christmas Eve**  
7:00 p.m. **Traditional Christmas Eve**





# Family Promise Week Follow-Up

Hello Congregation,

We hosted about 13 people from Family Promise, ranging from infant through adult over September 24-October 1, 2023.

We as a congregation and coordinator had to pivot at the last minute and adjust how we would serve the families. We learned at the last minute that the working adults didn't have the normal 9-5 employment, with that it just wasn't in the best interest of the families and volunteers to host them (overnight stays) at RPUMC. As a host congregation, we want to meet the families where they are, meaning making life a little smoother.

As a congregation (community), we provided meals to the families at the Family Promise headquarters, which was greatly appreciated. I know several people went through the afternoon-early evening rainstorms to get that meal to them and on time, and for that- Thank You.

I had the opportunity to sit with the families and share a meal. They were very engaging and grateful. During the meal I shared with them, we had a blessing where we all held hands and formed a very large circle while a school-aged child led the blessing. She spoke so eloquently about when we are down, we aren't out and we don't give up- we keep praying and believing (Paraphrasing the child). It was moving to hear a child speak so maturely in her testimony.

I invited these families to Sunday School, Worship and our upcoming Trunk or Treat and extended our prayers as a community to them.

Moving Forward, I will be working with Family Promise to schedule a de-brief/training so please watch for that.

For 2024, we will plan for 2 individual weeks as a host congregation. Please keep in mind that Covid has changed the Family Promise original operating model. It definitely is not how we are used to Family Promise operating. We, as a congregation/Community must shift with Family Promise, which we did seamlessly without hesitation.

Grace, Blessing and Love,

Colleen Strong,

RPUMC Family Promise Host Congregation Coordinator





# First Friday Friends

November is here again - time to join us in the Fellowship hall at 11:00 am for coffee and conversation before our Thanksgiving program. Pastor Emily will lead us in the program as we think of all we have to be thankful for.

Please remember to drop off a baby picture in the office and write your first and last name on the back of the picture. Your picture will be returned after we share it for an activity. It would be helpful if you did this before Nov. 3rd.

Jim Lewis is preparing a Thanksgiving dinner (with the kitchen team) for after the program. It will be delicious. Please let us know if you are coming- we want to be sure to have lunches for all - call the office so we have your name on the list.

December 1st will come quickly and we are going to have the same type of excellent music led by John and Kim but a new program. Put this on your calendar now!

Questions? Call Susan Russell - 904-234-5823

## GRACE GALLERY

**Grace Gallery is planning an art show featuring the works of our congregation. If you create, using almost any medium, we would love for you to be a part of this installation. Please contact Ron Richardson: [ronald.j.richardson@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.j.richardson@gmail.com) or Cathy Salzer at [csalzer52@gmail.com](mailto:csalzer52@gmail.com) for details. We look forward to hearing from you.**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY

"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 the least of these, our neighbors. Now that the weather is cooler our neighbors will need warm clothing, socks, jackets, and throws/blankets. Please drop off donations in the fellowship hall.

We are serving the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and will need more help with dinner service. What better way to come together to show our thankfulness than to give our support to our community, to give them a hot and delicious meal, lemonade, and clothing our church provides. Most importantly they see and hear our love of Jesus and our love for them the least of these, our neighbors.

Thank you for your prayers and support and if you are able to help let Joye know or text Bonnie Dudley 904-868-5370.

### Items Needed:

Socks, Long-sleeve Shirts, Jackets, Blankets



To sign-up to help with dinners, scan the QR code above or call the church office at (904) 355-5491.







# WE ARE



riverside park united  
methodist church

A huge thank you to Vinny and Allison who shared their stewardship testimonies in worship. Thank you to each family who submitted a pledge card for our 2024 missions and ministries. And thank you, church, for being generous stewards of God's gifts and graces.

On Sunday, November 29th, we will bless ALL collected pledge cards

Online Pledge Card:

We are stewards.  
We are generous.  
We are investing in the Kingdom of God.  
We are growing in faith, together.



God who loves us, who deserves our gratitude for so much that is good,

We offer our thanks to you: For the beauty of the earth — bright orange leaves mixed with green, a gentle rain, a spider's delicate web.

For friends, for family, even acquaintances who offer us kindness, who bring us laughter, who hold us to a higher standard.

Lord of all that is good and nourishing to our well being, we give you thanks. All of life is a wonder. The very breath we take, a single blade of grass that holds such miracles of symmetry, a tiny distant star whose real size boggles our minds.

We take our lives for granted — as if it were our right, and not our gift. We take our days and our loves and our passions for granted — as if tomorrow will verify their importance and our present moments have other things to occupy us. Gracious God, who lavishes goodness upon us even in some of our darkest moments, help us to see your goodness, remind us to have grateful hearts, give us receptive minds, and grant us ever-gracious ways of living in harmony with each other.

And in our gratitude, make us to be instruments of your peace.  
Amen.

thankful



# Are you connected?

We have numerous points of communication at RPUMC.

- Riverside Reporter Newsletter (mailed monthly & online)
- Website and Calendar ([riversideparkumc.com](http://riversideparkumc.com))
- Weekly E-mails (usually sent on Fridays)
- Facebook Group (search RPUMC Family Group)
- Facebook Page ([facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC](https://facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC))
- Weekly Bulletin (in worship & online)
- Bulletin Boards (McCord Building)

Does the church office have your current contact information?  
Please keep us updated.

(904) 355-5491 or [j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com](mailto:j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com)



## Easy Online Giving

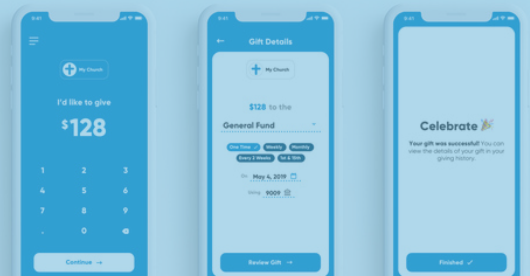
Get the My Well Ministry Giving app today!

### 5 Ways to Connect to MyWell

- Go to [www.mywell.org/give/rpumc](http://www.mywell.org/give/rpumc)
- Text rpumc to 40101
- Download the My Well Ministry app
- Go to [riversideparkumc.com](http://riversideparkumc.com) & click on Give
- Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or code reader

#### Easy Online Giving 1..2..3!

- 1 Select Amount
- 2 Confirm Details
- 3 Review & Give!



If you prefer to write a check, make it out to RPUMC and mail it to 819 Park St., Jacksonville, FL 32204 or place it in the offering late on Sunday morning.

Do you want offering envelopes for 2024? To order your free envelopes, contact the church office at (904) 355-5491 by November 1st.

All worship services will be in-person and 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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 2:30 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	2 1 pm Holy Conferencing Bible Study	3 11 am First Friday Friends 1 pm Yoga	4
5 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12 pm New Member Reception 5 pm Chancel Ringers	6 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Tai Chi	7 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Tai Chi	8 2:30 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	9 11 am Circle of Hope	10 1 pm Yoga	11 1 pm Yoga
12 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12 pm Young Adult Brunch 5 pm Chancel Ringers	13	14 10:30 am Tai Chi 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Sisters of Service	15 11 am Circle of Joy & Peace 2:30 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	16 6 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (Church of Oakland)	17 1 pm Yoga	18 10 am Blessing of the Animals (John Gorrie Dog Park)
19 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	20	21 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Church Council 7 pm Tai Chi	22 2:30 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	23 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12 pm Hanging of the Greens 5 pm Chancel Ringers	27	28 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	29 2:30 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	30	31 1 pm Yoga	





1st	Adam Tompkins
2nd	Cooper Crowell Martha Swoope
4th	Annaleigh Pearsall
5th	Karen Fleming
6th	Nicole Remo Johnny Tompkins
8th	Rachel DeLong
10th	Fred Russell
11th	Mason Bridges Sharon Joos Lyn Lewis Sandra Pauley
12th	Rachel Moseley
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	Scott Allen Vincent Santa Lucia Emily Wilson

## Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee  
Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees  
No meeting in November

Church Council  
Tuesday, November 19th 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  
† Gordon Rehberg  
† Mary Lou Roberts

### College Students

- Cooper Crowell
- Frankie Crowell
- Tre Devine
- Brenna DuPries
- Isabella Laffy
- Hogan Litwin
- Emily Matthews
- Kaden Neufeld
- Kyle Neufeld
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp
- Dallas Renne





# 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**

**Church Office: (904) 355-5491**

**www.riversideparkumc.com**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday 9-3:30**

**Friday 9-1**

Rev. Emily Knight, Pastor  
pastoremily@riversideparkumc.com

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

John Larsen, Director of Traditional Worship  
j.larsen@riversideparkumc.com

Millie Hudson, Director of Contemporary Worship  
m.hudson@riversideparkumc.com

Ty Strong, Youth Leader  
youth@riversideparkumc.com

Rich Lewis, Organist  
r.lewis@riversideparkumc.com

Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper  
j.barnard@riversideparkumc.com

Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader  
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary  
membership@riversideparkumc.com

Tre Devine, Custodian  
t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

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