

# THE RIVERSIDE REPORTER

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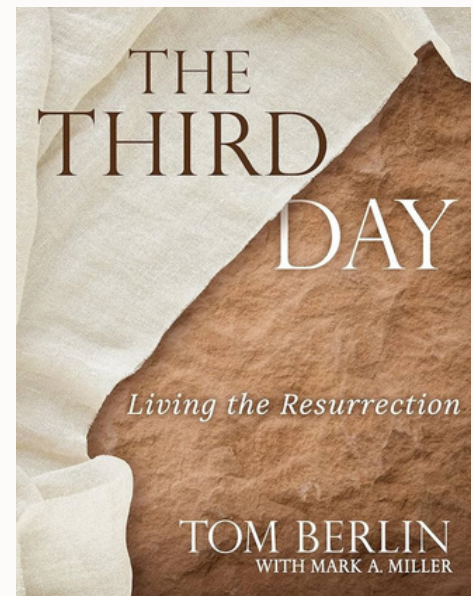
Lent is the journey of transformation; from ashes and sin to life and victory in Jesus. From our mortality and fragility to the overflowing and everlasting life of Christ.

This year, Lent will begin on February 14th (Ash Wednesday) and end on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

This Lent, we will follow Bishop Tom Berlin's new book (*The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*). Each week of Lent looks at a different character in Scripture (like Mary Magdalene and the apostle Paul)—digging deep into ways that the story of Jesus changed and transformed their lives.

My own hope and prayer is to arrive at Easter with a deeper hope and a clearer witness of my own personal story of hope and resurrection in Christ.

*Rev. Emily Knight*



**“Just as Jesus’ followers were transformed by their encounters with the risen Christ, we, too, can experience the joy of new life in Christ, who defeated death and rose from the grave on the third day.”**

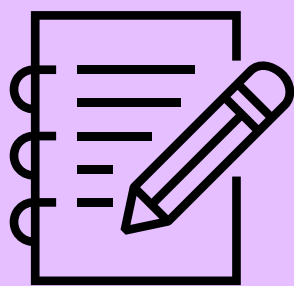
**—Bishop Tom Berlin**



# 2024 Lenten Challenge (4 ways to grow in faith):



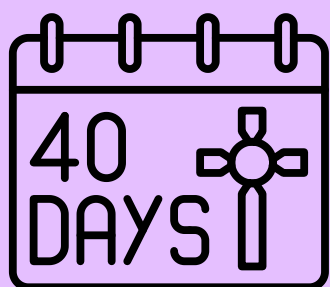
**Read the book.** The Third Day: Living the Resurrection by Mark A. Miller and Tom Berlin. One chapter each week focuses on Bible characters whose lives changed because of Jesus' resurrection (The church will order copies for anyone who wants to participate. Some of our Sunday school classes will discuss it as well)



**Reflect on the power of resurrection in your life** (Reflection cards will be available throughout the season, encouraging each us to answer these questions: How does the resurrection of Jesus impact your life? How has your life been resurrected (transformed) because of Christ's resurrection? Answers can be anonymous. Our hope is to send everyone home on Easter Sunday with a devotional from these responses)



**Join a Lenten prayer group.** (The idea is to pray daily and text weekly with two or three other persons who are doing the same. It's a great way to connect with new people in the church and hold each other up for spiritual growth and encouragement. Contact the church office or Kevin Round for more information)



**Pick a spiritual discipline.** (Some people fast or give up things like chocolate or soda for the days of Lent. Some choose to 'pick up' a new spiritual discipline for the 40 days—like starting each day with spiritual music or practicing sabbath rest in a new way. The season of lent is a perfect opportunity to take a next step in spiritual growth).





# Save the Date Holy Week

## Palm Sunday

Sunday School/Small Groups at 9:30

One Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Potluck Luncheon at 11:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

## Maundy Thursday

Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.

## Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

## Easter Sunday

Contemporary Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship at 11:00 a.m.





## FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS

**Friday, Feb. 2nd**  
**Rhames Fellowship Hall**  
**11:00 a.m.**

Come and join us at 11:00 am to assemble Valentine bags for our Wednesday dinner friends. They will be given out on Feb.14 along with the dinners.

Mark Baker, Director of the Lutheran Food Pantry in Riverside will share with us how it works and how we might be helpful.

A delicious lunch will be served at noon.

See you on February 2nd!  
--Susan Russell



## Souper Bowl Sunday

\$10/quart of chili  
\*Pre-order only\* by 2/4

Kitchen pick-up on 2/11  
10am- 12:30pm

Order forms available in the bulletin on  
Sunday or stop by the church office  
during office hours. Proceeds benefit  
Circle of Hope's local missions.



**Worship Service**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**6:30pm Sanctuary**



**Remembrance Lunch**  
*let us honor the loved ones we miss*  
**Feb 15th @noon**  
**Rhames Fellowship Hall**

Valentine's Day is a time to honor those that we love. And not all of our loved ones are still with us, so bring a lunch (bring a photo if you want) and let's gather to share a favorite story or a favorite memory of your loved one(s). Laughter and tears are welcome. Stories heal the heart.



## ANTI-RACISM TEAM

The Faces of Justice: Then and Now: Absalom Jones, Richard Allen, and Rethinking Justice Today

Saturday, February 10th, 2024  
Historic Mt Zion AME Church  
201 E. Beaver Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Registration opens at 9 AM  
Event is 9:15 AM to 12 PM

Need to Contact ICARE? (904) 388-9181 or  
ICAREjax@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

The mission of Community Health Outreach (CHO) is to glorify God and display the love of Jesus Christ by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and clothing the needy.

02/27 @11:45 am - CHO Connect is an opportunity for those who are curious to get to know CHO better. Lunch and tour are provided. RSVP to Miki@CHOJax.org  
02/22 @6:00pm - Volunteer Orientation. For anyone interested in volunteering with us at CHO in any of our three programs.

[www.chojax.org](http://www.chojax.org)

## Are You New to RPUMC?

**RPUMC campus tour** will be Sunday, February 25th. Meet Tim Bush at 10 a.m. in front of the sanctuary for a tour and learn some history of our 135+ year old church.

**New Member Classes** begin Sunday, March 3rd. Join Pastor Emily in the parlor (1st floor, McCord building--off of the fellowship hall), to learn more about our Methodist roots, our core values, and our missions here at RPUMC. The classes run for three weeks (3/3, 3/10, 3/17) and new members will join on Palm Sunday 3/24.



WEDNESDAY



NIGHT MINISTRIES

Matthew 25:35-36 is the verse that our ministry is founded on and we quote often. Another verse found in every gospel and elsewhere in the New Testament because it is a commandment from Jesus: ".....You shall love your neighbor as yourself" Matthew 22:37-39.

This love is part of our Wednesday Night Ministry that we volunteers feel in our hearts, our souls, our mind, and with all our strength.

This ministry has amazing volunteers but there is always room for more. Just recently one of our neighbors who we have served for quite a while has asked to help on Wednesday nights.

As always thank you for your prayers and support and now bins overflowing with your donations of cold weather gear.

--Bonnie D

### ITEMS NEEDED





# THE AMANDA BETHANY STRONG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

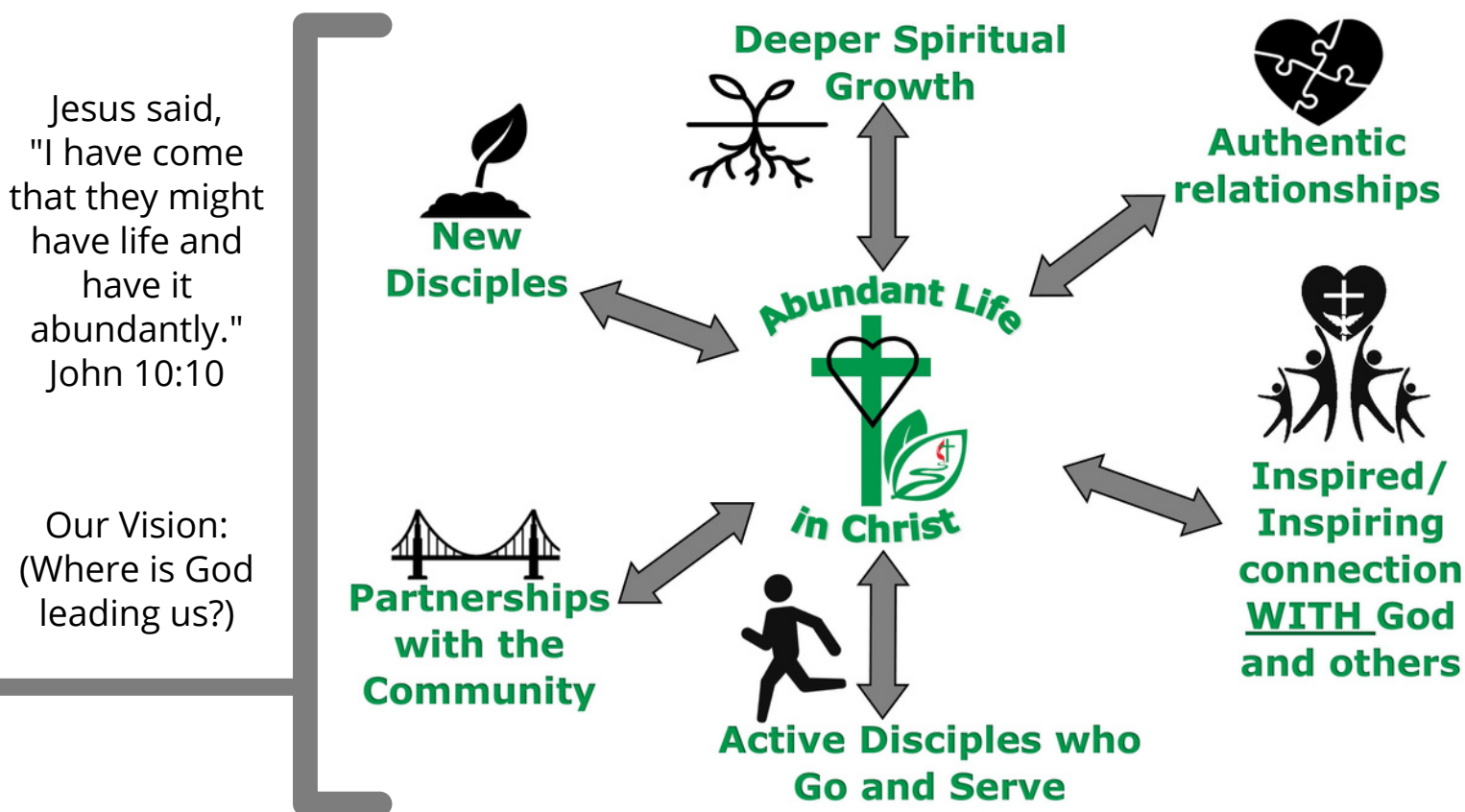


Remembrance is sacred work—especially when it turns outward to bless and empowers others in the name of Christ. Thus we are honored to announce the creation of the Amanda Bethany Strong Memorial Scholarship. Amanda Bethany Strong was called to enter heaven after only six months in the womb, so in the spirit of Isaiah 61 (which promises beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for all who mourn) Amanda's parents wanted to celebrate her life through an act of blessing for others.

"As parents, we know that her life, if continued on Earth, would have been beautiful, vibrant, and strong in Christ. We wish to continue that memory with a scholarship in memory of our daughter through those parents whose child receives this scholarship."

~Ty and Colleen Strong

**The Amanda Bethany Strong Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Riverside United Methodist student who plans to attend or attends an accredited college, university, or trade school. Applications are available NOW by contacting the church office. Completed applications are due Feb. 17th.**







# Margaret's Memories Update...

Here is what has been going on:

Our Annual Remembrance Ornament Night was a small but meaningful gathering. Beautiful ornaments were made in honor of their family.

Join me on February 24 for a fundraiser meal at The Blue Bamboo. The funds from this meal will be designated to pay for my travel and attendance to the Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance

conference May 15-18, 2024 and help defray the cost from my family. The conference will be held Chicago! You can find more information on the conference at <https://plida.memberclicks.net/ipbc-2024> The conference is an important educational event that also provides networking with other bereavement organizations. Prior funds donated to Margaret's Memories will not be used to pay for the conference.

- Conference fees:
- Pre-Conference - \$250 \*\* Free - won at last conference!
- Main conference - \$595 (early bird price)
- Air Fare - \$334
- Hotel \$209 a night x 5 nights = \$1,045 + 17.5% tax

## Asian Bazaar Luncheon for Margaret's Memories

Sat., February 24th - 12pm

\$25 per person

includes entree, drink, & dessert

Raffle Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Scan here  
for tickets.



Memory boxes have been donated to St. Vincent's Southside, UF Health North & Downtown, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, South, Clay, and Nassau.

Volunteers have been scheduling time to help with quality controlling, crafting, and other projects that make Margaret's Memories possible. We are prepping for the fall box making. If you would like to prep things at home, please contact me. If you quilt, knit, or crochet we are in need of large blankets for boys. Several memorial donations have been made over the last few months.

We continue to receive thank you notes and emails from families/friends to thank Margaret's Memories for giving the gift of memories. We are continually told all the handmade items are very touching.



February 24, 2024: Fundraiser meal at The Blue Bamboo

March 9, 2024: Box Making from 10 AM to Noon

If you need more information on the events please contact me!

For more information email Nicole at [margaretsmemories@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretsmemories@hotmail.com) or call the church office at 904-355-5491. You can also visit us on the web at [www.margaretsmemories.org](http://www.margaretsmemories.org) and "like" us on Facebook!

Nicole Remo



# *What is Family Promise??*

**DID YOU KNOW?** 5,800 Duval County Public School Students are homeless.

- Family Promise is a non-profit interfaith hospitality network providing temporary assistance and hospitality to families with children experiencing homelessness.
- Family promise has an 82% success rate of moving families from homelessness to stability.
- Family Promise is building a better community, one family at a time.

## **What Riverside Park United Methodist Church does to support Family Promise:**

- Cooking/hosting families
- Spending the evening with guest families, chatting, playing games, coordinating crafts with the kids.

**RPUMC schedule for 2024**

**March 3/31 - April 4/7**

**August 8/4 - 8/11**

**November 11/24 - 12/1**

Hello Congregation!

We are so fortunate to have been asked to have three weeks this year. I am really excited for this opportunity to provide our great Riverside Park hospitality to the families. Family Promise has changed the Family Promise model for this year. Families will remain housed at the headquarters of Family Promise. This provides much more stability for the families than having to move from one congregation to another each week.

We will provide meals to the families as usual. Meals will need to be at the headquarters each day between 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. I am hoping to provide some sort of crafts for the children this year.

Two of the three weeks are holidays, Easter, and Thanksgiving. This isn't looked at as a burden but rather a blessing for us to provide wonderful hospitality on these days.

Please look for the sign up that will come from the church office sometime in March. My team and I look forward to working with you all again.

*Lord God, you who so mysteriously call upon us to share in the sufferings of Christ, fill our hearts with compassion for those who lack the warmth of a Home—Amen*

--Colleen Strong  
RPUMC Family Promise Host Congregation Coordinator

"Supporting families, Changing Futures. Changing homelessness."



# RPUMC FAMILY MINISTRIES

Youth group, kids club, and kids choir continue to be fun and meaningful. Thank you to the volunteers who make it safe and possible! (And a huge thanks to the chaperones who helped bring a group of 25 to Rock the Universe at the end of January).

We are also planning for the summer schedule (see dates below).

On **Sunday, February 11th @10:30am** in the courtyard (between the fellowship hall and playground). All ages are invited to join us for a special Sunday morning gathering to burn last year's Palm Sunday palms in order to make ashes for Ash Wednesdays.

Families are invited to gather, pray, and set the tone for this year's Lenten season. Bring a brunch snack to share. We will also have marshmallows available.



SAVE THE DATE



**VBS**  
**June 24-28**  
**9am-noon**

**“Kids of the Kingdom”**  
**Vacation Bible School 2024**

Come learn Bible stories about kids (like Miriam, David, and others) who serve God and make a big difference!



kids 4th-12th grade can participate. Parents need to register separately, but we will provide transportation.

[www.wwumccc.org](http://www.wwumccc.org)





- 1st Courtney Earp  
Vance Whitaker
- 7th Cynthia Round
- 10th Brandy Henderson  
Timothy Keatley  
Dakota Wolter
- 11th James Rooks
- 12th Colleen Strong  
Monica Tindall-Richardson
- 14th Sandy Murphy
- 15th Bob Brideson  
Gordon Rehberg
- 16th Kara Manning
- 17th Betty Cooper  
Joseph Lek  
Taylor Newman  
Anthony Strong  
Corky Thomas
- 20th Henry Alvarado  
Kevin Earp
- 23rd Topher Cogburn
- 24th Pat Carlton  
Joe Dorsie  
Mackenzie Springer
- 26th Niel Fleming
- 27th Amelia Cashen

## Committee Meetings:

Finance/SPR Committee  
Tuesday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees  
Monday, March 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Church Council  
Tuesday, February 20th 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
- † Ted DiSalvo
- † 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



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 11 am First Friday Friends	3
4 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	5 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm <b>Girl Scouts</b> 7 pm Tai Chi	6 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm <b>Girl Scouts</b> 7 pm Tai Chi	7 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	8 11 am <b>Circle of Hope</b>	9	10
11 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers <b>Pick Up Chili Orders</b>	12 10:30 am Tai Chi 6 pm <b>SPR/Finance</b> 7 pm <b>Sisters of Service</b> 7 pm Tai Chi	13 10:30 am Tai Chi 6 pm <b>SPR/Finance</b> 7 pm <b>Sisters of Service</b> 7 pm Tai Chi	14 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 11:00 am <b>Circle of Joy &amp; Peace</b> 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 12 pm Remembrance Lunch	16	17
18 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	19 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm <b>Girl Scouts</b> 6 pm <b>Church Council</b> 7 pm Tai Chi	20 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm <b>Girl Scouts</b> 6 pm <b>Church Council</b> 7 pm Tai Chi	21 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6:30 pm <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	22	23	24 12 pm Asian Bazaar for Margaret's Memories
25 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10 am <b>Church Tour</b> 11 am Traditional Worship	26 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	27 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	28 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	29		





# 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 & YouTube Live  
Sundays  
@9am Contemporary  
@11am Traditional**

**facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC  
tinyurl.com/YouTube-RPUMC**

**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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