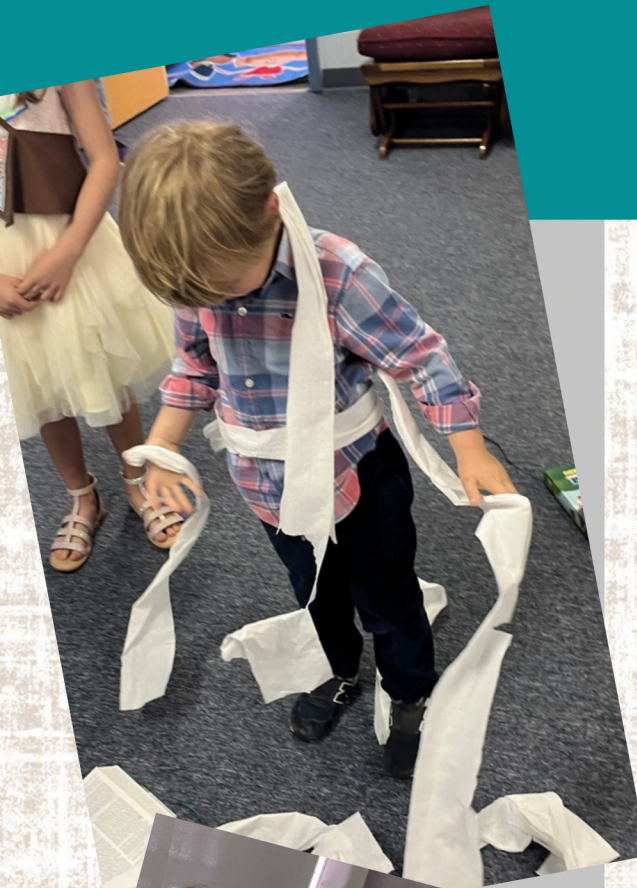


APRIL 2024


RIVERSIDE REPORTER



In a “kids club” lesson last month, our kids learned the John 11 story of Lazarus. (Lazarus is a friend of Jesus who dies, but is brought back to life—pointing to Jesus as the resurrection and the life.)

In a particularly dramatic moment, the grave is opened (despite fear of what it may smell like) and the now-alive Lazarus stumbles into the light—still covered in grave clothes. Jesus says to those around Lazarus: “**Unbind him, and let him go.**”

Similarly, when the disciples found the grave empty on that first Easter morning, Jesus’ linen wrappings had been folded up and left behind.



There is an element of faith that calls us forward, beyond our grave clothes. For me, moving forward in faith involves recovering from perfectionism. Overcoming a competitive spirit. It’s about trusting that “what is” can have worth and life and meaning as it is (without needing to wrap it up in something false). Unwrapping those things from my life is a mark of God’s grace at work in me.

As followers of Jesus, we are Easter people. Jesus calls us out of the grave and forward in faith. Unbound. Unwrapped. Set free from sin and death...

What does God need to “unbind” in you?



Rev. Emily Knight

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



FORWARD
in FAITH

G R O W I N G W I T H C H R I S T

You Are Invited

Who?

RPUMC Trustees are inviting everyone to attend a “cottage meeting”.

What?

What’s a “cottage meeting”? Small informal gatherings (with snacks) hosted in homes around the city (with two at the church for convenience) where people can meet and talk.

Where?

We have six in-person and one online gatherings. Pick whichever fits your schedule best. (See below)

Why?

Cottage meetings occur for various reasons. These are to celebrate & communicate the recent renovation and repair project for our church campus. Representatives from the Board of Trustees will be at each gathering to answer questions, share a presentation, and invite members to support the work and hope for the future.

JOIN US AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN FAITH, GROWING WITH CHRIST.

Saturday, April 13th @ 6:00 p.m.

John Larsen's home
(Springfield/Downtown area)
1536 N. Pearl St., 32206

Sunday, April 21st @ 12:00 p.m.

RPUMC Fellowship Hall
(Riverside area)
819 Park Street, 32204

Tuesday, April 30th @ 6:30 p.m.

Bonnie and Tom Dudley's home
(Ortega area)
4135 Venetia Blvd., 32210

Thursday, May 2nd @ 6:30 p.m.

Mary and David Holladay's home
(Westside area)
1364 Mayberry Ln., 32221

Saturday, May 4th @ 6:30 p.m.

Peggy and George Ridge's home
(Southside/Mandarin area)
4866 River Basin Dr. N., 32207

Thursday, May 16th @ 6:00 p.m.

RPUMC Fellowship Hall
(Riverside area)
819 Park Street, 32204

Thursday, May 9th @ 6:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

**SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW TO RSVP**





Welcome to our New Members!

Nicholle & Kristen
Griffith
Tucker & Blake



Marsha & Tim MacQueen



Beautiful Phillips



Eric & Meghan Waters
E.J. & Ellie



Karen & Chris Western

Not pictured individually in this newsletter (photos coming soon):

Melissa & David Boor, Brittany Bruce, Amy Collier, Lise' Dabney, Mark DeRolf, Nicholas MacQueen, Stephanie Salzer, Amy Smith, and Stan Stokes.



Welcome to our New Lay Leader Larry Figart



Larry Figart has been a steadfast volunteer of our Wednesday Night Ministry and many other outreach events here at RPUMC and beyond. He has a heart for people and deep love and wonder for God's creation (he works for the UF extension office as a local educator for urban forestry). Larry embodies service, loves Jesus, and will be a wonderful addition to the leadership of RPUMC.

Thank You to Our New "Kitchen Angels" Kit Thomas, Page Thomas & Karen Western



Pictured here are Kit and Karen. They, along with Page, have been cleaning and labeling the cabinets and pantries in our church kitchen and will continue to keep it organized.

First Friday Friends

ministry for senior adults

Meets in the Fellowship Hall on the First Friday.

11:00 a.m. Coffee & Chat

11:25 a.m. Speaker from BabyLuv
a program for young children

12:00 p.m. Lunch
Shepherd's Pie



May 3rd will be our last meeting until September so we are having a great event. Jim Lewis will cook hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill. We'll have picnic fixings inside to enjoy - chips, baked beans, ice cream. Be prepared share something fun for our Show and Tell Day. We will be taking pictures of each person do dress for a picnic. You will get a copy of your picture.

...BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN
THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE
ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS HIS
SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.
1 JOHN 1:7

Young Adults



Our young adult group gathered for an after-worship brunch. Timothy Keatley is our young adult coordinator. Contact the church office to connect.

Women In Mission

Sisters of Service
Tuesday, April 9
7:00 p.m.
Church Parlor
(1st floor, McCord Bldg.)

Circle of Hope
Thursday, April 11
11:00 a.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall
(1st floor, McCord Bldg.)

Circle of Joy & Peace
Wednesday, April 17
11:00 a.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall
(1st floor, McCord Bldg.)



DEEPER SPIRITUAL PURPOSE: STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

by Anthony Strong,
Co-youth delegate to
Church Council

I have been attending Riverside Park United Methodist for over 5 Years, I became an official member two years ago, and there has always been something in the sanctuary that has caught my attention. That being those beautifully made stained glass windows. They all depict specific parts of the bible such as the resurrection and crucifixion of Jesus. Not only that but the method in which they depict these as if they were the storyboards for a show, moving from one point of the story to the next. Something even more interesting is how these stained glass windows do not stop with the Ascension of Jesus; they continue through the Protestant Reformation (an important Christian movement in the 1500s) as well as the story of John Wesley (the founder of the Methodist Church).



These depictions truly help someone, such as me who is a bit scatterbrained and does not always have the focus to sit down and read the bible, to make a deeper connection with their faith. Not only that but these windows have prompted me to research my faith deeper such as looking into who exactly John Wesley was and what his beliefs were. So, these stained glass windows have helped me discover and create a deeper relationship to my faith.

“Deeper Spiritual Purpose” Reflections

Each month, we will ask for “deeper spiritual purpose” reflections. This can be anything—“the deeper spiritual purpose of purple during Lent” or “the deeper spiritual purpose of using your blinker while driving.” The whole point is to seek spiritual depth in our ordinary actions (“Seek and you shall find.”—Matthew 7:7-8) and share it with others—so that all of us can grow (“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17). If you HAVE a reflection to share (or a person/topic to recommend)—contact the church office.



Memorials & Special Gifts

Hardage-Giddens for Wednesday meals

In loving memory of Kim Wilson from her husband, Bob

Because our chancel choir is growing, memorial funds were used to purchase new chairs for the chancel area.

Letter from Bishop Berlin



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Episcopal Office

Bishop Tom Berlin
bishopberlin@flumc.org

March 2024

Riverside Park - Jacksonville United Methodist Church
Rev. Emily Knight
819 Park St
Jacksonville, FL 32204-3322

Dear Rev. Knight:

I'm writing to personally thank you and your congregation for paying 100% of your apportionments in 2023. I am grateful to you and the faithful members of your congregation for your mutual commitment to The Florida Conference and the ministry of The United Methodist Church. Your gifts make a difference. They fund new churches, hospitals and health clinics that save lives in Africa. They bring scholarship assistance to students in universities like Bethune-Cookman University and Florida Southern College. You provide materials for evangelism and discipleship that enable people to begin and sustain their faith journey. Your generosity does this and much more. It gives life to our connection. I am grateful for you and honored to work with and among people who give generously so that others may grow in their faith in Christ and enjoy the love and support of the United Methodist Church.

The ministries of our global denomination depend on your faithful giving every year. The work of our missionaries, the training of our clergy and lay leaders, and the resources for Disciple-making are all possible because of your support. Because of your gifts, lives are changed, and communities experience the goodness of having the Church in their world.

In this season, I ask you to continue to pray with me for The Florida Conference and The United Methodist Church as we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Please know of my gratitude for your ongoing leadership.

In Christ,

Tom Berlin

Family Promise Update

I attended the volunteer coordinator training in March at Family Promise headquarters located at Arlington Congregational Church.

By the time the newsletter is printed, we will be well into our week of sponsoring meals to the families. I want to thank the Women In Ministry groups and individuals for sponsoring the meals that made the week successful for RPUMC.

Hospitality In Action,
Colleen Strong
RPUMC Volunteer Coordinator



Some Facts:

- There are many open weeks left to sponsor meals throughout the year.
- 20 Families are on the wait list to get into Family Promise.
- Family Promise has an 80% success rate (graduation rate).
- Finding employment is vital.
- A Family Promise family has become homeowners, a first for Jacksonville Family Promise.

Wednesday Night Ministry

ITEMS NEEDED



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.

Time for Spring cleaning and a reminder that the clothing needs for our neighbors are changing from the wonderful supply of hats, gloves, jackets, and sweaters you provided to now warm weather items. Space is limited and so are our requests; t-shirts, socks, weather related gear, backpacks, and only basic

hygiene supplies like small soap, toothpaste, and wash cloths. That's it! Household items, children's things, shoes, suits, dressy clothing for men and women are not requested and are not needed. Goodwill will appreciate your donation.

Thank you all for your support and for your prayers.
Bonnie Dudley

Child/Youth Protection Policy Training

All keyholders and volunteers or staff who work with children are required to attend annual Child/Youth Protection Policy training. There will be two in-person options on April 28th and an online option for those unable to attend. For questions, please email the church office at j.hampton@riversideparkumc.com



April 28th
10:15 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
Rhames Fellowship Hall

SAVE THE DATE



Vacation Bible School 2024
June 24-28
9 a.m. - Noon

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



Parents need to register separately (registration is open now), but we will provide transportation.
www.wwumccc.org



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home is now called



Did you know that the 2023 Children's Home goal for each member was \$12.00?

RPUMC received a recognition certificate for meeting that goal! The Children's Home is very honored to have the support of not only RPUMC but many churches throughout the conference.

Let's do it again for 2024!

The goal will stay the same
at \$12.00 per member.



If you feel moved to give a gift to the Children's Home – you can do so through the offering plate or through the My Well app (scan the QR code on the left). *On the gift details page – there is a drop down menu where you can select Children's Home.

The Children's Home Mission Statement is "Empower children and families to experience the transforming love of Christ through evidence-based care and holistic services."

Quick Facts about the Children's Home:

- Serves over 500 children each day in crisis.
- Main campus is in Enterprise, FL and a second campus – the Madison Youth Ranch is in Pinetta, Florida
- Residential programs care for children from the ages of 5-17.
- A child's length of stay varies depending on his/her needs and they give hope, love, and a safe place to call home.

Remaining 2024 5th Sundays:
June 30
September 29
December 29

APRIL Birthdays

- 1st Charlene Grand
Linda Markert
Oliva Take
- 3rd Lorie Anderson
Tre Devine
John Wascom
- 4th Fred Lee
Eli Monk
- 6th Kaylee Drewry
Liam Hernandez
Julia Jarvis
Mark Riechmann
- 8th Theresa Keatley-Miller
- 10th Jackie Lewis
- 14th Peggy McCord
- 15th Yvonne Sloan
- 17th Ellie Roukey
- 18th Sarah Brinson
- 19th Tammy Morreale
- 20th Frances Mathews
- 21st Carole Rooks
Tim Ware
Nieve Wilbourne
- 25th Teresa Hanna
- 26th Lib Creech
Beth Joyner
- 27th David Middleton
Millie Russell
- 28th Kris Gunby
Ed Hanna
- 29th Rhys Weisman
- 30th Suzanne Brooks-Cope
Ivey Hannah

Committee Meetings:

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

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

Church Council
Tuesday, April 16th 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 monthly newsletter in
the mail? How about the weekly
RPUMC Updates sent by email
usually 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
- Emily Popp
- Matthew Popp
- Dallas Renne



All worship services are 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.

APRIL

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 EASTER MONDAY Office Closed	2 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Tai Chi	3 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team	4	5 11 am First Friday Friends	6
7 COMMUNION 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship	8	9 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm SPR/Finance 7 pm Sisters of Service 7 pm Tai Chi	10 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	11 11 am Circle of Hope	12	13 6 pm Cottage Meeting
14 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 5 pm Chancel Ringers	15 6 pm Board of Trustees	16 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Church Council 7 pm Tai Chi	17 11 am Circle of Joy & Peace 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	18	19	20
21 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 11 am Traditional Worship 12 pm Cottage Meeting 5 pm Chancel Ringers	22	23 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Tai Chi	24 3 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Free Dinners 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 9 am Contemporary Worship 10 am Sunday School/Groups 10:15 am Child Protection Training 11 am Traditional Worship 12:15 pm Child Protection Training 5 pm Chancel Ringers	29	30 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Cottage Meeting 7 pm Tai Chi				



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
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Ty Strong, Youth Leader
youth@riversideparkumc.com

Rich Lewis, Organist
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Jack Barnard, Bookkeeper
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Britt Scott, Tech Team Leader
tech@riversideparkumc.com

Nancy Schubiger, Membership Secretary
membership@riversideparkumc.com

Tre Devine, Custodian
t.devine@riversideparkumc.com

Jacksonville, FL 32204

819 Park Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RIVERSIDE PARK



Jacksonville, FL
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