

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

September 10, 2023

Please silence your cell phones.

* Please stand in body or Spirit. **Bold** indicates congregational response.



All are invited to share gifts in the offering plates located at the end of the aisles. The plates will be brought forward prior to the Doxology.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

arr. Burkhart

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Genesis 18:1-7)

As Abraham welcomed the strangers

So God welcomes us.

God greets us with joy

and says, “rest here for awhile.”

God brings out water to wash our dusty feet.

God prepares a meal to nourish our weary spirits.

So let us receive the gracious hospitality of our God.

Let us rest in this holy place

where there is shade and water, food and laughter.

*HYMN

Sing a New Church

D. Dufner, OCP Publications

Tune: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, You have set before us the path but we have wandered on our own to try to find our way.

Sometimes we are like toddlers and we hear Your call and come back.

Other times, we are children testing boundaries, ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back.

And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be cut loose and set free, not knowing how much we still need to seek Your wisdom and guidance.

But most of all, too often we think we are adults and have figured it all our and know our own way, only to stumble and stray so far.

Remind us, parental God, that we are always Your children, that we are never fully grown up in Your sight, that we always have much to learn.

Help us to seek You every day, to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance, and help us to return to the path and walk with You. In the name of Christ, who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. **Amen.** (Silence is kept.)

*SUNG RESPONSE *Create in Me A Clean Heart O God x 2*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.**

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

And also with you.

(Please greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & BIBLE PRESENTATION

Children PreK-5th grade are invited to Faith Formation at this time upstairs.

They will meet families outside, by the picnic after the service. Younger children may go to childcare.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING	Genesis 18:1-15	OT p. 14
SECOND READING	Matthew 19:14	NT p. 21
SERMON	"Laughter"	

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

*HYMN #175 *Seek Ye First*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,**

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

The Rising

Springsteen

Written in 2002 as reflections on 9/11.

*SUNG RESPONSE Hymn #853 *We Are Marching in the Light of God*
We are marching in the light of God x 4

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #716 *God, whose Giving Knows No Ending*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

Clarke

WORSHIP NOTES

Call to Worship written by Joanne Harader. Prayer of Confession written by Rev. Mindi. Declaration of Forgiveness, Prayer for Illumination, Affirmation of Faith and Prayer of Dedication written by John Worster for Presbyterian Outlook.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Thank you to George Kazarian for joining today's Ministry of Music.

Greeter: Susan Lynch

Liturgist: Elizabeth Gardner

Mini Message: Lynda Nadkarni

Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Eula Thomason Silverthorn -- our mother and grandmother, on the occasion of her birthday, by Elizabeth Musick and family.

Fellowship today is the church picnic!

Trustee of the Month: Doug Harvin



To sign up for the weekly emailed announcements, contact the church office, rpcoffice@rpcusa.org or 708-447-1520

Dear RPC,

This month we are getting back into regular church programming, with opportunities for children, youth, and adults of all ages. We might even attempt an all-church retreat next summer. . .

Meanwhile we can also continue to grow through partnership and collaboration. For instance, the Presbytery is sponsoring a "Resilient Woman Retreat." Do we have two or three women who could go to Wheaton on October 6 & 7 for "fellowship, connection, and inspiration?" We need you to represent us!

https://chicagopresbytery.org/event/resilient-woman-retreat/2023-10-06/?mc_cid=963a1e9845&mc_eid=c2d640e1c8

Grace and Peace
Pastor Mark

John Lynch
Lloyd Bradbury
Jack Smith
Greg Reichle



Alice Ann Hand, sister of Elizabeth Musick.
Duci Musick, daughter-in-law of Elizabeth Musick
Scott Aulinskis, and family as he undergoes treatment for brain cancer. Scott is a friend of the Zanders.



PICNIC TODAY! There will be a picnic on the lawn after worship! Sandwiches will be provided. It's going to be a great day to kick off a great school year!

GAGA BALL PIT PROGRESS — We started cleaning off the stage last week to build a Gaga ball pit, but it is going to need some more work. Anyone want to join in the construction fun? No full work party needed -- just an hour here or there will do. Contact Pastor Mark if you are interested in helping out. What is Gaga Ball, you ask? Click here for a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7u1bOd7TzY>)

PET BLESSING — Next Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 am on the lawn. If you can't bring the pet you want blessed, bring a photo.

THEOLOGY ON TAP, 6pm Sept 21st: It's official! Theology on Tap will be back this month on Third Thursdays, 6pm, location TBD. Pastor Mark will lead a discussion on the topic of "[Watershed Discipleship](#)," based on a book of the same name by Ched Myers. <https://watersheddiscipleship.org/what-is-wd/>

WORSHIP IS LIVE! — You can now watch worship live at 10:00 am on our YouTube channel. Go to www.rpcusa.org for the link on the main page. Worship is recorded and uploaded immediately after the service for people to view later as well. Assistants are needed to help monitor the system during worship. If you can help, please contact the office.

RINGERS & SINGERS - FIRST REHEARSAL WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 We meet Wednesdays during the school year from 4:15 - 5:15. Children from ages (almost) 5 - 12 are welcome to join our group. The group is open to the community. Please contact Sally Sloane if you know of a child interested in joining us musikhse@comcast.net or 708-822-0655. There is no tuition for joining this group - no fees whatsoever.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY — Item of the month is **soup**! Any variety. Consider buying a case of 12! We have a blessing of an abundance of produce which led to the purchase of an additional outdoor refrigerator for the LFP. We're hoping 10 donors will each contribute \$100 towards it's purchase, but any donation is most welcome.

SHOE DRIVE — We are collecting gently used and new shoes for children and adults through the end of October. Please put them in the barrel outside the office. Our goal is 2,000 pair so share with your friends and neighbors!

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT – RefugeeOne has welcomed 211 people in the last two months and are hoping we can co-sponsor again soon. Our website for donations is up and running at www.refugeeone.org/riverside. Every donation of any size counts! We also need someone to inventory our current household items to be ready to fill the apartment. If you have a few hours and can type a list, please see Lynda Nadkarni!

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING—By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, one of the special offerings of the PC(USA), we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries. Together we are building God's house where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice. Please mark your donation "Peace & Global Witness Offering". Envelopes are in the back of the sanctuary and in the church office.

SUNDAYS WITH TED & FRIENDS – 6:00 p.m. In person and via Zoom. Contact Doug Asbury for more information at dougasbury@gmail.com.

9/10 —Daniel Karlsson Lönnö - This Is Why So Few Are Having Children Today

9/17—No Sundays with TED today.

PRESCHOOL – A is for apple, arch, ant, and amazing! Tuesday brought an amazing start to the 2023-24 school year! 27 littles came, saw, and conquered the days this week which were all about learning routines and getting to know each other. Three



more littles are welcome to join in the fun. Help us fill to capacity by liking and sharing our Facebook posts and spreading the good news of RPCPS in conversations with neighbors and friends!

THIS WEEK

Today

10:00 am Worship—Sunday School
Kick-Off, Bible Presentation

11:00 am Fellowship—Picnic

6:00 pm Sundays with TED

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Sunday

10:00 am Worship—Blessing of the
Animals

11:00 am Fellowship

2:30 pm Worship at Caledonia

6:00 pm NO Sundays with TED
today

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546

(708) 447-1520, rpcusa.org

Sermons available at

Youtube.com

Riverside Presbyterian, IL

Our Mission Statement:

We gather as a church to:

Celebrate God's presence,

Nurture the Spiritual Life,

Carry the light of Christ into the world,

Serve God by serving others.

RPC Staff

Rev. Mark Zimmerly, Pastor,
mark@rpcusa.org; 708-202-9874

Linda Hutcheson, Office Manager,
rpcoffice@rpcusa.org

Dr. Sally Sloane, Minister of Music,
musikhse@comcast.net

Lynda Nadkarni, Coordinator of Children's
Ministries, lynda@rpcusa.org

Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer,
treasurer@rpcusa.org

Sara Vacek, Tech Manager,
rpcvideo@rpcusa.org

Doug Asbury, Volunteer in Mission,
dougasbury@gmail.com

2023 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders	2023	2024	2025
	Lisa Aulerich Marciniak	Susan Lynch	Betsy Gardner
	Jon Jansky	Carrie Staubus	Ellen Hamilton
	Sandra Kappmeyer	Mary Beth Wynn	Serina Ranft
			Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	2023	2024	2025
	Nancy Dvorak	Jim Marciniak	Thom DeVries
	Elizabeth Musick	Steve Marcus	Paula McCracken
	Marilyn Slanec	Wendy Seifert	Open
Trustees	2023	2024	2025
	Doug Harvin	John McGlennon	Deb Jansky
	Henry Vogel	Lynda Nadkarni	Tom Radigan
	Open	Open	Open