

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

November 26, 2023

Please silence your cell phones.

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is she who made us, and we are hers.

We are God's people, the sheep of her pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to God; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; her steadfast love endures forever.

God's faithfulness is from generation to generation. Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of deliverance, You rescued Daniel from the mouths of the lions when he was punished for worshipping you. Liberate all who are

endangered for the sake of their faith, and rescue us from anything that separates us from worshipping only you, for the sake of the one who made your name known to all people, across land and seas, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. **Amen.**

*HYMN #336 *We Gather Together*

*CALL TO CONFESSION (from Ezekiel 34:11-12)

Thus says the Lord our God: "I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the scattered sheep, so I will seek out my people."

Trusting that God is indeed seeking us, let us confess our sin together:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherding God, you have called to us, but we have not answered. You have sought us out, but we have continued to wander. You have tenderly gathered us together and cared for us, but we have not extended that same care and mercy to others. Forgive us. Remind us. Teach us. Set us free from sin that we might turn toward your love and justice for the whole world. Guide us so that, tentative step after tentative step, we may walk your way. Amen. (Silence is kept.)

*SUNG RESPONSE *God Is So Good*

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Ezekiel 34:15-16)

Thus says the Lord our God: "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak."

**The relentless grace of Jesus Christ always finds and forgives us.
Thanks be to our ever-seeking God!**

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Daniel

Raffi

Children K-5th grade are invited to River Kids at this time and will be brought to fellowship in the social hall after. Younger children may go to childcare.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Daniel 6:6-16

OT p. 827

SECOND READING

Daniel 6:17-27

OT p. 827

SERMON

"Faithful Resistance"

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

*HYMN #647

Give Thanks

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Jesus calls us to reach out and care for our neighbors in need. One way we do that is together as the church: the corporate body of Christ. Let us offer our gifts to God for God's work in our community.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Thanksgiving!

Beck

*SUNG RESPONSE

Praise Him

*Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him!
Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING

Generous God, we bless your name because you have called us and claimed us and sent us into the world to do your will. Receive now this offering, both of our money and our lives. Through these gifts, may the hungry be fed, the thirsty quenched, the naked clothed, and the stranger welcomed. In Jesus' name we pray. **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 #70 *What Does the Lord Require of You*

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Freut euch, ihr Christen alle* Pepping

WORSHIP NOTES

Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Assurance of Pardon, Call for the Offering, Prayer of Dedication written by Rev. Gina Bairby for The Presbyterian Outlook.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Greeter: Jeanine Buttimer

Liturgist: Doug Asbury

Children's Moment: Lynda Nadkarni

Flowers are given in memory of Carlos Jose Rodriguez in celebration of his birthday from the Ranft and Sahlas families.

Fellowship is hosted by Sandra Kappmeyer and Dennis Zander.

Trustee of the Month: John McGlennon



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

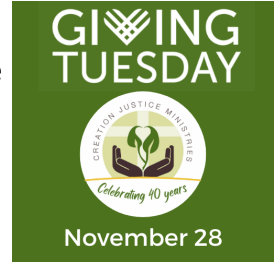
Dear RPC,

Happy Thanksgiving! 'Tis the season to give thanks for all of God's blessings, great and small. So let's write them out; share them around the table; lift them up to God in prayer and praise!

This simple practice is one that we are admonished in scripture to do every day and at all times. And we can be grateful for the Holiday emphasis too :) "In Everything Give Thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

And why not take it a step further? One way to put flesh on our gratitude is to give to others and make offerings to God. Thankfully, next week we have a special opportunity to do just that: **#GivingTuesday**. Now is also the time to prayerfully consider where and how we may feel called to give – for the building up of God's Kin*dom of justice, peace, and joy.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark



STREAMS OF LIVING WATER: 9am Sundays in the Library — Pastor Mark is teaching a class on Christian Spirituality prior to worship. All ages are welcome at this opportunity for learning and practice. The format is drop-in, with a different tradition highlighted during each of the 12 planned sessions. Come when you can, leave when you must! Next Sunday, December 3 will focus on "Franciscan Spirituality".

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — Sunday, December 3, 11:00 am. The church officer nominating committee is currently working on a slate to be presented at this meeting. The Session is also recommending some changes to the church bylaws. Here is the link to the proposed changes <https://bit.ly/49EedLg>



RIVER KIDS — It's simple to teach Sunday School and you get not only smart kids' good conversation, but also smiles like this! Upcoming stories are Daniel in the Lion's Den and Jonah and the Whale. Lynda provides the Bible story, wondering questions, and activity. You provide the leadership and love. Let her know if you're interested in teaching!

Elizabeth Musick, Janet Perryman, Wendy Seifert,
Donna Ulrich, John Lynch, Lloyd Bradbury,
Jack Smith, Greg Reichle
Michael McGillicuddy, friend of Ellen Hamilton.
Larry Buttimer and Mary Harris, brother-in-law and
stepmom of Jeanine Buttimer.



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

11/26 — Historian Tareq Baconi—Origins, Goals and Future of Hamas

12/3 — Historian Ilan Pappé - The Myth of Israel

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IN WORSHIP — December 17 in worship we'll have a new-to-us "participation pageant". As the story is narrated, members of the congregation will bring items to the stage to build a modern visual representation of the Biblical word. Sign up to be part of the program!

<https://tinyurl.com/rpcpageant>

HOLIDAY STROLL — Come hear the acaBELLa Ringers at the Holiday Stroll on Friday, December 1st at 6 pm at First American Bank. This will be the first time ringing here since the pandemic. The bell choir will play until 7 pm. Come hear your Christmas favorites!



PRESCHOOL — Save the Date for our second annual Breakfast with Santa and Vendor Fair! **Saturday, December 2, 8:30 am—2 pm** You're invited to bring a small person in your life to eat with Santa. No small person? No problem! We will also have vendors selling a variety of gift items, raffle baskets and a book fair. Come out to help support the preschool!

We're excited to announce that in January, preschool will be at full capacity! 30 students will be growing and learning every day of the week through the end of May.

WASSAIL BOWL VOLUNTEERS — We need volunteers to help with our traditional Wassail Bowl following the Messiah on Sunday, December 10. If you can bring baked goods, or are able to help with set-up, serving or clean-up, contact Deb Jansky at newhorizons002@gmail.com or 708-822-9557.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday, November 29 at 10:15 am in the library. Contact Elizabeth Musick for more information.



MESSIAH — Even the name Messiah is awe inspiring. Per the dictionary, the definition of Messiah is Expected King and Deliverer. Now that is something to think about! Come celebrate the birth of our Messiah through the music of Handel **December 10th at 4:00 pm.**

MESSIAH MEMORIALS - Express your love in memory or honor of family and friends through a memorial donation. All memorials will be printed in the Messiah concert program. Forms available outside the sanctuary and in the rack outside the office. Make your checks payable to Riverside Presbyterian Church or donate at www.rpcusa.org **LAST DATE TO RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 4**

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE — **Today** immediately after worship we will be packing the truck. Then heading to the north side for an unpack. Help is needed on both ends! Wednesday, we're meeting at 4:30 at O'Hare International Arrivals to greet them and transport to their new home. Greeters and a car or two for transport are desired. Please let Lynda know if you can assist with either or both of these needs!
lynda@rpcusa.org 708-288-0899



TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER WANTED — Our excellent long-time Treasurer, Ellen Hamilton, has decided not to continue in her volunteer position for 2024. The finance committee is looking to possibly split the job into two – a bookkeeper who tracks expenses and a treasurer who cuts checks. If you are interested in helping with one or both of these essential church functions, please contact Elder Mary Beth Wynn.

THIS WEEK**Today**

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
 10:00 am Worship
 11:00 am Fellowship
 11:30 am CE Committee Meeting
 6:00 pm Sundays with TED

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

10:15 am Women's Bible Study
 4:15 pm Ringers & Singers
 6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday

6:00 pm acaBELLa Ringers at
 Riverside Holiday Stroll

Saturday

8:00 am Preschool Breakfast with Santa
 and Marketplace
 10:00 am Messiah Choir Rehearsal

Sunday

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
 10:00 am Worship
 11:00 am Congregational Meeting
 11:15 am Fellowship
 11:30 am Hospitality & Outreach Mtg.
 6:00 pm Sundays with TED

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

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