

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ushers: Megan Foran, Lynda and Nick Nadkarni

Liturgist: Dennis Cobb

Andrew Ministers: Lynda Nadkarni and Cyril Friend

Communion Servers: Patti Friend, Martha Heine, Serina Ranft and David Harper

Coffee fellowship today is the new member potluck reception.

Trustees of the Month: Jon Jansky and Alfred Kitch

RPC REUSABLE BAGS — The Outreach Committee is giving stylish reusable bags with the RPC logo to our new members as a welcome gift. They are also available for purchase for a \$5 donation. Buy 2 or more and have them available in your trunk for shopping!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING – NEED GIFT CARDS???? — You can help RPC Preschool and get a head start on your Christmas shopping using gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip. There are so many vendors, and many of them have bonus offerings from time to time that increase the percentage given back to the church. Remember, these cards are good for their face value—there is no additional cost to you. Please have your order form and check made out to RPC in the office by Thursday for following week delivery. The office has additional order forms. This is an ongoing fundraiser.

WORSHIP AT CANTATA TODAY — The Deacons welcome members to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata at 2 pm today.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS—The office will be open Tuesday, December 26—Friday, December 29 from 9:00 am—noon and Tuesday, January 2—Friday, January 5 from 9:00 am—noon. Marika Floros will be staffing the office over Christmas break.

Mission Statement

We gather as a church family to:

Celebrate God's Presence ~ Nurture the Spiritual Life

Carry the Light of Christ into the World ~ Serve God by Serving Others

RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dale Jackson, Pastor 502-592-1617 (pastor@rpcusa.org)

Linda Hutcheson, Office Manager (rpcoffice@rpcusa.org)

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

Susan Zander, Director of Children's Education (smozan@icloud.com)

Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer (treasurer@rpcusa.org)

Susan Lisle, Preschool Director (rpcpreschool@sbcglobal.net)

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546 ~ (708) 447-1520 ~ rpcusa.org

December 3, 2017 ~ **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today

10:00 Worship

11:00 New Members

Potluck Reception

11:00 Open Gym

11:00 All Church Family

Work Day

2:00 pm Cantata

Monday

6:30 pm Theology on

Tap

7:00 Mission Committee

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

7:00 pm Deacons

Meeting

Wednesday

4:15 pm Ringers &

Singers

6:30 acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday

6:30 am Women's

Forum

Saturday

10:00 am Messiah

Rehearsal

Sunday

8:30 am Human Scene

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship

11:00 Coffee Fellowship

11:15 Support and

Endowment

2:00 pm Messiah

Rehearsal

4:00 Messiah

6:00 Wassail Bowl



God Bless Us Every One: The Redemption of Scrooge

Our Advent Worship series focuses on the classic Charles Dickens story "A Christmas Carol." After visiting the Field Lane Ragged school, one of several establishments for London's half-starved, illiterate street children, Dickens was inspired to write "A Christmas Carol." The treatment of the poor and the ability of a self-interested man redeeming himself by transforming into a more sympathetic character are the key themes of the story. Second Sunday of Advent 12/10 *The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me* ~ Advent Wreath theme: Love ~ Scripture: Matthew 2:1-18

Third Sunday of Advent 12/17 *The Hope of Christmas Future: Scrooge Redeemed* ~ Advent Wreath theme: Joy ~ Scripture: Luke 3:2b-6 ~ The children will help tell the story of Scrooge redeemed as their pageant this year!

Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/24 **10:00 am** a Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion. Advent Wreath theme: Peace ~ Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Christmas Eve 12/24 **4:00 pm** *Amazing Peace* ~ The choir, Bell Choir, Ringers and Singers will all help tell the story of God's gift of Amazing Peace.

Merry Christmas, Dale

SERMONS ONLINE Sermons are now available on line. Visit the church website (rpcusa.org) and find the sermon link under the worship drop down menu or visit vimeo.com by following this link <https://vimeo.com/riversidepresbyterian>

ALL CHURCH FAMILY WORK DAY – today 1- 3 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS DECEMBER — We are celebrating the birth of Jesus in December with the following Sunday school activities:

December 10 — 9:00 am - Assigning parts for the Christmas play and doing a script reading. 3:00 pm - All children are invited to participate in the live creche, taking place prior to the Messiah performance. We have enough roles to go around; please let Susan know if you are interested. **December 16** — Christmas play rehearsal 1:00-2:00 pm. **December 17** — Christmas play during worship. Participants, arrive at 8:30 am to get in costume and perform a final run though. **December 24 & 31**—Sunday School will be on break.

HUMAN SCENE DECEMBER — As we enter Advent, Human Scene will employ three videos from The Work of the People that use images and poetry to invite us to reflect on and prepare for the celebration of God entering into the human story in a way unique in all of history and to ask us how that entrance is meant to change not only our lives but the world. Join us in the parlor at 8:30 a.m. each of the first three Sundays in December.

December 10 - I AM, You Are, We Are - We share a responsive reading composed by Kelly Ann Hall and reflect on the ways in which words form and reform us.

December 17 - Angels and a Holy Night - Kelly Ann Hall invites us to reflect on the God of many names who took on one name and seeks, again, to become many through being born anew in us. **December 24 & 31**—No Human Scene.

THEOLOGY ON TAP — Join us Monday, December 4. Dinner at 6:30, discussion at 7:00 at the Grapevine, 9 West Hillgrove Ave. LaGrange. The Bible is the sourcebook of our Christian faith. It rightly occupies a central place in our study and devotional practice. Yet it has always posed a challenge for those of us who try to read its words and grasp its message. It can be both familiar and foreign, both helpful and puzzling—all at the same time. How can we begin to use and understand the Bible with more confidence? Let's find out!

SAVE THE DATE

- ~ Sunday, December 10 4:00 pm Messiah
- ~ Sunday, December 17 10:00 am Children's Christmas Pageant
- ~ Sunday, December 24 10:00 am Worship with Communion
- ~ Sunday, December 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Poetry

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED — URGENT need for vacuum packed tuna, meat, rice, noodles or any food items that would not freeze in an outdoor pantry. Also needed are granola/cereal bars, boxes of cereal, canned meats and fruits both with pop top or cellophane lids.

COME TO CHURCH ON DEC. 10TH AT 4 PM AND BE LIBERATED! — Yes, you will feel liberated from your cares and concerns for a minimum of 60 minutes when you come listen to Handel's Messiah. A definition of Messiah is savior or liberator. Handel's music will fill the sanctuary, your mood will be lifted, your worries liberated, and don't forget the non-alcoholic libations to follow the performance! Mark your calendar and feel free!

WASSAIL BOWL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — We need volunteers to help with our traditional Wassail Bowl following the Messiah performance on Sunday, December 10th. If you can bring baked goods, or are able to help with set-up, serving or clean-up, please contact Deb Jansky newhorizons002@gmail.com or Karl-Heinz Meyer kalle1015@aol.com

CARERS NEWS — Please continue to fill the CARERS Trunk with nonperishable food items throughout the Christmas season. Consider putting your unused Christmas, holiday greeting cards and envelopes into the CARERS Trunk for use next year. The cards are used by the CARERS for their Companions Journeying Together (Prison Ministry) project. This Christmas season, over 220 cards, with stamps separate and 40 extra stamps were collected. Many thanks for your dedication to this special project.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE for Fellowship and Study — Christmas Wishes ~ May your home be filled with warmth and good cheer this Christmas season and all throughout the year. Women's Circle for Fellowship and Study will not meet in December. We look forward to seeing you January 24 at 10 am in the Social Hall.

HOLIDAY MEMORIALS — Express your love in memory or honor of family and friends through a holiday memorial. All memorials will be printed in the Sunday worship bulletins, and the plants will be displayed in the sanctuary from December 17 to December 24. Forms for Christmas Memorials are available in the rack outside the RPC office, or on the RPC website. Return order to office by December 10.

BRICK PAVERS — Need a gift idea for someone who has everything? Consider honoring a loved one for the holidays with a BRICK PAVER in our outdoor worship area. Or share a favorite Bible verse or saying. The proceeds are added to our Capital Fund to finish paying for the organ restoration. Find forms outside the church office or online at rpcusa.org. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Deems-Dluhy or any Trustee.

LOOSE COIN OFFERING—On the first Sunday of each month, we dedicate all loose coins in the offering plates to the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago for their Food for Life and food distribution programs.