

Riverside Presbyterian Church

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

MARCH NEWSLETTER



GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER & MEDITATION VIGIL — Our Sanctuary will be open from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm for prayer and meditation. The south doors will be unlocked. You are invited to sign up for a minimum of a 30-minute time slot, you may also share your time with a friend or a loved one. This will be a time for you to contemplate God's love, pray for our world, call to mind friends and family who need God's care.

Devotional materials and a list of prayer concerns will be provided for your use.

Lenten Worship Series - Women in the Bible

During Lent we will focus on the stories of some of the lesser known women in the Bible. We will seek to understand the context of their stories and the limitation of the context and encourage them to speak for themselves. We will spend time with Delilah, Rahab, Gomer, Vashti, Jezebel, Lydia, Mary and Martha.

During the Lenten season, the Worship Committee has adorned the church with purple, the traditional liturgical color of the season. The rustic cross was created several years ago by Jon Jansky and is placed in the center of the sanctuary to help us keep focused on the penitential and reflective nature of Lent. The crowns of thorns that are on the hangings at the front of the church were created by artisans in Bethlehem, cut from the thorny branches of plants in the area around Jerusalem.

Palm Sunday, March 25 Procession of Palms

Maundy Thursday, March 29

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Soup Supper

7:00 pm – 7:45 pm Communion Service in Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 1

Sunrise Service 6:30 am, Doug Asbury leading the Service. There will be a light breakfast in the manse immediately following the service.

Worship at 10:00 am with Communion

Sunday, April 8, Jazz Sunday

HUMAN SCENE — During Lent we will learn about the Holy Land. We will explore the geopolitical history of the region and look at Bible passages which pertain to specific regions. Some of the areas to be discussed are: Jezreel Valley, Galilee, Jordan, Judean Wilderness and Jerusalem. If you are planning to attend the Holy Land Trip in September this will be an excellent Human Scene to attend.

THEOLOGY ON TAP — We gather at 6:30 pm Mondays for dinner, and our discussion begins at 7:00 at Grapevine, 9 W. Hillgrove Ave, La Grange, IL. We are reading *Unbelievable* by Bible scholar and Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong who contends that “there is mounting pressure among Christians for a radically new kind of Christianity—a faith deeply connected to the human experience instead of outdated dogma. In *Unbelievable*, Spong outlines twelve “theses” to help today’s believers more deeply contemplate and reshape their faith. As an educator, clergyman, and writer who has devoted his life to his faith, Spong has enlightened Christians and challenged them to explore their beliefs in new and meaningful ways. In this, his final book, he continues that rigorous tradition, once again offering a revisionist approach that strengthens Christianity and secures its relevance for generations to come.” Amazon \$18.29



DEACONS POTLUCK— Wearing the green and eating the greens on March 18th In celebration of Saint Patrick's Day, we're asking that you wear something green, and bring your favorite Irish food, or a green dish to pass at the March Pot Luck. Lastly, green M & M's are not in the food pyramid.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS —The March-April *Upper Room* devotionals are in the rack outside the offices.

WORSHIP AT CANTATA AND CALEDONIA — Join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata on March 4 at 2 pm, and at Caledonia on March 18 at 2 pm.

ALL CHURCH FAMILY WORK DAY — Sunday, March 18 1- 3 pm.

OPEN GYM — Sunday, March 4. All kids are invited up to the gym after service. Please wear gym shoes!

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS —Vacuum packaged meats, peanut butter, string cheese, oatmeal, individually wrapped toilet tissue, small packages of powdered laundry detergent. No granola/cereal bars needed at this time.

COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER FOR MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT— Each year we supply packets of pretty writing materials to imprisoned women and juveniles, so they have something nice to send their mother or children on Mother's Day. Once again, we ask your help. Materials needed: postage stamps, stationery (not white), note cards: blank, Mother's Day, Thinking of You, gallon zip lock bags, donations to help cover delivery costs. Please make checks payable to: Companions, Journeying Together, Inc. Do not send cards, envelopes or stationery that has anything glued, pasted or taped on it or stickers attached. Donations are due by March 4.

THE PRESCHOOL BOOK FAIR AND RAFFLE — March 2-8 This is the Preschool's biggest fundraiser. We have some great baskets for our raffle this year!

WOMEN'S CIRCLE for Fellowship and Study — meets **Wednesday, February 28** at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. All women are welcome to join us for coffee, fellowship and study as we discuss "*Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*" by Melissa Bane Sevier. Lesson Six "In Community with the Reality of the Present". Hebrews 2:10-18 and 10:34-35; Mark 8:31-38 Ellen Hamilton, Leader. We will meet in March on Wednesday, **March 28** at 10:00 am in the Social Hall to discuss Lesson Seven "In Community with the Hope of the Future".

CARERS CORNER MARCH — Fill the CARERS Trunk for BEDS Plus in LaGrange. BEDS Plus provides a safe overnight shelter and services needed to help people escape homelessness. Beverages are needed. Please give ground Decaf Coffee and drink mixes such as Lemonade, Cider and Cocoa. Individual serving packets are not preferred. No Tea, they have plenty.



TROOP 24/PACK 24 PANCAKE BREAKFAST —Saturday, March 3rd 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 if purchased in advance – available from scouts and the church office. Thank you for your support at our annual fundraiser!

PRESCHOOL NEWS — Registration for the 2018-2019 preschool year has begun. If you know someone who is looking for a fun and educational preschool, please have them contact us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — This month in Sunday School we will be talking about the choice to fill your heart and mind with goodness. **March 4:** We will be playing a "Noticing Game" and making Goodness Jars in Creation Station.

March 11: Join us in Oasis Place as we dissect the Lord's Prayer by acting out the words. We will discuss Matthew 6:6 and what Jesus meant about praying in secret.

March 18: The children will play games in the gym and practice feeling for inner guidance in all decisions before reacting. **March 25:** The children will all gather together for a Celebration Sunday in the Westminster room. We will discuss how Jesus' self-sacrifice on behalf of others was the highest form of courage and make 'Hosanna' posters. Sunday school will be on break for Easter Sunday, 4/1 and will return 4/8.

OUTREACH NEWS — The Holy Spirit is moving us to actualize our 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, and Serve God by Serving Others."

Mark your calendar for the 5th Sundays of the month in 2018 (April 29th, July 29th, September 30th and December 30th). RPC will be launching a new and innovative way to combine mission, outreach and worship at the same time! We will be interacting with the community and sharing the love and grace of God. RPC will be open, but worship won't take place at 116 Barrypoint Road on these days. More information and education on the 5th Sunday will be forthcoming.



TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT RETURNS! The Second Annual RPC Team Trivia Night will be hosted by the RPC Youth Group on Saturday, April 7. Trivia will start at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds will support the Youth Mission Trip to Detroit as well as RPC's mission and ministry to the community

and beyond. This second year event will be bigger and better with new categories of trivia, cash prizes, a gift package raffle, a 50/50 raffle, games, and fair ways to "cheat" by purchasing mulligans!

Invite your family and friends (bring everyone!) to fill a table. The entry fee is \$160 per table (\$20 per person) for teams of 8 people. To reserve a table, there's a sign up sheet outside the church office, or contact Dennis Cobb at dlc0906@gmail.com. If you can't fill a table on your own, let Dennis know and we'll have a running list from which teams will be created. You're invited to bring snacks for your table (dinner if you want!) and popcorn, soda, beer, and wine will be available for a donation.

Everyone had a great time last year, and this year promises to be even better, so bring your friends and test your trivia knowledge!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- approved having an on-line pictorial membership directory at RPC
- approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper on April 29, when RPC will hold its regular Sunday morning Worship at Caledonia Homes (former Scottish Home) instead of at RPC's Sanctuary.
- approved placing a "no hand guns" sign at RPC's doors
- noted with sadness that Christ Church of North Riverside (former North Riverside Community Presbyterian Church) had closed as of December 31, 2017.
- approved the baptism on Michael Tagliere, son of Michael and Hope (DeVries) Tagliere on Saturday, April 21

Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session

PER CAPITA—If you haven't already paid your Per Capita, please do so. RPC must pay the Presbytery of Chicago \$33.61 per member, and your help will defray our cost.

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)
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