

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ushers: Nancy Dvorak and Fred Kitch

Liturgist: Ellen Hamilton

Andrew Ministers: Lynda Nadkarni and Patti Perry-Halline

Trustees of the Month: Jon Jansky and Fred Kitch

NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TODAY—Coffee Fellowship is cancelled today to set up for the Wassail Bowl that will follow today's performance of the Messiah. It's not too late to help. Let Deb Jansky or Karl-Heinz Meyer know after service today if you can set up, bake or clean up.

THEOLOGY ON TAP resumes in January. We are reading *A Bigger Table* by John Pavlovitz. The book asks if organized Christianity can find a new way of faithfully continuing the work Jesus began two thousand years ago, where everyone gets a seat. Pavlovitz shares moving personal stories and his careful observations as a pastor to set the table for a new, more loving conversation on these and other important matters of faith. He invites us to build the bigger table Jesus imagined, practicing radical hospitality, total authenticity, messy diversity, and agenda-free community. If ordering the book on Amazon remember to use Amazon Smile and the church will receive a contribution.

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.

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 10, 2017 ~ **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today

10:00 Worship

11:15 Support and
Endowment Meeting

1:30 pm Messiah

Rehearsal

4:00 Messiah

6:00 Wassail Bowl

Monday

7:00 Trustees Meeting

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

4:15 pm Ringers &
Singers

6:30 acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 Chancel Choir

7:30 Session Meeting

Thursday

6:30 am Women's
Forum

Friday

10:00 am CARERS

Saturday

1:00 pm Children's
Christmas Program

Dress Rehearsal

Sunday

8:30 am Human Scene

8:30 Christmas Program
Rehearsal

10:00 Worship-

Children's Christmas
Program

11:00 Coffee Fellowship

2:00 pm Caledonia



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. 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

CARING CHRISTMAS – I had the pleasure of delivering a plate of cookies to one of our members in a nursing home this past week. This member has family and friends who visit her regularly; when seeing the plate of cookies, she started to cry, her heart was so full. She wanted me to express her thanks and send her love. If you wonder how important Caring Christmas is to the recipients, wonder no more! It is not the size of the plate, not the complexity of the craft, not how many people sign the card, it is the fact that we remember and care for them. Thank you, Deacons for a wonderful ministry. -- Dale

SERMONS ONLINE Sermons are now available online. 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>

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

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 through. **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 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.

SAVE THE DATE

- ~ Sunday, December 17 10:00 am Worship including Children's Christmas Program
- ~ 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.

MESSIAH IS TODAY AT 4 PM — What takes over 250 hours to prepare for, and 75 minutes to enjoy? Preparing for the Messiah concert starts mid-summer, and ends today. Best 75 minutes of the week, and one of the best ways to start the Christmas spirit in your heart. Concert begins at 4:00!

WASSAIL BOWL RECEPTION — Please join us for the Wassail Bowl Reception following The Messiah.

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.

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.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES — Beginning on December 17th, we will have the 2018 Offering Envelopes available for pickup in the hallway by the offices. We have contracted with a new company, thereby generating a savings of close to \$500 from prior years. You will note a new look and also new numbers. (The change in provider required new numbering – there will be an alphabetical list on the table to make it easier to find your set, plus they are identified by name.) If you are an electronic giver, or have otherwise informed me you did not want to use envelopes, you were omitted from the order. However, we did order some extra sets just in case, so contact the office if you change your mind.

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!