

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

January 21, 2024

Please silence your cell phones.

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE

Lamb of God

Paris/Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 36:5-10, John 2:1-11)

God of wedding parties and new wine,
of love and laughter, dancing and singing,

We are here to worship, for in your Light we see light.

We would bow before you as empty vessels waiting to be filled.

In the name of the Christ who makes all things new:

May we be filled with a sense of your presence.

May we be transformed by the touch of your spirit.

Fill us with new energy; with your power; with trust and faith.

OPENING PRAYER

O God of steadfast love, at the wedding in Cana your Son Jesus turned water into wine, delighting all who were there.

Transform our hearts by your Spirit, that we may use our varied gifts to show forth the light of your love as one body in Christ. **Amen.**

*HYMN #321 (v. 1, 2, 5) *The Church's One Foundation*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (inspired by John 2:1-11)

Lord, we need a miracle today. Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, we need a miracle today. We are tired, Lord, of the hurts of this world. We are discouraged in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference. We need a miracle today, Lord. Your steadfast love, like a mighty mountain, will not be moved. Your gifts, as many as the mighty winds, cannot be counted. Your glory, like a mighty torch, will not be put out. Lord, crown us with your love. Show us your glory, that in you we may be moved to acts of kindness, love, justice, and mercy. Lord, we need a miracle today. **Amen.**
(Silence is kept.)

*SUNG RESPONSE *There Is a Balm in Gilead* GG#792

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation. Receive the good news of God's grace: We are forgiven!

*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

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

Mark 2:18-21

NT p. 36

SERMON

"Water Into Wine"

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

*HYMN #637 (v. 1, 2, 4) *O Sing to the Lord (Cantad al Señor)*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

With open hearts and open hands, we let go of the things that possess us, we offer our gifts to God, and we dedicate our lives in service to Jesus Christ. Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY *O Love, How Deep* Stillman & Frackenpohl

*SUNG RESPONSE *Have Thine Own Way*

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

**Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING

Holy God, change our hearts and our lives. Renew us by your good news. Use the gifts we bring for your holy work of transformation, as we seek to go where Jesus leads us. 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 (vs. 1, 2, 3) *Sing a New Church* D. Dufner, OCP Publications
Tune: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

WORSHIP NOTES

Assurance of Pardon, Call for the Offering, Prayer of Dedication written by Stephanie Sorge for The Presbyterian Outlook. Call to Worship written by Thom Shuman. Opening Prayer from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers. Prayer of Confession written by Erik Alsgaard.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Greeter:

Liturgist: Doug Asbury

Children's Moment: Lynda Nadkarni

Fellowship: in the social hall following worship.



GIVE!



Elizabeth Musick, Donna Ulrich, John Lynch,
Lloyd Bradbury, Jack Smith
Healing for Dylan, fiancée of Kayla, childcare provider.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — Sunday, January 28th, immediately following worship. Please submit annual reports to the office ASAP. The business of the meeting includes a presentation of the annual budget and a vote on pastoral terms of call. We will also be voting on two new recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

URGENT NEED FOR A TREASURER — We have yet to find a member who is willing to take on the full responsibilities of the church treasurer position, and basic functions are needed in the interim, such as processing checks and paying staff. Can you or someone you know help out this month? If so, please contact Elder Mary Beth Wynn or Pastor Mark.



Learn more
about us!



Dear RPC,

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." -Ecclesiastes 3:1

This week I have been admiring the unique state of the river and the Swan Pond – all frozen over for a brief stint. In some places it looks almost solid enough to skate on! Almost. The scene is so beautiful that I almost wish it would last longer. Almost! I also look forward to going for a walk without five layers of clothing on.



And that's the thing about seasons in our lives and seasons in the church. For every blessing there is usually a corresponding difficulty of some kind, and vice-versa. So the trick is to not get too invested in one or the other, but rather accept it all as part of God's good creation. In good times and bad we can remember that, by the grace of God, this too shall pass.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark

STATE OF THE CHURCH SATURDAY— January 27th, 9am-12pm. The purpose of this leadership gathering is to consider where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. We will revisit the results of last year's Holy Cow assessment and begin a conversation around strategic planning for congregational renewal. All are welcome and encouraged to come and see what the Holy Spirit is up to at RPC.

WORSHIP AT CALEDONIA TODAY—Sunday, January 21 at 2:30 pm.

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT, June 7-9th: Please mark your calendars for this weekend at Tower Hill Retreat Center, which is adjacent to the Warren Dunes in Michigan. We hope to have around 40 participants including children, and including YOU! The facilities are wheelchair accessible and have air conditioning. Join us as we pray, sing campfire songs, play on the beach, eat smores, and build beloved community. Registration will be available in February.

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER—9am Sundays in the Library —Next Sunday, January 21 will focus on "Global Pentecostalism".

RIVER KIDS —Facilitator desired for February 18 to lead a story of one of the many miracles of Jesus. Lynda provides all the materials. You provide the time from after the children’s message through the end of worship. It’s as easy as reading the story, asking wondering questions and leading a game or craft. lynda@rpcusa.org if you can participate. Thanks!

SUNDAYS WITH TED & FRIENDS —6:00 pm Contact Doug Asbury for more information at douglasbury@gmail.com. Over the next several weeks, we will be considering American foreign policy and its effects on life in our nation as well as on our image and influence in the rest off the world.

1/21 — Al Ronzoni—The Monroe Doctrine at 200

STEWARDSHIP 2024 — When you have had time to reflect and pray, please make your 2024 Stewardship Pledge to Riverside Presbyterian Church. Pledge cards are available in the back of the church or church office or simply by connecting to https://rpcusa.org/form_pledge. **Please return all cards asap.**



**IT'S TACO
TIME**

TACO DINNER FUNDRAISER — Tickets now on sale for the Taco Dinner fundraiser for refugee resettlement on February 3 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. You can purchase them through the church office or use the QR code. Adults are

\$15 and children under 10 are \$5 for all you can eat chicken, beef and vegetarian tacos, rice, beans, chips dessert and soft drinks. Adult beverages available for an additional donation. Link to purchase tickets:

<https://donorbox.org/events/544949>



BEDS PLUS SOUP & BREAD 2024 — Sunday, February 4th, 3-7 pm at Holiday Inn Banquet Center, 6201 Joliet Rd., Countryside. Tickets \$25/person. Kids under 8 are free!

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY — Each month the Mission Committee challenges the congregation to stock the shelves with a particular food group. Items of the month for January are **oatmeal, cereal, cereal bars** - any variety.

CONFIRMATION MENTORS — This year we have four students participating in a joint confirmation program with First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. They have been meeting weekly on Sunday nights since September, and will continue on to Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. Please keep praying for them! At this time we are also looking to pair our confirmands with adult mentors from the congregation. If you feel called to this form of service, please contact Pastor Mark.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE — Thursday, February 1 from 5:00 – 6:30. Please share the good news of our preschool with families you know and invite them in! You can also help spread the word by liking, commenting and sharing our Facebook posts.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS AND MUSICIANS-TO-BE! The acaBELLa Ringers, RPC's adult bell choir, has been in existence since 2004. We have always welcomed non-members and middle school and high school students as well as RPC members. Since the pandemic, we are in need of more ringers and subs. We will train you! It's a great group of 12+ people who enjoy making music and fellowship together. HS students - did you know there are college scholarships for bell ringing? You can add this skill to your resume. Seniors - this is a fantastic brain enhancing activity. So pass the word, and please send a few new ringers our way. Rehearsals are Wednesdays evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 during the school year. sallysloane@me.com or 708/822-0655

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PIPE ORGAN? RPC's mighty pipe organ has been silent since 12/20/23. The Wednesday before Christmas Eve our ancient (1950's) blower finally gave out. The blower was one of the very few things not addressed when we did the Capital Improvement program in 2016. At that time the organ received a much-needed \$75,000 renovation. Christmas Eve was accompanied by piano and guitar. Almost immediately RPC friends and members began to send \$\$ to the Organ Renovation Fund. While we don't know the exact cost of the renovation yet, we have started a very healthy fund for the renovations. Our organ technician is currently working on the extent of the repair. More checks are welcome of course! Should you choose to give online, please indicate Organ Renovation Fund. Until the organ returns, there will be no postludes. The silence is deafening.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR POSITION — Linda Hutcheson has given notice that she will be resigning her position as of the end of this month, after over 16 years of service to the church! We can look forward to celebrating her work with us at a special social hour following the congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28th. In the meantime, the church will be looking to fill this essential half-time staff position ASAP. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Pastor Mark.

PICKLEBALL IN THE GYM — Kathi Rocanova and Serina Ranft are now helping facilitate groups of four people to play pickleball on our new court in the gym. If you would like to join in, the best way to find a time to play is to download the free app, TeamReach, and enter the code, 116Barrypoint. Beginners are welcome and we have extra paddles to share.

THIS WEEK

Today

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Fellowship
11:30 am Mission Committee Meeting
2:30 pm Worship at Caledonia
6:00 pm Sundays with TED

Monday

5:15 pm Open Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

2:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting
4:15 pm Ringers & Singers
6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday

9:00 am State of the Church Meeting
11:00 am Open Pickleball

Sunday

9:00 am Christian Spirituality Class
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting
11:15 am Fellowship
11:30 am Christian Ed Meeting
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

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2024 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders	2024	2025	2026
	Open	Betsy Gardner	John McGlennon
	Carrie Staubus	Serina Ranft	Debra Myers
	Mary Beth Wynn	Dennis Zander	Steven Teune
			Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Jim Marciniak	Nancy Dvorak	Brad McClain
	Steve Marcus	Thom DeVries	Natalie Witek
	Wendy Seifert	Paula McCracken	Virginia Yang