



The Vision

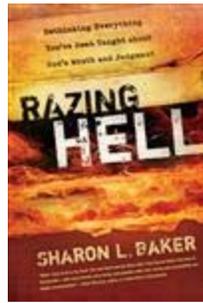
November 2010

We are called to celebrate God’s presence; Nurture the spiritual life of each individual; Carry the light of Jesus Christ to the world; and Serve God by serving others.

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Razing Hell



Recently, you gifted me with a continuing education week for reading. And now I’m going to do something I have not yet done in twenty plus years of ministry—recommend a book to the entire church.

You may wonder why I have never done that before. The answer is, I have never been so impressed with a book that I felt was written for a lay audience. Not even my own book qualifies for this honor (because it is not written for a lay audience). Also, I harbor a guilty conscience for having a very large stack of books that have been recommended to me (which I have not had time to read) and am hesitant to add to anyone else’s guilt stack.

Razing Hell: Rethinking Everything You've Been Taught About God's Wrath and Judgment was written by Sharon Baker and published by Westminster John Knox Press in August, 2010. I believe that the subject matter of this book touches the lives of every adult (confirmed) member of this church. I recommend it for Men’s Forum, Women’s Forum, Companions in Christ, small group Bible studies, confirmation class extra credit reading, or any other educational group in the church. I hope that many of you will read it. You can buy it from all the usual outlets or check out the copy from the church library or from the public library.

What is the book about, you ask? Well, the title is pretty straightforward (as is the author’s writing style). The understanding of God’s judgment is a keystone in understanding our own salvation and how we should view people with whom we disagree. But it is also critical, as she explains, in laying a foundation for how we behave toward others. We are created in the image of God and encouraged to follow in God’s ways. So, it is natural for us to act towards others in the way that we believe God acts towards others. But what if our beliefs are misguided?

Ms. Baker does not “raze” the traditional notion of Hell by eliminating it and declaring that all persons are treated equally by God, regardless of their lives. However, she does offer a substitute notion of “Hell” that retains divine Judgment, but eliminates any hint of a God who acts out of wrath. She portrays a God who seeks redemption and reconciliation, not retribution.

If you have ever been wronged, if you have ever felt that someone has “sinned against you,” then this book will help you consider your options in light of God’s ways. Or, if you have evangelized someone who seemed turned off by a God who was portrayed as vengeful or vindictive, then this book will give you some alternative answers.

To give you just a taste, consider the question—Can a God of justice sentence a sinner to an eternal/infinite punishment for a finite/temporal sin? I agree with Ms. Baker that the answer is No. But where does that leave us?

Currently we have an all-church book discussion scheduled for January 22, 2010—details to be announced.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott Jansen

November Worship Schedule

November 7 *Luke 20:27-38* “Making Sense of Resurrection”

What happens to our earthly relationships when we arrive in Heaven? What do we think of visits from the spirits of the deceased (Halloween images)? We will consider our place in God’s family, both pre and post resurrection, while we celebrate Communion.

November 14 *2 Thessalonians 3:6-13* “The Devil’s Workshop”

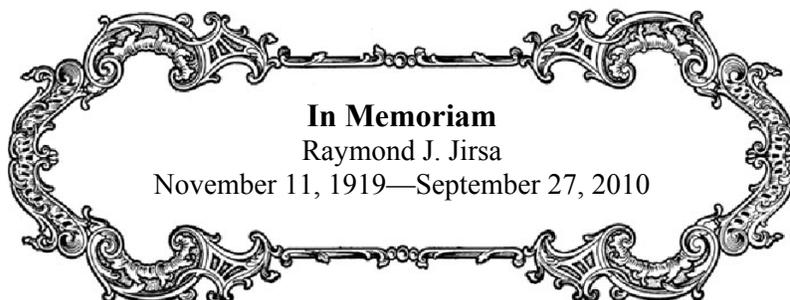
Is it important merely to believe the right things, or is it also important to do good deeds? In the early Christian community, where love was shown to all in need and material assets were shared in common, what was the greatest temptation? Also, we will make mention of Veterans’ Day.

November 21 *Luke 23:33-43* “The Kingdom of Love”

What did “kingdom” mean to folks in Bible times? How was Christ’s “Kingdom” different from that? Today is “Christ the King” Sunday. But we’ll also have a bit of a Thanksgiving theme.

November 28 *Matthew 24:36-44* “Being Ready for God”

How do we live a life of readiness for God’s Incarnation? How does “being ready” differ from “getting ready?” What was the author calling on his readers to do differently? This Sunday begins the Season of Advent.



Messiah

RPC’s annual performance of Handel’s Messiah will be held on Sunday, December 12, at 4:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal for orchestra and singers is at 1:30 p.m. Choral rehearsals are Saturdays, December 4 and December 11, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

This year's soloists are: Theresa Ludden-Wold, Erika Morrison, Wayne Parham and Pete Pohlhammer.

Church Officers Needed



The Nominating Committee is recruiting nominees for church officer positions for three-year terms beginning in January of 2010, and a new Nominating Committee to serve a one-year term. If you are interested in serving as a church officer, or if you would like to nominate fellow members, please [complete the nominating form](#) and return it to a Nominating Committee member, to the church office, or place it in the offering plate on Sundays. It is the goal of the Nominating Committee to include as many people as possible in the process, and to recruit officers from all constituencies within our congregation. Your input is appreciated, and we encourage you to consider nominating yourself as well as a fellow church member.

Session News

During October, the Session did the following:

- received David Schade and Evaine Stahrr as new members;
- approved a request from Pro Se services to expand their bread distribution to include additional food items and become an official outlet of the Chicago Food Depository, utilizing limited space in the Manse for storage;
- transferred the following members from the active roll to the inactive roll, at their request: Richard & Ellen Benya, William & Leila Colbrese, William & Anna Dill Hartford, Gerry Hejna, Ben McCoy, and Sara, Kristina & Katy Wert;
- decided to discontinue a second child care room during Worship due to lack of usage;
- learned that the Saugatuck Camp property is again being offered for sale, with no restrictions on its future use;
- discussed concerns about the projected year-end budget deficit and how to best achieve a balanced budget; and
- received final plans for the fall Pledge Drive and noted that the majority of RPC members do not pledge to support the church.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Trustees News

All Church Family Work Day on November 21, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Trustees of the Month for November: Lou Heine, Jon Jansky

November Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Deb Jansky](#) or [Patti Perry Halline](#)
For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)
Potential Acolytes, Liturgists & Ushers, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
November 7	Tony Miezio	Samantha Miezio	Scuff Gross & Dennis Sadilek Bill & Colleen Muller	Sadilek Family	Melinda Yachnin
November 14	Matt Lisle	Natalie Lisle	Claire & Louise Gangware Serina & Hannah Ranft	Ourth Family	Aieta Family
November 21	Girls' Group	Girls' Group	Vogel Families Meyer Family	Mitchell Family	Deb & John Jansky
November 28	Marilyn Slanec	OPEN	Sanlee & Tom Radigan OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Sharing Our Gifts

CARERS Corner

During the month of November we are remembering [BEDS PLUS](#). They always have a need for hot drinks (decaf coffee, tea, cocoa) cold drinks (dry mixes of lemonade, cider, fruit juices). They can always use napkins, paper towels, toothpaste and toothbrushes as well as cough drops, disposable razors, and shaving cream. BEDS PLUS relies on donations to help keep operating costs low. They thank you for caring.



Pecans ▪ Pecans ▪ Pecans!



For years the RPC women have handled the sale of pecans to benefit the [Erie Neighborhood House](#). The funds raised benefit the Team Tutoring Program for college-bound high school students. Again this year, one-pound bags of freshly harvested pecan halves will be sold for \$8.00. Orders will be taken during the church coffee hour on Sundays, or orders can be placed with Carol Sprunger or Edie Wakely. Checks should be made payable to: Erie House Women's Auxiliary.

Cheerful Givers

Current needs of the Christian Education Department are now listed on the Cheerful Givers Bulletin Board, which is located next to the Library in the hallway. There you will find items that have been requested to help our church youth and members, such as a printer, ink cartridges, and mouse pads for the new Computer Lab, a new set of bean bag chairs, dry-erase marker sets, and replacement books for the Children's Library where books were damaged by water.



The next time you would like to celebrate a loved one's birthday, anniversary, or special day, please remember the Cheerful Givers Board – give an honorary or memorial gift donation to RPC, and celebrate the special people in your life.



CROP Walk

On October 17, RPC members joined their neighbors to raise awareness and funding for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting agencies. 2,000 communities across the country take part in the [CROP walk](#) each year. This year the total raised in Riverside was \$4,822.

How much money did the RPC walkers raise this year? \$2,157— with \$1,762 of that by the Youth group. **Thank You** to those who walked and to those who supported the walkers with their pledges.

Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status, as of the end of September:

(75% of the way through the year)

Receipts	\$207,779	57.9% of budget
Disbursements	\$243,577	67.9% of budget
Deficit	(\$35,798)	



Kids and Stewardship

This time of year there's a lot of talk about Stewardship, but where do kids fit into this conversation? Recently, Sunday school children received their own boxes of offering envelopes. Kids are naturally giving creatures, and this gives them the opportunity to share with those less fortunate than themselves. 100% of Sunday school offerings go to the Heifer Foundation to purchase animals for poor families in developing countries. Because we have been so blessed by God, we are asked to share our blessings with others. We ask that any offering made by a child be their very own money. Even a few pennies can have a positive impact on a child who gives from the heart. It's not the quantity that matters, but the spirit in which it is given.



Scouts



In October, the Cub Scouts held a bike trip on the Centennial Trail and camped at the Scout Cabin, complete with a hayride and pumpkin carving. Seven Webelos scouts went on a 3-hour tour of Vulcan McCook Quarry, and the scouts continued to sell popcorn—their biggest fundraiser for the Pack. Among the Boy Scout events for the month were an overnight outing to the Experimental Aviation Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where those participating earned the Aviation merit badge. The scouts also spent a wet weekend at Camp Lakota in Woodstock for a DesPlaines Valley Council Camporee celebrating scouting's 100th anniversary, with historic exhibits and historic merit badges.

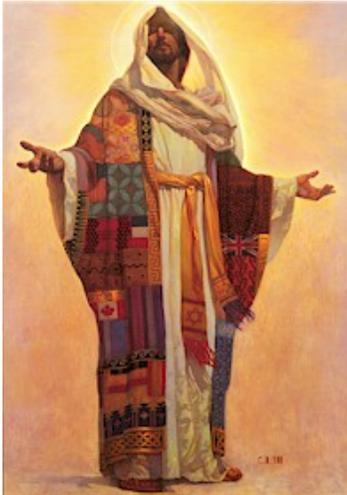
Spaghetti Dinner October 3



The Youth Group assisted with the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser by cooking and serving the meal.



Joseph in Egypt: There's More to the Story



This month in Sunday School, Joseph's story continues. We'll explore Joseph's time in Egypt and learn how God walks with him on his journey. In the **Living Waters** computer lab, *Susan Lynch* will guide kids in creating cards to express an apology and study the story of Joseph in relation to repentance. In the **Manse Kitchen**, *Allie Burke and Annie Mitchell* will teach the kids how to make "12-Tribe Trail Mix." They'll learn how 12 brothers became united as the 12 tribes of Israel, and then discuss the role of blessings in our lives today. In the **Creation Station**, kids learn about famine in Joseph's time, then visit a "Wacky Farm" with *Jeanine Buttimer* to learn about sustainable agriculture and famine today. In the **Gym**, kids will play adapted versions of familiar games with *Susan Deems-Dluhy* to better understand Joseph's quest for the identity of his family.

Many thanks to all of our wonderful Sunday school volunteers who so generously contribute their time and talents to the children of RPC. We couldn't do it without each one of you!

	K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th/5th	Jr. High
11-7	Gym	Living Waters	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station
11-14	Living Waters	Gym	Creation Station	Manse Kitchen
11-21	CELEBRATION SUNDAY! : All Classes Meet in the Social Hall			
11-28	<i>Christmas Around the World</i> : Class locations to be determined			



November's Memory Verse

Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people.

Genesis 50:19

Calling All Kids: *Christmas is Coming!*

Mark your calendars—December 19 will be our Children's Christmas Pageant. Many roles are available: narrators, actors, singers, musicians...something for everyone. Watch your mail for more information coming soon. If your child would like to participate, please contact Jenny Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net. Minimal rehearsals, and no memorization is needed, but there will be a mandatory dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 18.



The month of October found us very busy with 'Community' events. The Preschoolers walked to visit the Riverside Library, and to visit the Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week. During the week of Halloween, the children dressed in their costumes, made our traditional visits to the British and Scottish Homes to sing for the residents - FUN was had by all. Thanks to everyone in the church family for donating aluminum cans for recycling. Thanks to your efforts, our preschool families, and a matching contribution from Riverside Bank, a donation of over \$165 was made to the BEDS program. Thanks again! Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Girls' Group

The RPC Girls' Group is off to a great start this fall. So far, we have enjoyed playing games, tie-dying clothing, doing yoga, dialoguing with an African-American speaker and making candy. The Girls' Group is open to all girls and friends of RPC in grades 6-9. We meet at the church on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:15 pm. During the month of November, before Thanksgiving, we will focus on prayer and meditation and close out the month with a evening of learning self-defense. Please contact Mary Koon at maryinwi@hotmail.com with any questions or for further information. We look forward to a great month together!



November 2: Meditation and Fiber Art with Stephanie Ewing. Come and learn the basics of crochet and how fiber art helps Stephanie feel closer to God. Stephanie is a 2010 graduate of Chicago Theological Seminary and works in their Admission Department.

November 9: Part I This will be a sort of crazy-quilt night of games, discussion about prayer and making a craft.

November 16: Part II of our crazy-quilt activities. We will culminate the evening by writing a prayer and preparing to be part of worship on November 21.

Sunday, November 21: Girls' Group to help in worship.

Thanksgiving Week: *No Girls' Group* - enjoy time with your families!

Tuesday, November 30: Self-Defense with Katie Rufa. Katie is a certified self-defense instructor, and will teach defense techniques as well as promote good body image.



The Youth Group biked and hiked at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve on October 10.



Youth

November Meeting Schedule

November 7 ▪ Regular Meeting at Ascension We will meet at regular times (Junior High 6:00-7:15, Senior High 7:30-8:45) to play games and have a discussion on a topic to be determined.

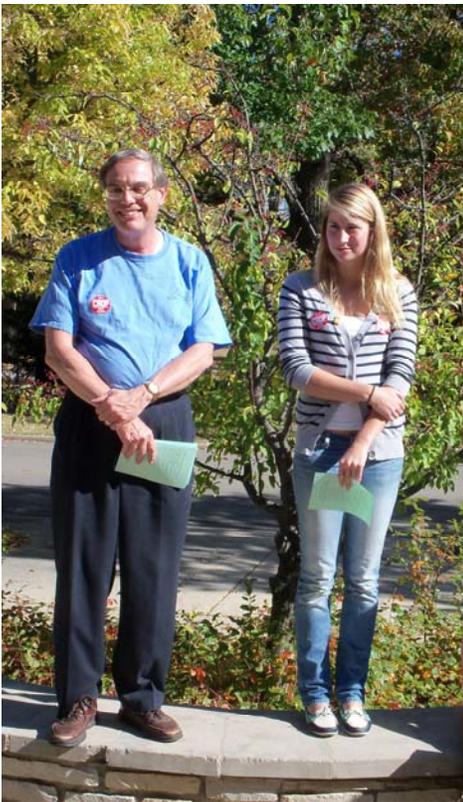
November 14 ▪ Game Night at RPC ▪ Come one, come all, to join us in a night of fun and games for your whole family in the Social Hall at RPC from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

November 21 ▪ College Care Packages at RPC ▪ We will meet in the Social Hall at regular times to make treats and write notes for care packages for our college students.

November 28 ▪ Thanksgiving Weekend—Enjoy a fun weekend with your families! See you in December.

Youth Raise Funds for Crop Walk

For the third straight year, the RPC youth group has participated in the Covenant of Churches' CROP Walk. This year, our goal was to raise \$1000 and surpass our previous year's fundraising totals. Thanks to the hard work of our youth and the generosity of many donors, our youth not only exceeded our goal, we smashed it! We raised \$1,792 this year, which was more than we raised in the prior 2 years combined! This year's effort brings our three-year fundraising total to \$3,473. This year's top Senior High Youth Group fundraiser was Amanda Gregus, who collected \$420 in donations and our top Junior High Youth Group fundraiser was Adeline Pecis, who collected \$316 in donations. Mia Haugland, Juliane Korslund, Maddie Hopek and Hannah Pecis all also collected at least \$100 in donations. We had 12 walkers from the youth group. Thank you to all who supported us!



Pastor Roger Timm (Ascension Lutheran) and Amanda Gregus led the Youth Group in a prayer before beginning the walk.



2010-2011 Bible Study

The [topic](#) for the 2010-2011 Horizons Bible Study is “Journeys Through Revelation, Apocalyptic Hope for Today” by Barbara R. Rossing. Many people’s impressions are that the book of Revelation is violent and fearsome: four horsemen unleash destruction and calamity upon the earth; mysterious numbers like “666” spell destruction; mutant locusts and multi-headed beasts terrify; a scarlet whore of Babylon seduces nations with her cup of fornications; an end-times battle of Armageddon leaves millions slaughtered.

Plan to join the ladies on Wednesday, November 10 (second Wednesday), at 10:00 a.m., in the RPC Social Hall, as they study this interesting book. (This is a change of date due to Thanksgiving.) Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura rotate the leader position. Joyce will lead the study for Lesson 3, “Worshipping God and the Lamb.” Scripture: Revelation 4-5. Key idea: True power is found in Jesus, the Lamb. When we recognize that power, we join with all creation in singing praise to God.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! Revelation 5:12

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Musick at lizm_59@sbcglobal.net.

Human Scene

October 24—November 14 ▪ Four-week course on the *Trinity*, led by Matt Lisle and Lorraine Meyer.

November 21— November 28 ▪ *The Power of Forgiveness*

Come watch this entire award-winning documentary about forgiveness, and then have the chance to talk about your reaction to it. We experience God's forgiveness everyday, and we know that as Christians we are asked to forgive when we are hurt. Yet we struggle to do so when the hurt feels unreasonable and unjust; how do we do it, and why is it so hard? This film interviews people in the most painful of situations, and listens to them describe their journey through forgiveness. [The film](#) will be shown in two parts: on November 21 we will watch the first 50 minutes of the film, and then on November 28 we will watch the remainder of the film, with some time at the end to talk about what we've seen.

Join Us for Craft Night

Craft Night in November will be on Friday, November 19. It’s the perfect opportunity to work on those Christmas Craft Projects (or that last-minute Thanksgiving centerpiece?). Bring a project, feel free to bring a friend, and let’s spend some time together as we work. Drop in to the Social Hall any time between 6:00 and 11:00 pm.



Fundraising

The Stewardship Committee approves *all* fundraisers conducted for RPC’s benefit, or on RPC property conducted by an RPC affiliate group. To obtain approval for your fundraiser, you must complete a simple form, available at the Church Office or [on the RPC website](#) under the Reference section, and submit it to the Church Office. The Church Office will check for any date conflicts before passing along the application to the Stewardship Committee for approval.

Events

RPC Weekend Connections Events 2010-2011

RPC Weekend Connections is a new endeavor for RPC starting this fall, to balance busy schedules with the desire to get together with other folks for an enjoyable and meaningful evening. It is a chance to gather once a month at the church for a variety of programs, open to church members and anyone in the community who would like to attend. Our aims are many: community building, cross-generational interaction, fun, fellowship, and education. There will be child care available (usually \$5/child/event) with advance notice to Jennie Kolinski at kolinski426@comcast.net to allow for obtaining childcare providers. Anyone interested in an event and needing transportation, please notify the RPC office, so a ride can be arranged.

Saturday, November 13 (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) ▪ The 1000 Tree Planting Project

This is an ongoing annual mission of Riverside's United Methodist Church, to repopulate our riverbanks with seeds from native trees, as faithful stewards of God's good creation, Earth. Sponsored by Riverside UMC, it has been referred to as the 10,000 tree planting project because of the founder's (Tom Sisulak) dream that 10 other churches around the country will copy the UMC efforts.



10:00 a.m. gather at UMC, 82 Woodside Road, for welcome, commissioning, blessing, instruction, and organization into planting teams

11:30 a.m. teams depart for designated area with seeds and tools provided.

4:00 p.m. return to UMC for thanksgiving, certificates, celebration meal (chili and refreshments for all) *Anyone interested in contributing chili, please contact Patti Perry Halline at pmperryil@yahoo.com.*

Sunday, November 14 (6:00-7:30 p.m.) ▪ Games Night at RPC

Come to the Social Hall for fellowship and games for all ages. Have a favorite game you would like play or to share with others? Bring it! Bring friends. Bring a snack if you would like to share. (No meal and no child care.)

Questions? Contact Patti Perry Halline at pmperryil@yahoo.com or Deb Jansky at newhorizons002@att.net.

Sunday, December 12 ▪ Messiah Wassail Bowl Reception

Bakers & servers are needed. Contact Patti Perry Halline at pmperryil@yahoo.com or Deb Jansky at newhorizons002@att.net

Saturday, January 22 (6:00-8:00 p.m.) ▪ Book discussion of *Razing Hell* by Sharon Baker

Highly recommended by Pastor Scott (see page 1 of this issue of the **Vision**), it is appropriate for ages Sr. High and up. The book is widely available (\$11.53 from Amazon.com, \$16.95 from Borders.com, and \$12.20 from Barnesandnoble.com.

Caring Christmas



Plan to join us for an annual RPC holiday tradition. Our *Caring Christmas* will be held on Sunday, December 5, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as we create crafts and enjoy a light meal together. The crafts are later delivered by the Deacons to some of our home-bound church members and friends. All are welcome!

Hauser Jr. High Presents *The Mummy*

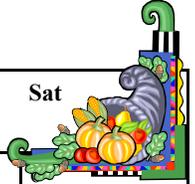
Join a number of RPC youth in the cast and crew of Hauser Jr. High's production of *The Mummy*. Plan to attend one of the performances at 7:00 p.m. on November 16 & 17. Originally a 1932 horror film, the Mummy was remade in a 1999



movie production. As always, the sets are superb, and you will be amazed that this is a Jr. High production.

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

November 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:15p Volleyball 7:30p Stewardship Comm	2 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm 7p Girls' Group	3 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7p Chancel Choir 7:30p Mtg of Columbarian TF	4 6:30a Women's Forum	5	
7 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Deacons' British Home Service	8 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7p Stewardship Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg	9 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Girls' Group	10 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	11 6:30a Women's Forum	12 Night Ministry	13 9a Genesis Covenant Elder Training
14 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a CARERS Comm	15 5:15p Volleyball	16 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg 7p Girls' Group 7:30p Covenant of Churches Mtg	17 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7p Chancel Choir 7p Session Mtg	18 6:30a Women's Forum	19 6p Craft Night	20
21 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship Vision Deadline	22 5:15p Volleyball	23 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Girls' Group	24 Office Closed 11:30a Pro Se 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Handbell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	25 6:30a Women's Forum 	26	27
28 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	29 5:15p Volleyball	30 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Girls' Group				

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." — Proverbs 29:18

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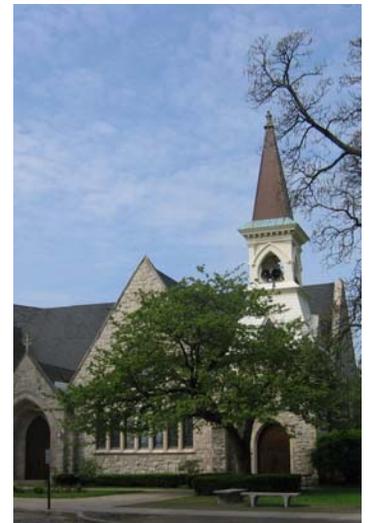
Archivist: Caroline Tecson

Wedding Coordinator: Donna Ulrich

Artist in Residence: Karena Mendoza

Director of Music Emerita: Mary Ann Sadilek

Organist Emerita: Arline Robbins



More information about the ministry and mission of Riverside Presbyterian Church is available by contacting any member of our church staff and by visiting our website: www.rpcusa.org

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Riverside Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbytery of Chicago (312) 243-8300. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)