



The Vision

April 2014

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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Easter and Earth Day

Easter is the celebration of God's power over death. Resurrection changes the way we understand the world, in many different ways. Resurrection gives us hope that the past can be dead and buried and we can begin afresh with a new form of life. Resurrection changes the way that we face our own mortality. Resurrection realigns our morality code during the days before our own deaths.

And yet another Easter implication is connected with Earth Day. To understand this implication, we must ask, What is the basis of God's resurrection power? Resurrection does not arise from what we deserve, or from the laws of physics, or even from God's sense of justice. Resurrection stems from God's love for us. We are not resurrected because of any power that *we* have. We are resurrected because God's love for us causes God to want to preserve whatever is of value to God.

Yet, when we talk about our relationship with the environment, we often think of the first commandment that God gave to humans, according to Genesis. This commandment says, in essence, "exercise dominion" over the rest of all living things. It is not too controversial to say that humans are supposed to "exercise dominion" over non-human life forms. Most people consider this a joyful blessing rather than a burdensome "commandment" from God.

But the challenge arises from our understanding of the word "dominion." It sounds a lot like "dominate," but it also sounds like the Latin word "Domini" meaning "Lord." In the verse in Genesis immediately preceding the commandment to exercise dominion, we are told that humans are created "in God's image." These two sentences are put together to remind us that when we exercise dominion over others, we are to do so in the exact same manner that God exercises dominion over us.

When we care for non-human life with the same kind of love that God cares for us, then we are exercising dominion in the image of God. God does not consider us humans merely as fuel for worship, like an adoring fan club. Nor are we simply God's resources to be exploited to maximize God's personal happiness. God's dominion over us takes the form of a suffering servant who sacrifices in order to bring us abundant life.

True "dominion" means nurturing, caring, supporting and sustaining. It's like tending a garden—providing water, propping up the wilted plants, pruning what needs to be pruned, etc. That's how God treats us—even when it requires a tremendous sacrifice on God's part in order for us to thrive.

I believe that the very first commandment God gave us should hold a special place of priority among God's commandments. So, when you consider how you should relate to the plants and animals all around us, ask yourself how you would like God to treat you. Only then will you be ready to properly go out and "exercise dominion" in a way that is in the image of God.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott



Adapted from Jean-François Millet's *Potato Planters*, circa 1861

Worship

April Worship Schedule

April 6 *John 11:1-45* There will be a guest preacher today while Scott is on vacation. We also will celebrate communion today.

April 13 (Palm/Passion Sunday) *Matthew 21:1-13* “Hope and Disappointment” The crowds had great hopes for Jesus. Were their hopes derived from selfishness and peer pressure, or were their hopes derived from the teachings of Jesus? How should we construct proper expectations of God? How do we avoid being disappointed when God’s actions do not comply with our hopes? Today there will be children waving palms, an earlier kids’ sermon, and a nod toward Maundy Thursday service. The service will begin on a “Palm” note and move toward a “Passion” theme.

April 17 (Maundy Thursday) at 7:00 p.m. A Tenebrae service—a somber service of music, scripture lessons and extinguishing candles. No sermon nor kids’ sermon today. We will celebrate Communion by intinction in the round. The sanctuary will get darker and darker as we proceed. The service ends in darkness and silence.

April 18 Ecumenical Good Friday at noon at Riverside United Methodist Church. All pastors who are members of the Covenant of Churches are invited to share in the preaching of very brief homilies for this ecumenical service. To join the Ecumenical music efforts for the day (instrumental or vocal), please contact Dr. Sally.

April 20 (Easter) *Matthew 28:1-10* “A Resurrection Story” The sermon will feature a story of how a woman seeks to “resurrect” her mother after her death. How does a person of strong love cope with one’s inevitable feelings of grief? What does this coping mechanism suggest about God’s love for us? Worship services are at 9:00 and 10:30 this morning.

April 27 *John 20:19-31* “Why Children Ask Questions” Why did Thomas have so many doubts? Was Jesus angry with Thomas for all of his doubts? Why do children ask so many questions? Why do we stop asking so many questions as we grow older? Today will be a celebration of our children, their talents, and their love for God. Second graders (and some third graders) will receive their Bibles. The kids will also contribute liturgy, music and artwork to the service.



April Opportunities



If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak](#)
 For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)
 Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)

	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
April 6	Lynda Nadkarni	Chloe Floros	OPEN	Ourth Family	Confirmation Class
April 13	Youth	Youth	OPEN	Pecis-Kolinski Family	OPEN
April 20 9:00 a.m.	Michael Aieta	OPEN	OPEN	Easter Lilies	OPEN
April 20 10:30 a.m.	Lynda Nadkarni	OPEN	OPEN	Easter Lilies	OPEN
April 27	Children	Children	Children	Jenny Kolinski	Sunday School

Session Highlights

In March, the Session:

- ◆ received into membership the Confirmands: Dima Aieta, Claire Hejna, Jack Jurgens, Samantha Miezio, Elijah Ourth, Adeline Pecis, Caroline Willinger, Brian Wolff and Eric Wolff.
- ◆ denied a request from “Adventures in Creativity” to rent church space for a summer day camp, due in part to concerns over AIC’s probable for-profit status.
- ◆ approved renting the RPC gymnasium to Riverside Recreation Department for a summer program on Fridays.
- ◆ approved a request from the Deacons to develop a 10’ x 12’ vegetable and flower garden on RPC grounds, pending Village approval.
- ◆ approved, with gratitude, a gift from the Jansky family of two angel statues to be placed in the niche above the columbarium.
- ◆ received the final report of the Long Range Planning Task Force and dissolved the group with thanks for their work. A summary of the results of the questionnaire can be found on the following page, and church committees were asked to consider addressing concerns expressed by respondents to the survey.
- ◆ noted that the re-installation of the Rose Window has been delayed due to a backorder on some matching glass.
- ◆ requested that the Trustees calculate the cost per square foot per hour for RPC spaces to aid in determining rates for future rentals by outside religious or charitable groups.
- ◆ noted with sadness the death of Marie Chobot.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

Home Communion

If you are unable to attend church and would like to have communion brought to you at home, please notify your Deacon or the church office.

April Birthdays



Lonnie Womack	4/1	Michael Sit	4/11	Jeffrey Burke	4/21
Elijah Ourth	4/2	Lucille Christensen	4/12	Jerome Prendki	4/21
Chris Allen	4/4	Hannah Pecis	4/13	Doug Harvin	4/23
Joe Tecson	4/4	Parker Hooglander	4/15	Callie Schexnayder	4/23
Michele Krefft	4/5	Lily Luethje	4/16	Roxane Sedlacek	4/24
Steven Teune	4/5	Emily Hastings	4/17	Marjory Thompson	4/24
Stuart Marciniak	4/6	Courtney Hooglander	4/17	Phillip Dluhy	4/25
Karl Vacek	4/6	Gayle Prendki	4/17	Ruby Henderson	4/27
Tom Franzo	4/7	Katie Hejna	4/19	Kyle McKain	4/27
Vaughn Hilpp	4/7	Tim LeBeau	4/19	Jason Gordon	4/29
Margaret McCoy	4/8	Daniel Christensen	4/20	Art Canavera	4/30
Henry Pecis	4/10	Elizabeth Franzo	4/20	Liz-Beth Memoh	4/30

In Memoriam



Mildred T. Bayha
November 15, 1904 - February 24, 2013

Marie Chobot
Died February 10, 2014

Gladys Kreml
Died March 4, 2014



Results of RPC 2014 Long Range Planning Survey

Last year, the Session established a Long Range Planning Committee with the mandate “to determine what goals and needs RPC is not adequately addressing and how to implement necessary changes.” Members of the committee included Cindy Gustafson as chair, Tara Gregus, Jim Marciniak, Steve Teune, and Joyce Van Cura. Ellen Hamilton, Keith Pearson, and Dennis Zander also joined the committee early on.

To address this mandate the committee reviewed RPC historical documents including the *RPC Mission Statement*, *2000 Planning Retreat Results and Monitoring List*, *September 2006 Mission Study Report*, and notes from a May 2013 Human Scene presentation. Using this information the committee established categories for programmatic and facility goals: Mission and Outreach, Worship and Music, Physical Facilities and Maintenance, Publicity and Communication, Christian Education, Local and Global Mission, Fellowship and Member Care, and Pledging/Stewardship. With the assistance of Lynda Nadkarni, a survey was developed using “Survey Monkey,” a free survey software program. All church members were encouraged to participate.

Ninety-four people responded to the survey. A variety of ages, most living within three miles of RPC and long-time members of our church, were represented. Programs for Christian education and youth ministry, upgrading our church building to current code, and repairing the church steeple were recommended as high priority goals. Our music program was strongly supported, with a variety of instrumental programming encouraged. It was recommended that we improve our ministry to our homebound and other members unable to attend worship. Renovation of church stained glass windows and our sanctuary organ were not included, as the committee considered those projects already approved by Session. The committee sincerely thanks all participants for giving their careful consideration to the questions and taking the time to complete the survey. The aggregate results of the survey are [available online](#).

Joyce Van Cura



Earth Day 2014: Talk the Talk or Ride the Walk

Ask yourself this question: do you get anxious when it gets close to Earth Day, knowing that you could do more? God created a beautiful world, and until we start colonizing Mars, this is our home and we need to take care of it.

Well, stop stressing about it—God is patient. Look at Noah, it took him 120 years to build a boat, and God still sent him a rainbow. So this year, the Board of Deacons invites you to bike to church on April 27 in celebration of Earth Day. In addition, the Deacons would like to make the last Sunday of every month, from April to September, the official *Bike to Church* Sunday. So go find that helmet, air up those tires, and feel the power of the pedal.

CARERS Corner

Interfaith House provides a healing environment and resources to help ill and injured homeless adults restore their health, rebuild their lives and gain self-sufficiency. This month we are helping these adults who are able to move on by donating hygiene products. Dental products: toothbrushes and toothpaste, mouthwashes, and dental floss. General products: Shaving creams, moisturizers, shampoos, conditioners, brushes, combs, hand and bath soaps, deodorants, and body lotions. These products are so necessary when the men and women are ready to move from Interfaith House.



Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

Won't you volunteer to attend one of the monthly worship services that RPC provides for seniors in assisted living? Each service lasts about an hour, and includes scripture, a message, music and fellowship.

Children are especially welcome. Contact Steve Marcus for further information.

Cantata (formerly British Home) - 1:30 p.m. on April 6

Scottish Home - 2:00 p.m. on April 20

Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of February (17% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$	44,830	(13.9% of budget)
Disbursements	\$	58,641	(18.2% of budget)
Deficit	\$	13,811	

There is a budget shortfall of approximately \$39,000 from the previous year.



Easter, a time of preparation...

As Easter approaches we reflect on how much God loves us by sending his son to die on the cross for our sins. The worship music for April has been chosen to draw us nearer to that cross, and to open our hearts to that great love. In addition to the anthems, children will sing, palms will be waved, bringing us to the culmination of Easter Sunday. Come sing to the Lord that day, and listen to the sensational sounds of two trumpeters, and feel the power of the timpani.

Do you need a ride to church?

Or know someone who does? Deacons love to get to know members better by providing rides to and from the Sunday service. Please contact either Frank Gangware or David Harper, and one of them will find a super Deacon Driver for you.

Trustees for April are Susan Deems-Dluhy and Cyril Friend.

Children

What's happening in Sunday School

- April 6 K/1/2: Creation Station—Images of Jesus in mosaics
3/4/5: Oasis Place—Images of Jesus in music
6/7/8: Manse Kitchen—Images of Jesus in stained glass windows
April 13 Celebration Sunday/Palm Sunday: all ages activity in the Social Hall
April 20 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL or GODLY PLAY: EASTER SUNDAY
April 27 Final Sunday school rotation begins: Prince of Peace



Jesus from the Hagia Sophia

Memory Verse for April & May

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Bible Presentation Sunday

April 27 is a special day for RPC's 2nd graders (and some 3rd graders too). It's Bible Presentation Sunday! Please join us for this special day for Bible recipients and their families. We'll also share Bible presentation 'sundaes' in Coffee Fellowship to celebrate.



2014 Confirmands with their teachers on March 16 - Back: John Cain, Eric Wolff, Brian Wolff, Joe Ourth;
Middle: Dima Aieta, Adeline Pecis, Caroline Willinger, Elijah Ourth, Samantha Miezio;
Front: Claire Hejna, Jack Jurgens



Spring is here and that means that another Preschool year is winding down. April will be a busy month with our in-school visits from the Humane Society to learn about animal safety, Karen's Nature Tales to learn about pigs, and our annual visit to learn about train safety with Metra's Operation Lifesaver Program. We will also enjoy the company of our preschool families at our annual Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon. Sounds like we are going to have a month filled with fun.



Our annual Book Fair and Raffle was wonderful. We would like to thank the church family for their participation and support with these events and congratulations again to all who won a basket. We are getting ready for our annual Geranium Sale coming up in May. We still have a few openings for the 2014-2015 school year; if you hear of anyone looking for a fabulous preschool, have them give us a call.

Throughout this school year we have invited family and friends to join us with our "Guest Reader Program." The preschoolers have enjoyed the many fabulous books and people who have joined us for part of the school day. A special thanks to Reverend Scott Jansen for sharing his time. We hope he had as much fun as the children did.



Scouts

On March 15, Pack 24 cub scouts stormed the Bulls/Sox Academy in Lisle for an overnight of classic games. We had a blast with tug-of-war, steal-the bacon, and book balancing relay races. The scouts also stayed up late playing dodge ball and "excergaming" in the Vault.

The annual scout pancake breakfast was held on Saturday, March 1. Thank you to all the RPC families who supported the event! Unfortunately, the Troop's March campout to Cantigny was cancelled due to snow and rain. On March 16, the Troop held an Eagle Court of Honor at RPC for three Eagles: RPC member Abraham Ourth, Michael Gmitro, and Nick Schliep.



New Eagles in blue neckerchiefs, left to right, Nick Schliep, Michael Gmitro, Abraham Ourth

Youth

Youth Group

Sunday, April 6—Open Mic Night and Youth Cafe fundraiser. Join in the performances, or just plan to come help us out at the Youth Cafe.

Friday, April 11—Trip to Helping Hand in Countryside for BINGO Night with the clients of Helping Hand. Depart church at 6:30pm.

Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday, no Youth Group. Happy Easter to all!

Sunday, April 27—Game and discussion, topic to be announced



On Sunday, February 23, the Youth Group worked on fleece blankets with residents of the Scottish Home.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study



2013-2014 Horizons Bible Study topic is *An Abiding Hope - The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy* by Janice Catron. The next meeting is **Wednesday, April 23**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. All women are invited. Coffee is served.

Lesson 7: Covenant Living

Background Scripture: *Exodus 20-23; Deuteronomy 6:1-9*

Key Scripture: *Exodus 20:1-17; 22:21-2; Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

Key Idea: God's law (or teaching) provides instruction on how to honor God and others, especially through social justice. This form of love

fits with Jesus' teaching, as well, and it is part of our holy calling.

The Ten Commandments teach us how to love God and love (and live with) other people. Part of loving others is working for justice and peace when our sisters and brothers in Christ are victims of unjust, even oppressive systems. Issues of justice and peace are part of the Presbyterian Women's purpose and integral to the work of Presbyterian Women.

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade and Joyce Van Cura. Elizabeth will lead Lesson 7. Come and enjoy some stimulating conversation.



They Cried Out to the Lord and Were Delivered by Lee Porter is based on Psalm 107, showing people in perilous situations, calling out, being rescued, and being liberated.

Human Scene

Join the **Human Scene** Sunday School class *every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the upstairs Parlor*. You will have a chance to explore scripture, theology, current events, mission projects, and your own spiritual journey.

April 6 — *Jan Edmiston, Chicago Presbytery* — **The Cultural Shift of the Presbyterian Church**

How the Church's ministry has changed over recent years—better for the pastor and the parishioners. Come for a revealing insight into the latest thoughts from the Presbytery on the activities and design of the modern Presbyterian Church.

April 13 — *David Harper & Frank Gangware, RPC Deacons* — **Deacons in Action**

We all know of the Deacons' efforts to carry out routine efforts of service to members in need, and to raise funds for their programs, but we may not know the latest activities of this mission. Please come to learn more of the Deacons' work and to participate in a discussion of their work.

April 20 — *No Human Scene due to Easter programs at RPC*

April 27 — *Lisa Manganiello, Director, RPC Preschool* — **Preschool – A Great Place to Be Me!**

A typical day at RPC preschool, and also all the different events they have. This presentation will especially discuss RPC preschool's way of teaching and meeting the needs of a variety of children. A brief view of the facilities will also be provided. Come and join us for a special program.

Fellowship & Events

Step up to the microphone!

Our annual Open Mic Night, showcasing talent of all kinds, takes place **Sunday, April 6**. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., so come early to purchase some food from the Youth Café and settle into a good seat before the acts start at 5:30. Snacks, meals, and beverages will be available throughout the evening and proceeds will go toward the Senior High Mission Trip to Washington, Illinois.

If you haven't signed up, but have a talent to share, please contact John Haugland. If your best talent is appreciating that of others, please come cheer on our performers. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you for this fun evening. Admission is free and all are welcome!



Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Be part of a special ministry! Our coffee fellowship hosts make our time after church welcoming to visitors and friends and help to facilitate the building and strengthening of relationships within our church family. And all you have to do is make coffee! (Okay, maybe mix up some lemonade, too.) If you'd like to bring either homemade or store bought treats, that's great, but it isn't a requirement. And if you need a lesson or help running the coffee pot or the dishwasher, we can provide that with advance notice. It's easy, it's fun, and it's a great way to participate in the life of the congregation. Grab a friend, check out the available dates on the sheets near the social hall doors, and sign up. The office will send you a reminder and easy to follow directions.

Are you Missing Kitchenware?

We are on a mission to clean and organize the kitchen. If you have a feeling you've left a cookie tin, platter, casserole dish, travel coffee mug, or anything else, please check the counters and the cart for your belongings and take them home. Thank you!

Alzheimer's: Prevention, Treatment, Research, and Faith

Presbyterian Women, Chicago Presbytery, Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 26

Pine Avenue United Church

1015 N. Pine Avenue

Chicago, IL 60651



Living with Alzheimer's disease is difficult; how do we cope? The more we know about this, the better prepared we will be if faced with this challenge. Where does our faith fit in?

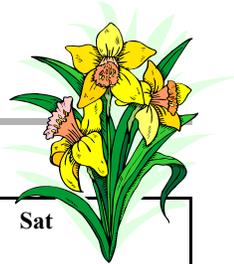
For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, love, and a clear mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

From Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center: Mary L Furell, Raj C. Shan, MD, and Susan Frick, MSW

Please register by April 21 to sheneen.travis@yahoo.com, or (773) 287-4777.

More information is available at <http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/presbyterian-women/>

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	2 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	3 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	4	5
6 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Children & Youth Comm Mtg 1:30p Cantata Worship 5p Open Mic Night	7 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	8 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	9 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	10 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	11	12 9a Presbytery Assembly
13 9a Sunday School 10a Worship—Palm Sunday 11a Coffee Fellowship 1p Womack Scholarship Interviews	14 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	15 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	16 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7p Session Mtg 7:30p Chancel Choir	17 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group 7p Maundy Thursday Worship	18 GOOD FRIDAY 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 12p Covenant of Churches Worship	19
20 EASTER 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:30a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship	21 5:15p Volleyball	22 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	23 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	24 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	25	26
27 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	28 5:15p Volleyball	29 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	30 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir			

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

**RIVERSIDE
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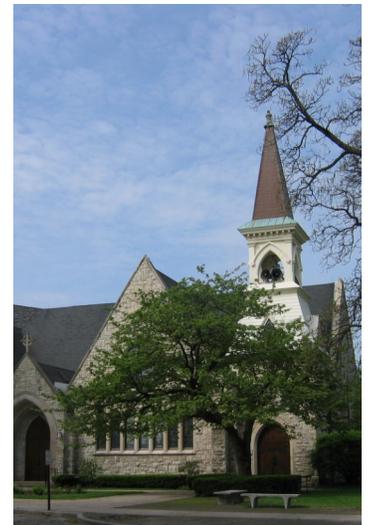
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Director of Music Emerita: Mary Ann Sadilek

Organist Emerita: Arline Robbins



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



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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