# The Vision

**April 2016**

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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Friends,

I have a confession to make – I don't like writing newsletter articles! BUT write them I must and this one is easy to write. I want to express to each of you how excited I am to be called as your Designated Pastor. I love leading worship. I love the challenge of bringing creativity and excitement to our time together on Sunday mornings. I love engaging in theological studies, gathering over coffee, tea, wine or beer and talking about this thing we call faith.

As we get to know one another in the coming weeks, I pray for your help and understanding as I seek to remember your names (please know there are times that I cannot remember my own name), your likes and dislikes, your favorite hymns, and your favorite Bible stories.

Over the next few weeks I will be meeting with all the committees, visiting with you, and of course seeing all of you in worship every Sunday. Please feel free to contact me if you want a chance to meet with me one on one. The office will know my schedule and be sure I get any messages you need to pass on.

I am already planning a series of times for small groups to gather in our home in North Riverside and have breakfast goodies (for the morning meetings) and desserts (for the evening gatherings) that will give us the chance to get to know each other in a more intimate setting. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of the gatherings, including children! You'll be hearing more about that soon.

What really excites me as I look forward to my arrival in Riverside is learning more about you as a congregation. What are your hopes and dreams? Where do you see God calling us as a congregation? I would love the opportunity to hear your ideas and thoughts for our future. I will be interested to discern where God is calling us!

When I set up my new office, you'll see a collection of various items relating to Charles Schulz and the "Peanuts" gang. In a framed cartoon strip sitting by my desk, Snoopy is laying on his dog house and thinking "My life has become a bore . . .Everything is the same day in and day out . . . What I need is a change!" In the final frame, Snoopy has changed the direction he is facing. I have a feeling that the changes about to happen in my life might be a bit more dramatic!

I cannot wait to see the new things God has in store for us.

Dale

# Worship

## Jazz Sunday

Andrew Tecson and his jazz musician colleagues will be featured at morning worship on April 10. At least since 2006 the annual "Jazz Sunday at RPC" has been a beloved tradition, with the band providing all music for the service.

The son of RPC member Caroline Tecson and the late Joseph Tecson, Andy, a lawyer (a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School), grew up in Riverside and has played the saxophone since he was a young boy. He is a composer as well and began composing music as a student at Riverside - Brookfield High School. Some of his compositions are the Jazz Psalms, the Chicago Jazz Mass, and more recently, with his fellow musicians Bobby Schiff and Bobby Lewis, a Jazz Passion. All of these works have been performed in regional churches and beyond.

A special treat to enjoy is the opportunity to hear the members of this talented ensemble improvise individually on their instruments: Andy Tecson, saxophone; Bobby Schiff, piano; Stew Miller, bass; Jerry Coleman, drums; Ken Jandes, saxophone; Ian Torres, trumpet; and Kecia Waldschmidt, vocalist.

You won't want to miss this lively service. Please join us!

## Organ Update

Our "new" Austin organ console from the 1970s has arrived and is waiting for installation. Our current console from the early 1900s will be removed after Pastor Emily's last Sunday, April 3. The installation and repairs to RPC's 1904 organ will begin thereafter and last for about a month. We have received many generous contributions for the restoration. We only have to raise approximately $10,000 more to cover the cost. If you have not made a contribution and would like to do so, you can send your donation to the church office. Please designate that the donation is for the organ. We will acknowledge all past and future donations by providing post-its with the names of the contributors near the console. You can choose which key, pedal or stop you want and place the post-it on that part of the console. Thank you all for your generous support.

## April Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact Deb Jansky
For flower contributions, please contact the RPC Office
Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact Elizabeth Musick
Potential Ushers, please contact Paula McCracken

| | Liturgists | Ushers | Flowers | Coffee Fellowship |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 3 | Serina Ranft | Karla Engel,<br>Claire & Louise Gangware | OPEN | Farewell Potluck |
| April 10 | Youth | Lisle Family<br>Paula McCracken | OPEN | Welcome Potluck |
| April 17 | Steve Marcus | Karl-Heinz Meyer<br>Gwen and Mike Heine | OPEN | Bryan & Susan Zander |
| April 24 | Roberta Gates | Jeff Thompson, Doug Harvin,<br>Jiri and Marta Vacek | Will & Susanne Vogel | Steve Marcus<br>Marilyn Slanec |

## Session Notes

In March, the Session:

- Elected Caroline Tecson to fill the unexpired term of Scuff Gross as member-at-large on the Support and Endowment Management Committee.
- Approved the availability of beer and wine, for a donation, at the Open Mic Night.
- Approved changing the title of the office personnel from Administrative Assistants to Office Managers and expressed gratitude for their fine work.
- Noted that the sale of Rev. Scott Jansen's home has been completed and RPC will receive $33,600 from the proceeds, to be returned to the Endowment Fund.
- Removed Andrea Sterner from the active roll at her request.
- Formed a committee, consisting of Dennis Zander, Martha Heine and Rev. Doug Asbury, to seek ways to assist Iruka Ajemba in meeting her short-term needs for housing and employment as part of RPC's mission outreach.
- Approved holding an open discussion on sexuality, especially homosexuality, with guest speakers as panelists, at Rev. Rosencrans' suggestion.
- Welcomed Amanda Gregus as the new Girls Group assistant.
- Expressed gratitude for Rev. Rosencrans' leadership and sadness as she completes her service at RPC

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

## Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

The Deacons welcome any and all congregation members to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata (the British Home) on April 3 at 2:00 p.m., and the worship service for the residents of the Scottish Home on April 17 at 2:00 p.m.

## April Birthdays

Lonnie Womack 4/1
Elijah Ourth 4/2
Chris Allen 4/4
Stuart Marciniak 4/6
Karl Vacek 4/6
Avery Gordon 4/7
Vaughn Hilpp 4/7
John Haugland 4/10
Jacob Gregus 4/11
Michael Sit 4/11
Lucille Christensen 4/12
Parker Hooglander 4/15
Lily Luethje 4/16
Emily Hastings 4/17
Courtney Hooglander 4/17
Gayle Prendki 4/17
Katie Hejna 4/19
Tim LeBeau 4/19
Daniel Christensen 4/20
Elizabeth Franzo 4/20
Jeffrey Burke 4/21
Jerome Prendki 4/21
Doug Harvin 4/23
Jennifer Baird 4/24
Roxane Sedlacek 4/24
Marjory Thompson 4/24
Phillip Dluhy 4/25
Ruby Henderson 4/27
Kyle McKain 4/27
Jason Gordon 4/29
Art Canavera 4/30

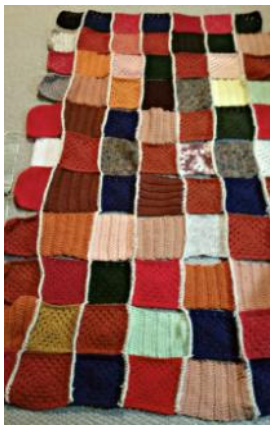
# Sharing our Gifts

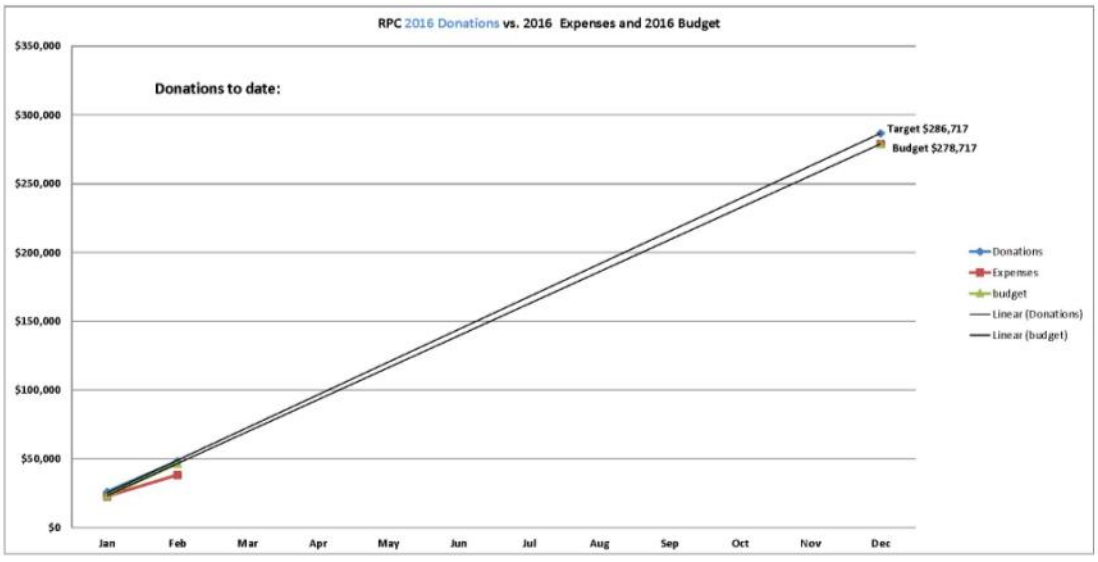
## Crafters Corner

Have you come to the point where you have to acknowledge that the crafts for which you bought supplies, however long ago, will never come to completion? Do you have craft supplies filling up and aging in a box or bag or bin? If so, please donate them to the church. We hope to include a Crafters' Corner booth at the Christkindlmarkt this coming November. As with the holiday decorations, items can be left on the pew near the CARERS trunk.

## Labor of Love

For the past several years, RPC members, led by Colleen Muller, have been making knitted or crocheted afghans, which have been donated to veterans' organizations and Project Linus. Everyone is welcome to participate by making 8-inch squares, which can be knitted or crocheted in any pattern. The squares are given to Colleen, who joins them into rows and the rows into a lap-size blanket. Don't knit or crochet? Donations of yarn are also appreciated. Contact Colleen Muller for more information at cmmuller@gmail.com






We have a very good start for 2016. Your generosity assures we can continue our mission and welcome our new pastor with that good news. May God continue to bless you as you continue to return a portion of the bounty He gives to us.

# AmazonSmile

**Do you shop at Amazon.com? Support RPC by signing up for "AmazonSmile."**

*What is AmazonSmile?*
AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Riverside Presbyterian Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to RPC.

*How do I shop at AmazonSmile?*
To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

*Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?*
Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

*Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?*
Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

*How do I select Riverside Presbyterian Church to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?*
On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

*How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?*
The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

Please note that the Amazon app on your cell phone or tablet will not take you to AmazonSmile; at this time, you need to go in through the smile.amazon.com website. Hopefully, AmazonSmile will have its own app soon.

***REVIEWS***

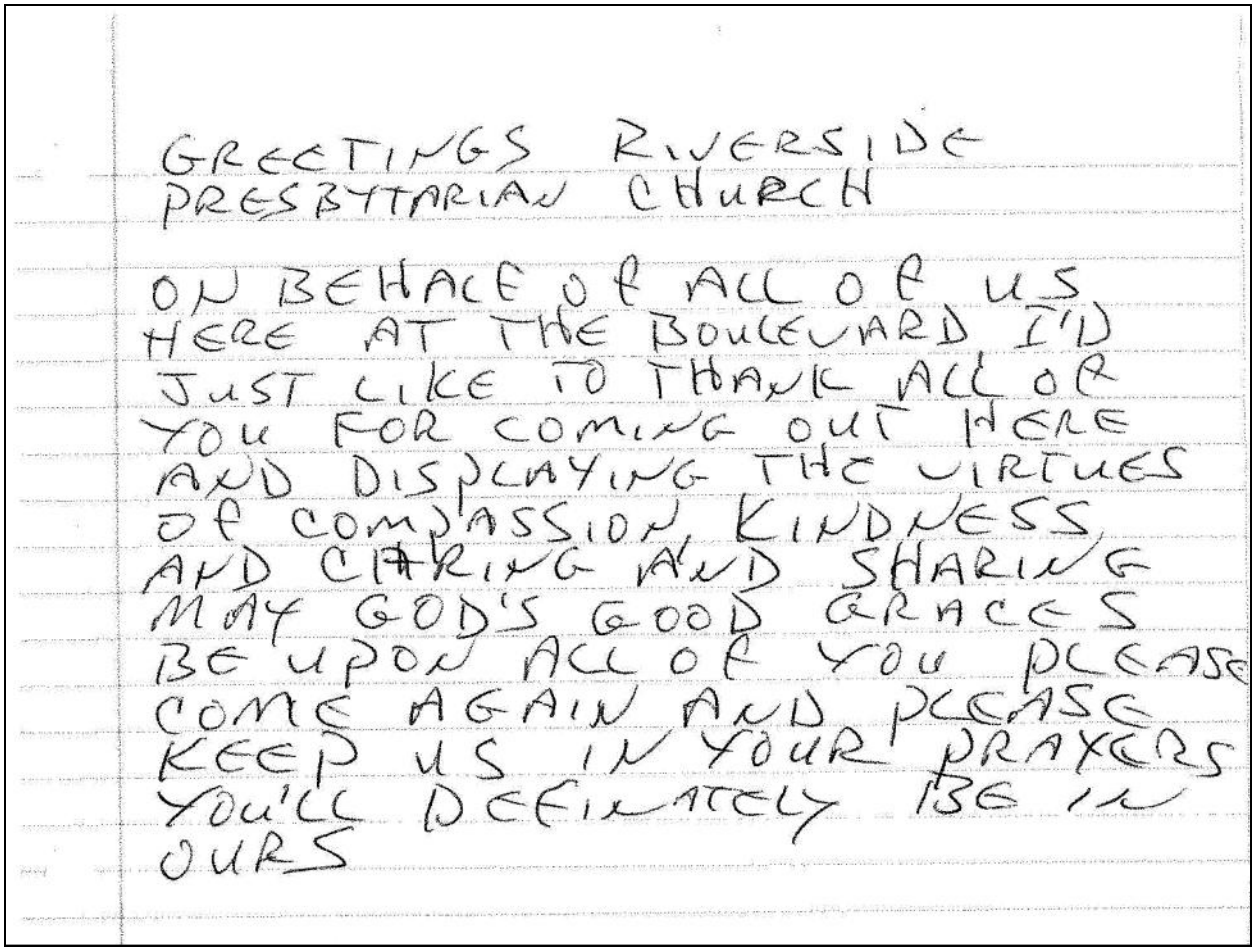
I've been using this for months. It takes only a minute to set up, is painless to use, and I love that it helps my favorite church!

Ellen Hamilton

## Sharing our Gifts

### A Holy Banquet

Every month when we serve dinner at *The Boulevard*, we pause to say grace and ask God for blessings and healing for the residents and thank God for the privilege of our participation in this mission. In January, as we were walking around serving meals, one of the residents handed us the following letter:



GREETINGS RIVERSIDE
PRESBYTARIAN CHURCH

ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US
HERE AT THE BOULEVARD I'D
JUST LIKE TO THANK ALL OF
YOU FOR COMING OUT HERE
AND DISPLAYING THE VIRTUES
OF COMPASSION, KINDNESS,
AND CARING AND SHARING
MAY GOD'S GOOD GRACES
BE UPON ALL OF YOU PLEASE
COME AGAIN AND PLEASE
KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS
YOU'LL DEFINATELY BE IN
OURS

I treasure this note, although I really feel like we should be thanking them. It's hard to explain how blessed we feel when we join with the residents for a simple but holy meal. If you want to experience a real high, join us some month.

Look for the SignUp button on the church website or call Ellen Hamilton for more information.

*Ellen Hamilton*

### Thanks from Companions Journeying Together

"We thank you for joining us in serving people who are imprisoned and their families. We are grateful for the opportunities we have to touch many lives and know that we would never be able to do so without the help of so many people like you. Thank you for caring and for sharing. Thank you for choosing to support our programs. May God bless you with joy and peace. May you and your family be blessed in many wonderful ways."

## What's Happening in Sunday School

This month we will be looking at the Epistles, which make up the bulk of the New Testament, and the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. In the gym we'll play Isthmian games and win crowns and will learn the difference between a temporary prize crown and an eternal crown. In Oasis Place kids will become first-rate travel agents by creating travel brochures and posters that will encourage others to follow in Paul's footsteps. In the Creation Station we'll learn about the Gifts of the Spirit and make a video. Join us in April!

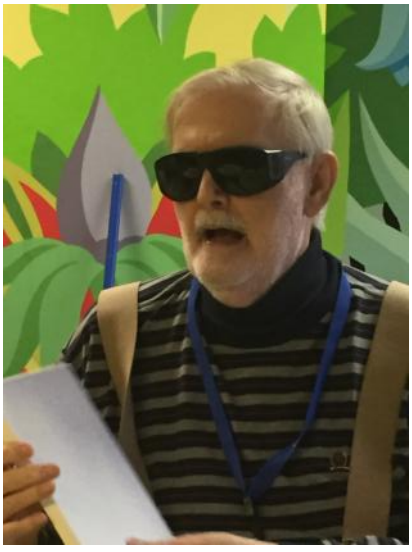
| | K-3 | 4-5 | 6-8 |
|---|---|---|---|
| April 3 | | Celebration Sunday – Fellowship Hall | |
| April 10 | Creation Station | Gym | Oasis Place |
| April 17 | Oasis Place | Creation Station | Gym |
| April 24 | Gym | Oasis Place | Creation Station |

## 2nd Grade Bible Presentation

This spring we will again be presenting Bibles to our second graders. Please contact Susan at susan.zander@rpcusa.org if you have a child in second grade, or an older child who did not receive a Bible previously.

## Vacation Bible School

Our science-themed Vacation Bible School will take place July 6-8, from 9:30 a.m. until noon. VBS is offered for children entering kindergarten through those entering fifth grade in the fall. The cost is $30/child. Register online or pick up forms outside the office.



Riverside Presbyterian Church Preschool

Spring is here and that means that another preschool year is winding down. April will be a busy month with our in-school visit from the Humane Society and our trip to the Riverside Arts Center, police station and fire station. Our annual Geranium Sale has begun. The quality of the geraniums is always top notch. Thanks for your continued support!

Thank you so much for your generous support of our Book Fair and Raffle. It was a great success!

# Youth

## Confirmation Class

The 2015-2016 Confirmation Class began in September and will conclude by welcoming those students proceeding with confirmation into membership of RPC on Sunday, April 17. Please join us at the 10:00 service and at Coffee Fellowship afterwards to welcome this great group into our church family!

Kip Friend

Rachel McLean

Josh Ranft

Steven Staubus

## Girls Group

In March, we made fleece baby blankets for Teen-Parent Connection and had a fun sleepover and made cool bracelets!

All junior and senior high-aged girls are invited to join us for any of our April activities. If you have questions, contact Tara at tara.gregus@rpcusa.org.

**Friday, April 8,** 4:00-5:00 p.m.—We will head over to the Scottish Home in North Riverside for an activity with the residents.
**Wednesday, April 13,** 4:00 p.m. —Join us as we attend a women's college softball game (DePaul vs. Purdue in Chicago)
**Wednesday, April 23,** 7:00-8:00 p.m.—Last practice for Open Mic Night
**Saturday, April 23, 6:00 p.m.—**Open Mic Night performance!
**Friday, April 29—**TBA

## Presbyterian Women

The topic for the 2015-2016 Horizons Bible Study is *Come to the Waters* by Judy Record Fletcher, with suggestions for leaders by Larissa Kwong Abazia. *Come to the Waters* considers water images and stories in the Bible. With over 800 references to water in the Bible, there is no shortage of passages from which to choose. The study begins with the chaotic waters of creation in *Genesis* and ends with the river of life in *Revelation.* Please join us on Wednesday, April 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall.

**Lesson 7:** Streams of Mercy—Forgiveness
**Scripture:** *Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-7; Psalm 51:1-12; Matthew 6:12*
**Lesson Focus:** Christians forgive and are forgiven. What can we learn about forgiveness and streams of mercy from the psalmist and from Jesus?

Lesson leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade and Joyce Van Cura. Joyce will lead Lesson 7.

## 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.

In April, Human Scene will return to Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's lecture series on the Old Testament. Dr. Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and the College of Arts and Sciences. She is also Affiliated Professor at the Woolf Institute, Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations, at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. Dr. Levine earned her B.A. with high honors in English and Religion at Smith College, where she graduated magna cum laude. She went on to earn her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion from Duke University. Professor Levine's numerous books, articles, and essays address such topics as Second-Temple Judaism, Christian origins, Jewish-Christian relations, and biblical women. She has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* and has held office in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Association for Jewish Studies. A widely sought-after speaker and favorite at the Chautauqua Institution, she has given hundreds of talks on biblical topics to both academic and nonacademic audiences, including church, synagogue, and community groups throughout the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Her awards include grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

**April 3 -** Conquest—This covers the book of Joshua, the first prophetic text. The lecture starts with the death of Moses, discusses the meaning and function of holy war, and then addresses the reasons for Israel's presence in Canaan: conquest, immigration, and internal revolt.

**April 10 -** The Book of Judges Part I—Judges witnesses a tragic spin into the chaos of idolatry, rape and near genocide only to be balanced by an inherent sense of humor all the while raising theological and ethical questions.

**April 17 -** The Book of Judges Part II—The second part of the Book of Judges demonstrates the increasing instability of the judge as political leader as Israel's tribal confederation descends into moral and political chaos.

**April 24 -** Samuel and Saul—This lecture covers Samuel, who transitions from charismatic leader to prophet, and the tragedy of Saul, whose reign signifies the benefits and liabilities of monarchies.

## Events

## Men's Forum Retreat

The Men's Forum is sponsoring a retreat to be held from Friday evening, April 1, to Sunday noon, April 3, at Divine Word Seminary in Techny, IL. For this year's retreat, the group will explore the foundations of faith, both personal and group. All men are welcome, whether members of RPC or not. The cost is $200. For more information, or to register, contact Tom Barr at ThomasABarr@aol.com.

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!

# April 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3<br>9a Sunday School<br>10a Worship<br>11a Farewell Potluck<br>2p Cantata Worship | 4<br>5:15p Volleyball | 5<br>6:30a Men's Forum<br>7p Deacons Mtg<br>7p Personnel Comm Mtg | 6<br>4:15p Ringers & Singers<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>7:30p Chancel Choir | 7<br>6:30a Women's Forum | 8 | 9 |
| 10<br>9a Sunday School<br>10a Worship Jazz Sunday<br>11a Welcome Potluck | 11<br>5:15p Volleyball<br>7p Fellowship Comm Mtg<br>7p Finance Comm Mtg<br>7:30p Trustees Mtg | 12<br>6:30a Men's Forum<br>7p Stewardship Comm Mtg<br>7p Children & Youth Comm Mtg | 13<br>4:15p Ringers & Singers<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>7:30p Chancel Choir | 14<br>6:30a Women's Forum | 15<br>10a CARERS Comm Mtg | 16 |
| 17<br>9a Sunday School<br>10a Worship<br>2p Scottish Home Worship<br>**Vision** Deadline | 18<br>5:15p Volleyball | 19<br>6:30a Men's Forum | 20<br>4:15p Ringers & Singers<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>7p Session Mrg<br>7:30p Chancel Choir | 21<br>6:30a Women's Forum | **22** | 23 |
| 24<br>9a Sunday School<br>10a Worship | 25<br>5:15p Volleyball | 26<br>6:30a Men's Forum | 27<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>7:30p Chancel Choir | 28<br>6:30a Women's Forum | 29 | 30 |

**RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Website: www.rpcusa.org

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

Place mailing label here

## Riverside Presbyterian Church

| | |
|---|---|
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| **Minister of Music:** | Dr. Sally Sloane<br>*sally.sloane@rpcusa.org* |
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| **Asst. Treasurer:** | George Dluhy |
| **Archivist**: | Caroline Tecson |
| **Wedding Coordinator:** | Donna Ulrich |
| **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)