

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Thank you to Mary Ann Sadilek for joining today's Ministry of Music.

Ushers: George and Lorraine Meyer and Marilyn Slanec

Liturgist: Steven Teune

Andrew Ministers: Lynda Nadkarni and Patti Perry

Fellowship is hosted by the Vacek family.

Trustees of the Month:

12/16 Patti Perry; 12/23 Cyril Friend

JOYS AND CONCERNS

RPC STAFF

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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00 PM. Join us for a traditional service of lessons and carols focusing on Peace.

"Peace on earth, goodwill to all"...

The song came out like one loud hosanna hurled through the earth's darkness, lighting the Bethlehem sky.

Sometimes I hear it now, but it means a baby in a manger, it means a time of year, a cozy feeling, a few coins in the Salvation Army bucket.

It doesn't mean much—and then it's gone, lost in the tinsel.

Where did the angel's song go? Who hushed the alleluias?

by Ann Weems



2018 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders

Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session

2018

Diane Chaney

John Haugland

Gwen Heine

2019

Jeanine Buttimer

Patti Friend

Susan Lynch

Lisa Aulerich- Marciniak

2020

Frank Gangware

Martha Heine

Lynda Nadkarni

Dennis Zander

Deacons

2018

David Harper

Steve Marcus

Paula McCracken

Serina Ranft

2019

Ellen Hamilton

Sandy Kappmeyer

Lorraine Meyer

Steve Teune

2020

Lloyd Bradbury

Charlie Juister

Sally Sloane

Jeanne Smith

Trustees

2018

Thom DeVries

Joel Hastings

George Meyer

Connie Nestor

2019

Susan Deems-Dluhy

Cyril Friend

Fred Kitch

Brad Staubus

2020

Patti Perry

Doug Harvin

Henry Vogel



Today

10:00 am Worship

11:00 Called Congregational Meeting

11:15 Fellowship

2:00 pm Caledonia

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

4:15 pm Ringers and Singers

6:30 acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday

6:30 am Women's Forum

Friday

Office Closed

Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School –

Rehearsal for Pageant

9:00 Human Scene

10:00 Worship-Children's

Pageant

11:00 Fellowship

11:15 Mission Committee

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.

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546 ~ (708) 447-1520 ~ rpcusa.org

December 16, 2018 ~ **Announcements**



CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — There will be a Called Congregational Meeting today following Worship, for the purpose of electing church officers and updating the bylaws.

Class of 2021: Elders: Gwen Heine, Allan Halline, Matt Lisle

Deacons: Serina Ranft, Wendy Seifert, Deb Jansky

Trustees: Thom DeVries, Connie Nestor, Fred Mitchell

Nominating Committee Members-at-Large: Carrie Staubus, Nancy

Dvorak, Paula McCracken

Approval of the following change in the RPC Bylaws:

Article IV - The Board of Deacons

To reduce the number of stated meetings from eleven (11) to four (4) so that section 5 will read as follows:

5. *The Board of Deacons shall hold at least four (4) stated monthly meetings each year at such times as the board may select. (rest of section the same).*

Explanation: provides more flexibility in scheduling meetings.

DEACONS CARING CHRISTMAS TODAY — We will prepare plates of homemade cookies and candies for home-bound members during coffee fellowship. We will also make a Christmas ornament to add to the cookies. Our members LOVE visitors! If you are willing to make a home visit, speak with your Deacon or the office about who would welcome Christmas cheer!

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is one of four church-wide special offerings of the PC (USA). It supports current and former church workers, their families, and offers education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic colleges and other schools. Please give generously, or as you are able.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS ~ Ben and Amy Dickerson, John and Jane McGlennon and Mary Beth Wynn.

THEOLOGY ON TAP returns Monday, January 7, at the Grapevine, 9 W Hillgrove Ave, La Grange. Join us for dinner from 6:00-7:00 pm. Study begins at 7:00 pm. Please begin reading *Why Religion?: A Personal Story* by Elaine Pagels. *Why is religion still around in the twenty-first century? Why do so many still believe? And how do various traditions still shape the way people experience everything from sexuality to politics, whether they are religious or not?*

These questions took on a new urgency for Pagels when dealing with unimaginable loss—the death of her young son, followed a year later by the shocking loss of her husband. Here she interweaves a personal story with the work that she loves, illuminating how, for better and worse, religious traditions have shaped how we understand ourselves; how we relate to one another; and, most importantly, how to get through the most difficult challenges we face.

Drawing upon the perspectives of neurologists, anthropologists, and historians, as well as her own research, Pagels opens unexpected ways of understanding persistent religious aspects of our culture.

PER CAPITA – Have you paid your \$33.61 Per Capita for 2018? If you have, would you consider paying an extra Per Capita for someone for whom it is a hardship?

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR, DEVOTIONAL BOOK & CARERS TRUNK

Every family received a copy of the Presbyterians Today 2018 Advent Devotional *God Lifts the Lowly: An Advent devotional based on Mary's Song of Praise*. The devotional is filled with art by Andrew Weatherly, a young man with Down Syndrome who has found his voice through art. Each family also received an **Advent Giving Calendar**. Each day during Advent you are invited to place an item for the Little Food Pantry in a box in your home and then bring it to the **CARERS Trunk** on Sunday Morning. The CARERS join with the Mission Committee to support the Little Food Pantry.

CONFIRMATION begins Sunday, January 6, 2019, at 8:45 am. Confirmation is open to any youth in 8th grade (or higher). Please contact Reverend Jackson with any questions and to reserve a spot for your youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL —Sunday School is open to all ages. In combination with Sunday School, Jr. High Youth group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Contact Diante with questions, **December 23 – Rehearsal for Pageant, December 30**—Sunday School will be on break.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT —The pageant will take place on December 23 during worship, with a rehearsal on December 23 at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to be part of the festivities!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS—The office will be open December 26-28, December 31 and January 2-4, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Kathryn Nadkarni will be staffing the office.

SERRV FUNDRAISER —FAIR TRADE, HANDMADE, NONPROFIT — Invite friends and family to shop hundreds of handmade items using this link: serrv.org?a=RPCserrv and 20% of all purchases will be donated back to RPC. The fundraiser ends December 31. SERRV is dedicated to fighting poverty through fair trade since 1949 and works with global artisans to bring you the world's most beautiful handcrafts.

CHRISTMAS LIST— When you are checking off your Christmas list, please take some time to consider whether your 2018 pledge is up to date. You may also wish to consider making a year-end gift to RPC — one suggestion is to make a gift of a “13th Month” of your regular pledge. We have already received a few generous gifts from our member “angels” for which we are very grateful. We would love to be able to balance the 2018 budget before the new year rolls around, and every extra contribution helps.

ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER — All committee annual reports are due on or before Monday, December 31. Contact the office if you have any questions or need detailed instructions.

FACEBOOK USERS — You can easily help RPC promote its activities and mission. First, if you haven't done so already, "Like" RPC's Facebook page. Then when you see something in your news feed that interests you or that you'd like others to see, react to it in some way by either liking or loving the post. Or better yet, especially if it's an event RPC is hosting, "Share" the event to your own Facebook page! That automatically lets your friends know what is happening at RPC and hopefully will encourage them to attend and invite others. Events and other posts that are shared spread exponentially through the community.

GIFT CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS — Help RPC Preschool and get a head start on holiday shopping using gift cards from Shop with Scrip. The office has order forms. Please return your order form with a check made out to RPC in the office by Thursday for following week delivery. THIS IS AN ONGOING FUNDRAISER.

DEVOTIONALS — Copies of the January-February 2019 Upper Room are in the rack outside the office.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE FOR FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY — Christmas Wishes ~ May your home be filled with warmth and good cheer this Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you January 23 at 10 am in the Social Hall.

CHOCOLATE, COFFEE AND TEA —Fair trade items are offered through the Equal Exchange program. Items are located outside of Dale's office and for sale through the honor system. Proceeds will go to support the Senior High Mission Trip.

5th SUNDAY — DECEMBER 30

Come join the celebration at our 5th Sunday, December 30 at The Boulevard! We will be making a special New Year's Party for them, complete with food, gifts, games and a little entertainment (brush up on your Christmas Carols!) Festivities will begin at 11 am, with our famous WFF lunch at noon. We will include a short non-denominational worship service, in respect of the religious diversity of the residents. We need lots of help! Donations (food gifts), shoppers (food and gifts), game leaders, etc. – but most of all, PARTICIPANTS! Watch for the SignUp Genius or contact the office if you want to join the fun and/or help. And a big THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU for another wonderful year of sharing meals with our friends at The Boulevard.