

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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ushers: Bryan, Susan, Devin and Jaden Zander

Liturgist: Susan Lynch

Andrew Ministers: Lynda Nadkarni and Patti Perry Halline

Communion Servers: Gwen Heine, Lynda Nadkarni, Ellen Hamilton and Paula McCracken

Fellowship today is the Deacon Potluck.

Trustees of the Month: 12/2 - Brad Staubus, 12/9 - Doug Harvin

Mission Statement

We gather as a church family 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 STAFF

Rev. Dale Jackson, Pastor 502-592-1617 (pastor@rpcusa.org)

Linda Hutcheson, Office Manager (rpcoffice@rpcusa.org)

Marika Floros, Office Assistant (rpcoffice@rpcusa.org)

Dr. Sally Sloane, Minister of Music (musikhs@comcast.net)

Diante Johnson, Christian Educator (diant_e_johnson@yahoo.com)

Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer (treasurer@rpcusa.org)

Susan Lisle, Preschool Director (rpcpreschool@rpcusa.org)

Riverside Presbyterian Church

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

December 2, 2018 ~ **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

Today

10:00 am Worship
11:00 Deacon Potluck
& Caring Christmas
11:15 Nominating
Committee Meeting
2:00 pm Cantata

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum
7:00 pm Deacons

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

Saturday

10:00 am Messiah
Rehearsal
1:00 pm All Church
Family Work Day

Sunday

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship with
Baptism
11:00 Fellowship
11:15 Support &
Endowment Meeting
1:30 pm Messiah
Rehearsal
4:00 pm Messiah
5:30 Wassail Bowl

SAVE THE DATE FOR DECEMBER

9 – Messiah, 4:00 pm
16 – Celebration & Dedication Sunday
23 – Children's Pageant, 10:00 am
24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7:00 pm
30 – The Boulevard Happy New Year, 3:30 pm

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?

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS, MEMORIALS AND MESSIAH MEMORIALS

Please get your memorials in by the due dates. See bulletin inserts. All memorials will be printed in the Sunday bulletins and plants displayed in the sanctuary through December 24.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — There will be a congregational meeting Sunday, December 16, following Worship for the purpose of electing church officers and updating the bylaws. We will be requesting congregational 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.

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR, DEVOTIONAL BOOK & CARERS TRUNK

Today every family will receive 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 will also be given 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 9am. Contact Diante with questions, 773-387-3779 or diante_johnson@yahoo.com **December 9 – Jesus is Born**

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! More details will be emailed to families in the coming days.

acaBELLa RINGERS AT HOLIDAY STROLL — RPC's acaBELLa Ringers will ring during Riverside's Holiday Stroll on Friday, December 7 at 7:00 pm at First American Bank across from Guthrie Park.

DEACONS DECEMBER POTLUCK & CARING CHRISTMAS — Help us welcome the Advent season today with a potluck & Caring Christmas. We will prepare plates of cookies for home-bound members. We will also make a Christmas ornament to add to the cookies. The SERRV shop of Fair Trade items will open for those unable to attend the Christkindlmarkt.

Did you know that Handel lived in London for 49 years?

Hard to believe that such a great composer could come from London. London, the city that makes you drive on the wrong side of the road, their judges wear white wigs, and polo is played on Segways! Come watch on Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 pm and see how RPC takes what London couldn't mess up, and we bring it home to Riverside.

WASSAIL BOWL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — We need volunteers to help with our traditional Wassail Bowl following the Messiah performance on Sunday, December 9. If you can bring baked goods, or are able to help with set-up, serving or clean-up, contact Deb Jansky at newhorizons002@gmail.com

13th MONTH — Making a list and checking it twice? Don't forget to add RPC to your Christmas list – giving a "13th month donation" (1/12th of your annual pledge) would greatly help in closing this year's projected budget deficit.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS — Canned vegetables, soups, fruit, canned or vacuum-packed sausages, canned or vacuum-packed ready-to-eat meals (beef ravioli, beef-a-roni), peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, oatmeal, small containers of laundry detergent, small boxes of raisins and trail mix.

LOOSE COIN OFFERING — On the first Sunday of each month, we dedicate all loose coins in the offering plates to the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago for their Food for Life and food distribution programs.

Enriching CommYOUity on December 13 at Ascension Lutheran Church has been canceled.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die Ecclesiastes 3. It is with great sadness that we report that the large American Elm tree by the manse driveway has another wound. The Trustees have consulted with several arborists and foresters and the difficult decision has been made to remove it. The tree has already dropped a large limb damaging the street lamp and more limbs will follow if left unattended which is a liability risk. We are working on a way to preserve a piece of the trunk to be displayed in the church. The Trustees will also begin developing a plan to allow members an opportunity to contribute to its replacement.