

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Thank you to the Riverside Ringers and Singers for joining today's Ministry of Music.
Ushers: Will and Susanne Vogel
Andrew Ministers: Lynda Nadkarni and Patti Perry
Flowers are the beautiful poinsettias donated in memory or honor of loved ones.
Fellowship is hosted by Sandy Kappmeyer.
Trustees of the Month:
 12/23 Cyril Friend
 12/30 Patti Perry

JOYS AND CONCERNS

RPC STAFF

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2018 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders

Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session		
2018	2019	2020
Diane Chaney	Jeanine Buttimer	Frank Gangware
John Haugland	Patti Friend	Martha Heine
Gwen Heine	Susan Lynch	Lynda Nadkarni
	Lisa Aulerich- Marciniak	Dennis Zander

Deacons

2018	2019	2020
David Harper	Ellen Hamilton	Lloyd Bradbury
Steve Marcus	Sandy Kappmeyer	Charlie Juister
Paula McCracken	Lorraine Meyer	Sally Sloane
Serina Ranft	Steve Teune	Jeanne Smith

Trustees

2018	2019	2020
Thom DeVries	Susan Deems-Dluhy	Patti Perry
Joel Hastings	Cyril Friend	Doug Harvin
George Meyer	Fred Kitch	Henry Vogel
Connie Nestor	Brad Staibus	



Riverside Presbyterian Church

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

December 23, 2018 ~ **Announcements**



Today

10:00 Worship-Children's Pageant
 11:00 Fellowship
 11:15 Mission Committee

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball
 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Thursday

6:30 am Women's Forum

Sunday

11:00 am 5th Sunday at The Boulevard – New Year's Eve Party

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.

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

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.

5th SUNDAY — DECEMBER 30

WE NEED YOU to join our celebration for 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.

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.

LECTIONARY WORSHIP SERIES – Epiphany Sunday, January 6, we begin a worship series based on the Common Lectionary called: *A Light to Enlighten the Nations*. We follow Jesus in the Gospel of Luke and discover how He shines a light beyond Israel, to the whole world.

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. **December 30**—Sunday School will be on break. **January 6**— Naomi and Ruth. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Sunday School semester. Sign up outside of the Christian Ed office or contact Diante 773-387-3779 or diante_johnson@yahoo.com

YOUTH GROUP NEWS—There will be a bowling outing for all youth group members on Friday, January 4 from 3:00-6:00 pm. Location TBA. We need a parent volunteer for this outing. Contact Diante to RSVP or volunteer. (773-387-3779 or diante_johnson@yahoo.com)

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.

DALE ON VACATION —Dale will be out of the office December 26- January 1. Please contact the church office with any emergencies.

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.

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.

Enriching CommYOUity returns Thursday, February 28, 6:00 pm at Ascension Lutheran Church. In honor of World Day of Prayer (March 1) there will be prayer stations, a topical discussion on Human Trafficking and Evening Prayer.