

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: George and Susan Dluhy

Liturgist: Matt Lisle

Andrew Ministers: Lynda Nadkarni and Patti Perry

Fellowship is cancelled today to set up for the Wassail Bowl that will follow today's performance of the Messiah.

Trustees of the Month: 12/9 - Doug Harvin, 12/16 Patti Perry

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 (diante_johnson@yahoo.com)

Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer (treasurer@rpcusa.org)

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

Riverside Presbyterian Church

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December 9, 2018 ~ **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

SAVE THE DATE FOR DECEMBER

- 9 – Messiah, 4:00 pm, Wassail Bowl, 5:30 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

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?

Today

- 10:00 am Worship with Baptism
- 11:15 Support & Endowment Meeting
- 1:30 pm Messiah Rehearsal
- 4:00 pm Messiah
- 5:30 Wassail Bowl

Monday

- 5:15 pm Volleyball
- 7:30 Trustees Meeting

Tuesday

- 6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

- 4:15 pm Ringers and Singers
- 6:30 acaBELLa Ringers
- 7:00 Session Christmas Party
- 7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday

- 6:30 am Women's Forum

Friday

- Office Closed

Sunday

- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 9:00 Human Scene
- 10:00 Worship
- 11:00 Called Congregational Meeting
- 11:15 Fellowship
- 2:00 pm Caledonia

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND MEMORIALS

Christmas memorials and poinsettia orders are due Monday, December 10. See bulletin insert. 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 Called Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 16, 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 Seiffert, Deb Jansky; Trustees: Tom DeVries, Connie Nestor; Nominating Committee Members-at-Large: Carrie Staubus, Nancy Dvorak
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

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 9am. Contact Diante with questions, 773-387-3779 or diantejohnson@yahoo.com **December 16 – Wise Men**

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.

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

MESSIAH TODAY AT 4 PM — What takes over 250 hours to prepare for, and 75 minutes to enjoy? Preparing for the Messiah concert starts mid-summer and ends today. Best 75 minutes of the week, and one of the best ways to start the Christmas spirit in your heart. Concert begins at 4:00!

WASSAIL BOWL RECEPTION — Please join us for the Wassail Bowl Reception following The Messiah.

DEACONS CARING CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 16 — 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. Please [sign up on SignUp Genius](#) or [speak with Ellen Hamilton](#) if you wish to bring cookies as we are only preparing 12 plates, so we don't have lots of leftovers.

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. Merry Christmas!

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.

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.

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.

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.