



Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road,
Riverside, IL 60546
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AUGUST 23, 2020

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

At its meeting on Wednesday, August 19, the Session made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship through 2020. This decision also means we will not have a Strawberry Social or Messiah Concert this year. The Session acted on the recommendation of the In-person Worship Task Force, who spent time reviewing all relevant and current information about Covid-19 and the survey results that many of you filled out. These are difficult decisions, but our goal is to remain safe and healthy as a congregation and set a good example for our community. This decision can be changed if an effective and widely available treatment and/or vaccine are developed.

The Preschool, under the excellent direction of Susan Lisle, has adopted a very fluid hybrid model for the fall semester. The model strives to provide the excellent educational component our Preschool is known for while balancing the safety of teachers and students.

While I am disappointed that it is not safe for us to gather for worship I know that making decisions that exercise an abundance of caution are the right decisions to make. We will continue to worship via YouTube and remember if you crave some "face to face" time you can join us for Zoom Coffee Fellowship! RPC is not closed we are just thinking of new ways to be church! To that end we are offering some exciting new programming for the fall and Advent seasons. Please read through the announcements carefully to discover some of the new upcoming events!!

Dale



- ◆ Marion Lehman, Joyce Dobrzanski's 95 year old aunt who recently came under the care of hospice.
- ◆ Judy Lynch, Susan Lynch's sister-in-law
- ◆ The Sullivan Family, who experienced a death, and are friends of Susan Lynch
- ◆ Joyce Van Cura
- ◆ Jack Smith

ZOOM SUNDAY INFORMATION—Sunday morning you may call and listen to the worship service by dialing 1(312)626-6799 and using meeting ID: 973 5627 6934; Password: 960995. Stay on the line after worship and join us for Coffee Fellowship. If you are joining Coffee Fellowship after viewing worship on YouTube follow this link: <https://bit.ly/RPCFellowship>.

FAITH FORMATION Starting Sunday, September 27 you are invited to join us for a new way to participate in an intergenerational Sunday School program called Faith Formation. The church is providing packets with lesson plans and activities for every church household. You can make arrangements to pick up your packet from the church, have it mailed to you or you can pick it up at the Socially Distanced Fall Fellowship Event (read more on that below). Along with the activities will be an optional YouTube video to accompany the lesson. You can also choose to join the new RPC Faith Formation Facebook Page. If you would like to volunteer to help with the video portion of the lesson please contact the church office (remember you can record remotely). More information will be provided in the coming weeks.



Presbyterian Week of Action is structured to provide a public witness that facilitates education, visibility, and action that reinforces our PC (USA) statements and policy around the support of eradicating racism and acknowledging that God loves all Black lives. Every day next week you are invited to join Presbyterians around the country in solidarity of Black lives. You will find a schedule of events here: <https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction/>

ADVENT IS COMING

Dr Sally and Pastor Dale are already working to create a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season. Here is a sneak peek at some of the things we have to look forward to:

- ◇ At Home Advent Wreath Kits and accompanying Advent Devotional
- ◇ Worship Series dedicated to Handel's Messiah with special soloists
- ◇ The sanctuary will be open, by reservation, to allow you to come and spend time in prayer and witness the beauty of our sanctuary during Advent
- ◇ A Christmas Eve service filled with special music and musicians



Coming September 15, on the RPC YouTube channel. Pastor Dale & Friends have recorded themselves reading some of their favorite children's books. Take a moment and listen to a story. If you would like record a book reach out to Pastor Dale!

THEOLOGY ON TAP Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Dale for more information.
Schedule (again please watch the units BEFORE the class):

August 24: Unit 2 & Optional Conversation: Father James Martin

August 31: Unit 3 & Gratitude Practice: Body & Optional Conversation: Andre Henry

September 7: No Theology on Tap

September 14: Unit 4 & Gratitude Practice: Prayer Beads & Optional Conversations: Lisa Shannon Harper & Sophronia Scott

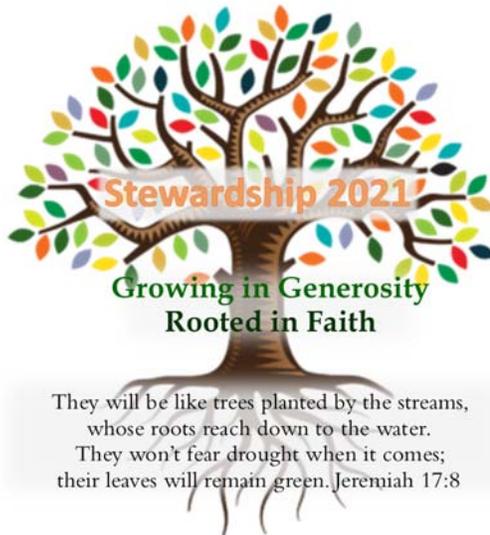
September 21: Unit 5 & Gratitude Practice: Digital Community & Optional Conversation: Carrie Newcomber

September 28: Unit 6 & Gratitude Practice: Appreciate & Welcome & Optional Conversation: Anne Lamott

October 5: Conclusion & Optional Conversation: Simran Jeet Singh

Login information to join the ZOOM discussion. [https://zoom.us/j/935547600?](https://zoom.us/j/935547600?pwd=cTV0YTR4YkErT0twWmExUXlTc3ozQT09)

pwd=cTV0YTR4YkErT0twWmExUXlTc3ozQT09 Meeting ID: 935 547 600 Passcode: 636553 +13126266799,,935547600#,,,,,0#,,636553# US (Chicago)



Throughout the months of August and September during our offering time you have seen the ways your financial gifts to RPC make ministry and mission in this place possible. During these uncertain days we ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2021. We know that the future is unpredictable and encourage you to remember that your commitment can always be changed due to life circumstance. Your financial gifts secure the future of this community of faith for years to come.

Socially Distanced Fall Fellowship—Sunday, September 20, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

Join us on the church lawn, with your masks, lawn chairs or blankets for fellowship and fall treats.

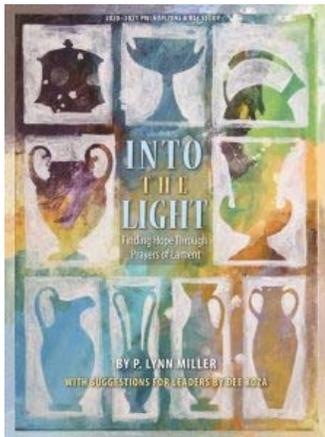
Faith Formation Packets & Stewardship information will be available!

Our worship series ***“BEGUILED BY BEAUTY: CULTIVATING A LIFE OF CONTEMPLATION & COMPASSION”*** is inspired by the book of the same name by Wendy Farley, PhD, which lays out a theology of beauty that can lead us to greater compassion through spiritual practices of contemplation. Dr. Farley’s work helps us understand that faith in Divine Goodness is held together with suffering in order to make moments like this manageable. She shows us how a more intentional spiritual practice can deepen the well from which we draw in order to survive, and to thrive, during the trying times of our lives.

Children’s Message Series: Beguiled By Beauty



Each week you will be asked to find a specific object to represent the beauty all around us. Find something cracked or imperfect. See you Sunday!



BIBLE STUDY CIRCLE *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 10:30 a.m. Join via Zoom. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn’t fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God’s inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church’s most timely gifts to the world.

2020 CHURCH LEADERSHIP			
Elders	2020	2021	2022
	Frank Gangware	Gwen Heine	Ben Dickerson
	Lynda Nadkarni	Allan Halline	Ellen Hamilton
	Dennis Zander	Matt Lisle	Serina Ranft
			Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Lloyd Bradbury	Deb Jansky	Claire Gangware
	Charlie Juister	Wendy Seifert	Sylvia Schade
	Sally Sloane	Joyce Van Cura	Susanne Vogel
	Jeanne Smith		
Trustees	Patti Perry	Thom DeVries	Paula McCracken
	Doug Harvin	Fred Mitchell	Tom Radigan
	Hank Vogel	Mike Heine	Brad Staubus