



Riverside Presbyterian Church

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Riverside, IL 60546
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JANUARY 17, 2021



NEW WORSHIP SERIES began Sunday, January 10, 2021.

Life is a series of exclamations from “O No!” to “Help!” to “Oh Yeah!” We can swing between disappointment, helplessness, and gratitude on a daily basis. There are also seasons of our lives when we feel inundated with more of one than the others. As we enter the new year, we had hoped we would be past the “O No!” of the last several months.

Instead we find ourselves with ongoing

prayers for “Help!” The Book of Psalms knows all about this. Written over a span of time from exile and isolation to the rebuilding of the community, the poetry of the Psalms will accompany us in this series, reminding us that through it all, we can trust and even give our thankful “Oh Yeah!” because God is, indeed, holding our lives.

THEOLOGY ON TAP Begins

Monday, January 18, 2021. Our study is called *A New Family: Throwing Open the Doors of the Sanctuary*. Through her writing and speaking, Rachel Held Evans’ work opened a space for people to become involved with the evolution of their faith by example. She strived to be grace-full while



admitting her imperfection. Her advocacy was for the heart of God which is for the people of God. All people, a diverse bunch of clumsy-yet-beautiful people of different races, cultures, beliefs, faiths, genders, and sexual orientations just doing our best to be human. She was a person who reached for the outsider and brought their voice and perspective into the fold. She inspired change and sometimes provoked resistance. But as she says in this series, her hope was to start more conversations than end them.

<https://zoom.us/j/935547600?pwd=cTV0YTR4YkErT0twWmExUXItc3ozQT09> Meeting ID: 935 547 600 Passcode: 636553

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>.



Tax statements for 2020 giving will be sent out in mid-January.

PER CAPITA —It's 2021 but per capita stays the same—\$36.00/member annually. Please remember to include this in your offerings.

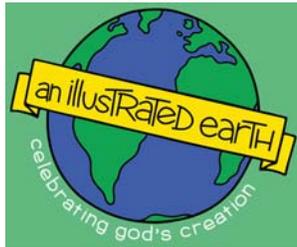
MISSION GIVING—during these difficult times the Mission Committee and Session are committed to continuing the mission of RPC. Each year we budget \$5,000 for Missions and we also receive countless gifts throughout the year. Here are some of the ways that your pledges and gifts have been used this year.



- ◇ Peru Mission Co-Worker support \$1,000
- ◇ Constance Morris House \$500
- ◇ The Boulevard \$500
- ◇ Heifer International \$1,000 (see article below)
- ◇ Beds Plus \$500
- ◇ Presbytery Disaster and Assistance \$1,000
- ◇ Alaskan Native Peoples Fund \$500
- ◇ 6 families from District 96 and 6 Little Food Pantry clients received \$100 Aldi gift cards for Thanksgiving
- ◇ 12 Brook Park School families and 6 Little Food Pantry clients received \$50 Aldi gift cards for Christmas



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL—For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked with people all around the world to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders. By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners, we're investing in a new breed of success.



FAITH FORMATION — Intergenerational Sunday School curriculum picks up where we left off. Packets are available. Contact the office to make arrangements to pick up. Lenten educational materials will be available in February.

CONFIRMATION CLASS — will begin mid-January. More details to follow.



- ◆ Del Harris, Jeanine Buttimer's father, who is transitioning to hospice care and Mary Harris, Jeanine's step-mother, who has Covid-19.
- ◆ Randy Womack, who is recovering from Covid-19 at a nursing home.
- ◆ Don James and Marcia, Joyce Dobrzanski's brother and sister-in-law. Don has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease.
- ◆ John Hiehle, Carol O'Meara's son-in-law, who has cancer.
- ◆ Ruth Svestka and her husband, who is in hospice.
- ◆ Joyce Van Cura
- ◆ Jack Smith
- ◆ Judy Lynch, Susan Lynch's sister-in-law
- ◆ Monica Wood



ZOOM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING— The Annual Congregational Meeting is January 31 immediately following worship. The Annual Report will be available on our web site. Hard copies will be available to pick up in the office. If you cannot pick one up, contact the office and we will make arrangements to get it to you.



PRESCHOOL NEWS --We return to 3-day in person Preschool beginning the middle of January after having a hybrid the first couple of weeks back from Christmas break. This will be the first time we will meet all three days in person since last March. The kids are really good at keeping their masks on and are so happy to be able to play and learn together!

We are now optimistically accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications are available on our website both the morning and enrichment classes.

OFFICE CLOSED —The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 18 in honor of Martin Luther King Day.



The inaugural committee for President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is holding a Memorial for the more than 343,000 people who have died due to the pandemic. As part of the Memorial, churches across the nation will ring their bells at 5:30 p.m. (4:30 p.m. CST) on January 19 as “a national moment of unity and remembrance.” As RPC’s bell joins bells across the country, I invite you to a moment of prayer.

*Loving God, we thank you for the beauty of the creation in which we live.
 We thank you for your goodness to us, your steadfast love and mercy, and your unending grace. During this time of fear and anxiety, hear our prayers.
 We pray for all of those who are ill around the world because of this virus.
 We pray for all of those who grieve the loss of loved ones who have died because of coronavirus and ask that you give comfort to their loved ones.
 We pray for all the first responders who are working on the front lines of this crisis: doctors, nurses, medical personnel, researchers and public health officials, and we pray for your wisdom, strength and guidance for those who seek to provide relief.
 We pray for the most vulnerable of our neighbors, locally and globally, who lack adequate health care, income, and support systems in this time of crisis. May we practice compassion and reach out to those most in need in our community to provide help as we are able.
 We pray that you will calm our fears and quiet our spirits.
 Remind us that you are with us in every moment.
 Remind us of the truth that in all times and all places, we belong to you.
 Amen.*

2021 CHURCH LEADERSHIP		
Elders		
2021	2022	2023
Gwen Heine	Ben Dickerson	Lisa Aulerich Marciniak
Allan Halline	Ellen Hamilton	Sandra Kappmeyer
Matt Lisle	Serina Ranft	Lynda Nadkarni
Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk		
Deacons		
Deb Jansky	Claire Gangware	Jeanine Buttimer
Wendy Seifert	Sylvia Schade	Bridget Juister
Joyce Van Cura	Susanne Vogel	Susan Lynch
Trustees		
Thom DeVries	Paula McCracken	Frank Gangware
Fred Mitchell	Tom Radigan	Doug Harvin
Mike Heine	Brad Staubus	Henry Vogel