

Welcome to  
**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

October 29, 2023

Please silence your cell phones.

\* Please stand in body or Spirit. **Bold** indicates congregational response.



**WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 46:1-3, 11)

God is our refuge and strength,  
always ready to help in times of trouble.

**So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come,  
and the mountains crumble into the sea.**

Let the oceans roar and foam.

Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

**The Lord Almighty is here among us;  
the God of all creation is our fortress.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ever-calling God,

We give thanks that you have gathered us into your church  
and graced us with your faithful presence.

We ponder our history, ancient and still developing,  
and marvel at the many expressions of your church.

Grant us the vision to be a part of a new reformation for the Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world.

Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus' vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. **Amen**

\*HYMN #375        *Shall We Gather at the River*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reforming God,

We pray for ourselves and your church throughout the world.

Fill us with a spirit of openness to your Spirit,

to hear and receive your promises

**and to keep our covenant with you.**

Where we are corrupt, **purify us.**

Where we are in error, **direct us.**

Where we are in need, **provide for us.**

Where we are divided, **reunite us.**

And where we are close-minded,

**reform us and make us new.**

We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.** (Silence is kept.)

\*SUNG RESPONSE *God Is So Good*

*God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.*

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (based on John 3:14-21)

Friends of God, believe this –

God loved the world, God loves the world, And we are the beloved!

May the truth of this great love story,

Call us back again and again to the good news:

That in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.)*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT      *River of Life*

*I've got a river of life flowing out of me.  
Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see.  
Opens prison doors, sets the captives free.  
I've got a river of life flowing out of me.*

*Spring up O well, (splish splash!) within my soul!  
Spring up O well, (splish splash!) and make me whole  
Spring up O well, (splish, splash!) and give to me—  
That life, abundantly.*

Children K-5th grade are invited to River Kids at this time and will be brought to fellowship in the social hall after. Younger children may go to childcare.

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

FIRST READING      1 Samuel 18:1-4, 15-17, 28-29      OT p. 262, 263

SECOND READING      1 Samuel 19:1-4, 20:30-31, 41-42a      OT p. 263, 265

SERMON      "Biblical Bromance"

### **OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE**

\*HYMN #840      *When Peace like a River*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

God loves us and blesses us with abundance. God also calls us to love others and to care for creation, and to be generous with all we have been given. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY      HYMN #623 *I've Got Peace Like a River*

\*SUNG RESPONSE      *Praise Him*

*Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him!  
Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised.*

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully entrust these gifts to your care for use in service. May these gifts reflect our love for your people and for your world; blessing others as we have been blessed. **Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy God,

whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation,  
hear our prayers for all who thirst today.

We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty,  
who long to know Your presence, but don't know where to find You.  
We pray for those who are alone and without hope,  
those who long to feel needed and loved,  
those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

O healing river,

**pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

We pray for all who are physically thirsty,  
who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals,  
whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered;  
those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive,  
or who have to be content with water that is unclean.

We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart  
because of drought or famine.

O healing river,

**pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

We pray for those who are thirsty for justice,  
who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations;  
those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and  
oceans;

those who are working to find clean water,  
and make it available to those who need it.

O healing river,

**pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

God, we ask that you would open our hearts to the needs of all who  
thirst. Give us courage to work together for justice,  
to stand alongside those who are thirsty,  
so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear,  
and may discover the abundant life You promise to each one.

In the name of Jesus Christ—the source of living water—we pray.  
**Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN #80      *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

\*BENEDICTION

### **WORSHIP NOTES**

Prayer of the Day written by Rev. Bonnie Tarwater. Prayer of Confession from “Seasons of the Spirit-Reformation Day”. Call for the Offering and Prayer of Dedication written by Ter McDowell Ott for The Presbyterian Outlook. Prayers of the People written by Christine Longhurst. Benediction written by Jonny Baker.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE**

**Greeter:** Nancy Dvorak

**Liturgist:** Doug Asbury

**Children's Moment:** Lynda Nadkarni

**Fellowship** in lieu of fellowship at RPC, join the River Rats for fellowship and clean up.

**Trustee of the Month:** Henry Vogel

Donna Ulrich, John Lynch, Lloyd Bradbury,  
Jack Smith, Greg Reichle  
Larry Buttimer and Mary Harris, brother-in-law and  
stepmom of Jeanine Buttimer.



Dear RPC,

This weekend we have some great opportunities to grow through service: serving God and one another in worship; serving nature alongside the River Rats; serving people in need with Feed My Starving Children. Sometimes we may think we are too tired to help, or that our service is ineffective. But never forget that serving in the way of Christ is also what leads us into life, and life to its full (John 10:10b).

*"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."* -Rabindranath Tagore

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mark



**FIFTH SUNDAY — October 29 —Hoffman Dam River Rats River Clean-Up** Worship at 10 am. Join the River Rats before or after worship. Refreshments welcome, bring to clean-up site. Meet in the forest preserve area east of the Barrypoint Bridge and the Hofmann Tower. Bags and pokersticks provided. Wear long pants, sleeves and sturdy shoes. Contact Steve Marcus for more information 847-224-5590.

**TIME CHANGE** —Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you go to sleep on Saturday, November 4. You can make up for that hour of sleep you lost in the spring!

**RIVER KIDS** — Sunday School volunteers this week are Christine and Avery Long who will lead a conversation about friendship and stories of friends from the Bible. They're expert friendship bracelet makers which is how we will thank our friends for being faithful and true. Ask the kids about the people in the Bible they met today!

**VOLLEYBALL IN THE GYM** — The Riverside Parks and Rec department has arranged to use the church gym on Tuesday nights, 6:30-10:30pm for a women's volleyball league. At this point it looks as though the registration is already full, but others (including men and teenagers!) are welcome and encouraged to join in our free drop-in volleyball opportunity on Mondays, 5:30-8pm. That group, led by church member Diane Chaney, is in need of new players this season. Text her at (708) 204-9500.

**SUNDAYS WITH TED & FRIENDS** —6:00 p.m. In person and via Zoom. Contact Doug Asbury for more information at [dougasbury@gmail.com](mailto:dougasbury@gmail.com).

**10/29**—An Interview on Isreal/Palestine with Yoav Noah Harari.

**LITTLE FOOD PANTRY** — Item of the month is **canned vegetables**. Any variety. Consider buying a case of 12!

**COMPOSTING** — The Green Team is working on some on-site composting at the church for vegetable waste from the little free food pantry. Meanwhile, Riverside's solid waste provider, Flood Brothers, encourages residents to include food waste in yard debris bins, where it will also be composted. Here is a link to their info sheet on how to do this: <https://www.riverside.il.us/documentcenter/view/5218>

**TREASURER/BOOKKEEPER WANTED** — Our excellent long-time Treasurer, Ellen Hamilton, has decided not to continue in her volunteer position for 2024. The finance committee is looking to possibly split the job into two – a bookkeeper who tracks expenses and a treasurer who cuts checks. If you are interested in helping with one or both of these essential church functions, please contact Elder Mary Beth Wynn.

**MISSING:** Shoes that are partners for the 27 single shoes we have collected. If you have donated shoes, and think there might be a solo one somewhere in the closet or under the bed, please drop it off at church. As always, if there is anyone you know well enough to ask for their cast-offs, please ask. We're collecting until October 31st. If you need them to be picked up, call the office.



**PRESCHOOL** — The preschoolers will have an indoor costume parade at 8:45 am. on October 31. Desired are church members to view and hand out treats (we provide them) as the kids walk by. Let Lynda know if you would like to participate. Those who did last year loved it and so did the kids!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL-HIGH SCHOOL STRONGHOLD RETREAT**—November 10, 7 pm –November 12, 11 am at Stronghold. A weekend designed for middle school and high school youth filled with games, activities, groups, worship, food and more! Cost: Youth and Adult leaders \$125. **Register by November 6.** Additional information and registrations at: [www.blackhawkpresbytery.org](http://www.blackhawkpresbytery.org)

**BISHOPS & BAGELS CHESS TOURNAMENT** – Sunday, November 19, 11:30 am at RPC. Come for a casual chess tournament with free admission and free bagels! All ages and skill levels welcome. Time control: each player will have 10 minutes per game for 3 rounds. Boards/clocks are provided. Contact: [TheRiversideChessClub@gmail.com](mailto:TheRiversideChessClub@gmail.com) or register at: [bit.ly/bishopsbagels](http://bit.ly/bishopsbagels)

## THIS WEEK

### Today

10:00 am Worship—5th Sunday

11:00 am Fellowship

5:30 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Sundays with TED

### Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

### Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

### Wednesday

4:15 pm Ringers & Singers

6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday

7:00 am Women's ZOOM Forum

7:00 pm Membership & Nominating

### Sunday

Daylight Saving Time Ends

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Fellowship

11:30 am Hospitality & Outreach

6:00 pm Sundays with TED

## Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546

(708) 447-1520, [rpcusa.org](http://rpcusa.org)

Sermons available at

[Youtube.com](http://Youtube.com)

Riverside Presbyterian, IL

### **Our 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.

### **RPC Staff**

**Rev. Mark Zimmerly**, Pastor,  
[mark@rpcusa.org](mailto:mark@rpcusa.org); 708-202-9874

**Linda Hutcheson**, Office Manager,  
[rpcoffice@rpcusa.org](mailto:rpcoffice@rpcusa.org)

**Dr. Sally Sloane**, Minister of Music,  
[musikhse@comcast.net](mailto:musikhse@comcast.net)

**Lynda Nadkarni**, Coordinator of Children's  
Ministries, [lynda@rpcusa.org](mailto:lynda@rpcusa.org)

**Ellen Hamilton**, Treasurer,  
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**Sara Vacek**, Tech Manager,  
[rpcvideo@rpcusa.org](mailto:rpcvideo@rpcusa.org)

**Doug Asbury**, Volunteer in Mission,  
[dougasbury@gmail.com](mailto:dougasbury@gmail.com)

## 2023 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

| Elders   | 2023                    | 2024           | 2025                    |
|----------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
|          | Lisa Aulerich Marciniak | Susan Lynch    | Betsy Gardner           |
|          | Jon Jansky              | Carrie Staubus | Ellen Hamilton          |
|          | Sandra Kappmeyer        | Mary Beth Wynn | Serina Ranft            |
|          |                         |                | Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk |
| Deacons  | 2023                    | 2024           | 2025                    |
|          | Nancy Dvorak            | Jim Marciniak  | Thom DeVries            |
|          | Elizabeth Musick        | Steve Marcus   | Paula McCracken         |
|          | Marilyn Slanec          | Wendy Seifert  | Open                    |
| Trustees | 2023                    | 2024           | 2025                    |
|          | Doug Harvin             | John McGlennon | Deb Jansky              |
|          | Henry Vogel             | Lynda Nadkarni | Tom Radigan             |
|          | Open                    | Open           | Open                    |