

**PRAY, EAT, LOVE**—Join us on February 11<sup>th</sup> after worship as Deacon Serina Ranft hosts a potluck entitled “Foods We Love.” Bring a favorite dish to share - whatever food makes you smile and gives you comfort. Of course, the best part of the potluck is the love we share with each other at RPC, where it’s Valentine’s Day all year round.

**PRESCHOOL NEWS** — February is all about kindness and love! We’ll be celebrating Valentine’s Day by completing a kindness checklist, exchanging Valentines, and making heart crafts. We’ll have a Wicky Wacky Wednesday and Parent/Teacher conferences. Registration for the 2018-2019 preschool year has begun. If you know someone who is looking for a fun and educational preschool, please have them contact us.

**OUTREACH NEWS** — The Holy Spirit is moving us to actualize our 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, and Serve God by Serving Others”** Mark your calendar for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month in 2018 (April 29<sup>th</sup>, July 29<sup>th</sup>, September 30<sup>th</sup>, December 30). RPC will be launching a new and innovative way to combine mission, outreach and worship at the same time! We will be interacting with the community and sharing the love and grace of God. RPC will be open, but worship won’t take place at 116 Barrypoint Road on these days. More information and education on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be forthcoming.

**NEW PHONE SYSTEM** — Please be patient if you are having trouble reaching the church office, pastor or treasurer on Monday. Our new phone system is being installed. If you can’t get through and need to reach someone, call Dale’s cell phone.

**SUPER BOWL PARTY** — Come watch the Super Bowl, or maybe just the commercials, on February 4<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Doug Harvin and Matt Lisle will be hosting a Super Bowl party, complete with big screen TV. Please bring your own drinks and possibly something for the snack table. All are welcome, including family, friends and the non-sports lovers who just want to socialize.

#### 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)  
Dr. Sally Sloane, Minister of Music (musikhse@comcast.net)  
Susan Zander, Director of Children’s Education (smozan@icloud.com)  
Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer (treasurer@rpcusa.org)  
Susan Lisle, Preschool Director (rpcpreschool@sbcglobal.net)

## Riverside Presbyterian Church

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

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Lent  
40 days of preparation

### Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes

7:00 am – 8:00 am at the Riverside Train Station

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

There will be no formal service

### Sundays of Lent

Women in the Bible

*Everybody has a story. Some are funny and make us glad. Others are depressing and make us sad. Some stories are more interesting than others; some should never be shared. But whether happy or sad, we all have one. During Lent we will focus on the stories of some of the lesser known women in the Bible. We will seek to understand the context of their stories and the limitation of the context and encourage them to speak for themselves. When we earnestly study the Bible, we find women in a multitude of roles: mothers – wed and unwed; wives; daughters; military and political leaders; prophets and sages; disciples; deacons and pastors; friends, loyal and religious persons. We find ourselves reflected in their stories, and we celebrate their joys and triumphs, their courage and dedication. We learn from their tragedies and despair, their pains and sorrows. We are blessed when we critique the traditions that hurt women, and we rejoice that God is still in our midst – working to make us whole. “Bad Girls of the Bible,” by Barbara J. Essex.*

We will spend time with Delilah, Rahab, Gomer, Vashti, Jezebel, Lydia, Mary and Martha.

**Palm Sunday, March 25** Procession of Palms  
**Maundy Thursday, March 29** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Soup Supper  
7:00 pm – 7:45 pm Communion Service in Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday, April 1**

Sunrise Service 6:30 am, Doug Asbury leading the Service. There will be a light breakfast in the manse immediately following the service.

Worship at 10:00 am with Communion

**Sunday, April 8, Jazz Sunday**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – TODAY** The Annual Report is available on our website. Hard copies are available for those who need them.

**ALL CHURCH FAMILY WORK DAY** – Sunday, February 18 1- 3 pm.

**THEOLOGY ON TAP** — We gather at 6:30 for dinner, and our discussion begins at 7:00 at Grapevine, 9 W. Hillgrove Ave, La Grange, IL. We are reading *A Bigger Table* by John Pavlovitz. The book asks if organized Christianity can find a new way of faithfully continuing the work Jesus began two thousand years ago, where everyone gets a seat.

**HUMAN SCENE** — Yohanan Aharoni began his book, *The Land of the Bible*, with the following: *The history of any land and people is influenced to a considerable degree by their geographical environment. This includes not only the natural features such as climate, soil, topography, etc., but also the geopolitical relationships with neighboring areas. This is especially true for Palestine, a small and relatively poor country, which derives its main importance from its unique centralized location at the juncture of continents and a crossroads for the nations.*

During Lent we will learn about the Holy Land. We will explore the geopolitical history of the region and look at Bible passages which pertain to specific regions. Some of the areas to be discussed are: Jezreel Valley, Galilee, Jordan, Judean Wilderness and Jerusalem. If you are planning to attend the Holy Land Trip in September this will be an excellent Human Scene to attend.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS** — We continue on the Joyful Path in our endeavor to connect the children of RPC with an authentic spiritual experience that is inclusive, creative and multi-layer. This month we will learn that true success means growing in our ability to love and to experience inner happiness. This lesson will include a variety of games and discussion in Creation Station. We will be making word collages and talking about ways we can be blessings to others in Living Waters. In the Oasis Place we will discuss the meaning of "humility" -recognizing an infinite power greater than our little self by taking part in a foot-washing activity. And we will be illustrating the affirmation: "*I meet life's challenges with inner strength and courage*". We are looking for teachers for March; anyone with an extra hour to help out on Sunday mornings, please let Susan Zander know. Thank you.

**GODLY PLAY** — As the children will be performing on the 2nd Sunday of the month in February, Godly Play will take place after the children's message on 2/18.

**OPEN GYM** — Sunday, February 4. All kids are invited up to the gym after service. Please wear gym shoes!

**WORSHIP AT CANTATA AND CALEDONIA** — Join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata on February 4 at 2 pm, and at Caledonia on February 18 at 2 pm.

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS — JANUARY**

- elected Mary Ann Sadilek as Clerk, Ellen Hamilton as Treasurer, and Fred Kitch as Auditor.
  - elected Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak, John Haugland, Martha Heine, and Sandra Kappmeyer as Commissioners to Presbytery.
  - approved the baptisms on Feb. 11 of Caroline Mikolajczyk and Benjamin Tasch
  - approved holding the regular Sunday, April 29 morning worship service (and communion) at Caledonia Senior Living (former Scottish Home) instead of at the RPC Sanctuary
  - authorized Rev. Jackson to impose ashes on Ash Wednesday at the Riverside train station during morning commuter time, pending Village approval.
  - authorized Rev. Jackson, along with an elder or deacon, to celebrate home/hospital communion when requested.
  - noted that 48 non-participating members did not respond to a request that they notify the Pastor or Church Office if they wished to remain on the active roll, and were therefore removed from the membership.
  - viewed a Power Point presentation on needed capital improvements to the church building and authorized the trustees to seek bids for the work, which includes roofing, tuck pointing, drainage, and painting. After bids are received and approved by Session, there will be a Capital Improvement Campaign, headed by Jon Jansky, to raise the funds.
  - organized committees and chairmen for the coming year, including asking the Deacons to take over Fellowship duties and making Stewardship a sub-committee of Finance.
- Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session

**CARERS NEWS FEBRUARY** — The Riverside Township Pantry has seen its needs of food donations increase significantly. Donations from our church family enable them to serve our community families. Please give all kinds of non-perishable foods.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE for Fellowship and Study** will meet Wednesday, February 28 at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. All women are welcome to join us for coffee, fellowship and study as we discuss "*Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*" by Melissa Bane Sevier. Lesson Six "In Community with the Reality of the Present" Hebrews 2:10-18 and 10:34-35; and Mark 8:31-38 Ellen Hamilton, Leader.