



The Vision

September 2012

Doubters' Dialogue

It doesn't happen often, but this morning I had a dream that I believe was sent to me from God. Was it really sent from God, or is that just a delusion? I am not sure, but I have my beliefs.

The result is my proposal for a new ministry called the "Doubters' Dialogue." This would be a meeting of "doubters" every third Sunday, after coffee fellowship, in the upstairs parlor (around 11:30 a.m.). At each meeting, there would be no agenda, no presumptions of belief, and no disrespect of opinions or persons. Questions can be submitted orally in front of the whole group, or in writing prior to the group (either anonymously or signed).



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas by Caravaggio

All questions about God, Christianity, or Spirituality will be welcomed at the meetings. All persons will be welcome at the meetings (even curious church members) as long as they are able to maintain a civil discourse of respect for others. The meetings will not open or close in prayers, since that would require a presumption of belief. I will moderate a period of folks asking questions and I will attempt to formulate thoughtful responses. Anyone can join or leave the meeting at any time, and I will stay as long as there are more questions out there.

To kick off this ministry, I am making this special appeal to you, the faithful members and friends of the church. Please try to think of anyone (including yourself) you might consider a "doubter" when it comes to matters of God, Christianity, or Spirituality. Please try to invite such persons to worship on September 16 (the third Sunday). I will preach a sermon specifically geared toward doubters, and setting the stage for the new ministry. Then we can have some snacks in the social hall after worship and gather at 11:30 in the parlor.

Often, as I read the news on the Internet, and peruse anonymous comments made on various topics, I am amazed how much hostility and passion there is toward "organized religion." However, based on those same comments, I often wonder if those writers have even the slightest idea what "organized religion" actually is or says. It also seems odd to me that, with so much passion being expressed anonymously, none of that passion seems to find its way to me. There is a major communication disconnect.

The purpose of the Doubters' Dialogue is not to convert everyone to a homogenized belief system, but to allow all doubters to better understand one another. A particular doubter may leave the meeting firmly convinced that Christianity is evil, but it is my hope that such a doubter will at least have a better understanding of what Christianity actually says.

Please consider whom you will invite.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott

We are called to celebrate God's presence; Nurture the spiritual life of each individual; Carry the light of Jesus Christ to the world; and Serve God by serving others.

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September Worship Schedule

September 2 *James 1:17-27* “Pure Religion”

What is at the core of our religious life? What do we understand as our most basic obligation as Christians? What do others outside of the church think of when they hear the word “religion?” Are we communicating well with them? Today will feature an open congregational discussion led by Sandra Kappmeyer instead of a sermon. Communion (normally on every first Sunday) will be delayed until the following week.

September 9 *Mark 7:24-30* “The Key to Education”

The Gentile woman was very eager to receive a blessing from Jesus, even if it meant being humble about her identity. Kids will learn the most at Sunday School if they are eager to learn. The curriculum, the teachers, the supplies, the building, etc., have far less significance than their eagerness to learn. How do parents promote this eagerness? We will have a skit today instead of a regular sermon. Since it is Sunday School Kickoff day, we’ll have a longer kids’ sermon, and Jenny will call up the Sunday School leaders for a commissioning prayer. We will also celebrate Communion.

September 16 *James 3:1-13* “Welcome Doubters”

James warns us against being too quick to consider ourselves “teachers” or bearers of wisdom. We should be humble about our beliefs and willing to listen to others—remembering that they just might be right. Rather than trying to “out-argue” someone who doubts your beliefs, James suggests that we should let our actions speak for us and simply behave with gentleness and goodness toward all persons.

September 23 *Proverbs 31:10-31* “The Ideal Wife”

Is this an early germ of feminism from ancient Israel? The woman is a hard worker, very productive. She is not supposed to be just pretty or sociable—she is valued for the same things for which a man is valued. She is also a responsible decision-maker within the family, and even beyond the family. She has the authority to give to the poor as she sees fit, and her wisdom and her works should be praised within the city gates (that is, in the most public sphere available).

September 30 *James 5:13-20* “The Fallacy of Passive Faith”

James talks about the ideal life within a Christian congregation. Everyone is responsible for everyone. There is not one person who is “in charge” and who makes all the decisions. Rather, each parishioner is an initiator of whatever good deeds need to be done. It is sometimes tempting to sit back and wait for someone else to tell us what to do, but God pours out the Holy Spirit upon all of us, not just a few.

September Birthdays

Emily Cain 9/1	Robbie LeBeau 9/8	Kris Carlson 9/23
Nancy Hopkins 9/1	George Meyer 9/9	Greta Schramm 9/23
Austin McKain 9/1	Gwen Heine 9/10	Scott Schwarz 9/23
Joan Shurtleff 9/1	Donna Cermak 9/11	Roy Thorsen 9/23
Cade Friend 9/2	John Franzo 9/12	Chloe Floros 9/25
Ja’Net Deason 9/3	Peter Jansen 9/12	Brooklyn Hastings 9/27
Allan Chard 9/4	Nuala Lubeck 9/14	David Schade 9/27
Scott Jansen 9/5	Bob Sprunger 9/14	Michael Aieta 9/28
Jonathan Jansky 9/5	Betty Jirsa 9/17	Jacques Doornebos 9/28
Marika Floros 9/6	Kate Chard 9/18	Jeff Cermak 9/30
Debbie Lubeck 9/6	April Pratico-Floros 9/21	Michael MacDonald 9/30
Tim Gates 9/7		Bennett Regan 9/30



Trustees for the month of September are Diane Chaney and George Meyer.

Session Highlights

At the August meeting, the Session:

- ♦ noted with sadness the death of long-time member, Jeanne Heidler;
- ♦ elected Sandra Kappmeyer as a commissioner to Presbytery, replacing Katrina Daniels;
- ♦ authorized changing the date of Communion from September 2 to September 9;
- ♦ voted to end the paper recycling project due to low participation and problems with the location of the bin;
- ♦ learned that “Sustain Your Spirit at RPC” will be the theme used by the membership, stewardship and other committees for the rest of the year;
- ♦ discussed ways to attract participation by the 22-35 age group and asked the Worship & Music Committee to consider offering a monthly contemporary service;
- ♦ approved a request to serve wine and beer at the September 30 service auction;
- ♦ learned of Rev. Jansen’s plans to hold a monthly “Doubter’s Dialogue” time to discuss aspects of religion with those who are skeptical.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session



September Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Carrie Staubus](#)
For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)
Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact [Elizabeth Musick](#)



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
September 2	OPEN	OPEN	Lisle Family	Sanchez Family	CARERS Committee
September 9	Youth	OPEN	Harvin Family Jim Ulrich	Heine Family	Church Picnic
September 16	Hollie Miezio	OPEN	Aieta Family	Paula McCracken	Paige Rambeaux Carol Walker
September 23	Lynda Nadkarni	OPEN	Susan Lynch Edith Wakely Sanlee & Thom Radigan	Elizabeth Musick	OPEN
September 30	Michael Aieta	OPEN	Schwarz Family	Serina Ranft	OPEN

Trustees' News

Restoration of the stained glass rose window has been on the Trustees' "to do" list for a very long time, but often, of necessity, other projects have taken priority. Last winter the handicapped accessible washrooms were completed near the sanctuary. These long-awaited facilities were partially funded by a loan from the Endowment Fund. The loan for the bathrooms must be repaid to the Endowment Fund before we can again set our sights on restoring the Rose Window.

All pledges to the Capital Improvement Fund are currently put toward paying for this project, as are any contributions specially marked "Accessible Bathrooms." We really appreciate everyone's contributions, and are happy to report that the loan amount remaining is now under \$13,000! We hope contributions will continue so that we may begin planning in earnest for the restoration of the Rose Window.

The deadline for ordering a paver in time to be installed this fall is September 15. Pavers ordered after September 15 will be installed in the spring. If you have a special person or event to honor, please consider purchase of a brick paver. They make great gifts! Details can be found [on the church website](#) or in the information rack outside the church office. Funds from sales of engraved pavers go directly to the Rose Window Restoration Fund.

Have you visited the Prayer Garden? The garden is really starting to "come into its own" and is a wonderful place to sit and reflect.

Make a Dent in Hunger in Our Community

The Deacons are partnering with Christ Presbyterian Church of North Riverside to gather hundreds of volunteers (adults and children) and raise money to fund a "Feed Our Community Day" on Saturday, October 20, in the Riverside Village Hall. At this event we expect to package a minimum of 20,000 meals of vitamin-enriched macaroni & cheese to be donated to local food pantries. Those who've participated in similar events in the past report that this is really fun and well-organized. To see a video of a similar event and read background information, visit www.feed6.org.



How can you help?

1. We have designated the local portion (1/4 of the funds collected) of our church's October Peacemaking Offering to go to this project, but we will need to raise additional funds. You can help by making a financial donation to help us underwrite the minimum \$5,000 cost of materials. (We can prepare a meal for 25 cents! Imagine that!) Please help by writing a check payable to the Riverside Presbyterian Church with FEED6 in the memo line, or make a credit card donation by going to www.rpcusa.org and clicking on the **Donate or Purchase Tickets** tab.
2. Volunteer to work the event. We need people to register volunteers, package food, assist with general chores, load and unload trucks, and plan refreshments. We are asking each "volunteer" to make a minimum donation of \$5; the recommended contribution is \$25. Registration forms are in the church office, or contact Jeanine Buttner at buttner270@aol.com.

We hope to see you on October 20 as we take a step to reduce hunger in our community.

It's going to be fun, fun, fun!



Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of July (58% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 159,351 (49.0% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 194,688 (59.9% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 35,337

CARERS Corner

Since 1988, with the help of over 600 volunteers each year, BEDS+ has helped the homeless people of west suburban Cook County return to stable, healthy lives by providing shelter, meals, case management and other essential services. To assist in their efforts, during September we are asking for hot drinks (decaf coffee, tea, cocoa) or cold drinks (lemonade, cider, dry mixes, etc.), peanut butter, and paper towels. Resealable plastic bags, all sizes, are always needed.



CARERS/Board of Deacons Prayer Phone Chain



Beginning in September there will be a new way to expand our ability to pray for one another within the RPC family. In August the CARERS collected names of volunteers who expressed a willingness to pray for fellow members and then call the next person listed on the "chain" to continue the prayers. The volunteers will have a quick gathering in the Westminster Room between 11:15 and 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 2. Activation of the Prayer Chain will commence on Sunday, September 9. Questions? Call Marilyn Slanec or Monica Wood.

Stars & Stripes Appreciation & Recognition

The CARERS Committee's Stars & Stripes mission outreach program was recognized on Facebook by Operation MOMS (Men & Women of Military Service) Cookies, Inc, NFP. "On behalf of our Military Men and Women, thank you to the Riverside Presbyterian Church for your monthly congregation collection "Wish List" items forwarded in MOMS Comfort packages ..." The CARERS Committee also received a *Certificate of Appreciation* for "making a positive, tangible and OUTSTANDING difference for America's U.S. Armed Forces across the globe." The CARERS Committee maintains the Stars & Stripes collection barrel in the hallway next to the Pastor's office, year-round, with a monthly "Wish List" from MOMS Cookies posted above the barrel.



Sunday School Kick-Off: Let's Fill the Ark

Please join us for an exciting kick-off celebration, which will be held outside (weather permitting) on September 9 at 9:00 a.m. It's going to be a great school year at RPC, so don't miss out on the fun! Print your registration form from our website and return it to the church office prior to the start of Sunday School. ***Please bring a photo or drawing of your pet(s) for an Ark mural that we'll be working on during the kick-off.*** If you don't have a pet, please bring a picture of your favorite animal.



A Witness to God's Presence: The Lord's Prayer

This year's Sunday school theme is *A Witness to God's Presence*. What a gift Jesus gave us when he taught us to pray. Our first rotation starts on September 16 with an exploration of *The Lord's Prayer*. During this rotation, kids will discuss the idea of holy time and space, then pray in their own holy place that they make in the Celestial Cinema. In the Oasis Place they'll create skits that help illustrate what it means to do God's will. In Creation Station, a metal punch activity will help them explore the idea of God's kingdom and remind us that God wants us to shine our light on the world. Kids will learn how their bodies can help them be prayerful and they'll make a footprint cross banner together in the gym.

Calling all Volunteers for Children and Youth

Please take a moment to consider what talent you might be able to share with our children and youth as a Sunday School volunteer. Did you know that each Sunday school teacher is scheduled for only a 4-week block? Substitute teachers only a few Sundays each year? Godly Play leaders work with very young children on a rotating basis once per month. There are also occasional opportunities to work with older youth in Teen Scene. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Jenny Kolinski with your area of interest and availability at kolinski426@comcast.net. Thank you for being stewards of your time and talents through the support of the children of our church family.

Childcare/Godly Play Schedule

With the return of Sunday School comes the return of our full childcare schedule. Starting on September 9, continuing through Memorial Day, childcare hours will be 8:45 a.m. through the conclusion of worship each Sunday. **Godly Play** will also resume on September 9 for children in preschool, kindergarten and first grade.



It's time to start another school year and we can't wait for it to begin! We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer. We are ready to "*Splash into Preschool*" with our new friend *Corky the Red-Bellied Turtle* who we have adopted from the Brookfield Zoo. The Preschoolers will be busy this month greeting old and making new friends, learning songs, and diving into a ton of fun.



We still have a few openings for the coming school year. If you know anyone who is interested, please tell them to call the school at 447-1520 -- the more the merrier!

Girls' Group

Girls' Group will resume on September 20 for all girls who are in 5th -8th grade, and 9th-12th grade. Girls' Group meets on a weekly basis in the Oasis Place at Riverside Presbyterian Church. We will have a kick-off party to start the year on the 20th of September. Have any questions? Please contact Noemi Sanchez at nsanchez79@comcast.net

Confirmation Class 2012-2013

Confirmation class for grades 9 and above will be starting in September. Confirmation is a key step toward church membership and increased participation in the worship and mission of Christian life. There will be an orientation, which is mandatory for students and parents, on Sunday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Westminster Room. We will cover the agenda and schedule for the 2012-2013 class, outline the goals and answer questions. Those planning to be confirmed should attend so we can hammer out the details. Please contact Pastor Scott Jansen with any questions.

Teen Scene

Teen Scene will convene in the Library every Sunday at 9:00 a.m., beginning September 9, for donuts and discussion about contemporary Christian living. All high school-aged members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Youth Group - A New Year!

We will be starting a new year of Junior and Senior High Youth Group on Sunday, September 9 and we hope you will be there to start the year with us! The Junior High group typically meets on Sundays from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. and Senior High from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. A special welcome to our newest members of youth group--those who will be starting 6th grade in the fall. We already have plans for September--so don't miss out on the fun!

Sunday, September 9: Kickoff meeting! Junior High 6-7:15, Senior High 7:30-8:45. Come for games and a discussion of our plans for the year

Wednesday, September 12: White Sox v. Detroit! We will depart RPC at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, September 16: Bike Hike to Waterfall Glen

Sunday, September 23: Meeting at Ascension. Games and a discussion topic to be announced

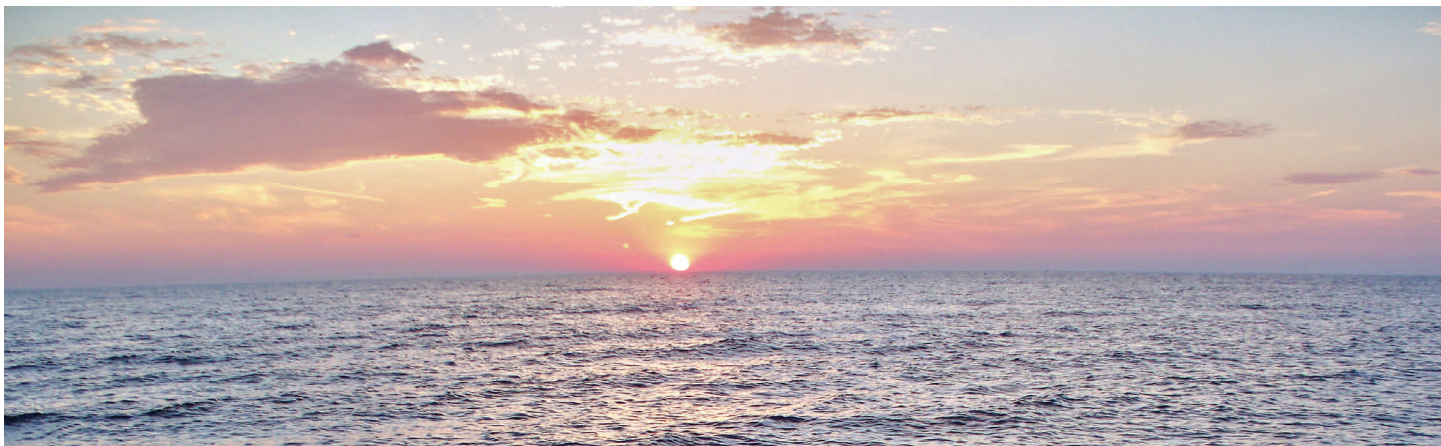
Sunday, September 30: Italian Dinner and Auction! All hands on deck to help out cooking a spaghetti dinner for an RPC fundraiser!

White Sox Outing: Faith & Fellowship Night

The Youth Group would like to invite all church members to join us for an evening at US Cellular Field for the White Sox v. Detroit Tigers on Wednesday, September 12, at 7:10 p.m. The cost of the discounted tickets for upper level box tickets is \$15. If you plan to attend, you must let Tara Gregus know by Sunday, September 2, and get payment to her by that date so tickets can be ordered in a block. Please note that parking at US Cellular costs \$25. Youth group members who need a ride must also contribute an additional \$5 toward parking so the total cost per person is \$20. We will meet at the church at 6:15 p.m. to share rides. Please contact Tara Gregus at taragregus@yahoo.com if you have questions. We hope you will join us for a fun evening at the old ballpark to cheer on the White Sox!



Camp Saugatuck



The weekend of July 21-22, twelve members of our RPC family attended a weekend retreat at Camp Saugatuck near Saugatuck, Michigan. The weather was beautiful, and the campers had a great time relaxing on the beach and enjoying the sunset, delicious meals, and campfires.



Disturbing the peace? No, just getting a ride back to camp from the local police!

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study



The topic for the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2012-2013 is *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*, by Nancy Benson-Nicol.

All women are invited to participate in the Bible study, with the first meeting on Wednesday, September 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Study books cost \$8, and are available from Lucille Christensen.

Lesson 1: *An Overview of the General Epistles*. Scripture: *1 Peter, 2 Peter; 1-3 John; Jude*

Key Ideas: God's household through Asia Minor, to whom the dispatches were addressed, was birthed from a rich and complex history. The General Epistles reflect this complexity. In this lesson we will introduce ourselves to background information about the who, where, when, and why of these texts, to enhance our future exploration of what these letters mean to our spiritual ancestors and what they mean to us.

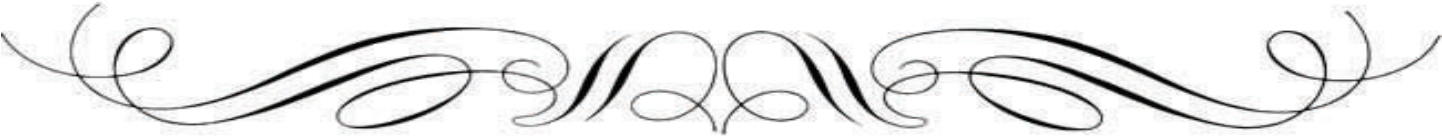
Elizabeth Musick will lead Lesson 1.

Human Scene

September 2 - *No Human Scene*

September 9 & 16 - Richard Crang - *What is Life? What Science Can and Cannot Tell Us* - Through major historic events in biology during the last 160 years, our understanding of life, its development and its possible origin has been revealed. However, developments in theoretical physics over the past century have raised penetrating questions about our existence in the universe.

September 23 & 30 - Ron Smith - "a mark, a yen, a buck, a pound, and is \$&ç+* really such a dirty word?"

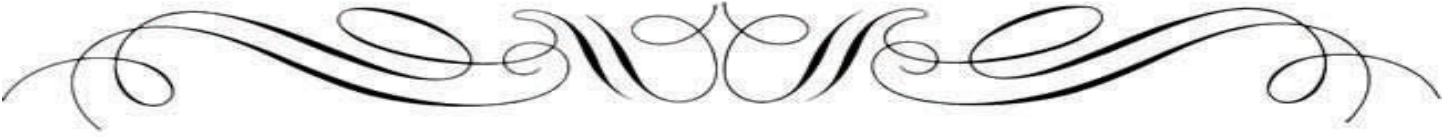


Sustain Your Spirit

Our pledge drive this year will focus on the different ways that RPC helps all of us to sustain our spirits.

If you have any stories or ideas to share, please contact Cindy Gustafson at c.gustafson@sbcglobal.net.

Pledge Sunday will be November 11, 2012.



Fr!day 1st

Don't forget the informal gatherings at the Jansen residence, 300 Addison Road, the first Friday of every month -- **September 7** this month. All adult church members (and their adult spouses) who have birthdays during the month are invited. It is a potluck snack "wine and cheese" type of social (not a dinner), so please bring something to share. There is no need to make a reservation—just come for any portion of the evening that you are free. The party goes from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. Further details can be found in the [June Vision](#), or by contacting [Pastor Scott Jansen](#).



Sunday School Kick-Off September 9

Please plan to join us on Sunday, **September 9**, for our Church Picnic. On Sunday School Kick-Off Day, the Fellowship Committee will grill burgers and hot dogs and we want everyone to stay following worship to enjoy a picnic on the church lawn (weather permitting; in case of rain we will eat in the Social Hall). Please bring a picnic blanket and a side dish or dessert to share.

Make Me an Offer Dinner & Auction on September 30

Save the date for our dinner/auction on **September 30** from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be spaghetti, salad and dessert. Although there is no ticket cost (a free will offering will be taken) you will need to make a reservation to attend. We will be taking names after church starting on September 9. Auction items available so far are dinners for six, soup of the month, weekend vacation in New Buffalo, baby blankets and much more. We will be posting the new auction items in the weekly announcements, the bulletin and on the RPC Facebook page. If you would like to help out with the event or have an item for the auction, please contact Hollie Miezio at hollie.miezio@sbcglobal.net, Cindy Gustafson at c.gustafson@sbcglobal.net, or the church office.



Joe Dvorak: Riverside's Person of the Year

Joe Dvorak will be honored as Riverside's "Person of the Year" at a dinner on Thursday, **September 20**, at the Riverside Country Club (Cocktails at 6:00; Dinner at 7:00). Tickets (\$43 for dinner) are available at Arcade Antiques or Riverside Bank.



Scouts

Troop 24's first meeting of the school year will be held on Friday, September 7, with a campout at the Scout Cabin. Approximately once per month the boy scouts meet at the cabin, with regular meetings all other weeks on Thursdays at RPC. Boys in 6th grade through high school are invited to visit one of our meetings. For more information about Boy Scout Troop 24, contact Nancy Hopkins at nmhopkins1@comcast.net. Boys in first through fifth grade who are interested in becoming cub scouts in Pack 24 should contact Mike Murphy at mjmurphy64@gmail.com.

Please check the
Website for the
most recent
calendar
updates!



September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
						1
2 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 1:30p Cantata Service	3 LABOR DAY 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	4 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Weightlifters 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	5 Office Closed 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace	6 6:30a Women's Forum	7 7p Roots & Shoots 7:30p 1st Friday at Jansens	8
9 9a Sunday School Kick-off 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	10 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	11 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	12 Office Closed	13 6:30a Women's Forum	14 7p Singles Group	15 4p Roots & Shoots
16 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Endowment Comm Mtg 1p Trustee Workday 1:30p Scottish Home Worship Vision Deadline	17 5:15p Volleyball	18 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	19 Office Closed 7:30p Session Mtg	20 6:30a Women's Forum	21 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 6p Craft Night	22
23 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	24 5:15p Volleyball	25 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	26 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study	27 6:30a Women's Forum	28 7p Singles Group	29
30 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 6p Spaghetti Dinner/ Auction						

RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"Where there is no vision, the people perish." — Proverbs 29:18

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Riverside Presbyterian
Church is a congregation of
the Presbytery of Chicago
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More information about the
ministry and mission of
Riverside Presbyterian Church is
available by contacting any
member of our church staff and
by visiting our website:
www.rpcusa.org

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