



The Vision

December 2012

Advent Silence

The spiritual discipline for the month of December is silence. Advent is the season of waiting. The four Sundays of December are meant to promote waiting and silence.

The Hebrew people were oppressed by the Persians, then the Greeks, then the Romans. For all those centuries of hardship bordering on slavery, there was little they could do except to wait for the promised Messiah. They were not busily, frantically, *preparing* for the Messiah. They simply prayed, “let the Messiah come to save us.”

We don’t prepare for the Savior the way that slaves would. We are powerful people, and therefore our time is important. But if you keep yourself busy all the time, relying on your own power for everything, you may miss the Christmas sense of celebration that a Savior has come. You are not the Savior! To appreciate the Savior, you need to let go of trying to play the role of the Savior.

We do this with the discipline of silence. Think of snow softly falling on the grass, how the world can become hushed. Perhaps that is a message from God. Or think of the mood in the room when a baby finally falls asleep (in a manger?). This is the month for silence.

Try taking the earphones out once in awhile and listening to the sounds that God has made. Avoid noisy things like televisions, crowds, shopping, etc. How will your kids come to appreciate what *God* is doing for them if every moment of every day is spent thinking about what *you* are doing for them?

During silence, you let go of what you are accomplishing and contemplate what God is accomplishing. Some theologians teach that the Jews had to suffer through centuries of oppression in order to form their spirits so that they would *desire* a Savior. I’m not sure I like that explanation, but I do agree that we will not truly find the Savior if we are not looking. And we will not be looking as long as we think of salvation as depending on our own powers and actions.

The Christian message is that it does not depend on you. You are not responsible for making everyone around you happy. Stop the insane stress of trying to be their Savior and try to point the people in your lives to the true Savior. It may be that your silence and calmness are the best gift that you could possibly offer.

Have a blessed Christmas.

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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Worship

December Worship Schedule

December 2 *Luke 21:25-38* “Getting Up Early”

Like the folks in our two forums, the early disciples had to get up early in the morning to hear about God. For what kinds of things are you willing to get up early? Are such events central, or peripheral, in your life? Do we live in order to work, or work in order to live? We will have communion today.

December 9 *Luke 3:7-14* “Inspection Time”

John the Baptizer convinced people that the Messiah was coming soon, and that they would want to make a good impression on him when he arrived. How would you seek to make a good impression on Jesus if Jesus were to knock at your door? We may justify our decisions with many human philosophies, but if we truly were convinced that Jesus was coming to assess our lives, how would we behave?

December 16 *Matthew 1:18-25* “Children’s Christmas Pageant”

The Children of RPC will lead us in an old-fashioned Christmas Pageant with lots of favorite Christmas music too. Come early if you want a good seat.

December 23 *Luke 1:39-56* “The Unexpected Welcome”

Pregnant Mary was running away from home “with haste,” but was greeted with an extraordinary welcome. When humanity was estranged from God, we were also greeted with more grace than we expected when Jesus came to dwell among us. How can we, in the name of Christ, offer this kind of welcome to people in our own lives? Today we will be recognizing some new members within our congregation.

December 24 Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols at both 4:00 and 10:00.

The early service will have lots of upbeat traditional music sung by all the various choirs and the “candles” will be electric flashlights. The late service (with real candles) will have lessons and carols with a few brief commentaries on the lessons thrown in and not quite as much music. The hymns are all Christmas Carols.

December 30 “Christmas Caroling” Make the most of your last chance to sing Christmas carols (for a year) during this hymn sing dedicated to the birth of our Lord. Scott will be on vacation. Tell Sally about your choice of favorite carol—prior to the service if possible.



William Carl 12/1
Richard Crang 12/2
Christine Canavera 12/3
Luke Yachnin 12/3
Paul Sterner 12/4
Richard Regan 12/6
Steven Staubus 12/6
Martha Heine 12/7
Shirley Misare 12/7
Zack Schiller 12/7
Olivia Glawe 12/8

Carol Sprunger 12/8
Ellen Mitchell 12/9
Christine Long 12/13
Joshua Ranft 12/16
Chancellor Rayfield 12/16
Margaret Miezio 12/19
Joe Ballerine 12/20
Jacob Buhle 12/20
Michael Hejna 12/20
Wesley Sedlacek 12/20
Jimmy Sit 12/20
Virginia Wright 12/20

Clayton Ballerine 12/21
Karen Flam 12/21
Christopher Halline 12/21
Connor Halline 12/21
Stanley Schade 12/21
Katrina Daniels 12/22
Hannah Ranft 12/22
Dennis Sadilek 12/22
Daniel Sanchez 12/23
Marty Lubeck 12/25
Kaki Lynch 12/27
Michael Lynch 12/27

Joey Richards 12/27
Jonathan Daniels 12/28
Jacob Dluhy 12/28
Jacob Jansky 12/28
Samantha Garza 12/29
Paige Rambeaux 12/29
Ethan Ranft 12/29
Cal Friend 12/30
Susan Lynch 12/30
Hannah Smith 12/30
Jordan Messner 12/31

Session Highlights

In November, the Session:

- ◆ received Kathleen Feary, Rachel Nouye and Jim Hosey as new members;
- ◆ approved a Carol Sing to be held during worship on December 30, in Rev. Jansen's absence;
- ◆ appointed members of the Task Force to Study Manse Utilization: Michael Aieta, chairman; and Dennis Sadilek; Ellen Hamilton; Jenny Kolinski; and Sally Sloane
- ◆ asked the Stewardship Committee to call on members who have not yet made a pledge for the 2013 budget;
- ◆ Directed that reminders be sent to those who have not fulfilled their capital improvement pledges for 2012;
- ◆ noted that the year-to-date budget shortfall stands at \$32,287, which includes the shortfall from previous years which was built into the current budget.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of the Session



December 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
December 2	Matt Lisle	Advent Candle	Aieta Family	Jon & Deb Jansky Paula McCracken	Zander Family
December 9	Allie Burke	Advent Candle	Claire Gangware Serina & Hannah Ranft Terence Akebe	OPEN	OPEN
December 16	Christmas Pageant	Advent Candle	Hastings Family Kathi Rocanova	Poinsettias	Cindy Reynolds Rayfield Roberta Gates
December 23	Keith Pearson	Advent Candle	Schwarz Family	Poinsettias	OPEN
December 24			Jon & Deb Jansky Bill & Colleen Muller	Poinsettias	None
December 30	Stuart Marciniak	Michael Lynch	Susan Lynch Edith Wakely Tom & Sanlee Radigan	Paula McCracken	OPEN

Church News

New Members

Please welcome new members Kathleen Feary, Jim Hosey, and Rachel Nouye, who will be formally introduced in worship on an upcoming Sunday. You'll recognize both Kathy and Jim from the choir and Rachel in her scrubs (she leaves right after worship to her work as a CNA). A *New Member Information Session* will be held again in January. If you're interested in learning about membership (attending the session is an invitation to explore, not a commitment to join), please contact Lynda Nadkarni at lmn@floros.org

Trustee News

2012 has been a fairly quiet year for the Trustees. After completion of the handicapped accessible restrooms in 2011, this year has been spent on the more typical tasks involved in maintaining our historic (old!) building and grounds: fixing boilers, repairing leaky toilets, changing light bulbs and weeding, to name a few. And as always, it is a trustee who unlocks the building every Sunday, and then locks up when everyone has gone home.

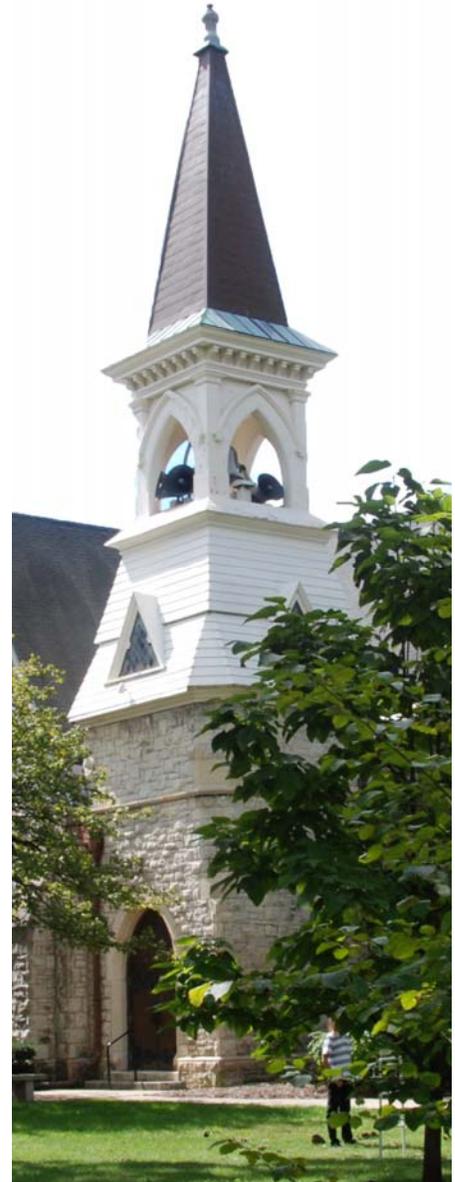
We do rely on and appreciate help in getting our work done: our custodian, Krzysztof Gieron; building supervisor, Joel Hastings; congregation and youth group members who have helped out in myriad ways at our work days; Scott and Brian Jansen for spot painting the narthex; our office staff, Donna Jones and Linda Hutcheson, for their help and patience in improving the building rental paperwork; Jim Sit, who keeps the lights (and many other things) working; and, of course, everyone who has contributed financially.

Our next big projects will be painting the steeple and the restoration of our largest and most visible stained glass window, the Rose Window. Work will begin in earnest only after our loan from the Endowment Fund for the handicapped accessible restrooms is paid in full. We do appreciate your continued support for our capital projects fund drive.

Many have generously contributed to the Stained Glass Window restoration fund, and others have contributed by purchasing paver bricks. The following engraved pavers were installed in early November:

Beloved Members, 2000-2012
In Memory of John L. Clarke
Rudy and Millie Slapansky Family
Faith Love Hope
Happy 90th Gene Pouliot, Nov. 01, 2012
Will, Susanne, Trey, and Lauren Vogel
The Dluhy Family
In Celebration of Our Marriage, Dennis and Mary Ann Sadilek

Our thanks to everyone!



Trustees for the month of December are Jon Jansky and Nancy Jensen.

CARERS Corner

There will be the annual **CARERS' Giving Tree** in the Social Hall for the Constance Morris Home. There will be paper ornaments on the tree with suggested gifts for mothers and children. Simply take an ornament and return it to the tree unwrapped. There is nothing nicer than buying a gift for someone who may not otherwise receive one.



Pledge Drive Update

We received over 60 pledge cards on Commitment Sunday but we have a long way to go. As of the end of October (see below) we have a cumulative deficit of over \$32,000. Please be sure to honor your financial commitment for 2012 by the end of the year, including your donations to the capital fund and the per capita fee. Statements were sent out recently but if you have any questions about your account, please contact Cindy Rayfield at financialsecretary@rpcusa.org, or call the church office. We also appeal to those who are fortunate enough to have fulfilled their obligations for this year but may be able to help out even more. We would love to start off 2013 with a clean slate!



Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of October (83% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 233,210 (71.7% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 265,497 (81.7% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 32,287

Christmas Joy Offering

Please consider giving to the Christmas Joy Offering this year. This fund “supports racial ethnic education at Presbytery-related schools and colleges.” It also assists families of church employees with unexpected expenses through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. You can get more information at www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.

Coffee Fellowship Needs Your Help

Please consider hosting an upcoming coffee fellowship – sign up sheets are on the easel by the doorway to the Social Hall. Here are some tips to help our hosts:

- ◆ The Fellowship Committee will be happy to help you with set up if you are new to hosting. You can pair up with another member or family – we can offer names of other hosts looking for a partner.
- ◆ Youth volunteers are available to run the dishwasher - just let us know ahead of time please. We usually have at least 50 people stay for coffee fellowship.
- ◆ You can check with the office to see if we are expecting a larger than usual attendance (e.g. Youth Sunday).
- ◆ Although we love your homemade goodies, store-bought foods are fine too.

The Fellowship Committee will be meeting following worship on December 2 in the Westminster Room (across from the Social Hall). Please join us to help plan our winter and spring events. New members and ideas are welcome. Email your input to carriestabus@earthlink.net if you are unable to attend.

We raised almost **\$8,000** at our Italian Dinner/Auction, held on September 30.
Thank you to everyone who helped, cooked, donated and shopped.
Save the date for next year, September 29, 2013!

Children

Test of Faith: Christmas Dreams

This month the children will continue to prepare their hearts and minds for Christmas as they continue their exploration of the Incarnation. Activities will include: making candles as they discuss how Jesus is the light of the world, exploring crèches from around the world and creating their own living crèche, hearing the story of a frazzled Innkeeper as they are visited by some interesting characters from the Bible, discussing alternatives to traditional gift giving and remaking existing advertising using a Christian message.



	<u>K /1st grade</u>	<u>Grades 2/3</u>	<u>Grades 4/5</u>	<u>Grades 6-8</u>
December 2	Creation Station	Manse Kitchen	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema
December 9	Manse Kitchen	Creation Station	Celestial Cinema	Oasis Place
December 16	<i>Kids Christmas Worship Service: practice in the Sanctuary 9:00 am</i>			
December 23	<i>Movie & popcorn in the Celestial Cinema for all ages today!</i>			
December 30	No Sunday School			
	<i>There will be no Godly Play or Sunday School on December 30. All classes will resume on January 6.</i>			

December Memory Verse

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Christmas Pageant

On December 16 at 10:00 a.m. there will be a very special worship service led by our wonderful Sunday School children. They will perform a traditional Christmas play and you'll get to hear plenty of beautiful Christmas music as well! It's sure to be a memorable and meaningful worship experience for all ages. ***Dress rehearsal for all children participating*** is on Saturday, December 15, in varying shifts beginning at noon and continuing throughout the day, and on December 16 during the Sunday School hour. If you haven't done so already, please contact Jenny Kolinski **TODAY** at kolinski426@comcast.net to let her know how your child would like to participate.

Sunday School Volunteers: A Blessing to our Children

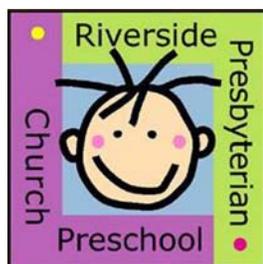
Many thanks to all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers who shared their time and talents since the beginning of this Sunday School year: Allie Burke, Nancy Dvorak, Patti Friend, Connie Kelly, Christine Long, Susan Lynch, Annie Mitchell, Lynda Nadkarni, Hannah Pecis, Vince Pecis, Paige Rambeaux, Noemi Sanchez, and Bryan Zander.

And to our wonderfully dedicated Shepherds: Joe Aieta, Shannon Buhle, Allie Burke, Frank and Jake Fieseler, Margaret Miezio, Annie Mitchell and Cindy Reynolds Rayfield. You are such a gift to the children of our church family. We thank you!



Scouts

In November, Boy Scouts from Troop 24 worked on some of the more challenging requirements toward advancement (a five-mile hike, and an orienteering course of at least one mile), and one of the more challenging merit badges (Cycling, which requires a scout to complete a 50-mile trip in eight hours). Every November scouts fulfill the hike and orienteering requirements at Waterfall Glen, part of the DuPage County Forest Preserve, in Darien. On November 10, they were joined by Cub Scouts from Pack 24 for the hike; however, due to rain, the outing was cut short and they returned to Waterfall Glen to complete their requirements the following week. On November 3, a group of scouts began working on the Cycling Merit Badge. Following bicycle maintenance and a brief class session in the RPC parking lot, the scouts and leaders went on a 10-mile trip on the Salt Creek Trail.



The holiday season is upon us and the children at the Preschool are busier than ever. We are decorating bulletin boards, making gifts for our families, and learning new songs for our Holiday Show. We hope you can stop and see the tree outside of the Preschool decorated with one-of-a-kind *Corkys* - the turtle we adopted from the Brookfield Zoo. The tree is sure to be a big 'splash' for the children and their families.

Registration for the 2013-2014 school year is starting. Applications are outside the Church Office and are due on or before January 4.

As the year comes to a end, all of us at the Preschool would extend a special thank you to Scott Jansen, Linda Hutcheson, Donna Jones, Joel Hastings, Fred Kitch and the entire church community for the endless support for the Preschool. Happy Holidays!

Youth

Teen Scene

In December, Teen Scene continues to explore the intersection of politics and religion with guest leaders/teachers Ryan Evans and Shane Soto. On December 16, students will either rehearse for worship (if part of the program) or assist in a church clean-up. The latter may not sound enticing; however, this was a student-driven decision and agreed upon by the class. We'll take December 22 and 29 off and return on January 5 with a new four-week discussion.

Youth Group

In November, we had a lock-in at Enchanted Castle, had a discussion about being thankful, and had fun assembling care packages for our college students. Join us in December for our activities and, as always, feel free to bring a friend!

Sunday, **December 2**: Jr. High trip downtown

Sunday, **December 9**: Caring Christmas, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, **December 16**: Messiah, 4:00 p.m. (no regular Youth Group)

Friday, **December 21**: Sr. High Christmas Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

Check your e-mail for details on these events. Questions? Contact Tara at taragregus@yahoo.com.



The Junior High Youth Group takes a break from assembling Care Packages for our college students.

College Search Blues

For high school kids and their parents, the college search process can seem daunting and complex. What school is the right one? How do you pay for it? When to apply? Take the ACT or the SAT? Retake the tests if the first score is too low? Are test preparation classes worth the cost? For those parents and kids with a lot of questions and not as many answers, we are hosting a lively discussion featuring parents who have or are putting kids through college, with the goal of getting some tips on the process. After church on December 9, please feel free to grab some coffee and a donut in the social hall and join us upstairs in the parlor.



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. The next meeting is **January 23** at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Lesson 4: The Help

Scripture: *1 Peter 2:11-25*

Key idea: In God's household, those of low status by earthly standards are held in high regard as God's righteous examplars of faithfulness and perseverance. Their persistent witness to the Good News, even in the face of adversity, holds the power to unify the family of faith and to transform the broken human relations and institutions that limit them.

Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura are the rotating leaders. Lesson 4 will be led by Elizabeth Musick.

Pecans

Thanks to all who purchased the eighty bags of freshly harvested pecan halves this year. Thanks to many prepaid orders, the distribution on November 11 went very smoothly. For each pound sold, \$2.24 goes to Erie House for their *Team Tutoring* program for college-bound high school students. This project, handled by our Riverside Presbyterian Women, has been ongoing since as early as 1997. It was a fast operation this year. Information about the pecans was received after the October Vision had been mailed, publicized only in the Sunday bulletins, yet sold out in three weeks.



Human Scene

December 2 – John Haugland – Part 3 of a four-week series on climate change - Answering Questions (Questions to be gathered systematically from first 2 sessions)

December 9 – RPC Youth Group – A presentation about the Summer 2012 Mission Trip to Mobile, Alabama

December 16 – John Haugland – Part 4 of a four-week series on climate change - What is an Appropriate Response for a Christian?

December 23 - Chapter 4 of the Video Presentation on the Old Testament - "Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar" - Professor Amy-Jill Levine continues her lecture on the Old Testament.

In the News

Former RPC member, Linda Slanec Higgins (daughter of Marilyn & Bernard Slanec) was recently named one of the **10 Top Women in Biotech 2012** by FierceBiotech. Linda has worked in the biotechnology field for 21 years, and is currently Vice President of Biology for Gilead Sciences, working in research for drugs for cancer. Read the article here: www.fiercebiotech.com/special-reports/linda-slanec-higgins-women-biotech-2012
 Congratulations, Linda!

Events

Christmas Memorials

Express your love in memory or honor of family and friends through a holiday memorial. Two options are available for memorials: **poinsettias, or a donation to the Capital Improvement Fund.** The poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary from December 16 through Christmas Eve. (Plants will remain in the sanctuary for both Christmas Eve services and may be picked up after the 10:00 p.m. service. Those that remain will continue to decorate the sanctuary.) All memorials will be printed in the Sunday worship bulletins. A form to donate a memorial will be in the Sunday bulletins, or is available on the RPC website at www.rpcusa.org/files/Christmas-Memorials-Form.pdf.



Messiah on Sunday, December 16

A lot has been said and written concerning Handel's *Messiah* . . . you may need more than a blurb in the Sunday bulletin to convince you how your life will be changed from coming on December 16 at 4:00 p.m. to experience Handel's *Messiah*. If you do not believe Handel, other experts when it comes to music say: "The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul." *Johann Sebastian Bach*. If that does not convince you, "I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by." *Billy Joel*. Come feel the music, listen to songs raised to God in praise, and expect to have your spirit lifted as we celebrate the birth of God's Son.



The *Messiah* will be performed at 4:00 p.m. on December 16. The joy will continue after the performance with our annual Wassail Bowl in the church social hall. Deb and Jon Jansky are planning and hosting the reception and Carrie Staubus is helping recruit bakers. If you are able to help, please contact these individuals. We hope you will join us at this traditional holiday celebration.

Caring Christmas on December 9

The Deacons' annual "Caring Christmas" will be held on **Sunday, December 9**, at 4:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Food and Christmas joy will be abundant, including a light dinner provided by the Deacons. This is an annual family event, and all members are welcome to attend to prepare small gifts for shut-ins and some other members of our church family, as well as decorating cookies and baked goods for them. Contact Hannah Pecis at winniethepecis@comcast.net or Susan Zander at smozan@sbcglobal.net for further information.



Media Sale on February 9

We're collecting all types of "media" for a sale, and welcome your donations of **books** (other than encyclopedias), **DVDs, CDs, records** (33, 45, and 78 RPM), **computer software, comic books, artwork, music books, and sheet music**. There are collection boxes at the church, or for pick-up of your donations, contact Sandra Kappmeyer at skappzan@aol.com.



Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Thanksgiving Potluck a great event. We all enjoyed an abundance of delicious homemade foods and time of fellowship together. We had so much food that we were able to contribute a huge tray of turkey to a soup kitchen in the Austin neighborhood, and add some baked treats to the care packages for RPC's college students. Thanks especially to our kitchen set-up and clean-up crew!

Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!



December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 12p Jr High Trip Downtown 1:30p Cantata Service	3 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Budget Mtg 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	4 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	5 Office Closed	6 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group (5th-8th Grades) 7p Girls' Group (9th-12th Grades)	7 12p Covenant Prayers for Peace 7p Singles Group 7:30p First Friday Potluck at Jansen's	8 10a Messiah Rehearsal
9 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a College Mtg 11a Congregational Mtg 11:15a Endowment Comm Mtg 4p Caring Christmas	10 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm 7:30p Trustees Mtg	11 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	12 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	13 6:30a Women's Forum 6p Girls' Group (5th-8th Grades) 7p Girls' Group (9th-12th Grades)	14	15 10a Messiah Rehearsal
16 9a Sunday School 10a Worship-Christmas Pagaent 11a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Doubters Dialogue 1:30p Scottish Home Worship 4p Messiah 5:30p Wassail Bowl Vision Deadline	17 5:15p Volleyball	18 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	19 Office Closed 4:15p Singers 4:45p Ringers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	20 6:30a Women's Forum	21 10a CARERS Comm Mtg 6p Craft Night 7p Sr High Youth Grp Progressive Dinner 7p Singles Group	22
23 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	24 4p Christmas Eve Family Service 10p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 	26 Office Closed	27 6:30a Women's Forum	28	29
30 10a Worship-Hymn Sing 11a Coffee Fellowship						

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

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PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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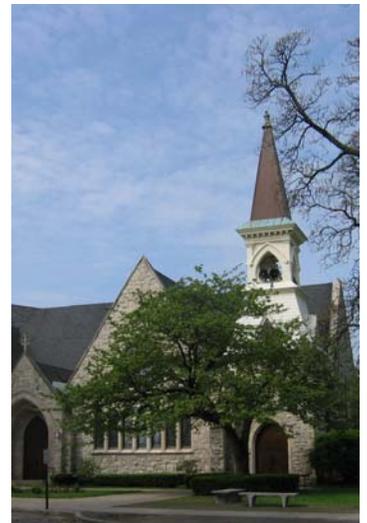
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Director of Music Emerita: Mary Ann Sadilek

Organist Emerita: Arline Robbins



Riverside Presbyterian
Church is a congregation of
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More information about the
ministry and mission of
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