



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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# The Vision

November 2013

## Christianity and Conflict

Some folks mistakenly believe that conflict should never occur within a community of Christians. This may be true in one's fantasy dream world, but it has never been a reality. Conflict is a sign that something is going on that folks actually care about. The only way to avoid conflict completely is to never do anything of consequence. Of course, conflict can be handled poorly, or it can be handled well. But conflict itself is not a sign of anything negative.



Jesus was frequently in conflict with his own family, his own faith community, and the political authorities of his time. He did not see his conflicts as a sign of any failure on his part. The same goes for Paul and the apostles. Even within the early Christian church, we see many disputes between Paul and James/Peter regarding circumcision, kosher regulations, and other policy matters. There has always been conflict wherever the Word of God has been on the move.

How did good Christians like Paul and Peter handle their conflicts? They sat down with one another, talked it out, listened to one another, and tried to find a compromise that would be satisfactory to all parties. (See, for example, *Acts 15*) This is the only acceptable Christian way to handle conflict—you must talk directly with those with whom you have a disagreement. Only after making such a direct attempt, is it permissible to try other means—within the church's prescribed discipline (as detailed in the book of order).

Non-Christians have developed other alternatives for managing conflict. They have courts, police, judges and lawyers who will take on the task for you. These institutions have always existed. Jesus says to do *everything* in your power to avoid them. (*Matthew 5:21-26*; see also *1 Corinthians 6:1-6*)

Disagreements have been an ingredient within civilized society for thousands of years. It has been a spur for progress. The basic methods of handling conflict have not changed, nor has our basic human nature. The Church has learned much from the experiences of millions of Christians over the course of thousands of years. The wisdom of the Church has been distilled into a very brief document on the appropriate Christian ways of managing conflict. That document is on our website under the "Reference/Officer training" section. To anyone who is unsure how to proceed in a time of conflict, or to anyone who feels that someone else should be proceeding in some other manner, I strongly recommend that you avail yourself of this wisdom. It is an excellent sign of one's spiritual maturity and good Christian humility when one is able to acknowledge that my own private opinion is of little import when compared to the wisdom distilled from millions of Christians over thousands of years.

Your brother in Christ,  
Scott

# Worship

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## November Worship Schedule

**November 3** *2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12* “Celebrating Your Success”

What caused Paul to celebrate when he thought of the Thessalonians? If Paul were to write a letter to RPC, what would he say about us? What struggles have we overcome? How are we increasing in our love for one another? Today we will celebrate new member reception and Holy Communion.

**November 10** *Haggai 1:15b-2:9* “The Splendor of God’s House”

What might cause Haggai’s hearers to hesitate to work on the temple? Do we ever wonder if it is worth the effort to build up God’s house? Does the historical experience of the Jews from Haggai’s day give us any better hope today? Today is pledge consecration Sunday.

**November 17** *Isaiah 65:17-25* “God’s Holy Mountain”

Does God’s “new earth” follow after an annihilation of the old earth? What is our responsibility to care for the long-term health of the earth? Are we working to heal the earth, or are we just waiting to toss it away for something better? What is God’s vision of environmental harmony? How can we conform more to God’s vision?

**November 24** *Colossians 1:11-20* “Why Do We Baptize?”

How does the life of Jesus change our own lives? Why does it matter if we are baptized or not? Who should be presented for baptism? What happens when someone is baptized? What are the common misunderstandings surrounding baptism? Today we will baptize an infant.

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## Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

Deacons Lloyd Bradbury and Steve Marcus welcome any and all congregation members with talents in public speaking and/or music (or just plain helping) to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata (the British Home) on November 3 at 1:30 p.m., and the worship service for the residents of the Scottish Home on November 17 at 2:00 p.m.

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## November Opportunities

If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact [Paige Rambeaux](#) or [Russel Brown-Memoh](#)  
For flower contributions, please contact the [RPC Office](#)  
Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact [Claire Gangware](#)



	Liturgists	Acolytes	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
November 3	Lynda Nadkarni	Samantha Miezio	Schwarz Family	Gwen Heine	Boy Scout Troop 24
November 10	Dennis Zander	OPEN	Lisle Family	Ourth Family	OPEN
November 17	Joyce Van Cura	OPEN	Meyer Family Claire Gangware	OPEN	OPEN
November 24	Keith Pearson	OPEN	Tom Radigan Sanlee Radigan Terence Akebe Jim Ulrich	DeVries Family	Thanksgiving Potluck

## Session Highlights

During October, the Session:

- ♦ received David Harper as a new member by reaffirmation of faith and Andrew Kiwiet as a new member by letter of transfer from First United Church, Oak Park;
- ♦ accepted, with regret, the resignation from Session of Keith Pearson and Russel Brown-Memoh and thanked them for their service;
- ♦ approved inviting a representative from Presbytery to the November meeting to explain legal aspects and options for structuring the relationship between the preschool and RPC;
- ♦ approved the formation of a traffic study committee to analyze the safety of preschool children and use of the parking lot;
- ♦ approved allowing preschool staff the use of two parking spaces in the church lot on an interim basis, pending the results of the traffic study.

Mary Ann Sadilek  
Clerk of Session

## November Birthdays



Kathy Buckland	11/2	Gregory Reichle	11/6	Jackson Hilpp	11/19
Lorri Floros	11/2	Steve Anderson	11/8	Christine Armstrong	11/21
Ava Booton	11/3	Nick Nadkarni	11/8	Frank Van De Vanter	11/22
Michael Heine	11/3	Abraham Ourth	11/8	Michael Chaney	11/24
Ben Mitchell	11/3	George Dluhy	11/9	Lloyd Bradbury	11/25
Joseph Tess	11/3	Molly Chaney	11/11	Olga Cykner	11/25
Jacob Gregus	11/4	Genevieve Van Nice	11/11	Joshua Jansky	11/25
Mack Fieseler	11/4	Louise Gangware	11/12	Karl Jantze	11/25
Gail Seeger	11/5	Jonah Schexnayder	11/13	Lucia Mancini	11/26
Brian Jansen	11/6	Ellen Hamilton	11/14	Annie Mitchell	11/26
Bill Muller	11/6	Hannah Buhle	11/18	Finn Lubeck	11/27
		Lou Heine	11/18		

## 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 15 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](http://www.rpcusa.org/files/Christmas-Memorials-Form.pdf).



Trustees for November are Jim Marciniak and Jon Jansky.



## Sharing Our Gifts

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### Feed Our Community Day

On Saturday, October 19, over 200 volunteers donned hairnets, aprons, gloves and one beard-net to pack 39,528 meals of soy-fortified, vitamin-enriched macaroni and cheese. The meals were donated to local food banks, First Presbyterian Church and the Northern Illinois Food Bank. This is the second year the Riverside/North Riverside Covenant of Churches has sponsored this community event, and RPC was well-represented both years by volunteers and donations. It was fun to see volunteers of varying generations, towns and churches working side by side and enjoying each others' company, while striving to make a dent in the hunger problem in our community. We are currently planning the 2014 Feed Our Community Day event with a goal of raising \$25,000 and packaging 100,000 meals. We hope to see you next year on the packing line!



### Deacons in Action



#### ***We do mission work in partnerships!***

Need a ride to church? Home communion? Prayers or visitation?  
**CONTACT YOUR DEACON!**

Lloyd Bradbury (A-Bo)  
Thom DeVries (Br-Ce)  
Mary Jansen (Ch-Da)  
Kathy Feary (De-Fl)  
Susan Zander (Fo-G)  
Jeanine Buttmer (H)

Ellen Hamilton I-K)  
John Haugland (L-Ma)  
Gwen Heine (Mc-My)  
Stephen Marcus (N-Pe)  
Nancy Dvorak (Pf-R)

Frank Gangware (Sa-Se)  
Sandra Kappmeyer (Sh-Sm)  
Susan Lisle (So-T)  
Deb Pike (U-Wa)  
Steve Teune (We-Z)

*Your deacon is easily identified by the letter(s) behind their name, which corresponds to the first letter of your last name.*  
Youth Deacons—Keri Burke & Hannah Pecis

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### CARERS Corner

In November, the CARERS will think locally and ask that you stock the trunk with soups, canned vegetables, and hot cereals for the Riverside Township Pantry. Please help our neighbors with food to fill their shelves anticipating the coming winter. Thank you for your continuing generosity.



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### Our Giving Journey

This year we would like everyone to think about where they are in their giving journey at RPC. Maybe you don't have a lot of money—student loans, job changes, retirement—but you can help out by volunteering. Or maybe you are doing well and have had positive changes in your financial situation but can't help out physically as much as you would like. Rather than just filling out the pledge card the same as last year, please take the time to think about what RPC means to you, where you are and what you can do to help our church family. Commitment Sunday is November 10, 2013. Please look for your pledge materials in the mail or [donate online](#). Thank you in advance for your dedication to RPC as we all continue in our journey together.

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### Pecans



As in past years, RPC Women are selling pecans to benefit the Erie Neighborhood House's Team Tutoring program for college-bound students. One-pound bags of pecans halves are \$9.50, with \$2.50 benefitting Erie. Orders may be placed with Carol Sprunger, or during the church coffee fellowship on Sundays. Make checks payable to Erie House. Delivery is expected in early November.

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### Finance Update

Year-to-date financial status at end of September (75% of the way through the year):

Receipts	\$ 200,288 (60.8% of budget)
Disbursements	\$ 243,914 (74.0% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 43,626

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 24 for their donation to the RPC Capital Fund. We are glad to have them as an important part of our church family and appreciate their financial assistance.

# Children

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## The Life of DAVID

This month we'll continue our rotation on the life of David. There is much we could learn from this story...God accepts all of us as we are, and works to bring good things out of our mistakes. God can use us despite our weaknesses and flaws as he did with David.

We'll explore this in many fun ways! In Creation Station we'll study some of David's Psalms and create artwork using one of your favorites. In the gym we'll get a full perspective on David's life and practice slaying a giant. You'll also learn about labyrinths, meet a friend of David's who will tell us lots of interesting stories, and discuss the giant problems the world faces today and how we could be strong even in the most difficult times.

## Memory Verse

He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

*2 Samuel 7:13*

	<b>K/1st</b>	<b>2nd/3rd</b>	<b>4th/5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jr. High</b>
November 3	Celestial Cinema	Social Hall	Creation Station	Gym
November 10	Social Hall	Gym	Oasis Place	Celestial Cinema
November 17	Creation Station	Celestial Cinema	Gym	Oasis Place
November 24	<i>Celebration Sunday...All ages meet in the Social Hall for an all-ages activity</i>			

## Kids and Stewardship

Because we have been so blessed by God, we are asked to share our blessings with others. Even a few pennies can have a positive impact on a child who gives from the heart. It's not the quantity that matters, but the spirit in which it is given. 100% of Sunday school offerings go to Heifer International to purchase animals for poor families in developing countries. Watch our Sunday School "offering-o-meter" to see our progress.

## Calling All Kids: Christmas is Coming!

Mark your calendars—December 8 will be our Children's Christmas Pageant. Many roles are available: narrators, actors, singers, musicians...something for everyone. Minimal rehearsals and little or no memorization needed, but there will be a mandatory dress rehearsal on the afternoon of Saturday, December 7. Watch your mail for more information.



November is going to be another fun-filled month at preschool. The children will be very busy learning new songs for our annual Thanksgiving Sing. It's our first 'performance' of the year. If you are out and about on November 21, please join us in the Social Hall to hear our fabulous preschoolers celebrate the season in song.

Once again, Riverside Foods has graciously sponsored Benefit Days at their store on November 19 and 20. A portion of all purchases during these two days benefits our Tuition Assistance Program. Check your Sunday bulletin for benefit forms if you would like to participate. Every bit helps. We are so very fortunate to be part of a community

with such giving businesses.

And speaking of giving, we would like to extend a great big *thank you* to Dennis and Sandy Zander, along with Brian and Susan Zander, for their tremendous time and talents on the new preschool website. It is spectacular and will be up and running soon. To Ruth Svestka for her donation of toys to the school and to Courtney Hooglander for her donation from the Preschool Wish List: *thank you* for all you do.





# Psalm 23 Diorama



## Youth

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### Youth Group News

We had fun in October learning about Yoga, volunteering at *Feed Our Community Day* and having a bonfire, s'mores and playing campfire games. Here's what's coming up next month:

**Sunday, November 3:** Watch and discuss "Bully" Documentary

**Sunday, November 10:** To be announced

**Saturday, November 16:** Chicago Wolves Hockey Game

**Sunday, November 24:** Assemble College Care Packages



As always, feel free to bring a friend! Questions? Contact Tara at [taragregus@yahoo.com](mailto:taragregus@yahoo.com).

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### Teen Scene

A Sunday class for high school students, Teen Scene continues to meet every Sunday at 9:00 in the library with donuts AND bagels!

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### Scouts

Pack 24 has begun its year with 22 new scouts of all grade levels. Thirteen of these are first graders joining at the rank of Tiger. The pack also welcomes six new adult leaders including Greg Randall to lead the Tigers and Mike Johnson to lead the Wolves.

The pack has been very active selling popcorn to help fund our activities. We are very thankful that the Walgreen's in Lyons permitted us to sell outside their store for four consecutive weekends in September and October.

At our October Pack Meeting, we were visited by *Animals for Awareness*, a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and care of exotic pets. Several animals visited the scouts including a snake, domestic skunk, parrot, kinkajou and alligator. Scouts learned about the care of these animals and were able to get close and hands on with many of these.

During October, fourteen scouts and three leaders traveled to Gebhard Woods State Park in Morris for camping and biking on the Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail. The last weekend of the month, 17 scouts and five adults ventured to Mississippi Palisades State Park in Savannah for a cool but fun weekend camping and hiking.

Two scouts attained the rank of Eagle in the past few weeks—Michael Gmitro and RPC member Abraham Ourth.

On November 3, the Troop will hold a Court of Honor for Eagle Scout Joe Rogers, who became an Eagle in 2012. The Troop invites the congregation to celebrate with Joe at coffee fellowship hosted by Troop 24 on November 3.

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Thanks to all who helped make squares for the veterans' red, white & blue afghans.  
We had enough squares for 10 blankets, which will go to the Hines VA Hospital.



## Presbyterian Women's Bible Study



2013-2014 Horizons Bible Study topic is *An Abiding Hope - The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy* by Janice Catron. The Presbyterian Women invite all women to join them for Bible Study on Wednesday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Coffee is served.

**Lesson 3:** Set Free by God

**Background Scripture:** *Exodus 4:18-13:16*

**Key Scripture:** *Exodus 4:18-31; 12:21-39; 13:1-10*

**Key Idea:** God's power brought about the Hebrew people's freedom, and the Passover meal still celebrates the miraculous night when God protected them.

Participants will recognize God's power at work in freeing the Hebrew people and in establishing rituals of remembrance.

Lesson Leaders are Elizabeth Musick, Sylvia Schade, and Joyce Van Cura. Joyce will lead Lesson 3.



*Oppression in Egypt* by Lee Porter

The artist states "I chose the same color for the Hebrew slaves as the mud they are using to make bricks, for this was where the majority of their lives were lived. The red figures with whips are the slaves' overseers, and they are placed in the shape of a triangle to represent the pyramids they are helping construct."

## Human Scene

Join the **Human Scene** Sunday School class *every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the upstairs Parlor*. You will have a chance to explore scripture, theology, current events, mission projects, and your own spiritual journey.

**November 3** — *Susan Lisle* — **"I AM" Part II.**

A continuation of the documentary video by Tom Shadyac, with follow-up discussions regarding our concerns from a local to a worldwide viewpoint. Come to participate in this enlightening discussion led by Susan Lisle.

**November 10** — *Youth Group: Joseph Aieta, Kelly Haugland, Lily Lisle, Stuart Marciniak* —

**Eyes on the Future: A Narrowing Perspective**

RPC youths discuss their outlook on world affairs, their expectations of the future of education, jobs and socioeconomic topics that will affect their future. We look forward to an intergenerational exchange of viewpoints between the panelists and the attendees.

**November 17** — *Rev. Edwin Dykstra* — **Pleasures and Possibilities**

We welcome back our interim pastor, Rev. Ed Dykstra. His life continues to be full of pleasures and possibilities. As a retiree he is enjoying the leisurely pace as well as finding challenges to address. The major challenge is attempting to respond to the violence in our city as a Presbyterian. He will relate some exciting and hopeful avenues to pursue in this arena!

**November 24** — *Rev. Eric Heinekamp* — **If Giving Is Easy, Then Why Is Church Stewardship So Hard?**

A presentation by Rev. Eric Heinekamp, the Director of Business Affairs at the Presbytery of Chicago, on the topic of Stewardship. Charitable contributions in the U.S. remain very strong; yet giving to churches continues to shrink. Each year we ask fewer and fewer church members to give more money. What are the overall trends in giving, and what creative solutions can we use to create cheerful givers in our congregation?

## Fellowship & Events

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### Auction 2013

Thanks to all who made our 2013 Auction such a big success. The spaghetti dinner prepared and served by Tara Gregus and the Youth Groups was better than ever, and the auction that followed raised a total of \$7,356. Even if you missed the big day, you still have a chance to participate—check these out:

- ♦ You don't have to be a kid to enjoy this! Sloppy Joe Party at Lou and Martha Heine's house, February 22, 2014.  
**11 places left @ \$55 each**
- ♦ See stars! Sky-viewing provided by Bill Suriano for 12-14 persons at Big Ball Park, 3-4 telescopes and guidance provided. November 1 (Rain Date November 3)  
**6 places left @ \$25 each**
- ♦ Come and pick your favorite horse, have a mint julep and celebrate Kentucky Derby Day, followed by dinner for eight at Ellen Hamilton's, May 3, 2014.  
**1 place left @ \$80 each**
- ♦ Watch the Superbowl! Eat homemade chili and buffalo wings! Ellen Hamilton doesn't even like football so her whole attention will be on keeping your glass filled and the snacks coming! For up to 20 people.  
**16 places left @ \$50 each**

These are all opportunities to help RPC and have a guaranteed good time with your friends and neighbors. If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Ellen Hamilton at [ellen.hamilton@mac.com](mailto:ellen.hamilton@mac.com).

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### RPC Media Think Tank November 3



How and when do we use Facebook? Should Twitter be a tool? Who can and should submit information to other social media sites? When is the newspaper better and how do we reach them? Please consider attending a one-time meeting after worship on Sunday, November 3, to help form procedures about RPC media relations. See Lynda Nadkarni for more information, or with questions or comments at [lmn@floros.org](mailto:lmn@floros.org).



### Caring Christmas December 8

The holidays are coming! So remember to mark your calendars for the annual Caring Christmas fellowship on **Sunday, December 8**, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Start with a delicious chili supper and then help make and assemble holiday decorations to be shared with our members in senior living.

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### Messiah December 15

RPC's 28th annual Handel's Messiah will take place on Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 p.m. A 14- member orchestra accompanies a 40+ choir with four professional soloists. This performance is child-friendly! We don't do the entire Messiah; the performance lasts about 1 hour and 20 minutes. We welcome young singers to join us as well. We have had children from 5th grade and up sing with us in the past. RPC hosts an amazing Wassail Bowl Reception immediately following the performance. Interested in participating? Contact Sally Sloane at [musikhse@comcast.net](mailto:musikhse@comcast.net).

Please check the  
Website for the  
most recent  
calendar  
updates!



# November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:30p First Friday	2
3 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Open Gym 1:30p Cantata Service 6p Jr. High Youth Group 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group	4 5:15p Volleyball 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg	5 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	6 Office Closed 4:14p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	7 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	8	9
10 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 6p Jr. High Youth Group 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group	11 5:15p Volleyball 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	12 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	13 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study 4:14p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	14 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	15 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	16 Youth Group Wolves Hockey
17 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship <b>Vision</b> Deadline	18 5:15p Volleyball	19 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg 7p Deacons Mtg	20 Office Closed 4:14p Ringers 4:45p Singers 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir 7:30p Session Mtg	21 6:30a Women's Forum 7p Girls' Group	22	23
24 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 6p Jr. High Youth Group 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group	25 5:15p Volleyball	26 6:30a Men's Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg	27 Office Closed	28 6:30a Women's Forum 	29	30

Fr! <sup>1st</sup> day

Don't forget the informal gathering at the Jansen residence, 300 Addison Road, on Friday, **November 1**, for adult church members (and their adult spouses) who have *birthdays during October, November or December*. 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. Questions? Contact [Pastor Scott Jansen](#).



# RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 Barrypoint Road  
Riverside, Illinois  
60546

Phone: 708-447-1520  
Fax: 708-447-1525  
Website: [www.rpcusa.org](http://www.rpcusa.org)

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

Place mailing label here

## Riverside Presbyterian Church

**Pastor:** Dr. Scott Jansen  
*scott.jansen@comcast.net*

**Minister of Music:** Dr. Sally Sloane  
*musikhse@comcast.net*

**Director of**  
**Christian Education:** Jenny Kolinski  
*kolinski426@comcast.net*

**Administrative Assistants:** Linda Hutcheson  
Donna Jones  
*rpcoffice@sbcglobal.net*

**Girls' Group Leader:** Michele Monroe-Clark  
*mmc430@hotmail.com*

**Asst. Girls' Group Leader:** Susan Zander

**Senior & Junior High**  
**Youth Advisor:** Tara Gregus  
*taragregus@yahoo.com*

**Building Supervisor:** Joel Hastings  
*joelhastings@sbcglobal.net*

**Preschool Director:** Lisa Manganiello

**Custodian:** Krzysztof Gieron

**Clerk of Session:** Mary Ann Sadilek  
*MASDS@aol.com*

**Deacons Moderators:** Thom DeVries  
Frank Gangware

**Trustees President:** Jim Marciniak

**Financial Secretary:** Cindy Reynolds  
*financialsecretary@rpcusa.org*

**Asst. Financial Secretary:** Roberta Gates  
*robmicgates73@gmail.com*

**Treasurer:** Alfred Kitch  
*rpc\_fred\_kitch@sbcglobal.net*

**Asst. Treasurer:** George Dluhy

**Archivist:** Caroline Tecson

**Wedding Coordinator:** Donna Ulrich

**Artist in Residence:** Karena Mendoza

**Director of Music Emerita:** Mary Ann Sadilek

**Organist Emerita:** Arline Robbins



Riverside Presbyterian  
Church is a congregation of  
the Presbytery of Chicago  
(312) 243-8300. Presbyterian  
Church (U.S.A)



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](http://www.rpcusa.org)

**Vision Editor/Webmaster:**  
Nancy Hopkins  
*RPCVisionEditor@sbcglobal.net*