



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

**May 2016**

Dear Friends,

First, I want to say a huge thank you for everything that happened on my first Sunday, April 10. I know the Jazz Sunday service had been planned for months, BUT I kept thinking how wonderful it was to start as your Designated Pastor on a Sunday full of WONDERFUL music.

Words cannot begin to express my appreciation for the thoughtful gift basket. Dennis and I have already used some of the gift certificates: Chef Shangri-La is right around the corner from our house, and our Chicago grandchildren have already gone with us for a chilly afternoon at the Brookfield Zoo, thanks to the Zoo membership! But above all the gifts, I was most appreciative of your kind words, smiles and willingness to introduce yourselves (REPEATEDLY)!

In my newsletter article last month, I indicated that Dennis and I would like to have small gatherings in our home at 2505 Keystone in North Riverside as a way for all of us to get to know each other. Each week, we are offering two different times: a mid-morning gathering with some breakfast treats, and an evening gathering with desserts. These events will take place on various days throughout the month of May (before the vacation season starts). There is no set program or agenda, and I would like to keep each gathering to around 15 people to provide the chance for more personal interaction.



Whether you are a stalwart member and supporter of RPC, or you've not been attending worship for a while and would like to get acquainted, or fall somewhere in between, you are encouraged to join us! And remember that your entire family is welcome.

Here are the dates. Please call or email the church office to RSVP!

#### **Morning Gatherings are from 10:00 to 11:30**

Wednesday, May 4

Monday, May 9

Saturday, May 14

Thursday, May 19

Tuesday, May 24

#### **Evening Gatherings are from 7:00 to 8:30**

Thursday, May 5

Wednesday, May 11

Monday, May 16

Tuesday, May 24

#### **Sunday, May 22 from 3:00 to 4:30**

Dale

## Worship & Music

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### Worship at Cantata and Scottish Home

The Deacons welcome any and all congregation members to join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata (the British Home) on May 1 at 2:00 p.m., and the worship service for the residents of the Scottish Home on May 15 at 2:00 p.m.

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### Organ Update

The organ console has been moved into the Sanctuary, but there is still much work to be done. Organ technicians are working on it daily. All the wind chests have been repaired (They had many holes with escaping air.) Several rows of pipes have been removed and are being re-leathered and repaired in the organ builder's shop. The organ chamber and the blower room are being cleaned. The bulk of the job yet to be done is the installation of the combination action, which connects the console to the pipes and enables the organist to push a button to change the stops that control which pipes will sound (and at which pitches).



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### May Opportunities



If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact Deb Jansky  
For flower contributions, please contact the RPC Office  
Potential Acolytes and Liturgists, please contact Elizabeth Musick  
Potential Ushers, please contact Paula McCracken



	Liturgists	Ushers	Flowers	Coffee Fellowship
May 1	Susan Lynch	George & Olivia Meyer, Wayne Penn, Laura Vanags	Jon & Deb Jansky	Meyer Family
May 8	OPEN	Susan, Kaki & Michael Lynch Kemp Clarke	Mike & Gwen Heine	Rachel Nouye
May 15	Ruth Svestka	Fred & Donna Mitchell David Harper, David Schade	Carol Rodriguez	OPEN
May 22 Youth Sunday	Youth	Jon & Deb Jansky Thom DeVries, Youth	Will & Susanne Vogel	Sunday School
May 29	Joyce Van Cura	Bill & Colleen Muller Jay & Joyce Van Cura	Ellen Hamilton	OPEN

### Session Notes

In April, the Session:

- ♦ Joyfully voted to welcome this year's confirmands as full, adult members of the church. Kip Friend, Rachel McLean, Josh Ranft, and Steven Staubus were confirmed on April 17.
- ♦ Approved Sunday, August 28, as the date for our Blessing of the Animals service.
- ♦ Gladly gave permission for use of the sanctuary to Director of Childrens' Education, Susan Zander to hold acolyte training to be followed by a pizza party in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ Approved placement of a collection box in the narthex for Elijah Ourth's Eagle Scout project. Elijah will be collecting stuffed animals for children who are patients of the Cicero Health Center.
- ♦ Heard a very positive report from the Finance Committee that at this point in the year, giving remains above and expenses below budgeted expectations.
- ♦ Approved anticipated expenses for computer system improvements.
- ♦ Enjoyed our first meeting moderated by Pastor Dale Jackson.

Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak  
Acting Clerk of Session

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Braxton Nettles 5/1  
Keri Burke 5/2  
Erika Sterner 5/2  
Tarquin Rayfield 5/3  
Frank Hooglander 5/4  
Michele Krefft 5/4  
Lauren Teune 5/4  
Steven Teune 5/4  
Danika Apostolovich 5/5  
Kyler Monacella 5/5  
Emma Strand 5/5  
Luca Mancini 5/6  
Rachel Teune 5/6

Jeanine Buttimer 5/8  
Allison Gordon 5/9  
Sanlee Radigan 5/9  
Louise Bonnette 5/11  
Dave Harper 5/11  
Carrie Norwood 5/11  
Trey Vogel 5/11  
Alison Heine 5/12  
Paige Deason 5/13  
Connie Kelly 5/13  
Gabrielle Nolan 5/13  
Thea Kiwiet 5/14  
Christ Floros 5/15  
Gavin Vogel 5/15

Marie Cerny 5/16  
Abigail Regan 5/16  
Len Messner 5/17  
Lorel Meyer 5/17  
Debra Myers 5/17  
Lisa Rocanova 5/17  
Benjamin Jendras 5/18  
Aimee Sahlas 5/18  
Clara Monacella 5/20  
Julie Tamlyn 5/20  
Michael Gruber 5/21  
Lindsay Hayes 5/21  
Alice Mazanec 5/21  
Rachel Nouye 5/21

Amanda Gruber 5/23  
Melissa Krefft 5/24  
Michael Krefft 5/24  
Nancy Lancaster 5/25  
Paula McCracken 5/28  
Paxton Tamlyn 5/28  
Thomas Barr 5/29  
Ellie Carlson 5/29  
Colleen Muller 5/29  
Jim Sit 5/29  
Bryan Zander 5/29  
Christelle Meuyou 5/30  
Dorothy Thorsen 5/31

# Sharing our Gifts

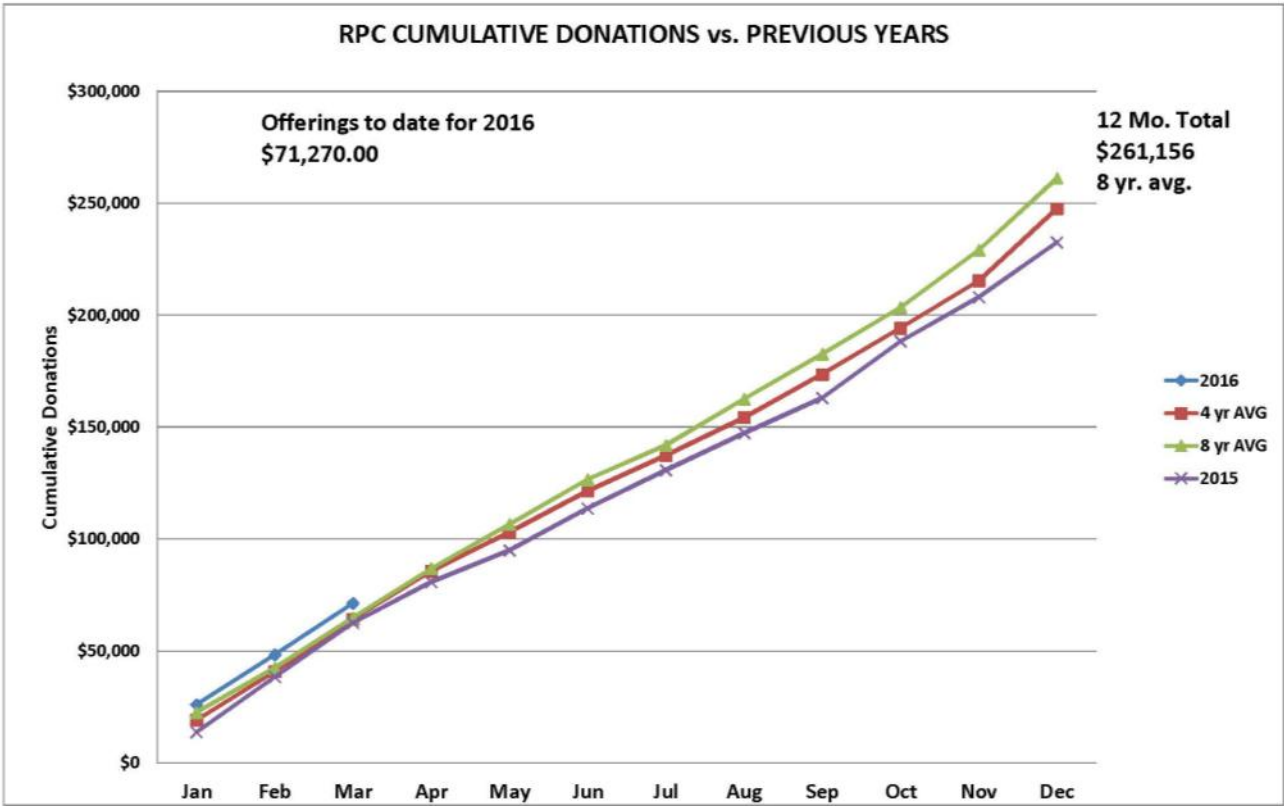
## CARERS Corner

As the school year draws to a close the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago takes on the task of providing breakfast for neighborhood children. In cooperation with our own Sunday School, won't you please add even more cereal boxes to the CARERS trunk?



## Spring Landscape Day

Join your church family for spring clean-up of the church grounds on Sunday, May 1, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please bring gloves, rakes, trimmers, lawn waste bags and energy. Students and Scouts: this is a great opportunity for service hours, too!



God's blessings continue to be shared as we accept a portion of your gifts from the Lord and use them to do His will. May your generosity continue throughout the year.



### Shoe Drive

In December, our shoe drive collected 104 pairs of shoes, which were donated to *Soles 4 Souls*. Unfortunately, *Soles 4 Souls* no longer has a collection point in the Chicago area, and we had to pay shipping charges to their nearest facility. In order to continue helping the poorest of the poor, we are collecting shoes for [Share Your Soles](#), with headquarters in the Pullman area of Chicago. This charity, like *Soles 4 Souls*, distributes shoes in third world countries. The CARERS will have a box next to the monthly collection trunk for donations of lightly used shoes, and your gifts will be the first step out of poverty for many men, women and children around the world. Your gently worn or new shoes **of any kind** are going to people who may have never even owned a pair. It's important that any used shoes are in **good** condition to respect the dignity of those receiving our shoes. Our goal is to provide good, clean shoes to those in need. For example, tennis shoes should include laces and not have holes.



### Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering

Begun in 1922, the [Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women](#) celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. Hallie Paxson Winsborough, superintendent of women's work, visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan. Realizing the school's needs, she challenged members of the Women's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their life as a birthday gift to the school. Over the years, that tradition has become known as the Birthday Offering. Presbyterian Women have given more than \$29 million in support of mission projects throughout the world. Giving to the birthday offering is an annual tradition. The gifts have funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children around the world.



### Stuffed Animal Drive

Eagle Scout candidate and RPC member Elijah Ourth will be collecting stuffed animals for children who are patients of the Cicero Health Center. If you have any new or used stuffed animals you would like to donate, there will be a collection box in the foyer near the office.



### BE THE GIVING TYPE

Every two seconds  
someone needs  
**BLOOD**

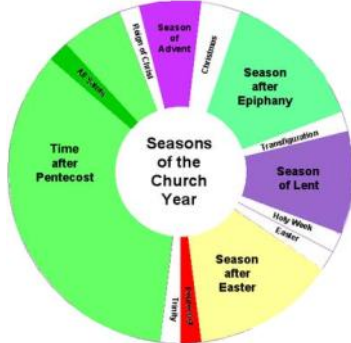
Riverside Masonic Lodge Blood Drive  
Saturday, May 14  
8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.  
40 Forest Avenue, Riverside

To schedule an appointment contact LifeSource at 877-543-3768 or online at [lifesource.org](http://lifesource.org) and use group code RV08.

## What's Happening in Sunday School

We're wrapping up a great year of Sunday school with a study on the Church Year. Our last rotation will have kids learning about how the liturgical year provides the framework for the church to express and reflect on the Word of God in our midst. I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all the shepherds and teachers who have made time to work with the kids this year. Your commitment to the program has been invaluable.

*Susan Zander*



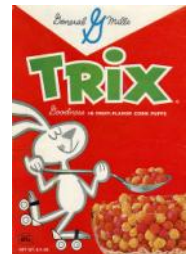
	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th
May 4	Creation Station	Outside	Social Hall
May 11	Social Hall	Creation Station	Outside
May 18	<i>Celebration Sunday: All ages in the Social Hall</i>		

## May's Memory Verse

For a child has been born to us, a son given to us, authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

## CARERS Committee & Kids Unite

This month the CARERS Committee, in conjunction with the Sunday School, preschool and Scouts, will be collecting cereal of all kinds for the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Families come to First Presbyterian for breakfast in the summer because they are not receiving breakfast at their schools as they do during the school year. Let's help these kids to get enough to eat in the summer months! Kids will get an extra sticker on their name tags for each box of cereal they donate.



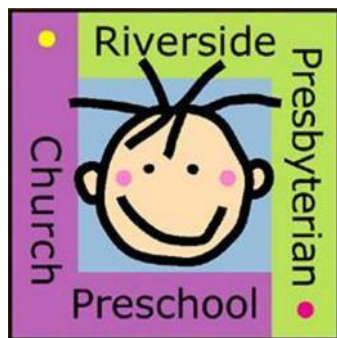
## Bible Presentation Sunday for 2nd Grade

May 22 is a special day for RPC's 2nd graders. It's Bible Presentation Sunday! Please join us for this special day to celebrate with the 2nd grade Bible recipients and their families. We'll also enjoy some Bible Presentation 'Sundaes' in the Social Hall during coffee fellowship.



VBS registration forms are [online](#) on our website, or from the church office. The cost is \$30 per child.





Thank you to all who purchased geraniums in support of the preschool! The flowers will be ready for pick up at RPC on Monday, May 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (unless you signed up for delivery).

In May we will be visiting the Riverside Fire Station, making a clay craft at the Riverside Arts Center, celebrating our moms on Moms' Night, playing outside, and commemorating our "graduates" with a year-end sing and party.

Another preschool year is coming to an end and we have had a great year! Thanks to all who have supported the preschool throughout the year.



## Youth

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### Confirmation Class



RPC's 2016 Confirmation Class  
Shown at left with their teachers

Front:  
Kip Friend  
Josh Ranft  
Rachel McLean  
Steven Staibus

Back:  
Susan Lynch,  
Bill & Vicky Vogel,  
Patti Friend

Confirmation Sunday  
April 17, 2016

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### Girls Group

Come join us for some fun in May. All junior and senior high girls are invited. We will plan our beach sleepover in June and will meet on the following dates:

Saturday, May 7	Mother-Daughter Tea 3:00 p.m. at RPC
Wednesday, May 11	Meet 7:00-8:00 p.m. at RPC
Wednesday, May 18	Meet 7:00-8:00 p.m. at RPC
Wednesday, May 25	End-of-year activity after school

Questions? Contact Tara Gregus at [tara.gregus@rpcusa.org](mailto:tara.gregus@rpcusa.org). We hope to see you!



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### Youth Group News

This past month the RPC Youth assisted and performed at the annual Open Mic Night, and attended Teen Scene and fellowship events.

We are continuing our push for the 2016 Mission Trip with the [Appalachia Service Project](#) which will take place at the end of June. The Youth Group is selling "shares" of the Mission Trip for \$30. Each share will help pay for a portion of the Mission Trip, and entitles the shareholder to a special dinner that will take place before the trip, a journal from a trip participant, as well as a follow-up dessert where youth participants will share their experiences.

Sunday, May 1	1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Youth Sunday Planning Part 1 COMBINED middle and high school event
Saturday, May 7	Laser Tag. 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Location TBA
Sunday, May 8	Teen Scene
Sunday, May 15	Youth Sunday Planning Part 2 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Pizza and pop provided.
Saturday, May 21	Youth Sunday prep/practice 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 22	Youth Sunday
Saturday, May 28	Mission Trip Car Wash
Sunday, May 29	No Youth Group





## Presbyterian Women

The topic for the 2015-2016 Horizons Bible Study is *Come to the Waters* by Judy Record Fletcher, with suggestions for leaders by Larissa Kwong Abazia. *Come to the Waters* considers water images and stories in the Bible. With over 800 references to water in the Bible, there is no shortage of passages from which to choose. The study begins with the chaotic waters of creation in *Genesis* and ends with the river of life in *Revelation*. Please join us on Wednesday, May 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the RPC Social Hall.

Lesson 8—The Hospitality of Living Waters – Compassion  
Scripture—*John 4:1-30; 39-42; Acts 2:44-47*

Lesson Focus—Jesus is the living water. The Samaritan woman, and people today, need this water. When we welcome living water into our lives, we learn the importance of hospitality and compassion. In Lesson 8, Judy Fletcher discusses the hospitality seen in the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. The Samaritan seems taken aback by Jesus' offering her living water, as the woman thought of living water as coming from a river or lake, water that flows, not from a well. Kate Chard will lead Lesson 8.



The Presbyterian Women's annual birthday offering will be collected in May. See page 5 for more information.

## Human Scene

In May, Human Scene will focus on an eclectic mix of subjects ranging from Gnosticism, the Old Testament and the immigration debate. Here is the schedule:

**May 1 - Samuel & Saul**—Continuation of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's lecture series on the Old Testament. This lecture starts with Samuel, who represents the change from charismatic leader to prophet and then explores the tragic story of Saul, which highlights the limitations of monarchy.

**May 8 - King David**—Continuation of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's lecture series on the Old Testament. In this lecture, Professor Levine discusses David's historical legacy that combines David's innate charm, ruthlessness and faith.

**May 15 - Gospel of Judas**—Human Scene gladly welcomes John Haugland, who will be discussing the Gospel of Judas, one of the Gnostic texts. Wikipedia relates that "The **Gospel of Judas** is a Gnostic gospel whose content consists of conversations between Jesus and Judas Iscariot. It is thought to have been composed in the second century by Gnostic Christians, not by the protagonist Judas, since it contains late 2nd century theology."

**May 22 - From King Solomon to Preclassical (Unwritten) Prophecy**—Continuation of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's lecture series on the Old Testament. This lecture looks at the nature of prophecy less as a predictor of the future but more as an expression of divine will, usually through poetry and in debates with the leaders of the age.

**May 29 - Immigration**—an episode from [Morgan Spurlock's 30 Days](#), a documentary series that placed individuals of one extreme belief in the shoes of individuals of the opposing viewpoint for 30 days. In this episode, a fierce proponent for improved enforcement of illegal immigration laws lives with a family of undocumented illegal immigrants for 30 days. Frank, a former Cuban immigrant who speaks fluent Spanish and is a member of the Minutemen, and who believes that immigrants who are not in the country legally should be deported, lives with an immigrant family in a very cramped apartment, barely getting by, but dreaming of better lives in America. This is a riveting episode and one that will have you thinking about the debate on immigration as we go through this election season.

## Events and Thanks



Beloved friends,

Thank you for all the ways you made my last Sunday with you such a celebration! It was wonderful! The special music, including bells and drums in worship, the songs you wrote and sang for me (what a hoot!), the tributes, the lovely luncheon, cake, flowers, cards, and gifts . . . Wow!

The Higgins glass street lamp, church, tower and star will be beautiful hanging in my home. They will be a reminder of my love for you and for Riverside. They are being framed to protect them.

I will thank God in every remembrance of you. It is said that a calling exists wherever a church's needs and a pastor's gifts intersect. I know I was called to be your "gap" pastor and you were God's gracious gift to me.


Now I wish you joy and peace as you begin the next phase of the church's life and ministry with the Rev. Dale Jackson. And I am always here for you, as well as for Dale and Dennis, in Christian friendship.

Faith, hope, and love,  
Emily

Please check  
the Website for  
the most recent  
calendar  
updates!



# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Cantata Worship 4p Acolyte Lesson & Pizza Party	2 5:15p Volleyball	3 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Deacons Mtg 7p Personnel Comm Mtg	4 Office Closed	5 6:30p Women's Forum	6	7
8 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	9 5:15p Volleyball 7p Fellowship Comm Mtg 7p Finance Comm Mtg 7:30p Trustees Mtg	10 6:30a Men's Forum 7p Stewardship Comm Mtg 7p CCY Mtg	11 Office Closed 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	12 6:30p Women's Forum	13	14
15 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 2p Scottish Home Worship <b>Vision</b> Deadline	16 5:15p Volleyball	17 6:30a Men's Forum	18 Office Closed 6:30p Bell Choir 7p Session Mtg 7:30p Chancel Choir	19 6:30p Women's Forum	20 10a CARERS Comm Mtg	21
22 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship 11a Worship & Music Comm Mtg	23 5:15p Volleyball	24 6:30a Men's Forum	25 Office Closed 10a Pres. Women Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	26 6:30p Women's Forum	<b>27</b>	28
29 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Coffee Fellowship	30 <b>Memorial Day</b> 5:15p Volleyball 	31 6:30a Men's Forum				



**RIVERSIDE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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Riverside, Illinois  
60546

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

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

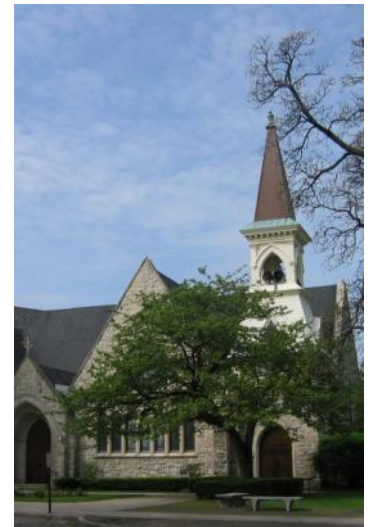
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**Riverside Presbyterian Church**

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<b>Archivist:</b>	Caroline Tecson
<b>Wedding Coordinator:</b>	Donna Ulrich
<b>Director of Music Emerita:</b>	Mary Ann Sadilek
<b>Organist Emerita:</b>	Arlene 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)

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