



**December 14, 2025**

*Third Sunday of Advent*



3400 North Atlantic Avenue

Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931

321-783-6085

[www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org)

On behalf of Riverside Presbyterian, it is our pleasure to welcome you to worship this morning. The opportunity to worship together as the Family is one of God's greatest gifts. It is our hope that this time and place will be a grounding place for us all, one that enables us to live as freely and fully as God intends.



## STEWARDSHIP

To support the ministry of Riverside Presbyterian Church, contributions may be sent to the church office or you may pledge electronically at [www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org) or scan the QR code on the left to give through [tithely.com](http://tithely.com).

Do you want to get a head start in preparing for Sunday worship? The Sunday worship bulletin is now being linked in the Friday e-mail, together with the livestreaming web link, which are also posted on the church's website: [riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](http://riversidepresbyterianchurch.org). The worship service is livestreamed and is available on the church's website: <https://www.youtube.com/@riversidepresbyterianchurch8946>. Please spread the word to those who are interested in worshipping with us online.

The term "voluntary" is used to denote a piece of music or improvisation for instrument, played before, during, or at the end of a church service.

The season of **Advent** is a corporate spiritual journey that calls for expectant waiting and readiness for the coming of Christ. It is hoped that when the church travels this journey and treats it as a discipline of life and prayer, the joy of Christmas is immeasurably intensified. The color purple or blue is used for Advent as it is expressive of hope (expectation, anticipation), which is again the dominant mood of Advent.

## SESSION

### Class of 2025

Carl Plaugher  
Tom White  
Debbie Burleigh, *Clerk*

### Class of 2026

Teri Beeler  
Anda Ray  
Ann Stone

### Class of 2027

Bob Howard  
Meghan Johnson  
Paula Yost

## DIACONATE

### Class of 2025

Susan White  
Fern Wolle

### Class of 2026

Janice Eastes  
Carolyn Hattaway  
Tammy Ivan

### Class of 2027

Jorge Castillo

The December/January issue of our newsletter *Down by the Riverside* has been sent out by email. If you wish to have a hard copy, it is available in the church office and the narthex. If you're interested in receiving our electronic monthly newsletter (except for January and July), please leave your e-mail address. If you wish to receive a hard copy by mail, please call the church office at 321-783-6085.

## Lectionary Readings for Today (Year A):

Isaiah 35:1-10; *Psalms* 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-80; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

✦ **Standing for those who are able**

People's response in ***bold & italic*** type

### APPROACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: "*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David*" (Luke 1:68-69).

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

GREETINGS & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor Bill Teng

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you . . .***

. . . The grace and peace of the Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

VOLUNTARY

"O Blessed Emmanuel"

J. S. Bach/arr. Van Denman Thompson (1968)

Diana Amtower, *Organ*

✦ LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Middleton Family

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life" (John 8:12).

***We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.***

The LORD says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6).

***Come, Lord Jesus, our light and life.***

Until that day, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

✦ HYMN #265

***"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"***

**DUKE STREET**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

STIRRING OF THE SPIRIT

***"The Church"***

Elevation Worship (2010)

***"Forever Reign"***

Hillsong United (2012)

Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*

### MAKING OUR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Holy God: We confess we do not always walk in your light — We often praise the high and mighty and look down upon the lowly; we have great faith in human efforts and little patience for your way.***

***Forgive us, deliver us, O God. Strengthen our hearts by your Spirit, so that we may be ready to greet the Savior you send, even Jesus Christ our Lord.***

SILENT REFLECTION (*Reflecting on the Prayer of Confession*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

... Friends, believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

... The Peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

## GIVING TO GOD

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FUSION YOUTH

Girard Middleton

CALL TO OFFERING

Pastor Teng

OFFERTORY

*"Winter Carol"* arr. Sherri Porterfield (1993)  
Sarah Lawrence, *Soprano* / Diana Amtower, *Piano*

✠ **DOXOLOGY #606**

**OLD HUNDREDTH**

✠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## READING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Isaiah 35:1-10 (Old Testament, p. 663)  
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Valerie Kellum

✠ **HYMN #347** *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

**PICARDY**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 1:57-80 (New Testament, p. 57)  
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Pastor Teng

SERMON

*"Preparing for Christmas"*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

. . . Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer*** . . .

***. . . Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.***

✠ **HYMN #96** *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

**WINCHESTER NEW**

✠ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

✠ **SENDING SONG** *"Enter the Gates"* Bryan & Katie Torwalt (2016)  
Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*



This Sunday's flowers are given to the glory of God by **Ann Stone**, and in remembrance of her marriage to **Bill**, her best friend and love of her life, on December 16, 1972 here at Riverside.  
Grateful and blessed for their years together.

## Celebrating Riverside's 70th Year of Ministry in 2026

Calling all planners, storytellers, and do-ers! We're forming a 70th Anniversary Planning Team to coordinate with our existing ministries, weave celebrations into church life, and spark a few new, future-focused opportunities. If you love organizing events, sharing ideas, or just lending a helpful hand, we'd love to have you. Contact **Anda Ray** at [andaray77@gmail.com](mailto:andaray77@gmail.com).



### ***"Blessed by God to be a Blessing"***

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:3).

Thanks to your faithfulness, as of December 7, we have received a total of **40 Faith Promises** towards 2026, for a total of **\$214,060**.

If you have yet to return your **Faith Promise Card**, indicating how much you wish to give back to the Lord in 2026, please feel free to put it in the offering plate, or mail it to the office.

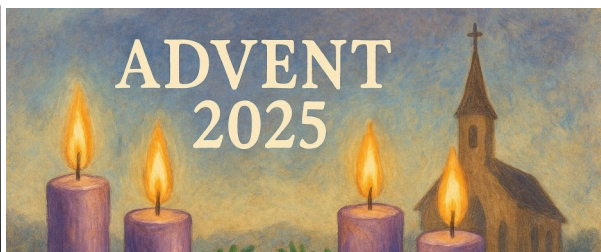
## **December Birthdays**

Judy McCrery	12/8	Barbara Grewe	12/21
Cathy Pfieffer	12/8	Rich Bernard	12/27
Joyce Ringerwole	12/10	Bill Teng	12/30
Bob Yost	12/17		

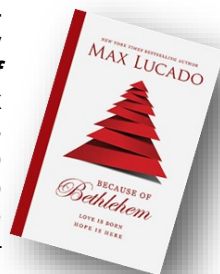


## **ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

A free Advent Devotional is available in both the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Or, you may simply call or email the church office to have a copy sent to you.



**Advent Study** — Beginning on **Monday, December 1** (1:00 a.m. in Knox Hall), Pastor Bill Teng will lead a four-week video Advent study on **“Because of Bethlehem”** by Max Lucado. The four lessons explore how the One who made everything chose to

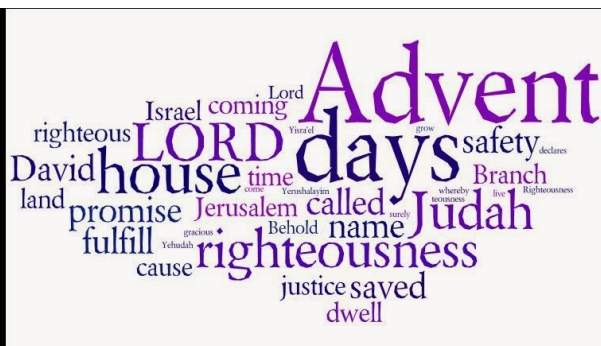


make himself nothing and came into our world. Jesus’ birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us — and that we no longer need to have marks on our record. These lessons include: “God Has a Face.” “Worship Works Wonders,” “God Guides the Wise,” and “Every Heart Is a Manger.” A popular writer and preacher, named “America’s Pastor” by Christianity Today magazine, and in 2005 named by Reader’s Digest as “The Best Preacher in America,” Max Lucado has written almost 100 books with 130 million copies in print. *All are welcome!*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** — All are invited to a Christmas Eve worship Lessons and Carols service at 7:00 p.m.. Please spread the word and invite others to this meditative and joyful expression in Word and music as the climax of the Christmas season.

**Dr. Boushell “Flashback Fever” Concert** — Join us on **Sunday, January 11** at 3:30 p.m. for our next concert in the Dr. Vernon Boushell Concert Series, featuring music from the 60’s and 70’s , performed by the Melbourne Municipal Band’s Rock & Roll Revue. A free ticket is required and can be and are now available on our website at [www.riversideresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.riversideresbyterianchurch.org) (Events/Event Tickets) or call 321-222-7875 for a Will-Call ticket.

**Dr. Boushell 2025–2026 Concert Series — Volunteers Needed** — Volunteer opportunities are available, and needed, for our upcoming 2025–26 Concert Series. We have several opportunities to serve such as: door greeters, parking attendees, check-in host for will-call tickets or printed tickets, hand out concert programs, and ushers. You can sign up at the Volunteer Board in the Narthex or email **Judy George** at [jageorge42@gmail.com](mailto:jageorge42@gmail.com) or place a note in the offering plate. Thank you for helping Riverside continue to share the gift of music!







Lift your prayers this week to the Throne of Grace for: **Bill Cheney, Susan White, Bill Anderson, Rich & Penny Bernard, Linda Harris, Clift Schmitt, Glenn Stout, Travis Stout, Roxanne Stout, Jorge & Coleen Castillo, David & Peggy Bishop, Gail Marshall, Doug Furls, Leon McCrary, Andrey Plata;** peace for Ukraine and the Middle East.

Please remember **Donna McCrary and family** in your prayers, as her husband, Leon, entered Church Triumphant on Sunday, December 7. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Leon will be held sometime in January. *May God's peace and sure hope of the resurrection be with them in their bereavement!*

### DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	Morning: Psalms 122, 145; Evening: Psalms 40, 67 Zechariah 1:7-17; Revelation 3:7-13; Matthew 24:15-31
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning: Psalms 33, 146; Evening: Psalms 85, 94 Zechariah 2:1-13; Revelation 3:14-22; Matthew 24:32-44
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning: Psalms 50, 147:1-11; Evening: Psalms 53, 17 Zechariah 3:1-10; Revelation 4:1-8; Matthew 24:45-51
<b>Thursday</b>	Morning: Psalms 18:1-20, 147:12-20; Evening: Psalms 126, 62 Zechariah 4:1-14; Revelation 4:9-5:5; Matthew 25:1-13
<b>Friday</b>	Morning: Psalms 102, 148; Evening: Psalms 130, 16 Zechariah 7:8-8:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Matthew 25:14-30
<b>Saturday</b>	Morning: Psalms 90, 149; Evening: Psalms 80, 72 Zechariah 8:9-17; Revelation 6:1-17; Matthew 25:31-46
<b>Sunday</b>	Morning: Psalms 24, 150; Evening: Psalms 25, 110 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Titus 2:11-3:8a; Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56)

### WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY

✦ December 14, 872, marks the death of the Italian pope, **Adrian II**, the last married pope, who died at about age 80. ✦ December 14, 1836 is the birthday of hymn writer **Frances Ridley Havergal**, born in the rectory at Astley, Worcestershire, England. Her father, **William Havergal**, was an Anglican clergyman who devoted himself to improving the church music in England and had written over 100 hymns himself. Frances struggled throughout her twenties and thirties, pulled in one direction by the acclaim of great London crowds who loved her singing, and in another direction by the Holy Spirit. Then one day at age 36 she read a booklet entitled "All For Jesus," which stressed the importance of making Christ King of every corner and cubicle of one's life. Frances made a fresh, complete consecration to God. Today she is best known as the author of such hymns as "*Like a River Glorious*" and "*Take My Life and Let It Be*." ✦ On December 14, 1853, through the efforts of zealous Wesleyans, the Illinois Institute opened its doors for the first time. Seven years later, amid financial struggles, the trustees requested help from the wealthier Congregationalists. **Jonathan Blanchard**, Presbyterian pastor and academic, was appointed president. He approached **Warren Wheaton** for a large donation of property and offered to name the school Wheaton College. "That will at least save your heirs the expense of a good monument," Blanchard said. Wheaton College has been training students ever since, "For Christ and His Kingdom."

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 14 - 21 2025

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Monday - Thursday

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<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Cookies & Punch Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Monday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Advent Study (Knox Hall)
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00 p.m.	HRR Circle (Knox Hall)
	4:30 p.m.	Mission Study Team (Pffieffer/Youth Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Session (Knox Hall)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Stitchin' Sisters (Calvin Hall)
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Circle (Knox Hall)
	2:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Knox Hall)
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)

### PSALM 66 PRAISE BAND

Guitar / Vocal — Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*

Bass guitar — Rafael Perez

Drums — Ryan Perez

Keyboard — Andrey Plata

Backup Vocals — Madalynn Pearson & Jordan Boggs

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Ministers: Entire Congregation / Assisted by:**

Rev. William C. Teng, *Interim Pastor*, [pastorbill@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:pastorbill@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org)

Rev. Jane Wesson, *Parish Associate*, [pastorjane@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:pastorjane@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org)

Betsie Germann, *Administrative Assistant*, [office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org)

Diana Amtower, *Traditional Music Director*, [dldaubert@gmail.com](mailto:dldaubert@gmail.com)

Keaton Belliveau, *Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader*, [keanobmusic@gmail.com](mailto:keanobmusic@gmail.com)

Karen Ward, *Audio Visual Leader*

Doug Kasimier, *Treasurer*

Chuck Torgler, *Sexton*

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