

Lent

First Sunday
in

February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent



3400 North Atlantic Avenue

Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931

321-783-6085

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 or scan the QR code on the left to give through [tithely.com](https://www.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. 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.

Lent is a liturgical season which consists of forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday (day before Easter). The six Sundays in Lent, as *all* Sundays, are feast days in honor of the Resurrection, and are therefore *in* Lent and not *of* Lent. The purpose of observing Lent is for all Christians to intentionally, through self-discipline, deepen their own personal faith, purify their hearts from sin, and unite more closely to God through Christ.

SESSION

Class of 2026

Teri Beeler
Anda Ray
Ann Stone

Class of 2027

Bob Howard
Meghan Johnson
Paula Yost

Class of 2028

Girard Middleton
Carl Plaughter (26)
Tom White (26)

DIACONATE

Class of 2026

Janice Eastes
Carolyn Hattaway
Tammy Ivan

Class of 2027

Jorge Castillo

Class of 2028

Martha Williams
Fern Wolle
Bob Yost

The February 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):

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; *Psalm* 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

✦ Standing for those who are able

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

APPROACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: "... For if the many died through [Adam's] trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many" (Romans 5:15).

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Bob Yost

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

"Melodie Sacra"
Diana Amtower, Organ

David Paxton (2023)

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (from Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 4:10)

What will you say to the serpent in the garden?
We worship the Lord, and serve God alone.
What will you say to the devil in the wilderness?
We worship the Lord, and serve God alone.
So, come, people of God:
Let us worship the Lord and serve God alone.

✦ HYMN #41

"O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"

LYONS

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

STIRRING OF THE SPIRIT

"Yes, I Will"
"Called Me Higher"
Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, Leader

Vertical Worship (2019)
All Sons & Daughters (2012)

MAKING OUR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of great mercy: We confess we have sinned against you — You provide the food we need, still we hunger for other things; you give your Word to guide us, still we surrender to temptation.

Forgive us, O Lord, by your steadfast love. Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore to us the joy of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord; for we ask in his holy name.

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

Pastor Wesson

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Leaning"
Chancel Choir / Diana Amtower, *Director*

Matt Maher (2022)

✦ **DOXOLOGY #606**

OLD HUNDREDTH

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

READING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Matthew 4:1-11 (New Testament, p. 3)
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Chili Lindsay

✦ **HYMN #819**

"Be Still, My Soul"

FINLANDIA

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 (Old Testament, p. 2)
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Pastor Teng

SERMON

"Free to Choose"

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 #166**

"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

✦ **SENDING SONG**

"Forever"
Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*

Chris Tomlin (2001)



This Sunday's flowers are given to the glory of God and by **Carl Plaughter and Pam Weiger** in loving memory of Pam's parents, **Nancy and Bill Weiger.**



We are currently collecting food items for **The Children's Hunger Project** through **March 8**. Riverside is helping The Children's Hunger Project by serving 80+ children each week at schools in Merritt Island and Cocoa Beach, and your donations go towards providing lunches for children who may not have food available to them.

For a list of food items that are needed, please pick up a list from the Narthex.

We will be getting together in the Fellowship Hall after Worship on **Sunday, March 15** to pack boxes from the donated food items.

CELEBRATING RIVERSIDE'S 70TH YEAR OF MINISTRY IN 2026

DID YOU KNOW? Before we became a church in 1956, early congregants were referred to as a "Presbyterian Fellowship," governed by a steering committee tasked with creating a slate of elders and trustees. On October 7, Riverside Presbyterian Church was declared duly organized by official Act of the Presbytery. This week is your last chance to check out the display table in Fellowship Hall, highlighting Riverside's first decade of service in Cocoa Beach.

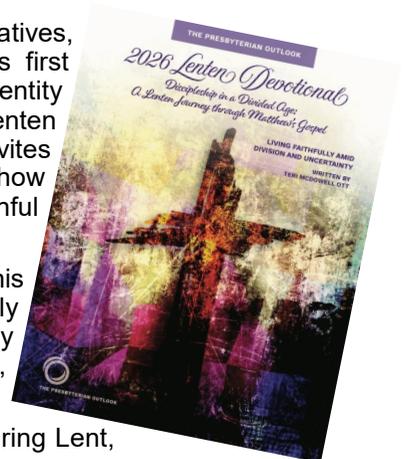


LENTEN DEVOTIONAL - DISCIPLESHIP IN A DIVIDED AGE

In a world marked by division, uncertainty and competing narratives, Matthew's Gospel speaks with striking relevance. Matthew's first audience — a young, fragile community navigating conflict, identity and fear — sounds a lot like the church today. This Lenten devotional by *Presbyterian Outlook* editor Teri McDowell Ott invites readers to journey through Matthew's Gospel to discover how Jesus leads us toward humility, courage, compassion, and faithful discipleship amid the fractures of our age.

Grounded in Scripture and written with pastoral warmth, this resource guides individuals and congregations through daily reflections, including a weekly *visio divina* practice. Each entry includes Scripture, a focus verse, a theologically rich reflection, guided questions, and a closing prayer.

Each family is welcomed to take a copy home for devotion during Lent, which begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**.

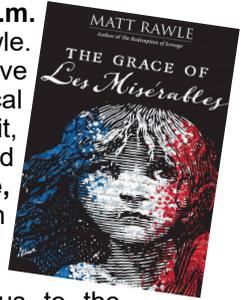


An **Inquirers Class** has been scheduled for **Saturday morning, March 14, 9:30 to 11:30.**

If you've been worshipping at Riverside and would like to know more about the church, the Christian faith, the Presbyterian Church in general, or church membership, please speak with pastor Bill Teng as soon as possible.

A six-week **Lenten Bible Study** begins on **Monday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m. in Knox Hall** to study together ***The Grace of Les Misérables*** by Matt Rawle.

The familiar *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo is a truly epic story. Whether you've tackled the 1,400-page 19th century novel, witnessed the Broadway musical (and memorized its soundtrack), or seen the several screen adaptations of it, you already know the power of its story. In this six-week study, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story — **grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope** — each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together (perhaps even in spite of each other) out in the world. In keeping with his previous works, Matt Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world. *Look forward to seeing you in the class!*



3rd Annual Children's Hunger Project Car Show — Join us **Saturday, February 28** from **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** here at Riverside. It is \$25 to register a vehicle and all proceeds go to The Children's Hunger Project. Come out and enjoy classic cars, food trucks, raffles, DJ, games, and awards. If you would like to bring a donated food item for CHP, you can find a list of needed items at www.thechildrenhungerproject.org/food-donations. Riverside also has a list of needed items located in the Narthex. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

First Tuesday Dinner — Join us on **March 3, 2026** for our First Tuesday Dinner, catered by Brano's Italian Grill. The menu will include Roasted Pork Au Jus, boiled potatoes, garden salad, bread and dessert. Cost is \$12. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting Betty Peterson before Sunday, March 1. Feel free to invite family and friends.

Be part of something special: **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** — For the first time since 2019, three other local churches will join us for a Community Easter Sunrise Service on April 5 at Sidney Fischer Park, Cocoa Beach. In addition to Riverside, the partnership includes Cocoa Beach Community Church, First United Methodist Church, and Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. We will even have a food truck with coffee and donuts. We have several different volunteer roles that the churches are sharing. If you can help, please see **Judy George** (jageorge24@gmail.com) or **Anda Ray** (andaray77@gmail.com),

Dr. Boushell Brahm's German Requiem Concert — Join us for our **German Requiem Concert** performed by the Riverside Chamber Orchestra and the Riverside Community Chorale on **Sunday, March 8 at 3:30 p.m.** Free ticket is required and can be obtained on our website at www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org ("Event/Event Tickets") or call the will-call number at 321-222-7875.

SERMON NOTES



Lift your prayers this week to the Throne of Grace for: **Bill Anderson, Rebecca Burns, Betty Gould, Linda Lee Torgler, Judy Howard, Bill Cheney, Susan White, Linda Harris, Cliff Schmitt, Glenn Stout, Travis Vick, Roxanne Stout, Jorge & Coleen Castillo, Doug Furls, Dale Ringerwole, Paula Yost**; peace for Ukraine, Iran, and the Middle East. Continue to pray for **Jeanne Kelley** and family in your prayers, as her husband, Doc, passed away on February 10; and **Peggy Bishop** and family, as her husband, David, also passed away on February 10. May the peace of God and the sure hope of the resurrection be with them all.

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	Morning: Psalms 119:73-80; 145 / Evening: Psalms 121; 6 Genesis 37:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-19; Mark 1:1-13
Tuesday	Morning: Psalms 34; 146 / Evening: Psalms 25; 91 Genesis 37:12-24; 1 Corinthians 1:20-31; Mark 1:14-28
Wednesday	Morning: Psalms 5; 147:1-11 / Evening: Psalms 27, 51 Genesis 37:25-36; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13; Mark 1:29-45
Thursday	Morning: Psalms 27; 147:12-20 / Evening: Psalms 126; 102 Genesis 39:1-23; 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:15; Mark 2:1-12
Friday	Morning: Psalms 22; 148 / Evening: Psalms 105; 130 Genesis 40:1-23; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Mark 2:13-22
Saturday	Morning: Psalms 43; 149 / Evening: Psalms 31; 143 Genesis 41:1-13; 1 Corinthians 4:1-7; Mark 2:23-3:6
Sunday	Morning: Psalms 84; 150 / Evening: Psalm 42, 32 Genesis 41:14-45; Romans 6:3-14; John 5:19-24

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY

✦ On February 22, 1661, Scottish Covenanter, **James Guthrie**, was placed on trial for his faith in Christ. In his defense, he said: "I beseech you to ponder well what profit there is in my blood ... My blood, bondage, or banishment will contribute more for the propagation of these things than my life in liberty would do, though I should live many years." He was hanged in Edinburgh on June 1, 1661. ✦ February 22, 1680, marks the death of famed English Nonconformist preacher, **Thomas Goodwin**, seventy-nine. His last words were: "Ah, is this dying? How I have dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend." ✦ **George Washington** was born on this day in 1732. ✦ February 22, 1805, is also the birthday of hymnist, **Sarah F. Adams**, born in Harlow, Essex, England. Sarah was a noted London actress, but when her career was disrupted by poor health, she began writing poetry and hymns, her best known being "*Nearer, My God, to Thee*." ✦ On February 22, 1807, as **William Wilberforce** watched, the second reading of his bill to ban slavery in the British Empire was read in Parliament. He had written in his diary that morning, "God can turn the hearts of men," but prospects for victory were uncertain. To his amazement, the entire House rose, cheering and applauding his lifelong efforts. The motion carried 283 to 16. ✦ On February 22, 1906, the African-American evangelist, **William J. Seymour**, arrived in Los Angeles. He began holding revival meetings there, and the famous "Azusa Street Revival" broke out under his leadership, launching the Pentecostal movement in America.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 22 - March 1, 2026

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

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Soup Sunday (Fellowship Hall)
Monday	1:00 p.m.	Lenten Bible Study (Knox Hall)
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (Knox Hall)
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Circle (Knox Hall)
	3:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Knox Hall)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Charity Car Show (Front Parking Lot)
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> (Prepare your hearts for Holy Communion)
	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

Rev. Jane Wesson, *Parish Associate*, pastorjane@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

Betsie Germann, *Administrative Assistant*, office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

Diana Amtower, *Traditional Music Director*, dldaubert@gmail.com

Keaton Belliveau, *Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader*, keanobmusic@gmail.com

Karen Ward, *Audio Visual Leader*

Doug Kasimier, *Treasurer*

Chuck Torgler, *Sexton*

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