



## From the Pastor's Heart

### "Sifted Like Wheat!"

In Luke's Gospel, there's this one strange expression Jesus used that must have startled his disciples when addressing Peter: "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat" (Luke 22:31, *NRSV*).

Have you ever felt what it's like to be sifted like wheat? It's certainly not an expression we use much today. It means to pull apart, to fragment, and even to separate violently. You feel being sifted like wheat when life tears you apart. When some circumstance, uncertainty, illness, spiteful behavior, failure in the face of temptation just tears you up — leaving you empty, frustrated, exhausted, angry, depressed.

There's no question that life is complex. There are just too many ways that we may be sifted, experiences that test our trust in Jesus, that attempt to separate us from Jesus.

Now, if Jesus had only said, "Satan has demanded to sift you like wheat," we would all be left in a most difficult place and sad state, but Jesus goes on to say some of the most wonderful, promise-full, hope-full words you will ever hear in your life: "... *but* I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail" (Luke 22:32a, *emphasis added*).

It's for sure that when Jesus prays for something, God answers his prayer with a powerful YES. If Jesus prays that Peter's faith won't fail, then it won't fail!

When you are sifted, look to Jesus! The hope for us is simple yet immensely profound — if you are in a time of sifting, know through the prayers of Jesus, you will turn again to face him.

"He is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Just as Jesus prayed for Peter, he prays for you and for me!

However, what are you to do after our Lord carries you

through a rough time? Take a vacation? Get on with life?

While these may make sense, Jesus goes on to offer an overarching word to Simon Peter and so to us today as well — Jesus offers a word of hope about Simon's faith and a word of command for Simon after his time of trouble: "and you, *when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers*" (Luke 22:32b, *emphasis added*).

In other words, when you are "down," the role of your brothers and sisters in Christ is to carry you — the way four people of faith in Jesus carried a paralyzed man to Jesus and whose faith Jesus responded to in healing the man (Mark 2). When you are "up," when you turn back to Jesus, your role is to carry and strengthen those in your life.

As the apostle Paul writes: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

As you experience anew the rich blessings of the living Christ in your life this Lenten season, may you be willing to "strengthen" those around you who may need your prayer and support!

Yours in Christ,

There's no question that life is complex. There are just too many ways that we may be sifted, experiences that test our trust in Jesus, that attempt to separate us from Jesus.

## Worship with Us!



IN-PERSON AND "LIVE" BROADCAST

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00am

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

Riverside Presbyterian Church

3400 N. Atlantic Avenue

Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

321-783-6085

Email: [office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org)





The Children's Hunger Project collection will be continuing **through March 8**. There are many items still needed! Some items that we could use some "extra" help with are the following:



- Sunflower Kernels
- Zee Zee Bars
- Teddy Grahams
- Craisins
- Fruit Cups



If you are not able to get out to shop, you can order from Amazon and have food items delivered to the church! On **Sunday, March 15** we will get together as a church family in the Fellowship Hall to pack the collected food items. We look forward to seeing you there! **As always, thank you for your continued generosity!**

Remember to *Spring Forward* on March 8th!  
Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed.

# OneBlood Drive

## DONATE BLOOD

Sunday March 8  
9 a.m - 1 p.m.

Donating save lives!

Walk-ins are welcome, or sign up at [www.oneblooddrive.com](http://www.oneblooddrive.com)

# MARCH Birthdays

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Beverly Abrams | 3/1  |
| Zoltan Deak    | 3/6  |
| Ann Rybicki    | 3/9  |
| Linda Harris   | 3/13 |
| Barbara Cox    | 3/14 |
| JB Olds        | 3/17 |
| Bev Kasimier   | 3/19 |
| Sue Colley     | 3/27 |
| Kathy Coon     | 3/29 |

# Gift Card Collection

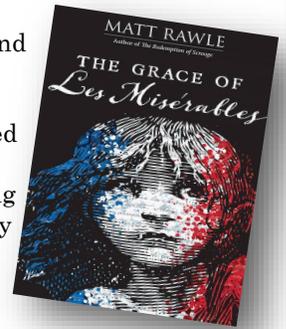
We are collecting gift cards in increments of \$10 for Cape View Elementary. The type of gift cards we are collecting are Publix, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, and Walmart.

Please turn your gift cards in to **Becky Reed**, Sunday Offering plate, or the Church Office.

Deadline is March 17.

## Lenten Study — *The Grace of Les Misérables*

A six-week Lenten Bible Study continues on **Mondays 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!



## A New Tuesday Night Hope Is Taking Shape!

Riverside's Session has joyfully approved an exciting new proposal by Robbie Ward to launch a weekly youth evening on Tuesday nights in Calvin Hall.

The vision is simple and welcoming: a safe, relaxed, and inviting place for youth in our community to gather (and totally aligned with our recent *Mission Study*\*). As the group grows, one or more rooms in Calvin Hall will become a space where young people can belong, laugh, and be themselves. Evenings will include social time (and sometimes dinner!), games, movies, and a cozy coffee-house atmosphere, followed by a short, Bible-based conversation grounded in faith and real life.



One of the most exciting parts? The youth will help shape the space themselves. From choosing donated couches, chairs, and tables, to setting the vibe of the room, this will truly be their place. Over time, the group may even organize fundraisers to help attend special events like Rock the Universe.

This effort is already being supported by: Karen Ward, Bob Howard, Ann Stone, and Anda Ray, who have stepped forward to help establish the group. But as we all know — many hands make light work, and there are lots of ways others can join in:

- Promoting the gathering on social media
- Updating the electronic church sign
- Helping prepare or donate meals
- Serving as rotating evening chaperones
- Donating furniture or supplies
- Offering encouragement, ideas, and prayer ....

and many other ideas.

Whether it begins with one youth or many, Riverside now has a beautiful opportunity to offer something lasting — a legacy of hope, safety, and faith for future generations. Tuesday nights are about to get brighter, and we can't wait to see what God does next.

***Stay tuned — more details coming soon!***

\**Mission Study* Excerpts on Youth: “[Riverside] needs intentional love, protection, delight and investment in the those [children and youth] who are present ... These ministries are not peripheral — they are signs of resurrection life, proclaiming that children and youth matter not because they will ‘save the church’ but because they are already beloved by God (p.3). Success is not measured in youth numbers, but by intergenerational relationships and strategic partnerships beyond the congregation” (p.31).

*Easter Sunrise*  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
 ON THE BEACH

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 @ 6:50 AM**

*\*Bring a beach chair or towel*

*Join Us*

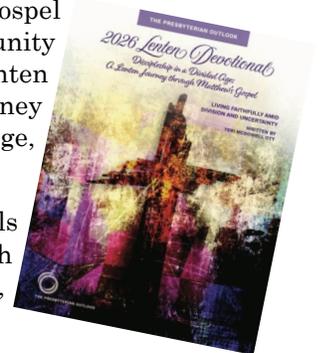
Sidney Fischer Park | 2200 N Atlantic Ave. | Cocoa Beach, FL

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Easter Sunrise Service, you can reach out to **Judy George** (jageroge24@gmail.com) or **Anda Ray** (andray77@gmail.com)

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.



If you have yet to have a copy, it’s available for free in the Narthex or please call the church Office.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Palm Sunday                             | 10:00 a.m., March 29 |
| Maundy Thursday                         | 7:00 p.m., April 2   |
| Easter Sunrise<br>(Sidney Fischer Park) | 6:50 a.m., April 5   |
| Easter Sunday                           | 10:00 a.m., April 5  |

# RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1966 - 1976



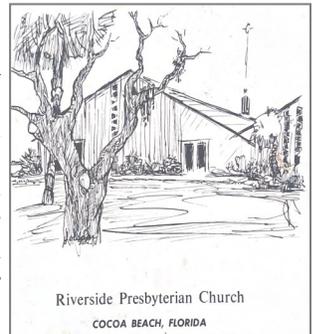
## OUR COMMUNITY

Cocoa Beach grew rapidly as the “race to the moon” continued. In January 1967, astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffe became the first fatalities of the Space Program. This solemn time for the entire community slowed the project but did not stop it. Two years later, Mike Collins, Buzz Aldrin, and Neil Armstrong blasted off for the moon, and the world watched as Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the lunar surface. But within a few weeks, the area experienced an economical downturn as thousands of space workers were laid off or transferred. The Apollo Program ended in 1972, and Cocoa Beach fell into a deep recession. Revival came when people from South Florida discovered the area, and the community transitioned from Space Age to Tourist Town. Ron Jon’s and Quiet Flight surf shops helped foster the new reputation of East Coast surfing capital. In the mid 70s, Sydney Fischer Park became a fully functional facility with playground, picnic tables, rest rooms, and beach access.



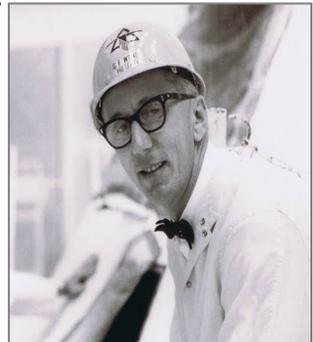
## OUR CHURCH

During its second decade, Riverside grew in structure and staffing. The **Rev. Nicholas B. Bosworth** served as pastor until 1968 as **Glenn Arnold** became Organist and Choirmaster, a Wedding Coordinator position was created, and plans were approved for a Christian Education building — The building now known as Calvin Hall was dedicated in 1968 to serve Riverside’s 517 members. That same year, the Women’s Association created a wedding reception committee and published the first Riverside Cookbook. The **Rev. Dr. Robert L. Lowry** served as pastor from 1969 to 1976, with the help of assistant pastor **Rev. Earl B. Stewart** during the last year, bringing a special emphasis on Christian education. The first annual Winter Visitors Luncheon was held in January 1971. After publishing a second pictorial directory, the church created the position of Historian.



## OUR PEOPLE

**Gunter Wendt** served as Clerk of Session and President of the Board of Trustees of Riverside Presbyterian Church as he became one of the most trusted figures in U.S. human spaceflight. Wendt was a German-born American mechanical engineer who immigrated to the United States in 1949. He arrived in Cape Canaveral in 1959 with his wife and two daughters as one of the first three families attached to Project Mercury, America’s manned spaceflight program. Wendt worked at the launch pads at Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center for 34 years, during Mercury, Gemini, Apollo (crewed phases), Skylab, and Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. He served as “pad leader,” in charge of the spacecraft close-out crew responsible for preparing the capsule, securing the astronauts, and sealing the hatch before launch. Astronauts jokingly called him the “Pad Fuhrer” — they meant it affectionately: he was the last person they saw before the hatch closed, and they trusted him with their lives.

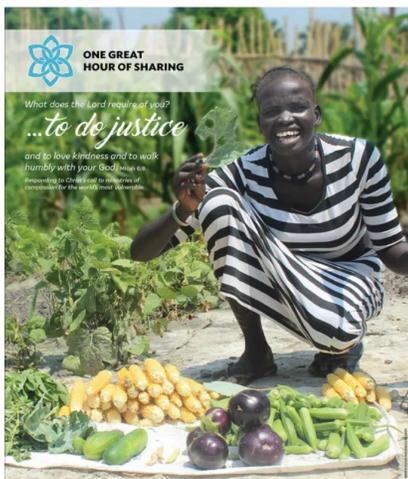




# Missions

## One Great Hour of Sharing

### March 29, 2026

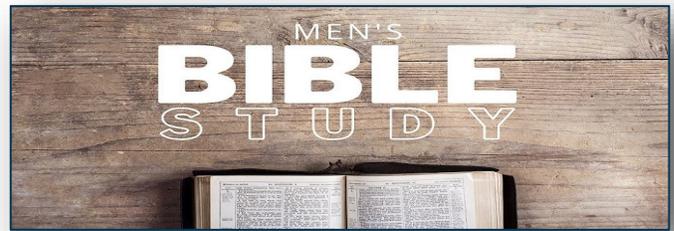


**For more than 75 years,  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
has provided Presbyterians a way  
to share God's love with our neighbors in need  
around the world.**

In a world of disaster, hunger and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

### WAYS TO GIVE:

- Use the special Offering envelope
- Include with your regular offering (write "OGHS on our envelope)
- Donate online [www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org) (note OGHS in comment box)



This year's Presbyterian Women's study book is entitled, ***"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ."***

Both circles meet in **Knox Parlor:**  
 Hannah/Ruth/Rebecca meets the **3rd Tuesday at 1 p.m.**  
 Deborah meets the **3rd Wednesday at 3 p.m.**

If you are interested in joining one of the circles, please contact **Gail Marshall, Betty Peterson or Paula Yost.**

Men's Bible Study meets **Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.** in-person in Knox Parlor and via Zoom. Afterwards we go to breakfast for more fellowship time.

If you prefer to join us via Zoom, please contact **Tom White** at 614-849-8741 or via email at [didymus623@gmail.com](mailto:didymus623@gmail.com) for a Zoom meeting invitation.

*Gentlemen, if you are not already a participant, we invite you to join us.*



The Wednesday Afternoon Ladies' Bible Study is just beginning a Ray Vander Laan study entitled ***"The Mission of Jesus."*** In this study we will learn more about Jesus and the ancient world where the crucifixion, ascension, and Pentecost took place. We meet **Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in Knox Parlor** (also available via Zoom).

Contact **Paula Yost** for more information, if you would like to join us Wednesday afternoons.

**Sunday School**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**K-5th grade**  
**Fusion Youth**  
 Pfeiffer Room  
**Adults**  
*The Holy Spirit, the Forgotten God*  
 Knox Parlor  
*Romans*  
 (Ladies class)  
 Knox Galilee  
**Learn More about the God We Serve!**

**PRAYER Circle**

We come together each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. to pray for the needs of our church family and friends. There are blue cards in the pews that you can fill out, or you can email me at [biddle310@gmail.com](mailto:biddle310@gmail.com)

*Jane Lovett*

**Pray with Us For...**

- Loved ones
- Those who have illness or loss
- Our military personnel
- Our missionaries
- Our nation
- Our church

**Inquirer's Class**

An Inquirer/New Member's 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** or call the church office as soon as possible.



### 2026 Financial (as of January 31st)

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Income             | \$52,104  |
| Operating Expenses | \$35,088  |
| Net Income         | \$ 17,016 |

# Faithful Stewardship

Thank you for your continued financial support!

God's work never stops...and therefore, neither does ours, blessings!

*Douglas Kasimier* , Treasurer, (dkasimier@aol.com)

## Session Update

The Session met in person on February 17, Pastor Bill moderated. Devotion was led by Ann Stone.

Meeting minutes for December, January, and Annual meetings were approved.

**Robbie Ward** presented a proposal to launch a Tuesday youth group using Calvin Hall with volunteer and initial financial support; Session approved the proposal and requested next steps. He also thanked the church for supporting the recent youth trip to Rock the Universe.

The 2026 Mission Study was presented by **Mick Ray** and approved by the Session (it's now being forwarded to the Presbytery for its approval).

Approval to reserve the Starlite Restaurant on October 4, 2026, for brunch was granted in celebration of our 70th Anniversary.

Removed **Eric & Maryann Pulcino** from Membership Roll at their request.

Terms of Call for **Pastor Bill Teng** were amended and approved by Session.

Next Session meeting will be March 17 at 6 p.m. in Knox Parlor.

## Diaconate Update

The Deacons met in person on February 10. Pastor Jane Wesson opened with prayer. Devotion was led by Janice Eastes.

Caring person for March: **Bob Yost**

Caring person for April: **Jorge Castillo**

Easter Flowers were discussed and **Fern Wolle** is organizing the ordering and delivering of Easter Lilies and Mums and planning the delivery to shut-ins following Easter Service.

Discussed the Gift Card collection headed up by **Becky Reed**.

**Pastor Jane** closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Diaconate meeting will be March 10 at 6 p.m. in Knox Parlor.

The Worship Team would like to have some help to arrange the info in the pew racks and put info in the children's packets. Please reach out to **Ann Stone** or **Judy George** if you're able to help. *Thank you!*

## Church Staff

**Rev. Dr. Bill Teng**

*Interim Pastor*

**Rev. Jane Wesson**

*Parish Associate*

**Betsie Germann**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Doug Kasimier**

*Treasurer*

**Diana Amtower**

*Traditional Music Leader*

**Keaton Belliveau**

*Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader*

**Chuck Torgler**

*Custodian*

**Karen Ward**

*Web/IT/AV*

## Church Officers

### SESSION

Terri Beeler '26

Anda Ray '26

Ann Stone '26

Carl Plaughter '26

Tom White '26

Meghan Johnson '27

Robert Howard '27

Paula Yost '27

Girard Middleton '28

### DIACONATE

Janice Eastes '26

Carolyn Hattaway '26

Tammy Ivan '26

Jorge Castillo '27

Martha Williams '28

Fern Wolle '28

Bob Yost '28



# March

# 2020

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri                  | Sat                          |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1<br>9a Youth & Adult SS<br>10a Worship (Communion)<br>11a Fellowship Time<br>11a Communications   | 2<br>1p Lenten Study<br>7p NA Meeting                                | 3<br>6p 1st Tuesday Dinner   | 4<br>8:30a Men's Study<br>9:30a Stitches' Sisters<br>10a Prayer Circle<br>10a Care & Support<br>3p Women's Study | 5<br>11a David Bishop Memorial Service<br>7p Choir Rehearsal | 6                    | 7                            |
| 8 <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b><br>9a Youth & Adult SS<br>10a Worship<br>11a Fellowship Time<br>11a Worship & Sacrament<br>3:30p Brahms' German Requiem Concert | 9<br>1p Lenten Study<br>7pm NA Meeting                               | 10<br>6p Diaconate Meeting   | 11<br>8:30a Men's Study<br>10a Prayer Circle<br>3p Women's Study   | 12<br>7p Choir Rehearsal<br>7p Christian Education           | 13                   | 14<br>9:30a Inquirer's Class |
| 15<br>9a Youth & Adult SS<br>10a Worship<br>11a Fellowship Time<br>CHP Packing   | 16<br>1pm Lenten Study<br>7pm NA Meeting                             | 17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b><br>1p HRR Circle<br>6p Session Meeting | 18<br>8:30a Men's Study<br>9:30a Stitches' Sisters<br>10a Prayer Circle<br>3p Women's Study                      | 19   | 20                   | 21                           |
| 22<br>9a Youth & Adult SS<br>10a Worship<br>11a Fellowship Time  | 23<br>1p Lenten Study<br>6:30p Community Engagement<br>7p NA Meeting | 24<br>7p Missions  | 25<br>8:30a Men's Study<br>10a Prayer Circle<br>3p Women's Study   | 26<br>7p Choir Rehearsal                                     | 27                   | 28                           |
| 29 <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>9a Youth & Adult SS<br>10a Worship<br>11a Fellowship Time   | 30<br>1p Lenten Study<br>7p NA Meeting                               | 31   | April 1  | 2 <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>7p Worship Service               | 3 <b>Good Friday</b> | 4 <b>Holy Saturday</b>       |