

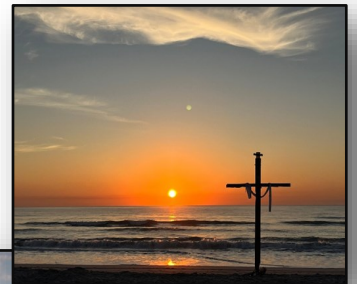


EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Riverside Presbyterian Church held a worship sunrise service Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 in a different and expanded “sanctuary”. The place was the beach – and the breaking morning sun rose over the ocean shone on all of those present. It was truly a sacred place and a sacred moment to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Almost 500 people joined together with their feet in the sand to sing praise songs, meditate on an Easter message and revel in the beauty of God’s creation. It’s been several years since Riverside has been part of an Easter Sunrise Service – and this year was a solo flight where the church provided all of the planning for the morning.

If the spectacular display of a sunrise on the beach was any indication of God’s blessings, it is fair to say that worshipping in this “expanded sanctuary” will be something to look forward to again!



Worship with Us!



IN-PERSON AND “LIVE” BROADCAST
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00am

www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

Riverside Presbyterian Church

3400 N. Atlantic Avenue

Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

321-783-6085



Email: office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

First Tuesday Dinner

Tuesday May 6th join us for our First Tuesday Dinner. Our meal will be catered by Brano's Italian Grill and the menu will feature a pot roast meal, including potatoes, veggies, Caesar salad, bread and dessert. Cost is \$12 per person.

Following dinner our program will feature Chaplain Nancy from the Brevard County Jail, as she explains the services available to the inmates. Please join us and feel free to invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

Sign up after church in Fellowship Hall, beginning this Sunday, or phone your reservations in to our church secretary or Betty Peterson at 406-750-9202.

All reservations must be made by Sunday, May 5th by noon.

Mays

Birthdays

Doug Olds	5/1
Dick Gerhardt	5/9
Carolyn Hattaway	5/15
Doug Kasimier	5/21
Mark Gordon	5/24
Wayne Ivan	5/24
Mark McCrery	5/28
Gerry Harris	5/31



Cape View Gift Cards

Summer break is going to be here in just a few short weeks! We are collecting gift cards for the students at Cape View Elementary for the end of the year. We are asking for Publix or Walmart gift cards in \$10 increments.

Cards can be turned into the Church office or Lindalee Torgler. Deadline is May 20th.



Thank you for your generosity!



Tithely.com

Riverside is offering another convenient option for you to give your donations! You can scan the QR code below, with your phone, and it will take you to our online giving through tithely.com. This is a secure and easy way to give your contributions.



Extended Family Database



To ensure we are able to provide excellent care of one another, we are forming an Extended Family Database. If you'd like us to be able to contact family members, should the need arise — celebrations, emergencies, etc., please provide contact information to Betsie in the church office. This information will be used only to provide care.

Summer Christian Education and Bible Studies

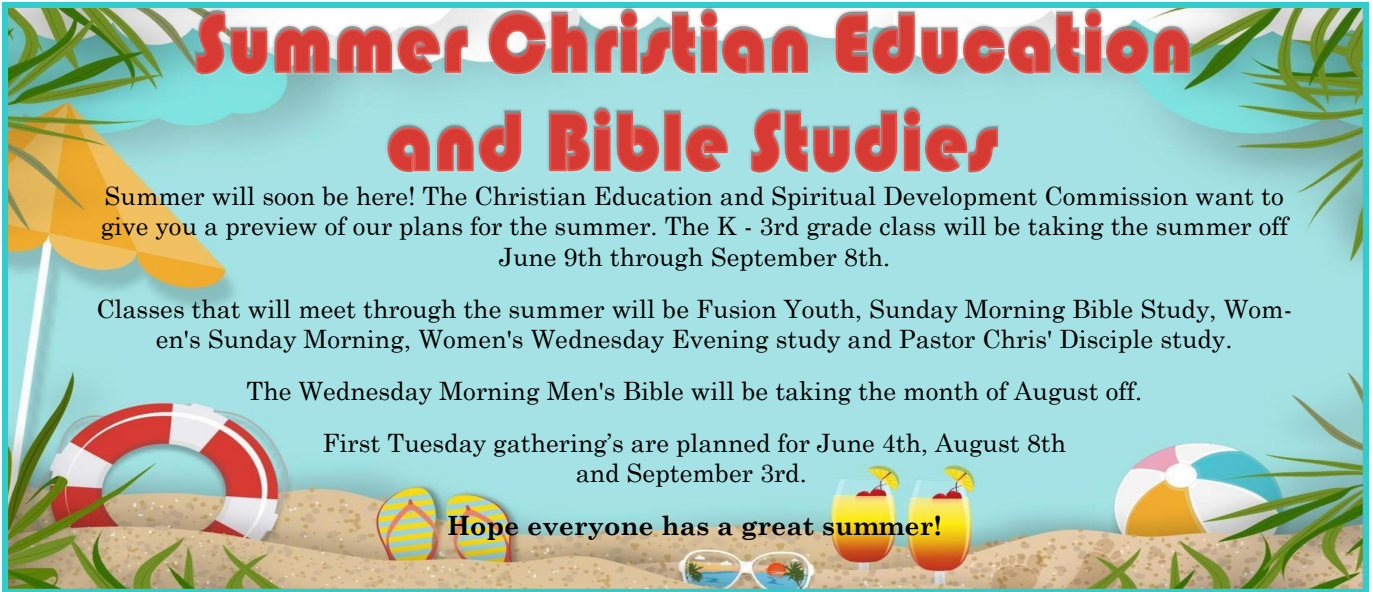
Summer will soon be here! The Christian Education and Spiritual Development Commission want to give you a preview of our plans for the summer. The K - 3rd grade class will be taking the summer off June 9th through September 8th.

Classes that will meet through the summer will be Fusion Youth, Sunday Morning Bible Study, Women's Sunday Morning, Women's Wednesday Evening study and Pastor Chris' Disciple study.

The Wednesday Morning Men's Bible will be taking the month of August off.

First Tuesday gathering's are planned for June 4th, August 8th and September 3rd.

Hope everyone has a great summer!



Banana Split Sunday

If you love ice cream, banana splits and fellowship we invite you to join us on May 26th!

After worship we will get together in the Fellowship Hall where we will make and enjoy banana splits to kick off the summer season!



Blues Brothers

Tribute Concert

Mark your calendars! Sunday, October 13th, Riverside Presbyterian Church will host a Jack and Elwood Blues Tribute Concert featuring Derek and The Slammers! Proceeds from concert will benefit "I Am a Freedom Fighter" which fights human trafficking.




We would love for you to join us for an evening of music! Look for more information and details in the coming months!

America the Beautiful

Mark your calendar's for the next concert in the Dr. Vernon Boushell concert series, Sunday June 30th, 3:30pm.

The concert will feature Space Coast Symphony Winds Orchestra with a musical tribute to America.

Make sure to look for an email in early June for when tickets will be available.



A Word from Pastor Chris . . .



All,

Happy May! I hope this finds you well. If it doesn't and I can stand with you in any way, please let me know.

In case you missed it, Monday, April 22 was Earth Day. I knew this well in advance. It is listed as such on my planning calendar. It is also listed on my virtual calendars. Yes, this may mean I have too many calendars!

Even though I knew Earth Day's date, I almost missed it. It is not a day I normally plan for or around. When my kids were little, I did, largely because they were part of Earth Day activities at school and I wanted to participate with them. With all having graduated public school, I no longer have advanced warning.

As Earth Day hit, my social media was full of people doing cool Earth Day things, those things I once did with my kids. I found myself a bit nostalgic. I found myself also a bit torn. In my neighborhood, Tuesdays are garbage day. Thus, as Earth Day came to a close, I was wheeling out trash, not recycling. Two days later, I would be wheeling out my recycling; the next day, my trash again. It struck me that we collect trash twice as often as recycling, at least in Merritt Island.

There are things to ponder about this for sure, individually and collectively. I find myself thinking more about the individual and how often my actions and beliefs are aligned. In this case, they are at odds; it is much more important to me that we take better care of the planet than it is for my "stuff" to be removed. That, though, is not conveyed in my weekly schedule. What will come of this, I do not know. What I do know is that I am now evaluating other things too and how aligned they are with my sense of who I am and want to be. This is not always easy work, but it is Kingdom work. I believe I will be better for it at the end. If you're feeling so led, I invite you to join me in the Journey!

Blessings on your heads!

Chris

BIG RED BUS

Blood Drive



The OneBlood bus will be at Riverside Sunday, May 5th from 9am-1pm. Walk-ins are welcome. However, reservations, which can be made on the OneBlood website, www.oneblood.org, are preferred. Please consider donating blood before or after church.

Each donation changes lives!



Lydia, a wealthy entrepreneur, met Jesus while worshipping God out by the river, when Paul joined them (Acts 16:6-13). She believed and was baptized. Think about how you met Jesus and what was your response.


Both circles meet in person in Knox Parlor.

Hannah/Ruth/Rebecca meets the 3rd Tuesday at 1pm
Deborah meets the 3rd Wednesday at 7pm



The Wednesday night Ladies' Bible Study continues our study using "Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Looking at the parables from a different perspective has sparked much discussion as we see them in a different light.

Join us Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. meetings in Knox Parlor (also available via Zoom).



We come together each Wednesday morning at 10am 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

We always welcome new members!

Jane Lovett

Pray with Us For...

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

Men's Bible Study meets Wednesday's at 8:30am in-person in Knox Parlor and via Zoom.

We plan to go to breakfast following each meeting for more fellowship time together.

If you prefer to join us via Zoom please contact Tom White at 614-849-8741 or via email at didymus623@gmail.com for a Zoom meeting invitation. Gentlemen, if you are not already a participant, we invite you to join us.

Sunday School

9am

K-5th grade

Fusion Youth
"Petites Bouchees" (tiny bites)
Fusion Youth Room

Adults
Colossians
Knox Parlor

The Beatitudes
(Ladies class)
Knox Galilee

**Learn More About
the God We Serve**

2024 Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary, the sign up sheet is in the Narthex.



After the flowers are enjoyed on Sunday morning, you have the option taking them home or the Deacons can deliver them to those who can no longer join us on Sundays. The cost remains \$35.00.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION



ABOUT US WHO WE ARE

The Community Engagement Commission is one of the church's nine Commissions. Established in 2022, it was designed to provide opportunities for our church family to engage directly with the community by serving and building authentic relationships.. (Note: This work is complimentary but separate from the church 'missions' work offering in-kind or financial support)

WHAT WE DO

Always looking for ideas to engage the community and express God's grace!

- Hold annual charity concerts with special concert venues and proceeds to support a selected charity.
- Support the Boushell Concert Series
- Facilitates Easter Sunrise Service
- Sponsors on Campus "Trunk or Treat"

Ideas like food trucks, pancake breakfasts, service projects, first responders' recognition, utilizing church facilities (e.g. Calvin Hall) to serve the community, recognize public servants, provide water during local events, etc...

Email Anda Ray at andaray77@gmail.com

WHY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Churches can no longer open their doors and expect that people will come in. Effective congregations also go into the world to encounter those in need of God's grace. The opportunities to touch the community's heart are endless, simply requiring some thought, a bit of creativity, and a congregation eager to share God's grace with their neighbors or even with complete strangers. Small steps can have significant impacts in providing an avenue for God's light, love, laughter and compassion to spread throughout our community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

What can you do? What is the church doing? Share with us some of the creative ways our congregation can make a difference to those in our community who we live, work, play and volunteer.

There is a place for you on the Community Engagement Commission. Here is an opportunity where your ideas and experiences can make a difference within and outside the church.

A Place For You!



On May 19 the Pentecost Special Offering will be collected and is used to support young people in Christ.

- 25% supports youth and children at risk ministries,
- 25% goes to young adult volunteers who are trained to work in mission in the U.S. and around the world
- 10% is used for child advocacy (working to better the lives of children by ensuring equitable, quality public education)

The remaining 40% remains with us and will be sent to a local ministry—Called Out. This ministry educates others about human trafficking. Many victims of this horrendous crime were taken as young teenagers and need our help to make a new and healthier life.

Ways to Give

- Use the special envelope found in the May 19 bulletin
- Write in on your regular pledge envelope (note: Pentecost)
- Give online at www.riversidepres.org; note Pentecost in comment box)



Servant Partners—Riversider's cleaned out closets to send winter coats to Philadelphia to be distributed to people in need. The Missions Commissions has also opted to continue to support Harry and Betty Peterson's granddaughter, Denise Anderson, who lives in a north Philly neighborhood and reaches out to those who live around them with Christ's love, working to literally clean up their neighborhood, as well as developing local leadership to build positive community relationships. She also helps her neighbors with resources to meet their needs. We also chose to support the welding program (ReIGNITE Philly) that gives training that will lead participants to a job and better income.



Teen Missions International—For a number of years Riverside has supported a Sunday school in Indonesia.

Like circuit riders of old, graduates of one of Teen Missions Bible schools in Indonesia make a weekly visit at the Riverside Sunday School in Borneo in this largely Muslim nation. Instead of horses, they use motorcycles for transport and share God's love with children.



Madagascar Mission Network (MMN) is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and partners with The Church of Jesus Christ (FJKM) who work to share the Gospel, to promote economic opportunities and provide primary and secondary education so that all may experience life in abundance. They support community health programs, water and sanitation initiatives, and agricultural training for pastors and communities and programs that serve marginalized communities.





2024 Financial (as of March 31st)

Income	\$ 109,019
Operating Expenses	\$ 96,019
Net Income	\$ 13,000

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 meet in person and via Zoom Thursday, April 16, 7pm. Pastor Chris moderated.

The meeting devotional was led by Anda Ray, After the devotional, normal business was conducted.

An audit of the Easter Sunrise service, which was viewed as a great offering. Plans are already underway for 2025's Sunrise Service!

Updates on the upcoming Tribute Concert, which will be held Sunday, October 13, 4pm. The concert will feature a Blues Brother tribute band. Proceeds from the concert will combat human trafficking.

Work required on the sanctuary doors to ensure the doors meet fire code will be completed the end of April/the first week of May.

The Session meets on the third Tuesday each month. The next meeting of the Session will be May 21, 7pm

DEACON UPDATE

The Deacons met in-person and through Zoom on April 9th.

Caring person for May is Marianne Pluchino.

Thanks went out to Fern Wolle, LindaLee Torgler, Carolyn Hattaway, Claire Burton, and Chuck Torgler for the beautiful set-up of the Easter flowers. And following the Easter service, thank you to Susan White and others for making the flower deliveries to those that could not make our service.

Many thanks went out to LindaLee Torgler and the congregation for generously donating around \$900 worth of gift cards for Cape View Elementary School.

Everyone was looking forward to the Ordination/Installation of our new Deacons and Elders on Sunday April 21st.

Our next meeting will be May 14th, 7pm.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Chris Carson
Pastor

Betsie Germann
Administrative Assistant

Diana Amtower
Traditional Music Leader

Griffin Sinclair
Praise Band Leader

Doug Kasimier
Treasurer

Chuck Torgler
Custodian

Karen Ward
Web/IT/AV

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Sally Friend 24
Tom White 24
Carl Plaughter 24
Jenny Lyons '4
Anda Ray 26

Mark Gordon 26
Teri Beeler '26
Ann Stone '26
Meghan Johnson '26

5/5

5/12

5/19

Psalm 98
Acts 10:44-48

John 17:6-19
Acts 1:15-17

Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:22-27

DEACONS

Wauneta Lehman 24
Mary Mullin 24
Marianne Pluchino 24
Walter Scott 24
Lindalee Torgler 25

Susan White 25
Fern Wolle 25
Carolyn Hattaway 26
Janice Eastes 26
Tammy Ivan 26

5/26

Psalm 29
John 3:1-17

MAY SCRIPTURE

May



2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30am Men's Study 10am Care & Support 10am Prayer Circle 7pm Women's Study	2 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time 11am Communications	6 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	7 6pm First Tuesday Dinner	8 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 7pm Women's Study	9 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Christian Ed	10	11
12 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time 11am Worship & Sacrament	13 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	14 7pm Deacons Meeting	15 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 7pm Women's Study	16 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time	20 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	21 1pm HRR Circle 7pm Session Meeting	22 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 7pm Women's Study	23 7pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time	27 1pm Disciple Study 6:30pm Community Engagement 7pm NA Meeting	28 7pm Mission Meeting	29 8:30am Men's Study 9:30am Stitchin' Sisters 10am Prayer Circle 7pm Women's Study	30 7pm Choir Rehearsal	31	