



From the Pastor's Heart

"Blessed by God to Be a Blessings"

"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).

Everything we have comes from God's bountiful hand and is a blessing to us from Him. Our response to His provision should be one of contentment and thanksgiving, realizing that God is indeed our Source.

But our response should be much more than that. Because of God's love for us, and because He has demonstrated that love in so many ways, we should seek to cultivate a stewardship lifestyle. A stewardship lifestyle is one which realizes that our role is that of a manager, a steward, who is accountable to God for the use of the resources — time, talents, and treasure — which He has given to us.

Stewardship, in fact, has been compared to a three-legged stool. Remove one of the legs, and the stool cannot stand. But when all three legs are present, then the stool is able to do that for which it was designed. Similarly, a stewardship lifestyle consists of time, talents, and treasure, all of which are gifts from God and all of which are to be used for God's glory.

God's servant, Moses, gave us tremendous insight concerning the "treasure" aspect of stewardship when he wrote in Deuteronomy chapter 8: "... remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth." For that reason, there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman.

That's why our role is not one of ownership, but that of a manager, a steward, of what God has given to us. What's the difference between an owner and a manager? An owner has rights; a manager has responsibilities. That's why we hold our possessions with an open hand — not a clenched fist — realizing that everything is a gift from God. And as we do so, we seek to put first things first.

In describing exactly how we are to do that, Jesus said, "... store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:20-21).

How do we lay up treasures in heaven? How do we seek first God's kingdom when it comes to financial matters? How can

we who have been blessed by God in turn be a blessing? One of the primary ways is by giving to the ministry here at Riverside Presbyterian Church. Our giving to God is thus a response to His blessings in our life and to His love for us. We do not give to prove anything or to earn anything. Rather, we give out of joyful hearts that have been redeemed by God's grace and in response to all He has done for us.



Total stewardship consists of giving to God our time, our talents, and our treasure. But even as we emphasize those three important elements, let's remember that the "treasure" aspect is very important. In some ways, it is the culmination of a stewardship lifestyle. As one person expressed it so vividly before the offering was received in his church, "Lord, in spite of all we say or do, this is what we think of you."

Thank you for giving of yourself, of your time, of your talents, and of your treasure to the work of the Lord here at Riverside. Thank you for following the pattern of Abraham who realized he had been blessed by God to be a blessing to others. Thank you for seeking God's direction concerning your financial support of this ministry as part of this year's stewardship emphasis. And thank you for being faithful to the Lord as you covenant with Him concerning your giving in the future. Remember, we have been "blessed by God to be a blessing."

Yours in Christ,

P.S. **Stewardship Sunday** is on **November 9**, when we invite you to bring your Faith Promise Card to worship and to present it at the end of the service as an act of faith promise. There will be extra copies of the Faith Promise Card available on that day. Thank you for your continuing faithfulness in supporting God's ministries through Riverside.



Worship with Us!

IN-PERSON AND "LIVE" BROADCAST
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00am
www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org



3400 N. Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
321-783-6085

Email: office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

Chris Carson's Cruisers for Kids

Our second Chris Carson Cruisers for Kids Christmas bike drive has started!

We are excited and blessed to continue to honor Pastor Chris in this way.

Envelopes are located in the Narthex or the Fellowship Hall on the Christmas Tree.

Feel free to take an envelop from either location.

Riverside will have the opportunity to help with providing bicycles, helmets, and locks for children served by our local Salvation Army, and children in foster care through Friends of Children of Brevard. Our goal is to deliver bikes to these organizations around Thanksgiving.



**Feel free to take an envelope from either location.
Let's make some Christmas wishes come true
for local children in need!**



One Blood Drive



The OneBlood bus will be at Riverside

Sunday, November 16 from 9:00am-1:00 p.m.

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!*



November Happy Birthday



Vicki Geiler	11/1
Eric Pluchino	11/5
Peggy Bishop	11/5
Gregory Britton	11/7
Gina Rall	11/8
Karen Teng	11/17
David Bishop	11/18
Tim Bright	11/21
Linda Autry	11/23
Dan Coon	11/24
Wendy Gordon	11/24
Marilyn Grigsby	11/24
Marianne Pluchino	11/24
Elizabeth Britton	11/27

Called

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Join us on November 16, 2025 for a
Congregational meeting called by the Session.
The meeting will be held following Worship
Service.

The sole purpose of this meeting is
to elect new Elders and Deacons.

ALL are invited to attend!



3rd Annual Trunk-or-Treat



On Saturday, October 25, Riverside Presbyterian Church opened its parking lot — and hearts — to the families of our community for a festive Trunk-or-Treat celebration. More than 65 costumed children and over 50 parents, grandparents, and friends enjoyed an evening of laughter, games, candy, and warm hospitality. The energy was joyful, the smiles were bright, and the spirit of caring was unmistakable. Events like this remind us that Riverside is not only a place of worship, but a place where families can gather, feel welcome, and know they are loved.

A heartfelt thank you to all who made this event possible. Our creatively decorated trunks were provided by **Meghan & David Johnson, Theresa & Rob Bugeholl, Judy George, Debbie & Ron Burleigh, Bob & Judy Howard, and Anda & Mick Ray**. The free hotdogs and water (a huge hit!) were cooked and served by **Tammy Ivan, Carol Hattaway, Nancy Ragland, Joyce Klahr, and Ron Burleigh**. The game stations (and more candy handed out) staffed by **Kathy & Nelson McCray** and **Riley Johnson**. And to everyone who donated candy — over 20 large bags — your generosity kept the fun flowing the entire time!

Through gatherings like this, Riverside continues to share God's love in meaningful, tangible ways. Thank you to every hand, every helper, every smile, and every encourager who helped us shine the light of Christ into our neighborhood.

Thank you all – until next year!





70 Years — One Community, One Mission.

Seeking Volunteers for Riverside's 70th Anniversary Planning Team

As Riverside Presbyterian Church approaches a remarkable milestone—our 70th Anniversary in 2026—we are beginning to prepare for a yearlong celebration that honors our heritage, celebrates our shared life today, and looks with hope toward the future.

To help guide this special season, we are forming a **70th Anniversary Planning Team**, and invite members who feel called to contribute time, creativity, and enthusiasm. This team **will meet every two weeks beginning Tuesday, November 17 from 4:30–5:30 PM**. Some meetings may be held by ZOOM, especially during the holiday season. We will pause regular meetings in late December. Then resume weekly meetings in January. **Starting in February we will move to monthly meetings** to support communication, coordination, and event planning throughout 2026.

If you would enjoy helping plan for this monumental celebration there is room—and need—for more voices and perspectives. Whether you enjoy organizing, decorating, hospitality, music, storytelling, researching church history, graphic design, outreach, or simply encouraging others, there is a place for your gifts.

Here are just a few of the “big ideas” already being discussed:

A Kickoff Epiphany Sunday – with a visual historical timeline and 70-year celebration display; A Decade of Stories of Riverside project, sharing highlights and memories from each decade; **Monthly celebration themes** such as Share the Love (February), Heritage Sunday (March), Community Connections (May), Generations Month (August), Thankful Hearts (November), and a Legacy Finale in December; **Service and outreach activities**,
Such as a “70 Acts of Kindness” challenge.

These ideas are *just starting points*—the planning team will shape, evaluate, refine, and schedule the final events that will (hopefully) be integrated into the 2026 plans for all the existing groups in our church family.

If you would like to participate in planning this once-in-a-generation celebration, please contact: **Anda Ray** (andaray77@gmail.com)



Pie Sunday

Come and join us **Sunday, November 16** after Worship in the Fellowship Hall as we enjoy Fellowship and sweet treats!

Bring your favorite pie (store bought or home made) to share with your church family!



Hanging of the Greens

Believe it or not, but Christmas is right around the corner!
Join us **Sunday, November 23** after Worship to decorate the church for the upcoming holidays, after we will adjourn to Fellowship Hall for chili.



Riverside's 2025-2026 Boushell Concert Series

Volunteer Opportunities Now Open!

The upcoming season of the Dr. Vernon Boushell Memorial Concert Series is being planned, and we would love for you to be part of the team that helps bring these beautiful and uplifting musical events to our church and community.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people, support the arts at Riverside, and offer a warm welcome to the guests who walk through our doors. Whether you enjoy greeting others, organizing behind the scenes, or helping with refreshments, your time and presence help make each concert a meaningful gift of hospitality and joy.



Sunday, Dec. 15, 2025
3:30pm



Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026
3:30pm



Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026
3:30pm



Sunday, March 8, 2026
3:30pm



Sunday, June 15, 2026
3:30pm

Volunteer Role

- Door Greeters
- Will-call Table
- Lobby Hostess
- E-ticket Check-in
- Paper Ticket Taker
- Parking Lot Attendees
- Hand out Concert Programs
 - Ushers

How to Volunteer:

1. Sign your name on the Volunteer Board in the Narthex (on the right-hand wall when you walk in)
2. Email Judy George at jageorge42@gmail.com (please put "Concert Volunteer" in the subject line)
3. Place a note in the Offering Plate with your name and contact information

Thank you for helping Riverside continue to share the gift of music with our community!



Presbyterian Women

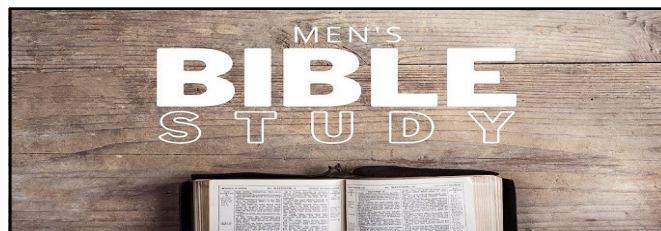
This year's Presbyterian Women's study book is entitled, ***"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ."***

Both circles meet in Knox Parlor.

Hannah/Ruth/Rebecca meets the 3rd Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Deborah meets the 3rd Wednesday at 2 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 **Wednesday mornings at 8:30**, in-person in Knox Parlor and via Zoom. Afterwards we go to breakfast for more fellowship time.

We've just started a new study on

Letter to the Hebrews.

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 link.



The Wednesday Afternoon Ladies' Bible Study will be using ***"Ten Commandments from the Back Side"*** by J Ellsworth Kalas and discussing different ways to look at the Ten Commandments. **We meet Wednesdays at 2 p.m.** in Knox Parlor (also available via Zoom).

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

Sunday School

Fusion Youth
Meets in Fellowship
Hall

Adults
Knox Parlor

Romans
(Ladies class)
Knox Galilee

**Each class meets
at 9:00 a.m.**

PRAYER Circle

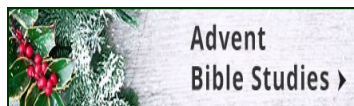
We come together each Wednesday morning at 10am to pray for the needs of our church family and friends. There are blue cards in the pews that you can fill out, or you can email me at

biddle310@gmail.com

Jane Lovett



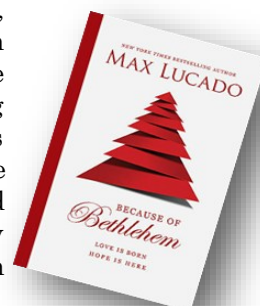
Lift your prayers to the Throne of Grace for: **Bill Anderson, Susan White, Charles Schoener** (Karen Teng's son), **Tim Bright, Penny Bernard, Jane Lovett, Clift Schmitt, Glenn Stout, Roxanne Stout, Travis Stout, David Bishop, Thomas Bernasek** (Betty Peterson's grandnephew), **Shirley Bottomley, Gail Marshall, family of Lucy McCoy, family of Jill Brown and Sylvia Sharp, Tracy Dokkins**; peace for Ukraine and the Middle East, all federal employees and those affected by the government shutdown; victims of hurricane Melissa and relief efforts in Jamaica, Haiti, and Dominican Republic.



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!





2025 Financial (as of September 30)

Income	\$281,816
Operating Expenses	\$278,819
Net Income	2,997

Thank you for your continued financial support!

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

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

Faithful Stewardship

Session Update

At it's October 21 Stated Meeting, Session took the following actions —

Welcomed into church membership:

by Reaffirmation of Faith —

Girard & Kristine Middleton

Edward & Carol Roldan

by Letter of Transfer —

James Giebink

John & Martha Williams

Welcome to Riverside!

Approved sending \$1,000 to the Children's Hunger Project from the Benefit Concert.

Approved sponsoring up to ten youth to attend the "Rock the Universe" Christian Music Festive on January 23.

Session normally meets on the third Tuesday of the month. If you have any questions, please see either **Debbie Burleigh** (Clerk) or **Pastor Bill Teng**.

Church Officers

SESSION

Carl Plaughter '25

Tom White '25

Anda Ray '26

Teri Beeler '26

Ann Stone '26

Meghan Johnson '27

Paula Yost '27

Robert Howard '27

DEACONS

Susan White '25

Fern Wolle '25

Carolyn Hattaway '26

Janice Eastes '26

Tammy Ivan '26

Jorge Castillo '27

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Bill Teng

Interim Pastor

Rev. Jane Wesson

Parish Associate

Betsie Germann

Administrative Assistant

Diana Amtower

Traditional Music Leader

Keaton Belliveau

Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader

Doug Kasimier

Treasurer

Chuck Torgler

Custodian

Karen Ward

Web/IT/AV Tech

Charitable Giving — Through Your IRA

Here is a way to advance God's work, bless Riverside Presbyterian, and bless yourself at the same time by reducing your income taxes: Consider donating to the church from your IRA.

If you are at least 70½ your donation can be tax-free.

At tax time, IRA withdrawals are treated as ordinary income and are taxed at your highest tax bracket. This could range from 10% to 37%. Many people no longer benefit from itemizing deductions and therefore take the standard deduction. Consequently, they receive no tax benefit from their charitable donations. Since 2005, there has been another way to reduce your taxable income even if you cannot itemize. This is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

A QCD is a direct transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity. It is tax-free and it is applied to your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) which you must start taking when you turn 73. Your Financial Advisor (IRA Trustee) will assist you with preparing the paperwork. Be aware that the IRA trustee must send the funds directly to the charity. You can confirm the amount and recipient in your IRA reports. The charity will provide proof to you that they received the donation via your year-end giving statement.

The Qualified Charitable Distribution is a great way to both donate to Riverside and to reduce your income taxes. You may want to share those tax savings with the church by increasing your pledge. If you are not already taking advantage of the QCD and if you have any questions, any member of the Stewardship and Finance Team would be happy to help.

The Riverside Stewardship & Finance Team



Missions



What is the *Good News Coloring Book*? It's an introduction to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. The GNCB lets the Scriptures tell His story—the focus is Jesus. The GNCB has been sent to 53 countries in 135+ languages in the past 25 years. It is available in many languages, many of them in combination with another language such as English and Spanish. It is affordable, free to download, and inexpensive to print.

A seed scattered far and wide, sometimes the coloring book is the means for the harvest. Some adults and children have responded immediately to the gospel as presented in the GNCB. In some remote areas with minor languages, this little booklet may be the only Christian material people ever see.

Riverside is pleased to support this local ministry with funds from the Special Endowment Fund.

**A free downloadable coloring book about Jesus—in more than 135 languages
(get yours at goodnewscoloringbook.org)**

It's the time of year when Riverside likes to support local ministries who help those in need with donations to ministries that help feed and clothe people in need. With today's economy, the need is getting greater. The Missions Team is pleased to announce donations to the Central Brevard Sharing Center and to Second Harvest from both the Bookbinder Endowment and the Special Endowment Funds.



Sharing Center of Central Brevard provides emergency assistance and guidance to those in our community who struggle to obtain life's most basic needs. They operate a community kitchen for the hungry, have thrift stores in Cocoa, Merritt Island, and Melbourne, have a food pantry and operate a cold-night shelter when temperatures get low.



Second Harvest Food Bank collects donated food and distributes it to more than 870 feeding partners/organizations across seven Central Florida counties who have feeding ministries that help our neighbors who need food assistance.

Our Riverside Family are giving people – besides the funds donated, we generously give to food drives for The Children's Hunger Project and the St. Vincent dePaul shopping carts (found in the narthex and Fellowship Hall). We have much to be thankful for and are fortunate to be able to help others.

Thank You!

November

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 3pm NA Event
2 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Communications 11am Fellowship Time	3 7pm NA Meeting	4 6pm First Tuesday Dinner	5 8:30am Men's Study 9:30am Stitchin' Sisters 10am Prayer Circle 10am Care & Support 2pm Women's Study	6 7pm Christian Education 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 11am Service for Lucy McCoy
9 Stewardship Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time 11am Worship & Sacrament	10 7pm NA Meeting	11 7pm Deacons Meeting	12 8:30 Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study	13 7pm Choir Rehearsal	12	15
16 9am Sunday School 9am OneBlood Drive 10am Worship 11am Called Meeting 11am Fellowship Time	17 7pm NA Meeting	18 1pm HRR Circle 6pm Session Meeting	19 8:30 Men's Study 9:30am Stitchin' Sisters 10am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study	20 7pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23/30 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time	24 6:30pm Community Engagement 7pm NA Meeting	25 7pm Missions Meeting	26 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study	27  Happy THANKSGIVING Office Closed	28	29