

APRIL 2018

Down by the Riverside

Rev. Michael Hafele
Pastor

Judy Bartine
Interim Music Director

Diana Amtower
Organist

Elizabeth Britton
Office Manager

Chuck Torgler
Sexton

Cecilia Quist
Nursery

Jeff Janowich
Karen Ward
Audio

Doug Kasimier
Treasurer

Travis Smith
Band Worship Leader

Scott LaChance
Band Music Leader

The Unity of the Body

The Apostle Paul encourages the Church in Ephesus to, lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:1-6) I am also reminded of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, from our Confessions, that asks: "What is the chief end of humanity?" The succinct answer is, of course, "To glorify God and enjoy Him forever." The biblical encouragement gives witness not only to the proposition of unity for the people of God but also the manner by which that reality is lived out. The Confessional witness speaks to the very foundation of our being, our genuine purpose, the existential answer: the people of God are, at its core, the people of the worship of God. That is the reason for our existence; in whom we "live, and move, and have our being." In the midst of the summation of the law, the worship of Jesus Christ is tantamount to "loving the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." The witness to the unity of the Body of Christ is the preliminary affirmation of "loving your neighbor as yourself."

After prayerful consideration, the Session has determined that Christ's Church here at Riverside Presbyterian would exemplify those two affirmations within a unified, intergenerational, and liturgically diverse worship setting from April 8th to the beginning of the Advent calendar. While both the traditional and contemporary forms of worship offer viable expressions of worship, the two worship services have measured an unintended consequence of the creation of "two Churches" rather than "one with two expressions." Sadly, the atmosphere isolated rather than unified the full body; segregated, rather than united us in our common affection and love for Jesus Christ. The session recognized that for Riverside Presbyterian Church to be a vibrant witness, to the greater community, of the saving grace of Jesus Christ well into the future the Church must recapture its common bond and mutual love of Jesus Christ as one unified body. Within this context of unifying our worship of Jesus Christ, may we approach those moments within the liturgy, that are distinct from our personal norms, with the hope that though the resonance of that moment may not be as powerful for you, you can love

your neighbor beside you who has found that moment to be nothing less than a Divine Word to them. By doing so, we are loving our neighbor as ourselves and offering a witness of unity in the midst of diversity in fidelity to the Savior.

It is my joy to give witness to the Spirit of God who has brought us, claimed us, molds us, and comforts us within these times of incredible transition. Though this opportunity comes as no surprise to the Lord, as the Good Shepherd sees not only the road but our destination as well, this time offers us a wondrous opportunity to live out our faith as we once again "hear His voice" and journey onward together in the hopeful assurance of His continual presence!

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you,
Rev. Michael Hafele

April Birthdays

Claire	Burton	4/1
Roxann	Stout	4/1
Jenny	Walker	4/1
Jean	Smith	4/3
Nancy	Tibbits	4/3
Mike	Reed	4/10
Ryan	Boehmer	4/17
Harry	Peterson	4/17
Joan	Newman	4/20
Lisa	Martin	4/24
Tom	White	4/25
Linda	Gibson	4/26
Becky	Reed	4/26
Laurie	Casto	4/27
Darlene	Pals	4/27
Paula	Yost	4/27

If you would like to have your birthday listed, please contact the church office at 783-6085.

April Worship Calendar

**APRIL 1
EASTER SUNDAY
7:00AM Sunrise Service
for the Community at Fischer Park**

**8:45 AM & 11:15 AM Service
Children's Easter Egg Hunt between
Services**

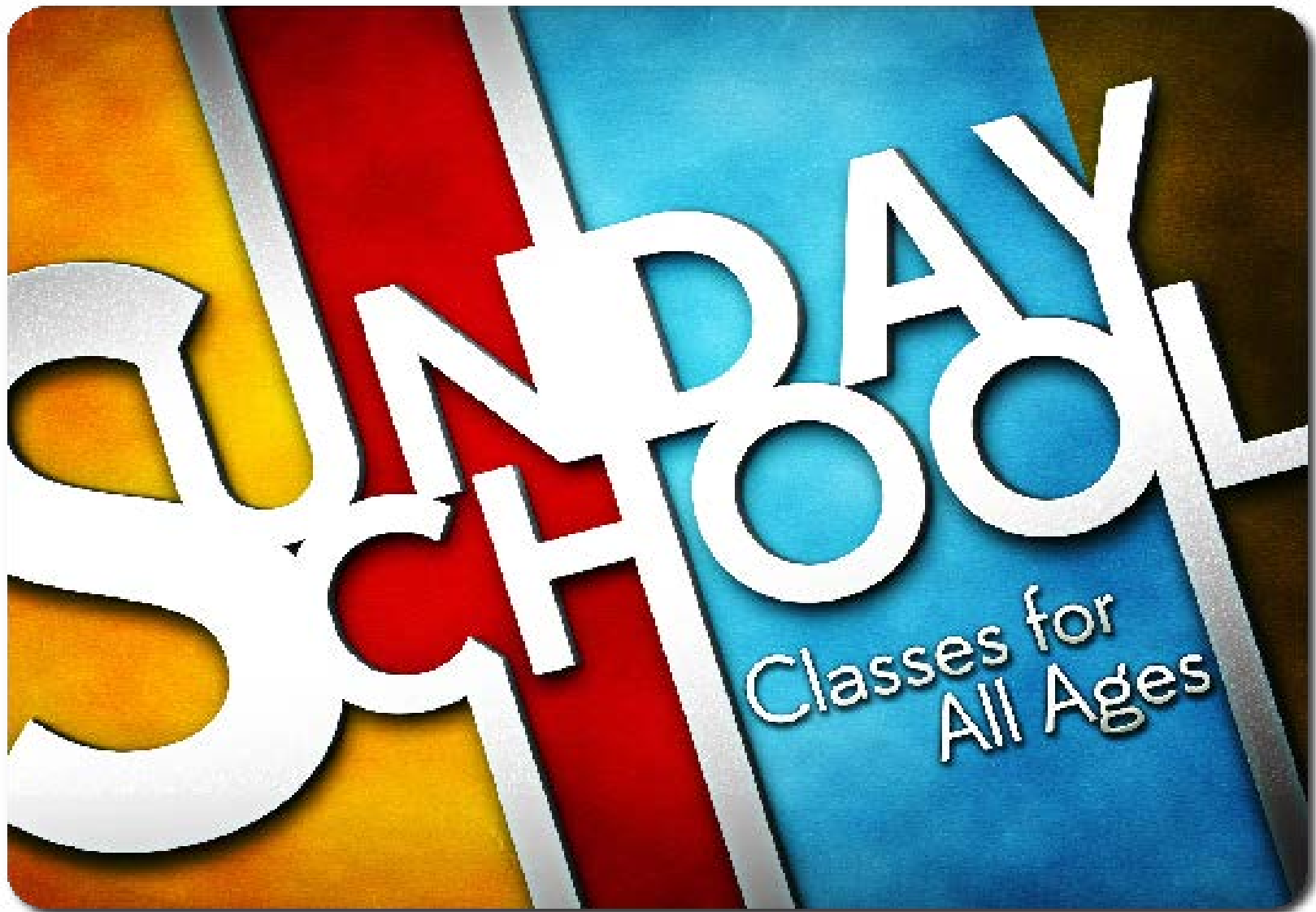
**APRIL 8
COMMUNION SUNDAY
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM ONE SERVICE**

**APRIL 15
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM ONE SERVICE**

**APRIL 22
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM ONE SERVICE**

**APRIL 29
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM ONE SERVICE**

RESERVED DEVOTIONALS Copies of ***THESE DAYS*** for April, May, June 2018 are available for pickup. There are some unreserved copies available. If you would like to a reserved copy, please contact Sonja Buckley at 321-452-8569.



NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

APRIL 8TH 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

The course is "Christianity and Islam: So Much In Common, So Far Apart"
by Ronn Kerr.

The study takes neither a "how to convert Muslims" nor a "we're all the same" approach. It provides students with a greater appreciation of both Jesus and Muhammad; both the New Testament and the Quran; and both Christianity and Islam. One of the most common comments from students who have taken the course is that they learned a lot about Islam and just about as much about their own faith. The class begins after Easter, on April 8th and will finish May 20th. It will be held from 9:00 to 9:50 AM with Betty Peterson as leader, assisted by Penny Bernard. Each student should purchase the textbook for \$10, and signup sheets are available in the Narthex.



APRIL HAPPENINGS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women were happy to join in the celebration of the Gifts of Women on Sunday, March 4th. It was a privilege to assist and participate in both worship services.

The ladies of Riverside as well as winter residents and visitors came and worshiped together on Saturday, March 24th, at the Communion Service and White Breakfast. Our thanks and appreciation goes to Rev. Jane Wesson who officiated at the service, and to Judy Bartine who provided the musical accompaniment. All enjoyed a most meaningful service. Thanks also go to Dick Gerhardt and his men who cooked and served the delicious breakfast. As always the fellowship among the ladies was most enjoyable.

The PW of Riverside recently sent a donation to our Central Florida Presbytery to be used in providing safe water for some of the village residents of Madagascar. This donation was an extension of this year's BIRP mission outreach. The following is an email excerpt from Elizabeth Turk, a co-worker in the Madagascar mission field:

My colleagues in the health program will be very happy to hear of this. One of the important requests that we have now is to get a well for one of FJKM dispensaries in an isolated community in the north west of Madagascar, Andranomavo. The community has had an outbreak of cholera before and the FJKM midwife got sick because she didn't have a source of clean drinking water. Right now it is the rainy season and the community is cut off from the outside. The midwife plans to proceed with getting a well put in once the roads open up again. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Peace in Christ, Elizabeth

Gail Marshall, Publicity



April in the Kid's Corner One Room School House

!!!!!!! Jesus is ALIVE !!!!!!!

The first Sunday in April is Easter, and we will meet in Fellowship Hall at 10 AM for a short devotional, before the annual Easter Egg Hunt. All youngsters through elementary school age are invited to participate. As we return to one worship service in the following weeks, we will plan to meet at 9 AM, before the 10 AM service.

In April One Room School House, we will review and retell the Easter story! Then we continue with lessons about meetings with the risen Christ. Two disciples recognize Jesus after a walk to Emmaus on Easter evening. Jesus appears to the disciples when Thomas is absent, and then again when Thomas is present ...Thomas' questioning behavior is representative of the natural curiosity exhibited by many of us, including our children. We share Jesus' earlier conversation with Nicodemus; Nicodemus is puzzled and has additional questions..... just like many of us. We finish the month of April with a part of Paul's letter to the Colossians, to 'take off' the old self, and 'put on' a new self... to clothe ourselves with the characteristics of Christ.

These lessons continue to provide guidance to the young members of our church family to praise, thank, and celebrate our God, and to live in peace with others.

Vicki Geiler and her group of volunteers welcome children pre-kindergarten through third grade (and sometimes beyond) for lessons enhanced with activities.

Come and join us in the Pfeiffer Room next to Fellowship Hall. And we can always use an extra set of adult volunteer hands!

HELLO

My name is

Please take a minute to sign up to **usher or greet** at the worship service. It's a great way to meet others and impart a friendly face to anyone entering our Sanctuary.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.
Instructions are posted in the Usher room.

SENIOR FITNESS CLASSES -
Tuesdays/Thursdays at 9:30 AM
Fellowship Hall

This hour-long class taught by certified senior fitness instructor personal trainer Polly Helm increases stamina, strength, energy, and balance. Please bring your own hand weights and water.
Bands and chairs will be provided.
Cost is \$5.00 donation per class.

BLOOD DRIVE
Sunday, April 15th
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

All donors will receive a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.

Please consider donating to help people in need.

A heartfelt thank you for the love and sympathy I received during the loss of my husband, Lester.

*The many cards I received were so comforting. The memorial and reception were attended beyond belief. The food was wonderful at the reception. Riverside Church has the best cooks in the area!
Pastor Mike, I thank you for all you did for our family.
In Christ, Grace Rudy*



The Dr. Vernon Boushell Concert Series presents

The Three Sopranos

Land That We Love:
A Tribute to the Pioneering
Spirit of America

Sunday, April 8, 2018

3:30 pm

For a free ticket, call (321) 525-7825 or visit www.riversidepres.org

The Inn
at COCOA BEACH

 *Riverside*
Presbyterian Church



Good Things Happen for Family Promise Under Stressed Circumstances

A Family Promise family visiting Riverside in December was more than pleasantly surprised; enough to prompt the mother and daughter to write the thank you letters below.

Vicki Geiler's Sunday School class creatively drew placemats depicting various holiday scenes. These were used all week and captured the attention of several visiting children. It sounds as if they may have found a new hobby.

This is but one of many benefits Riverside offers these families. It's uncertain of the many thoughts and encouragement all the families have acquired over the past four years to assist in finding normal lives. God works in so many different ways through the love and kindness of volunteers... Thank you, Lord.

Dear Teacher,

I think it's quite wonderful of you to have showed your students to be kind and sharing to those less fortunate. That lesson goes a long way!

Love always,

Rachelle

Dear School House Kids,

Your drawings were wonderful and your handwriting was great!

My children are 7, 3 and almost 2 years old.

They liked your drawings so much they started drawing too!

Thank you for your kindness and know that your school and church are very good and generous to participate in this Family Promise program.

Not everyone does.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Santa brought you what you wanted most.

Sincerely,

Rachelle's Mom

CONGREGATION FEEDBACK

Sponsored by Session

Phase 2



JOIN US

As we continue on our faith journey, the Session's Phase 2 Committee is asking for your help and opinions as we develop a plan to meet the spiritual needs of our church and our community in the next five years.

There are sheets in the Sanctuary to sign up for one of the small group meetings. Please select a date and join us as we discuss "How we look to minister today and tomorrow while honoring our past."

Monday, April 16th at 6 pm

Sunday, April 22nd at 11:15 am

April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:45 a Worship 10:00 a Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 a Worship	2 7p NA Meeting	3 9:30a Sr Fitness 9:30 a Worship 6 p Bells 7p Education	4 7:30a Men's Bible 9:30a Care & Sup. 9:30a Stitchin' Sis. 10a Prayer Circle 7p Womens Bible	5 9:30a Sr Fitness 7p Choir Practice	6	7
8 COMMUNION 9a Sun Sch 10a Worship 11 a Children Choir 3:30 Concert	9 7p NA Meeting	10 9:30a Sr Fitness 7p Deacons	11 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Womens Bible	12 9:30a Sr Fitness 7p Choir Practice	13	14
15 9a Sun Sch 10a Worship 11 a Children Choir BLOOD DRIVE	16 6 p Session II 7p NA Meeting	17 9:30a Sr Fitness 1p Hannah Circle 7p Session	18 7:30a Men's Bible 9:30a Stitchin' Sisters 10a Prayer Circle 7p Deborah Circle	19 9:30a Sr Fitness 9:30a Rebekah Circle 7p Choir Practice	20	21
22 9a Sun Sch 10a Worship 11 a Children Choir 11:15 Session II	23 7p NA Meeting	24 9:30a Sr Fitness 7p OMEC	25 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Women's Bible	26 9:30a Sr Fitness 7p Choir Practice	27	28
29 9a Sun Sch 10a Worship 11 a Children Choir	30 7p NA Meeting					

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK