

June 2018

Down by the Riverside

Rev. Michael

Hafele

Pastor

Diana

Amtower

Organist

Elizabeth

Britton

Office Manager

Chuck Torgler

Sexton

Cecilia Quist

Nursery

Karen Ward

Audio

Doug Kasimier

Treasurer

Travis Smith

Band Worship

Leader

I remember my preaching professor at Princeton who described that the best "images for preaching" are rarely found at the desk and computer but found in the snapshots of lived lives. What he meant was that the best illustrations for preaching are found in the experiences of daily life more than at the desk and book. One such experience was when Claudia, the kids, and I were on vacation in St. Augustine. As we were walking along St. George Street, I noticed that there was a person sitting and eating in the crevasse between two buildings. There may have been 4 feet distance between the two buildings, which left very little room for the person to comfortably situate himself. It wasn't his choice to eat that raised an eyebrow from me but it was the fact that the man was nearly naked. He didn't seem, at first glance, as a reveler continuing from the previous evening but a person whose life found him at this station. On a road packed with tourists and boutique shops replete with clothing, this man was wedged between obscurity and anonymity. Only in the corner of the eye could he be seen. To the preacher, he was nameless, nearly naked. To my shame I did not approach him with the dignity he deserved. I walked by. Yet, God, in God's overwhelming love in Christ, does not walk by. In baptism, all are loved, valued, given dignity, and are clothed with righteousness in Christ.

In his book "The Promise of Baptism", James Brownson writes, "In baptism, God portrays, promises, and seals to us our union with Jesus Christ. In Galatians 3:27, Paul says, 'As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ.' Our clothing is the completion of our identity-the way we represent ourselves to the world around us. Paul claims that baptism gives us a new set of clothes, made up of Christ Himself." In the sacrament of baptism, the baptized are "clothed in Christ" identified with the living, resurrected, and victorious Christ, regardless of one's station or current situation of life. To the ostracized, they are welcomed and brought into Christ's community. To the elite, they are welcomed but so are the obscure. The naked are clothed in vestments Christ himself has made. To a world that passes by, the Lord knows every hair upon their head. When the world considers some to be dispensable and insignificant, the Lord gives them value, dignity, and claims them into the household of Christ. The identity in Christ places everyone on equal stage, equal footing, equal dignity for the Lord shows "no partiality."

The sermon for this preacher would've been one on the gracious eye of the Lord upon His people, even when the eyes of His people are blind to their sisters and brothers. There are a million reasons to fail in the call to love one's neighbor (apathy while taking a vacation, politics, gender, the countless "isms", orientation identities, racial designation, social class, and the list goes on) that give witness to the challenges that our human condition poses and yet, in baptism, we are called to the continued reminder of God's overflowing forgiveness, call for us to repentance, and to once again try to live into that calling to love the Lord, our neighbor as ourselves. It is within the context of community worship every Sunday that all the Lord's people are reminded that from the midst of weakness, not strength, has God called and claimed and still continues to claim His people from all places and all situations. The baptismal font flows reminding us that the Lord said, "The water that I will give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." May we, including this writer, have the ears to hear and the eyes to see, and the courage to love.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael Hafele

June Birthdays

Bob	Baughman	6/3
Cathy	Seeger	6/3
Louise	Segura	6/4
Sandy	Bean	6/5
Carl	Plaugher	6/5
Anna	Potts	6/6
Barbara	Deal	6/7
Bonnie	Leies	6/11
Judy	Howard	6/13
Sara	Welden	6/13
Mary	Baldwin	6/14
Judy	George	6/14
Anda	Ray	6/14
John	Tumelson	6/14
Jacob	Buckley-Rivera	6/15
Annie	England	6/16
Betty	Meadows	6/20
Bob	Brown	6/23
Susan	Bilder	6/24
Bob	Kellar	6/25
Roger	Goodman	6/28
Fern	Wolle	6/28
Joyce	Coon	6/30

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

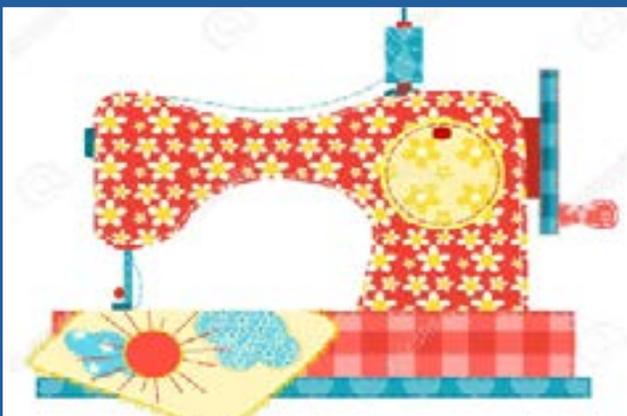
June Worship Calendar

**JUNE 3
COMMUNION SUNDAY
10:00 AM SERVICE**

**JUNE 10
10:00 AM SERVICE**

**JUNE 17
FATHER'S DAY
10:00 AM SERVICE**

**JUNE 24
10:00 AM SERVICE**



Stitchin' Sisters will not meet for the summer and will resume again this fall!



Adult Sunday School classes at RPC will break for the summer and will resume again this fall! Be sure to watch for details later this summer!

**RIVERSIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL
OF INDONESIA**

Even though the number of children fluctuates, MSSM at this location went well and smoothly this month. There are various reasons that cause the attendance rate to change. One of them is the rice plantation ceremony. We remain grateful because the service of MSSM is still going on and the children who are eager and willing to learn, are motivated and remain faithful. Some of you might not know in almost all areas of West Kalimantan, social relations specifically, the Protestant and Catholic people are harmonious. There are often all sorts of problems because of the small differences. The Catholic are not too open to Christian beliefs and most of the time they are so fanatical. It is hard to believe that most of the time it is HARDER to reach Catholics than the Muslim people. We are really grateful because at Mabah we saw the tolerance in difference. The population are 99% Catholic but they welcome us warmly and they support the MSSM program. This is a HUGE praise. *Thanks to God!*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THIS FALL'S
BIBLE STUDY
MONDAYS @ 1:00 PM**

The Monday Bible Study will begin on Monday, October 29 at 1 pm in Knox Parlor.

For this term, we will study, "Discerning the Voice of God" written by Priscilla Shirer.

The books will cost approximately \$14. The study is for 7 weeks and includes a teaching video and 5 days of homework each week.

Please let Sherrell Fischer know by October 21 if you would like her to order you a book at sherrell@cfl.rr.com.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with arrowheads at both ends, and a stylized, symmetrical scrollwork design below it.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018 - FATHER'S DAY

The righteous man walks in his integrity;

His children are blessed after him.

Proverbs 20:7

Please call the church office @ (321) 783-6085:

When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.

When your committee or group plans a meeting, so that it can be placed on the church calendar.

When you move, or your phone number is changed, so that it can be changed on the church records.

When there is a new baby in your family.

When there is a death in your family.

When a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.

When you feel the church can assist you in any way.

ICHETUCKNEE TUBING & CAMPING RETREAT

For Middle & High School Youth

This weekend retreat, planned and led by the Presbytery Youth Council, offers lots of fun camping, tubing, worshipping, and relaxing.

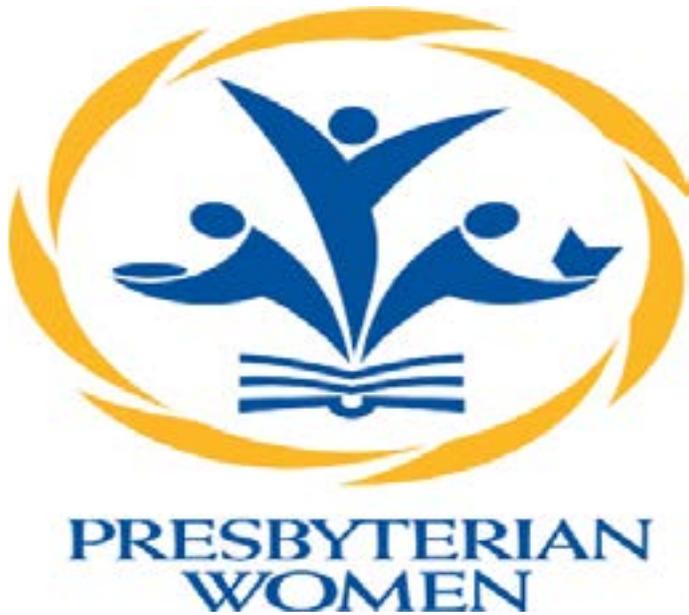


**June 22-24, 2018
Ichetucknee Springs
Register Today!**

Next Youth Event
For Middle & High School Students
June 22-24, 2018
Ichetucknee Springs Tubing
and Camping Retreat
Theme: NOW!

This weekend event includes tubing and camping, worship, music and keynote, and lots of time to relax and play at the campsite.

For More Details Email Cheryl Carson at
ccarson@cfpresbytery.org



JUNE News from the Riverside Presbyterian Women

*The 2018-2019 PW/Horizons Bible Study is entitled
God's Promise, I Am With You by Amy Poling Sutherlun.*

*This study will concentrate upon god's promise, to be with us in good times
and bad and to never forsake us. this study will take us through examples
in the Old and New Testaments.*

*The Churchwide Gatheing held in Louisville, Kentucky will meet this
summer on August 2-5.*

*The Presbyterian Women's council will meet during the summer to plan
next year's activities and gather information for the 2018-2019 PWYear
Book. the Hannah Ruth and Rebekah circles will go on summer break
beginning in June to resume next September.*

Deborah Circle will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at 7PM.

Gail Marshall, Publicity



JUNE in the Kid's Corner One Room School House

Before the 10 AM worship service, we are once again acting as a “One Room” School House for children and youth of all ages; we meet at 9 AM in the Pfeiffer Room next to Fellowship Hall. In June we will celebrate the beginning of summer! We will review the early Christians working together, and imagine how we can do the same. Looking at early leaders of the church, we will identify what may be different or what may be the same in being a leader today. And we will consider the gifts of the Spirit and explore how we may use those gifts in our local and world community.

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 Kathie Spaeth welcome children pre-kindergarten through elementary (and sometimes beyond), for lessons enhanced with activities.

Come and join us ... we can always use an extra set of adult volunteer hands!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

525 Minutemen Causeway; Cocoa Beach

GAMES

3-Nights! June 18-20

5:00PM to 8:30PM

Grades K to 6th

MUSIC

Grades 7-12 Must Pre-Register to Volunteer

SPONSORED BY:

Cocoa Beach Community Church

United Church of Christ

And

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (ELCA)

CRAFTS



FREE DINNER PROVIDED EVERY NIGHT 5:00PM

FOR INFO CALL: 321-783-0852 (LCR) or 321-783-3961 (CBCC)

Check out the program and register

<https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/CBVBS2018>



BLOOD DRIVE will be Sunday, June 10 from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. All donors will receive a OneBlood t-shirt and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!



*The Riverside Chancel Choir
and the Hand bell Ensemble
will not be
meeting during the
summer.*

*Be sure to watch for
announcements when they
resume practice for the fall and
be a part of this great
ministry.*



Building communities, strengthening lives.

Our April 1 visit went well with both families now on their own dwelling - one on Merritt Island and the other affiliated with a special needs program but independent. Riverside was fully staffed for this visit and our guests were sooo appreciative.

The last 2018 visit, is scheduled for July 8th. Riverside's summer schedule always arrives with a few hardships as snowbird volunteers return north. (The lab school is on vacation and a perfect time for our church to be involved with that vacant space.)

Our captains need help setting up, preparing meals and hosting.

At the risk of begging, you would recognize the ease of these tasks and rewards if you simply give it try. Being summer, hot dogs or hamburgers, casseroles, a bag of green salad, potato chips, potato salad (in lieu of greens) make perfect meals. Our full kitchen offers all that is needed for participants. Families clean up, wash dishes and vacuum. July does away with homework and permits more visitor discussion on subjects of their interest. Overnight chaperones come in at 8:30 and leave at 7:30 AM. They bring sheets, pillows, blankets for their own bedroom. Private bath included. They "babysit" the families. In the morning fruit, cereal, juice, bread, muffins are taken from the refrigerator (supplied by others) and placed on our buffet counter (no cooking). Photos depict rooms setup.

Select a convenient date off of the board in Fellowship Hall or call Liz in the church office. She will have the appropriate captain get in touch. Try this and give our captains relief and the families continued reason to be grateful at this low point in their lives. They will not hesitate to tell you what it means to have Riverside at this point in their lives. *"It feels like you guys saved our lives. It still feels unreal to us - we came from being in a tent to living in a home. It wasn't easy, but we couldn't be more grateful. Parents"*

You have made possible the prevention (or diversion) of 543 families from homelessness in Brevard.

Intervention - 27 congregational partners with over 600 volunteers have cared for 99 families; that's 344 souls, 193 children included that have been sheltered since 2013. Eighty-eight percent who exit program enter into stable housing.

Our prayers are for your participation.

At first glance, these two bedrooms look as comfortable as your home. There are four rooms prepared as needed and are selected according to size of family and accommodating a total of 12. Each has its own lavatory. Accommodations vary from church to church. Riverside offers baths, shower and washer/dryer. Guests are appreciative of the privacy and conveniences.



MADAGASCAR: A JOURNEY

Jo Wheeler, Vero Beach

What a journey I have been on for the last month. My time here has been sobering, sad, unexplainable, hard to comprehend, and unforgettable.

I have seen a country that is so poor, people are hungry, children are suffering, conditions are not imaginable

I have seen mothers breast feeding their children on street corners asking for money, I have seen a man with half his leg gone from disease sitting under a tree, I have seen children running along side a moving taxi begging for money, I have stayed in a place where I brushed the bugs off my bed before getting in, I have the smell of mold and urine in my memory, I have seen human waste running down the street, I have seen men fishing in the rice fields, I have seen families bathing in the muddy rivers, I have seen women washing their clothes in the same muddy water, I have seen the clothes drying on the ground, I have seen a leper in the street, I have seen black fumes coming from cars in front of the open air meat shop, I have seen children picking up crumbs off the street to eat, I have seen children going to the bathroom outside the outhouse because they were afraid they would fall through the hole, I worked in the library at the seminary helping to catalogue books and have had worms coming out of the books because of the dampness, I have seen, smelled, and experienced things I never knew possible.

I have seen families walking miles to attend church, I have been to church services where there are people sitting outside because the church is full, I have seen 391 people attend a church service and over 200 of the 391 being children. I have done things I never thought I could. I taught children the song Jesus Loves Me when the teacher didn't show up, I have gotten up in front of over 200 people and talked to them about the importance of family and church, always having a firm foundation in Christ. I have talked with girls who have come in off the streets because of the church opening up schools where they can stay, I have talked with mothers about keeping the children clean, I prayed with a young man who was worried about his family, I have prayed with the children and their families.

I have experienced loving kindness, the mothers of the children in the nursery made me a skirt, Elizabeth and Dan Turk have saved me many times, their work is never ending and they keep on helping. Elizabeth takes a taxi to work in the capital everyday, the distance is only about 15 miles it takes over two hours each way. I owe so much to Elizabeth who has taken the time to listen and help me to understand, she has been there for me when I was sick in bed, when someone would not let me pass, she has been there to help with my hotel bill, she has saved me from many near disasters.

I will need some quite time to reflect on my time here but that will have to wait. On Tuesday I leave for Nairobi where I will work in the slums of the city and if I can stay longer I will go to the Rift Valley to work at a rescue center for women and girls who got caught up in the slave trafficking business.

notes

Our congregation is truly blessed to have the Presbyterian Women working for us.

We have 3 circles for our yearly bible study. Hannah and Rebekah Circles meet in the day and Deborah Circle meets in the evening. All 3 circles meet once a month and break for the summer months. The groups share a special bond of love, concern and friendship. The delicious goodies served after worship services are prepared by the Fellowship

Committee comprised with the same great ladies. The Circle Groups also help with Memorial Services. During my darkest hour, these dedicated women were there for me and my family, offering to help with whatever I needed, showing their care and concern.

Thank you so much ladies!

The Stitchin' Sisters have made approximately 175 quilts to donate to charities. That is a lot of quilts! Soup Sunday helps sponsor this activity. There is always an amazing selection of soups. It is difficult to make a choice and you even get to take a homemade napkin.

The annual White Breakfast is a favorite for so many. We have meditation in the sanctuary with communion, walk in silence to Fellowship Hall where breakfast is prepared and served by the men of the church. It is truly a treat!

And we cannot forget the Christmas tea that is a wonderful service, meditation, and singing our favorite carols.

All women are welcome to join the PW Groups at Riverside. I think you will enjoy the activities and, most importantly, the fellowship.

In Christ, Grace Rudy

We want to thank all of you in our wonderful church family for all your prayers, concerns, cards, and e-mails during Harry's recent cancer surgery. As we prepared for surgery with weeks of multiple tests, multiple doctor visits and much uncertainty I found I was singing an old familiar hymn daily: "I Need Thee Every Hour". I even added my own extra

Refrain: "We need Thee, O we need Thee, Every hour we need Thee, O bless us RIGHT NOW, our Savior, we come to Thee." This hymn and much prayer gave us a calmness and peace that passes all understanding. Our prayers were answered, through great doctors, nurses, and you, our dear church family, as you continued to minister to us during the trying days prior to surgery, the day of surgery at Mayo Hospital in Jacksonville, and now during the long slow road to recovery. I still am singing the hymn, but generally as it was written, not with my own personal version! God is Good, All the Time, and we Praise Him for answered prayer, and for all the love and care you showed to us.

Thank you; thank you; we love each of you.

Betty and Harry Peterson



This is a half-day workshop/luncheon co-hosted by the United Methodist Women's Group at First UMC Cocoa Beach and Stonecroft Brevard. This event brings women together who have felt a tug on their heart to join God in His work and desire to be involved in sharing the gospel of Christ around the Space Coast.

Join us for a fun day of encouragement, prayer, and training on new ways to share your faith, and connecting with other Christian women around the Space Coast area over lunch. ALL are welcome, so bring a friend!

Cost— \$5 for lunch (Taco Bar!)

Let's gather together, dream together, and go together.

DATE AND TIME

Sat, June 9, 2018

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM EDT

Add to Calendar

LOCATION

First United Methodist Church of Cocoa Beach

3300 North Atlantic Avenue

Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

REFUND POLICY

Refunds up to 1 day before event

June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 COMMUNION SUNDAY 10a Worship 11a Kid's Choir	4 7p NA Meeting	5 9:30a Senior Fit	6 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Women's Bible	7 9:30a Senior Fit	1	2
10 10a Worship 11a Kid's Choir BLOOD DRIVE	11 10a Stewardship 7p NA Meeting	12 9:30a Senior Fit 7:00p Deacons	13 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Women's Bible	14 9:30a Senior Fit	8	9
17 10a Worship 11a Kid's Choir Father's Day	18 Office will be closed the week of the 18th 7p NA Meeting	19 9:30a Senior Fit 7:00p Session	20 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Deborah's	21 9:30a Senior Fit	15	16
24 10a Worship 11a Kid's Choir	25 7p NA Meeting	26 9:30a Senior Fit	27 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Women's Bible	28 9:30a Senior Fit	22	23
					29	30