

Welcome to
Riverside Presbyterian Church

September 17, 2023

Please silence your cell phones.

* Please stand in body or Spirit. **Bold** indicates congregational response.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE

Day by Day

Schwartz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Luke 14:1, 7-14, Hebrews 13:1-6)

Creator God, you call us to hospitality;

to give as generously to others as you have given to us.

For there are angels among us.

Loving God, you call us to give you glory in the compassion we show to one another and to your creatures, great and small.

To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others.

We gather as one Body, seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

We gather as one Body, to worship the one who is Love.

*HYMN #15

All Creatures of Our God and King v. 1-3

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With that assurance and the promise of God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

For the times we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer, we pray:

God, have mercy on us and all your people.

For the times we lack courage to address the causes of injustice, oppression and poverty, we pray:

God, have mercy on us and on all your people.

For the times we give in to fear, despair or resignation, we pray:

God, have mercy on us and on all your people.

Merciful God, heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world.

Support us as we seek to respond in solidarity and with hospitality.

Amen. (Silence is kept.)

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Create in Me A Clean Heart O God x 2*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a right spirit within me.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Psalm 145:9, Ephesians 2:8-9)

The Lord is good to all, and has compassion over all of creation.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia Amen

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Holy God, your Word teaches us that all Scripture is inspired by you and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, speak

to us, and inspire us that we may be proficient and equipped for every good work; through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT *All God's Critters*
Children PreK-5th grade are invited to Faith Formation at this time at the front of the building and will return for the blessing and at the end of the service. Younger children may go to childcare inside.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20, 23, 31-32 OT p. 14

SECOND READING Genesis 19:1-6, 15, 17, 24-26, 30-38 OT p. 14- 16

SERMON "Saving Sodom"

OUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE

*HYMN #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*LITANY OF BLESSING (inspired by Psalm 148)

All dogs and cats, large and small:

Praise the Lord!

All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:

Praise the Lord!

All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures:

Praise the Lord!

All robins, wrens, and singing birds:

Praise the Lord!

All racoons, squirrels, and deer:

Praise the Lord!

All horses, cows, and sheep:

Praise the Lord!

All lizards, snakes and creeping things:

Praise the Lord!

Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest:

Praise the Lord!

A PRAYER FOR PETS

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living things.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. We ask you to bless these creatures who are among us.

By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your design. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Amen.

Pets are welcome to come forward with their owners for a special blessing.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Bless the Beasts and the Children

DeVorza/Botkin

*SUNG RESPONSE *We are marching in the light of God* x 4

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING**

Gracious God, we know that every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from you. Help us to receive your gifts and grace with thanksgiving and humility and to use them faithfully in and for your kingdom. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #547 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* v. 1 & 3

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Siyahamba

Traditional Swahili

WORSHIP NOTES

Call to Worship written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy. Prayer of Confession compiled by Loreto Conroy. Assurance of Forgiveness, Prayer for Illumination, Affirmation of Faith and Prayer of Dedication written by Philip K. Glader for Presbyterian Outlook. Litany of Blessing from *Blessing of the Animals*. A Prayer for Pets from *Sacred Pauses*.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Thank you to Mary Beth Wynn and the RPC Chancel Choir for joining today's Ministry of Music.

Greeter: Elizabeth Musick

Liturgist: Wendy Seifert

Mini Moment: Lynda Nadkarni

Flowers are given in honor of my sister, Linda's birthday from Paula McCracken.

Trustee of the Month: Doug Harvin



To sign up for the weekly emailed announcements, contact the church office, rpcoffice@rpcusa.org or 708-447-1520

Dear RPC,

The picnic last Sunday was super fun! Now this week we get to meet some pets and enjoy worship in the great outdoors. What excellent opportunities for building community with each other and with nature. How about we do more of the same next summer with an all-church weekend retreat? Please take a minute to let us know if you would be interested in going to Michigan with us June 7-9th so that we can make sure there will be enough space for everyone.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mark

Use the QR code or go to:

<https://forms.gle/NJhez2XQXDb5wMN98>



John Lynch, Lloyd Bradbury,
Jack Smith, Greg Reichle
Alice Ann Hand, sister of Elizabeth Musick.
Scott Aulinskis, and family as he undergoes treatment for brain cancer. Scott is a friend of the Zanders.



WHO MOVED THE BAPTISMAL FONT?

For those who are interested, Pastor Mark has written an article explaining the placement of certain objects in the sanctuary. Use the QR code to view the pdf.



PET BLESSING COLLECTION — Please bring unopened bags or cans of dog and cat food and cat litter. Everything will be donated to the Hinsdale Humane Society.

WORSHIP AT CALEDONIA—Today, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2:30 pm—Wanted: volunteers who enjoy brightening someone’s day. Contact Steve Marcus for more information (847-224-5590).

RINGERS & SINGERS THIS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 4:15—5:15 pm
Children from ages (almost) 5 - 12 are welcome to join our group. Contact Sally Sloane for more information, musikhse@comcast.net or 708-822-0655.

THEOLOGY ON TAP, 6pm Sept 21st: It’s official! Theology on Tap is back. We will meet on Third Thursdays, 6pm, at PJ Klems, 8000 Ogden Ave., Lyons. Pastor Mark will lead a discussion on the topic of “[Watershed Discipleship](https://watersheddiscipleship.org/what-is-wd/),” based on a book of the same name by Ched Myers. <https://watersheddiscipleship.org/what-is-wd/>

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY — Saturday, 9/23, 8—11 am
There are many small and simple tasks – no special skills required!
Gaga ball pit construction will also continue.

WORSHIP IS LIVE! —You can now watch worship live at 10:00 am on our YouTube channel. Go to www.rpcusa.org for the link on the main page. Worship is recorded and uploaded immediately after the service for people to view later as well. Assistants are needed to help monitor the system during worship. If you can help, please contact the office.

SHOE DRIVE — We are collecting gently used and new shoes for children and adults through the end of October. Please put them in the barrel outside the office. Our goal is 2,000 pair so share with your friends and neighbors!

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY — Item of the month is **soup**! Any variety. Consider buying a case of 12! We have a blessing of an abundance of produce which led to the purchase of an additional outdoor refrigerator for the LFP. We're hoping 10 donors will each contribute \$100 towards it's purchase, but any donation is most welcome. Also, we are looking for help to fill the LFP on Mondays and Fridays. Contact Doug Asbury for more information, dougasbury@gmail.com or 847-436-8286.

CHATS WITH CHILDREN —Last week kids in the church discovered that the Bible is not just one book, but many; how they are organized; and discussed deep questions. "I wonder if it would be ok to take just one book out?" "What is the most important book in the Bible?" Talk with them about their thoughts. We have some super deep thinkers!

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT—RefugeeOne has received more than 200 people in the last month with about 100 more to come before the end of September. They are hoping we can sponsor a family soon. To do so we need to raise \$3,000. Every gift of every size matters as we strive to reach that goal. Also we need a small sofa, armchairs, chairs for a dining table, coffee table and area rugs. See Lynda for more details – lynda@rpcusa.org

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING—By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, one of the special offerings of the PC(USA), we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries. Together we are building God's house where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice. Please mark your donation "Peace & Global Witness Offering". Envelopes are in the back of the sanctuary and in the church office.

SUNDAYS WITH TED & FRIENDS —6:00 p.m. In person and via Zoom. Contact Doug Asbury for more information at dougasbury@gmail.com.

9/17—No Sundays with TED today.

9/24 —Emily Kenway—The Silent Suffering of Caregivers

PRESCHOOL — B is for Big Feelings! Our them this week focused on emotions, what they are, how to manage ours and see them in other people. On Monday, author/illustrator and former member Janan Cain will come to share her newest book "The Way I Feel Too."

EAGLE SCOUT FOOD DRIVE —Sunday, September 24, 12-3 pm. Scottswood Road Church Parking Lot. Collecting non-perishable food (canned meals, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meats, soup) for RPC's LFP.

THIS WEEK

Today

10:00 am Worship—Blessing of the
Animals

11:00 am Fellowship

2:30 pm Worship at Caledonia

6:00 pm NO Sundays with TED

Monday

5:15 pm Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

4:15 pm Ringers & Singers

6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday

6:00 pm Theology on Tap

Saturday

8:00 am All Church Work Day

Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Fellowship

6:00 pm Sundays with TED

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546

(708) 447-1520, rpcusa.org

Sermons available at

Youtube.com

Riverside Presbyterian, IL

Our Mission Statement:

We gather as a church to:

Celebrate God's presence,

Nurture the Spiritual Life,

Carry the light of Christ into the world,

Serve God by serving others.

RPC Staff

Rev. Mark Zimmerly, Pastor,
mark@rpcusa.org; 708-202-9874

Linda Hutcheson, Office Manager,
rpcoffice@rpcusa.org

Dr. Sally Sloane, Minister of Music,
musikhse@comcast.net

Lynda Nadkarni, Coordinator of Children's
Ministries, lynda@rpcusa.org

Ellen Hamilton, Treasurer,
treasurer@rpcusa.org

Sara Vacek, Tech Manager,
rpcvideo@rpcusa.org

Doug Asbury, Volunteer in Mission,
dougasbury@gmail.com

2023 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

	2023	2024	2025
Elders	Lisa Aulerich Marciniak Jon Jansky Sandra Kappmeyer	Susan Lynch Carrie Staubus Mary Beth Wynn	Betsy Gardner Ellen Hamilton Serina Ranft Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Nancy Dvorak Elizabeth Musick Marilyn Slanec	Jim Marciniak Steve Marcus Wendy Seifert	Thom DeVries Paula McCracken Open
Trustees	Doug Harvin Henry Vogel Open	John McGlennon Lynda Nadkarni Open	Deb Jansky Tom Radigan Open