



September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



3400 North Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931
321-783-6085
www.RiversidePC.org

On behalf of Riverside Presbyterian, it is our pleasure to welcome you to worship this morning. The opportunity to worship together as the Family is one of God's greatest gifts. It is our hope that this time and place will be a grounding place for us all, one that enables us to live as freely and fully as God intends.

STEWARDSHIP



To support the ministry of Riverside Presbyterian Church, contributions may be sent to the church office or you may pledge electronically at www.riversidepc.org or scan the QR code on the left to give through tithe.ly.com.

Do you want to get a head start in preparing for Sunday worship? The Sunday worship bulletin is now being linked in the Friday e-mail, together with the livestreaming web link, which are also posted on the church's website: riversidepc.org. The worship service is livestreamed and available on the church's website: <https://www.riversidepc.org/watch-live>. Please spread the word to those who are interested in worshipping with us online.

The term "voluntary" is used to denote a piece of music or improvisation for instrument, played before, during, or at the end of a church service.

The Season after Pentecost, also called **Ordinary Time**, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent. It may include twenty-three to twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter, but the first Sunday is always **Trinity Sunday**, and the last Sunday is always the Sunday of **the Reign of Christ** or **Christ the King**. Although the scripture lessons in the lectionary for this half of the year go in a semi-continuous cycle through books of the Bible rather than follow a theme, the gospel lessons cover Jesus' teaching ministry and the church's mission in the world. The liturgical color for this season is GREEN, signifying growth in Christ, except on Communion Sundays when it is white.

SESSION

Class of 2026

Teri Beeler
Anda Ray
Ann Stone

Class of 2027

Bob Howard
Meghan Johnson
Paula Yost

Class of 2028

Girard Middleton
Carl Plaughter (26)
Tom White (26)

DIACONATE

Class of 2026

Janice Eastes
Carolyn Hattaway
Tammy Ivan

Class of 2027

Jorge Castillo
Mary Mullin

Class of 2028

Martha Williams
Fern Wolle
Bob Yost

The October issue of our newsletter ***Down by the Riverside*** will be sent out by email this week. If you wish to have a hard copy, it will be available in the narthex and the church office. If you're interested in receiving our electronic monthly newsletter (except for January and August), please leave your e-mail address. If you wish to receive a hard copy by mail, please call the church office at 321-783-6085.

Lectionary Readings for Today (Year A):

Exodus 17:1-7; *Psalms* 78:1-4, 12-16; Philipians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

✠ Standing for those who are able

People's response in ***bold & italic*** type

APPROACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places"* (John 14:1-2a).

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Deacon Bob Yost

GREETINGS & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Elder Anda Ray

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you . . .***

. . . The grace and peace of the Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

VOLUNTARY

Celestial Theme
Diana Amtower, Organ

Domenico Paradies (1707-91)

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the shelter of God's love,

In you, O God, we seek refuge.

God is a rock of refuge, a safe haven for us.

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

We are precious in God's sight.

God is faithful and we can trust in God's steadfast love.

✠ HYMN #39

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

✠ PRAYER OF ADORATION

STIRRING OF THE SPIRIT

"Death Was Arrested"

North Point Worship (2017)

"Revelation Song"

Kari Jobe (2009)

Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, Leader

MAKING OUR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Father in Heaven: Thank you for loving us and giving your son Jesus to save us. Thank you for promising to make all things work together for our good as we are called to your purpose. We confess that we often sink into fear and doubt, and take our eyes off of Jesus when the waters of life get rough.

Help us to see you throughout the day, and to remember your faithfulness to us. Thank you for your forgiveness and patience with us as we grow in faith, and for helping us through our times of doubt; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT REFLECTION (*Reflecting on the Prayer of Confession*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

... Friends, believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

. . . The Peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

GIVING TO GOD

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FUSION YOUTH

Elder Susan White

CALL TO OFFERING

Elder Ray

OFFERTORY *"Fount of Every Blessing"* Robert Robinson (1758)/arr. Lloyd Larson (1995)
Chancel Choir / Diana Amtower, *Director*

✦ DOXOLOGY #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

READING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — John 14:1-6 (*New Testament, p. 108*)
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Chili Lindsay

✦ HYMN #839

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

ASSURANCE

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*N.T., p. 204*)
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Elder Girard Middleton

SERMON

"Dealing with Death in Faith"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

✦ HYMN #838

"Standing on the Promises"

PROMISES

✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

✦ SENDING SONG

"Great Things"
Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*

Phil Wickham (2018)



This Sunday's flowers are given to the glory of God by **Ann Stone**
and in loving memory of her mother, **Gladys Sandman.**

70th Anniversary celebration Brunch



Celebrate Riverside
Presbyterian Church's 70th-year
Anniversary

**Sunday
October 4, 2026**

From 11:00am – 1:00pm
(immediately after Worship Service)

Starlite Restaurant

**HILTON GARDEN INN
2080 N Atlantic Ave, Cocoa Beach, FL**

Sunday Breakfast Buffet

Cost: \$20 PRE-PAID (gratuity and beverage included)

*Reserve
and
Pay
Online*



Riverside's
website under
"EVENTS"

or

Stop by
Church Office
to Reserve and
Pre-Pay

SERMON NOTES

Pastor Bill Teng is away today attending the Outreach Foundation Board of Trustees meeting in Indianapolis. He will return on Wednesday. In his absence, we warmly welcome our own **Elder Girard Middleton** to the pulpit. Now a Presbyterian elder, Girard had served as Principal of Man-O-War Cay Christian School, Youth & Music Minister at the First Baptist Church of Madisonville, LA, Area Director of Baptist Campus Ministries in Miami, and Team Chaplain at the University of Miami Football & Baseball teams. He has also earned a Master's degree in Christian Education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Girard is married to **Kristine** and is father to **Audrey** and **Adeline**. *May God richly bless his ministry among us today!*

As part of our 70th Anniversary celebration, a **New Members Class** is being offered **this Saturday, October 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**, and you'll be received into church membership on October 4, the day of the celebration. If you've been worshipping here at Riverside and would like to consider church membership, please see Pastor Teng or call the church office as soon as possible.



Anchor Youth — Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in Calvin Hall our Youth ages 12 – 18 come together in a safe, relaxed, and inviting place to gather together. As the group grows, one or more rooms in Calvin Hall will become a space where young people can belong, laugh, and be themselves. Evenings will include social time (and sometimes dinner!), games, movies, and a cozy coffee-house atmosphere, followed by a short, Bible-based conversation grounded in faith and real life. *Please pray that youth will respond by being here!*



PASTOR'S CLASS

Mondays at 1:00 p.m.
(October 5 – November 16)



Living and interacting in a Post-Christian and pluralistic society is not exactly easy for Christians. There are just so many social issues that we face each day which require the "right" decision. How are we supposed to make these decisions? Does the Bible address these issues?

Come and explore these contemporary social issues in a 7-week series in a class beginning on **Monday, October 5, at 1:00 p.m. in Knox Hall**. Please see **Pastor Teng** for any questions.

The Christian Perspectives on Contemporary Social Issues

October	5	Pluralism
	12	Economics
	19	War
	26	Capital Punishment
November	2	Addiction/Substance Abuse
	9	Bioethics
	16	Homosexuality/Same-Sex Marriage



Lift your prayers this week to the Throne of Grace for: **Bill Anderson, Glenn Stout, Walter & Wanda Scott, Tim Bright, Cathy Pfeiffer, Paula Yost, Rebecca Burns, Jane Lovett, Bill Cheney, Linda Harris, Cliff Schmitt, Roxanne Stout, Jorge & Coleen Castillo**; peace for Ukraine, Iran, and the Middle East; flood and earthquake victims and relief efforts in Nepal/Tibet, Indonesia, and Columbia; storm and flood victims and families in our nation.

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	Morning: Psalms 62; 145 / Evening: Psalms 73; 9 Hosea 2:2-15; Acts 20:17-38; Luke 5:1-11
Tuesday	Morning: Psalms 12; 146 / Evening: Psalms 36; 7 Hosea 2:16-23; Acts 21:1-14; Luke 5:12-26
Wednesday	Morning: Psalms 96; 147:1-11 / Evening: Psalms 132; 134 Hosea 3:1-5; Acts 21:15-26; Luke 5:27-39
Thursday	Morning: Psalms 116; 147:12-20 / Evening: Psalms 26; 130 Hosea 4:1-10; Acts 21:27-36; Luke 6:1-11
Friday	Morning: Psalms 84; 148 / Evening: Psalms 25; 40 Hosea 4:11-19; Acts 21:37-22:16; Luke 6:12-26
Saturday	Morning: Psalms 63; 149 / Evening: Psalms 125; 90 Hosea 5:1-7; Acts 22:17-29; Luke 6:27-38
Sunday	Morning: Psalms 103; 150 / Evening: Psalms 117; 139 Hosea 5:8-6:6; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; Matthew 14:1-12

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY

✦ Through the encyclical *“Regimini militantis ecclesiae,”* **Pope Paul III** officially approved on September 27, 1540 the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), which was founded six years earlier by **Ignatius of Loyola**. ✦ **St. Vincent de Paul**, died on this day in 1660 at the age of 79. Abandoned his search for power and position in the Roman Catholic Church, de Paul embarked on a life of serving the poor. In 1617 he founded the first Confraternity of Charity. In 1625 he founded the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians or Lazarists), and in 1633 he established the Daughters of Charity, the first nonmonastic women’s order given completely to care of the sick and poor. He was canonized in 1737 by **Pope Clement XII**, and in 1885 was name patron saint of all works of charity. ✦ **George Müller** was born on this day in 1805. He was a prodigal son and jailbird who, following his conversion, became a powerful evangelist and is best known for his faith-based orphanages in Bristol, England. During his lifetime he cared for over 10,000 orphans without ever appealing for funds. ✦ Today is also the birthday, in 1872, of **Bentley DeForest Ackley**, Pennsylvania-born musician who became the pianist for the **Billy Sunday** and **Homer Rodeheaver** evangelistic campaigns. He wrote over 3,000 melodies to gospel songs, some of them for his poem-writing younger brother, **Alfred Henry Ackley**. ✦ **James Ellor**, hat maker, died on this day in 1899, Newburgh, New York at his son’s home. When he wasn’t making hats, James was writing music, and he’s the composer of the tune **DIADEM**, to which *“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”* is frequently sung.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 27 - October 4, 2026

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Monday - Thursday

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Anchor Youth (Calvin Hall)
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (Knox Hall)
	9:30 a.m.	Stitchin' Sisters (Calvin Hall)
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Circle (Jane Lovett's Home)
	3:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Knox Hall)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	New Members Class (Knox Hall)
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> World Communion Sunday/70th Anniversary Celebration (<i>Please prepare your heart for Holy Communion</i>)
	11:30 a.m.	Brunch Fellowship (Starlite Restaurant)

PSALM 66 PRAISE BAND

Guitar / Vocal — Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*

Bass Guitar — Collin Morrison

Drums — Ryan Perez

Keyboard — Andrey Plata

Backup Vocals — Madalynn Pearson & Jordan Boggs

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ministers: Entire Congregation / Assisted by:

Rev. William C. Teng, *Interim Pastor*, pastorbill@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

Rev. Jane Wesson, *Parish Associate*, pastorjane@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

Betsie Germann, *Administrative Assistant*, office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

Doug Kasimier, *Treasurer*

Diana Amtower, *Traditional Music Director*, dldaubert@gmail.com

Keaton Belliveau, *Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader*, keanobmusic@gmail.com

Karen Ward, *Audio Visual Leader / Will Jennings, Sound & Lighting Tech*

Chuck Torgler, *Sexton*

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