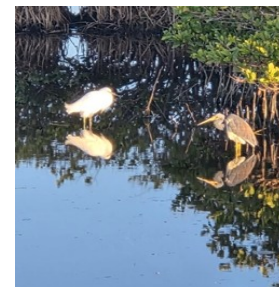


RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2016 - 2026

70th Anniversary

OUR COMMUNITY

The sleepy little town of 70 years ago has become a vibrant community of tourism and Space. Along with NASA, private companies such as Space X and Blue Origin continue to flourish here and in the skies. Keeping our beautiful shoreline and the Banana River lagoon pristine for our residents and visitors to enjoy has become paramount as we strive to maintain this fragile environment for all.



OUR CHURCH

In October 2016, Riverside marked its 60th Anniversary with a month-long celebration of history that included “60 Works for Riverside’s 60th Anniversary,” Kirkin’ O’ Tartans worship service, and “Gimme That Old Time Religion.”

Interim Pastor Melanie Ruta bade Riverside goodbye as Rev. Michael Hafele became our 7th minister on December 15, 2016. Following Hurricane Matthew, Riverside’s Chapel was demolished after repairs proved too costly. Upon Rev. Hafele’s departure, Rev. Dr. J. Roy Sharpe became Interim Pastor in September 2019 and served until Riverside called Rev. Dr. Chris Carson in 2021.

With the arrival of “Pastor Chris” and his family, a new enthusiasm began propelling Riverside forward with purpose. Congregational energy supported Children’s Hunger Project, Family Promise, Back-to-School Gift Cards, “Trunk or Treat,” Salvation Army’s “Stuff a Stocking,” and “Chris Carson’s Cruisin’ for Kids,” providing bikes, helmets, and locks for thirty kids!

The untimely death of Pastor Chris on July 12, 2024, sent a shock wave through the congregation. During the last 6 months of the year, 20 different ministers occupied the Sunday morning pulpit and/or served as Moderator of Session. On February 1, 2025, Rev. Dr. William “Bill” Teng, along with his wife Karen, became Interim Pastor while Riverside seeks a new pastor and prayerfully looks to the future.

OUR PEOPLE

Judy George’s life has been marked by a simple theme — caring for people and the places she loves. Judy and her husband came to Florida in the late 1960s after Dick’s military service. A veterinarian, Dick opened his own Merritt Island practice in 1969, with Judy working alongside him. Together they raised three children — Dick, Ruth Ella, and Rebecca — and today they enjoy nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In 1986, Judy returned to nursing, working with the area’s first adult daycare program. She helped develop Fischer Park and the Brevard Museum of History, served on the Space Coast Art Show and healthcare boards, and helped with the early development of the Brevard Zoo.

After retirement, Judy brought her love of plants to care for Riverside’s landscaping — tending roses, weeding, watering, and planting. Her church service blossomed to include Sunday School, Youth, Care & Support, Education, VBS, Worship, Family Promise, and Children’s Hunger Project. Whether caring for a patient, building a community institution, or tending a rose, Judy has a gift for helping people — and things — flourish.

