



April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org or scan the QR code on the left to give through tithely.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: riversidepresbyterianchurch.org. The worship service is livestreamed and is available on the church's website: <https://www.youtube.com/@riversidepresbyterianchurch8946>. 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.

Eastertide, or the **Easter Season**, begins on Easter Sunday and continues until Pentecost in the Christian liturgical calendar for a total span of seven weeks. We celebrate Easter more than just Easter Sunday because it is the defining event of Christianity, and so the Church has always observed it for longer than the Day itself. The liturgical color is white or gold, the Pascal candle is kept lit and the worship services end with a special "Alleluia." Scripture lessons during this season are from the New Testament only (except for Easter Sunday), saying what happened after the Resurrection. The Thursday in the sixth week of Easter marks Ascension Day, as Jesus was taken up into heaven.

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 Plaucher (26)
Tom White (26)

DIACONATE

Class of 2026

Janice Eastes
Carolyn Hattaway
Tammy Ivan

Class of 2027

Jorge Castillo

Class of 2028

Martha Williams
Fern Wolle
Bob Yost

The April issue of our newsletter *Down by the Riverside* will be sent out by email next week. If you wish to have a hard copy, it will be available in the church office and the narthex. If you're interested in receiving our electronic monthly newsletter (except for January and July), 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):

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

✦ **Standing for those who are able**

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

APPROACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: *"I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"* (John 10:9, 10b).

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Bob Yost

GREETINGS & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor Bill Teng

Christ is risen. ***The Lord is risen indeed***

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

VOLUNTARY

"How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place"
Diana Amtower, Organ

Johannes Brahms (1868)

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 95:6-7*)

O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

***For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.***

In this Easter season, we celebrate our risen Lord,
acknowledging the light of Christ which overcomes the darkness of sin and death.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

✦ HYMN #2

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

ITALIAN HYMN

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

STIRRING OF THE SPIRIT

"O Praise Him"
"God of Wonders"

David Crowder Band (2003)
Chris Tomlin (2015)

Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, Leader

MAKING OUR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Living God: We confess we often look for the living among the dead — You lead us toward green pastures but we wander in dark valleys; you call us by name but we pretend not to hear.

Forgive us, O God, and give us new life! Return us to your flock and fold that we may have abundant life, the life that death cannot destroy, through Jesus Christ our Lord; for we ask in his holy name.

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 Pastor Jane Wesson

CALL TO OFFERING Pastor Teng

OFFERTORY "O God Beyond All Praising" Perry & Holst/arr. Abriol (1982)
Andrew Hiers, Bass Baritone / Diana Amtower, Piano

✠DOXOLOGY #606 OLD HUNDREDTH

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

READING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Psalm 23 (Old Testament, p. 501) Elder Mick Ray
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

✠HYMN #803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" RESIGNATION

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — 1 Peter 2:19-25 (New Testament, p. 233) Pastor Teng
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Called to Suffer"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our 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 #187 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" BRADBURY

✠CHARGE AND BLESSING

✠SENDING SONG "Your Love Never Fails" Jesus Culture (2011)
Psalm 66 Praise Band / Keaton Belliveau, Leader



This Sunday's flowers are given to the glory of God by **Susan White and Family** and in honor of **Tom White's** birthday and all the April birthdays.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Central Florida Presbytery Committee on Ministry has officially approved our Mission Study at its meeting on April 9, and has authorized Riverside Session to call a Congregational Meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

In compliance with our Bylaws, Session is now calling a Congregational Meeting for **today, April 26, immediately following worship** for the sole purpose of electing a **Pastor Nominating Committee**.

Nominees from the Congregational Nominating Committee:

Debbie Burleigh

Janice Eastes

Meghan Johnson

Valerie Kellum

Chili Lindsay

Girard Middleton

Robbie Ward

Ann Stone (ALT)

Paula Yost (ALT)

All Riverside members are requested to be present to help facilitate this very important step in the search process for our next called pastor.



CELEBRATING RIVERSIDE'S 70TH YEAR OF MINISTRY IN 2026

DID YOU KNOW? While our church was growing and expanding during its third decade of service, McDonald's introduced "Happy Meals," which became part of the chain's regular menu in 1979. There are all kinds of other yummy tidbits about the happenings in Cocoa Beach and Riverside Presbyterian Church from 1976-1985 located on the display table in Fellowship Hall. Next month, we will feature our fourth decade of joyous faithfulness!

SERMON NOTES

CHP 3rd Annual Car Show — The 3rd Annual Car Show has been rescheduled for **this Saturday, May 2, 10am – 2pm**. It is \$25 to register a vehicle and all proceeds go to The Children’s Hunger Project. Come out and enjoy classic cars, food trucks, raffles, DJ, games, and awards. If you would like to bring a donated food item for CHP, you can find a list of needed items at www.thechildrenhungerproject.org/food-donations. Riverside also has a list of needed items located in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing you there!

First Tuesday Dinner — Our next First Tuesday Dinner will be **May 5 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Our dinner menu, catered by Brano’s Italian Grill, will be Chicken Marsala, Penne pasta, garden salad, veggies, bread and dessert. Following dinner our program will be presented by Wycliffe Bible Translators, who work hard so everyone can access God’s Word, and also record Scriptures so those who cannot read can still hear God’s Word. Cost is \$12. Invite family and friends! Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact **Betty Peterson** at 406-750-9202.

One Blood Drive — The OneBlood bus will be at Riverside **Sunday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Walk-ins are always welcome. However, reservations, which can be made on the OneBlood website, www.oneblood.org, are preferred. Please consider donating blood before or after church. *Each donation changes lives!*



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!





Lift your prayers this week to the Throne of Grace for: **Joe Fanning, Paula Yost, Rebecca Burns, Jane Lovett, Bill Cheney, Linda Harris, Clift Schmitt, Glenn Stout, Roxanne Stout, Jorge & Coleen Castillo, Evelyn Whitehurst, family of Jerry Swann** who died on April 14; peace for Ukraine, Iran, Cuba, and the Middle East.

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	Morning: Psalms 97; 145 / Evening: Psalms 124; 115 Exodus 32:1-20; Colossians 3:18–4:6(7-18) Matthew 5:1-10
Tuesday	Morning: Psalms 98; 146 / Evening: Psalms 66; 116 Exodus 32:21-34; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 5:11-16
Wednesday	Morning: Psalms 99; 147:1-11 / Evening: Psalms 9; 118 Exodus 33:1-23, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:17-20
Thursday	Morning: Psalms 47; 147:12-20 / Evening: Psalms 68; 1133 Exodus: 34:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20; Matthew 5:21-26
Friday	Morning: Psalms 96; 148 / Evening: Psalms 49; 138 Exodus: 34:18-35; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13; Matthew 5:27-37
Saturday	Morning: Psalms 92; 149 / Evening: Psalms 23; 114 Exodus 40:18-38; 1Thessalonians 4:1-12; Matthew 5:38-48
Sunday	Morning: Psalms 93; 150 / Evening: Psalms 136; 117 Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 4:16-30

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY

✦ In the 1400s, the family of **Pope Sixtus IV** (builder of the Sistine Chapel) clashed with the Medici family of Florence. The rivalry became so tense that in 1478, with the pope's knowledge, his nephews and bankers hatched a plan to murder **Lorenzo and Julian Medici**. On Sunday, April 26, 1478, the two Medici brothers entered the cathedral in Florence for Easter Mass. In the middle of the service, the brothers were attacked with knives. Julian was killed, but Lorenzo survived to track down the murderers and exact revenge. ✦ On April 26, 1772, **Philip Gatch** attended a Methodist prayer meeting at the home of a neighbor. He came under deep conviction of sin, but felt he was too evil to be saved. He left, but as he stood outside the building, a friend came out and begged him to return. Upon reentering the house, he was saved and later became one of the first American-born Methodist preachers and circuit-riders. ✦ One of the saddest trials in church history began on April 26, 1832. **Edward Irving** was a brilliant and kindhearted Scottish pastor who served as assistant to the great **Thomas Chalmers** in Glasgow. In 1822, Irving moved to London where he accepted the pastorate of a dying church. Within a few months, it grew from fifty people to over a thousand, and a new building was built at Regent Square. Irving grew arrogant and his popularity with the people declined. At the same time, he was accused of heresy because he declared that Christ, though sinless, had a sinful nature. His views on other subjects grew more bizarre, and on April 26, 1832, a hearing was convened which led to his being expelled from the church he had built.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 26 - May 3, 2026

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Monday - Thursday

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Called Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Anchor Youth (Calvin Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Missions Team (Zoom)
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 (Knox Hall)
	3:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Knox Hall)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Charity Car Show (Front Parking Lot)
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Worship — <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> (<i>Please prepare your heart for Communion</i>)
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)

PSALM 66 PRAISE BAND

Guitar / Vocal — Keaton Belliveau, *Leader*

Bass guitar — Rafael Perez

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

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

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

Karen Ward, *Audio Visual Leader*

Doug Kasimier, *Treasurer*

Chuck Torgler, *Sexton*

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