The Newsletter of the Saints at Riverside Presbyterian Church, Cocoa Beach, Florida
Please remember Riverside in your estate planning! November 2026



From the Pastor's Heart

"Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace"

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

In our last article as part of this year's stewardship emphasis, we saw that God is the owner of everything and that we are managers and stewards of what God has given us. We considered how each of us has been given gifts of time and talents as blessings of God's grace. We also learned about the importance of using these gifts for God's glory, for the good of others, and for the ministry here at Riverside Presbyterian Church.

In addition to time and talents, God has also given us financial resources. For most of us, this means working to secure monetary gain. But make no mistake about it: According to Deuteronomy 8, God gives us the ability to earn money. According to King Solomon, even work itself is a gift from God (Ecclesiastes 5:19) In fact, everything we have — even the air we breathe in order to be able to work — is a gift that has been temporarily loaned to us by God.

The truth of the temporary status of our financial resources was brought home to a pastor who needed a dark suit to conduct a funeral. He had very little money, so he went to a local pawn shop where he found a like-new suit in just the right size at a very inexpensive price. As he paid for the suit, he asked the clerk how the pawn shop could afford to sell the suit at such a low price. The clerk smiled and admitted that all their suits had once been owned by a local mortuary that had gone out of business.

The pastor felt a little strange wearing a suit that had once been part of a funeral home's inventory, but he quickly set aside his apprehension since the price was so low and since no one would know. Everything was fine until in the middle of the funeral service, he casually started to put his hand into the pocket of the pants — only to discover there were no pockets! What an object lesson he received that day as he preached about the importance of living in the light of eternity while wearing a pair of pants without pockets!

All of us know the old saying, "You can't take it with you." That's why whatever we are going to do with the financial resources God has entrusted to us has to be done in this life. In fact, whatever we intend to do for the Lord with our money, we need to be doing now. Or as one person observed, "Do your giving while you're living, so you'll be knowing where it's going!"

How we use the money which God has given to us is an indicator of our priorities. Our checkbook and our credit card statements will reveal clearly the things that are really important to us. How we spend our money is, in fact, a barometer of our spiritual temperature and of our personal faith. You see, it doesn't take a lot of faith to make a rational, logical decision concerning our giving. As we review expenses and anticipated income, we can easily find the balance and base our commitment on the numbers alone. But exercising faith, looking to God as our Source to provide above and beyond what we might reasonably be expected to give, well — that's another story.

Jerry Bridges, Vice President of the Navigators, provided this spiritual principle:

> When God burdens your heart about something, and you confirm God's leading based on the Scriptures, you can obey, being fully confident that God will provide a blessing, even when circumstances appear contrary.

When it comes to giving, that goes right along with what King Solomon described in Proverbs 11:24-25, "There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered."

Remember, giving is not to help "poor God" pay the bills. Giving is not because God needs anything from us. Giving is God's way of growing Christians. Every time we give for God's glory from hearts that have been redeemed by God's love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness. Every time we give of our resources that have been loaned to us by God, we grow in grace and in our walk with Christ.

As you consider your life during this time of stewardship emphasis, will you — like the Macedonian Christians — begin by first giving yourself to the Lord? Will you then be one of the "Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace" who will step out by faith by giving your time, your talents and your treasure to the Lord?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

Worship with Us!

IN-PERSON or "LIVE" BROADCAST

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00 a.m.

www.RiversidePC.org

Riverside Presbyterian Church
3400 N. Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
321-783-6085
Email: office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org

November Birthdays

Vicki Geller	11/1
Peggy Bishop	11/5
Gegory Britton	11/7
Gina Rall	11/8
Karen Teng	11/17
Tim Bright	11/21
Linda Autry	11/23
Marilyn Grigsby	11/24
Elizabeth Britton	11/27

Ladies Christmas Tea



Saturday, December 5, 2026
2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Cost is $25 per person
To purchase a ticket contact Becky Reed.

Please bring a decorative ornament to exchange!

Chris Carson's Cruisers for Kids

We are kicking off Chris Carson's Cruisers for Kids bike drive **November 1 - December 1.** We will be providing bicycles, helmets, and locks for children served by our local Salvation Army, and children in foster care through Friends of Children of Brevard and Family Partnerships of Central Florida, and we need to deliver our bikes to these organizations right around Thanksgiving. Information for you is available in envelopes in the narthex, and hanging on the tree in Fellowship Hall. Once you have filled out your envelope, please put your envelope with donation in the offering plate.



Let's make some Christmas wishes come true for local children in need!



Called Congregational Meeting & Pie Sunday

Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held immediately after worship on **Sunday, November 8.** The meeting's purpose is to elect elders and deacons.

After the meeting join us in the **Fellowship Hall** for **Pie Sunday**. **Bring your favorite Pie to Share!**





Gift Card Collection

Beginning **November 1**, Riverside will start our annual Gift Card Collection, this year we will be supporting the students at Roosevelt Elementary. We are asking for gift cards from Publix or Walmart in $10 increments.

You can turn in your gift cards to a Deacon or drop off at the Church office.



Deadline is Decmeber15th.



Riverside Presbyterian Church CHP Collection

Riverside is currently collecting food items for The Children's Hunger Project through November 8. Riverside provides food packs for children, that may not have access to food, and delivers them to Lewis Carroll and Roosevelt Elementary Schools.

The need has increased for food items at one of our schools. We are low on many items and need your help! We especially need applesauce, added fruit cups, Goldfish crackers, graham crackers (Teddy Grahams or Animal Crackers are acceptable), juice boxes, and chocolate milk. Be sure to check the package size to ensure you get the correct size needed.

Join us for Packing Day on November 15 after worship. Thank you for your generosity!

Family Promise Space Coast

The Cocoa-headquartered organization, launched in 2013, is affiliated with the Family Promise network, a national organization dedicated to preventing and ending family homelessness. The organization announced the name change to **Family Promise Space Coast**, and a recommitment to its core mission, at its annual meeting last month. Family Promise is changing names but pledging to keep its promise — that is, to keep families housed, so children can thrive.

"Over the past several years, our work has expanded well beyond what many people traditionally think of when they hear 'Family Promise,'" said Tara Pagliarini, the nonprofit's executive director. "Today we're helping families stay housed before they become homeless, connecting them to healthcare, education, workforce opportunities, behavioral health, and community resources. We lead regional collaborations, convene partners across sectors, and work upstream to prevent housing instability before it begins. "Our new name better reflects the community we serve and the future we're building together." The need has grown in recent years, particularly as housing costs have risen dramatically.

When it started in 2013, the Family Promise Space Coast served 25 families. Last year, there were 6,100 families. The organization said that 96 percent of its clients (3,089 families in 2025) moved from temporary to stable housing situations. And of those, 97 percent remain in stable housing today.

Family Promise Helicopter Ball Drop

The Annual helicopter Ball Drop will be on **Saturday, November 7**, from 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Enter for a chance to win $5,000 and donate to a cause you can believe in! Up to 1,000 balls will be dropped over the fairway at the Indian River Golf Course and the ball landing closest to the hole wins! Each ball is $50, or get 3 balls for $100.



You do not have to be present to win. Golf balls can be purchased at fpspacecoast.org

Hanging of the Greens

Join us **Sunday, November 22,** after worship service to decorate t**he** Sanctuary for Christmas. Afterwards, we will gather together in the Fellowship Hall for a chili lunch.



Join us for a kick-off to the holiday season And fellowship! All Are Welcome!



2026 Trunk~or~Treat



















What happens when you combine 13 creatively decorated cars, 26 enthusiastic volunteers, hundreds of pieces of candy and small toys, and a lot of Riverside welcoming? You get an afternoon filled with fun and community spirit — **and Riverside Presbyterian Church's most successful Trunk or Treat yet!**

On **Saturday, October 24**, Riverside hosted its third annual Trunk or Treat (and most successful yet), welcoming more than 90 children, teenagers, parents, and adults! Someone remarked, "This is the most interactive Trunk or Treat we've ever been to!"

Thanks to our hardworking grill master and servers, everyone was welcome to free hot dogs and cold water.

Behind every decorated trunk, every handful of candy, and every hot dog served were people who generously gave their time and resources — and big smiles!

<u>A heartfelt thank-you goes to our 26 volunteers:</u>

Valerie and Luke Kellum, Justine and Barronlee Grasso, Dan and Kathy Coon, Jaxson Beaulieu, Preston Yenik, Anda and Mick Ray, Becky and Mike Reed, Torrie Dortley, Judy and Ruth Ella George, Carolyn Hattaway, Tammy Ivan, Janice and Richard Eastes, Theresa and Robert Bugelholl, Meghan, David and Riley Johnson

RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

70th Anniversary Highlights

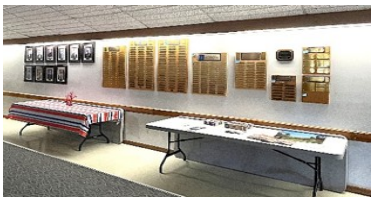
Our year-long 70th Anniversary celebration comes to an end this month, with one last chance to view the *Decade tables* in the Fellowship Hall before they are taken down. As we turn our attention to the future hopes and plans for Riverside, we can reflect on all that was accomplished during the past year to refresh and ready the campus for the years ahead.

First Impressions



A new electronic sign was installed and volunteers beautified the AIA landscape and other areas around the church.

Honoring the Past



Polished plaques were mounted in Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary lighting was updated.

Roof & Cross Campaign



Generous donations provided a new Sanctuary cross and new roof for Knox/Calvin Hall.

Safety Fixes



Yellow curbs and speed bumps were repainted in the front and back of the church and concrete walls were repaired in Knox/Calvin Hall.

Welcome to Cocoa Beach



RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A new 18-inch Riverside sign was placed on the Cocoa Beach Community Welcome sign, greeting Visitors on St. Rt. 520.

Raise the Curtain



The stage in the Fellowship Hall was revived as a multi-use meeting/loft area.

Celebrating the Architecture



Crosses on the windows of Calvin Hall facing A1A were painted to stand out and the doors were also freshly painted.

Celebration Brunch



65 people celebrated Riverside's 70 years in Cocoa Beach with a joyful buffet brunch at the Hilton Starlite Restaurant.

Still to Come…

Work continues with plans to replace external lights on Fellowship Hall, paint door frames on Calvin Hall, and post a sign listing office hours to aid visitors.

New Members Class



On Sunday, October 4, Riverside joyfully welcomed three new members into our church family: **Steve Anderson, Consuelo "Connie" Ramos DeYesso,** and **Mark DeYesso**. Each reaffirmed their faith and was warmly received by the congregation. While their backgrounds and faith journeys are different, all three share a desire to grow in faith and fellowship at Riverside.

Steve Anderson has been attending Riverside for five years, continuing a family tradition that began with his parents, who also attended our church. Originally from Tampa, Steve now lives in Cocoa with his brother Tom. In fact, all three Anderson brothers — Steve, Bill, and Tom — are part of our Riverside family! Steve has Scottish roots and enjoyed a professional career in the hotel industry.

Connie DeYesso, born in New York and raised in Puerto Rico, was confirmed as a teenager and credits her aunt and godmother as an important mentor in her faith journey. She holds a Doctorate in Education and currently serves as Dean of Discipline at Endeavor Elementary School in Cocoa, where she is called Dr. "D." Her husband, **Mark DeYesso**, grew up in Rhode Island, with a faith journey that has included both Catholic and Baptist traditions. During his 20-year Army career working with radar systems, several life-threatening experiences strengthened his belief that God places us where we are needed, sometimes even to save another person's life. Mark now teaches mathematics. Connie and Mark live next door to Pastor Bill & Karen Teng in Palm Bay, making their connection to Riverside especially close to home!

Please join us in extending a heartfelt Riverside welcome to Steve, Connie, and Mark!

Dr. Vernon Boushell Concert Series 2026 - 2027

We are kicking off the Dr. Vernon Boushell 2026- 2027 Concert Series! Our first concert of the Season will be our Old Fashioned Christmas on December 6, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. (look for an email on Riverside Net when tickets are Available). We have some new concerts for this upcoming season that we are very excited about! To obtain your free ticket, you can go to our website at www.RiversidePC.org, go to the "Events/Event Tickets," or call the will-call number 321-222-7874.

Just a reminder the tickets are not available until one month before each concert.
Look for an email from Riverside Net notifying you that the tickets are available to order.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor of the concert series, we can help with that,
There are several levels of Sponsorship you can contribute, contact the church office to see what level is best for you!











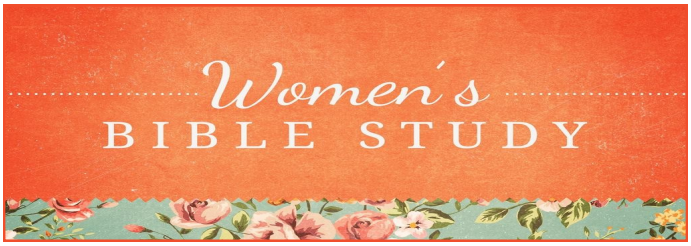
Presbyterian Women

This year's Presbyterian women's study book is entitled: *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians."* In November, we will cover chapters 5-6 and discuss how we have freedom in Christ. Both circles would love to have you join us. We meet in Knox Parlor.

Hannah/Ruth/Rebecca meets the **3rd Tuesday at 1 p.m.**

Deborah meets the **3rd Wednesday at 3 p.m**.

If you are interested in joining one of the circles, please contact Gail Marshall, Betty Peterson or Paula Yost.



J Ellsworth Kalas' book, *"Christmas from the Back Side*," which will give new insights into the scriptures of the Christmas story by looking at them from the "back side." We meet **Wednesdays at 3 p.m.** in Knox Parlor (also available via Zoom).

Contact **Paula Yost** for more information if you would like and join us Wednesday afternoons.

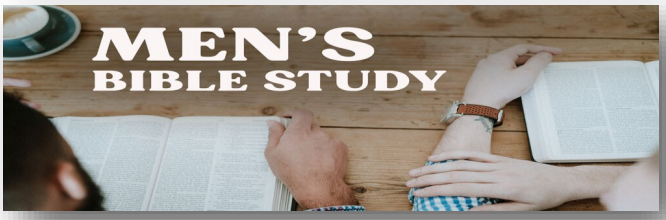
Prayer Circle

We come together each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. (at Jane Lovett's home) to pray for the needs of our church family and friends. There are blue cards in the pews that you can fill out, or you can email me at janelovett934@gmail.com

Jane Lovett

Pray with Us For...

- Loved ones
- Those who have illness or loss
- Our military personnel
- Our missionaries
- Our nation
- Our church



Men' s Bible Study meets **Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.** in-person in Knox Parlor and via Zoom. We meet weekly and would love for you to join us! Afterwards we go to breakfast for more fellowship time.

If you prefer to join us via Zoom, please contact Tom White at 614-849-8741 or via email at didymus623@gmail.com for a Zoom meeting invitation.

Gentlemen, if you are not already a participant, we invite you to join us!



Each Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. in Calvin Hall our youth ages 12-18 meet for a safe, relaxed, and inviting place to grow together, laugh, belong, and be themselves.
Evenings include social time (sometimes dinner!), games, movies, cozy coffee-house atmosphere followed by short Bible-based conversations grounded in faith and real life.

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

K-5th grade
Fusion Youth
Pfieffer Room

Adults
Results of Christ's Death, Analogies of Christ and the Church
Knox Parlor

Essentials of Faith: How Are We Changed?
(Ladies class)
Knox Galilee

Faithful Stewardship

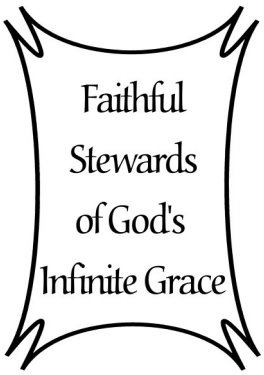
2026 Financial (as of September 30)

Income	$286,614
Operating Expenses	$328,205
Net Income (deficit)	($ 53,817)

Thank you for your continued financial support!

God's work never stops … and therefore, neither does ours, blessings!

Douglas Kasimier , Treasurer, (dkasimier@aol.com)



2027 Stewardship Emphasis

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
— 1 Peter 4:1

The time may be changing on November 1 but the time for generous giving never changes and never ends. We began our 2027 Stewardship Emphasis on October 18. By now, each of you should have received a Faith Promise Card either in person or by mail. If not, please let Tom White or the church office know. You can reach Tom by email at **didymus623@gmail.com**. The ushers will also have extras, or one can be mailed to you. Stewardship Sunday is November 8. Before that you can put your card the offering plate, mail it to the church, or drop it by the church office at any time.

We hope you are praying about your 2027 giving in faith. With prayers, thoughtful planning, and your faithful generosity, we will meet our financial challenges while continuing to serve God, the congregation, and the community in meaningful ways.

Give all you can but only what you can.

The Riverside Stewardship & Finance Team

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Bill Teng
Interim Pastor

Rev. Jane Wesson
Parish Associate

Betsie Germann
Administrative Assistant

Doug Kasimier
Treasurer

Diana Amtower
Traditional Music Leader

Keaton Belliveau
Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader

Chuck Torgler
Custodian

Karen Ward
Web/IT/AV

Church Officers

SESSION

Terri Beeler '26
Anda Ray '26
Ann Stone '26
Carl Plaugher '26
Tom White '26
Meghan Johnson '27
Robert Howard '27
Paula Yost '27
Girard Middleton '28

DIACONATE

Janice Eastes '26
Carolyn Hattaway '26
Tammy Ivan '26
Jorge Castillo '27
Mary Mullin '27
Martha Williams '28
Fern Wolle '28
Bob Yost '28

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, 11/25 AT 7:00 PM
COCOA BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH
126 S ATLANTIC AVE, COCOA BEACH, FL 32931



First United Methodist Church of Cocoa Beach

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Cocoa Beach Community Church

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Cocoa Beach, FL



November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **All Saints' Day** 9a Youth & Adult SS 10a Worship (Communion) 11a Fellowship Time	2 1p Pastor's Class 7p NA Meeting	3 **Election Day** 5:30p Anchor Youth	4 8:30a Men's Study 9:30a Stitchin' Sisters 10a Prayer Circle 3p Women's Study	5 7p Coir Rehearsal	6	7
8 **Stewardship Sunday** 9a Youth & Adult SS 10a Worship 11a Called Cong. Mtg. 11:30a Fellowship Time	9 1p Pastor's Class 7p NA Meeting	10 5:30p Anchor Youth 6p Diaconate Meeting	11 8:30a Men's Study 10a Prayer Circle 3p Women's Study	12 7p Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9a One Blood Drive 9a Youth & Adult SS 10a Worship 11a CHP Packing	16 1p Pastor's Class 7p NA Meeting	17 1p HRR Circle 5:30p Anchor Youth 6p Session Meeting	18 8:30a Men's Study 9:30a Stitchin' Sisters 10a Prayer Circle 3p Women's Study	19 7p Choir Rehearsal;	20	21
22 **Christ the King** 9a Youth & Adult SS 10a Worship 11a Hanging of the Greens and Chili Luncheon	23 6:30p Community Engagement 7p NA Meeting	24 5:30p Anchor Youth 7p Missions Meeting	25 8:30a Men's Study 10a Prayer Circle 7p Joint Community Thanksgiving Service (at CB Community Church)	26 	27	28
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** 9a Youth & Adult SS 10a Worship 11a Fellowship Time	30 7p NA Meeting					