

# LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

**JUNE 2019**



**GOD IS  
LOVE**

See the *inside front cover* for more information  
on Pride Month at Riverside.

### ANNUAL PRIDE POTLUCK IN SAKURA PARK

June 2nd | 1 pm-4 pm | Sakura Park

Come enjoy an afternoon of hospitality and fellowship as we celebrate the start of Pride Month! Please bring a salad, side, or dessert. Maranatha (Riverside's historic LGBTQ+ ministry) will provide hot dogs, rolls, condiments, and other refreshments. Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up! For more information and to join the team, please contact Ted Vivian at [edwardvivian11@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardvivian11@yahoo.com).

### PRIDE SUNDAY BREAKFAST WITH MARANATHA

June 30th | 8:45 am | Assembly Hall

Join us for a light breakfast and fellowship to kick off our celebration of Pride Sunday -- then join us in worship at 10:45 am in the Nave for a special Pride Service.

### NYC PRIDE PARADE: MARANATHA FLOAT

June 30th | 12:00 pm | NYC

Every year Maranatha has a float in New York City's Pride Parade. There are a limited number of seats on the float, but we would love for you to join us! Please contact Ted Vivian at [edwardvivian11@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardvivian11@yahoo.com) to reserve a seat on the float.

### KICK OFF PRIDE WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, June 23 | 11:00am | Nave

Jenny Moylan preaching

### CELEBRATE PRIDE SUNDAY AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, June 30 | 11:00am | Nave

Amy Butler preaching



## GOD AND GENDER IDENTITY

*conversations with transgender Christians*

**SUNDAYS**  
APRIL 7, MAY 5 & JUNE 9  
12:30 p.m. | Assembly Hall

The Riverside Faith Formation ministry invites the entire Riverside congregation to God and Gender Identity, a three-part conversation series featuring Jenny Boylan, Joan Rater, J Mase, Austen Hartke.

Free lunch will be provided and childcare is available for students in grades K-6. Students in grades 7+ are encouraged to attend with their families.

Visit [trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity](http://trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity) for more information.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **A Message From Pastor Amy Butler: Page 2-3**

### **Worship & The Arts: Page 4**

*Worship of God is at the center of our life at The Riverside Church and our services reflect the diversity of who we are as the body of Christ. All are welcome as we seek to create beloved community, nourish faith, and transform our world.*

### **Parish Care: Page 5**

*Parish Care offers pastoral support to the congregation and community, including our social services programs, Tower League programs and events, weddings, funerals, and more.*

### **Mission and Social Justice: Pages 6-7**

*Live Justice Now is an ongoing initiative of Riverside's Mission & Social Justice ministries as we take action in response to the great need for truth, justice, and compassion in our world.*

### **Whoever You Are: Pages 8-9**

### **Education Ministry & Faith Formation: Pages 10, 11, 12**

*The Riverside Church exists to nourish and grow the faith of everyone who comes to us seeking to know God. The programs of our Faith Formation ministry will help you explore your faith, ask challenging questions about life, and grow closer to God and one another.*

### **Stewardship & Development: Page 13**

*Christian stewardship is not just about how we use our money, it's about how we live our lives in communion with God and each other. Using learning tools like worship, education, and dialogue, Stewardship and Development supports and shapes people of faith as they strive to show generosity in every aspect of their lives and better understand the connection between faith and giving.*

### **Music at Riverside: Page 13**

*For over 85 years the music program has drawn people from around the world to The Riverside Church. From our five choirs, to our carillon and four organs, to our renowned musicians, guests are certain to hear music that enlivens and nourishes the soul. Visit [trcnyc.org/music](http://trcnyc.org/music) to find out more.*

### **Calendar of Events and Regular Meetings: Pages 14- 15**

*Meeting dates, times, and locations for upcoming events.*

### **In Case You missed it: Page 16**

*A visual reflection of previous events.*

### **Digital Discipleship: Page 17**

*We all encounter God in different ways. In an increasingly digital world, that includes videos, podcasts, and online media. Engage the Riverside community wherever you are through our original digital content at [www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship](http://www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship).*

*A message from Pastor Amy Butler*

**Dear Riverside,**

**It's hard to believe, but this June 5th marks the fifth anniversary of you calling me to be your Senior Minister. Some of you know – and many of you don't – so I want to tell you how I met you six years ago. I had been the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC for 11 years. Calvary is a historic congregation as well, one that actually sent a pastor to Riverside before – George Hill who was interim before Bill Coffin came.**

**When Calvary and I found each other, the church was struggling with conflict and diminished resources; by 2011 we were a thriving community of about 250, diverse and progressive and conflict-free, a picture which didn't always capture the tremendous work and pain it took to arrive at that place. I was in my office at Calvary one day at the end of September in 2013 and I got a call from Brian McLaren, a popular progressive writer and speaker. I was a bit overwhelmed he would be calling me, but when I picked it up he said, "I just left Riverside Church. They are looking for their next pastor and I think you should apply." To make a long story short, your search committee reached out to me and I found out they were looking for a pastor with:**

- **A proven track record of institutional renewal, and who was capable and self-reliant enough to make hard decisions that would enable the congregation to have a vibrant and meaningful future.**
- **A collaborative leadership style that--in consultation with the congregation-- could shape a vision of that future, rooted in Riverside's heritage of progressive Christianity and its identity as a congregation dedicated to justice and compassion.**
- **The ability to attract youth, young adults and young families through exciting new programs and digital media. To be brutally honest, when I confided in close friends that I was considering taking this position, most of them thought I was crazy. And part of me did too. Some of you have been here long enough to remember the years before I came, but many of our new members don't know that Riverside has had its own periods of trial, times that strained and nearly broke the bonds of community. Trust was difficult to come by and in 2014 the scars of trauma, of pain and anger, and disillusionment had only just begun to heal.**

**A situation like this is a daunting, terrifying space to step in to for any leader. But there was something about you that pulled at my heart. When I met the search committee, I could tell that there were many of you who were deeply committed to being the church and helping Riverside embrace her call in this moment. And, honestly, I wanted to be part of the dream, to take a risk. When my friends and mentors asked me why I decided to take this job, my response was "because I think I can love these people." And that is what I have tried to do, with everything I can bring to the task.**

**I knew this work would be hard, because I too had been through terrible moments in church, times when community failed me. But I really believe in what God can do through a group of people who really believe, and I felt like there were enough of you who did believe. So, long story short, I took the job. And I risked a lot, and so did you.**

**And, in the last five years together we have accomplished the following:**

- The number of families and young adults joining the church has increased significantly.
- We have devised ways to interpret Scripture for the needs of a progressive Christian community far beyond these walls.
- We have created a well-developed and professional communications program, including effective digital media presence.
- In 2014 the church was not able to pass a budget, but every year since the process has become better, more transparent, more collaborative, more infused with a spirit of abundance over the fear of scarcity.
- We have substantially increased restricted and unrestricted gifts every year over the last 5 years. The revenue for 2018 was \$2,195,036.
- We have reorganized the management structure of the church and attracted some of the most talented leaders in the country to take a risk on our dream as well. Friends, maybe the best gift I have given you and given institutional Christianity as a whole is the professional staff I have hired at all levels.
- Every single one of the programs of the church has been revitalized and are functioning at a higher level.
- Lay leadership across the board is becoming empowered to develop vision for Riverside.
- I have increased collaboration among all programs so that Riverside works together as team and not in silos.
- We have built community through Sunday Suppers, Pastor's Table, individual meetings between pastors and lay leaders, and Sermon Talk backs, just to name a few. More than this list of achievements, we have been the church, the body of Christ together. We have laughed and cried together. We have shared meals around the table, said goodbye to saints of our community, and celebrated the gift of new life. We have marked the moments of our humanity together in big and small ways and named as holy all our strivings to love God and love each other.

The truth of the matter is that I have pushed you hard these past five years and I will continue to push alongside you because I believe in who we can be. There are things on which I believe we should never compromise: that treating women the same as we treat men is important; that paying for excellent leadership saves us money in the end; that expecting respectful behavior from each other is a baseline; that protecting our institution by insisting on the highest standards of treatment for women and minorities is a necessity; that we will always work to create a healthy and thriving work environment for our staff; that we reflect gospel community in every expression of who we are.

I believe these are your values as well, otherwise I wouldn't be here. The world needs the strong, clear, prophetic voice of The Riverside Church. As our former pastor Bill Coffin liked to say: this world is too dangerous for anything but truth; too small for anything but love.

We have accomplished so much in this time together. I love you and I am deeply grateful for these five years that I've been able to serve as your pastor. Thank you.

## Worship & the Arts

Worship of God is at the center of our life at The Riverside Church and our services reflect the diversity of who we are as the body of Christ. All are welcome as we seek to create beloved community, nourish faith, and transform our world.

**Alisha Gordon** | Executive Minister of Programs | [agordon@trcnyc.org](mailto:agordon@trcnyc.org)

### MORNING LIGHT

#### New Member Orientation

Sundays | 8:30 am | Christ Chapel

Our intimate early Sunday morning service incorporating meditation, scripture reading, and communion.

June 2nd: Farley Lord

June 9th : David Black

June 16th: Minister Charlene Wingate

June 23rd: Minister Derrick Jordan

June 30th: Colleen Birchett

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Sundays | 10:45 am | Nave

Our traditional Sunday service, held in the historic and beautiful Nave, follows the lectionary and liturgical calendar and is centered around scripture, preaching, music, and prayer.

Communion is typically celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

June 2nd: Rev. Alisha Gordon

June 9th: Rev. Dr. Amy Butler

June 16th: Rev. Dr. Amy Butler

June 23rd: Jennifer Boylan

June 30th Rev. Dr. Amy Butler

### SPACE FOR GRACE

Wednesdays | 7:00 pm | Assembly Hall

Our Wednesday evening service is celebratory and less formal, featuring preaching, prayer, and gospel-inspired music to revive the spirit and help you through the week.

June 5th: David Black

June 12th: Amanda Meisenheimer

June 19th: Space for Grace on Hiatus

Jun 26th: Rev. Debra Northern



### KICK OFF PRIDE WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, June 23rd | 11:00am | Nave

Jenny Moylan preaching

### CELEBRATE PRIDE SUNDAY AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, June 30th | 11:00am | Nave

Amy Butler preaching



## Parish Care

Parish Care offers pastoral support to the congregation and community, including our social services programs, Tower League programs and events, weddings, funerals, and more.

**Rev. Debra Northern** | Minister of Parish Care | [dnorthern@trcnyc.org](mailto:dnorthern@trcnyc.org)

**Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper** | Associate Minister of Older Adults | [lharper@trcnyc.org](mailto:lharper@trcnyc.org)

### TOWER LEAGUE BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | 12pm | 9T Library

Join the Tower League for a weekly Bible study filled with wisdom and wit.

June 6th: Bible Study on hiatus

June 13th: Bible Study on hiatus

### TOWER LEAGUE TRIP TO THE NEWARK MUSEUM

June 6th | 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m |

Tower League will travel to the Newark Museum to see the Arts of Global Africa exhibit. Space is limited.

Cost: \$40 to participate. Please contact Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper for more details and to sign up.

### TOWER LEAGUE END OF YEAR PICNIC

June 13th | Noon | MLK 8th Floor Terrace

Tower League celebrates a wonderful year with food, fellowship, and live jazz music on the rooftop! To sign up, please contact Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper.

### SUMMER SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT:

June 21st-23rd | 2:00 p.m. | Mariandale Retreat Center in Ossining, NY

A time set apart for renewal, reflection, and prayer, as we contemplate the aging journey as a spiritual journey. Adults of all ages are welcome. Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper will be the facilitator. Cost: \$225 to participate.

Please contact Carol Garvin ([crlgrvn@msn.com](mailto:crlgrvn@msn.com)) for more information about signing up.

### MARJORIE ELIOT JAZZ CONCERT HOSTED BY THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP

June 30th | 1:00 p.m. | 9T

Jazz legend Marjorie Eliot returns to Riverside to offer her annual concert. Light refreshments will be served. Hosted by the Business & Professional Women's Group.

### BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

June 16th | 1:00 p.m. | 411MLK

## A Church for All Ages by Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

*I have the privilege of serving as the minister of Riverside's Older Adult Ministry, an extension of Parish Care Ministry. There are many facets of this ministry, including pastoral care phone calls, notes, and visits; a newly-formed Memory Café, which provides a social, supportive environment for persons with dementia and their care partners; intergenerational opportunities like the Living Lent retreat; and the Business & Professional Women's Group, which will celebrate its 90th anniversary next year of faithfully serving the Riverside community.*

*A pillar of Older Adult Ministry is the Tower League, which was founded in 1960 and given an inspiring mission statement that guides the group today: "The Tower League is a supportive, caring community of older adults. The purpose of the Tower League is to foster fellowship, educational opportunities, social activities, outreach, and spiritual growth for members and friends of The Riverside Church." The Tower League is a participatory community, marked by shared leadership, laughter, openness, and questioning. Tower League is comprised of Riverside congregants as well as members of the greater community—usually around 30 participants who gather each week for Bible study, lunch, and a special program. It isn't just a matter of having fun—which, by the way, we have in good supply!—it is about being community with and for one another, and culling and leveraging life experiences in the service of truth-telling, peacemaking, and justice-building.*

*Ageism promotes denigrating stereotypes about old people and old age, pitting generation against generation—which undermines community and the church. Whether studying scripture or enjoying a cabaret show, assembling care packets for college students or learning about the history of jazz, writing poetry or touring the MoMA, the Tower League aims to chart a "more excellent way" by being a supportive, caring community in which varying gifts, abilities, and limits are fully embraced. I'll end this update with just one example of the kinds of rich experiences and insights I have the privilege to witness in this ministry. This poem was written in Tower League, and is published with the poet's permission:*

### THE SPIRIT OF CELIA

*by Celia King Hazard*

*I am the spirit of my ancestors.*

*I am the song of the past.*

*I am a door onto the future.*

*I am morning, a time to awake.*

*I am an eagle soaring in the sky.*

*I am part of the forest reaching for the sun.*

*I am the tempest and the calm.*

*I am that which you cannot see.*

*I am the past, the present, and the future.*

## Mission and Social Justice

*“Justice is love correcting that which revolts against love.”*

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Live Justice Now is an ongoing initiative of Riverside’s Mission & Social Justice ministries as we take action in response to the great need for truth, justice, and compassion in our world. Many of our opportunities to take action arise in real time with short notice and are not listed here. To sign up for our mailing list, please visit our table at Coffee Hour or e-mail David Black at dblack@trcnyc.org*

**Rev. Kevin VanHook** | Minister of Justice, Advocacy, & Change | kvanhook@trcnyc.org

**Sheena Rolle** | Program Coordinator for Justice, Advocacy, & Change | srolle@trcnyc.org

**David Black** | Community Organizer for Justice, Advocacy, & Change | dblack@trcnyc.org

## Community Organizing

by David Black

*I have been your Community Organizer for three months, and I am learning new things about our church every day. Last month I had my most valuable and inspiring lesson so far: when Riversiders say they’ll show up, they show up.*

*In May we organized Riversiders to come to a housing justice assembly to pressure NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson to commit his support for funding to make essential repairs to families’ homes in NYCHA. On Friday evening, after a long week of work, a delegation from our congregation squeezed into a van and rode for almost two hours in rush hour traffic to sing, shout, and stand in*

*solidarity with our neighbors in public housing. Several more from our congregation joined us there. In all, 16 of you committed to be there, and 17 showed up. In the world of organizing – let alone in the culture of New York City – that level of follow-through is unheard of.*

*Riverside is a community of people who keep their promises. Because of that, Corey Johnson knows that there is pressure to follow through on the commitments he made to us. Because of that, the residents of NYCHA who have experienced institutional abuse and neglect for decades have had a sliver of dignity restored to them.*

*That is why Riverside continues to be a force to be reckoned with in the landscape of justice movements in our city. That is why I’m excited and grateful to be with you in this struggle.*

*Onward!*

## CREATIVE JUSTICE: RAISING FUNDS & AWARENESS FOR MOZAMBIQUE

June 16th | 10am-2pm | The Cloister Lounge & South Hall Lobby

When two deadly hurricanes throttled southern Africa in March, our church began visioning a project to raise funds and awareness for disaster relief in Mozambique, the hardest hit country. The youth of our church are leading this pledge-raising drive in collaboration with Black Lives Matter, the Beloved Earth Community, and the Mission & Social Justice Commission.

Riverside’s youth will be creating a massive mural on a continuous roll of butcher block paper, and asking congregants to make pledges for the amount of mural they complete in the course of this marathon session -- the more the youth create, the more money our church will raise for disaster relief in Mozambique. Keep an eye out for flyers explaining why we believe this project is so important, and please fill out the pledge form on the flyer or online at [trcnyc.org/CreativeJustice](http://trcnyc.org/CreativeJustice)

Funds raised in the congregation will be matched by a donation from MSJ’s Disaster Relief Fund.

## NYC PRIDE PARADE: MARANATHA FLOAT

June 30th | 12:00 pm | NYC

Every year Maranatha has a float in New York City’s Pride Parade. There are a limited number of seats on the float, but we would love for you to join us! Please contact Ted Vivian at [edwardvivian11@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardvivian11@yahoo.com) to reserve a seat on the float.

## ANNUAL PRIDE POTLUCK IN SAKURA PARK

June 2nd | 1 pm-4 pm | Sakura Park

Come enjoy an afternoon of hospitality and fellowship as we celebrate the start of Pride Month! Please bring a salad, side, or dessert. Maranatha (Riverside’s historic LGBTQ+ ministry) will provide hot dogs, rolls, condiments, and other refreshments. **Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up!** For more information and to join the team, please contact Ted Vivian at [edwardvivian11@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardvivian11@yahoo.com).



## PRIDE SUNDAY BREAKFAST WITH MARANATHA

June 30th | 8:45 am | Assembly Hall

Join us for a light breakfast and fellowship to kick off our celebration of Pride Sunday -- then join us in worship at 10:45 am in the Nave for a special Pride Service.

**PRE FATHERS DAY LUNCHEON**

Saturday June 15th | 12:00 pm -3:00 pm | 411 MLK  
 The Riverside Church's Black Lives Matter chapter featuring music & special guest, Hawk Newsome, president of Black Lives Matter greater New York for a Sunday luncheon honoring our fathers, father figures & nurturers.

**ON GOING REGULAR MEETINGS****BELOVED EARTH COMMUNITY**

June 1st | 12:00 pm | MLK 320  
 Beloved Earth is a group of passionate climate change activists who take to heart the Church's mission to care for the earth. Contact Susan Wersan at [susanwersan@gmail.com](mailto:susanwersan@gmail.com) or Regina Tate at [mariposa21355@yahoo.com](mailto:mariposa21355@yahoo.com) for more information.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

June 2nd | 9:00 am | MLK 240  
 The Black Lives Matter committee will meet for discussion and fellowship, and to strategize about upcoming events. For more information and to get involved in this ministry, please contact Ruby Sprott at [rubysprott@gmail.com](mailto:rubysprott@gmail.com).

**SHARING & DENSFORD FUND**

June 3rd | 6:30-9:30pm | MLK 321  
 The Sharing & Densford Fund disburses 10% of Riverside's annual offerings in grants to fund projects outside the church that are consistent with Riverside's commitments and missions. Contact Madison Bedard [smbedard15@yahoo.com](mailto:smbedard15@yahoo.com) and Mathieu Rollack [mrollack@gmail.com](mailto:mrollack@gmail.com) for more information.

**AFRICAN FELLOWSHIP**

June 9th | 1:00-3:00 pm | Multipurpose Room  
 African Fellowship a community of Africans and friends of Africa who gather monthly to celebrate our heritage, have spiritual fellowship and discuss issues that impact Africans on the continent and in the diaspora.

**MARANATHA**

June 9th | 1:00-3:00 pm | MLK 311  
 Maranatha seeks to foster greater understanding and equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and same-gender-loving people and allies.

**LATINO MINISTRY**

June 16th | 1:00 PM | 20T  
 The Latino Ministry at Riverside brings to the congregation the political, cultural and spiritual issues of Latinos/as in the United States.

**MEN'S CLASS**

June 16th | 1:00-3:00 pm | Multipurpose Room  
 The Men's Class serves the members, congregation, and community of Riverside Church through spiritual, educational, and fellowship programs that encourage a more just society.

**COMING HOME ALUMNI MEETING**

June 18th | 5:00-8:00 pm | 9T Library  
 Alumni of the Coming Home program will meet for fellowship and strategize about the program's future.

**SOJOURNERS ICE DETENTION VISITATION**

June 8th & 22nd | 7:45 am | Pickup from Riverside  
 Be a friend to an immigration asylum-seeker currently detained in Elizabeth, NJ. We welcome volunteers to be pen-pals, twice-monthly visitors to the detention center or contributors for phone cards and commissary purchased on behalf of detained migrants. Drivers are also needed. For more information and to join our team of Sojourners, please contact Frances Connell at [frances.connell@gmail.com](mailto:frances.connell@gmail.com)

**PRISON MINISTRY**

June 23rd | 1:00-3:00pm | Multipurpose Room  
 The Prison Ministry is a community seeking justice for - and solidarity with - individuals who are currently and formerly incarcerated.

**ECCLESIA MINISTRY**

June 23rd | 2:00 PM | Marcus Garvey Park  
 Ecclesia is a radically open and welcoming group of individuals who desire to be in community with the poor and marginalized of our society, sharing worship and free lunch in Marcus Garvey Park. All are most welcome to join. Contact Doug Miller at [Mil429440@aol.com](mailto:Mil429440@aol.com) for more information.

**THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED**

June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th | 1:00 PM | 15T  
 This ministry uses theatre as a means of promoting empowerment, and social and political change, teaching participants about their power and agency within institutions and systems. Please contact Jeremiah Drake at [theatreoftheoppressedtrc@gmail.com](mailto:theatreoftheoppressedtrc@gmail.com)

**KNITTERS & CROCHETERS AT RIVERSIDE**

June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th | 11:00 AM | 7C  
 This fellowship discussed issues impacting the community, country, and world while knitting and crocheting together. Everything created by members in our sessions is donated to people in need.

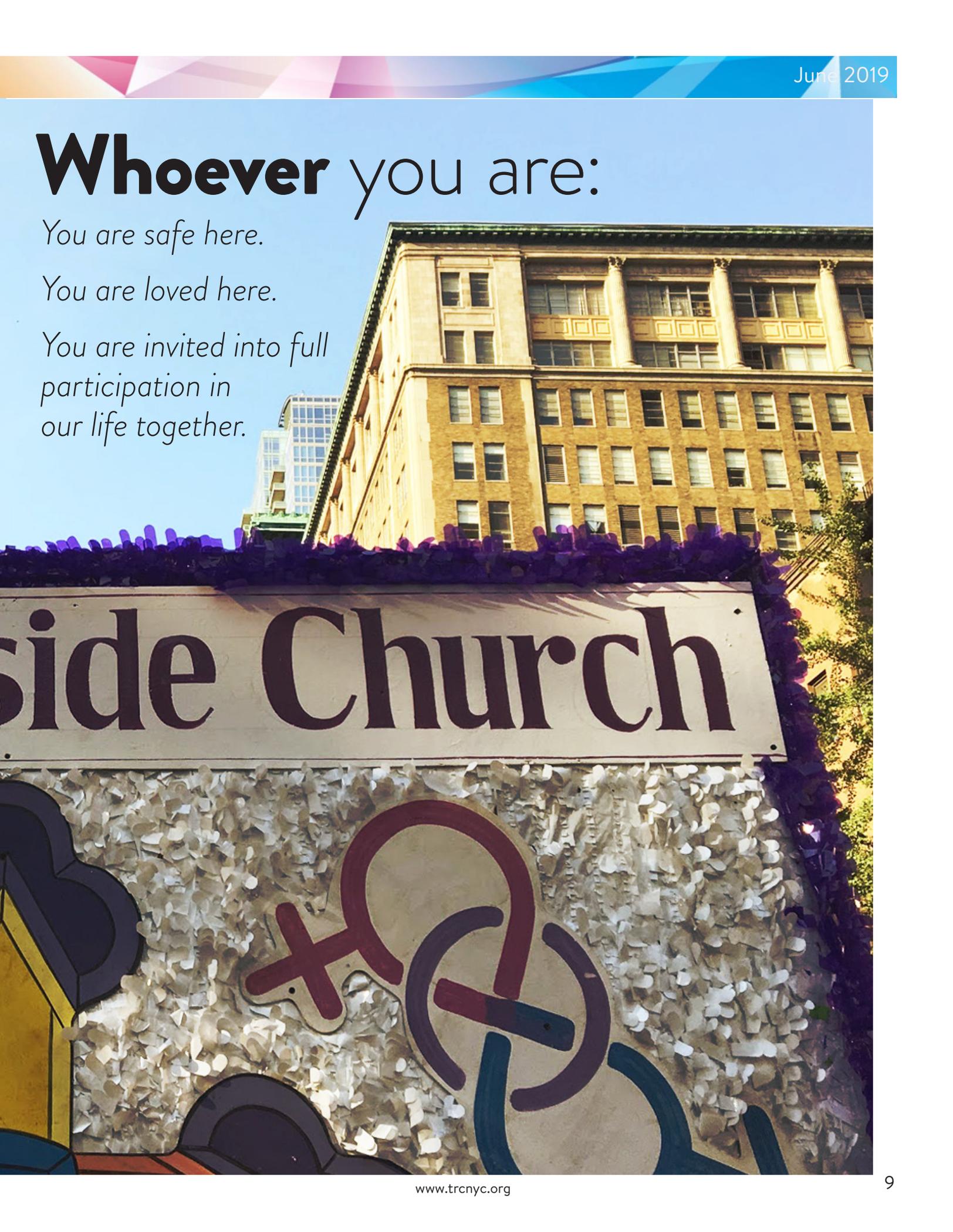


# Whoever you are:

*You are safe here.*

*You are loved here.*

*You are invited into full  
participation in  
our life together.*



side Church

## Education Ministry & Faith Formation

The Riverside Church exists to nourish and grow the faith of everyone who comes to us seeking to know God. The programs of our Faith Formation ministry will help you explore your faith, ask challenging questions about life, and grow closer to God and one another.

**Rev. Bruce Lamb** | Minister of Faith Formation | [blamb@trcnyc.org](mailto:blamb@trcnyc.org)

**Amanda Meisenheimer** | Associate Minister of Children & Families | [mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org](mailto:mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org)

**Clent Jones** | Manager of Membership & Ministry Programs | [cjones@trcnyc.org](mailto:cjones@trcnyc.org)

**Linda Cole** | Youth Ministry Associate | [lcole@trcnyc.org](mailto:lcole@trcnyc.org)

### RIVERSIDE SUNDAY SUPPERS

Sundays, June 16th, 30th | 6:30 pm

Riverside Sunday Suppers are an opportunity to sit across the table from people whose faces you may only recognize from the passing of the peace, share a meal, and make our church feel just a bit smaller, a little more tightly knit together. Dinners will be ordered every other week, rotating between Rev. Rachel Johnson's house and the homes of current and new Riverside members. Space will be limited to host capacity.

Visit [trcnyc.org/SundaySupper](http://trcnyc.org/SundaySupper) to RSVP

### TRANSFORMING: THE BIBLE AND THE LIVES OF TRANSGENDER CHRISTIANS

Sunday June 2nd | 9:30 am | MLK 318

Join Ethan Roberts, a student at Union Theological Seminary and a member of The Riverside Church, for a six-week book discussion on *Transforming: The Bible & Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austen Hartke. This small group will explore the relationship between the church and transgender folks and how we can reimagine queer identities into our sacred scriptures, ultimately making room in our communities for all. Copies of *Transforming* are available for purchase at the Riverside Gift Shop. Register online at [trcnyc.org/FaithFormation](http://trcnyc.org/FaithFormation).

### CHILDREN'S GIVING CAMPAIGN

May 19th - June 16th

In collaboration with our Social Justice Ministry and Stewardship Ministry, the children of Riverside will be collecting a special offering for the Coming Home program. On May 19th, we will learn about how the program helps formerly incarcerated people to feel at home and welcome in our community. We will also hear about how we can make a difference through giving. The campaign will conclude on Bible Sunday with an invitation to partner with the children to collect for Coming Home.

### RIVERSIDE FAMILY WORSHIP

June 2nd | 10:45 a.m. | Christ Chapel

All are welcome for the next Riverside Family Worship, an interactive and intergenerational worship experience that follows a similar liturgy as the nave and includes communion. All ages are encouraged to participate! Church school classes pre-k through 6th grade are closed for Family Worship.

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

#### New Member Orientation

Sundays, June 2nd | 9 am | 321 MLK

#### New Member Joining Sundays

Sundays, June 16th | 11am | Nave

Contact Clent Jones at [cjones@trcnyc.org](mailto:cjones@trcnyc.org) to register and for more information.

### FAITH PASSAGE: CONFIRMATION

Sunday, June 2nd and 16th | 12:30 p.m. | 323 MLK

Faith Passage, Riverside's confirmation class, is offered for youth in grades 7 and up. Join us as we learn about and discuss the fundamentals of our faith.

Contact Rev. Bruce Lamb.

### OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL): FAITH AND SEXUALITY

Sundays, June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd | 12:30 pm

The Riverside Children and Families ministry are excited to launch Our Whole Lives (OWL) this Spring. This course will be offered for students in 4th-6th grade this spring. Visit <http://bit.ly/trc-owl> for more information or contact Amanda Meisenheimer to register.

### #SHESPOKEUP: AN ODYSSEY IMPACT SPECIAL EVENT

Wednesday, June 5th | 6:30 pm | The Riverside Theatre

Riverside Young Adults are invited to join Odyssey Impact for a special event addressing the legacies and contemporary realities of violence and sexual assault experienced by Black women and young girls featuring a screening of the award-winning film, *The Rape of Recy Taylor*. Empower yourself and your community to become vocal about the structural racism that affects survivors of color and find ways to get involved. Visit [shespokeup.eventbrite.com](http://shespokeup.eventbrite.com) to find out more and RSVP.

### RIVERSIDE CHURCH BOOK CLUB:

#### "PARABLE OF THE SOWER" BY OCTAVIA BUTLER

Saturday, June 8th | 11am-1pm | 20T

Our June selection offers us an exquisitely imagined futuristic world: *PARABLE OF THE SOWER*, by Octavia Butler, which we'll explore on Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 11am – 1pm, where you'll also enjoy complimentary luncheon, beverages, & yummy desserts. Octavia Butler, a MacArthur Fellow, is well-known as the foremost author of – if not the creator of – the Black Futurist Movement or Afro-Futurism. Born in 1947, she died in 2006.

### FREEDOM SCHOOL SNACKS DONATIONS

Be a part of Freedom School 2019 and purchase supplies for our amazing scholars. Contact Amanda Meisenheimer for more info.

## YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY

June 8th | 9T | 7 pm - 9 pm

Join the Riverside Young Adults as we kick off summer for an evening of fellowship and good wine. Led by the Riverside young adult wine expert and manufacturer Young Adult Torey Tran we'll taste and learn about wine together and fellowship.

## BIBLE SUNDAY

Sunday, June 9th | 10:45 a.m. | Nave

June 9th is Bible Sunday when our fourth graders receive their Bibles. Our first through sixth graders will worship with their families in the Nave during this special service. The preschool and kindergarten classes will remain open.

## GOD AND GENDER IDENTITY

Sunday, June 9th | 12:30 pm | Assembly Hall

Join us for the second conversation in our God and Gender Identity series. This month we will be joined by Joan Rater and J. Mase III. Each conversation includes an interactive discussion with the presenters and Pastor Amy, suggested resources for further study, and free lunch. Childcare will be available for students in grades K-6. Students in grades 7 and up are encouraged to attend with their families.

Visit [trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity](http://trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity) for more information.



## YA NY PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

June 12th | 6:30 pm

Join Riverside Young Adults for an evening outdoors in Central Park at a free NY Philharmonic Concert. Bring a blanket and picnic dinner and wine to share. Arrive around 6:30 pm for a time of fellowship and dinner and the concert starts at 8 pm and ends with fireworks!

Where: Great Lawn, Central Park

When: 6:30 pm, Concert starts at 8 pm- lawn fills up fast

To read more about the concert visit [nyphil.org](http://nyphil.org)

## RIVERSIDE YOUTH END OF YEAR LOCK-IN

Friday, June 14th | 7 pm - 7 am | MLK 330

All Riverside Youth 7-12th graders are invited to join us for our end of the year lock-in! Let's celebrate a great program year together as we prepare for the summer break. We'll have outdoor movies and games, dinner, movies, worship and more! Please bring sleeping bags, snacks, toiletries, and a Bible. To register email Linda Cole at [lcole@trcnyc.org](mailto:lcole@trcnyc.org)

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES END-OF-THE-YEAR BBQ

Sunday, June 16th | 12:30 pm | 8th Floor Terrace

The CYF Ministry invites all children, youth and their families to join us for our annual end of the program year BBQ following worship on the 8th Floor Terrace. We'll have food, music and time together in our community.

## JOIN THE RIVERSIDE YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE

The Riverside Youth String Ensemble is open to violin, viola, cello, and bass players in grades 6-12. Ensemble members learn how to play classical chamber music in a nurturing Christian environment. They serve the community by performing in several Sunday morning worship and outreach services during the school year. Prospective members are invited to join by audition by contacting Kristi Giles at [kristihen@gmail.com](mailto:kristihen@gmail.com).

## 2019 RIVERSIDE ARTS CAMP: REGISTER NOW

August 19th-23rd | 8:30 am-3pm

Seeking 5th - 9th Graders for a week-long intensive engagement in the arts - including music, drama, dance, creative writing, and visual art! Lunch is provided. Registration fee is \$35 per family, and scholarships are available. There will be a final showcase on August 23 at 12:00 noon. To register go to [trcnyc.org/RAC2019](http://trcnyc.org/RAC2019)

## BAPTISM AT RIVERSIDE

At The Riverside Church, we love to celebrate new life! Baptism is an outward and visible sign of God's grace and the abundant life that Christ offers. God's promise of new life extends to both children and adults. Baptism ushers us into the care of Christ's church, affirms us, regardless of age, as children of God, and celebrates our nurture and growth toward mature faith and Christian discipleship. If you desire to be baptized and you are a member of the Riverside Church, register for our next baptism orientation here. Email Amanda Meisenheimer with any questions.

## DONATE SUPPLIES FOR FREEDOM SCHOOL

Freedom School is right around this summer. The program runs July 8 - August 16. Launched in 2016, The Riverside Freedom School is committed to providing the following to all young scholars, at absolutely no cost to participants. Because of your generosity, 60 children from neighborhoods surrounding Riverside are able to attend this year's Freedom School. We need your help with snack and supply donations. Go to [trcnyc.org/FreedomSchool](http://trcnyc.org/FreedomSchool) to donate.

## Education Ministry & Faith Formation

The Riverside Church exists to nourish and grow the faith of everyone who comes to us seeking to know God. The programs of our Faith Formation ministry will help you explore your faith, ask challenging questions about life, and grow closer to God and one another.

### PASTORS' SUMMER BIBLE STUDY!



SUNDAYS IN JULY & AUGUST

9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. | 330 MLK

REV. RACHEL JOHNSON  
DAVID BLACK  
REV. LYNN CASTEEL HARPER  
REV. BRUCE LAMB

JULY 7  
JULY 14  
JULY 21  
JULY 28

PASTOR AMY BUTLER  
REV. MICHAEL LIVINGSTON  
REV. ALISHA GORDON  
FARLEY LORD

AUG 4  
AUG 11  
AUG 18  
AUG 25

Join your pastors for a summer of studying the Bible together. Each week one of our pastors will help us walk through one of the lectionary texts together. All are welcome! Bibles provided!

### SMALL GROUPS AT RIVERSIDE

#### BIBLICAL HEBREW: ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

Sundays, Jan 27th - June 16th  
1:00 p.m. | 321 MLK

#### BIBLICAL HEBREW: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

Sundays, Jan 27th - June 16th 1:00 p.m. | 314 MLK  
facilitated by Laura Harri

#### DISCOVERING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Sundays, Feb 3rd - May 19th 9:00 a.m. | 316 MLK  
Facilitated by Eugene Melino, Lakeisha McCoy,  
Kweshi McDavid

#### OPEN BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | 9:30 a.m. | 330 MLK

#### WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Sundays, Jan 27th - June 16th 1:00 p.m. | Med Chapel

#### BELOVED COMMUNITY SMALL GROUP

Sundays | 9:30 a.m.  
330 MLK

Find out more and register at [trcnyc.org/SmallGroups](http://trcnyc.org/SmallGroups)

## Stewardship & Development

*Christian stewardship is not just about how we use our money, it's about how we live our lives in communion with God and each other. Using learning tools like worship, education, and dialogue, Stewardship and Development supports and shapes people of faith as they strive to show generosity in every aspect of their lives and better understand the connection between faith and giving.*

**Rev. Christian Peele** | Executive Minister of Institutional Advancement | [cpeele@trcnyc.org](mailto:cpeele@trcnyc.org)

**Kaitlin Cook** | Director of Stewardship & Development | [kcook@trcnyc.org](mailto:kcook@trcnyc.org)

**Farley Lord** | Minister of Stewardship & Development | [flord@trcnyc.org](mailto:flord@trcnyc.org)

**Gabe Samandi** | Associate of Stewardship & Development | [gsamandi@trcnyc.org](mailto:gsamandi@trcnyc.org)

### GRATEFUL DAY OF SERVICE

Jun 29th | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm | 106th St entrance to the Park on Riverside Drive

Stewardship & Development is hosting a Grateful Day of Service in partnership with The Riverside Park Conservancy. Please join us for a fun, family-friendly morning of serving our beautiful community. Volunteers will be cutting back the overgrown euonymus shrubs on Franz Sigel Island.

We'll be meeting at 106th St entrance to the Park on Riverside Drive, take the #1 train to 103rd Street, and

walk west on 103rd until you hit Riverside Drive. Cross Riverside Drive and walk north to 106th Street where you will find our tent! For more info please contact Chelsea Parise – 602-799-6292.



### CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

by Farley Lord

“How do we show love to people we don't know?”

This was the question I posed to the children and adults gathered in Children's Chapel on Sunday, May 19. The particular people we were talking about were the participants of the Coming Home ministry, which provides training, resources, and community for people who have experienced incarceration. In his gentle way, Rev. Kevin Van Hook had introduced the challenges these neighbors face, including the implicit unfairness of our prison system. I offered that giving and serving - prayers, time, metro cards, home-cooked food, and dollar bills - are ways we can show love to the people “coming home.”

Riverside's children offer financial gifts every Sunday in their worship. One dollar, quarter, or penny at a time, they have raised \$374 during this program year! From now through June 9 (Bible Sunday and Pentecost), the Stewardship Committee is partnering with Children and Families and Mission and Social Justice to increase the amount raised to \$1,000 and dedicate these funds to the Coming Home ministry. The campaign will continue in Family Worship on June 2, when ministers and lay leaders will engage the children and their parents around the connection between giving and social justice. On June 9, Bible Sunday and Pentecost, Riverside's children will ask the congregation to help them reach their goal. The fundraising results of the campaign will be announced at the Children and Families Cookout on June 16.

Studies resoundingly show that the giving practices of parents and influential adults strongly impact those of their children. Every act of stewardship is a model for children to learn what it means to show love to people - even people we don't know. To join the Riverside Children in showing love to the participants of Coming Home, you can give online by selecting “Coming Home”; or by check or cash by indicating “Coming Home” in the memo line.

## Music at Riverside

*For over 85 years the music program has drawn people from around the world to The Riverside Church. From our five choirs, to our carillon and four organs, to our renowned musicians, guests are certain to hear music that enlivens and nourishes the soul. Visit [trcnyc.org/music](http://trcnyc.org/music) to find out more.*

**Christopher Johnson** | Director of Music & Organist | [cjohnson@trcnyc.org](mailto:cjohnson@trcnyc.org)

**Christopher Creaghan** | Associate Organist | [ccreaghan@trcnyc.org](mailto:ccreaghan@trcnyc.org)

### CHRIST CHAPEL CHAMBER SERIES: ORGAN & PIANO DUOS

Sunday, June 2 | 2:00 pm | Christ Chapel

The Christ Chapel Chamber Series continues as Christopher Johnson and Christopher Creaghan, the organists of The Riverside Church, play music for two!



## Select Commission & Committee Meetings

*Below are the typical meeting dates, times, and locations for select Commissions/Committees. Always contact the Commission/Committee in advance to confirm meeting dates, times, and room locations, especially for meetings that fall on holidays and during the summer. All dates, times, and locations are subject to change without notice.*

Audit Committee  
Quarterly at Call of Chair

Church Council  
Monday, June 24th Mon at 6:45 p.m.

Education Commission  
Monday, June 10th at 6:30 p.m.

MSJ Commission.  
Monday, June 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel & Salary Committee  
Monday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Budget & Planning Committee  
Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee  
Monday, June 17th 5:30 p.m.  
• Conference Call

Nominating Committee  
Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Sharing Fund Committee  
Monday, June 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship Committee  
Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Building Committee  
Tuesday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Membership & Parish Life Comm.  
Monday, June 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Ordination Committee  
Tuesday, June 18th at 6:45 p.m.

Social Services Committee  
Sunday, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

Worship Commission  
Monday, June 10th at 6:45 p.m.



For a complete list of Calendar of Events  
please visit [trcnyc.org/events](http://trcnyc.org/events)

Or please scan the QR code below  
with your mobile devices.

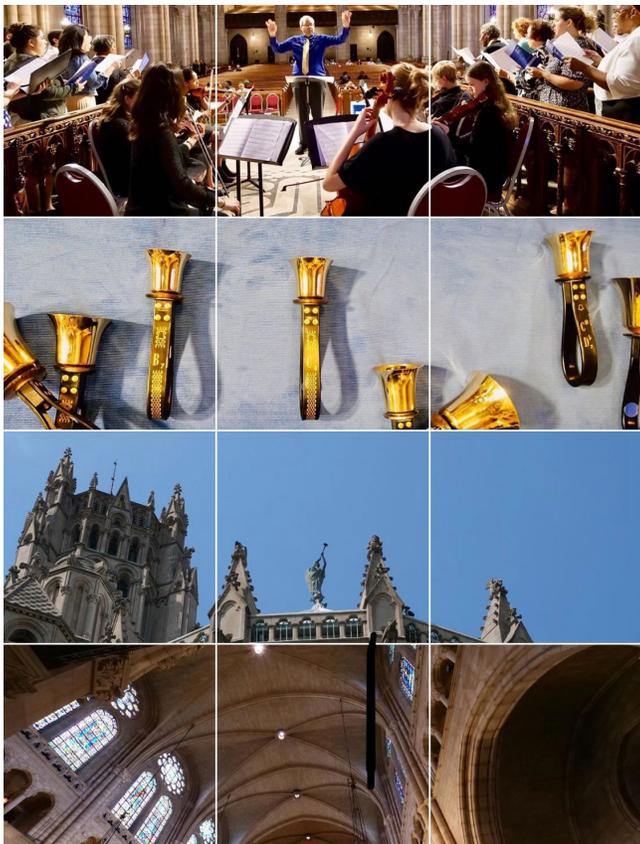


# In case you missed it!



# Digital Discipleship

We all encounter God in different ways. In an increasingly digital world, that includes videos, podcasts, and online media. Engage the Riverside community wherever you are through our original digital content at [www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship](http://www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship).



**THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## Are you on Instagram?

(Of course you are.)

Follow The Riverside Church for a behind the scenes look and artistically curated point of view of worship, programs, and special events.

@RiversideNYC



## Receive Congregational Care Info

Subscribe to email updates on prayer requests, illnesses, and memorial services at <http://tinyurl.com/trccareupdates>.

## Clergy On Call

Pastoral Care is pleased to offer Clergy on Call when there is a life event or crisis which creates a need for pastoral care outside of regular office hours. Congregants may reach Clergy on Call by calling 212.870.6712, and a member of the clergy will respond as soon as possible.

Clergy On Call is specifically designated for Riverside members who are experiencing an emergency such as illness, death, accident, or hospitalization as well as those who urgently require prayer.

*Please be aware that financial assistance and other social service-related calls will not be responded to by Clergy on Call.*

For pastoral needs during business hours, contact the Parish Care Office at 212.870.6909.

## Alert Compassionate Care

Do you know of someone who can't make it to church due to illness, surgery, crisis, or other challenge? Have you noticed someone missing from their regular seat in the pew? Have a prayer request?

If you think that one of our brothers or sisters might be in need of compassionate care, or if you have a personal prayer request, please take a moment to let us know. If you know something, say something. Contact the Office of Parish Care 212.870.6741 or email [dnorthern@trcnyc.org](mailto:dnorthern@trcnyc.org).

## Questions? Comments? Contact Riverside Communications

Have questions about Riverside events? Does your ministry or group have news to share? Send your questions, comments, or news to [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

Rev. Rachel Johnson  
Executive Minister of Communications  
[rjohnson@trcnyc.org](mailto:rjohnson@trcnyc.org) | 212.870.6750

Rev. Jim Keat  
Minister of Design & Digital Strategy  
[jkeat@trcnyc.org](mailto:jkeat@trcnyc.org) | 212.870.6812

Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here.  
You are welcome into full participation in our life together.

j1m1l13r 



@PastorAmyTRC 

@MLivingstonTRC your prayers are poetry. "We pray to love until all chains are broken, to vote until all votes count, to protest until walls come tumbling down and we hold hands across imaginary borders and all hearts beat as one. When we love all things are possible."

charitychaste 



@MrMichaelMike 

First time at the historical and grand @RiversideNYC for Common's exciting book release event- Let Love: An Expression of Art, Words, and Song

#spreadlove #imaginejustice

npred 



@MarissaEsque 

So crazy to see the Boyds singing at @RiversideNYC this morning! I grew up with them; we all attended my grandfather's church in Detroit back in the daaaaaay! The world is so small, and their voices are still extraordinary.

jroreynolds 



@JennyBoylan 

I'll be delivering the sermon at @RiversideNYC on June 23rd, 2019, same pulpit as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Desmond Tutu. This is the first sunday of Pride Week. It'd mean a lot to me if you were there. EVERYONE EVERYONE EVERYONE is welcome.

skratchpixels 

