

THE ANNUAL RIVERSIDE CHURCH
CANDLELIGHT
carol festival

LIFE OF THE
COMMUNITY

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
NEWS & EVENTS

DECEMBER 2019

4:00 p.m. | Nave | \$35/\$25

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15

Tickets are available at trcnyc.org/candlelight or
at the Welcome Center / Gift Shop

MUSICAL PRELUDE BEGINS AT 3:30 P.M.

GRATEFUL GIFT MARKET

Sundays in Dec | After Worship | South Hall Lobby

Wander through the Grateful Gift Market during the season of Advent to learn more about Riverside's incredible ministries and buy one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts for your family and friends that support the ministries you treasure most. Visit trcnyc.org/GratefulGiftMarket to find out more and order online.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL FESTIVAL

Dec 15th | 4:00 pm | Nave

This longstanding tradition at The Riverside Church has become an essential part of Christmas in New York City. This service of music and light combines carillon, organ, harp, and all of the choirs of The Riverside Church, culminating in a ritual sharing of candlelight illuminating the Nave. Musical prelude begins at 3:30 p.m. To purchase your tickets please visit trcnyc.org/candlelight



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Service for Children & Families

Dec 24th | 4:00 pm | Nave

Service of Lessons & Carols

Dec 24th | 8:00 pm | Nave

NEW YEARS EVE WATCHNIGHT

Dec 31st | 11:00 pm | Nave

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Dec 8th | 10:45 am | Nave

The Riverside Church once again offers an impressive production for its annual Christmas Pageant, presented by Riverside's Rising Voices and Cherub Choir during worship on the Second Sunday of Advent. Each year, the children, parents and directors spend many months rehearsing the music, dancing, and acting for the pageant. Our talented youth will delight you with their artistic retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus.



For a complete schedule of Advent worship, please turn to [page 2](#).

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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 3

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 4-5

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.

Education Ministry & Faith Formation: Pages 6-7

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.

Whoever You Are: Pages 8-9

Education Ministry & Faith Formation: Page 10

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 11

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 11

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 to find out more.

Regular Meetings: Page 12

Meeting dates, times, and locations for upcoming events.

Digital Ministry: Page 12

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.

Theater & Events: Page 13

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Gift Shop & Online Store: Page 17

Visit The Riverside Church gift shop or online store to purchase your t-shirt and mug, empowering you to literally wear your inclusive theology on your head (or, shoulder) and share it with every sip of coffee.

Advent & Christmas Worship at Riverside

From Sunday morning to Wednesday night, from a podcast, artwork, concerts, pageants and more, join us this season as we celebrate Advent and Christmas at Riverside. Flip over to page 4 for the complete schedule and more. Come and worship!

Carrie Quarquesso | Coordinator for Worship & Arts | cquarquesso@trcnyc.org

MORNING LIGHT

Sundays | 8:30 am | Christ Chapel
Our intimate early Sunday morning service incorporating meditation, scripture reading, and communion.
Dec 1st: Rev. Kevin VanHook
Dec 8th: Farley Lord
Dec 15th: Charlene Wingate
Dec 22nd: Dr. Colleen Birchett
Dec 29th: TBA

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.

MAKING ROOM FOR HOPE

Sunday, Dec 1st | 11:00 am | Nave
Rev. Michael Livingston
Wednesday, Dec 4th | 7:00 pm | Assembly Hall
Rev. Bruce Lamb

MAKING ROOM FOR PEACE

Sunday, Dec 8th | 11:00 am | Nave
Children's Pageant
Wednesday, Dec 15th | 7:00 pm | Assembly Hall
Minister Derrick Jordan

MAKING ROOM FOR JOY

Sunday, Dec 15th | 11:00 am | Nave
Preacher: Rev. Michael Livingston
Wednesday, Dec 18th | 7:00 pm | Assembly Hall
Preacher: TBD

MAKING ROOM FOR LOVE

Sunday, Dec 22nd | 11:00 am | Nave
Preacher: Rev. Michael Livingston

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, Dec 24th | 4:00 pm | Nave
Christmas Eve Service for Children & Families
Tuesday, Dec 24th | 8:00 pm | Nave
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, Dec 31st | 11:00 pm | Nave
Rev. Michael Livingston

ADVENT FLOWER MEMORIAL DEDICATIONS

With your donation, beautiful floral arrangements will be commissioned for the Chancel this holiday season. Honoree names will be listed in worship materials during the holiday season. To dedicate flowers to a loved one, please submit your requests at trcnyc.org/giveflowers



A SERVICE OF HOPE & CONSOLATION

Dec 8th | 2:00 pm | Christ Chapel
The holidays can be a difficult time for people who are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, loss of a job, a relationship, or even hope itself. Those looking for comfort, hope, and wholeness are invited to join us for a time of reflection, Scripture, and music.

CHRISTMAS PAST AT RIVERSIDE

Season's Greetings! Archives and Worship will present an exhibit in the Cloister Lounge Gallery for Advent that features Christmas-themed items from the collection. Come see how Riverside celebrated Christmas Past!



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

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper | Minister of Older Adults | lharper@trcnyc.org

TOWER LEAGUE BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | Noon | 9T Library

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

Dec 5th: Farley Lord, MTS

Dec 12th: No Bible Study

ART OF MOVEMENT: EXERCISE CLASSES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Mondays | 10:00 am | 411 MLK

Thursdays | 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am | 411 MLK

These one-hour classes focus on balance, strength, flexibility, and range of movement. Classes are \$10 per session. Classes are hiatus on Dec. 26th & 30th. Please contact instructor Eileen Jones to sign up and for more information: 212-673-4968.

TOWER LEAGUE: RIVERSIDE'S WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Dec 5th | 2:00 pm | 9T

A group of children from The Riverside Church's Weekday School will grace the Tower League with song and an opportunity to connect across generations!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Dec 12th | 12:00 pm | 9T

Celebrate Christmas with Tower League's annual luncheon celebration, featuring good food, fellowship, and caroling. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Prison Ministry. Please make your reservation no later than Dec. 8 with Rev. Lynn Harper lharper@trcnyc.org; or with Ms. Elza Sharpe at Tower League on Thursday. Cost is \$20 per person. Financial assistance is available.

FULL TOWER LEAGUE PROGRAMMING WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 9, 2019.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

Dec 1st | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | 411 MLK

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

Dec 15th | 1:00 pm | 9T

The B's & P's warmly invite the community to this annual celebration of the Christmas season with festive refreshments and decorations, warm fellowship, and ample holiday cheer!



Please come and join us in the celebration of the Christmas season.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in 9T



Please bring an unwrapped toy for a second donation to Party With a Purpose for the Riverside Prison Ministry, which works with the Children's Aid Society and other agencies which assist children. A box will be provided for that purpose.

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 email Kevin VanHook at kvanhook@trcnyc.org

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



NEW YORK CITY CLIMATE STRIKE: PART 2

Dec 6th | 11:00 am | 10T

NYC’s next mass youth-led climate strike and rally will be held on December 6th outside New York City Hall at City Hall Park to coincide with the UN COP25 climate conference in Madrid, Spain. Our church’s youth and young people worldwide made the strike in September a profound moment in our collective campaign for climate justice. Join us for this next step — the work is far from over. Please contact Kevin VanHook at kvanhook@trcnyc.org for more information on what to expect and how you can link up with other Riversiders including our Beloved Earth Community on the day of the strike.

BELOVED EARTH COMMUNITY’S SCREENING OF “THE TRUE COST”

Dec 6th | 7:00 pm | 20T

Join the Beloved Earth Community for a screening of the movie “The True Cost”, a documentary film directed by Andrew Morgan that focuses on fast fashion, mainly exploring the life of low-wage workers in developing countries. The screening will be followed by a discussion concerning the working conditions in this three-trillion-dollar garment manufacturing industry and what each of us can do to make a difference.



SOJOURNERS MINISTRY REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

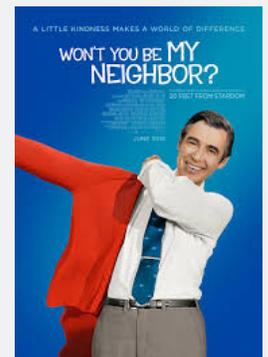
Are you interested in joining our team of individuals dedicated to hospitality for detained migrants and refugees? Sojourners has a long history of providing moral and material support to some of the most marginalized individuals in our nation. For more information and to join our team of Sojourners, please contact Frances Connell at frances.connell@gmail.com.

MOVIES AT RIVERSIDE: WON’T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Dec 29th | 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Multipurpose Room

Join us for a screening of the movie “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”, a 2018 American documentary film about the life and guiding philosophy of Fred Rogers, the host and creator of Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, directed by Morgan Neville.



MARANATHA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec 14th | 6:00 pm | TBD

Maranatha - Riversiders for LGBTQ concerns - cordially invites you to our Annual Christmas Party, an all-church event. The night will include dinner, live music, dancing, and will be an affair to remember. For more information, contact Lisa Cooke at cookie.lc34@gmail.com

BLACK LIVES MATTER: TOTAL EQUITY NOW BOOK DRIVE

Our Black Lives Matter Committee is partnering with Total Equity Now (TEN) for the 8th Annual Literacy Across Harlem Holiday Book Drive from December 1 through December 20. For those interested in donating books, drop-off bins will be placed throughout the church beginning December 1.

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Dec 13th | 6:00pm | Assembly Hall

Our Prison Ministry and Stewardship and Development are working together to continue this wonderful tradition of collecting toys for children with loved ones who are incarcerated. This night of gathering, food and fellowship will benefit the Children's Aid Society and local prisons around this holiday time; there'll be food, music, activities/crafts and the opportunity to socialize with congregation members of all ages. Entry is free with one unwrapped and nonviolent toy or at \$5 per adult and \$3 for kids under 6 and \$20 for a family of 5 or more. Additionally, be on the look out for collection boxes after worship to make a wonderful toy donation for this cause. Please email snwakibu@trcnyc.org for questions.

ONGOING REGULAR MEETINGS**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

Dec 1st | 9:30 am | 311 MLK

The Black Lives Matter committee will meet for discussion and fellowship, and to strategize about Homecoming and the upcoming year. For more information and to get involved in this ministry, please contact Ruby Sprott at rubysprott@gmail.com.

THE SHARING FUND OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Dec 2nd | 6:30 pm | 321 MLK

Did you know that 10% of your gifts to Riverside go to grassroots projects beyond our walls? That's the Sharing Fund. Want more info? Like to join the committee of volunteers who review applications for these grants? There are some openings now for folks who are committed to social justice out in the world.

BELOVED EARTH COMMUNITY

Dec 7th | 12:00 pm | 323 MLK

Beloved Earth is a group of passionate climate change activists who take to heart the Church's mission to care for the earth. For more information contact Alan Bentz-Letts, BEC chair at alanbentzletts@gmail.com or Regina Tate, BEC vice-chair at mariposa21355@yahoo.com

MARANATHA: FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Dec 8th | 1:00 pm | 311 MLK

Maranatha is a community of LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies who seek to foster greater understanding and equity for people of diverse sexual and gender identities. Whether you have been out for decades, love someone who is LGBTQ+, or are questioning, you are welcome to join us! The newly elected convener of Maranatha is Lise Cooke.

AFRICAN FELLOWSHIP

Dec 8th | 1:00 pm | Multipurpose Room

African Fellowship is a community of Africans and friends of Africa who gather monthly to celebrate African heritage, have spiritual fellowship. And discuss issues that impact Africans on the continent and in the diaspora. The current chair of the African Fellowship is George Filie-Faboe.

COMING HOME ALUMNI MEETING

Dec 13th | 5:00 pm | 9T Library

Alumni of the Coming Home program will meet for fellowship and strategize about the program's future. For more information and to get involved please contact Michelle Mishoe at mmishoe@fordham.edu.

SOJOURNERS ICE DETENTION VISITATION

Dec 14th & 28th | 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.

BACK-UP DRIVERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FALL & WINTER (VEHICLE PROVIDED). For more information and to join our team of Sojourners, please contact Frances Connell at frances.connell@gmail.com.

MEN'S CLASS

Dec 15th | 1:00 pm | Multipurpose Room

The Men's Class serves the members, congregation, and community of Riverside through spiritual, educational, and fellowship programs that encourage a more just and equitable society. The current chair of the African Fellowship is George Filie-Faboe.

LATINO MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP

Dec 15th | 1:00 pm | 20T

Latino Ministries brings together Latino/as and their allies in the congregation and community for education and activism around the political, cultural, and spiritual issues facing Latino/communities. We celebrate the diversity of Latino/a culture and life through spiritual fellowship, education, and the arts. Please contact Arelis Figueroa at afigueroa@trcnyc.org for more information.

ECCLESIA MINISTRY

Dec 22nd | 2:00 pm | Marcus Garvey Park

Often called "the church without walls," Ecclesia is a radically open and affirming fellowship of individuals who desire to be in community with the poor and marginalized of our society. We share in worship and lunch every month. All are welcome to visit and join us. For more information, please contact Doug Miller at mil42944@aol.com.

PRISON MINISTRY

Dec 22nd | 1:00 pm | 411 MLK

The Riverside Church Prison Ministry conducts advocacy and outreach programs on behalf of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, their families, and their communities. Please consider joining the Prison Ministry at their next meet to learn how you can become more involved.

THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

Dec 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th | 1:00 pm - 3:00 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

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

Amanda Meisenheimer | Minister of Children & Families | mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

Clent Jones | Manager of Membership & Ministry Programs | cjones@trcnyc.org

Linda Cole | Youth Ministry Associate | lcole@trcnyc.org

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

New Member Orientation Class

Dec 1st | 9:00 am | 321 MLK

New Member Joining Sundays

Dec 15th | 9:00 am | Nave

Interested in joining The Riverside Church? Come check out our New Member Orientation Class and learn about what it means to be a member of Riverside. We'll look at Riverside's theology, get to know our different ministries and how you can get connected. Did you know that Riverside is a congregational church connected to the UCC and American Baptist denominations? Come and learn more! To register contact Clent Paddio Jones at (212) 870-6844 or via email at cjones@trcnyc.org.

ADVENT FEST

Dec 1st | After Worship | South Hall
(During Coffee Hour)

Start the Advent season with some holiday spirit! The Education Ministry invites you to join us for advent wreath making, cookie decorating, holiday crafts for children, and joyful fellowship. The event is open to everyone. Suggested Donation: \$5 per wreath.

COLLEGE STUDENTS - FINALS PRAYER AND PIZZA

Dec 4th | 6:00 pm | Assembly Hall

Take a study break and join us on Wednesday for **Prayer Pizza Fellowship** and desserts!

PLUS stay. for Space For Grace Worship at 7 pm!

We'll also have care packages for all college students. This event is open to ALL ages (not just college students) as we support our students!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec 6th | 7:00 pm | Assembly Hall

All Riverside Young Adults are invited to our annual Christmas Party. We'll have an ugly sweater contest, dinner, music and great fellowship. All young adults are asked to bring a canned food item to donate to the Riverside Church Food Pantry as a donation.

ADVENT RETREAT: MAKING ROOM FOR JOY

Dec 7th | 11:00 am | 10T

For one Saturday we invite you to stop everything to spend a few hours with your church family and be blessed. Rediscover the joy of Advent in community, fellowship, and centering activities. This event is free and for all adults. Lunch is provided. To register, please visit trcnyc.org/adventretreat



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Dec 8th | Worship Service | Nave

In partnership with the Rising Voices, the Riverside Children's Ministry brings a pageant of hope and inspiration to the second Sunday of Advent. This year our pageant will follow Ebenezer Scrooge as he returns to the Christmas Story to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas.

RIVERSIDE SUNDAY SUPPERS

Dec 8th | 6:30 pm | Hosted by Geraldine Howard & Carol White

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 offered monthly, at the homes of current and new Riverside members. Space will be limited to host capacity. RSVP's on a first come first serve basis. To register and for a full list of host's visit us at trcnyc.org/sundaysuppers

ADVENT SMALL GROUP: RENEWING THE SPIRIT OF ADVENT THROUGH JESUS

Sundays, Dec 1st-15th | 9:30 am-10:30 am | 320 MLK

Through small group discussions, this three-week series seeks to help us renew the spirit of Advent. Through interrogating the Scriptures, music, paintings and other forms of art centered upon Advent, we seek to reimagine the anticipation of the birth of Jesus in the first century. We explore how the Holy Spirit working through us in Advent can create joyful and hopeful prospects for our future as children of God. Register at trcnyc.org/smallgroups
Facilitator: Hsien-yu Wang and Rev. Bruce Lamb

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY WEEKLY SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday Through Dec 12th, 7:00 pm | Adrienne Newcomb's Apt

We all have questions about life, faith, and our role in the world. Come explore them in a safe and caring environment where hard questions are welcome. Our weekly young adult small group offers a variety of group experiences that will allow you to study Scripture, engage in theological reflection, and deepen your faith in a fun and casual environment with other young adults in a NYC apartment!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Dec 15th | 12:30 pm | 411 MLK

We all love brunch. All Riverside young adults are invited to join together worship as we kick off our first young adult community brunch of the semester. Get to know new young adults and catch up with old friends over some yummy bacon and eggs and don't forget the avocado toast. This event is free and open to young adults (18-35).

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Dec 24th | 4:00 pm | Nave

Many families in the Riverside community have made this heartwarming service part of their Christmas Eve traditions. Enjoy carols, a live nativity, and a family-fun atmosphere. This joyful service is a beautiful way to start your Christmas celebrations.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION PARTNERS PROGRAM

In this decades-old TRC Program, TRC volunteer tutors meet weekly with foreign Partners, (international students, 18+, or visitors), to work together on conversational English. Time and place (usually at TRC) are arranged by the Partners. For more information, please e-mail Ruth Watson at ru6wat@yahoo.com or Jo Cameron at jo.c.cameron@gmail.com.

BAPTISM AT RIVERSIDE

Next Orientation Baptism Class: Jan 5th

Baptism Sunday: Jan 12th

At The Riverside Church, we love to celebrate a 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 at trcnyc.org/baptism, or email Amanda Meisenheimer at mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org.

FALL SMALL GROUPS AT RIVERSIDE

We all have questions about life, faith, and our role in the world. Come explore them in a safe and caring environment where hard questions are welcome. Our Faith Formation classes offer a variety of group experiences that will allow you to study Scripture, engage in theological reflection, and deepen your faith. We have incredible opportunities for you to laugh, learn, and grow in your faith with other fantastic people. All small groups are offered free of charge and everyone is welcome. Below you'll find a list of the exciting small group opportunities being offered this fall by our knowledgeable and skilled host of facilitators. For more information on Small Groups contact Rev. Bruce Lamb.

ONGOING SMALL GROUPS**BIBLICAL HEBREW: ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS**

Oct 6th - Dec 15th | 1:00 pm-4:30 pm | 321 MLK

Led by Laura Harris

BIBLICAL HEBREW: INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED

Oct 6th - Dec 15th | 1:00 pm-4:30 pm | 314 MLK

Led by Laura Harris

BELOVED COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Oct 6th - Dec 15th | 1:00 pm-2:30 pm | Meditation Chapel

Led by Rev. Addie Banks and Phil Lynn

OPEN BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | 9:30 am -10:30 am | 330 MLK

Join us every Sunday as we look at the weekly lectionary texts
Various facilitators.

PARENT CONNECT SMALL GROUP

Sundays | 9:30 am-10:25 am | 314 MLK

Parents of children through 12th grade are invited to join Amanda Meisenheimer for a weekly Parents small group where we discuss faith and parenting topics. **RIVERSIDE BOOK CLUB**

2nd Saturday Monthly | 11:00 am-1:00 pm | 20T

Join us as we celebrate our 10th season!

Led by Luvon Roberson

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

2nd Sunday Monthly | 1:00 pm-2:30 pm | Room: 7C

Join us as we look at different stories of women in the Bible.
Bring your Bible and questions as we dig deep into these stories focusing on women.

Led by Elaine Goode

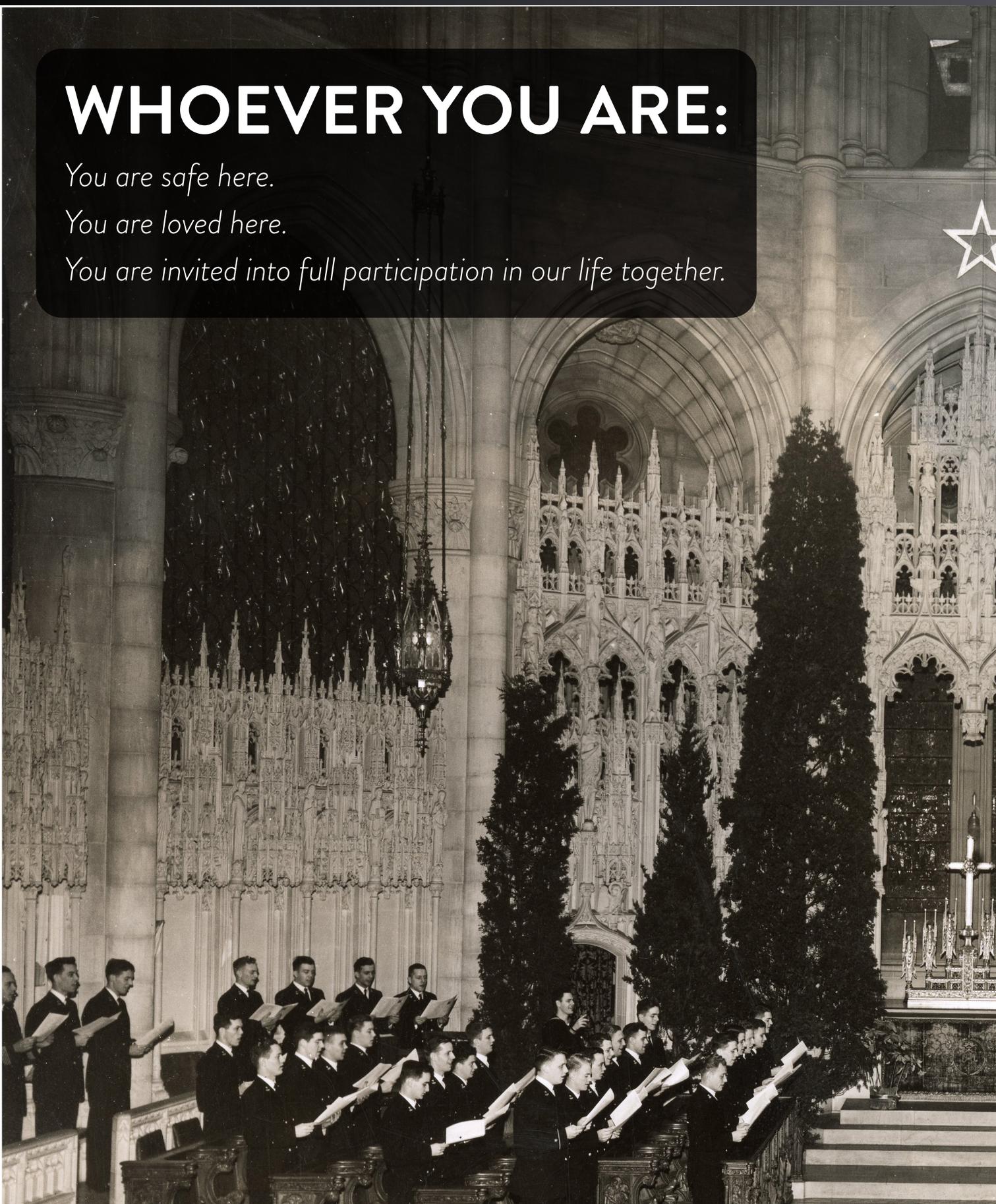
For more information and details on small groups please visit trcnyc.org/smallgroups. **Registration is now open!**

WHOEVER YOU ARE:

You are safe here.

You are loved here.

You are invited into full participation in our life together.





WRESTLING WITH GOD

ALL-CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, Feb 2nd-Mar 8th | 9:30 am - 10:30 am | South Hall

Scriptures can offer a unique practical and spiritual guidance that can help Riverside navigate through its current transition. Based on this premise, an all-church Bible study would be centered on a single curriculum of Bible readings related to the specific issues Riverside faces. We will meet together as an entire congregation before worship (without any other meetings or classes taking place at this time) to study, discuss and grow together. Coffee will be provided and participants are encouraged to bring snacks to share. We'll begin our time together with a hymn-sing, a brief teaching on the assigned passage for the day and then break into study groups. This six-week study will be led by a mix of clergy, youth, commissions, and laity. Please mark your calendars now and join us!

Everything I Know about The Bible I Learned at Riverside *By Eugene Melino, Riverside Education Commission*

The all-church Bible Study initiative aims to bring the Riverside community together. Think of it as a kind of grand book club about the greatest bestseller of all time. (Google it and see for yourself.) And book clubs are as much about community as they are about the books they feature. But then, the Bible study has been bringing people together since Jesus' time. Perhaps it's now high time that Riverside joins the club. To some, Bible study may seem out of tune with the culture of a progressive church. But historically, the Bible has always catalyzed change and fostered disruption, from the Protestant Reformation to the Civil Rights Movement to Latin American Liberation Theology. What I've learned about the Bible has often surprised me. The biggest surprise is that the Bible is anything but conservative. And everything I learned about the Bible I learned at Riverside.



I attended a Bible study for the first time in my life here at Riverside. That was 2003. The class was Discovering the Bible, a 30-week survey of both the old and new testaments. Since then, I have attended, facilitated and organized many Riverside Bible study classes, including leading Discovering the Bible more times than I can remember. Let me share some of the surprising things I learned:

I learned that faith is not about believing in the Bible, but about learning from what the people of the Bible teach about the faith experience.

I learned that the best way to study the Bible is through open discussion in a community of people of faith and goodwill.

I learned that the questions are more important than the answers, that the more you learn about the Bible, the deeper your questions get.

I learned that context plays a key role in understanding the Bible. Context includes the history, sociology, and language underlying Scripture. I also learned that proof-texting, taking a Bible passage out of context, is perilous and false.

I learned that the Bible documents the conversation between God and the people. God speaks primarily through prophets, named and unnamed, in the language of the people, and the people are invited to question and interact with God through argument, prayer, and art.

I learned that divine inspiration did not reduce the prophets to stenographers. Their human minds had a hand in interpreting God's word to the people and turning that message into the poetry and stories we have in Scripture today.

I learned that no dogma, Catholic or Protestant, fundamentalist or progressive, can contain the Bible. It is not even a single book, but a jangly conglomeration of sixty-six books, a library. A library composed over three millennia by hundreds if not thousands of mostly anonymous scribes, redactors and editors, not all of them from diverse ancient North African and Middle Eastern cultures variously called the Hebrews, Israelites and Jews. Like the spirit of God, it overwhelms human intellect. But the simplest faith can access its meaning.

I learned is that the Bible is a book of liberation. Liberation from not just from political oppression, but from the spiritual and material limits the demean human life. It shows a way to live in the world without being ruled by it.

What you learn about the Bible may differ from what I learned, but I'm sure it will surprise you, too. What we learn together about the Bible will help us understand where we're headed as a church in the twenty-first century. And it will show us where Christianity is going at the dawn of its third millennium. We are on the same journey as Abraham, the people of Exodus, the Israelites of the Exile and the first-century disciples of Jesus. It may take us through some scary places, but it will always fascinate and inspire us, if we take courage and cross our Jordan.

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.

Kaitlin Cook | Director of Stewardship & Development | kcook@trcnyc.org

Farley Lord | Minister of Stewardship & Development | flord@trcnyc.org

Kelsey Scott | Manager of Annual Giving, Stewardship & Development | kscott@trcnyc.org

Solidad Nwakibu | Coordinator of Stewardship & Development | snwakibu@trcnyc.org

GRATEFUL GIFT MARKETS

Love the season of Advent and the gift market from last year? Well, good news! The Grateful Gift Markets are back! Come out and wander through the gift market in support of the different ministries powered by The Riverside Church through an interactive gift market every Sunday during the Advent season. All proceeds from every gift will support Riverside ministries in full.

GIVING TUESDAY

Social Media Campaign — Dec 3rd, 2019

Giving Tuesday is an international day of giving that brings the world together in doing good. As a counter to the consumerism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday has become a popular way to kick-off to the holiday season. Every year on Giving Tuesday non-profit organizations rally for a day of maximum giving an impact. Stay tuned for more information on The Riverside Church website and social media pages to see how you can join many others in supporting Riverside in this effort!

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Dec 13th | 6:00pm | Assembly Hall

Join S&D and the prison ministry as we continue this wonderful tradition with a night of gathering, food, and fellowship. During this gift collection event and celebration that benefits the Children's Aid Society and local prisons around this holiday time, there'll be food, music, activities/crafts and the opportunity to socialize with congregation members of all ages. Entry is free with one unwrapped and a nonviolent toy or at \$5 per adult and \$3 for kids under 6 and \$20 for a family of 5 or more. Additionally, be on the lookout for collection boxes after worship to make a wonderful toy donation for this cause. Email snwakibu@trcnyc.org for questions.



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 to find out more.

Christopher Johnson | Director of Music & Organist | cjohnson@trcnyc.org

Christopher Creaghan | Associate Organist | ccreaghan@trcnyc.org

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Dec 8th | 10:45 am | Nave

The Riverside Church once again offers an impressive production for its annual Christmas Pageant, presented by Riverside's Rising Voices and Cherub Choir during worship on the Second Sunday of Advent. Each year, the children, parents and directors spend many months rehearsing the music, dancing, and acting for the pageant. Our talented youth will delight you with their artistic retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus.

THE ANNUAL RIVERSIDE CHURCH CANDLELIGHT CAROL FESTIVAL

Dec 15th | 4:00 pm | Nave

This longstanding tradition at The Riverside Church has become an essential part of Christmas in New York City. This service of music and light combines carillon, organ, harp, and all of the choirs of The Riverside Church, culminating in a ritual sharing of candlelight illuminating the Nave. Musical prelude begins at 3:30 p.m. To purchase your tickets please visit trcnyc.org/candlelight.



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	Budget & Planning Committee Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.	Building Committee Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.
Church Council Monday, December 23rd at 6:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Monday, December 16th at 5:30 p.m.	Membership & Parish Life Comm. Monday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.
Education Commission Monday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.	Conference Call	Ordination Committee Tuesday, December 17th at 6:45 p.m.
MSJ Commission. Monday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.	Nominating Committee Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m.	Social Services Committee Sunday, December 1st at 1:00 p.m.
Personnel & Salary Committee Monday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.	Sharing Fund Committee Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m.	Worship Commission Monday, December 10th at 6:45 p.m.
	Stewardship Committee Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.	
	Riverside Development Committee Saturday, December 21st at 9:00 a.m.	

Digital Ministry

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.

Rev. Jim Keat | Digital Minister | jkeat@trcnyc.org

WEEKLY VIDEO BIBLE STUDY: THE WORD MADE FRESH

The Word Made Fresh is a weekly video Bible study and a monthly live online Bible study small group. Watch a new video every Monday on Facebook, YouTube, or on our website at trcnyc.org/TheWordMadeFresh.



DEC 1ST: BE STILL AND GO (SEASON 5)

With Advent just around the corner, Be Still and Go is preparing to return for its fifth season. Catch up on previous seasons on our website at trcnyc.org/BeStillAndGo and subscribe to “Be Still and Go” in your favorite podcast app to receive every episode right on your phone the minute they are released. New daily episodes begin on Sunday, December 1 for the season of Advent.



TAKE ME TO CHURCH (ON FACEBOOK)

Every Sunday morning nearly 1,000 people view Riverside’s Sunday morning worship celebration. The live video on Riverside’s Facebook Page is the most engaging space, with dozens of online congregants greeting one another, sharing their favorite hymn lyrics and sermon quotes, and worshipping online from around the world. If you are unable to make it to the Nave on a Sunday morning head over to Facebook.com/RiversideNY to join us for worship from wherever you are.



The Riverside Theatre

For more info on upcoming performances and to purchase tickets, please visit www.trcnyc.org/tickets

Founded on the belief that the arts can be a transforming power in peoples' lives, The Riverside Theatre was built inside the historic Riverside Church in 1960. The church's dedication to radical political action and civil rights are as integral to the theatre as they are to the church.

Temishia Johnson | Production Manager | tjohnson@trcnyc.org

Ayisha Etan | Theater Coordinator | aetan@trcnyc.org

MCD'S THE NUTCRACKER

Dec 6th | 7:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

Dec 7th | 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

Dec 8th | 1:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

Come join us for our 19th Annual performance of the timeless holiday classic MCD's Nutcracker! Dolls come to life, the soldiers and mice battle and Clara journey's thru the land of Snowflakes to a land of the Sweets where she meets the Sugar Plum Fairy. This show is sure to get you in the holiday spirit! Please visit



trcnyc.org/thenutcracker to purchase your tickets.

STEPS YOUTH PROGRAM HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE

Dec 13th | 7:30 pm | Riverside Theatre

Dec 14th | 3:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

The 2019 Steps Youth Holiday Performance features advanced Steps Pre-Professional students ages 13-18. This year dancers will perform excerpts from "The Nutcracker" and will demonstrate their diverse training as they dance in original tap, jazz, Horton, and theater dance works. Choreographers include Debbie Roshe, Lisa Harvie, Karen Gayle, Jeff Edmond, Linda Gelinias, Kurt Froman and Leslie Brown. Guest artists from the Steps Conservatory will round out the program and present contemporary and theater jazz pieces choreographed by Billy Griffin, Josh Beamish, and Emily Schoen. Please visit trcnyc.org/stepsp performance to purchase your tickets.



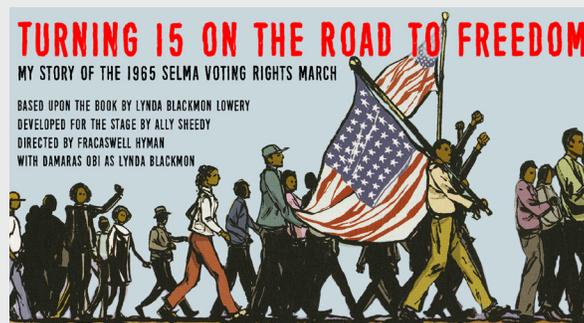
TURNING 15 ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

Jan 18th | 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

Jan 19th | 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

A stageplay developed by Ally Sheedy based on the book by Lynda Blackmon Lowery. Directed by Facaswell Hyman with Damaras Obi as Lynda Blackmon. Come see Lynda Blackmon's story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March.

You will have four opportunities to see this stunning play with matinee and evening performances on Saturday, January 18 and Sunday, January 19, the weekend before Martin Luther King Day. General Admission Tickets are \$35 or \$20 for students and seniors. Visit trcnyc.org/Turning15 to find out more and to purchase your tickets today.



Weekday School

The Riverside Church Weekday School is a progressive, play-based, independent early childhood school serving families with children ages two through five in New York City. To learn more please visit us at www.wdsnyc.org.

Debra Frankel | Head of School | DFrankel@wdsnyc.org

Carla Buranelli-Secor | Director Of Admissions/Exmissions | CBuranelli-Secor@wdsnyc.org

Daina Cernauskas | Director of Communications/Strategy | DCernauskas@wdsnyc.org

Fallon Watson | Director of Programming | FWatson@wdsnyc.org

BANKSTREET BOOKSTORE BOOK FAIR

Dec 7th-Dec 15th 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

Jan 19th | 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm | Riverside Theatre

Support The Weekday School:

-buy a book from our teachers' wish lists to donate to your child's classroom

-shop at Bankstreet Bookstore during the fair week and 20% of proceeds will be used to buy new books for our school. Just be sure to mention 'Weekday School'!



SUPPORT
THE WEEKDAY SCHOOL!

**BANKSTREET
BOOK FAIR**

Riverside Development Committee

Haggai 2:9 says: The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place, I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.

We've had a very eventful year, to say the least. There's little doubt, no one could have predicted the disruptive and soul-stirring changes we as the body of the Riverside Church would face in 2019. In Haggai, the Hebrew prophet speaks of the building of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, post-Babylonian exile, in 520 BCE. A fitting scripture from our November lectionary. In 2020 we turn our focus not only to a new year, and an entirely new decade, but also the 90th anniversary of the Riverside Church! As the RDC continues our work of helping to bring all the constituents of the Riverside Church community together to re-imagine our "Next 90." We're excited to wrap 2019 with some important RDC updates and opportunities for all to get involved:

FOOD JUSTICE MEANWHILE PROJECT

To explore innovative ways others are providing social services, the Food Justice Task Force visited **St. John's Bread & Life** in November. The organization – which started in 1982 as a soup kitchen in the basement – has grown to a full-service center with resources that directly impact many members of the Bed-Stuy community. The organization uses a tech-based system for pantry services that include kiosks and online grocery shopping. A truly inspiring experience that left us imagining what else Riverside could do for our own community. Our next visit will be to Compassion Coalition's Bargain Grocery in Utica, New York on December 18. If you would like to join us for this visit, please contact Ugochi Onyeukwu at uonyekwu@trcnyc.org by December 11, 2019.



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

The Riverside Church in the City of New York through the RDC is seeking to gain a sense of the strengths, assets, challenges, and liabilities of neighborhoods along the Northern Manhattan corridor, namely East Harlem, West Harlem, Central Harlem, Washington Heights including Manhattanville and Morningside Heights. Working in concert with University students, the Riverside Development Subcommittee has begun to lay the groundwork for our broader Community Assessment by conducting neighborhood observations, reviews of quantitative data and literature, speaking with Stakeholders and conducting on-the-street interviews. All, to ascertain their broad base perspectives about key issues and concerns in identified areas. This information will inform the work of the RDC, as well as invite the full community to engage and partner with us in the process. We look forward to sharing the preliminary outcomes of this work.



MISSION POSSIBLE

Do you ever look at all the challenges impacting the communities we live and work in and wonder what you could do to effect change? On December 15, 2019, laity will come together to put their thoughts into action with Mission Possible -- a workshop-in-a-box that brings groups together to develop creative solutions for tackling complex social problems. The interactive session will take place immediately following church service in 15T, and will finish up with plenty of time to spare ahead of the Candlelight Carol Festival. Please contact Lakeisha McCoy at keymccoy@gmail.com to register.



BELL TOWER TOURS TO LAUNCH DECEMBER 4

After over a year of preparation and due diligence, we are pleased to announce the soft launch of our public Bell Tower tour beginning on Wednesday, December 4. The Bell Tower tour includes Riverside history and highlights, including the Nave, culminating with an ascent up almost five flights of steps to the Penthouse Gallery at very top of the bell tower. Also on December 4, we will launch our Arts & History tour, with a greater emphasis on the Nave and Christ Chapel, stained glass and iconography, the Heinrich Hofmann paintings, and seasonal art exhibitions.



We will offer both tours once daily, four days a week, Wednesday through Saturday, led by our own Raymond Rodriguez. The Bell Tower tour starts at 1:00 p.m. and will last approximately 90 minutes. The Arts & History tour starts at 11:00 a.m. and will last approximately one hour. Tickets for all tours are available at www.trcnyc.org/tours. If you are a member of the church, you will be receiving a special email in December containing a discount code so you can experience either tour free of charge.

Soft launching these tours represents an important first step in our work to expand and improve Riverside's hospitality offerings while gathering feedback from those who visit us. The Riverside bell tower and the 74-bell Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon remain popular items of interest, and we are excited to make them available to the public for the first time in a long time. If you'd like to learn more about the process leading up to launching these new tour offerings, please check out this FAQ. As our hospitality work continues, our goal remains to attract and engage more visitors, and launching these new tour offerings is a wonderful way to lift up Riverside as a must-see destination in New York City.



CONNECT WITH THE RDC

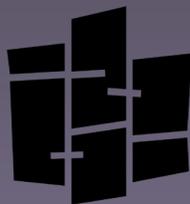
get involved in our work in a number of ways:

- *Attending our monthly meeting which takes place the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm*
- *Send us an email at rdc@trcnyc.org.*
- *Visiting us online at www.trcnyc.org/rdc*

Your Riverside Development Committee

For a complete list of Calendar of Events
please visit trcnyc.org/events

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



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Don't have your Riverside merchandise?

Visit The Riverside Church gift shop or online store to purchase your t-shirt and mug, empowering you to literally wear your inclusive theology on your head (or, shoulder) and share it with every sip of coffee.

What are you waiting for? Get your merchandise today!

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Thank you for visiting The Riverside Church online store.

Your purchase, no matter how large or small, helps support all of Riverside's ministries, programs, and social services. Be sure to visit often, as new items become available!

Orders must be placed by December 13th to arrive by December 25th.

All Products

New

- 
The Riverside Church Beanie
- 
The Riverside Church Beanie w/ Pom
- 
The Riverside Church Pride Totes

visit us at www.trcnyc.org/shop

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.

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.

Brian Simpson Director of Communications & Strategy
bsimpson@trcnyc.org | 212.870.6765

Rev. Jim Keat Digital Minister
jkeat@trcnyc.org

Jones Acquah Communications Coordinator
jacquah@trcnyc.org | 212.870.6813

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

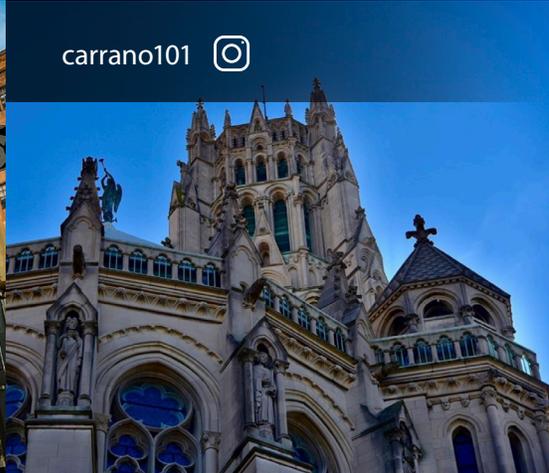
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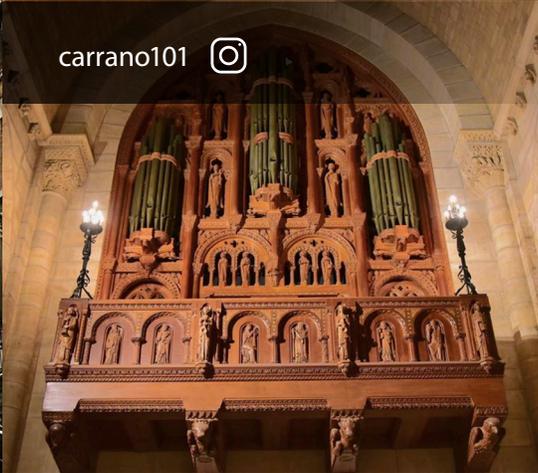
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