

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
NEWS & EVENTS

APRIL 2020

CELEBRATE HOLYWEEK

WITH RIVERSIDE





Dear Members and Friends



Dear Members and Friends,

I know precisely what led me to the Heidelberg Catechism early, very early today, April 1st. It was not a fool's errand. I read Richard Rohr's meditation for the day in which he wrote: "My life is not about me. It is about God. It is about a willing participation in a larger mystery. At this time, we do this by not rejecting or running from what is happening but by accepting our current situation and asking God to be with us in it." So few words, so much truth. Truth echoed in the first question and answer of the 1863 Catechism that my friend Warren will quote now and then and especially at times of enormous stress or difficulty. Question: "What is your only comfort in life and in death?" Answer: "That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ..."

We belong to God. Our lives are about life, gift of our loving God. The great mystery of the moment is this Coronavirus, part uncertainty, anxiety, fear, suffering, and death—and part sacrifice, sharing, healing, humor, and service that is happening among us and all around us. The virus is new to us, and what it is compelling us to do—stay at home! is new as well—for almost everyone alive.

I miss you! I miss our gathered life at Riverside; worship in the Nave, conversation in South Hall, meetings in the MLK Jr. building, Christ Chapel where wonderful events take place, 9T—I think of it as the home of the Tower League—lively bible studies, great company and good lunches. When will we gather again? No one can say. It will not be soon. There's a post on FaceBook that says "January—31 days, February—28 days, March—8,000 days!"

The twenty-eighth question of the Heidelberg Catechism is this: "What does it profit us to know that God created, and by His providence upholds, all things?" And the answer: "That we may be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity..." Some days it feels like we're thousands of days away from normalcy. We can't "reject or run from what is happening..." We have to ask "God to be with us in it." Thankful when all is well, we have to be patient in this adversity, grateful for each day, doing our part to stay safe and by so doing, keep others safe as well.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Michael Livingston

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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.

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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.

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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.

Mission and Social Justice

"You can pray until you faint, but unless you get up and try to do something, God is not going to put it in your lap."
—Fannie Lou Hamer

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
Charity Radway | Administrative Assistant for Justice, Advocacy, & Change | cradway@trcnyc.org



As your lay leadership and pastoral staff continue to monitor the best practices in response to the COVID-19 virus, out of an abundance of caution, and following both the guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the best practices of other large faith communities, all in-person Mission and Social Justice (MSJ) programming will be on hiatus until further notice. Though our previously scheduled in-person meetings will stop, our commitment to working together for a more just society will certainly continue. In this season, as we are limited in the ways we can gather, our Mission and Social Justice team has worked to streamline opportunities for members of our community to continue to engage in justice, advocacy, and change. Additionally, regular updates and schedule changes will be posted on the church's website and the weekly Life of the Community newsletter. For more information about our Mission and Social Justice ministries, follow us on twitter at @LiveJusticeNow or request to be placed on our listserv by emailing msj@trcnyc.org.

THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN'S "POVERTY AMIDST PANDEMIC: A MORAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19"

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us into an unprecedented national emergency. This emergency will disproportionately affect the 140 million people who are poor or a \$400 emergency away from being poor and these millions of people are in dire need of critical attention immediately. The Poor People's Campaign (PPC) calls on us to support the expansion of the COVID-19 emergency provisions to care for us all and enactment of the PPC's Moral Agenda immediately. For more information, please visit poorpeoplescampaign.org.

REQUESTING IMMIGRANTS BE INCLUDED IN FEDERAL STIMULUS TO ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The current Coronavirus Relief Bill does not extend to immigrant families. We cannot protect the nation from the Coronavirus and its economic impact if we deny health care and financial relief to a large segment of our communities. The virus and its effects do not discriminate based on immigration status, and neither should relief efforts. Please visit trcnyc.org/msj to download a sample letter to send to our elected officials to ensure all who are devastated by this pandemic have access to basic resources.

ACT TO PROTECT BAIL REFORM

On January 1, 2020, long-awaited bail and discovery legislation took effect to usher in a new system that prioritizes freedom and fairness instead of punishment and profit. Today there are roughly 6,000 fewer people in jail pretrial around New York State than there were a year ago, most of them people of color. Sadly, there are several opponents of these reforms and, with critical state deadlines looming amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the NY Faith Leaders for Criminal Justice Reform Coalition urges that our lawmakers do not modify the current bail and discovery laws. We believe that these laws were well crafted and have significantly reduced unnecessary pretrial incarceration. We each have a role to play in preventing this rollback. We can contact our local officials and ensure that those most vulnerable in our society are not susceptible to a system that criminalizes poverty.



APPROVE FUNDING FOR RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

Reentry programs are key to a successful exit from prison. However, crucial programs such as educational courses, substance abuse treatment, and robust job training are in jeopardy right now because Congress has not funded the FIRST STEP Act. As people of faith, we believe in the transformative power of God and the possibility of redemption. Funding the FIRST STEP Act will provide both a second chance and a redemptive path to formerly incarcerated people. Ask your senators and representatives to fund the FIRST STEP Act to provide these crucial programs that reduce recidivism. People must be allowed to succeed through these programs!

ENDING LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND REUNITING FAMILIES

The Riverside Church Prison Ministry is currently engaged in a campaign to end death by incarceration of elderly people in prison and establish a fairer Parole Board process for everyone. In collaboration with the Parole Preparation Project, our recent advocacy to change the composition of the Parole Board from an inclusive law enforcement body from upstate rural districts, to now include social workers, clergy, and defense attorneys from districts that reflect the NYS prison population, have increased parole-release outcomes from the low 20 percent to 40 percent. However, our work is not finished and it will take all of us! An advocacy day in Albany was originally scheduled for April 21, however, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are currently identifying alternative ways individuals can contribute. Throughout the month, please stay tuned for updates on the church's website and weekly newsletter.



EARTH DAY 50 FILM SCREENING: "JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE"

Apr 22nd | 7:30 pm | Via Zoom

Watch the award-winning video, "Journey of the Universe," to learn the amazing, awesome 14-billion-year history of the universe from Big Bang down to the present. Then join in a discussion afterward led by Beloved Earth Community members.

SERMON TALKBACK WITH REV. JIM ANTAL

Apr 19th | 1:00 pm | Via Zoom

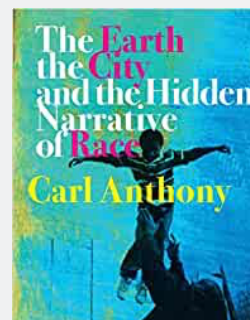
Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, UCC minister, activist and author of *Climate Church*, *Climate World*, will be guest preacher for Riverside's worship and will participate in a sermon talkback session via Zoom after worship. All Riversiders are invited to join this talkback session, and especially members of the class which read his book last spring, as we prepare for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus crisis, many of these dates are subject to change. Given the importance of voting, our church will continue to monitor changes in these deadlines and will provide updates as they are released.

THE EARTH, THE CITY, AND THE HIDDEN NARRATIVE OF RACE

Apr 26th - Jun 14th | 9:00 am | Via Zoom

Join the online class discussing the memoir by African-American architect Carl Anthony, *The Earth, the City, and the Hidden Narrative of Race* (2017). Anthony tells the story of his growing up in Philadelphia, education at Columbia, trip to West Africa, and career assignments with the Urban Habitat Program, Ford Foundation and "Breakthrough Communities. Class members will need to buy the book ahead of time, ISBN # 978-1-61332-021-1, and register for the class. See the link under education/adultsmallgroups in the April Life of the Community or contact alanbentzletts@gmail.com.



MOVIES AT RIVERSIDE: "PARIS TO PITTSBURGH"

Apr 26th | 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm | Via Zoom

Join us for a screening of the 2018 documentary film about climate change directed by National Geographic filmmaker Sidney Beaumont and narrated by Rachel Brosnahan, "Paris to Pittsburgh." The film brings to life the impassioned efforts of individuals who are battling the most severe threats of climate change in their backyards. Set against the national debate over the United States' energy future, and the current administration's explosive decision to exit the Paris Climate Agreement, the film captures what's at stake for communities around the country and the inspiring ways Americans are responding. There will be screenings at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm.



Life of the Community

ZERO WASTE @ RIVERSIDE: VOLUNTEER AS A BIN MONITOR!

Be a part of the change we all need to be to save the planet! In the weeks ahead, you can get started by signing up for a one-hour "on the job" training experience as a "compost bin monitor." Learn how something as simple separating recyclable and compostable materials reduces landfill and the climate-damaging methane landfill produces. For more information, please email susanwersan@gmail.com.



KEY DATES FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN 2020

Given the importance of voting, our church will continue to monitor changes in these deadlines and will provide updates as they are released. Note, these dates may change in response to COVID-19.

NEW YORK

1. PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – TUE, APR 28TH
 - A. IN-PERSON REGISTRATION DEADLINE – FRI, APR 3RD
 - B. MAIL REGISTRATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED BY APR 3RD & RECEIVED BY WED, APR 8TH
2. STATE ELECTION PRIMARY – TUE, JUN 23RD
 - A. IN-PERSON REGISTRATION DEADLINE – FRI, MAY 29TH
 - B. MAIL REGISTRATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED BY MAY 29TH & RECEIVED BY WED, JUN 3RD
3. GENERAL ELECTION – TUE, NOV 3RD
 - A. IN-PERSON REGISTRATION DEADLINE – SAT, OCT 10TH
 - B. MAIL REGISTRATION DEADLINE – POSTMARKED BY FRI, OCT 9TH & RECEIVED BY WED, OCT 14TH

NEW JERSEY

1. PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – TUE, JUN 2ND
 - A. REGISTRATION DEADLINE – TUE, MAY 12TH
2. GENERAL ELECTION – TUE, NOV 3RD
 - A. REGISTRATION DEADLINE – TUE, OCT 13TH

PENNSYLVANIA

1. PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – TUE, APR 28TH
 - A. REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MON, MAR 30TH
2. GENERAL ELECTION – TUE, NOV 3RD
 - A. REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MON, OCT 5TH

SAVE THE DATE!

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY & MARCH ON WASHINGTON **REIMAGINED**

Due to COVID-19, the Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington June 20th won't happen physically in Washington, D.C., but it won't be postponed or canceled, either - it's going digital!

Learn more about this generationally transformative event and how Riverside Church and other organizations can get more involved.

Our strategy for building a long-term moral fusion movement has not changed. Indeed, this global pandemic makes our work ever more urgent. We must bring together poor and low-wealth people, religious leaders and advocates to lift up the 140 million who are being abandoned in the midst of abundance. We must continue to organize at this critical moment to shift the moral narrative, build power, and impact elections and policies.

For more information for the NYS Poor People's Campaign, contact Arelis Figueroa aremfigue@gmail.com.



ONGOING REGULAR MEETINGS

BELOVED EARTH COMMUNITY

Apr 5th | 1:00 pm | Via Zoom

Let's connect with each other and also discuss action items and preparation for Earth Day on April 22. Contact Alan Bentz-Letts at alanbentzletts@gmail.com or Regina Tate at mariposa21355@yahoo.com. Join us on zoom at zoom.us/j/594537320

THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

Apr 5th, 12th, 19, & 26th | 1:00 pm | Google Chat

This ministry uses theatre as a means of empowering participants to become actors in movements for social and political change. Originating in Brazil, this technique teaches participants about their power and agency within institutions and systems. For more information, please contact Jeremiah Drake at theatreoftheoppressedtrc@gmail.com.

THE SHARING FUND OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

April 6th | 6:30 pm | Via Zoom

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.

MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Apr 12th | 1:00 pm | Via Zoom

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!

LATINO MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP

Apr 19th | 1:00 pm | Via Zoom

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.

PRISON MINISTRY

Apr 26th | 1:00 pm | Conference Call

The Riverside Church Prison Ministry conducts advocacy and outreach programs on behalf of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, their families, and their communities. One of the most compelling needs of the grossly underserved population we serve is the need to be heard, which our volunteers from a range of backgrounds address through advocating on their behalf, working for progressive policies and raising awareness about the issues many people face—issues including reintegration, unjust parole denials, mass incarceration, and the collateral damage of incarceration on families and communities.

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

ECCLESIA MINISTRY

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.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

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.

AFRICAN FELLOWSHIP

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 African Fellowship is George Filie-Faboe.

COMING HOME ALUMNI MEETING

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

Break the isolation and befriend an asylum-seeker. 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. For more information and to join our team of Sojourners, please contact Frances Connell at frances.connell@gmail.com or Craig Lemley at craigLL@yahoo.com.

MEN'S CLASS

The Men's Class serves the congregation, and community of Riverside through spiritual, educational, and fellowship programs that encourage a more just & equitable society.

Worship at Riverside

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 a beloved community, nourish faith, and transform our world.

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

WORSHIP IS ONLINE ONLY

Out of an abundance of caution, Riverside's worship services will be **ONLINE ONLY** until further notice. In addition, both our **Morning Light** and **Space for Grace** services are cancelled until further notice. Virtual is not the opposite of real. It's the opposite of physical. And they are both real. This means that when you join us for worship online, it is still a real worship service and a real connection with other online congregants. The prayers are real, the preaching is real, and the ways that God will speak to you and through you in this online space is real.

Having church online is nothing new for Riverside. We do this every week! But it might be new for you. For the most engaging online worship experience, head over to our youtube page and join us via [youtube.com/TheRiversideChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheRiversideChurch). You'll find an amazing online congregation and our Digital Minister, Rev. Jim Keat, waiting to welcome you. And if you have any questions or trouble connecting with our online worship service, you can email Rev. Keat at jkeat@trcnyc.org or send him a message on twitter @IdeasDoneDaily

CELEBRATE HOLYWEEK WITH RIVERSIDE

The season of Lent concludes with Holy Week as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem, share his last supper, witness his crucifixion, embrace grief in the silence of Saturday, and embody the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Join us online this week for our Holy Week worship services.



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Sunday, Apr 5th | 10:45 am | Online

MAUNDY THURSDAY & TENEBRAE SERVICE

Thursday, Apr 9th | 7:30 pm | Online

GOOD FRIDAY: SEVEN LAST WORDS

Friday, Apr 10th | 12:00 pm | Online

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Sunday, Apr 12th | 10:45 am | Online

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 | lharp@trcnyc.org

NYC COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES RESOURCES

As we navigate the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic together, Riverside's Social Services are pleased to share a selection of our NYC community and social services partners and resources at trcnyc.org/nycresources.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES UPDATE

All in-person meetings of the Business & Professional Women's Group, Art of Movement, and the Tower League are on hiatus. Linda Lewis, President of the Business & Professional Women's Group, invites anyone who wants to know more about or stay connected with the B's & P's to contact her at 212-283-3456 or ldlewis747@aol.com.

It is now more than ever that we draw upon and strengthen our faith through steadfast prayer, listening to the Spirit, and bridging the physical distance with spiritual care. The Tower League mission statement puts it so well: "We are a supportive, caring community of older adults"—indeed! We are never far from each other's hearts. While in-person programming is on hiatus, our connections with one another are not! Tower League members now have a contact book, which allows the group to stay in touch with one another by phone, email, cards, letters, video chat, etc. Rev. Northern, Dr. Hsien-yu Wang, and I are--and will continue to be--in contact with older congregants to support emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

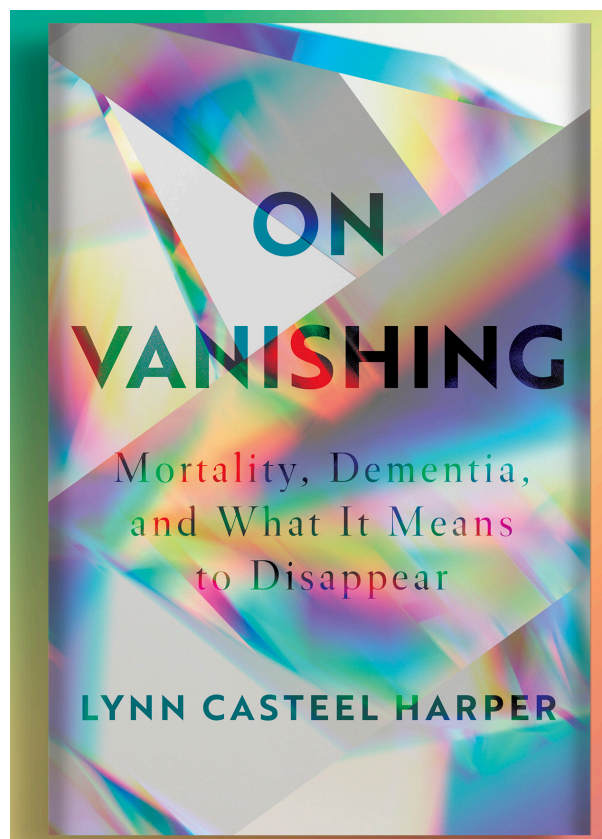
Grace and Peace,
Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper
Minister of Older Adults

Here are a couple of free resources for engagement and enrichment: New York Public Library's free ebooks are available here: nypl.org The Metropolitan Opera is offering free livestreamed operas every night at metopera.org.

ON VANISHING: MORTALITY, DEMENTIA, AND WHAT IT MEANS TO DISAPPEAR.

On April 14, we celebrate the publication of Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper's debut book, *On Vanishing: Mortality, Dementia, and What It Means to Disappear*. In addition to being Riverside's Minister of Older Adults, Lynn is an essayist whose work has received a Barbara Deming Memorial Fund grant and the 2017 Orison Anthology Award in Nonfiction. Before coming to Riverside, Lynn served as a nursing home chaplain for seven years. *On Vanishing* draws on her professional and personal experiences with dementia, offering an empathic exploration of the condition, and in the process asks searching questions about what it means to face our own inevitable vanishing. Expanding our understanding of dementia beyond progressive vacancy and dread, *On Vanishing* makes room for beauty and hope, and opens a space in which we might start to consider better ways of caring for, and thinking about, our fellow human beings.

The release party, scheduled for April 18 at Riverside, has been postponed. Lynn looks forward to celebrating with the community in-person on a later date, as well as hosting a mini-workshop on dementia and spirituality at the church. In the meantime, Lynn is always eager to connect with people to talk about the book and its contents.



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



RESPONDING TOGETHER

#RESPONDINGTOGETHER

The work of Riverside and our witness to the world is made possible by you and your generosity. Your support is critical to the work of our social service ministries, vibrant worship services, and to support our staff and community.

As our worship services have moved online because of COVID-19, we have seen a corresponding decrease in giving. Without ongoing financial support received through the Sunday offering plate, we now ask for your online support to reinforce our commitments of compassion and service to you and our community. Though this crisis may be daunting in its unpredictability, we will remain steadfast in our dedication to our community through love and faith. Your giving helps Riverside provide direct aid in these uncertain times through our social services ministries, such as our food pantry. Your generosity also supports our staff and the efforts to bring our community together through online worship, virtual coffee hour, online Bible study, and more.

Giving online at www.trcnyc.org/respondingtogether – and especially signing up for monthly giving – allows us sustain the beautiful ministry of the Riverside Church and reinforce our commitments of compassion and service to you and our community throughout this pandemic. Checks by mail are also welcome but will take longer to process as our employees are currently unable to come into work with regularity due to a state-wide mandate on non-essential staff. If you do mail a check, please write Responding Together in the memo line.

Once again, it is you and your support helps Riverside sustain the beautiful ministry of the church. We are in this together, and we will get through this together. Wishing good health to each of you, your friends and your families. Thank you for your continued support of The Riverside Church.

Your Stewardship & Development Team

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Have you heard? Coffee hour is now virtual! Join us Sunday after worship for a virtual coffee hour where we will connect with one another and have a sermon talkback with Sunday's preacher and other Riverside clergy. (Bring your own coffee!) To access the direct Zoom link, go to trcnyc.org/virtualcoffeehour



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

AN UPDATE FROM US:

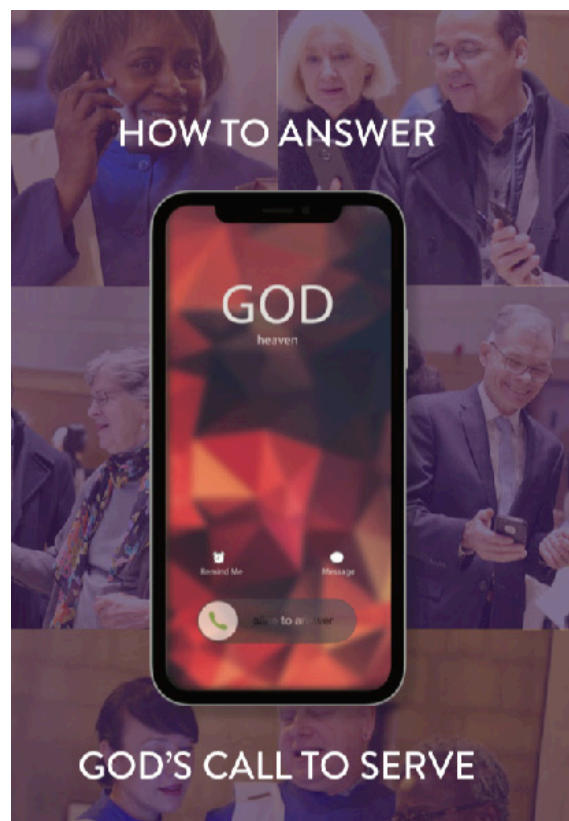
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Music Department events on the calendar through early June are cancelled, including the handbell festival, rising voices luncheon, Christ Chapel concert and the strings and youth choir concert. Please visit trcnyc.org/music for further updates.



Lay Leadership Election

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL TO SERVE: RUNNING FOR ELECTED LAY LEADERSHIP:

Due to COVID-19, the Church Council has approved a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to postpone the annual meeting and election of officers from May, 2020 to September, 2020 or later. No fixed date has been set at this time. Check for updates at trcnyc.org/layleadership.







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 | lcoble@trcnyc.org

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Zoom Class 1- Apr 19th | 9:00 am | Via Zoom

Zoom Class 2 and Joining Sunday - Apr 26th | 9:00 am | Via Zoom

For Zoom links please email: education@trcnyc.org

New Member Orientation Class - Interested in joining The Riverside Church? Membership Orientation Classes will continue during this time via Zoom. Come check out our New Member Orientation Class and learn what it means to be a member of Riverside. Both classes are different and contain important information to integrate you into the life of the Riverside community. We'll look at Riverside's theology, the history of Riverside, how to get connected with different ministries and more! Did you know that Riverside is a congregational church connected to the UCC and American Baptist denominations? To register contact Clent Paddio Jones at 212-870-6844 or via email at cjones@trcnyc.org.



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH CHILDREN & FAMILIES

RIVERSIDE KIDS WORSHIP

Sundays | Posted at 9:00 am | The CYF Facebook Group

Join Amanda Meisenheimer for weekly worship, specially recorded for children and families each week. These 15-20 minute videos will be posted by 9:00 am each Sunday on our closed Facebook page (The Riverside Church NYC: Children, Youth, and Families group) or find them on the main Riverside Church Facebook page.

STAY IN TOUCH ON FACEBOOK

Everyday | All day | Online

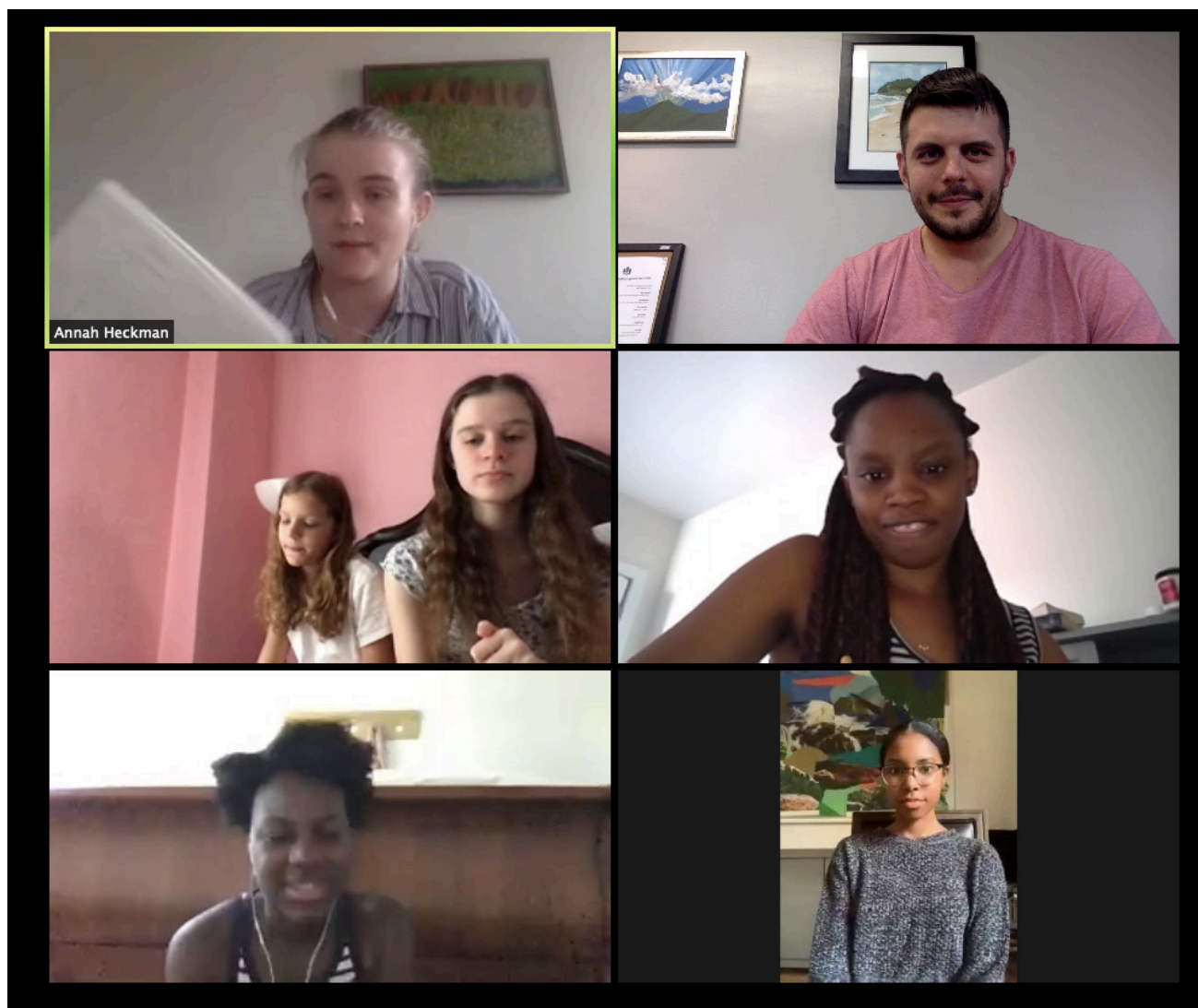
Your Riverside Education Ministry is committed to providing helpful check-ins, resources, and connection during this season. The best way to find up-to-date opportunities for connection is by joining our Facebook page at facebook.com/Riversideny. And as always, Rev. Bruce Lamb and Amanda Meisenheimer are accessible via email at blamb@trcnyc.org, mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org

YOUTH

WEEKLY YOUTH CHECK-IN AND PRAYER

Wednesdays | 5:00 pm | via Zoom.

Children! Families! During worship, come celebrate Palm Sunday at The Riverside Church with the Riverside Egg Hunt. Children from preschool through sixth grade will participate in an egg hunt and Easter crafting activities.



YOUTH LET'S TALK SUNDAY SCHOOL VIA ZOOM

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

The Riverside Church values our youth and understands the importance of their contribution to the life of our church. They are an integral part of our community and our worship. For Zoom links please email: education@trcnyc.org

MILLENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED - APR 3RD

In keeping with efforts to help everyone be safe, we are extending the deadline for applications to April 3rd. Also, we will accept applications sent as pdf's via email. Applications are now available to apply for the Millennial Scholarship Program by going to trcnyc.org/youth.

Every year this program offers youth involved in the ministry programs of the church scholarships to accredited colleges, universities, and vocational programs. The congregation gives several scholarships to eligible youth. Since the inception of this program more than \$400,000 has been dispersed to youth in our ministry programs.



THE 29TH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE CHURCH CAREER DAY

The Riverside Church Career Day Committee is pleased to announce the selected recipients for this year's Career Day Program. We feel confident that they will be able to achieve great things and will use the award responsibly.

For the Career Day Scholarship Award goes to: Maeghan Torres

For the Riverside Business and Professional Women's Club Scholarship Award goes to: Onyekachi Agwu

For the Pamela Palanque North Scholarship Award goes to: Alicia Lindo

We wish them every success and hope that they find their college experience enriching and fulfilling. Thank you! Congratulations!

YOUTH

YA MINISTRY WEEKLY SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

We all have questions about life, faith, and our role in the world. 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 virtual space. For Zoom links please email: education@trcnyc.org

JOIN THE RIVERSIDE YOUNG ADULT MAILING LIST

In this huge city that seems to never pause, it is easy to be overcome by life's busy-ness and lose yourself in the daily grind. At The Riverside Church, we are committed to connecting people between the ages of 18 and 35 to a vibrant community of peers as we pursue the life and hope that God has to offer. All are welcome as we seek to encounter one another in meaningful ways and to enjoy the gift of life and the diversity of God's creation. Regardless of your race, age, socio-economic status, or who you love, you are welcome here. We send out regular Young Adult E-News. For more information about Riverside's Young Adult Ministry, or to be added to the email newsletter list, please email Rev. Bruce Lamb at blamb@trcnyc.org.

ADULT EDUCATION SMALL GROUPS

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.

View all classes and register at trcnyc.org/smallgroups

APRIL SMALL GROUPS

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Monday-Friday | 8:00 am | Via Zoom

Everyone is invited to join the Riverside Church family for a short time of prayer and reflection each morning via Zoom or telephone led by the Faith Formation Ministry. We will meet Monday-Friday through Good Friday. zoom.us/j/735260976

OPEN BIBLE STUDY

Sundays | 9:30 am | Via Zoom

Join us Sunday Mornings for our weekly lectionary focused Bible Study via Zoom. We will pray, study scripture and check-in with each other. zoom.us/j/160657721

RIVERSIDE BOOK CLUB

Apr 11th | 11:00 am-1:00 pm | Via Zoom

Join the Riverside Book Club on April 11th via Zoom looking at *The Master Plan: My Journey from a Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose* by Chris Wilson. In his memoir, this young man takes us on his journey so that we see and even feel how America's criminal justice system not only takes away the prisoner's freedom, but also seeks to take away the prisoner's humanity. How did he survive this brutal system? Chris Wilson lays it all out in *The Master Plan*. To join the Riverside Book Club email Luvon Roberson at luvonroberson@yahoo.com.

THE EARTH, THE CITY, AND THE HIDDEN NARRATIVE OF RACE

Apr 26th-Jun 14th | 1:00 pm | Via Zoom

Led by Rev. Dr. Alan Bentz-Letts

This memoir by African-American architect Carl Anthony tells the story of his growing up in Philadelphia, education at Columbia, trip to West Africa, and career assignments with the Urban Habitat Program, Ford Foundation and "Breakthrough Communities." Throughout Anthony broadens the role of the architect to include not only built structures, but also physical and spiritual survival, and equality and justice. Join us as we discuss this important book online! Sign-up at trcnyc.org/smallgroups

CREATING SPACE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & HEALING VIA A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Sundays Apr 26th, through Jun, 14th | 1:00 pm | Via Zoom

Facilitated by Luvon Roberson

A small group study on the history of medical experimentation on Black Americans and how group study of medical apartheid in US history as well as the small group taking action for social justice via the arts & creativity can/may begin healing by educating ourselves and others on healthcare disparities in the US today. Sign-up at trcnyc.org/smallgroups

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 | Twitter @IdeasDoneDaily

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH WITH RIVERSIDE'S ORIGINAL DIGITAL MINISTRY CONTENT

BE STILL AND GO

Take a break from the chaos and stress that fills our days and center yourself with an episode of Be Still and Go, our devotional podcast that features reflections from Riverside clergy, congregants, and faith and justice leaders from across the country. To hear the latest, visit trcnyc.org/BeStillAndGo

THE WORD MADE FRESH

The Word Made Fresh is a weekly video Bible study that explores an upcoming lectionary text from a progressive point of view. Join Rev. Jim Keat, Riverside's Digital Minister, for a commentary and conversation that will invite you to look at the Bible in a fresh way for our lives and our world. Visit trcnyc.org/TheWordMadeFresh to watch the latest video.



The Riverside Hawks

The Riverside Hawks academic/athletic program is a year-round organization serving more than 300 boys and girls who live primarily in the New York Metropolitan area. Founded in 1961, the Riverside Hawks have long been nationally recognized for its success and leadership in the field of youth development. The Riverside Hawks promote athletic achievement, educational excellence and character development for our student athletes. To learn more please visit us at www.riversidehawks.org.

Tony Hargraves | Program Director | ahargraves@riversidehawks.org

Danny Colon | Director of Operations | dcolon@riversidehawks.org

Kevin Steward | Associate Program Director | ksteward@riversidehawks.org



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



Riverside Development Committee

The purpose of the Riverside Development Committee (RDC) is to lead the congregation and staff of The Riverside Church in the development of a comprehensive strategic plan to address how our property can be more effectively used not only to positively impact our community but also to ensure our long-term fiscal sustainability. See more of our work at www.trcnyc.org/rdc.

Psalm 23:1-4 says: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not [a]want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Dear Riverside Church Family,

We have all been impacted in some way by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. While we are all pivoting to balance our new realities, The Riverside Development Committee (RDC) continues to set the stage of imagining the art of the possible with “The Next 90” – our campaign that joins up the critical paths that facilitates the development of the plan that best leverages our real estate, assets and resources. Like much of the world, we’re moving our efforts to virtual platforms for the time being. We are committed to developing a plan that combines money with mission and achieves both social justice objectives and financial sustainability. Here are some important updates as we march forward towards delivering a plan to the congregation by the end of 2020:

THE NEXT 90 SPEAKER SERIES

REV. DR. JIM ANTAL

Apr 19th | 12:30pm | Preaching, followed by a Talkback Session | Online

Jim Antal is a denominational leader, climate activist, author and public theologian. He serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Antal's book, *CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD*, was featured in the Chicago Tribune on Earth Day 2018, and in Christian Century Magazine on Earth Day 2019. Antal received the 2019 Steward of Creation award from the National Religious Coalition for Creation Care, joining the Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley and Prof. Katharine Hayhoe, and previous awardees HAH Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Bill McKibben, the Sioux Nation, James Hansen and Wendell Berry.

We kicked off our monthly Next 90 Speaker Series in February with Pastor Jonathan Brooks, “Pastah J”, senior minister of Chicago’s Canaan Community Church. Pastah J, led a dynamic session where he outlined the steps Canaan took to become a sustainable community church. If you were not able to attend, you can view the replay at trcnyc.org/rdc

Riverside Development Committee Presents

THE NEXT 90 SPEAKER SERIES

FEBRUARY 15 | MARCH 29 | APRIL 19 | MAY 31

<p>Rev. Jonathan Brooks: Food Justice & Social Inequality FEBRUARY 15 1:30 PM - 1T</p>	<p>Rev. Mark Eldon & Rev. Erica Liu: Community & Housing MARCH 29 12:30 PM - SOUTH HALL</p>
<p>Rev. Dr. Jim Antal: Climate Change & Faith APRIL 19 10:45 AM - HAVE</p>	<p>Rev. Dr. Sam Wells: Racial Inequity, Binding, Social Justice MAY 31 10:45 AM - HAVE</p>

Visit trcnyc.org/rdcspeakerseries for more info.

90 YEARS

ENGAGE WITH THE RDC

Get involved in our work in a number of ways:

- Attending our monthly meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am via zoom at zoom.us/j/465177395
- Contact the RDC at RDC@trcnyc.org to learn more.
- Follow our work at www.trcnyc.org/rdc

Your Riverside Development Committee

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.

Most meetings are continuing during their regularly scheduled time via Zoom or conference call. Please contact your Committee/Commission representatives or Staff Liaison to confirm meeting and to receive call-in information.

Audit Committee
Quarterly at Call of Chair

Church Council
Monday, April 27 at 6:45 p.m.

Education Commission
Monday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m.

MSJ Commission
Monday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel & Salary Committee
Monday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Budget & Planning Committee
Thursday, April 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Monday, April 20th at 5:30 p.m.
Conference Call

Nominating Committee
Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Sharing Fund Committee
Monday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship Committee
Thursday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Riverside Development Committee
Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Building Committee
Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Membership & Parish Life Comm.
Monday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m.

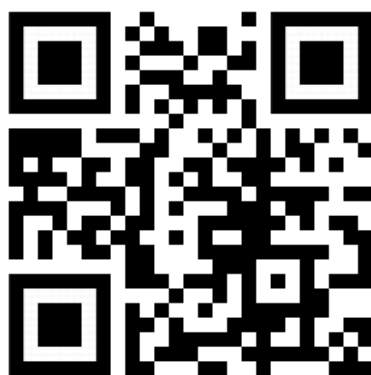
Ordination Committee
Tuesday, April 21st at 6:45 p.m.

Social Services Committee
Sunday, April 5th at 1:00 p.m.

Worship Commission
Monday, April 13th at 6:45 p.m.

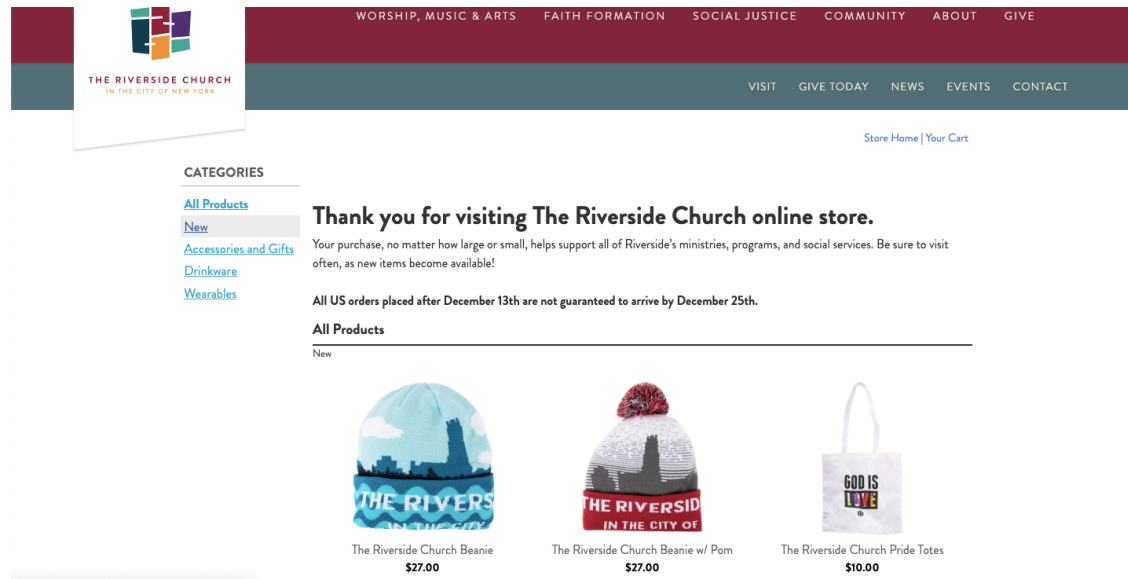
For a complete list of Calendar of Events
please visit [**trcnyc.org/events**](https://trcnyc.org/events)

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



Support Riverside by Shopping Online Anytime!

You can now support The Riverside Church's programs and ministries by shopping online anytime at 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.

@dimitryleger 




@mia_renewed 




@imagesbydouble.d 



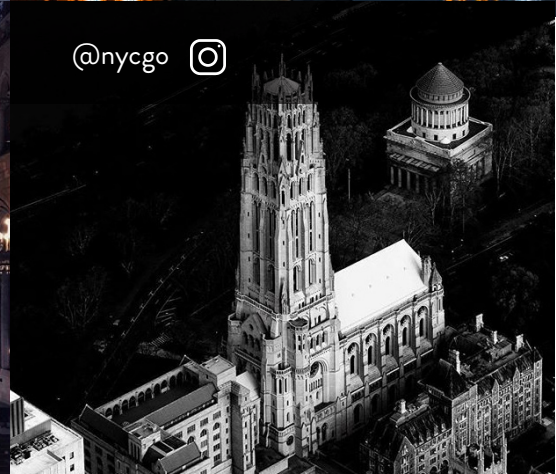
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@ibogard 