



Aging Solo in the City | November 12

Adjourned Annual Meeting | November 19

Thanksgiving Service & Brunch | November 23

Lunch & Learn with Rev. Mark Charles | November 26

Advent Fest | December 3

Handel: Judas Maccabaeus | December 14

Candlelight Carol Festival | December 17

Christmas Eve Services | December 24

New Year's Eve Watch Night Service | December 31

MLK Joy Regardless Concert | January 14

The Riverside Choir Benefit Cabaret | January 28

Ash Wednesday Service | February 14

Inspirational Choir: Turn the World Around | February 25

Lunch & Learn with Rev. Dr. Courtney Pace | March 10

Spring Equinox Thunderbird Pow Wow | March 17

Maundy Thursday Service | March 28

Good Friday Service | March 29

Easter Sunday Service | March 31

The 45th Annual English Handbell Festival | April 14

Lay Leadership Candidate Forum | April 28

Children, Youth, & Riverside Strings Spring Concert | May 5

The King of Instruments Summer Organ Series | July 2024



Welcome to the Festival of Lay Ministries!

This booklet offers a glimpse into the diverse array of ministries at The Riverside Church, created by our Commissions in partnership with Communications, to keep you informed about key highlights and events. It also extends an invitation to every member of our community to engage and participate. While it doesn't encompass every program, it's designed to give you a meaningful taste of the vibrant and purposeful life of our church.

As we embrace this year's theme, 'True Religion,' may this booklet be your compass, guiding you to a deeper connection with our church.

For those seeking more information on volunteer opportunities, please visit trcnyc.org/volunteer.



Worship The Worship Commission is responsible for the worship programs of the Church. It advises on the overall planning of the Sunday services, other worship services, and special services. It consults with the Director of Music on the music program of the Church for Sunday services and special occasions. **Trcnyc.org/worship**

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.

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Fresh Start

Formerly known as Morning Light, all are welcome to join this intimate early Sunday morning service incorporating light meditation, Scripture reading, and homily.

Online: Sundays, 8:30 am -9:00 am via Zoom

Sunday Morning Worship

Our traditional Sunday service follows the lectionary and liturgical calendar and is centered around Scripture, preaching, music, and prayer. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

In Person: Sundays 11:00 am-12:00 pm in the Nave, special music begins at 10:30 am

Livestream: Sundays 10:45 am-12:00 pm via Riverside's YouTube channel OR on your phone by dialing (844) 223-6490

On demand: Via our YouTube channel OR on your phone by dialing (844) 223-6490

Space for Grace

A monthly in-person and online gathering featuring Gospel music, prayer, preaching, communion, and more.

In Person & Online: Wednesday after Communion Sunday, 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm; 6:30 pm Dinner

Worship News and Updates

Visit <u>www.trcnyc.org/worship</u> OR download the Riverside App to your mobile device

Ministries and Opportunities to Serve

Music

Riverside's Music Programs are an integral part of our worship, rehearsing and participating in services throughout the year. Contact music@trcnyc.org for details.

The Riverside Choir

Sings every Sunday morning September–June, and at other special services through the year. Auditioned, for experienced choral singers, music reading required. Contact the music office at music@trcnyc.org

Riverside Inspirational Choir

Sings Gospel and contemporary Christian music, often accompanied with piano, bass guitar and percussion. Contact the music office at music@trcnyc.org

Riverside Ringers

Handbells. Open enrollment. No audition but some music & rhythm reading required.

Contact Daniel Potter at dpotter@trcnyc.org

Youth Choirs & Ensembles

To join the following Youth Ministry choirs and ensembles, choose your preference on the CYF Registration form online at trcnyc.org/youth

Cherub Choir: Children in K-1st grade
Riverside Youth Choir: Youth in 7th-12th grades
Riverside Rising Voices: Children in 2nd-6th grades
Riverside Youth String Ensemble: String players in 6th-12th grades

Ushers/Greeters

Ushers: Contact Jerome Hairston at jeromehairstonjr@outlook.com Greeters: Contact Carol White at clwhite212@aol.com

Communion

Preparation: Contact Lorraine Burchall at Iburchall801@gmail.com or Allanah Salter at salteen@verizon.net Servers: Contact Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer at ameisenheimer@trcnyc.org

Lay Readers

Contact Rev. Lisa Weaver at Iweaver@trcnyc.org or Rev. Charlene Wingate at cwingate@trcnyc.org

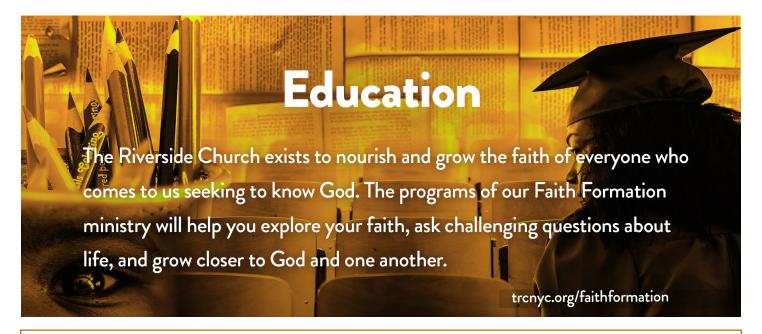
2023-2024 Worship Commission Members

David Vaughn, *Chair* Alexa Donaphin, *Vice Chair*

Karissa Garner Zachary Tyler Newto
Irene King David Orcutt
Patricia McClure Robbie Patterson
Douglas Miller

Staff Liaisons

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver, Worship Consultant Rev. Charlene Wingate



Whether you're new to Riverside and want to explore or you've been around a while and want to go a little deeper, you've picked a good place to start!



Children, Youth and Families Ministry

At The Riverside Church, we believe that the community of God is open to all, including our youngest ones. Our vision is to create a worshipful environment that meets the needs of all ages through music, story, art, and play. Our Sunday mornings are divided into a choir hour, which is organized by the Music Department, and the worship hour (10:30 am-12:15 pm).

Our education team provides a **vibrant, interactive worship experience** for every age and stage. For more information on any of our children's programming or to volunteer with the ministry, please email education@trcnyc.org. For specific times and places for each age group, see <u>trcnyc.org/faithformation</u>.

Please note, on the first Sunday of each month, families worship together in the Nave. Special "Borrow Bags" are provided for children to engage the worship experience more effectively and joyfully.

Baptisms At Riverside

At The Riverside Church, we love to celebrate new life!

Baptism is an outward and visible sign of God's grace and the abundant life that Christ offers. God's promise of new life extends to both children and adults. The Riverside Church practices both infant baptism by sprinkling and believer's baptism by sprinkling or immersion, reflecting our denominational traditions within the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Church. Infant dedications are also offered as an option for parents wishing their children the choice to ultimately be baptized as believers. Those seeking baptism or dedication should be members of the church, and are required to attend a Baptism/Dedication Workshop prior to the baptism. Register at trcnyc.org/baptisms to learn more and to sign up for a Baptism Orientation Class.

Scan any of the QR Codes below to discover ways to get involved! Questions? Email: education@trcnyc.org

Riverside Youth Ministry (Grades 7-12)

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.

On Sundays during worship, Middle and High School Youth learn and grow, building friendships and strong community with each other. At least once a month, there is an outing for students to experience the world and their friendships in new and fun ways. This year we hope to coordinate museum visits, retreats, community service, and other outings.

Confirmation: Designed for youth in grades 7 and above, are a journey that teaches basic theology of Christ, and how the Gospel ultimately affects how we relate to God, neighbor, church, and world. Students and parents are encouraged to engage this interactive faith passage journey together. Confirmation classes run bi-monthly January-June.

Young Adults & College Ministry (Ages 18-35)

Young Adult Ministry - Young Adult Bible Study, Brunches, Retreats and more!



In this huge city that seems to never pause, it is easy to be overcome by life's busyness and lose yourself in the daily grind. At The Riverside Church, we are committed to connecting adults to a vibrant community of peers as we pursue the life and hope that God has to offer. Check out the latest "All Things Education" newsletter to discover the latest events and fellowship opportunities, including Sunday brunch, spiritual retreats, small group dinner parties and game nights. For more information and to sign-up for our weekly newsletter email education@trcnyc.org.

Adult Education/Faith Formation

Adult Education Ministry 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. Our adult education small groups run September-June. Register at tronyc.org/adults

2023-2024 Education Commission Members

Chiara Fuller, Chair Robin Veenstra-VanderWeele, Vice Chai

Luvon Roberson Debra Lily
Hylda Clarke Brian O'Dell
Reginald Evans Mark Wallace
anathan Favor-Grimes Julian Whartor

Staff Liaisons

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer Rev. Dr. Colleen Birchett (Curriculum Development)



Join Us

MSJ collaborates with the **Poor People's Campaign**, a national fusion movement dedicated to societal transformation. Together, we address interconnected injustices such as racism, poverty, militarism, ecological devastation, and distorted religious nationalism. In alliance with **Reclaim Our Vote**, MSJ conducts impactful activities like postcard writing and phone banking to amplify our collective voice for change. Join us in shaping a more just and equitable world.

Meetings

Join us on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Contact us for Zoom link.

Upcoming Events



https://www.trcnyc.org/ justice/#mission - social justice - events

Discover Our Mission and Social Justice Ministries

At The Riverside Church, our Mission and Social Justice (MSJ) Commission plays a pivotal role in shaping our social justice agenda. We host eleven distinct ministries that are tirelessly dedicated to the cause of social justice. These ministries are integral to our tradition and commitment to making a difference in our community and the world.

Each ministry represents a unique and urgent endeavor, addressing critical needs within the community. We actively seek ways to support these ministries under the MSJ umbrella, fostering meaningful impact in their missions. Our success is built on the power of collaboration, and we have identified three focus areas for our programming partnerships:

Equity

Standing in solidarity with marginalized communities, advocating for equity and equality.

The Earth

Addressing the climate crisis through education, environmental initiatives, and political action to preserve our planet.

Democracy

Safeguarding our democracy and promoting civic engagement at local, state, and national levels.

Our ministries span a wide range of social justice issues, and we invite you to explore and engage with them.

African Fellowship

Fostering spiritual and social solidarity with Africans and allies.

Contact: George Fillie-Faboe | gfilliefaboe@gmail.com

Meetings: Second Sunday | 1:30 pm | MLK 311 | Contact us for Zoom link

Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/africanfellowship

Antiracism Taskforce

Working to combat racism within our church, community, and nation.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Contact:} Carol Fouke-Mpoyo | cjfm10@hotmail.com \\ \textbf{Meetings:} Fourth Sunday | 7:00 pm | Contact us for Zoom link \\ \end{tabular}$

Website: trcnyc.org/antiracismtaskforce

Beloved Earth Community

Advocating for climate justice through education and environmental activism.

Contact: David King | davidking1089@gmail.com or Claudia Canasto | canastoclachi@gmail.com

Meetings: First Saturday | 1:00-3:00 pm | Contact us for Zoom link

Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/belovedearth

Black Lives Matter @ Riverside

Addressing systemic injustices faced by Black individuals and communities.

Contact: Ruby Sprott | rubysprott@gmail.com
Meetings: Contact us for more information
Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/blacklivesmatteratriverside

Ecclesia Ministry

Providing worship services for those seeking a non-traditional church experience.

Contact: Douglas Miller | mil429440@aol.com

Meetings: Fourth Sunday | 2:00 pm | Marcus Garvey Park

Food Prep: Fourth Sunday | 10:00 am | Assembly Hall Kitchen (RSVP in advance)

Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/ecclesiaministry

Latinx Ministry

Celebrating Latinx culture while addressing socio-political and economic issues.

Contact: Arelis Figueroa | aremfigue@gmail.com Meetings: Second Sunday | 1:30 pm | Contact us for location

Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/latinxministry

Our ministries span a wide range of social justice issues, and we invite you to explore and engage with them.

Maranatha

Promoting understanding and equity for LGBTQIA individuals and their allies.

Contact: Reggie Evans | reggieworld@gmail.com Meetings: Second Sunday | 1:30 pm | MPR Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/maranatha

Men's Class

Building faith and fellowship through social and educational programs. Open to all genders.

Contact: Tunde Aboyade-Cole | eimg2004@yahoo.com | mensclass.trc@gmail.com

Meetings: Third Sunday | 1:30 pm | MPR Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/mensclass

Prison Ministry

Advocating for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, as well as their families and communities.

Contact: Sheila Rule | resiliencemultimedia@verizon.net Meetings: Fourth Sunday | 1:30 pm | Contact us for location

Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/prisonministry

South Africa/Cuba Support Group

Supporting healing in post-apartheid South Africa and partnering with IFCO/Pastors for Peace work in Cuba.

Contact: Ruby Sprott | rubysprott@gmail.com Meetings: Contact us for more information Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/southafricancuba

Theatre of the Oppressed

Using "Forum Theatre" to illuminate and address pressing social, economic, health, and human rights issues.

Contact: Jeremiah Drake | theatreoftheoppressedtrc@gmail.com

Meetings: Third Saturday | 1:00-4:00 pm | MPR Website: trcnyc.org/ministries/theatreoftheoppressed

2023-2024 Mission & Social Justice Commission Members

Pamela Davis, Chair Derrick Biney-Amissah, Vice Chair

Milly Akinsulu Rainer Engelken
Victoria Anderson Arelis Figueroa
Gary Bogle Janette Kemp
Sumati Devadutt David King
Lissa Dodington

Staff Liaisons

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner, Minister of Justice, Advocacy, and Change Takisha Brown, Administrative Assistant

Membership, Care and Parish Life Membership, Care & Parish Life (MCPL) is responsible for the membership and parish life program of the Church. It is also responsible for pastoral care within the Church and community and for promoting varieties of fellowship opportunities. Trenyc.org/socialservices trenyc.org/socialservices

OLDER ADULTS

Tower League: The Tower League is a supportive, caring community of older adults, which meets each Thursday from September to June. Its purpose is to foster fellowship, educational opportunities, social activities, outreach, and spiritual growth for members and friends of The Riverside Church.

Business & Professional Women's Group: The B's & P's encourage fellowship between business and professional women while educating the Riverside community about issues unique to women. Through offering cultural, social, and service opportunities, they promote spiritual growth and renewal for the church and community.

PASTORAL EVENTS & SERVICES

PARISH CARE

Weddings: The Riverside Church is an open and affirming interdenominational Christian church with extensive experience uniting interfaith, heterosexual, and same-sex couples.

Funerals & Memorials: The Riverside Church holds funeral and memorial services for members, immediate family, and friends of our faith community. A comprehensive booklet is available to guide the planning process. The Memorial Society assists with the purchase of niches in Riverside's Columbarium.

PASTORAL CARE

Congregational Care: The Congregational Care Team, a committee of lay volunteers, provides care and support to fellow congregants in need.

Support Groups: Riverside facilitates mutual-support groups in several areas of need, including the Matthew 5:4 Grief Support Group for the spouse/partner.

Clergy on Call: Riverside members may call 212-870-6712 when there is a serious emergency—such as illness, death, accident, or hospitalization—that creates an immediate need for pastoral care from a staff clergyperson.

Wellness: The Wellness Ministry includes exercise opportunities such as Art of Movement, a healthy-motion program for older people; Tai Chi, a stress-reduction technique, moving meditation, and path to greater flexibility, strength, and concentration; and semiannual Spiritual Life Retreats, weekend-long, retreat-center-based prayer experiences.

Clothing Distribution: Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 11:30 am, free casual clothing and professional attire are available to those who have registered with our Food Pantry. Professional attire is available by referral and appointment only.

* Fall and Spring Clothing Sales: Volunteers needed to assist with this popular initiative that raises funds to support Riverside's Social Services programs.

Direct Aid: Direct Aid provides financial assistance to an individual or family facing an emergency that may lead to homelessness or utility shut-off. Emergency needs addressed include shelter, clothing, food, utilities (gas, electric and phone), transportation, storage, medical assistance, medicine, counseling, and job training.

Food Pantry: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Food Pantry provides individuals and families access to nonperishable food as well as a variety of fresh foods.

- * Hospitality: Volunteers needed to provide hospitality to Food Pantry guests while they wait for their turn to shop.
- * Restocking: Volunteers needed on Mondays to help restock Food Pantry shelves.

Self-Help Groups: Groups convening at Riverside include Alcoholics Anonymous.

Waiting-Room Program: During Food Pantry hours, community members are offered information, referrals and services on a range of topics including health, education, and entitlements.

Each year, MCPL organizes churchwide events that foster fellowship and service, including Homecoming and our Holiday Meals initiative, which includes opportunities for Riverside volunteers to help serve and deliver delicious, festive meals for community members in need.

Our four-session Membership Class provides a rich opportunity for prospective members to explore Riverside's mission, history, ministries, governance, and practices—and, most importantly, to discern God's calling to the church. MCPL then connects new members with opportunities to serve, grow, and deepen relationships with the congregation. Visit tronyc.org/membership for more information.

^{*} Volunteer opportunities available. If you think you may be interested in serving in one or more of these areas, please call our office (212-670-6963) or email jrogers@trcnyc.org.

Fall & Winter 2023 Preview

10/28-11/02

Fall Clothing Sale

South Hall

11/05

All Saints' Day
Service

Nave

11/12

Joining Sunday

Candidates become members

Nave

11/23

Thanksgiving Service & Brunch

Nave/South Hall

12/10

Service of Hope & Consolation

Christ Chapel

12/23

Winter Wonderland

Holiday toy giveaway and social-service-agency tabling

South Hall

2023-2024 Membership, Care, and Parish Life Commission Members

Karen Diggs, Co-Chair

Patricia Pell, Co-Chair

Annie Meredith

Marion Logan Conteh

Laura Miraz

Aida Montero

Bryant Harris

Jocelyn Perry

kldscombo@gmail.com
patpellnyc@gmail.com
ahmeredith@gmail.com
mloganconteh@gmail.com
laura.miraz@abhms.org
dmonterous@yahoo.com
bryantbrant@gmail.com

jocelynseleneperry@gmail.com

Membership, Care, and Parish Life Staff

Rev. Dr. Debra Northern, Minister of Parish Care Director of Social Services	dnorthern@trcnyc.org	212-870-6741
Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper, Minister of Older Adults	lharper@trcnyc.org	212-870-6753
Clent Paddio Jones, Program Planning & Events Coordinator	cjones@trcnyc.org	212-870-6844
Julio Quirindongo, Food Pantry Coordinator	jquirindongo@trcnyc.org	212-870-6733
Reyita Rodriguez, Clothing Distribution Coordinator	rerodriguez@trcnyc.org	212-870-6939
Joe Rogers, Office Manager	jrogers@trcnyc.org	212-870-6963



PLEASE VISIT WWW.RIVERSIDEHAWKS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION



BACKGROUND & MISSION

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Founded by the Riverside Church in 1961, the Riverside Hawks have been a staple program in the Harlem community. We provide an opportunity for youth to use basketball as a vehicle to improve academic outcomes and in turn, improve career prospects. Through some transitions, the program has now expanded its programming to support not only its basketball players but any young person in our local community. The Riverside Hawks Board and The Riverside Church leaders have fortified the program and provided the infrastructure that allows us to hire staff that can focus on the academic needs of our male and female student-athletes, while still also offering excellent basketball training.







LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Our goal is to prepare young students in grades 5th - 8th for High School, through Positive Youth Development Experiences with a focus on students Social and Emotional Learning. We have combined Riverside's Elite Basketball History and resources with a primary focus on **Test Prep**, **Tutoring**, **and Homework Support coupled with Mentoring Programs** led by our experienced coaches, tutors, coordinators, and Columbia University interns during the academic year. Through our current community programming we have created relationships within the surrounding community including the **Manhattanville and Grant Housing NYCHA developments**, as well as public schools in West Harlem and the Bronx, such as PS 86.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

In order to reach a broader audience of the Harlem, Washington Heights, and Bronx communities. We offer a 42-week enrichment program that focused on student academic success. There is no cost to participate in our Leadership Academy.



TACHS & SSAT PREP

We offer TACHS Exam and SSAT Exam Prep classes for any 8th-grader who would like to get better prepared to take the Catholic school exam as well as the SSAT Exam which is a standardized test necessary for acceptance into boarding & independent schools. We had 38 – 8th Graders who participated in our TACHS Exam Prep course.



FREE TUTORING

All report cards are collected from each kid in the program and are analyzed to identify any students struggling in any class. Those identified as struggling, are mandated to attend free tutoring provided by the program which is usually set up an hour and a half before their practice.



SUMMER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CAMP

Every year we offer a 3-week Summer Leadership Academy Camp. The camp runs for 3 weeks and we have 2 weeks of Robotics, where youth will build, code, and drive their robots around. Their last week will consist of Local Civics instruction. Each day they also receive Basketball training by our USBA certified basketball coaches who teach the game in a fun and engaging way and participate in field trips.



SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

We have registered more than 100 kids in our SNL program and every Saturday we host over 40 kids who receive free Basketball instruction from our coaches. We run two sessions from 4PM – 8PM with participants who are anywhere between the ages of 8 – 18, and primarily from Harlem, Washington Heights and the Bronx.



BASKETBALL

We provide basketball instruction/trainings that are structured as a team practice (including scrimmages), provided on Fridays and Saturdays.



Discover The Weekday School: A Progressive Preschool and Kindergarten

Our small, private school located in the historic Riverside Church's Martin Luther King Jr. Tower has been providing quality education to children aged 2-5 years of age. We believe children deserve more than just a Sunday school; they deserve a Weekday School they can call their own. Join us in our mission to provide a nurturing and comprehensive education for your child.



Saturday, Nov 4, 2023 11 am-12 pm





Please RSVP

