THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
FESTIVAL OF LAY MINISTRIES
2023-2024
SELECT UPCOMING EVENTS

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 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 [www.trcny.org/worship](http://www.trcny.org/worship) 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 lburchall801@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 lweaver@trcnyc.org or Rev. Charlene Wingate at cwingate@trcnyc.org

2023-2024 Worship Commission Members

David Vaughn, Choir
Alexa Donaphin, Vice Chair
Karissa Garner
Irene King
Patricia McClure
Douglas Miller
Zachary Tyler Newton
David Orcutt
Robbie Patterson

Staff Liaisons

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver, Worship Consultant
Rev. Charlene Wingate
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 trcnyc.org/faithformation.

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.
Adult Education/Faith Formation

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 trcnyc.org/adults

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.

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.

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 trcnyc.org/adults

2023-2024 Education Commission Members

Chiara Fuller, Chair
Robin Veenstra-VanderWeele, Vice Chair
Luvon Roberson
Hylda Clarke
Reginald Evans
Jonathan Favor-Grimes
Debra Lily
Brian O’Dell
Mark Wallace
Julian Wharton

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

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

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.*  
**Contact:** Carol Fouke-Mpoyo | cjfm10@hotmail.com  
**Meetings:** Fourth Sunday | 7:00 pm | Contact us for Zoom link  
**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

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**2023-2024 Mission & Social Justice Commission Members**

Pamela Davis, Chair  
Derrick Biney-Amissah, Vice Chair  
Milly Akinsulu  
Victoria Anderson  
Gary Bogle  
Sumati Devadutt  
Lissa Dodington  
Rainer Engelken  
Arelis Figueroa  
Janette Kemp  
David King

**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.

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.

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.

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.
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 trcnyc.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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>10/28-11/02</td>
<td>Fall Clothing Sale</td>
<td>South Hall</td>
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<td>11/05</td>
<td>All Saints’ Day Service</td>
<td>Nave</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
<td>Joining Sunday</td>
<td>Nave</td>
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<td>11/23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Service &amp; Brunch</td>
<td>Nave/South Hall</td>
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<td>12/10</td>
<td>Service of Hope &amp; Consolation</td>
<td>Christ Chapel</td>
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<td>12/23</td>
<td>Winter Wonderland</td>
<td>South Hall</td>
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### 2023-2024 Membership, Care, and Parish Life Commission Members

- **Karen Diggs**, Co-Chair  
  kdslscombo@gmail.com
- **Patricia Pell**, Co-Chair  
  patpellnyc@gmail.com
- **Annie Meredith**  
  ahmeredith@gmail.com
- **Marion Logan Conteh**  
  mloganconteh@gmail.com
- **Laura Miraz**  
  laura.miraz@abhms.org
- **Aida Montero**  
  dmonterous@yahoo.com
- **Bryant Harris**  
  bryantbrant@gmail.com
- **Jocelyn Perry**  
  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
BACKGROUND & MISSION

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.

ACADEMICS

PROVIDE ACADEMIC SUPPORTS FOR ALL PROGRAM STUDENTS
Create experiences for student-athletes beyond basketball by fostering the development of life skills, driving educational opportunities, and providing mentorship.

BASKETBALL

HIGH LEVEL BASKETBALL FOR ALL AGES
Secure NCAA full-scholarship opportunities for student-athletes, while maintaining sportsmanship and competitive performance on the court.

COMMUNITY

CREATING AND TAKING PART IN PROGRAMS FOR HARLEM AND NYC
Empower student-athletes to create change through community service and continue to be a staple in Harlem.

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 student Social and Emotional Learning. We have combined Riverside’s Like Basketball History and resources with a primary focus on Test Prep, Tutoring, and Homework Support coupled with Mentoring Programs. We identify our experienced coaches, tutors, coordinators, and Columbia University interns during the academic year. Through our community programming, we have created relationships within the surrounding community including the Pinnafarina 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 6-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 6-week Summer Leadership Academy Camp. The camp runs for 5 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 USA 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 INI program and every Saturday we host over 40 kids who receive free basketball instruction from our coaches. We run two sessions from 4PM – 6PM 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/training 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.

Open House

Saturday, Nov 4, 2023  
11 am-12 pm

www.wdsnyc.org

Please RSVP