

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

## IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 23, 2026 | 11:00 AM

# Welcome to The Riverside Church

Interdenominational · Interracial · International · Open · Welcoming · Affirming

**WORSHIP is at the center of the life of The Riverside Church.**

As you prepare your heart and mind for worship, consider this quote:

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

-Teresa of Ávila

**A question for reflection:**

Who has shown up as God's grace for you?

## Connect With Us

Visit our [Welcome Page](#) to learn more



## Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



**Cover Art: Ruth & Naomi, 2000 by He Qi**

[www.heqiart.com](http://www.heqiart.com)

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## ASL Interpreter

Avery Gordon and M. Lisa Lockley

*Assisted listening devices are available to anyone who needs them. Speak to an usher to secure one for service. They can be returned to any usher at the end of service.*

*Riverside worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online.  
If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, we invite you to sit in the balcony.*

# GATHERING

*We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God.*

## CARILLON

Londonderry Air

Irish Air, arr. Sally Slade Warner

Slane (Be Thou My Vision)

Irish Ballad Melody, arr. Wendell Westcott

Finlandia (This Is My Song, O God of All the Nations)

Jean Sibelius, arr. Theophil Rusterholz

Carla Staffaroni, *carillonneur*

## ORGAN

Andante Variations in D

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Leah Fowler

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*standing as able*

Laith King

*One:* This day is God's gift to us –

***All:* A gift of community and Sabbath,**

*One:* A gift of doing nothing more than offering thanks and basking in the divine presence.

***All:* This time is our gift to God –**

*One:* A gift of song, and prayer, and silence,

***All:* A gift of offering our lives in service to our Maker.**

*One:* Surrounded by all these gifts, let us worship God.

Written by: Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

## INVOCATION

*standing as able*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN 303

*remain standing*

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Tim Dalton

*In a moment of silence, offer your own prayers of confession.*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## GLORIA PATRI

1. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the  
Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be -  
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,  
world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

## LISTENING

*We listen* for the word of God through song, Scripture, and preaching.

### GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Jeannie Lee

Luke 6:36-38 (*Pew Bible page 64-65* )

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### HEBREW BIBLE READING

Vaughn Columbine & Jeannie Lee

Ruth 2:1-23 (*Pew Bible page 242*)

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Dr. Jillian Langford

## SOLO

O, Divine Redeemer!

Charles Gounod

*Ab! Turn me not away, receive me tho' unworthy!  
Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress!  
Answer me from thy throne, haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid,  
Thy pity show in my deep anguish!*

*Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, tho' righteous thine anger,  
O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me!  
On Thee, Lord, alone will I call.*

*O, divine Redeemer!  
I pray Thee, grant me pardon,  
And remember not, remember not my sins!  
Forgive me, O divine Redeemer!*

*Night gathers round my soul;  
Fearful, I cry to Thee;  
Come to mine aid, O Lord!  
Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me!  
Hear my cry! Save me, Lord, in Thy mercy;*

*Come and save me. O Lord!  
Save, in the day of retribution,  
From Death shield Thou me, O my God!  
O, Divine Redeemer, have mercy!  
Help me, my Saviour!*

Liz Lang, soprano

## SERMON

When God Doesn't Interrupt

Dr. Jillian Langford

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

*One:* The Lord be with you.

***All:* And with your spirit.**

*One:* Lift up your hearts.

***All:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**

## PRAYER LIST

|                                                    |                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yvonne Allen                                       | Mace Anderson                                                                     |
| Kathia Almeida                                     | Dr. Colleen Birchett                                                              |
| Jewel Bletcher                                     | Tom Jarosz                                                                        |
| Caed Brawner                                       | George Johnson                                                                    |
| Lorraine Burchall                                  | Lee Kopf                                                                          |
| Loring Bush                                        | Jordan Konicki                                                                    |
| Valda Campbell                                     | Lisa Kremer                                                                       |
| Linda Chu                                          | Orlando Lagforega                                                                 |
| Jim Dager and John Souza                           | Carol Lee                                                                         |
| Kara Dago-Clark                                    | Margaret Madden                                                                   |
| Lourdes Davila-Rojas                               | Nivia Maldonaldo                                                                  |
| Morrell Dooley and family                          | Alexander Thomas Malm                                                             |
| Leslie Forshey                                     | Ayana Matthis, Christina Cooke,<br>and the child they were fostering              |
| Karissa Garner & her son,                          | Mark Meredith                                                                     |
| Isaac Cooke & mother,                              | Juanita Merritt                                                                   |
| Maria Garner                                       | Nancy Mosley                                                                      |
| Bernard George                                     | Joyce Norris                                                                      |
| Sharan Harper                                      | Dolores O'Connor                                                                  |
| Elizabeth Hess                                     | Nickie Palmer                                                                     |
| Winston Huang                                      | Megan Pell                                                                        |
| Taniqua Huguley-Chaplin<br>and son, Caycen Chaplin | Jennifer Willard                                                                  |
| Giau Huynh                                         | Janet Wise Thomas                                                                 |
| Celena Pena's                                      | Angela Sosa                                                                       |
| Grandmother Janice and<br>Aunt Joy                 | We continue to grieve with the<br>families of:                                    |
| Joan Ricketts                                      |                                                                                   |
| Ann Rocker                                         | Valeria and Sharon Spann in the<br>death of their cousin, Theodosia<br>Dullea     |
| Danielle Scott                                     |                                                                                   |
| John Seabrook, Jr.                                 | Daniel Yanes in his death.                                                        |
| Shirley Sutherland                                 |                                                                                   |
| George Theodore                                    | Jeremiah Drake in the death of<br>his Aunt, Emma Lou Drake                        |
| Libby Turnock                                      |                                                                                   |
|                                                    | Irene and David King in the<br>death of their brother-in-law,<br>Alfred J. Walker |

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Pray in the language or version closest to your heart.*

**All:** Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
Save us from the time of trial, deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.

## CHORAL AMEN

## RESPONDING

*We respond to the hearing of God's word through prayer, passing the peace,  
offering, and monthly communion.*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE *standing as able*

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

## INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God Is Seen

Alice Parker

*Through all the world below, God is seen all around. Search hills and valleys through, there he's found.*

*The growing of the corn, the lily, and the thorn. The pleasant and forlorn, all declare, God is there.*

*In meadows drest in green, God is seen. See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run.*

*The mist that veils the sky hides the sun. Then down the rain doth pour; the ocean, it doth roar, and beat upon the shore, and all praise the God who owns his designs.*

*The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies. The comet in her blaze, 'God', she cries.*

*The shining of the stars, the moon, when she appears, his awful name declares; see them fly through the sky, and join the solemn sound all around.*

## AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY

*standing as able*

*The congregation rises row by row as ushers pass to symbolize the offering of our whole selves to God.*

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

*remain standing*

Rev. Jim Keat

*Today, we celebrate the ministry of Morning Prayer, where for more than six years faithful hearts have gathered each weekday morning to awaken to the Holy Spirit, worship through scripture, music, reflection, prayer, and praise, and nurture a sacred community of love, acceptance, grace, and Christian fellowship.*

# SENDING

*We are sent* out into the world to love God and our neighbors.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN 415

Come, Labor On

*remain standing*

ORA LABORA

## BENEDICTION

*remain standing*

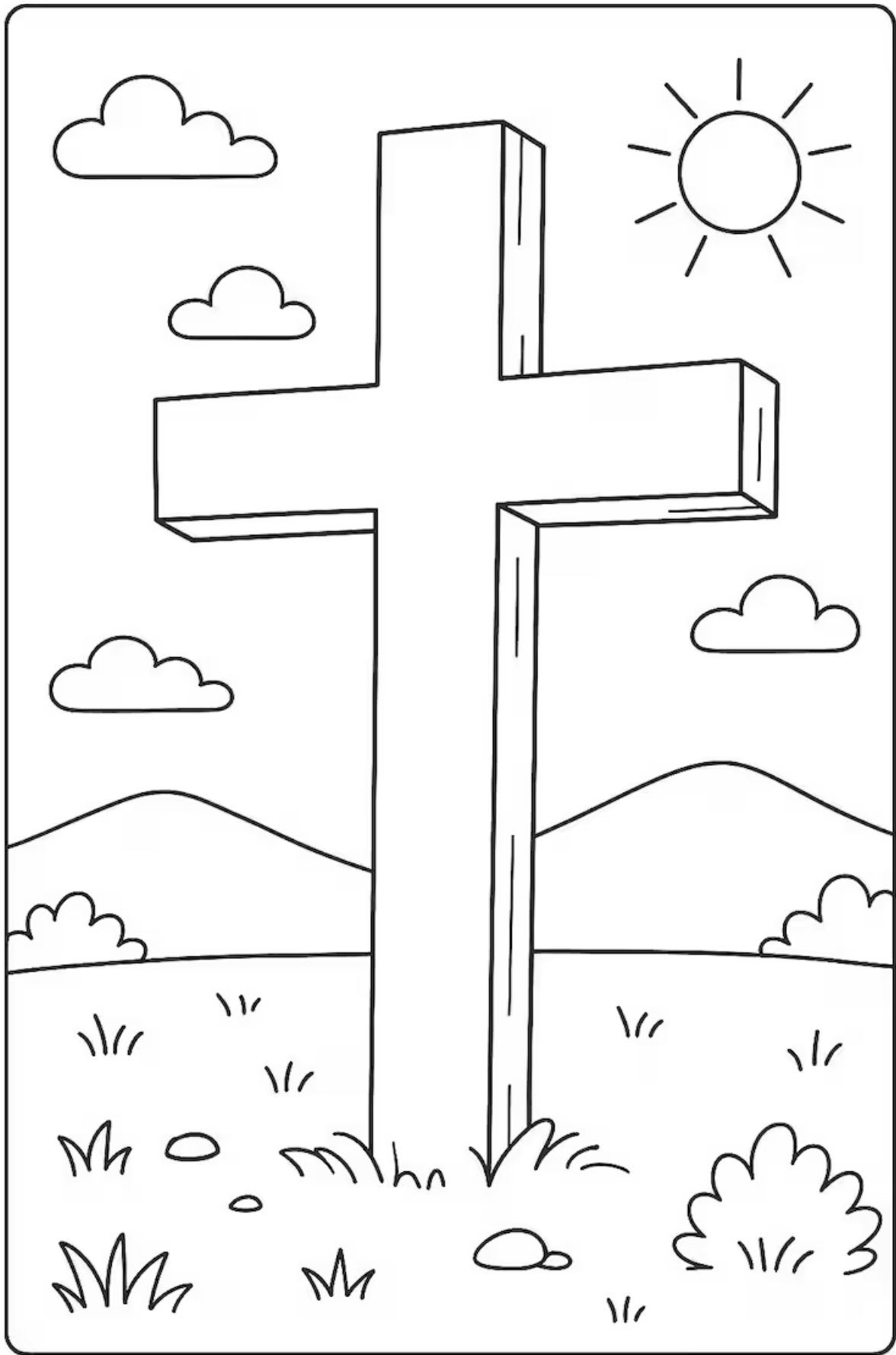
Dr. Jillian Langford

## POSTLUDE

Allegro assai vivace from Sonata No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*



## TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

|                                                                                         |                                    |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Breakfast</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )                                      | South Hall                         | 8:30 AM       |
| <b>The Seekers Book Study</b>                                                           | 323 MLK & Zoom                     | 9:00 AM       |
| <b>Grace Space Nursery</b>                                                              | See Usher or Security for Location | 10:00 AM      |
| <b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>                                                           | Nave & Online                      | 11:00 AM      |
| <b>Coffee Hour</b>                                                                      | South Hall Lobby                   | After Service |
| <b>Virtual Coffee Hour</b>                                                              | Online                             | After Service |
| <b>Lunch</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )                                          | South Hall                         | After Service |
| <b>Stories of Shared Resilience: Exploring the History of New York City's Chinatown</b> | 9T                                 | 1:00 PM       |
| <b>Carillon Recital</b>                                                                 | Riverside Neighborhood             | 1:30 PM       |
| <b>Ecclesia Ministry</b>                                                                | Marcus Garvey Park                 | 2:00 PM       |

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

### MONDAY, AUGUST 24

|                                                    |                       |         |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| <b>Morning Prayer</b>                              | Online                | 8:00 AM |
| <b>Flow: Finding God in Every Drop Summer Camp</b> | Multiple Rooms In MLK | 9:00 AM |
| <b>Church Council Meeting</b>                      | Online                | 6:30 PM |

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

|                                                    |                       |         |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| <b>Morning Prayer</b>                              | Online                | 8:00 AM |
| <b>Flow: Finding God in Every Drop Summer Camp</b> | Multiple Rooms In MLK | 9:00 AM |

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

|                                                    |                       |          |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>Morning Prayer</b>                              | Online                | 8:00 AM  |
| <b>Flow: Finding God in Every Drop Summer Camp</b> | Multiple Rooms In MLK | 9:00 AM  |
| <b>Midweek Bible Study</b>                         | Online                | 12:30 PM |



Visit [trcnyc.org/LOC](https://trcnyc.org/LOC) or scan the QR code to find out more about all the programs and events happening in the life of our community.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

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|                                                    |                       |          |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>Morning Prayer</b>                              | Online                | 8:00 AM  |
| <b>Flow: Finding God in Every Drop Summer Camp</b> | Multiple Rooms In MLK | 9:00 AM  |
| <b>Midweek Bible Study</b>                         | Online                | 12:30 PM |

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

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|                                                                       |                       |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>Morning Prayer</b>                                                 | Online                | 8:00 AM  |
| <b>Flow: Finding God in Every Drop Summer Camp</b>                    | Multiple Rooms In MLK | 9:00 AM  |
| <b>Multifaith Climate &amp; Immigration Justice Pilgrimage in NYC</b> | 26 Federal Plaza      | 10:00 AM |

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

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|                                    |                  |          |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| <b>Beach Trip to Coney Island!</b> | Riverside Church | 10:00 AM |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------|

## COMING SOON

|                                                 |                         |          |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| <b>Family Retreat</b>                           | Saturday, September 5-6 | 7:00 AM  |
| <b>After 9/11: A Documentary and Discussion</b> | Wednesday, September 9  | 7:00 PM  |
| <b>Homecoming Sunday</b>                        | Sunday, September 20    | 11:00 AM |

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## SERVICE PROGRAM FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Riverside Church partners with Service Program for Older People (SPOP). SPOP's mission is to enhance the quality of life of older adults and to foster their independent living through the delivery of comprehensive mental health and supportive services, advocacy and education. If you need support please reach out to Riverside's Director of Social Services, Alexandra Pimentel at [apimentel@trcnyc.org](mailto:apimentel@trcnyc.org).

# SPOP

SERVICE PROGRAM FOR OLDER PEOPLE

## **ABOUT RIVERSIDE**

The Riverside Church is an interdenominational, interracial, international, open, welcoming, and affirming church and congregation. The church is a member of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ. Riverside cooperates with the Council of Churches in the City of New York and with the New York State, National, and World Council of Churches. Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.

Rev. Adriene Thorne, Senior Minister  
Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., Senior Minister Emeritus



### **ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES & ASL INTERPRETATION**

Assisted listening devices are available for those who need them, and ASL interpretation is provided on select Sundays. Please see an usher to request a device or to find the best seating for viewing the interpreters.

### **SUNDAY MORNING PARKING**

Visit the Security Desk on the Claremont Level to pick up a \$5 parking coupon. Bring this bulletin and your parking ticket to the attendant on the upper level to receive this discounted rate, pay, and pick up your car. This discounted rate applies to Sundays only.

### **GRACE SPACE NURSERY**

Babies and toddlers are not too young to start learning about God's love for them. The grace space nursery is open every Sunday from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM and is staffed by trained nursery workers. For location, please see an usher or security guard.

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS**

Recitals take place most weeks at 1:30 PM and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals](http://trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals) for the complete schedule and programs.

### **MEMBERSHIP AT RIVERSIDE**

Membership is about responding to God's call on your life to step up and belong to this community as you pursue the passion God has set in your heart. By joining The Riverside Church you are taking the next step to partner with us as we seek to cultivate a community of justice, peace, and love that transforms the world. Visit [trcnyc.org/membership](http://trcnyc.org/membership) to find out more.

### **VOLUNTEER AT RIVERSIDE**

Riverside offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from ushering to providing support in our social services programs, and so much more! Discover the joy of giving back, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Visit [trcnyc.org/volunteer](http://trcnyc.org/volunteer) for more information.

### **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at [trcnyc.org/email](http://trcnyc.org/email). Be sure to add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) to your "Safe Sender list."

### **DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP**

Take Riverside with you wherever you go. Text TRCNyc to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://trcnyc.org/app) to stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.



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## PASTORAL TEAM AND MINISTERIAL STAFF



**Rev. Adriene Thorne**  
Senior Minister



**Rev. Tim Dalton**  
Minister for Congregational  
Care and Older Adults



**Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler**  
Minister for Intergenerational  
Christian Education and Formation



**Rev. Derrick T. Jordan**  
Ministerial Staff



**Rev. Jim Keat**  
Minister of Digital Worship  
and Education



**Dr. Jillian Langford**  
Associate Director of Education  
and Faith Formation  
(Children and Families)



**Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner**  
Minister of Justice, Advocacy,  
and Change



**Rev. Charlene A. Wingate**  
Ministerial Staff

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If you or someone you know is experiencing a pastoral emergency,  
please call 212.870.6710 and ask for the clergy on call.

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## PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

**Paul Byssainthe, Jr.**  
Associate Organist

**Natalie Fein**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs**  
Director of Music

**Talia Johnson**  
Manager of Member Services

**Alexandra A. Pimentel**  
Director of Social Services & Outreach

**Natalie Graves Tucker**  
Director of Communications and Development

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**THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**  
490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027  
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