

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



**HOMECOMING SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 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:

“To get stuck in the past is to stymie God's call.”

-Song-Mi Suzie Park

A question for reflection:

What courageous action have you taken without acknowledgement or appreciation?

Connect With Us

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



Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Cover Art: James Jacques Joseph Tissot, The Caravan, 1904. Courtesy of The Jewish Museum, New York.

ASL Interpreter

Canara Price & Sheldon Price

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

Chorale Partita V ("All my Hope on God is Founded")
God of Grace and God of Glory
Lift Every Voice and Sing

John R. Knox
arr. Beverly Buchanan
arr. Edward Nassor

Carla Staffaroni, *carillonneur*

ORGAN

Variations de Concert

Joseph Bonnet

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner

INTROIT

Sing Ye to The Lord

Everett Titcomb

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able

Alexander Simons

One: Welcome home! God of love, we rejoice in your name!

***All:* With grateful hearts, we praise you for the love that you sustain.**

One: Today, we celebrate coming home to our community of grace.

***All:* We honor those who came before and the ministry they embraced.**

One: As a new season begins, we carry wisdom from our past.

***All:* From what has been to what will be, guide us so the work will last. Come, let us worship!**

INVOCATION

standing as able

Rev. Tim Dalton

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 420

remain standing

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GLORIA PATRI



COMMISSIONING LAY LEADERS

We, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.

Romans 12:5-8

We have gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering,
the teacher, in teaching;
the exhorter, in exhortation,
the giver, in generosity;
the leader, in diligence;
the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**Lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
making every effort to maintain
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Ephesians 4:1-6

**There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

God of grace,
in baptism you have called us
to a common ministry
as ambassadors of Christ,
trusting us with the message of reconciliation.
Give us courage and discipline
to follow where your servants rightly lead us,
that together we may declare your wonderful deeds
and show your love to the world;
through Jesus Christ the Lord of all.
Amen.

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Ranardo-Domeico Grays

Matthew 28:19-20 (*Pew Bible page 34*)

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Ayana Mathis

Genesis 12:1-9 (*Pew Bible page 10*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Dr. Jillian Langford and Min. Kathy Lin

ANTHEM

Way Over in Beulah Land

Stacey Gibbs

Way Over in Beulah Land

*We gonna have a good time
Way over in Beulah land.*

*Oh, when we get way over in Beulah land,
Yes, way over in Beulah land.*

*We gonna have a good time
Way over in Beulah land.*

SERMON

Journeyed On By Stages

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

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	Ayana Mathis, Christina Cooke,
Kathia Almeida	and the child they were fostering
Mace Anderson	Juanita Merritt
Dr. Colleen Birchett	Nancy Mosley
Jewel Bletcher	Joyce Norris
Caed Brawner	Dolores O'Connor
Lorraine Burchall	Nickie Palmer
Loring Bush	Megan Pell
Valda Campbell	Celena Pena's Grandmother
Linda Chu	Janice and Aunt Joy
Jim Dager and John Souza	Joan Ricketts
Kara Dago-Clark	Ann Rocker
Lourdes Davila-Rojas	Danielle Scott
Morrell Dooley and family	Alexander Simmons
Leslie Forshey	Angela Sosa
Karissa Garner & her son,	John Souza
Isaac Cooke & mother,	Shirley Sutherland
Maria Garner	George Theodore
Bernard George	Janet Wise Thomas
Sharan Harper	Ronald Townsend
John Hartley	Libby Turnock
Winston Huang	Antonietta Valdez
Taniqua Huguley-Chaplin	
and son, Caycen Chaplin	We mourn with:
Giau Huynh	
Millicent James	Annie Meredith, Dahlia
Tom Jarosz	Rivadeneyra, and family in the
George Johnson	death of their father and Papa,
Jordan Konicki	Mark Meredith
Lee Kopf	
Lisa Kremer	The family of Nick Singletary in
Orlando Lagforega	the passing of his uncle, Leon
Gavin Landry	Singletary.
Carol Lee	
Margaret Madden	We continue to grieve with:
Nivia Maldonaldo	
	The family and friends of Brenda
	Clark in her death.

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

Rev. Jim Keat

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Psalm 150: Praise Ye The Lord

César Franck

*Alleluia! O Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in His temple.
Praise ye the Lord in the firmament of His power.
O praise Him for His might, and the greatness of His
wonders:*

*O praise Him, praise Him according to His majesty.
Praise the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
Praise the Lord with the lute and the harp.
Praise the Lord with the timbrel. Praise the Lord with the
dance.*

*O praise Him with the organ and instruments of strings.
Praise Him upon the loud cymbals.
Praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Alleluia!*

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. Charlene A. Wingate

*Today we celebrate the work of our Membership, Care & Parish Life Commission, which is dedicated to
supporting the care of our church community as we follow Christ together.*

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 264

When in Our Music God is Glorified

remain standing

ENGELBERG

BENEDICTION

remain standing

Rev. Adriene Thorne

POSTLUDE

Finale from Sonata No. 1

Alexandre Guilmant

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., *organist*

AN INVITATION FROM THE WORSHIP COMMISSION

Beloved Riverside community,

As part of our ongoing commitment to Creation Justice, the Worship Commission is inviting our congregation to take a meaningful step together: reducing our reliance on paper worship bulletins.

For generations, Riverside has been a community that listens for God's call in the world and responds with courage. Today, that call includes caring for creation in ways both large and small. One of the simplest and most impactful changes we can make is to reduce the thousands of sheets of paper we print each year for Sunday worship.

We know this will be a significant shift, especially for a congregation where the majority is over 65 and have long relied on printed bulletins. We want to honor that reality with tenderness and patience. Bulletins will continue to be available for those who need them, including our visually impaired members and anyone for whom a printed bulletin is essential for full participation in worship.

However, for those who are able, we are asking you to join us in trying something new. Our screens, our livestream, and our digital bulletin will carry everything you need to follow the worship service. By choosing to use these tools, you help Riverside live more fully into our commitment to justice for the earth and all God's creation.

This is not about taking something away but about moving together, at a thoughtful pace, toward a practice that reflects our values. We trust that, with grace and patience, we can make this communal transition together with a complete transition occurring by April 2027.

Thank you for walking this path with us.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES DURING BULLETIN CHANGE

- Honor accessibility — printed bulletins always available for visually impaired and anyone who truly needs one.
 - Honor dignity — no shaming, no policing, no testing.
 - Honor pace — change happens slowly.
- Honor justice — we will keep our creation-justice framing front and center.

MAKE YOUR PLAN TO **VOTE**

★ A QUICK VOTER CHECKLIST ★



✓ BEFORE ELECTION DAY

- ☐ Check your voter registration
- ☐ Register to vote if needed
- ☐ Mark important election dates on your calendar
- ☐ Decide: Early Vote, Mail-In Ballot, or Election Day
- ☐ Find your polling place
- ☐ Review your sample ballot ahead of time
- ☐ Bring required ID/documents



📖 GET INFORMED

- ☐ Use nonpartisan voter guides like:
 - **Vote411**
 - **ActiVote**
 - **League of Women Voters**
 - **MyVote Project**
 - **Call or Text 866-OUR-VOTE**
- ☐ Research candidates and ballot issues
- ☐ Talk with friends, neighbors, and coworkers about voting



VOLUNTEER FOR DEMOCRACY

- ☐ Volunteer with **NYC Votes**
- ☐ Become a poll worker
- ☐ Help monitor polling sites and support voter access
- ☐ Help register voters or organize a voter registration drive
- ☐ Join youth organizing with **GenVote**
- ☐ Volunteer with:
 - **Election Protection Coalition**
 - **We The Action**
 - **NYC Votes**
- ☐ Offer rides to the polls
- ☐ Share voting resources online
- ☐ Join postcard writing or phone banking campaigns
- ☐ Encourage your community to Get Out The Vote!



Justice is Love in Action
@jiaa_nyc
jiaa.org

**YOUR VOTE
HAS POWER**



Sunday, October 11, 2026

KEEP THE DEAL

MAYORAL ACCOUNTABILITY ASSEMBLY

WE ORGANIZED.

Metro IAF NY organized more than 10,000 New Yorkers to develop a people-powered agenda.

WE WON COMMITMENTS.

More than 3,000 leaders gathered to secure public commitments from mayoral candidates.

NOW WE KEEP THE DEAL.

Mayor Mamdani committed to this agenda. Join us as we review progress and organize for what's next.



\$2 BILLION
FOR
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING



20,000+
AFFORDABLE
HOMES
PLANNED YEARLY



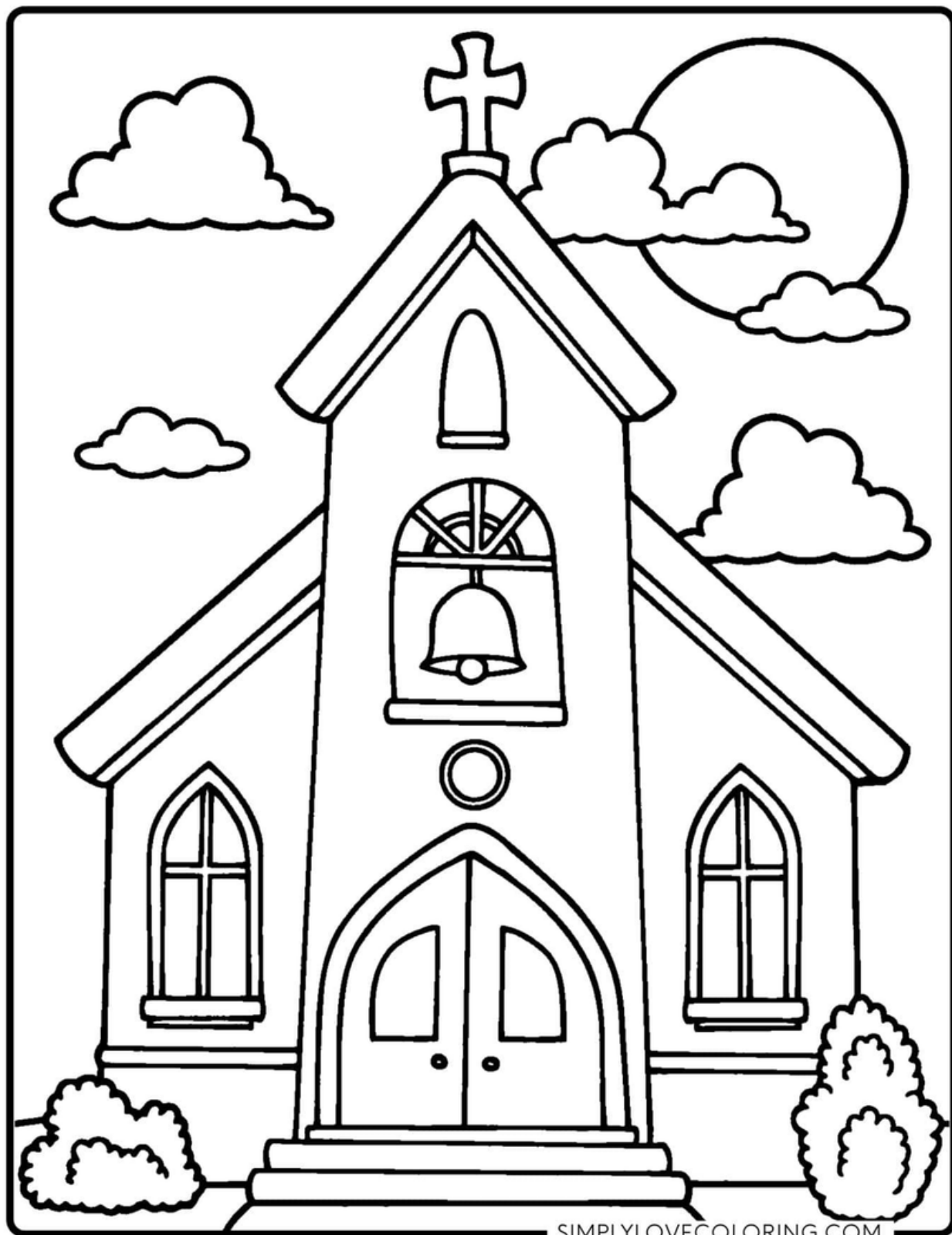
\$40 MILLION
FOR
NYCHA
REPAIRS

METRO IAF NY AGENDA

- BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- FIX NYCHA
- ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS
- ACT ON COMMUNITY ISSUES



SCAN TO REGISTER



TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Breakfast (<i>available for purchase</i>)	South Hall	8:30 AM
The Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
Education Registration Table	South Hall Lobby	9:45 AM
Cherub Choir	721 MLK	9:45 AM
Grace Space Nursery	See Usher or Security for Location	10:00 AM
Rising Voices	Chapel Of The Cross	10:00 AM
Homecoming Sunday Morning Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Church School	323 MLK	11:30 AM
Youth Group	8T	11:30 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	After Service
Homecoming Brunch	South Hall	12:30 PM
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
Men's Class	Multipurpose Room	1:30 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art Of Movement	10T	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	Online	11:00 AM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Corbin Hill	Cloister Lobby	11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 AM
Dinner Church	9T Library, 9T Kitchen	5:30 PM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	10T	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Art Of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Luncheon	Assembly Hall	12:00 PM
Spark Lab NYC: A Gathering to Ignite Stories of Faith and Justice	Nave	6:00 PM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Spark Lab NYC: A Gathering to Ignite Stories of Faith and Justice	Nave	9:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Spark Lab NYC: A Gathering to Ignite Stories of Faith and Justice	Nave	9:00 AM
Theatre of the Oppressed	Multipurpose Room	1:00 PM



Visit 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.

COMING SOON

Youth Confirmation Info Session	Sunday, September 27	1:00 PM
Festival of Lay Ministries	Sunday, September 27	1:30 PM
Short Circles: “The Spiritual Practice of Remembrance” with Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler	Thursday, October 1	7:00 PM
Word @ Night	Friday, October 2	6:00 PM
Election Protection Volunteer Training	Saturday, October 3	1:00 PM
Blessing of the Animals	Sunday, October 4	9:30 AM
Mental Health Listening Circle	Sunday, October 4	1:30 PM
Beyond Sunday: Worship Focus	Monday, October 5	6:00 PM
Mayoral Accountability Action	Sunday, October 11	12:45 PM

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.

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 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 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 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. Be sure to add 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 to stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.



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)



Min. Kathy Lin
Associate Director of Education
and Faith Formation
(Youth and Young Adults)



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



Rev. Charlene A. Wingate
Ministerial Staff

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

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

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027

212.870.6700 - trcnyc.org