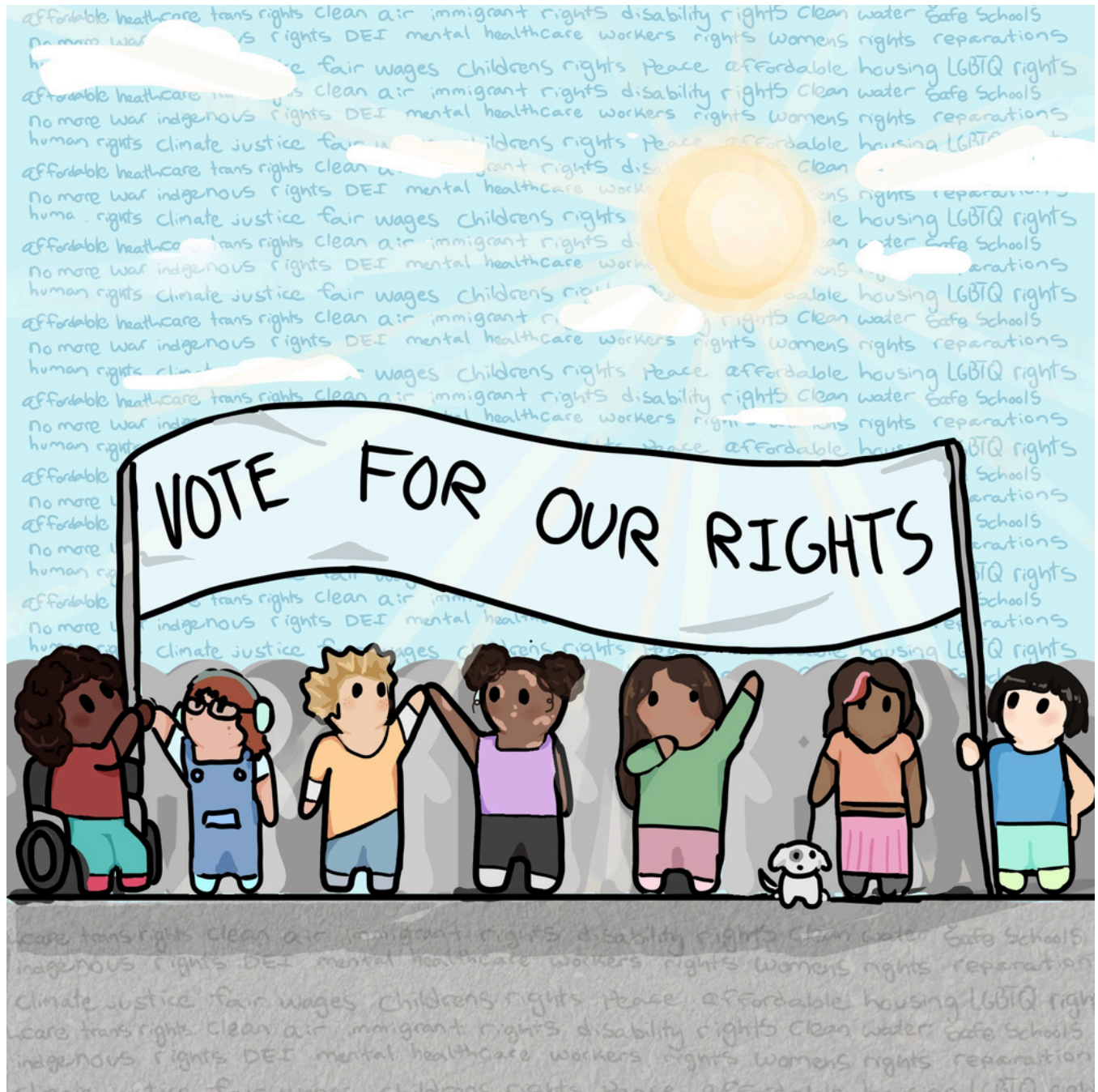


THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 18, 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:

Careful the spell you cast Not just on children Sometimes the spell may last
Past what you can see And turn against you...

Careful the tale you tell That is the spell Children will listen...

-Stephen Sondheim (Into the Woods)

A question for reflection:

What stories of faith do all children need to hear?

Connect With Us

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



Give With Your Phone

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



Cover Art: Created by Mya Joyner "voting rights are children's rights"

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

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
This Little Light of Mine
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. John Courter
arr. Tiffany Ng
arr. Beverly Buchanan

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*

FLUTE

Sonata in F major, Op. 1, No. 11
I. Larghetto
O How I Love Jesus

George F. Handel

American Melody

Lisa Page, *flutist*

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Jillian Langford

INTROIT

I Am a Promise

Bill and Gloria Gaither

*I am a promise I am a possibility
I am a promise with a capital P
I am a great big bundle of potentiality
And I am learning to hear God's voice
And I am trying to make the right choices
And I promise to be anything God wants me to be.*

*I can go anywhere God wants me to go
I can be anything God wants me to be
I can climb the high mountain
I can cross the wide sea
I am a great big promise you see....*

The Cherub Choir
Sharon Prichard, *director*
Yuliya Basis, *accompanist*

CALL TO WORSHIP

standing as able

Sonaya Toran

One: Today us kids are taking the lead

***All:* Children teach us to wonder, to imagine, and to ask questions.**

One: Children show us how to be brave

***All:* Children know that the world can be different and that we can help make it so.**

One: Children show us how to spread joy

***All:* Children remind us that God is present in laughter, friendship, play, and love.**

One: Thank you, Church, for listening to children

***All:* We come to listen, learn, and worship with open hearts and imaginations!
Let us worship.**

Written by Sonaya Toran and Dr. Jillian Langford

INVOCATION

standing as able

David Dembele

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 267

remain standing

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Micah Niang

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.

ANTHEM

Joy in My Heart

Adapted and Arranged by Rollo Dilworth

I've got this joy down in my heart, yes, down in my heart today. Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around. No one can quench this joy that I have found. This joy that I have can't be taken away. I believe in myself and I know that this joy is in my heart to stay. I've got this joy down in my heart, yes, down in my heart today. I've got joy!

LISTENING

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:8-10 (*Pew Bible page 3*)

Luci Dembele

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-26 (*Pew Bible page 215*)

Tommy Splain and Lukas de Leon

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Youth Group with Min. Kathy Lin

SOLO

Children Will Listen from Into the Woods

Stephen Sondheim

*How do you say to your child in the night
Nothing's all black, but then nothing's all white?
How do you say it will all be all right
When you know that it might not be true?
What do you do?*

*Careful the things you say
Children will listen
Careful the things you do
Children will see and learn
Children may not obey, but children will listen
Children will look to you for which way to turn
To learn what to be
Careful before you say "Listen to me"
Children will listen*

*Careful the wish you make
Wishes are children
Careful the path they take
Wishes come true, not free
Careful the spell you cast
Not just on children
Sometimes the spell may last
Past what you can see
And turn against you
Careful the tale you tell
That is the spell
Children will listen*

*How can you say to a child who's in flight
"Don't slip away and I won't hold so tight?"
What can you say that no matter how slight
Won't be misunderstood?
What do you leave to your child when you're
dead?*

*Only whatever you put in its head
Things that your mother and father had said
Which were left to them too
Careful what you say
Children will listen
Careful you do it too
Children will see
And learn, oh guide them that step away
Children will glisten
Tamper with what is true
And children will turn
If just to be free
Careful before you say
"Listen to me"*

Liz Lang, soprano

SERMON

Careful the Tale You Tell

Rev. Adriene Thorne

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler

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, and the child they were fostering
Kathia Almeida	Juanita Merritt
Mace Anderson	Dana Minaya
Dr. Colleen Birchett	Nancy Mosley
Jewel Bletcher	Joyce Norris
Caed Brawner	Dolores O'Connor
Loring Bush	Nickie Palmer
Valda Campbell	Megan Pell
Linda Chu	Celena Pena's Grandmother
Jim Dager and John Souza	Janice and Aunt Joy
Kara Dago-Clark	Karen Prato
Lourdes Davila-Rojas	Sandra Ramos
Morrell Dooley and family	Joan Ricketts
Jim Fairbanks	L. Ann B. Rocker
Leslie Forshey	Danielle Scott
Jason Garcia	Alexander Simmons
Karissa Garner & her son,	Angela Sosa
Isaac Cooke & mother,	Isabella Soto
Maria Garner	Shirley Sutherland
Bernard George	George Theodore
Sharan Harper	Ronald Townsend
John Hartley	Libby Turnock
David Hemans	Janet Wise Thomas
Winston Huang	
Taniqua Huguley-Chaplin and son, Caycen Chaplin	We continue to grieve with:
Giau Huynh	
Tom Jarosz	Diana Jackson-Robinson and family in the death of her brother,
George Johnson	Freddie Jackson.
Lee Kopf	
Jordan Konicki	
Lisa Kremer	
Orlando Lagforega	
Gavin Landry	
Carol Lee	
Nivia Maldonaldo	

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in the language or version closest to your heart.

Marilyn Dembele

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

Rev. Derrick T. Jordan

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

Josh Molina and Jacqueline Gregg

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

*All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all*

*Each little flower that opens
Each little bird that sings
He made their glowing colours
He made their tiny wings*

*The purple-headed mountain
The river running by
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky;*

*The cold wind in the winter
The pleasant summer sun
The ripe fruits in the garden –
He made them every one*

*He gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty
Who has made all things well*

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

Alejandra Argueta

Today we celebrate the work of our entire Music Ministry, which provides beautiful music for all our services, concerts and events, bringing glory to God through music. In Jesus' name we pray.

SENDING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

remain standing

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

1. "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2. "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3. "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

BENEDICTION

remain standing

Riverside Children and Youth

POSTLUDE

Spirit Fantasy

Carl Haywood

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, *organist*

INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Rev. Anthony Tang



The Rev. Anthony Tang joins The Riverside Church as Executive Minister, beginning October 19th, bringing experience in congregational leadership, denominational administration, and helping churches align their structures and resources with their mission.

Most recently, Rev. Tang served as Senior Associate Minister of Mission and Vision at First United Methodist Church of Dallas. Previously, he served as Director of Connectional Ministries for the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, supporting approximately 140 congregations. An ordained United Methodist elder, he holds a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and an Executive MBA from Arizona State University.

Rev. Tang believes that churches flourish when people are not simply welcomed, but genuinely needed. He values the many ways people bring their different God-given gifts into the life of the church and finds particular joy in cultivating connections and creating spaces where people can discover their gifts, contribute meaningfully to shared ministry, and accomplish together what none could do alone.

Rev. Tang and his wife, the Rev. Katherine Tang, recently relocated to Connecticut, where they share a home with Katherine's mother. Katherine serves as System Director of Spiritual Care for Yale New Haven Health.

Rev. Tang and Katherine share a love of exploring new places and communities and look forward to discovering the diverse food cultures of New York and Connecticut. He is especially eager to get to know the people of Riverside and join in the church's ongoing ministry of worship, service, and justice.



Copyright ©Sermons4Kids | All Rights Reserved | www.sermons4kids.com

TODAY AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Breakfast (<i>available for purchase</i>)	South Hall	8:30 AM
Fresh Start	Online	8:30 AM
Discovering The Bible	320 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
The Seekers Book Study	323 MLK & Online	9:00 AM
Open Bible Study	316 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
Biblical Hebrew - Beginners	314 MLK	9:30 AM
Grace Space Nursery	See Usher or Security for Location	10:00 AM
Rising Voices & Youth Choir	MLK 3 Chapel of The Cross	9:00 AM
Sunday Worship	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
Church School grades PK - 2	721 MLK	11:30 AM
Coffee Hour	South Hall Lobby	After Service
Virtual Coffee Hour	Online	After Service
Women of the Bible	Meditation Chapel	1:00PM
Carillon Recital	Riverside Neighborhood	1:30 PM
Men's Class	Multipurpose Room	1:30 PM
Children's Sabbath Art Workshop	10T	1:30 PM
Biblical Hebrew - Advanced	314 MLK	1:30 PM
The Riverside Strings and Bridgemusik Concert	Assembly Hall	3:00 PM

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE - YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Compassion Circle	10T	6:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Older Adults French Group	321 MLK	10:30 AM
Midweek Bible Study	Online	12:30 PM
Biblical Hebrew – Advanced Beginners	Online	5:00 PM
Dinner Church	9T Library, 9T Kitchen	5:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Art of Movement	411 MLK	10:00 AM
Tower League Bible Study	10T	11:00 AM
Tower League Luncheon	Assembly Hall	12:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Morning Prayer	Online	8:00 AM
Food Pantry	Food Pantry	9:00 AM



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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Theatre of the Oppressed	Multipurpose Room	1:00 PM
---------------------------------	-------------------	---------

COMING SOON

Harvest Fest	Saturday, October 31	12:00 PM
Special Meeting of the Congregation	Sunday, October 25	1:00 PM
Tower League MSM Musical	Sunday, October 25	2:00 PM
The Phantom Returns: A Silent Film Organ Spectacular <i>(Ticketed Event)</i>	Tuesday, October 27	7:00 PM
Light Eternal: Duruflé's Requiem for All Saints' Day	Sunday, November 1	3:00 PM
Riverside Turkey Trot 5K	Saturday, November 7	9:00 AM
Men's Class – "Challenges and Trials of Being Young Black Men"	Sunday, November 8	1:00 PM
Writing Workshop-The Psalm: A Poetic Reexamination	Sunday, November 8	1:30 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.

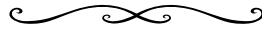
SPOP

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