

# LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

**MAY 2019**



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE  
GOD'S "EASTER PEOPLE" IN OUR WORLD?

JOIN US THIS MONTH FOR WORSHIP TO FIND OUT.

*See page 2 for more information.*



### BLACK MANIFESTO: REMEMBERING THE CHURCH'S CALL, 1969-2019

Sunday, May 5 | 2:00 pm | Christ Chapel

Join us for a forum on the enduring importance of the Black Manifesto's demands upon our church and society. Half a century after James Forman's famous interruption at Riverside, there are persistent injustices and inequalities in the lives of African Americans. Are reparations all or part of the solution? If not, what is?

Dr. Keri Day of Princeton Theological Seminary will keynote the forum with a trenchant lecture on the Black Manifesto and the church's responsibility in racial reparations. Panelists will include the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Polk, who in 1969 was Riverside's Minister for Urban Affairs, on Riverside's response to the Black Manifesto, and the Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel of New York Theological Seminary with a white ally's perspective.

### RIVERSIDE ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 19 | 12:30 pm | South Hall

Join us for Riverside's annual business meeting as we discuss the current and future state of the church. This is also the final day of voting in the 2019 Lay Leadership elections.



## GOD AND GENDER IDENTITY

*conversations with transgender Christians*

**SUNDAYS**  
APRIL 7, MAY 5 & JUNE 9  
12:30 p.m. | Assembly Hall

The Riverside Faith Formation ministry invites the entire Riverside congregation to God and Gender Identity, a three-part conversation series featuring Jenny Boylan, Joan Rater, J Mase, Austen Hartke.

Free lunch will be provided and childcare is available for students in grades K-6. Students in grades 7+ are encouraged to attend with their families.

Visit [trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity](http://trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity) for more information.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Worship & The Arts: Page 2**

*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. All are welcome as we seek to create beloved community, nourish faith, and transform our world.*

**Parish Care: Page 3**

*Parish Care offers pastoral support to the congregation and community, including our social services programs, Tower League programs and events, weddings, funerals, and more.*

**Education Ministry & Faith Formation: Pages 4-5**

*The Riverside Church exists to nourish and grow the faith of everyone who comes to us seeking to know God. The programs of our Faith Formation ministry will help you explore your faith, ask challenging questions about life, and grow closer to God and one another.*

**Mission and Social Justice: Pages 6-7**

*Live Justice Now is an ongoing initiative of Riverside's Mission & Social Justice ministries as we take action in response to the great need for truth, justice, and compassion in our world.*

**Stewardship & Development: Page 8**

*Christian stewardship is not just about how we use our money, it's about how we live our lives in communion with God and each other. Using learning tools like worship, education, and dialogue, Stewardship and Development supports and shapes people of faith as they strive to show generosity in every aspect of their lives and better understand the connection between faith and giving.*

**Music at Riverside: Page 8**

*For over 85 years the music program has drawn people from around the world to The Riverside Church. From our five choirs, to our carillon and four organs, to our renowned musicians, guests are certain to hear music that enlivens and nourishes the soul. Visit [trcnyc.org/music](http://trcnyc.org/music) to find out more.*

**What can Christians on the left and right do about the evil of our world? Page 9****Calendar of Events & Regular Meetings: Pages 10-12**

*Meeting dates, times, and locations for upcoming events.*

**Digital Discipleship: Page 13**

*We all encounter God in different ways. In an increasingly digital world, that includes videos, podcasts, and online media. Engage the Riverside community wherever you are through our original digital content at [www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship](http://www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship).*

## Worship & the Arts

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. All are welcome as we seek to create beloved community, nourish faith, and transform our world.

Rev. Ellen Robison | Minister of Worship & the Arts | [erobison@trcnyc.org](mailto:erobison@trcnyc.org)

### MORNING LIGHT

#### New Member Orientation

Sundays | 8:30 am | Christ Chapel  
Our intimate early Sunday morning service incorporating meditation, scripture reading, and communion.

May 5th: Dr. Sisen-yu Wang  
May 12th: Minister Charlene Wingate  
May 19th: Minister Derrick Jordan  
May 26th: Colleen B

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Sundays | 10:45 am | Nave

Our traditional Sunday service, held in the historic and beautiful Nave, follows the lectionary and liturgical calendar and is centered around scripture, preaching, music, and prayer. Communion is typically celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

May 5th: Rev. Dr. Amy Butler  
May 12th: Rev. Christian Peele  
May 19th: Rev. Dr. Amy Butler  
May 26th: Rev. Debra Northern

### SPACE FOR GRACE

Wednesdays | 7:00 pm | Assembly Hall  
Our Wednesday evening service is celebratory and less formal, featuring preaching, prayer, and gospel-inspired music to revive the spirit and help you through the week.

May 8th: Rev. Bruce Lamb  
May 15th: Rev. Jim Keat  
May 22th: Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper  
May 29th: Rev. Dr. Amy Butler



Following Easter Sunday, we will begin an exciting six week series in worship on welcoming revival and newness of life in our personal lives, our life together as a church and as members of the global family. We'll be diving into the Gospel of John as we highlight practices like forgiveness, telling the truth, healing and being witnesses. During those six weeks we'll enjoy music from the Boyd Family Singers, remember the 50th anniversary of the Black Manifesto, celebrate Mother's Day and radically recommit ourselves and our church to being God's "Easter" people in the world.



## Parish Care

Parish Care offers pastoral support to the congregation and community, including our social services programs, Tower League programs and events, weddings, funerals, and more.

**Rev. Debra Northern** | Minister of Parish Care | [dnorthern@trcnyc.org](mailto:dnorthern@trcnyc.org)

**Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper** | Associate Minister of Older Adults | [lharper@trcnyc.org](mailto:lharper@trcnyc.org)

### TOWER LEAGUE BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | Noon | 9T Library

Join the Tower League for a weekly Bible study filled with wisdom and wit.

May 2: Rev. Ellen Robison

May 9: Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

May 16: Rev. Alan Bentz-Letts

May 23: Rev. Alisha Gordon

May 30: Dr. Hsien-yu Wang

### TOWER LEAGUE: DIGITAL CATHEDRAL, PART 2

May 2nd | 2:00 p.m. | 9T

Rev. Jim Keat, Minister of Design & Digital Strategy, will offer a lively demonstration and conversation related to Riverside's website, as well as other online platforms that may be of interest to participants. Bring your questions!

### TOWER LEAGUE: MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

May 9th | 2:00 p.m. | 9T

Riversider Mr. Mace Anderson will offer a not-to-be-missed musical performance entitled, "They Made Me Do It..."

### MEMORY CAFE,

May 13th | 2:00 p.m. | 10T

Riverside's Memory Café is a social, supportive gathering for persons with dementia and their care partners. For more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper.

### TOWER LEAGUE: VOCAL EASE PERFORMANCE

May 16th | 2:00 p.m. | 9T

Vocal Ease is a non-profit volunteer singing organization that performs a cabaret-style show, with four professional singers & piano accompaniment.

### TOWER LEAGUE: RIVERSIDE'S FOOD PANTRY

May 23rd | 2:00 p.m. | 9T

Julio Quirindongo, Social Services Assistant, will speak about the ins and outs of this important ministry. He will also offer tours of the pantry to those who are interested.

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## Education Ministry & Faith Formation

The Riverside Church exists to nourish and grow the faith of everyone who comes to us seeking to know God. The programs of our Faith Formation ministry will help you explore your faith, ask challenging questions about life, and grow closer to God and one another.

**Rev. Bruce Lamb** | Minister of Faith Formation | [blamb@trcnyc.org](mailto:blamb@trcnyc.org)

**Amanda Meisenheimer** | Associate Minister of Children & Families | [mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org](mailto:mmeisenheimer@trcnyc.org)

**Linda Cole** | Youth Ministry Intern | [lcole@trcnyc.org](mailto:lcole@trcnyc.org)

### JUSTICE IN THE CITY:

#### RIVERSIDE YOUTH SPRING RETREAT

May 3rd-5th | Crossroads Retreat Center | \$85

The Riverside Youth Ministry is off to the Crossroads Retreat Center for their annual spring retreat. Youth will spend the weekend playing games, rock climbing, worshipping, praying, and growing together as a community.

#### YOUNG ADULT CINCO DE MAYO DINNER PARTY & LAY LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION

Sunday, May 5th | 6:30pm |

Join us for a Cinco De Mayo Dinner Party at the apartment of one of Riverside's young adults. We'll gather for food and fellowship and some of our young adult lay leaders will talk about the upcoming lay leadership elections and answer any questions you might have. We want you to be informed. We'll provide the food and please bring drinks and desserts to share. RSVP to [blamb@trcnyc.org](mailto:blamb@trcnyc.org).

#### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

##### *New Member Orientation*

Sundays, May 5th and June 2nd | 9 am | 321 MLK

##### *New Member Joining Sundays*

Sundays, May 19 and June 16 | 11am | Nave

Contact Clent Jones at [cjones@trcnyc.org](mailto:cjones@trcnyc.org) to register and for more information.

#### RIVERSIDE SUNDAY SUPPERS

Sundays, April - June | 6:30 pm

Riverside Sunday Suppers are an opportunity to sit across the table from people whose faces you may only recognize from the passing of the peace, share a meal, and make our church feel just a bit smaller, a little more tightly knit together. Dinners will be ordered every other week, rotating between Rev. Rachel Johnson's house and the homes of current and new Riverside members. Space will be limited to host capacity.

Visit [trcnyc.org/SundaySupper](http://trcnyc.org/SundaySupper) to RSVP

#### RIVERSIDE FAMILY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 5th | 10:45 a.m. | Christ Chapel

All are welcome for the next Riverside Family Worship, an interactive and intergenerational worship experience that follows a similar liturgy as the nave and includes communion. All ages are encouraged to participate! Church school classes pre-k through 6th grade are closed for Family Worship.

#### FINALS WEEK PRAYER AND PIZZA

Wednesday, May 8th | 6:00 pm | Assembly Hall

Calling all college students! The Riverside Church Young Adult and Worship Ministry invite all college students to for a free finals week pizza dinner before our weekly Space For Grace worship service. Clergy will also be available for prayer at prayer stations. Students are also welcome to stay for worship at 7 pm if you can, but we understand if you have to get back to studying. Questions? Email Rev. Bruce Lamb at [blamb@trcnyc.org](mailto:blamb@trcnyc.org)

#### GOD AND GENDER IDENTITY

Sundays, May 5th | 12:30 pm | Assembly Hall

Join us for the second conversation in our God and Gender Identity series. This month we will be joined by Joan Rater and J. Mase III. Each conversation includes an interactive discussion with the presenters and Pastor Amy, suggested resources for further study, and free lunch. Childcare will be available for students in grades K-6. Students in grades 7 and up are encouraged to attend with their families.

Visit [trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity](http://trcnyc.org/GodAndGenderIdentity) for more information.



**THE DIGITAL CATHEDRAL:  
TUTORING FOR TECHNOLOGY**

Sunday, May 12th | 1:00 pm | 411 MLK  
Join Rueben Martinez and Rev. Jim Keat for The Digital Cathedral, a class where you will learn about a specific aspect of technology or digital media that will help you engage more with The Riverside Church and the world around you. Laptops will be available for participants but you can also bring your own device!

**FAITH PASSAGE:CONFIRMATION**

Sunday, May 19th | 12:30 p.m. | 323 MLK  
Faith Passage, Riverside’s confirmation class, is offered for youth in grades 7 and up. Join us as we learn about and discuss the fundamentals of our faith. Contact Rev. Bruce Lamb.

**JOIN THE RIVERSIDE YOUTH STRING ENSEMBLE**

The Riverside Youth String Ensemble is open to violin, viola, cello, and bass players in grades 6-12. Ensemble members learn how to play classical chamber music in a nurturing Christian environment. They serve the community by performing in several Sunday morning worship and outreach services during the school year. Prospective members are invited to join by audition by contacting Kristi Giles at kristihen@gmail.com.

**TRANSFORMING: THE BIBLE AND THE LIVES OF TRANSGENDER CHRISTIANS**

Sundays, April 28th - June 2nd | 9:30 am | MLK 318  
Join Ethan Roberts, a student at Union Theological Seminary and a member of The Riverside Church, for a six-week book discussion on Transforming: The Bible & Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke. This small group will explore the relationship between the church and transgender folks and how we can reimagine queer identities into our sacred scriptures, ultimately making room in our communities for all. Copies of Transforming are available for purchase at the Riverside Gift Shop. Register online at trcnyc.org/FaithFormation.

**OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL): FAITH AND SEXUALITY**

Sundays, May 5th, 12th, 19th;  
June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd | 12:30 pm  
The Riverside Children and Families ministry are excited to launch Our Whole Lives (OWL) this Spring. This course will be offered for students in 4th-6th grade this spring. Visit <http://bit.ly/trc-owl> for more information or contact Amanda Meisenheimer to register.

**JAMES CONE: BLACK THEOLOGY & BLACK POWER**

Sundays, May 5th, 12th, 19th | 9:00 am | 320 MLK  
Join Dr. Andrea White, Riverside member, and Union Theological Seminary professor, for a three-week small group exploring James Cone’s first book, Black Theology, and Black Power. Black Theology & Black Power is James H. Cone’s initial attempt to identify liberation as the heart of the Christian gospel and blackness as the primary mode of God’s presence. As he explains in an introduction: “I wanted to speak on behalf of the voiceless black masses in the name of Jesus whose gospel I believed had been greatly distorted by the preaching and theology of white churches.”

NOTE: The May 5th class will be a joint session with the class Riverside Church & The Black Manifesto, which will start with a look at Dr. Cone’s September 1969 lecture at Riverside on “Black Theology and Violence.” It was the inaugural lecture in a series on Black Theology that the church put together in follow up to the Black Manifesto (May 1969).

**2019 RIVERSIDE ARTS CAMP: REGISTER NOW**

August 19th-23rd | 8:30 am-3pm  
Seeking 5th – 9th Graders for a week-long intensive engagement in the arts – including music, drama, dance, creative writing, and visual art! Lunch is provided. Registration fee is \$35 per family, and scholarships are available. There will be a final showcase on August 23 at 12:00 noon. To register go to [trcnyc.org/RAC2019](http://trcnyc.org/RAC2019)

**SMALL GROUPS AT RIVERSIDE**

**BIBLICAL HEBREW:  
ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS**  
Sundays, Jan 27th - June 16th  
1:00 p.m. | 321 MLK

**OPEN BIBLE STUDY**  
Sundays | 9:30 a.m.  
| 330 MLK

**WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**  
Sundays, Jan 27th -June 16th  
1:00 p.m. | Med Chapel

**BIBLICAL HEBREW:  
INTERMEDIATE/  
ADVANCED**  
Sundays, Jan 27th - June 16th  
1:00 p.m. | 314 MLK  
facilitated by Laura Harri

**BELOVED COMMUNITY  
SMALL GROUP**  
Sundays | 9:30 a.m.  
330 MLK

**DISCOVERING THE  
NEW TESTAMENT**  
Sundays, Feb 3rd - May 19th  
9:00 a.m. | 316 MLK  
Facilitated by Eugene  
Melino, Lakeisha McCoy,  
Kweshi McDavid

Find out more and register  
at [trcnyc.org/SmallGroups](http://trcnyc.org/SmallGroups)

## Mission and Social Justice

*“Justice is love correcting that which revolts against love.”*

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Live Justice Now is an ongoing initiative of Riverside’s Mission & Social Justice ministries as we take action in response to the great need for truth, justice, and compassion in our world.*

**Rev. Kevin VanHook** | Minister of Justice, Advocacy, & Change | [kvanhook@trcnyc.org](mailto:kvanhook@trcnyc.org)

**David Black** | Community Organizer for Justice, Advocacy, & Change | [dblack@trcnyc.org](mailto:dblack@trcnyc.org)

### FILM SCREENING: 100 SONES DE CUBA

Friday May 3rd | 6:00 PM | 311 MLK

This beautiful documentary explores the unique Cuban musical form of Son Cubano. Traveling through the cities and villages of Cuba, the documentarians search for the roots of this musical form. The movie is in Spanish with English subtitles.

### RIVERSIDE CHURCH & THE BLACK MANIFESTO

Sunday, May 5th | 9:30 AM | 15T

50 years ago, on May 4th, 1969, civil rights activist James Forman interrupted worship at The Riverside Church for the inaugural read-out of the Black Manifesto, a demand for reparations for African Americans for systemic injustice from the start of slavery 400 years ago to the present day.

This class will recall the Black Manifesto’s context, demands, and impact at Riverside and well beyond, and address such questions as: “Why did Forman choose Riverside to ‘get’ the Manifesto first?” “What are reparations, and are they the answer?”

“What can we learn

from the Black Manifesto today?”

“If we were to write a new Manifesto, what would it include?”

Presenters will include the Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel, Associate Professor of Theology and Founding Director of the Micah Institute at New York Theological Seminary. In addition to the Black Manifesto, readings will range from the Bible to Ta-Nehisi



May 5th – This class will meet jointly with Union Theological Seminary Dr. Andrea White’s class “James Cone: Black Theology and Black Power,” which will continue May 12th and 19th.

### THE BLACK MANIFESTO: REMEMBERING THE CHURCH’S CALL, 1969-2019

Sunday, May 5th | 2:00 pm | Christ Chapel

Join us for a forum on the enduring importance of the Black Manifesto’s demands upon our church and society. Half a century after James Forman’s famous interruption at Riverside, there are persistent injustices and inequalities in the lives of African Americans. Are reparations all or part of the solution? If not, what is?

Dr. Keri Day of Princeton Theological Seminary will keynote the forum with a trenchant lecture on the Black Manifesto and the church’s responsibility in racial reparations. Panelists will include the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Polk, who in 1969 was Riverside’s Minister for Urban Affairs, on Riverside’s response to the Black Manifesto, and the Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel of New York Theological Seminary with a white ally’s perspective.

### ARCHIVAL EXHIBIT: THE BLACK MANIFESTO AT RIVERSIDE

Sunday, May 5th - Sunday, June 2nd | Cloister Lounge Gallery

Accompanying our remembrance of the Black Manifesto will be an archival exhibit that will feature audio from May 1969, videotaped interviews with Riversiders who were at the church the day the Black Manifesto was read, and other documentation including photos and news clippings. A takeaway publication will be available that includes key documents, historical context, study questions and resources for further study.

### 2019 MARANATHA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Maranatha community is dedicated to supporting young people who are active in the LGBTQ+ community and are growing into their identities as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender individuals.

Maranatha awards three \$1,000 scholarships each year to students attending accredited academic institutions at the undergraduate or Master’s degree level. Two of these scholarships are open to students in any discipline. The third is designed for Music students. All LGBTQ+ identifying students are invited to apply, as the scholarships are not limited to Riversiders. The application deadline is June 1, 2019. Those who are interested in the scholarships for students in any discipline should contact Mary Biggs at [marybiggs44@gmail.com](mailto:marybiggs44@gmail.com). Music students should contact Stacey Robinson at [staceyrobinsonnyc@gmail.com](mailto:staceyrobinsonnyc@gmail.com).

## MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES



### SHARING & DENSFORD FUND

Monday, May 6th | 6:30pm | 321 MLK

The Sharing & Densford Fund disburses 10% of Riverside's annual offerings in grants to fund projects outside the church that are consistent with Riverside's commitments and missions. Contact Madison Bedard [smbedard15@yahoo.com](mailto:smbedard15@yahoo.com) and Mathieu Rollack [mrollack@gmail.com](mailto:mrollack@gmail.com) for more information.

### BELOVED EARTH COMMUNITY

Sunday, May 11th | 12:00 PM | 320 MLK

Beloved Earth is a group of passionate climate change activists who take to heart the Church's mission to care for the earth. Contact Susan Wersan at [susanwersan@gmail.com](mailto:susanwersan@gmail.com) or Regina Tate at [mariposa21355@yahoo.com](mailto:mariposa21355@yahoo.com) for more information.

### SOJOURNERS DETENTION VISITATION

Saturday, May 11th & Saturday, May 25th | 7:45 a.m.

Be a friend to an immigrant asylum-seeker currently being detained in Elizabeth, NJ. The Sojourners Detention Ministry visits immigrant detainees who have come to the United States seeking asylum. We welcome volunteers to be penpals, twice monthly visitors to the detention center, or contributors for phone cards and commissary purchases. Drivers are also needed. Contact Frances Connell at [frances.connell@gmail.com](mailto:frances.connell@gmail.com) for more information.

### AFRICAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, May 12th | 1:00 PM | Multipurpose Room

African Fellowship a community of Africans and friends of Africa who gather monthly to celebrate our heritage, have spiritual fellowship and discuss issues that impact Africans on the continent and in the diaspora.

### MARANATHA

Sunday, May 12th | 1:00 PM | 311 MLK

Maranatha seeks to foster greater understanding and equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and same-gender-loving people and allies.

### LATINO MINISTRY

Sunday May 19th | 1:00 PM | 20T

The Latino Ministry at Riverside brings to the congregation the political, cultural and spiritual issues of Latinos/as in the United States.

### MEN'S CLASS

Sunday, May 19th | 1:00 PM | 411 MLK

The Riverside Church Men's Class serves the members, congregation, and community through faith, fellowship, and educational programs that help build the church creating a more just society.

### MOVIES@RIVERSIDE

Sunday, May 26th | 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM | 411 MLK

Movies at Riverside offers monthly movies that provide new perspectives on the world we live in. This month we will show Bidder 70, a film about an ingenious and effective act of civil disobedience demanding government and industry accountability concerning climate change.

### ECCLESIA MINISTRY

Sunday, May 26th | 2:00 PM | Marcus Garvey Park

Ecclesia is a radically open and welcoming group of individuals who desire to be in community with the poor and marginalized of our society, sharing worship and free lunch in Marcus Garvey Park. All are most welcome to join. Contact Doug Miller at [Mil429440@aol.com](mailto:Mil429440@aol.com) for more information.

### KNITTERS & CROCHETERS AT RIVERSIDE

Saturdays | 11:00 AM | 7C

This group discusses issues impacting the community, country, and world while knitting/crocheting together and donating what we create to those in need.

### THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

Sundays | 1:00 PM | 15T

This ministry uses theatre as a means of promoting empowerment, and social and political change, teaching participants about their power and agency within institutions and systems. Please contact Jeremiah Drake at [theatreoftheoppressedtrc@gmail.com](mailto:theatreoftheoppressedtrc@gmail.com)

## Stewardship & Development

Christian stewardship is not just about how we use our money, it's about how we live our lives in communion with God and each other. Using learning tools like worship, education, and dialogue, Stewardship and Development supports and shapes people of faith as they strive to show generosity in every aspect of their lives and better understand the connection between faith and giving.

**Rev. Christian Peele** | Executive Minister of Institutional Advancement | [cpeele@trcnyc.org](mailto:cpeele@trcnyc.org)

**Kaitlin Cook** | Director of Stewardship & Development | [kcook@trcnyc.org](mailto:kcook@trcnyc.org)

**Farley Lord** | Minister of Stewardship & Development | [flord@trcnyc.org](mailto:flord@trcnyc.org)

### CELEBRATE THE PAST. HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

At The Riverside Church, "Grateful" is more than just the name of our annual giving campaign. It is a value we embody in every aspect of our lives and ministry. We live gratefully, give gratefully, serve gratefully, believe gratefully, and grow gratefully. Visit [trcnyc.org/LookBack](http://trcnyc.org/LookBack) to see the impact our lives and gifts of gratitude made in 2018. How will gratitude empower your living and giving in 2019?



### CELEBRATE THE GIFTS WE SEND AHEAD

We create our legacies throughout our lives as we share stories, relationships, skills, and our material possessions. Riverside's Legacy Giving Ministry offers the exciting opportunity to create your legacy and send a gift ahead to future generations. Contact our ministers to discern and create a meaningful legacy gift for Riverside. If you would like to write a will, visit [trcnyc.org/LegacyGiving](http://trcnyc.org/LegacyGiving) to access FreeWill, a free, online, will-creation tool.



## Music at Riverside

For over 85 years the music program has drawn people from around the world to The Riverside Church. From our five choirs, to our carillon and four organs, to our renowned musicians, guests are certain to hear music that enlivens and nourishes the soul. Visit [trcnyc.org/music](http://trcnyc.org/music) to find out more.

**Christopher Johnson** | Director of Music & Organist | [cjohnson@trcnyc.org](mailto:cjohnson@trcnyc.org)

**Christopher Creaghan** | Associate Organist | [ccreaghan@trcnyc.org](mailto:ccreaghan@trcnyc.org)

### THE RISING VOICES SPRING CONCERT

Sunday, May 5 | 1:00 pm | 9T

Celebrate the talents of our gifted young singers in an afternoon of music and fellowship. This year's program will feature spirituals, gospel music, and contemporary compositions from around the world. The members of the Rising Voices will also perform musical solos and share special poems. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

### BRAHMS REQUIEM

Sunday, May 12 | 3:00 pm | Nave | \$25

On Mother's Day, The Riverside Choir offers A German Requiem— one of the great masterworks of the choral and orchestral literature – initially composed as a response to the death of his dear friend, the composer Robert Schumann. Brahms' universal message of solace, comfort and hope, composed as a personal musical memorial dedicated to his mother, uses biblical texts different from those found in the traditional Latin Requiem. Visit the Riverside Gift Shop or visit [trcnyc.org/BrahmsRequiem2019](http://trcnyc.org/BrahmsRequiem2019) to purchase tickets.



### CHRIST CHAPEL CHAMBER SERIES: ORGAN & PIANO DUOS

Sunday, June 2 | 2:00 pm | Christ Chapel

The Christ Chapel Chamber Series continues as Christopher Johnson and Christopher Creaghan, the organists of The Riverside Church, play music for two!

# WHAT CAN CHRISTIANS ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT DO ABOUT THE EVIL OF OUR WORLD?

*Pastor Amy Butler, originally published at USA Today.com.*

Presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg caught the attention of many in the religious world recently when he shared his views on the importance of the “religious left” in America. “When I go to church,” Buttigieg said last month on “On Real Time with Bill Maher,” “what I hear a lot about is protecting the downtrodden, and standing up the immigrant, and being skeptical of authority sometimes, and making sure you look after the poor and the prisoner. I mean, to me, that’s the sort of thing that the religious left, often without much attention, has been arguing for my whole lifetime.”

I would hope all people who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ would hold this position, as this is the fundamental message of Christianity. But at a time when it seems the whole world is falling apart, what, really, can the religious left — or indeed Christians of any persuasion — do about the evil of our world?

As the pastor of a church whose pulpit has hosted some of this country’s most strident calls for justice in the name of faith, I decided there was one thing my congregation had to do this Lent: We had to talk about sin. In the Christian calendar, the season of Lent is a time to contemplate the ways that we participate in harm and diminish love in our lives and in our world. And there is certainly a lot to think about. During this Lent alone a white supremacist gunned down 50 Muslims in two New Zealand mosques. A Catholic Cardinal was convicted of child sex abuse. The sexual abuse of Catholic nuns finally spilled into public view. The United Methodist Church voted against gay clergy and equal marriage. Wealthy parents cheated the college admissions process, laying bare the duplicity of “equal opportunity.” The steady drip of cruel tweets from our president persists.

Make no mistake about it: This is sin. But too often the language Christians use for sin has resulted in self-loathing that perpetuates cyclical systems of despair.

## **Life is not a spreadsheet of sins vs. good deeds**

Many Christians arrive at a rather transactional conception of sin: a God of judgment hovers over the universe’s largest spreadsheet, keeping up with our sins vs. good deeds. In this framing, God metes out punishment for bad deeds and rewards for good. A cruel word toward a friend equals a certain number of demerits; a parking ticket perhaps slightly fewer.

Although many find this balance sheet approach to life appealing, all of us know that’s not really how life works. Rather, our lives are formed through the relationships we build with ourselves, the people in our lives, and with God. When we understand that truth, studying sin is about understanding loss, as in the ways we are separated from hope and goodness. And if we can understand systems of oppression and what is lost when we perpetuate them, perhaps we can imagine the path away from human tragedy and toward a world of justice and peace. But how could we have stopped a terrorist at a mosque in New Zealand? And it doesn’t seem possible to do much of anything substantive about the children suffering at the border. Sexual abuse scandals that happen in someone else’s parish are bad, it’s true, but at least they’re not my parish. And certainly only an act of God can stop Donald Trump from posting hate on Twitter.

## **What is the church for, if not to confront evil?**

There are myriad excuses not to confront the sin around us, but there’s at least one powerful reason for Christians to do so: if the church doesn’t stand up and speak and act in the way of Jesus, the world is right to question why it exists at all.

Talking about sin is more than an exercise in pointing out all that is wrong in the world. Seeing sin for what it is, then turning in another direction, is an act of imagination, of daring to live a new world into being. As Lent comes to a close Christians will celebrate a season of rebirth, Easter. What might this newness look like for our own lives, for our nation, for our neighborhoods? We will vote. We will connect our values with our actions. We will pray, stay informed, seek out relationships with others who are different. Challenge ourselves. Love one another. There are millions of ways we can confront evil and build hope.

Easter’s message is this: that systems of oppression and failures of the human heart are not as intractable as they may seem, that even sin can yield to hope, and that death can be transformed into life.

*Visit [trcnyc.org/bsag-3-48](http://trcnyc.org/bsag-3-48) to hear Pastor Amy read a version of this article.*

*Visit [bit.ly/USAToday-PastorAmy](http://bit.ly/USAToday-PastorAmy) to view and share this article online.*

## Calendar of Events

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

- 5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer • Meditation Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Space for Grace Worship • Assembly Hall

### THURSDAY, MAY 2

- 12:00 p.m. Tower League:  
Bible study with Rev. Ellen Robison • 9T
- 2:00 p.m. Tower League:  
Digital Cathedral Part 2 • 9T
- 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel

### FRIDAY, MAY 3

- 6:00 p.m. Film Screening: 100 Sones de Cuba • 311 MLK

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

- 11:00 a.m. Knitters & Crocheters at Riverside • 7C

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Light • Christ Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. New Member Orientation • 321 MLK  
James Cone:  
Black Theology & Black Power • 320 MLK  
Black Manifesto Class • 15T
- 9:30 a.m. Riverside Youth: Let's Talk • 323 MLK  
Transforming: The Bible and The Lives  
of Transgender Christians • 318 MLK  
Open Bible Study • 330 MLK
- 10:45 a.m. Riverside Family Worship • Christ Chapel  
Worship with Rev. Dr. Amy Butler • Nave
- 12:30 p.m. Coffee Hour • South Hall Lobby  
Our Whole Lives (Owl):  
Faith & Sexuality • 3rd Floor MLK
- 1:00 p.m. The Rising Voices Spring Concert • 15T  
The Black Manifesto: Remembering the  
Church's Call 1969-2019 • Christ Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. TRC Sunday Suppers • Various Locations
- 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Cinco De Mayo Dinner Party & Lay  
Leadership Discussion • Matthieu Rollack's Apt.

### MONDAY, MAY 6

- 10:00 a.m. Art of Movement • 411 MLK
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi Class • Child Care Room
- 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous • 7C

### TUESDAY, MAY 7

- 7:00 p.m. Mindful Meditation • Wellness Center Nursery  
Narcotics Anonymous • 7C

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

- 5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer • Meditation Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Finals Week Prayer and Pizza • Assembly Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Space for Grace • Assembly Hall

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

- 12:00 p.m. Tower League:  
Bible study with Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper • 9T
- 2:00 p.m. Tower League: Musical Performance • 9T
- 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

- 6:30 p.m. Latino Ministry Cultural Outreach • 10T

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

- 7:30 a.m. Sojourners Detention Visitation • TBD
- 11:00 a.m. Knitters & Crocheters at Riverside • 7C
- 12:00 p.m. Beloved Earth Community • Multipurpose Room

### SUNDAY, MAY 12

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Light • Christ Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. James Cone:  
Black Theology & Black Power • 320 MLK
- 9:30 a.m. Riverside Youth: Let's Talk • 323 MLK  
Transforming: The Bible and The Lives  
of Transgender Christians • 318 MLK  
Open Bible Study • 330 MLK
- 10:45 a.m. Worship with Rev. Christian Peele • Nave
- 12:30 p.m. Coffee Hour • South Hall Lobby  
Our Whole Lives (Owl):  
Faith & Sexuality • 3rd Floor MLK
- 1:00 p.m. Theatre of the Oppressed • 15T  
The Digital Cathedral:  
Tutoring for Technology • Various Locations  
African Fellowship Group • 20T
- 3:00 p.m. The Riverside Choir: Brahms Requiem • Nave
- 6:00 p.m. TRC Sunday Suppers • Various Locations

### MONDAY, MAY 13

- 10:00 a.m. Art of Movement • 411 MLK
- 2:00 p.m. Memory Café • 10T
- 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous • 7C

**TUESDAY, MAY 14**

- 6:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting • 20T  
 7:00 p.m. Mindful Meditation • Wellness Center Nursery  
 Narcotics Anonymous • 7C

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**

- 5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer • Meditation Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Space for Grace • Assembly Hall

**THURSDAY, MAY 16**

- 12:00 p.m. Tower League:  
 Bible study with Rev. Alan Bentz-Letts • 9T  
 2:00 p.m. Tower League: Vocal Ease Performance • 9T  
 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel

**SATURDAY, MAY 18**

- 11:00 a.m. Knitters & Crocheters at Riverside • 7C

**SUNDAY, MAY 19**

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Light • Christ Chapel  
 9:00 a.m. James Cone:  
 Black Theology & Black Power • 320 MLK  
 9:30 a.m. Riverside Youth: Let's Talk • 323 MLK  
 Transforming: The Bible and The Lives  
 of Transgender Christians • 318 MLK  
 Open Bible Study • 330 MLK  
 10:45 a.m. Worship with Rev. Dr. Amy Butler • Nave  
 12:30 p.m. Coffee Hour • South Hall Lobby  
 Our Whole Lives (Owl):  
 Faith & Sexuality • 3rd Floor MLK  
 Faith Passage Confirmation Class • 323 MLK  
 1:00 p.m. The Riverside Church Annual Meeting • South Hall  
 6:00 p.m. TRC Sunday Suppers • Various Locations

**MONDAY, MAY 20**

- 11:00 a.m. Art of Movement • 411 MLK  
 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous • 7C

**TUESDAY, MAY 21**

- 7:00 p.m. Mindful Meditation • Wellness Center Nursery  
 Narcotics Anonymous • 7C

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22**

- 5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer • Meditation Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Space for Grace • Assembly Hall

**THURSDAY, MAY 23**

- 12:00 p.m. Tower League:  
 Bible study with Rev. Alisha Gordon • 9T  
 2:00 p.m. Tower League: Riverside's Food Pantry • 9T  
 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel

**SATURDAY, MAY 25**

- 11:00 a.m. Knitters & Crocheters at Riverside • 7C  
 5:30 p.m. Sojourners Detention Visitation • TBD

**SUNDAY, MAY 26**

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Light • Christ Chapel  
 9:30 a.m. Riverside Youth: Let's Talk • 323 MLK  
 Transforming: The Bible and The Lives  
 of Transgender Christians • 318 MLK  
 Open Bible Study • 330 MLK  
 10:45 a.m. Worship with Rev. Debra Northern • Nave  
 12:30 p.m. Coffee Hour • South Hall Lobby  
 1:00 p.m. Theatre of the Oppressed • 15T  
 Poetry Group • 423 MLK  
 Movies @ Riverside presents  
*Bidder 70* • 411 MLK  
 Ecclesia Ministry • Marcus Garvey Park  
 3:00 p.m. Movies @ Riverside presents  
*Bidder 70* • 411 MLK  
 6:00 p.m. TRC Sunday Suppers • Various Locations

**MONDAY, MAY 27**

- 11:00 a.m. Art of Movement • 411 MLK  
 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous • 7C

**TUESDAY, MAY 28**

- 7:00 p.m. Mindful Meditation • Wellness Center Nursery  
 Narcotics Anonymous • 7C

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 29**

- 5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer • Meditation Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Space for Grace • Assembly Hall

**THURSDAY, MAY 30**

- 12:00 p.m. Tower League:  
 Bible study with Dr. Hsien-yu Wang • 9T  
 6:00 p.m. Weeknight Prayer • Meditation Chapel

## Select Commission & Committee Meetings

*Below are the typical meeting dates, times, and locations for select Commissions/Committees. Always contact the Commission/Committee in advance to confirm meeting dates, times, and room locations, especially for meetings that fall on holidays and during the summer. All dates, times, and locations are subject to change without notice.*

Audit Committee  
Quarterly at Call of Chair

Church Council  
Monday, May 27th Mon at 6:45 p.m.

Education Commission  
Monday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m.

MSJ Commission.  
Monday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel & Salary Committee  
Monday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Budget & Planning Committee  
Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee  
Monday, May 20th 5:30 p.m.  
• Conference Call

Nominating Committee  
Tuesday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Sharing Fund Committee  
Monday, May th at 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship Committee  
Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Building Committee  
Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Membership & Parish Life Comm.  
Monday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Ordination Committee  
Tuesday, May 21st at 6:45 p.m.

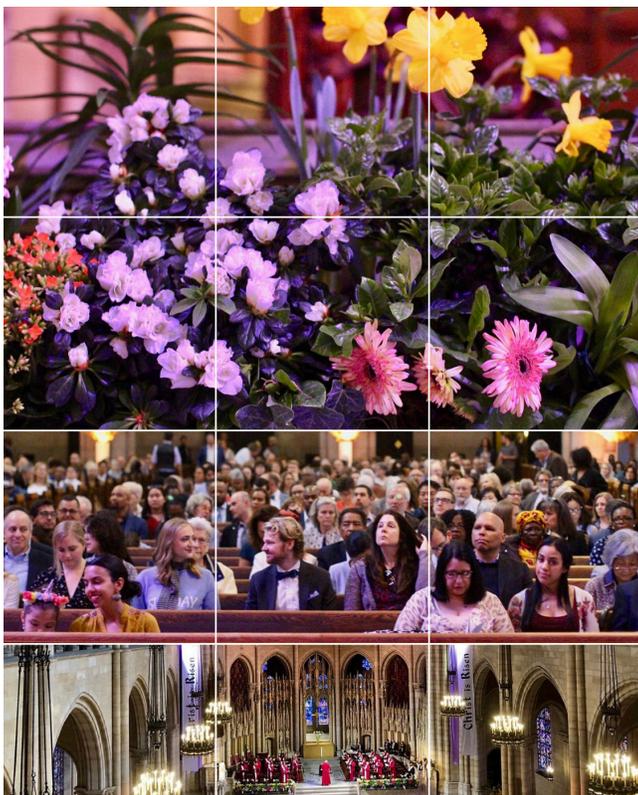
Social Services Committee  
Sunday, May 5th at 1:00 p.m.

Worship Commission  
Monday, May 13th at 6:45 p.m.



# Digital Discipleship

We all encounter God in different ways. In an increasingly digital world, that includes videos, podcasts, and online media. Engage the Riverside community wherever you are through our original digital content at [www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship](http://www.trcnyc.org/DigitalDiscipleship).



## Are you on Instagram?

(Of course you are.)

Follow The Riverside Church for a behind the scenes look and artistically curated point of view of worship, programs, and special events.

@RiversideNYC



## Receive Congregational Care Info

Subscribe to email updates on prayer requests, illnesses, and memorial services at <http://tinyurl.com/trccareupdates>.

## Clergy On Call

Pastoral Care is pleased to offer Clergy on Call when there is a life event or crisis which creates a need for pastoral care outside of regular office hours. Congregants may reach Clergy on Call by calling 212.870.6712, and a member of the clergy will respond as soon as possible.

Clergy On Call is specifically designated for Riverside members who are experiencing an emergency such as illness, death, accident, or hospitalization as well as those who urgently require prayer.

*Please be aware that financial assistance and other social service-related calls will not be responded to by Clergy on Call.*

For pastoral needs during business hours, contact the Parish Care Office at 212.870.6909.

## Alert Compassionate Care

Do you know of someone who can't make it to church due to illness, surgery, crisis, or other challenge? Have you noticed someone missing from their regular seat in the pew? Have a prayer request?

If you think that one of our brothers or sisters might be in need of compassionate care, or if you have a personal prayer request, please take a moment to let us know. If you know something, say something. Contact the Office of Parish Care 212.870.6741 or email [dnorthern@trcnyc.org](mailto:dnorthern@trcnyc.org).

## Questions? Comments? Contact Riverside Communications

Have questions about Riverside events? Does your ministry or group have news to share? Send your questions, comments, or news to [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org).

Rev. Rachel Johnson  
Executive Minister of Communications  
[rjohnson@trcnyc.org](mailto:rjohnson@trcnyc.org) | 212.870.6750

Rev. Jim Keat  
Minister of Design & Digital Strategy  
[jkeat@trcnyc.org](mailto:jkeat@trcnyc.org) | 212.870.6812

Whoever you are: You are safe here. You are loved here.  
You are welcome into full participation in our life together.

philippe\_doh 



@EmilyDalen 

I've never been a podcast person, but then I found #BeStillAndGo. Thank you! I really enjoyed it for my Lenten devotions.

pinkprincess.inthecity 



@TimHayesNYC 

Thank you @PastorAmyTRC for another beautiful & spirit lifting sermon today on this holiest of days, #EasterSunday Your words help to guide our family...And #ThankYou @mandymeis for the crayons and artistic director for 3 young worshipers #christhasrisen @RiversideNYC

itsfriesen 



@MarissaEsque 

Easter Brunch at @RiversideNYC must become an annual tradition. It was amazingly delicious, and it reminded me yet again that Christianity is about family, community, and hospitality. We had SO MUCH FUN (and I was so glad to not spend it at a resto, propping up capitalism!)

le\_monde\_au\_bout\_de\_lobjectif 



@annakmeyer 

Get yourself a church that believes you have something to say, and then gives you a place to say it. Thanks, @riversidenyc, for letting me record this podcast for Holy Week: [trcnyc.org/bsag-3-43](http://trcnyc.org/bsag-3-43)

salliejung 

