



February Newsletter



For Lent this year, Rivermont will use resources from A Sanctified Art, entitled “Tell Me Something Good.” The package includes beautifully written words for worship, an illustrated devotional booklet, daily devotional cards, children’s bulletins, poetry, and gorgeous art.

The creators of this package write, “Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we asked: what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus’ life and ministry? What makes each of these

‘good news’? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?

“If we’re being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus’ teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it’s not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus’ ministry as “radical” which comes from the Latin word “radicalis,” meaning “root” or “ground.”¹ Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor; caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God’s unending grace.

“The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

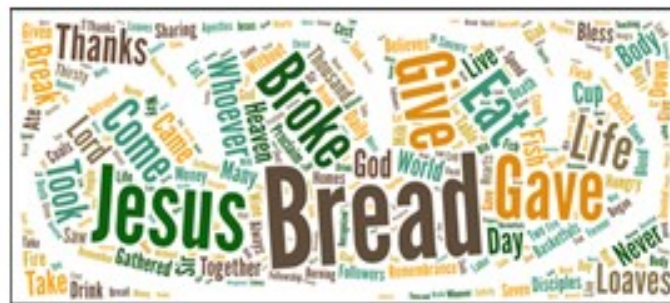
“We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.” May our worship during the 2026 season of Lent be inspired by these resources.

February Worship at Rivermont

Please note that Ash Wednesday is on February 18 this year. Rivermont has invited Northside Presbyterian to worship with us for that special service; we will worship at Northside on Maundy Thursday. Please be especially attentive for people you may not know at this service, and welcome them with traditional Rivermont warmth!

- February 1 Rev Jay Banasiak, "Fishers of All"
Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23
Communion, Table to Table
- February 8 Rev Bill Bond, "The Five Traits of the Church I Would Want to Join" series
"Unconventional/Revolutionary: Losing My Religion"
Acts 2:1-6; Matthew 7:1-12
- February 15 Rev Bill Bond, "The Five Traits of the Church I Would Want to Join" series
"Cross-Centered: Hard Rain, Shelter From the Storm"
Deuteronomy 30:6-11; Matthew 7:24-29
- February 18 Rev Bill Bond, "Tell Me Something Good" Lenten series
"The Good News Is All Are Invited"
Luke 14:15-24
Combined worship with Northside Presbyterian at Rivermont
- February 22 Rev Bill Bond, "Tell Me Something Good" Lenten series:
"The Good News Is So Good, It Catches Us By Surprise"
John 2:1-11; Matthew 13:31-32

Table to Table



**The next Table to Table celebration
will be held February 1 at 11 am.**

From the Communion table to a shared table, we will break bread together, giving thanks to God and for the ties that bind. This month we will enjoy our favorite dishes to bring us comfort and warmth to share with friends. While not required, you are invited to prepare a dish or dessert and drop it off in the kitchen prior to the worship service.

Worship and the Arts Presents. . .



Our upcoming Music and the Arts production is *Prince of Egypt*

Auditions:

Sundays, February 1 & 8, 2026

WHAT: Casting call for *The Prince of Egypt*. Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, book by Philip LaZebnik and Directed & Music Directed by John Thomas McCecil.

WHEN: Sundays, February 1 & 8 from 2-5 pm: please sign up for a 10 minute audition time through the link on our Facebook page or in your Constant Contact email.

WHERE: RPC Sanctuary - Park in the upper parking lot and enter through double doors under the carport.

WHO: All are welcome and encouraged to audition for principal roles and the chorus ensemble.

WHAT TO PREPARE: A 1-minute monologue and a 2.5 - 3 minute song. Please email in advance your backing track/karaoke track to johnthomasmrpc@gmail.com.

If you are unable to be at the casting calls, we will accept a video submission. Send submissions to johnthomasmrpc@gmail.com by Sunday, February 8th.

REHEARSALS: February 12th through May 14th: Thursdays (5:30 - 8:30 PM) and Sundays (2 - 5 PM)

February: 12, 15, 19, 22, 26

March: 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29

April: 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30

May: 3, 7, 10

Tech Week: May 11, 12, 13, 14 (6 - 9 PM)

PERFORMANCES: Friday & Saturday, May 15 & 16 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, May 17 at 2:30 PM

For questions, please email John Thomas McCecil at johnthomasmrpc@gmail.com.

Finance Report

12/31/2025	2025 Budget	2025 Actual
Missions	28,591	9,832
Christ Work at Rivermont	139,771	192,684
Personnel	382,723	359,286
Ministry Expenses		8,044
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 551,085	\$ 569,846
ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 367,350	\$ 797,356
Giving	340,000	379,930
Other income	5000	8,764
Restricted income	22,350	26,628
Ministry income		80,360
Black Oak Properties		295,400
Interest, PY overage		6,274
RevenueLess Expenses	\$ (183,735)	\$ 227,511

Session Updates

In recent action, your Session

- Completed the sale of the Blue House and vacant lot on Black Oak Circle.
- Approved the contract hiring of Dr. Paul Rader to moderate session meetings through our transition period and oversee the Mission Study Team as they write the report for presbytery review.
- Approved the contract hiring of Rev Bill Bond to preach as our regular pulpit supply through our transition period, and requesting presbytery to authorize him to serve communion as designated by the session.
- Approved communion in 2026 to be offered on the first Sunday of each month and on Maundy Thursday.
- Heard report from Buildings & Grounds that atrium roof is fixed and new skylights have been installed.
- Established an ad-hoc committee to pursue loan options from presbytery to assist with HVAC repair/replacement costs.



Rivermont Presbyterian Church

Prayer Walk

Each Sunday beginning
February 1, 2026
from 2-3 pm

Please join us, in body or in spirit, to walk and pray each Sunday afternoon so that we may be an instrument of peace.

We will meet at the Blue Rhino, outside the Chattanooga Theatre Center. Everyone is welcome, bring your family, friends, and neighbors-

ALL ARE WELCOME!

hellorivermontpc@gmail.com
rivermontpresbyterian.org

Thank You Rivermonters!



Rivermont started a new tradition after the January Table to Table: "Unhanging the Greens". Thanks to Micah Shaw, Jack Gordon, Stephanie Granger, Gordon Hart, Joshua, Schwartz, Keith Grant, and Keller Dedmen for pitching in. Thanks also to the Saturday crew that took down decorations in the sanctuary: Charlotte Sargent, Jenny Beck, Bob Millard, Dawn Palmer, and Carol Secord.

THANK YOU Linda Woolson Mark Palmer, for restoring the baptismal font in the sanctuary. Linda built the foot, refinished the base, and added handles. Mark reworked the copper and tiles of the mosaic, replaced the hinge, and improved the bowl inside the font. Rivermont people have many and varied skills.

Improvements to the campus don't just happen miraculously; dedicated volunteers make it happen. Karen Rennich and Keith Grant gave up a recent Saturday to repaint the outdoor wall leading to the Children's Wing. Thank you!



Youth Ministry

february youth events



TORIA APPRECIATION!

**SUPER BOWL PARTY
AT THE GEREN'S**

NO YOUTH GROUP

**YOUTH LECTIO & GAME
NIGHT**

FEB 1

FEB 8

FEB 15

FEB 22

**sundays from 5-7 pm
in the youth room**



Mission Opportunities

Each month the Mission Ministry at RPC donates time and resources to help those at the CHATT Foundation. What is the CHATT Foundation? They are long time resource for community members who need assistance. They work to "maximize strengths and minimize barriers. They collaborate with community partners and support clients to find housing, clothing, food, and care as well as education, job-skills training, financial literacy and life-skills learning."



What can you do? We offer not only our time but we pack sack lunches each month:

Help the CHATT Foundation with Sack Lunches: This month, collection will be on Monday, February 23. Lunches include two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, a piece of fruit, a salty snack, a dessert, and a bottle of water.

In person: Our next day to serve will be Friday, February 27. 4-5 volunteers are needed to be there from 10 am - approximately 12:30 pm to prepare and serve lunch. Please sign up by contacting the church office.

The CHATT Foundation is in dire need of the following items. If you are able to donate any non-perishable item please bring them to the church and leave them in the wicker basket labeled CHATT Foundation. If you would like to donate perishable items please take them directly to the CHATT Foundation located at 727 East 11th St, Chattanooga, TN 37403.



February Needs List

Kitchen

- Napkins, Forks, Spoons, Sugar
- Breakfast Meats
- Hamburger Meats

Community Center

- Bikes & Tents
- Depends-M, L, XL
- Ponchos

Clothing Program

- Men's & Women's Underwear
- Blankets
- Adult Socks

MacLellan Shelter for Families

- Juice/Drinks/Water
- Snacks/Microwave Meals
- Shower Curtains

Outreach

- Sleeping Bags
- Batteries
- Heavy Coats

Case Management

- Bed Linens
- Pillows
- Cleaning Supplies

chattfoundation.org

Congregational Care

February is a month when we send valentines and celebrate love. Rev Richard C. Meyer in his book, *One Anothering*, writes about "the radical kind of loving" to which Jesus calls us. In the thirteenth chapter of John we catch a glimpse of what Jesus meant by his call to love. Jesus says, "A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We are called to love as Jesus loves: selflessly, sacrificially, with understanding and forgiveness. We are called to take care of one another. ALL of us taking care of ALL of us as time and resources allow. Join the Congregational Care ministry as we serve one another with love. Contact Gay Sakich. 423-269-8667 or igsakich@gmail.com.

Bookstore News



If February is anything like the month just past, we may want to adopt a groundhog strategy and hibernate till spring, and the Rivermont Bookstore is happy to help you do that. Come in and browse for a new book on Christian living, or one of inspiration, a devotional or Bible study. Get some coffee, tea or hot chocolate or tasty Equal Exchange chocolate bars, then curl up at home in a cozy spot and ignore the winter weather for a while. We have some new children's books too, so you can buy everyone in the family a new book and all stay tucked in reading together! We're inside the front door of the children's wing and if the lights are on in the bookstore, someone's around to help you shop!

Presbyterian Women



The PW Day Circle will meet on Monday, February 9 at 11 am in the Commons. All women of the church are invited to our meeting and to lunch. Hope to see you there!

The PW Night Circle is meeting this month is on February 12 at 7 pm in the Meeting Room. We're just starting our new study on Friendship with the book *Growing Side by Side* by Carolyn Nystrom. We'll be doing lesson 1, "Needing Friends," from Ecclesiastes 4:1-12. Books are available at the meeting if you need one. Come join us and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Charlotte P. Sargent or Phyllis Beene.

It's Time to Update our Directory

In order to have a correct and up to date directory we need to update any information that may have changed. Do you have a new phone number? New email address? Did you move or something other change has occurred? Let us know! Email our Church Administrator, Allison Janis, any changes so she can update everyone's information at hellorivermontpc@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Ashley Kershaw	19	Jane Stinecipher
2	Caroline Giles	23	Bob Millard
2	Sydney Edwards	23	Rich Mozingo
5	Frank Grant	24	Christopher Sutton
14	Jessica Lolley	25	Helen Caldwell
16	Jackson Granger	28	Rob McAlister
17	Marion Huffaker	28	Mac McAlister
18	Phyllis Belcher		

Women's Connection Conference



Women from all over the southeast, of all ages, gather for a weekend at Montreat NC (near Asheville) one weekend every summer. There are huge worship services, workshops (including yoga and hiking groups), and the beauty of North Carolina mountains. This year the Women's Connection Conference will be August 14-16, 2026.

The cost of the conference is \$247, plus housing. If we have enough women that are interested, we can rent a house, and Frances Gossett has volunteered to cook meals for us!

Registration will open February 9. Please contact Charlotte Sargent or Carol Secord if you are interested. We'll share more details as we learn them but please read below about the keynote speaker.



Kristin Kobes Du Mez – Keynote Speaker

Author of the New York Times bestseller *Jesus and John Wayne*, Kristin Du Mez is a writer, speaker, and scholar who explores the intersection of religion, gender, and politics.

Her writing is described as "urgent and sharp-elbowed," and Du Mez does not refrain from presenting the hard truths that history has to offer Americans—and especially American Christians. Her unflinching examination of the American church, however, is ultimately a call to confession, a call to lament, and a call to greater faithfulness.

An academic by training, Du Mez holds a Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Notre Dame, but she writes and speaks for popular audiences in an entertaining style that is equal parts winsome and hard-hitting.

Her bylines include The New York Times, the Washington Post, Daily Beast, Religion & Politics, Religion News Service, NBC News.com, and Christianity Today. Her work has also garnered extensive national and international attention, as a feature on NPR's Morning Edition, PBS's *Amanpour & Co.*, the BBC, and

in national outlets in China, Japan, Canada, Australia, Spain, Brazil, Germany, and the Netherlands. She is a frequent commenter on religion and politics in the national media at outlets such as the Washington Post, Religion News Service, NPR, CBS, Newsweek, CNN, and the BBC.

As a speaker, she has appeared at colleges and universities across the country, including the University of Notre Dame, Harvard University, Columbia University, UVA Law School, Baylor University, Pepperdine University, and the University of Oklahoma. Her public speaking has also included the Brookings Institution, Faith Angle Forum, Atlanta's TheoEd, Seattle's Crosscut Festival, the University of Chicago's Martin Marty Center, Johns Hopkins' Stavros Niarchos Foundation Angora Institute, and the Center for Pastor Theologians, and she has appeared at churches and faith groups across the religious spectrum.

Du Mez teaches at Calvin University and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband, three kids, and a dog named Paco.