



November Newsletter

A Letter from our Session

Dear Rivermont Family,

On behalf of the session, I want to assure you that although we do not have a transitional pastor at the moment, the life and mission of Rivermont church continues! We still have worship, Sunday School and youth activities on Sundays. During the week, musicians and singers rehearse, Presbyterian Women, Bible studies and other groups meet, the office staff keeps daily operations going and the session's prayerful work continues. It's business as usual in many ways, and that's good news in a time of transition.

Looking ahead, we do need a transitional pastor and our General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff, asked me to tell you that we have presbytery's full support in this. She is already seeking the right person for the job and hopes to have someone in 6 to 8 weeks. In the meantime, she will moderate our session meetings, and we're relying on Tripp Harvey, our Committee on Ministry liaison, as our go-to resource for guidance on the transition process. We are so grateful for their support!

The process of searching for a long-term pastor continues as well. In our eight months with Rev. Julie Thompson, she helped us document accurate information about our church membership and finances, started the Mission Study Team on their work, and improved several processes and reporting practices. Those important actions laid the foundation for our next phase. We give thanks to God for her gifts and pray for God's continued blessings and light on her path as goes from here.

Having completed these first transitional steps, we joyfully shift our focus to the future God intends for us as we work together to build His kingdom. Rivermont has long been a faithful and welcoming fellowship that seeks to be the hands and feet for our Lord. Over the years, this church has lovingly opened its doors and its arms to many in need. That is an extraordinary legacy that is desperately needed in today's hurting, chaotic, and fractious world. Discerning where God is calling us to go next is part of what the Mission Study Team is wrestling with now as they develop the document that will define us to potential called pastor candidates. The transition pastor will help complete that task and walk with us through the rest of the process.

Most transitions are somewhat unsettling, and the road in our transition has been more winding and challenging than we expected. But Rivermont is God's church, and we are God's beloved community. We trust Him to continue to hold us in His hands now and in the future as together we continue to be faithful followers.

Blessings,

Phyllis Beene,
Clerk of Session

LOVE • RUNS • DEEP

Stewardship 2025



In this season of transition, Rivermont gives thanks for past opportunities to worship and serve, and trusts God for what is to come. Stewardship is not just about finances; it's about offering our whole selves in gratitude to God. Pledging our time, talent, and treasure is how we say "We're still here to worship and serve you, Lord. We're still grateful. We're still faithful."

This year's Stewardship Campaign will feature the voices of many Rivermonters. Youth and adults will share in worship responsibilities, and express what God and Rivermont mean to them. As a church, as families, and as individuals, we will joyfully express our gratitude to God.

On November 9, each family will receive a "Gratitude Frame" to take home. Congregational Care will include these in the Thanksgiving baskets taken to homebound members. You're encouraged to write each day, with dry erase marker, something for which you're thankful that day. And at the beginning of worship each Sunday of Stewardship, you will have the opportunity to write something about Rivermont for which you're grateful. These will be hung on our Gratitude Tree in the sanctuary. On November 30, during Hanging of the Greens, we will convert these to become additional Chrismon ornaments.

Plan to experience this vibrant, exciting season of giving thanks to God for all that Rivermont has been, and all that Rivermont will be.

Worship Schedule

The Worship & the Arts Committee is planning vibrant and meaningful worship services through the end of 2025. We're entering a full season of the church year: All Saints Day, Reformation Sunday, Stewardship, and Advent. Creativity and enthusiasm filled the room as we discussed imaginative ways to involve the congregation in inspirational worship.

Here is what you can look forward to:

Nov 2	All Saints Sunday (Communion & Table to Table Fellowship) – Rev Jay Banasiak
Nov 9	Stewardship Sunday– Youth worship leaders
Nov 16	Stewardship Sunday– Adult worship leaders
Nov 21	Longest Night Service in the Commons - Rev Bill Bond
Nov 23	Dedication Sunday – Elders will lead worship
Nov 30	Advent 1 and Hanging of the Greens in the Commons, Table to Table Fellowship
Dec 7	Advent 2 (Communion) - Rev. Samantha Hudson, Rev. Bill Bond
Dec 14	Advent 3 - Jenny Beck
Dec 21	Advent 4 - Choir Cantata
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service
Dec 28	Lessons & Carols

Please join us each Sunday morning at 10 am!

Session Notes

In recent action, your Session:

- Approved a motion to use up to \$2000 from Jordan Fund to support a Hope House intern as we have in the past
- Appointed a team to conduct a Mission Study and prepare a report for presbytery approval. This step is the next milestone before we appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Endorsed Rivermont's participation in the Chattanooga Pride Festival and encouraged members to attend.
- Established a Financial Review Team to conduct a full review of the church's finances as required in the Book of Order.
- Reviewed repairs/replacement costs of narthex and atrium roof. B&G will present a motion for next meeting.
- Approved funds to replace air handling units serving the chapel, bookstore, library and Seekers Room.
- Appointed a Stewardship Committee to begin work on the fall campaign.
- Received financial reports from Treasurer.
- Approved Child & Youth Protection Policy presented by Children's Ministry.

Trunk or Treat



Trunk or Treat 2025 was a HUGE success- we had over 150 people in attendance! Thank you to all who helped plan and volunteer their time and effort! We could not have done this without you!



Youth Pumpkin Carving

Our Rivermont Youth enjoyed carving pumpkins on Sunday October 26! Lots of creativity and even more laughs. Special thanks to Karen Rennich for feeding us a delicious dinner! We enjoyed having Jenny Beck with us too! Join us for Open Mic Night, details coming soon.



Children's Ministry

Children's Church (4yrs-2nd grade), Seekers of the Spirit (4th & 5th grade)

SEEKERS OF THE SPIRIT

Upcoming Events

**NOV
2ND**

Seekers of the Spirit!
Join us in the SOS room from 5-7pm
for fun & fellowship!

**NOV
9TH**

Potluck & Service Project
Join us in the SOS room from 5-7pm for fun
& fellowship! We'll make Thanksgiving
care packages for our homebound
members!

**NOV
16TH**

Finding Alice
Join us at 2:30pm in the Rivermont
Theater to support the SOS cast members!

**DEC
14TH**

Christmas Party
Join us as we celebrate Christmas!
More details to come!

Youth Ministry



CALLING ALL YOUTH

OPEN MIC NIGHT

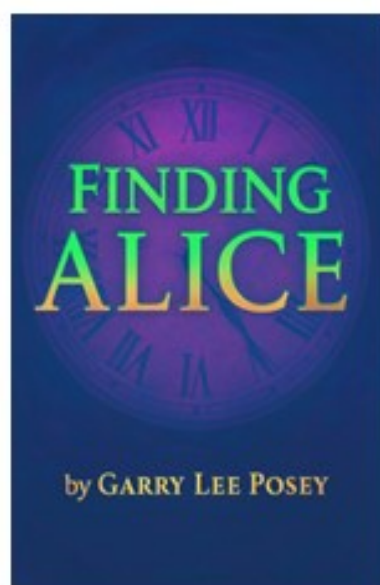


NOVEMBER
9TH

COME AND HANG OUT
SHARE YOUR TALENTS:
MEET NEW FRIENDS
TRY OUT WHAT YOU'RE
WORKING ON!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH
5-7PM
RIVERMONT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3319 HIXSON PIKE

Worship and the Arts



Join us as Rivermont Presbyterian's Music and the Arts program presents: *Finding Alice* by Garry Lee Posey.

Step into a world where reality and imagination intertwine in *Finding Alice*, a captivating new play by local playwright Garry Lee Posey. This production reimagines Lewis Carroll's Wonderland through the eyes of a young girl chasing her stolen smile, while also exploring the tender reflections of her grandmother confronting memory, love, and time itself.

Finding Alice is a poignant reimagining of Lewis Carroll's Wonderland woven together with the tender realities of aging, memory, and family. The story follows a young Alice who tumbles down the rabbit hole, chasing after a cat that has stolen her smile. In Wonderland, she meets familiar yet peculiar characters—The White Rabbit, the Florals, the Jacks, the Tweedles, and the Caterpillar—each with their own rules, or "NeverDoos," that highlight the strangeness of her journey.

But the magical landscape is interlaced with the drawing room of Lady Ann Carrollton (Alice's grandmother, "Nonna"), who struggles with memory loss and frailty while recalling friends, loves, and the rules that once defined her life. As reality and imagination blur, Alice's journey becomes not only a fantastical search for her lost smile but also a moving exploration of memory, family bonds, and the whispers of a life well-lived.

Performances: Saturdays & Sundays, November 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 2:30 PM.
Be sure to follow us on Facebook for ticket info!

We will have a bonus production in December! Join us for *A Nutcracker Christmas*, a popular musical that has delighted Chattanooga audiences for years at Chattanooga State. Rivermont is thankful to be the next venue.

Performances are Saturday, December 12, 13, 19, 20 at 7:30 pm or Sunday, December 14 & 21 at 2:30 pm in the Chapel. Ticket info to be announced.



Congregational Care



Rivermont's Congregational Care teams focus on "One Anothering"

"Love one another" – John 13:34

"Pray for one another" – James 5:16

"Care for one another" – 1 Corinthians 12: 24b-25

"Bear one another's burdens" – Galatians 6:2

"Encourage and build up one another" – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

"Spur one another toward love and good deeds" – Hebrews 10:24

Thank you to all those who love, who pray, who care,
and encourage and serve!

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, November 24. 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, November 28. 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.

SNAP Benefit cuts for November will affect many in the Chattanooga area. The Mission Committee invites you to be part of the solution by bringing non-perishable food donations to church the first Sunday of the month. Come enjoy our monthly Table to Table meal after church, and bring canned and/or dry goods to donate. If SNAP continues to be cut, we will continue to do this every first Sunday.

Presbyterian Women

The PW Day Circle welcomed Carol Secord as our speaker on the story of Martha and Mary. Thank you, Carol, for some new insights on this story! We will meet on Monday, November 10 at 11 am in the Commons. We will study Lesson 3 "When Jesus is Tested", from Luke 4:1-13.

Our service project for November is helping Hope House with lunches for UTC students. Also we collect our Thank Offering in November. This offering goes to help Presbyterian Women with their grant choices. These are deprived people with a special project where they are needing help! Everyone is welcome to assist with this project!

All women of the church are invited to our meeting and to lunch. Hope to see you there!

The PW Night Circle will meet on November 6 at 7:pm at the church. This is our last lesson in Ephesians. The study will focus on verse 6:10-24, the lesson is "Prayer Wars." Please note: we will not meet in December and will begin a new study in January.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7	Caleb Geren	20	Barbara Tindall
8	Alison Crane	20	Dennis Sohn
10	Keith Grant	21	Stone Caputo
11	Pamela Caron	22	Pat Buffaloe
12	Jim Ford	25	Jeff Williams
12	Faye Eubank	25	Wyatt Grant
14	Ruth Ann Honeycutt	26	Christopher Hines
14	Jarrod Clark	28	Tom Bock
15	Alex Mozingo		

Clean Up Day

Buildings and Grounds is planning a church clean up day on Saturday November, 8 from 9 am until we want to stop! We will focus on the gym loft storage area along with fall plantings and shrub replacements in parking lot islands. Windows are always in need of a good cleaning as well! If you'd like to adopt a window to keep clean let us know and it's yours. Supplies are kept in the closet between men's and women's restrooms near the Atrium. Just be sure to return supplies when you're done. We hope you can join us on November 8 and thank you in advance!

RPC Bookstore

THE BOOKSTORE IS OPEN!

November & December are two of the best months to stop by the Rivermont Bookstore, because you can start Christmas shopping without having to move your car!. Every week we're getting in more Advent devotionals and new children's Christmas books. Equal Exchange coffee, tea, cocoa and olive oil is being restocked and yes, we're putting together beautiful Gift Baskets too. You can even order ahead and pick them up later! We're open every Sunday morning and anytime the lights are on, or you see Phyllis Beene anywhere on the grounds. We'll also be open for all performances of "Finding Alice" before the show and at intermission. We know it's been a while since you've visited, so come say hello and see what's new!

