

November 21, 2025



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To Our River Life Covenant Church Family,

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." The psalmist's lyrics remind God's people of his constant goodness and faithfulness, even in uncertain and turbulent times.

We, too, are filled with joy after seeing God do great things in and through River Life in 2025.

As your Leadership Team, we want to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. Throughout the year, your generosity was on full display, from many who faithfully volunteer on Sunday mornings to those who have willingly stepped up to serve our neighbors locally and globally with your time, treasure and talents.

As we close out the end of the year as a church and organization, we ask that you prayerfully consider giving a one-time, year-end financial gift that is above and beyond your normal tithe or offering.

As you pray and reflect, celebrate with us what God has done in your life, in the life of our church, and in our community this past year:

- River Life Covenant Church, est. 1999, celebrated our 26th year of faithful mission and ministry, of which the past twenty years have been at our A Street location.
- Even as long-time members and friends of River Life gather for worship, fellowship, and mission, each week we welcome new people who are finding new and renewed faith.
- Advent, Christmas Eve, and Holy Week celebrations of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday to draw us into God's story of incarnation, sacrifice, and resurrection!
- In April, we hosted our third annual Chili Cook Off in which we saw three new finalists, with first place going to a vegetarian chili.
- In May, six River Lifers made the sojourn to Mission Springs in Scott's Valley for the PSWC Men's Retreat to commune with God and brothers in the redwood forest.
- Globally, five River Lifers went to Costa Rica in June to visit local churches and ministries, discerning how God might lead us into future partnerships. The exploratory trip was so successful, we hope to send around twenty people in the Summer 2026!
- Later that month, families and friends gathered for a movie and popcorn night.
- Fall Life Groups offered opportunities to meet beyond Sunday morning to pray, read, and grow together in faith and friendship.
- Our Alpha Course continues to be a space for friends and neighbors outside of the church to find community and explore questions about life, God, and faith.
- In September, we hosted a Miles for Refugees event with World Relief, to raise funds and awareness for refugees and other at risk immigrants. We also heard from World Relief rep Phillip Wiggins, exhorting us with Jesus's command to welcome the stranger.

- All year long, our Good Neighbor Team has walked alongside an Afghan refugee family, helping them move toward securing transportation, food, and educational opportunities. These weekly meetings have become much anticipated occasions of sweet laughter and meaningful connection.
- Our Fall Fest in October, in partnership with Wild Rose Montessori School, hosted dozens of children and their families in a flurry of fun around crafts, games, candy, treasure hunts, and a bounce house.
- That same weekend, eight youth and their leaders attended the PSWC High School Camp at Mission Springs.
- Wonderful staffing. We are grateful for the two years that Pastor Sara Fisher was with River Life as our Pastor of Family Ministries, and it was sad to see her go. We also give thanks for God's provision in the staffing transition, with both Katharine Oswald as our Interim Children Ministries Coordinator and Irene Siniy-Bailey as our new Associate Pastor. We also give thanks for Joe Poppino, our faithful worship leader.
- We contribute to, and benefit from, our strengthening relationship with our Covenant denomination. As a local church within the broader church, we join God in God's mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

And so, we say, "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

All of this is made possible by your generosity and commitment! **As we head into 2026, we are expectant for all the ways God will use River Life Covenant Church. We ask that you personally consider making a one-time, year-end financial gift to help us reach our budgetary goals to sustain and grow our ministry together.**

Please pray and send your year-end gift before December 31st so that we can include it in this year's records and provide you with a tax deduction. You can use the QR code (to PayPal) or the envelope provided and return it to the church office or offering basket.

Thank you for your prayers, service, and support. We pray God's richest blessings over you and your family this Christmas and New Year.

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Christie Heller de Leon, Chair
Teresa Porter, Treasurer
Ted Burrows
Lead Pastor

On behalf of the Leadership Team