

# THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

## IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 7, 2024 | 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:

“I wanna know what love is  
I want you to show me  
I wanna feel what love is  
I know you can show me”  
— Foreigner

**A question for reflection:**

What has Jesus taught you about love?

## **Connect With Us**

Visit our Welcome Page to learn more



## **Give By Your Phone**

Text TRCNYCGIVE to 833.833.4035



**Cover art by Jamil De Honney.**

*Inspired by 1 John 3:16-24.*

*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 to prepare our hearts to worship God.*

### CARILLON

Passacaglia  
Ever-Singing Still

Eddy Marien  
Ellen Dicksinon

Lynnli Wang, *carillonneur*

### ORGAN

Scherzo from *Organ Symphony* (1956)  
Fanfare

Pierre Cochereau  
John Cook

Stephen Tharp, *guest organist*

### LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Min. Heelee Velez

### CALL TO WORSHIP *standing as able*

*One:* We come with joy to explore the love of Jesus.

***All:* Fill our hearts, Lord, with Your divine love.**

*One:* We come with hope to experience God's power.

***All:* Ignite our spirits, God, encourage us to move at Your will.**

*One:* We come willing to offer all versions of ourselves.

***All:* We are grateful for an opportunity to commune with You and our siblings. Let us worship and share God's love.**

### INVOCATION *remain standing*

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN 485 *remain standing, sung by all*

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

### MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer and Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams  
*United Church of Christ NY Conference Minister*

## LISTENING

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

### GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:31-35

*One:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Mary Mathai

### HYMN 276 *standing as able, sung by all*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

### CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 3:16-24

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Nancy Gallardo and  
Mark Wallace

### SOLO

The Lord Is My Light

Frances Allitsen

*The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom, then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom then shall I be afraid? Though a host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid; And tho' there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him. For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle. Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.*

Irene King, mezzo-soprano

### SERMON

*I Wanna Know What Love Is*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONDING

*We respond to the hearing of God's word through prayer, passing the peace, offering, and monthly communion.*

### INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee

June Nixon

*Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest. No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find a sweeter sound than Jesus' name, the savior of us all. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who ask how kind thou art, how good to those who seek. But what to those who find? Ah! This nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know. Jesu, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be; in thee be all our glory now, and through eternity.*

**AT THE PRESENTATION: THE DOXOLOGY** *standing as able, sung by all*  
*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 & DEDICATION** *remain standing* Rev. Jim Keat

*Today we celebrate the work of our Mission & Social Justice Commission who proudly operate as agents of God's justice, healing, and love as they seek to transform individuals, communities, and systems of racial, economic, social, and environmental oppression.*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** *remain standing*

*One: The peace of the Lord be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

*Following each petition, join in the following response:*

*One: God, in Your mercy,*

**All: Hear our prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Amen.

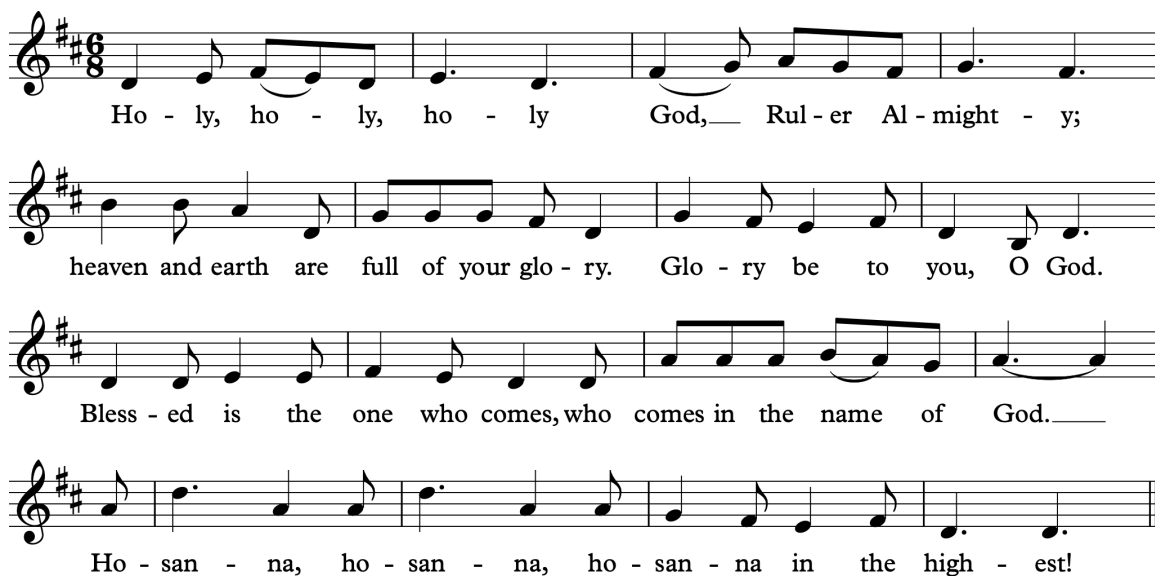
## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Riverside Pastoral Staff

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*One:* The Lord be with you.  
**All:** And with your spirit.  
*One:* Lift up your hearts.  
**All:** We lift them up unto the Lord.  
*One:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul - er Al - might - y;  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to you, O God.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



## CALL TO SUPPER

*One:* The body of Christ, broken for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the bread of life!**

*One:* The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

**All: Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing!**

*We are grateful for Alexander Simons, Audrey Cox St. Clair, Carol White,  
Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, and Paul St. Clair serving as Communion stewards.*

## COMMUNION HYMN 504 *standing as able, sung by all*

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

## PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

**All: Compassionate God, You have met us in the bread and cup at Your table. As we go from this place, may we receive strength to walk with all Your children in peace and witness to the truth of Your reconciliation and love. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF SENDING AND FAREWELL <sup>1</sup>

*We bid a thankful and prayerful farewell to those who have served in our midst.*

## INTRODUCTION

## TRIBUTE VIDEO: REV. AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the UCC *Liturgy of Farewell* and the RCA *Service of Farewell and Godspeed*.

## ENDING THE RIVERSIDE MINISTRY

*Rev. Thorne:* In the summer of 2015, The Riverside Church called Amanda Meisenheimer to serve as Director of Children and Families. In subsequent years, she was ordained, served as Interim Minister of Worship, and in her final role served as Interim Minister of Intergenerational Christian Education and Formation.

*Rev. Meisenheimer:* I thank The Riverside Church in the City of New York, the senior minister, clergy colleagues, church leadership, members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to me these last nine years. I am grateful for the ways Riverside has formed and informed the minister I am. I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together. With joy I recall what we accomplished by God's grace, and with sadness those dreams not fulfilled. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**People:** **We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ and celebrate God's call to all who minister among us. We receive your thankfulness and accept that you now leave to your next call in ministry. We are grateful for your time among us, and celebrate all that God has accomplished among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will remain after you depart.**

## VOWS OF RELEASE *standing as able*

*Rev. Thorne:* Do you, the members and friends of The Riverside Church, release Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer from her duties and call in this place?

**People:** **We do, with the help of God.**

*Rev. Thorne:* Do you offer your prayers and encouragement for her ministry as Pastor of Church on the Hill in Flushing, Queens?

**People:** **We do, with the help of God.**

*Rev. Thorne:* Do you, Rev. Amanda, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you as minister & teacher?

*Rev. Meisenheimer:* I do, with the help of God.

*Rev. Thorne:* Do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

*Rev. Meisenheimer:* I do, with thanks to God.

*Rev. Thorne:* Do you offer your prayers and encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

*Rev. Meisenheimer:* I do, with the help of God.



**WITNESS OF THE CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION** *remain standing*

*Rev. Williams:* On behalf of the New York Conference and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER** *remain standing*

**S E N D I N G**

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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 288** *remain standing, sung by all*

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

**BENEDICTION** *remain standing*

Rev. Adriene Thorne

**POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

Stephen Tharp

Stephen Tharp, *guest organist*

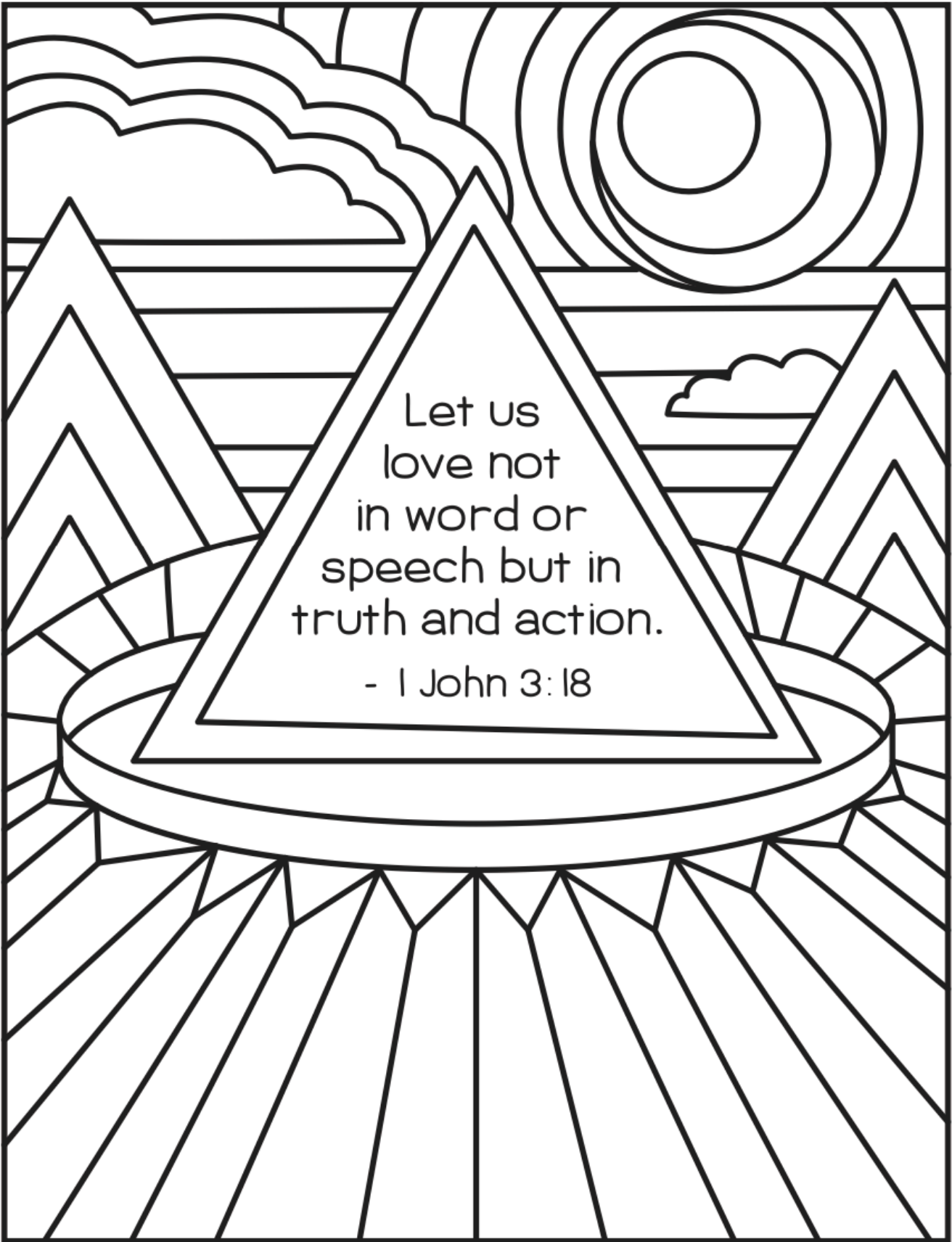
## ABOUT UCC NY CONFERENCE MINISTER

### Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams



**Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams** holds an Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies, a Bachelor of Arts in Religion, a Master's Degree in Theology, and a doctorate in Organizational Leadership and Psychology from Indiana Wesleyan University. In her 30+ years of pastoral ministry, she has served churches in Indiana, Washington State and the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. She is also a certified Mediator for New York State. In 2015 Rev. Dr. Williams joined the New York Conference staff and most recently, was called to serve as the Conference Minister.

Rev. Dr. Williams, an accomplished musician, plays several different instruments, and is a beginning golfer. She is also the proud parent of a daughter, Courtney, who is a Sociology Professor at the University of Texas, Austin.



## TODAY AT RIVERSIDE

### SUNDAY, JULY 7

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<b>First Sunday Food Collection</b>	Narthex & Security	All Day
<b>Fresh Start</b>	Online	8:30 AM
<b>Onsite Open Bible Study</b>	316 MLK	9:30 AM
<b>Virtual Open Bible Study</b>	Online	9:30 AM
<b>ParentConnect</b>	318 MLK & Online	9:30 AM
<b>Cherub Choir &amp; Preschool Worship</b>	717 MLK	10:30 AM
<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>	Nave & Online	11:00 AM
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	South Hall Lobby	After Service
<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>available for purchase</i> )	South Hall	After Service
<b>Practicing Sabbath</b>	South Hall	After Service
<b>Virtual Coffee Hour</b>	Online	12:30 PM
<b>Sunday Afternoon Carillon Recital: Summer Skies</b>		3:00 PM

## THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE

### MONDAY, JULY 8

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Revival Community Choir Rehearsal</b>	Assembly Hall	6:00 PM
<b>MSJ Commission Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>Education Commission Meeting</b>	Online	7:00 PM

### TUESDAY, JULY 9

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
<b>Nominating Committee Meeting</b>	Online	6:30 PM
<b>Summer Organ Series: Michael Hey</b>	Nave & Online	7:00 PM

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
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### THURSDAY, JULY 11

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Online	8:00 AM
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## FRIDAY, JULY 12

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**Morning Prayer** Online 8:00 AM

## SATURDAY, JULY 13

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**Beloved Earth Community** Online 1:00 PM

## COMING SOON

**Open Bible Study Series with  
Rev. Dr. Andrea C. White** Sunday, July 14 9:30 AM

**Planning for a Good Goodbye: Death Cafe** Sunday, July 14 1:30 PM

**Summer Organ Series: Nicole Keller** Tuesday, July 16 7:00 PM

### RIVERSIDE SUMMER REVIVAL

*For four Sundays, in the spirit of old-time church revivals, we will feature guest preachers and special music during our morning worship services.*

Rev. Dr. Roderick Dwayne Belin | Sunday, July 21

Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Carner | Sunday, July 28

Rev. Leah D. Jackson, Esq. | Sunday, August 4

Rev. Dr. Mycal X. Brickhouse | Sunday, August 11



Visit [trcnyc.org/LOC](http://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.

## **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

### **RIVERSIDE EMAIL LIST**

Get the latest news and events at The Riverside Church from our weekly emails. Sign up at [trcnyc.org/email](http://trcnyc.org/email). Be sure to add [communications@trcnyc.org](mailto:communications@trcnyc.org) to your "Safe Sender list."

### **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](http://trcnyc.org/membership) to find out more.

### **DOWNLOAD THE RIVERSIDE APP**

Take Riverside with you wherever you go. Text TRCNyc to 833.833.4035 or visit [trcnyc.org/app](http://trcnyc.org/app) to stay connected to all the videos, podcasts, and events from The Riverside Church.

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON CARILLON RECITALS**

Recitals take place most weeks at 3:00 PM and can be best heard outdoors listening from Sakura Park, north of The Riverside Church at 122nd Street. Visit [trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals](http://trcnyc.org/carillonrecitals) for the complete schedule and programs.

### **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.

### **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](http://trcnyc.org/volunteer) for more information.

## **SUMMER CHOIR**

Come sing with members of the Riverside Choir this summer! Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:30, and you are welcome to join us for as many Sundays as you like, starting on June 9. To volunteer, please email a recording of you singing one verse of your favorite hymn, along with a brief description of your musical experience, to Alan Montgomery, Interim Director of Music, at [amontgomery@trcnyc.org](mailto:amontgomery@trcnyc.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

## **REVIVAL COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Revival is coming to Riverside on Sundays, July 21-August 11th! And no revival is complete without special revival music. We will have a volunteer community revival choir, and all are welcome to join! Led by Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, Director of Chapel Music at Yale University, and one of the organists from last Summer's organ series, the revival choir will be offering music to complement the preaching and stir our spirits. The first rehearsal is Monday, July 8, at 6:00 PM. Learn more at [trcnyc.org/revivalatriverside](http://trcnyc.org/revivalatriverside).

## **PRACTICING SABBATH**

On first Sundays after worship, we Practice Sabbath as a community. There will be no all-church programming on first Sundays, with the exception of the Rising Voices Concert in May. Programming before worship will continue on all Sundays unless otherwise noted. We will have lunch available for purchase in South Hall, as always.

## **BORROW BAGS**

We understand the challenge of keeping children happily occupied during service, and we have a solution right at the entrance of the nave – our Borrow Bags! These bags are designed to make the worship experience more accessible and enjoyable for both parents and kids. Inside each Borrow Bag, you'll find activities that will captivate and entertain your children while you focus on the service. Ask an usher for more information.



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## PASTORAL TEAM & MINISTERIAL STAFF



**Rev. Adriene Thorne**  
*Senior Minister*



**Rev. Dr. Colleen Birchett**  
*Ministerial Staff*



**Rev. Tim Dalton**  
*Minister for  
Congregational Care  
and Older Adults*



**Min. Derrick Jordan**  
*Ministerial Staff*



**Rev. Jim Keat**  
*Minister of Digital  
Worship and Education*



**Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer**  
*Interim Minister for  
Intergenerational  
Christian Education  
and Formation*



**Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner**  
*Minister of Justice,  
Advocacy, and Change*



**Min. Heelee Joo Velez**  
*Associate Director of  
Education and Faith  
Formation (Children  
and Families)*



**Rev. Dr. Lisa Weaver**  
*Executive Minister*



**Rev. Charlene Wingate**  
*Ministerial Staff*



**Rev. Jabe Ziino**  
*Associate Director of  
Education and Faith  
Formation (Youth and  
Young Adults)*

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## PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

**Natalie Fein**

*Chief Operating Officer*

**Pedro Feliciano**

*Director of Social Services*

**Talia Johnson**

*Manager of Member Services*

**Alan Montgomery**

*Interim Director of Music*

**Natalie Graves Tucker**

*Director of Communications and Development*

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**THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH**  
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