



January Newsletter

Welcome Transitional Pastor Rev. Julie Thompson



Rev. Julie Thompson will begin as our Transitional Pastor on February 1. Throughout her life and 35 years of ministry, she has learned to navigate a variety of transitions. She grew up as the eldest of five children, with one biological sister and three brothers each adopted as preschoolers. As a child, she relocated from Connecticut to northern Virginia to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In each new location, her parents provided generous hospitality to refugees, exchange students, and people in transition. Neighborhood kids and church families loved to gather at their welcoming home.

Julie was born into a Boston Irish Catholic family but was raised in the Episcopal Church. As a teen she attended a summer camp run by a Presbyterian minister, and met Presbyterian kids who talked about God and really knew the Bible. In high school she became active in Campus Life and church youth group. As a student at Miami University (Ohio), she began to explore other faith traditions with different worship styles. During her senior year, a sorority sister invited her to attend the Presbyterian Church, and she never left. After graduation she worked in campus ministry in Pittsburgh for several years before attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Julie has served in a variety of pastoral roles in a variety of places, in churches and parachurch ministries of all sizes, in communities in the northeast (Connecticut), mid-Atlantic (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania) and southeast (South Carolina and Georgia). In 2016 she joined the faculty of the Presbyterian Transitional Ministry Education Consortium, teaching pastors transitional ministry in week-long courses at Princeton Seminary in New Jersey and Calvin Center in Georgia. She has also been active in each Presbytery where she has served. Until January 15, Julie will continue serving as the Designated Pastor at The Presbyterian Church on the Hill in Ocean, New Jersey. She looks forward to returning to the southeast and making Chattanooga her new home, and occasionally welcoming her adult children Sam (28), Claire (25), and Ellie (20).

Welcome Julie!

2024 Choir Cantata



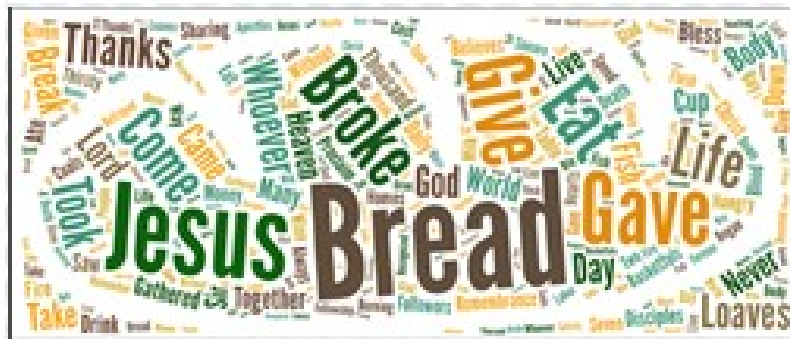
ELC News

The RPC Early Learning Center will be on Holiday break until January 15. They had their Christmas programs December 18 & 19 and it was super cute! The kids did great learning all their songs to present to their parents. Have a great holiday break!



Worship Opportunities

We are back worshipping in the sanctuary! Join us each Sunday morning at 10 am.



**The next Table to Table celebration
will be held on January 5 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 have a Pot Luck. While not required, you are invited to prepare a dish or dessert and drop it off in the kitchen prior to the worship service.

**Would you like to lend your voice in the Chancel Choir?
What about joining the Bell Choir?? We need singers and ringers!**

Contact: johnthomasrpc@gmail.com or 423-654-8960

Bell rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm and the ensemble plays in worship on the second Sunday of the month. Anyone can learn to play handbells; musical experience is not required (but it is helpful). We can teach you everything you need to know to play with our group! This is a wonderful opportunity for both youth and adults.

Choir Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, January 15 at 7 pm in the sanctuary. All ages and levels of musical experience are welcome! If you, your friends or neighbors enjoy singing familiar Christmas songs, this is an experience of which you will absolutely want to take advantage.

Children's Ministry

Seekers of the Spirit January & February Schedule

All 4th and 5th graders are invited to join us for fellowship, food, and fun!

Sunday, January 12, 2025– Bible Study and Fellowship
5-7 pm, Seekers Room

Sunday, February 9– Super Bowl Party
6-8 pm (*Note the different time, for the 6:30 pm kick off!*)



Sunday, February 23– Bible Study and Fellowship
5-7 pm, Seekers Room

We share dinner at our regular Sunday night gatherings. If you can help with food, please sign up with Margaret at margaretpopc@gmail.com.

Children's Ministry Opportunities for All Kids!

Sunday School

Sunday School for kids Pre-K through 5th grade meets at 9 am every Sunday, in the Gathering Room. New friends are always welcome!

Children's Church

Every Sunday except for the first Sundays of the month, after the Time with Children during worship, children through 2nd grade are dismissed to Children's Church with two adult shepherds. They get to hear that Sunday's Bible story, discuss it in an age-appropriate way, complete a craft, and have a lot of fun! Kids are returned to the worship area and their families at the end of the service.

Youth Ministry

Youth Calendar January 2025

- Jan 5 No Youth Group (Holiday Break)
- Jan 12 New Year Goals & Game Night
- Jan 19 MLK Service Day- Bridge walk & service project
- Jan 26 Ice Skating (more details will be in your weekly Constant Contact emails.)



Our Youth celebrated Christmas with secret candy caning and a Christmas party. We look forward to the new year and more special events coming up in 2025!



Session Actions & Plans

In recent action, your Session:

- Approved moving worship to the sanctuary beginning December 15.
- Approved a 2% COLA for the church staff.
- Authorized Membership Team to remove from active membership those inactive members who haven't responded to the letter sent by the church inquiring about their status or who confirmed they wish to be removed.
- Set January 12th as the date of officer installation during worship.
- Changed January Stated Meeting date to January 14 so new elders may participate.



Finance Report

Rivermont Presbyterian Church

Finance Exhibit - November 2024

	2023 Actual Spending	Jan - November 2023	Jan - November 2024
Missions	28,591	22,345	12,863
Christ's Work at Rivermont	148,362	129,514	133,206
Personnel	401,039	365,401	332,206
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 577,983	\$ 517,259	\$ 478,274
TOTAL Revenue	\$ 577,427	\$ 490,139	\$ 451,404
Giving Estimate	497,513	437,588	396,433
Bryan & Jordan Funds	20,000	18,000	23,513
Endowment	46,387	21,054	22,000
Other	13,527	13,517	9,458
Revenue less Expenses	\$ (556)	\$ (27,120)	\$ (26,871)
Additional Missions Spending			
Stone Fund	\$ 60,000	\$ 46,250	\$ 37,500
Total Missions Spending	\$ 88,591	\$ 68,595	\$ 50,363

Comments.

We are currently running a \$26,871 deficit, this time last year we were running a \$27,120 deficit.

Expenses are lower than 2023 expenses but Giving is much lower than last year.

2023 Other Revenue includes Prior Year Overage of \$8,656 and Misc revenue (bookstore revenue less expenses, interest in

The 2023 deficit was caused by a timing difference in bookstore expenses and revenue. Purchases made in December were in 2023, an additional \$23,419 was withdrawn from the endowment to cover the budget shortfall.

Library News

Happy New Year from your library volunteers! We hope that you will visit the church library in the educational wing of the church. Books may be checked out for a month and DVDs for a week.

We have a great new book that you might enjoy; *Ladies of the Lake* by Cathy Gohlke. It is a book about friendships and the test of time.

We also welcome your gently used book donations. Simply leave them in the basket on the desk as you enter the library. Please leave a note with your name on it.

Visit our library soon!



Bookstore News



The holidays are wrapping up, and we all need a rest from all the activity. Luckily, January is generally quiet, and colder weather makes us want to stay home. That makes January a good month to hibernate, and before you settle in, stop by the bookstore to pick up a new book or two to read from your cozy spot, and a little Equal Exchange coffee, tea or chocolate to sustain you through the nasty weather.

We're open Sunday mornings with fresh coffee and great new reads for a restful afternoon or evening. We'd love to hear what you're reading and always looking for recommendations!

Outreach

We had a wonderful festive morning at our Ladies' Tea on December 14th! Fellowship was enjoyed around delicious food and special ornaments and Christmas decorations. Thank you to everyone who came, contributed, and shared stories!



Mission and Service

Help the Chatt Foundation with Sack Lunches: This month, collection will be on Monday, January 27. 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, January 24. 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 at 423-877-8527 or helloriver-montpc@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women

Our Presbyterian women met for our Christmas luncheon on Monday December 9th. We had a devotional by Carol Klein, an ornament exchange, and a luncheon. We also brought socks and warm clothes for the homeless.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 13th at 11:00 at the church. We will be studying parables from Luke: The Rich Farmer (Luke 12: 16 - 20.) and The Dishonest Steward (Luke 16: 1-8.) Rev. Margaret Poteet will be teaching our lesson. Our project for January will be helping the Community Kitchen.

We hope to see you there! May God bless you in the New Year!

**Presbyterian Women (night circle) will meet in
January- please see your weekly Constant
Contact emails for more details.**



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Jennifer Beene	22	Mark Smyre
6	Jennifer Ann Snyder	22	Tracy Moringo
7	Wiley Thompson	24	Amber Odom
8	William White	24	Alice Woolson
8	Tom Shipley	26	Stefanie Mansueto
11	Emma Hines	27	Mary Burr
11	Megan Hines	27	Lindsey Beene
15	Paul Phillips	27	Samuel Snyder
16	Jan Dodd	28	Margaret Greer
18	Robert Aiken	28	Rachel Butler
20	Peggy Patton	30	Scott Bucher
22	Amye Cagle	31	Harriet New
		31	Lauren West

From the Church Staff



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the worship leadership at Rivermont Presbyterian Church.

Church Office Announcements

Newsletter Changes! Please Read!!

There's changes coming to your monthly newsletter beginning this month. In an effort to be good stewards of our budget we will be sending our newsletter electronically from now on. These changes were presented to and voted on by the Session earlier this year.

Make sure you are on our weekly email list to be included in the monthly digital newsletter. If you do not have access to email, you may pick a copy up in the church front office. All of our homebound members will be mailed a hard copy each month.

Please contact the church office if you have questions or concerns- 423-877-8527 or hellorivermontpc@gmail.com

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Mission Statement

*Know God through Christ.
Grow in our worship of God.
Go out empowered in the Holy Spirit.*

Vision Statement

*To be a church family that welcomes all
and to achieve full participation in
Ministry.*

LOVE • RUNS • DEEP

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage PAID
PERMIT NO. 132
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Return Service Requested

CONSTANT CONTACT

If you would like to receive our weekly news e-mail, please email us!

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit all contributions for the next newsletter to: hello@rivermontpc.org

Submission Guidelines:

- Please limit articles to 150 to 200 words.
- Please let us know if you would like to be added to our e-mail reminder list.
- Please submit your contributions by **5:00 pm on January 15, 2025.**