Our Mission

Here at RUMC, it is our mission to win people to Jesus Christ; to train believers to become growing disciples; and to send disciples to impact our community and the world for Jesus Christ.

8002 US HWY 301 SOUTH  RIVERVIEW, FL 33578

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays through Fridays - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

PHONE: 813-677-5995  FAX: 813-671-3871

EMAIL: rvrviewumc@tampabay.rr.com  WEB: riverviewflumc.org

It Takes All Of God’s People To Do God’s Work! Won’t You Join Us!
Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Riverview, RUMC for short.

We are a congregation with deep roots in Florida history and United Methodism. Our church began in 1846 not far from where it is located today. For 175 years, our congregation has been worshiping God and serving the Riverview community.

Our mission statement reads, “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of Riverview and Beyond”, that means, we are focused on encouraging one another to serve Jesus Christ in personal and unique ways. At RUMC, we have groups and ministries for all ages. Worship is the central and most important act of a Christian.

Sunday Schedule

Until Further Notice - We will ONLY meet for the Sunday, 8:00 AM Early Morning Service, 9:00 AM Gleaners Sunday School Class and the 10:30 AM Worship Service. Visit our website to view Sunday Services and for updates regarding our Church. You may also live stream the Sunday Service. Instructions are available on page 3.

Early Morning Service: 8:00 AM
Faith Groups (Sunday School & Gleaners): 9:00 AM - 9:55 AM
Children’s Choir: 9:00 AM - 9:20 AM
Children’s Sunday School: 9:20 AM - 10:00 AM (Children’s Church is Offered)
Relationships and Refreshments (R&R): 10:00 AM - 10:25 AM
Worship Celebration: 10:30 AM
Prayer Warriors (15 Minutes of Prayer): 11:45 AM
Adult Praise Band: 5:00 PM
Youth Band: 6:00 PM
R.U.S.H Youth Group: 7:00 PM
1st & 3rd Sunday’s: Traditional/Choir-Led
2nd & 4th Sunday’s: Contemporary/Praise Band
5th Sunday’s: Youth Praise Team and Noisy Offering for the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home
The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper is observed the first Sunday of each month.

We invite you and your family to our “Wonderful Wednesday’s” Fellowship Potluck Supper. Bring your favorite dish and join in! Other groups include: The Youth Group, meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM, and we also have the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. We offer Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University (FPU) two times throughout the year.

Riverview First United Methodist Church offers Restore Food Pantry and Thrift Store, community outreach ministry. Hours of operation are: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and is open to the public.

Manage Your On-Line Giving - Scan the QR Code Below, Using Your Smart Phone or Tablet.
“We Are Welcoming You Back”

We have been supporting live Sunday morning services for over two months. Each week, we are welcoming more and more worshippers back to our 10:30 AM service in our sanctuary. To date, our in-person experience has been quite good, and no worshipper has yet tested positive for COVID. Our efforts to conduct safe services have so far been blessed by God.

During our re-opening, we have been following the extensive safety guidelines set forth by the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Social distancing has been strictly observed, with seating on an “every other pew” basis. All persons entering the sanctuary are required to wear a mask and to submit to a temperature check. Congregational singing is still not permitted as we attempt to limit spray from one person to another. However, we do provide praise song videos during the services so that people can appreciate the music as well as the prayers and the sermons.

We are encouraging everyone who feels comfortable to attend. We hope to see folks who have been missing for months and to worship together with them once more.

We are currently Live Streaming our 10:30 AM Sunday worship service every week. You can see worship as it is actually happening by connecting to our YouTube Channel "RUMC Live". [You can find a link to that channel below.] Our live streaming channel contains services all the way back to August 19th to allow you to catch up with any services you may have missed. During most of those services, Pastor Telcy has been preaching on events described in the Gospel of John. If you subscribe to our channel, you will be notified whenever new content becomes available.

We welcome and encourage all those you feel confident in participating in worship during this continuing pandemic. We hope to welcome many returning and new congregants during the Sundays ahead.

LINK TO “RUMC Live” YouTube channel.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeFqXqEMpDaFV56hXhMtGqA
The Trustees and the Fellowship Committee of Riverview First United Methodist Church have agreed on a limited reopening of the sanctuary for worship. In this limited re-opening, we will be following the extensive guidelines set down by the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. We are currently re-opening for worship only for the immediate future (starting on June 21st). We will be having a single 10:30 AM service in the sanctuary and no children or adult Sunday school for now. During the service, the bathrooms in the fellowship hall will be open, but the remainder of the campus and the fellowship hall will be closed on Sunday. No snacks will be served either before or after the service.

2. For now, the campus will continue to be closed for most other activities during the week. RESTORE will continue to distribute groceries and Metropolitan Ministry bag lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM until Noon, and our AA group will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings. The Trustees have agreed to work with the Patmos Haitian Seventh Day Adventist church and with our Hispanic Congregation so that their worship services can restart under Florida Conference guidelines. No other meetings will be permitted until further notice.

3. We will continue to provide an online service each week through the month of June and beyond. We urge certain vulnerable folks (such as being over 65 or with underlying health issues) to avoid our in-person services. Also, folks with elevated body temperatures or who refuse to wear a face mask during the service will not be allowed to participate.

4. During the service, face masks will be worn without exception. Congregants are urged to bring their own face masks from home, although a quantity of paper masks will also be made available. Disposable gloves will also be available for anyone who wishes a pair.

5. Before entering the worship area, infrared thermometers will be used to take each congregant’s temperature. Persons registering high temperatures will be tested a second time after a cooling off period. Persons that continue to exhibit high temperatures will be asked to vacate the premises.

6. Social distancing will be strictly observed. Seating will be on an “every other pew basis”, and families will be encouraged to stay at least six feet away from their closest neighboring families.

7. There will not be any congregational singing allowed during the services, although we may provide praise song videos during the services so that people can appreciate the music.

8. Waste containers will be placed at each entry way so that congregants can discard face masks and gloves in a hygienic manner. The offering plate and bulletins will be available at the entrances so that people can safely donate their tithes and offerings. During communion Sundays, Holy Communion will be served in individual cups that can be picked up as the congregants enter the sanctuary.

9. The sanctuary will be sanitized with an alcohol-based spray between services.

We are looking forward with great expectation to our reopening. In anticipation, we have begun stockpiling masks, gloves, forehead thermometers, individual communion supplies, and alcohol-intensive hand sanitizers. We hope to welcome many long-time and new congregants.
**“Calling All Praises”**

Kim Floyd has challenged us to God Bless someone every day.

Bev Plett has started a **Praise Garden** included with the weekly Prayer Tree. Please send any and all praises throughout your day and week to Bev Plett at mplett@ix.netcom.com or you may email the Church office.

Please remember, this is not just today, but an ongoing mission to share our God sightings and praises.

Jim Allen has started it off by sharing that he and Sandie’s daughter will be giving them a grandchild in a few months.

For all those needing God’s Love and Healing. If you or a loved one needs Prayer or Comfort,

You may contact Bev Plett to be added to the weekly Prayer Tree.

Bev Plett: 813-349-9000

Email: mplett@ix.netcom.com

You may also call/email Riverview United Methodist Church Office: 813-677-5995/rrviewumc@tampabay.rr.com

All bulletin requests (bulletin information, must be church related) must be submitted to the Church office no later than Wednesday of each week.

The Bell Newsletter information must submitted to the Church office no later than the 15th of each month.

Please email all bulletin and “Bell” Newsletter information to this email: rrviewumc@tampabay.rr.com

www.riverviewflumc.org
February 2021

Our website address is: www.riverviewflumc.org

Live streaming is now available during the Sunday, 10:30 AM Worship Service. There is a link on our website to view the service live at 10:30 AM. Additional Instructions: If you type Riverview First United Methodist Church YouTube into the title line, the option shows up. There are several Riverview UMC’s, but typing first helps. Once you find it, it should show up next time as soon as you start to type. You can even find this on your smart phone, once you download the app.

We have resumed meeting in person during our 10:30 AM, Worship Service and the 8:00 AM, Early Morning Service, following the guidelines posted on page three. The 10:30 AM, service will continue to be posted on our website.

Please utilize our website for information updates. We are also sending emails, calling those that do not have access to our website, as well as, mailing updates via USPS. We are also sending updates via cell phone texts. Please email or call the Church office and leave a message with your name and cell phone number, including area code, if you would like to receive text messages regarding our Church, or to update your contact information.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study is now being held weekly through a Zoom Meeting from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM. Please contact Connie Mosley or Mike Plett if you are interested.

On the website, as always, you will also see a link that will allow you to send in your tithes and offerings electronically; if you prefer to send your tithes and offerings by mail, please send them to:

Riverview First United Methodist Church
8002 US Hwy., 301 South
Riverview, FL 33578

We continue to operate the RESTORE Food Bank as a service to our friends and neighbors who are struggling during these tough economic times. We operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM - Noon. In order to meet social distancing guidelines, recipients are wearing masks and standing in line 6 feet apart. They are not entering our buildings and their groceries are handed to them. On Tuesdays, our food deliveries also include hot lunches provided by our partners at Metropolitan Ministries. Many of our regular RESTORE Food Bank volunteers have not been able to help out. Now might be a good time for you to become a food bank volunteer. At this time, RESTORE is only accepting monetary donations.

Until further notice, our buildings are closed. In-person activities and events are canceled including, Wednesday Night Activities, Bible Studies, Sunday Schools, and the Restore Thrift Store.
Monday, February 15th - President's Day - Church Office Closed

Wednesday, February 17th - Ash Wednesday - Worship Service at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 17th - Life Line Screening in the Fellowship Hall

**ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**The Following are Canceled Until Further Notice - With the Exception of the Restore Food Bank and Metro Lunch, and Wednesday Morning AA Meetings - Visit our Website for Updates.**

**AA Meetings**
From 6:30 AM - 7:30 AM, on Wednesdays and Thursdays in room # 8.

**Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts**
The Cub Scouts meet on Mondays at 6:30 PM, in the Youth Building. The Boy Scouts meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, in the Bill Crichton Fellowship Hall. Contact David Burt for additional information.

**La Leche League Meeting**
Meets the third Wednesday morning of each month, from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, in the nursery. Please contact Alicia Lightsey for additional information.

**Metropolitan Ministries Community Free Hot Lunch**
Every Tuesday, a hot lunch will be served in the Bill Crichton Fellowship Hall from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Connie Mosley.

**Restore Food Pantry (USDA) & Thrift Store - Open to the Public**
Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Dawn Parks for additional information.

**RUMC Saturday Book Club**
From 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM, at Connie Mosley’s home.

**Sunday Dominoes**
From 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, at Connie Mosley’s home. Quarterly, held in the Bill Crichton Fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday Community Fellowship Potluck Dinner**
Please bring a dish and join us for fellowship! Wednesdays, at 6:00 PM, in the Bill Crichton Fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday Youth Activities**
Led by Pastor Rick Phillips, at 6:45 PM.
The practice of ministry has affected my understanding of suffering, sickness and evil by examining a question that has become a universal one in which both churched people and unchurched people unilaterally ask: “If God is a loving God why does God allow evil and suffering to happen in the world, especially when epidemic Covid-19 or natural disasters occur such as Aids, hurricanes, tsunamis, the death of young parents or children, shooting especially in the Church?” This universal question constantly causes people to seek answers. This question does not have an easy answer although it is through my practice of ministry that I am able to better understand suffering and evil in the world.

During crisis of losing a loved one or in other examples as listed above I have disciplined myself to find better ways to understand suffering and evil during my ministerial journeys by utilizing observation and effective listening. While observing times of crises I have remained silent so I could grieve with the people who lost their loved one(s) or are experiencing suffering and evil. I tried to not overwhelm them with answers. It is not that I don’t know the biblical references or don’t have answers to offer. This is not the right time to answer such questions. During the time of crises, evil, and/or suffering I could exegete Genesis 3: 1-13 to show that God is not the promoter of evil and suffering although I hold this explanation until time of Bible studies or Sunday morning services to empower people with the knowledge so they can better understand the root of evil and suffering.

We are created to be dependent of God, but we tend to believe that we are independent. This is how we fall short. Shirley Guthrie is right when she said, “people who fall, from their humanity in the image of God are unable to do good, and prone to evil.” Evil and suffering introduced into the world only by will the free will of humans. Free will is indisputably good. The use of free will can be for either good or evil, and the free creature bears the sole responsibility for it misuse.

Jesus embodies how we need to embrace ministry with compassion and sympathy. The incarnation of Jesus in this world shows more illustrations than explanation of evil and suffering. It is helpful to explain the root of evil and suffering in this world although when someone is sick or dying he or she does not really need explanation; they need compassion and caring. That person wants us to be with him or her to share our love and understand their pain and suffering.

It is with God’s grace we focus on the Word of God and prayer in order to conquer evil and suffering. Because Christ has victory over death, I understand that death has no power over me. For this reason I have a full conviction to serve God with all my heart and to live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Suffering and Covid-19 cannot separate me from the love of God (Rom 8:39). Finally, I have learned in my practice of ministry to put my complete trust in God and God alone.


Pastor Louis Telcy
Here’s a revolutionary idea: THE GOSPEL. The heart of the gospel is that the all-powerful, all-knowing, immortal God, the Creator Spirit of everything past, present, and future, came to earth himself and became weak and vulnerable to suffering and death. He did this for every one of us. He did it to atone for our sin and to absorb the punishment each of us deserves.

The revolutionary gospel makes Christianity different from every other religious system and form of thought created before or since. In every other religion or moral philosophy, if you want to find God, or if you want to improve yourself, or if you want to escape to a higher consciousness, or if want to connect to the divine—YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING! You have to gather your strength, you have to obey the rules, you have to free your mind, or you have to fill your mind with the right thoughts—it’s all up to you. If you want to make yourself right, or make the world right, then you had better summon all of your reason, courage, and strength and live in a certain approved way.

Thank our Blessed Father God that is not the message of the gospel! While other religions say we have to do something to connect to God, Christianity says NO! The premise of Christianity is that God came down to earth to do something for each of us—something that we could never do for ourselves.

Many people may encourage you to strive, because if you are strong enough or talented enough or hardworking enough you can prevail! After all, isn’t that the American dream? But thankfully, Christianity is not just for the strong, talented, or dedicated. Christianity is especially for people who can admit that, where it really counts, they are in fact weak. Christianity is open to those of us that have the courage to admit that our flaws are not superficial, that our hearts and souls are disordered, and that we are incapable of fixing ourselves. Salvation is open to us who can see that we need a savior to put us right with God.

Look at what I’ve written! It’s counter-intuitive to everything that we hear from the media or from society at large. It’s off-putting to those who are struggling to make it this world. Christianity doesn’t tell you what to do to find God—no, Christianity is all about God coming down to earth in the form of an obscure man of Nazareth, who was crucified on a cross 2,000 years ago, to find you!

Everything else that you may have heard about Christianity springs from the gospel. Those revolutionary ideas about caring for the weak, sick, and needy; living for love and service instead for power and success; loving even your enemies; and forgiving those who have done you wrong—all those ideas flow from the gospel. Because of the depth of my sin, God came in the person of Jesus Christ to do what I could never do for myself—to be a sacrifice for my sin, to grant me a redeemed and blessed life here on earth, and to stand in my stead after I pass over to the life beyond.

One fine day, be it soon or late, I will pass away (five out of five people like you and me will all meet that same fate). At my time of judgement, I know that Jesus will stand in for me and tell my judge that he as already taken the punishment for all my many sins of omission and commission. And the judge will say “Come into the Holy City you spotless lamb.” All Praise be to the Lamb of God who takes away my sins, and the sins of the world.

Mike Plett
We all believe in something, and we all have our own reasons for that belief. When we have a strong belief, it becomes our defining characteristic, and the source of our inspiration and guidance throughout our lives. As Christians, we profess a belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior and The Lord of our lives, and we trust in His strength and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to direct us when we feel lost or confused, and we keep our eyes on Jesus as the storms of life are swirling around us, and let our belief in Him vanquish our fears and give us peace. If we take a closer look at just what it is that we believe in when we say that we believe in Christ, to me it is clear that the core of our belief in Jesus is a belief in God’s undying and unconditional Love for us. To believe in the heart of Christ is to believe in the power of Love to overcome all things. Paul writes about love in 1 Corinthians 13, verse 7: “It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” Do you believe in the power of Love? Jesus did. In fact, He summed up the intent and the power all of God’s commandments and laws in one word—“Love”. And I don’t think he meant it as a noun, as a description of something we can say we possess, but instead Jesus meant the word Love to be a verb, an action, and a force that only has life and power when it is moving, and when it is given and shared. In Matthew 22: 36-40, Jesus places love as the highest commandment, as the common connecting thread that binds together all of God’s word to us in the Holy Scriptures. 36"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37Jesus replied: "'Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Love God, Love people. This is the underlying purpose of all of the Bible and the simple mission for all of those who believe in Christ. Simple, but not easy, by any means or definition. Whatever the question in life, whatever the challenge, Love is the answer. There is no question in my mind that this is what the Life of Christ and the word of the Bible are trying to show us. Many people around the planet have their own beliefs, and in many cases if you were to ask them to define the power of their faith in just a few words they might not ever mention Love as their secret weapon to conquer any enemy. In our modern society, and in the world as Jesus knew it, love was more often considered soft and harmless and weak instead of as the most powerful strength and force in the universe. When we look at our own belief, and our own personal mission statement for this life, and then strip down all the bells and whistles and outward appearances until we reach the very center of it; what will we find? If our belief is built upon the Rock of the Love of God, it will be worth believing in. It will see us through when nothing else can. We may still have moments of anger and sorrow and frustration, but our belief in the power of Love will guide our Christian response to every challenge. God is Love, and if we want to be closer to God, we must commit ourselves to a life of love, and the depth of that love is never more evident than in the life of Jesus, who said: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14: 1. Put your belief where your heart is, and God’s love will lead you to His presence.

In Christ, Pastor Rick
Sandie Allen 2/1  
Jennifer Hart 2/7  
Betty Hancock 2/12  
Martha Massaro 2/13  
Bertie Rossan 2/15

Mildred (Milly) Frye  
Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living  
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Riverview, FL 33579  
Phone: 813-677-0709
Contribute TO RUMC
Via AmazonSmile

If you shop online with Amazon, be aware that Riverview First United Methodist Church is now registered with AmazonSmile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to our church.

Just log into Amazon via the AmazonSmile link and indicate that Riverview First United Methodist Church is your charity of choice. Every time after that when you log into Amazon through smile.amazon.com a portion of the monies from your purchases will go directly to the church.

www.southerncompanychorus.org

COME SING WITH US! WOMEN OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

Southern Company Chorus Rehearsals:
At Riverview First UMC on Mondays: 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM