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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 worshipping 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/rrvviewumc@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
March 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, March 15th - Last Day to Order Easter Lilies

Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday

**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
“The Heir Club”

About a month ago, Bev and I attended a Zoom gathering. In preparation, we were each asked to share between five and ten things about ourselves. These are the things I picked out:

I was born in Dorothy Gale’s hometown (Liberal Kansas—home to a Wizard of Oz museum).
I lived in Alaska before it became a state.
I am the son of a civil engineer and the father of an automotive engineer.

My wife and I met when we both worked in a motel.
We’ve been married for 48 years and have three children and six grandchildren.

As each of about twenty retired men and women shared their life experiences, they talked about the pride they had in their families, their hobbies, where they were born or raised, and what they had done for a living. Since it was a gathering of faithful Christians, a few remembered to speak about their first encounter with Christ or about their conversion.

After everyone had spoken, our hostess asked us who we were to God. It was then that the group learned about our true identities in God, as revealed in the Letter to the Ephesians 1:3-14 (in The Message). It was there that I found confirmation about my relationship with God.

I am blessed by God. How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He’s the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him.

I am chosen by God. Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.

I am a child of God. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)

I am highly favored of God. He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

I am forgiven completely. Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we’re a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free!

I am included in God’s plans. He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

I am an heir of God. It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

I am sealed with the Holy Spirit. It’s in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what’s coming, a reminder that we’ll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

Who am I? I am a blessed child of God, a fully forgiven heir to his kingdom! Wow!!! And so is every other human being alive on the face of the earth, who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

You’ve heard of the Hair Club for Men? This is the Heir Club for Everyone. You won’t regrow hair, but you will gain eternal life. Join today!
As we begin to see subtle signs of Spring all around us, in the budding trees and flowers and even the feel of the air around us, we start to feel like something is changing, almost too small to perceive, but undeniable, and unstoppable, just the same. We know that we are also in the spiritual season of Lent, a time that is all about change, and we contemplate how we could change the way we do things in an effort to put ourselves in a stronger position and a better attitude to serve God’s will for our lives. But just like with New Year’s Resolutions, sometimes we commit to a drastic and sudden change, and many times it is too much in too short a time, and our sweet dreams, like flying machines, lay in pieces on the ground. (To Quote James Taylor from his song Fire and Rain).

As I was thinking about how to go about making changes in my own faith life this Lenten season, the thought came into my head that God himself believes in starting small when it comes to changes. When God said “Let there be Light and Creation had officially begun”, He still methodically did it in perfectly designed stages, even though we know that He has no limitations, and could have done it all in one blink of an eye. And as I sat on my school bus, watching the darkness turn to dawn, I remembered how two months ago, I drove for the first whole hour in darkness, and now, even though the daily change was imperceptible, I now am driving in the burnt orange and red of sunrise instead. And it occurred to me, that just as God has set the change of the seasons in motion, perhaps I should set my own goals and expectations of changing myself into motion by starting small. A small change each day seems very do-able, and over time, it can all add up to major changes that did not happen overnight, and will not melt away in the noon day sun.

God started small with His plan of salvation for us as well. Jesus spent nine months in the womb after being immaculately conceived, and then grew at a normal rate, and did not enter into His ministry as we read about in the Gospel accounts until he was around 30 years old. And yet, God could have said: “Let there be Christ”, and accomplished it all in a moment’s time. So there must be something profound and even sanctified about this starting small in our Spiritual walk. The apostle Paul spoke to the new Christian church at Corinth, and tells them that he has taught them the Gospel of Christ in such a way as a person feeding a baby milk, because the infant is not ready yet for meat. We too, have to be careful not to bite off more than we can chew, and as we grow in our faith, we will one day be ready to digest all the words of God to us.

I believe that God wants us to commit ourselves to a lifetime of change, and to start small, and to be patient, and to not put any limitations or constraints on the change that The Holy Spirit can bring to our lives a little more each day. I also believe that God has a method for us to follow, and this is also a recurring theme we find in the Bible. Change your heart, and your mind will follow. Sometimes we all get caught up in the intellectual act of obtaining and gaining knowledge and we miss out on the most vital part of change; our heart. It really doesn’t matter how much we know, or how little we know, it only matters how much we feel and absorb of God’s Holy Spirit into our hearts because that is where Spiritual change must take place, and take root, if it is to become permanent.

This Lent is a great opportunity to start small, and to latch onto some small victories over our own vices, and to run the race that God has put before us; not as a sprint to the finish, but more of a long run that takes us past mortal life’s finish line and into God’s promise of eternity without missing a stride. It might seem like an uphill battle that is going upstream against the current of the world, but the view from the mountain just gets better and better the higher we climb. Start small, but Aim high, Dream big, Pray intensely, Love deeply, and walk humbly with God. It all starts, with that first small step towards our Father in Heaven, who is even now, running towards His children with open arms!

Rick Phillips
Russ Harris             3/1
Carole Bradley          3/3
Doug Reed              3/9

Albert & Sharon Cayce  3/7
Dan & Linda Bauer      3/7
Gary & Kim Floyd       3/16

Mildred (Milly) Frye
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117 North Rd. U252-2
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Phone: 603-591-6205

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Phone: 813-802-5268

Sandra Sprang
12406 Tocci Lane
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