

Riverside Ministry Plans November 2020

Riverside continues to look for safe ways to “be the church” together as we navigate the pandemic. We are committed to everyone’s wellbeing and will adjust plans as changing conditions indicate.

Worship – Currently we believe we need to keep indoor activities small, socially distanced, and, of course, with masks.

We will continue to offer outdoor worship in our parking lot—in or out of your car--throughout the winter. We are looking to add heaters, firepits, hot chocolate and other elements to keep things comfortable and fun. (**First snow storm – B.Y.O.S. “bring your own sled”**) Of course, we will continue to offer online and socially distanced (by reservation) indoor worship as well. Here are the options:

- Indoor worship on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Sign up at the link on www.riversidechurch.com
- In-person parking lot worship on Sundays at 10 a.m.
- Online streamed worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. (Also available for early viewing on Sunday mornings via our web page.)
- “All Together Sunday” with petting zoo (by Sign-up Genius) on December 6.

Christmas Eve Worship

- Online family service
- Online worship service
- In-person parking lot worship at 5 p.m., “Cars, Carols, Communion, and Christmas”

Children’s activities

- Children’s Family Fun Events
 - November 21-Build-a-Craft and Sundaes, outside, socially distanced, a lot of fun.
 - December 12 – Christmas Party
- Sunday School
 - This week was the first in-person Family Sunday School in the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.—a great and safe way for kids and parents to interact
 - Sunday School via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. (Grade 1 and 2 curriculum) and 5 p.m. (Grade 3 and 4 curriculum).
 - Zoom links are on <https://riversidechurch.com/weekly-schedule/>.
- “All Together Sunday” with petting zoo. Sign up for a time slot so that your family can meet the animals on December 6 ([by Sign-up Genius](#)).
- Birthday Party for Jesus Kits – Will be delivered to each home during the first week in December. Kits will include cake mix, party games related to the Christmas story, and a family craft. We know this is not going to be a Hallmark Christmas, but at this time it is even more crucial to share the meaning and good news of Christmas with our children.
- Sunday School Kit – Will be delivered to each home the first week of January. January Sunday School theme will be super heroes.

Student Ministry

- We will continue hosting student study space in the Sanctuary Wednesday (high school) and Thursdays (middle school). We will continue to practice and enforce best practices in light of the pandemic. Make a reservation through www.riversidechurch.com.
- Sunday night youth groups
- Weekly small groups

Discipleship Training - New training will be available in January and new groups will be forming. If interested contact [Brian Clark](#), [Lisa Farmer](#), or any Riverside staff. Email contacts are on our web page.

Community Care

- Feed-a-Student distribution monthly – We continue to adapt to the changing needs. Your graciousness has allowed us to do much!
- Adopt-a-Family collection and distribution in early December. Contact [Jodi Peterson](#) to participate.
- Ridgetop Kitchen is serving three days a week. We could use 1 or 2 more volunteers who could commit to once a week, 9-noon, to cook and prepare the meal. Your graciousness has allowed us to serve over 8,000 meals since March.

Pastor of Connection

Session believes there are current opportunities and post-Covid opportunities to catalyze connections for families with young children and those who are unconnected. They have added the position of Pastor of Connection to catalyze connections, fostering deeper relationships with God and others through Jesus Christ.

Shannon Kiser has accepted the quarter time role as Pastor of Connection. Shannon has expressed an interest in this area and feels like the timing makes sense, Shannon and Patrick are newly empty nesters. She will begin this position in December 1, 2020. Her areas of responsibilities and focus will be:

- Develop a system for connection to families and volunteers.
- Participate relationally as appropriate with families with young children who are engaging in the Children's ministry or Riverside church activities.
- Learn the needs and names of families with young children engaged with Riverside.
- Create relational gatherings or activities that connect with and support families especially at this time of new educational and social challenges due to COVID-19.
- Follow-up as appropriate with visitors both live and virtual to church and church activities, helping families to discover pathways of connection to Riverside and its mission.

The Congregation unanimously and with joy voted in favor of this call.