

Riverlawn Presbyterian Church

2008 Pennsylvania Avenue, St. Albans, WV 25177

(304) 727-8872 ♦ rpc.pastorchris@gmail.com ♦ www.riverlawnchurch.org



2025

"As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience ... Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly ... And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:12-17)

As I read anew this charge to the Church, I asked myself again: How are we living this out? How are we clothing ourselves with the character and the compassion of Christ? How is His message dwelling among us richly? How are we, through our words and works, lifting high the name of our Lord Jesus and giving thanks to the Father?

It's been a while, so I want to share some of the ways this is still happening through Riverlawn - and just to ensure this does not come across as boastful, *I must broadcast the undeniable fact that all of which is undertaken and accomplished for our Father's glory has ever only been possible, in every single instance, entirely by His beautiful grace and His powerful Spirit.* So here goes ...

We rejoice, in the name of Christ, giving thanks for the ways that the members of Christ's body here at Riverlawn minister to the needs in our own community, such as supporting the St. Albans Food Pantry, Christ's Kitchen, Jubilee Emergency Assistance, Community Bridge, Gabriel Project, Jericho House, Hezekiah House, Union Mission ... providing financial support for these ministries through budgeted donations, Cents-ability offerings, Souper Bowl of Caring, Post Office food drives, St. Albans Race Against Hunger, Coat Drives, and Christmas Food Baskets.

We rejoice, in the name of Christ, giving thanks for the ways that the members of Christ's body are responding to God's call, using the gifts that the Spirit provides, and displaying the tangible, transformative love of Christ through ministries such as the Snack Pack program providing bags of food items to students of Lakewood Elementary each week; giving exit care bags to behavioral health patients upon their release from care; going to WVSU to talk and pray with students as part of the UKirk campus ministry.

We rejoice, in the name of Christ, giving thanks for the ways that the members of Christ's body invite those around us to take part in joyful fellowship, sharing the good news, growing deeper in our faith, and providing more opportunities for connection through ministries such as our Wednesday Family Nights, prayer breakfasts, Guys' Weekends, and many small group studies.

We rejoice, in the name of Christ, giving thanks for the ways that the members of Christ's body are living out our covenant with and for children - providing ways to worship and serve alongside of them, offering ongoing opportunities to educate and advocate for them, such as through Sunday school, Jr. Church, Family Nights, Bitty Basketball, and the Girl Scouts.

We rejoice, in the name of Christ, giving thanks for the ways that the members of Christ's body serve as mission partners - through prayers, giving, travel, work, worship, and witness

- with global mission agencies including The Open Arms Foundation; The Outreach Foundation; The Presbytery of Nyeri, Kenya; globalLead; and Cru (Steve and Becky Bressler) - embodying the good news of Jesus Christ around the world in ways that heal and nurture, rescue and restore!

We rejoice, in the name of Christ, giving thanks for the ways that the members of Christ's body offer themselves in fulfilling our chief end - to glorify God and enjoy Him forever - through the proclamation of the Word, the prayers of the people, and the singing of the saints in weekly worship, and other special evenings of music lifting high Christ Jesus our Savior ... But also for how our call to glorify God extends into every day and every place, as our "life song" goes out by the power of the Holy Spirit to transform more and more into the image of Jesus Christ, giving honor to the Father both now and forever.

We rejoice, in the name of Christ, giving thanks for the ways that the members of Christ's body have given, and continue to give, to invest in what God is doing in and through His Church ... at this moment in time and in the time ahead ... in this very place on Pennsylvania Avenue and how it ripples beyond ... as the members of Christ's body join in and take part in continuing God's plan to further His kingdom through servants who are willing and available, who exhibit the sacrificial love of Christ, who support the work of the Church through their prayers, giftedness, generosity & love.

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." We will never run out of ways in which we can and should offer thanks to our great God for who He is and for all He has done, is doing, and will do in and through His redeemed people!

Will you offer joyous praise and thanksgiving with me?

Pastor Chris

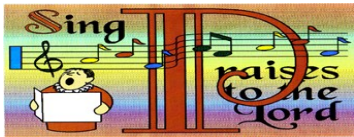


THANK YOU!



I want to thank my Riverlawn Church family once again for the countless ways that you have expressed your kindness, support, and generosity! You never cease to be a blessing in my life! I continue to thank God for you!

Pastor Chris



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS November 2025

November has arrived and that means the choir is working on music for our program following the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16. Members from St. Andrew's Choir will be joining us once again and their choir director, Megan Bailey, will be accompanying us on the piano. A string ensemble will be playing on a couple of our anthems as well as featured on 2 special selections for strings. They will be playing a *Suite* by Haydn as well as an arrangement of Rolf Lovland's *You Raise Me Up*. Aaron Sowards, flautist, and Molly Page, violinist, will also have solos that evening. During the program we will recognize 'Jericho House' and donations will be collected for this ministry. I hope you can attend this evening of food, fellowship and music as we lift our voices in praise & thanksgiving to God.

A word about an anthem the choir sang in October: *It Is No Secret* was written by Stuart Hamblen, one of the first 'singing cowboys' of radio fame back in the late 1940's. Hamblen had been invited to a Billy Graham Crusade when Graham was speaking in Los Angeles. It was at one of these crusade gatherings that Hamblen committed his life to Christ and soon after he wrote the song. *It Is No Secret* has been recorded by Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash & Jim Reeves. Featured soloist for Riverlawn's arrangement of this anthem was our own Ron Claar. We've been singing this anthem for about 8 years and it's one of our favorites.

Have a wonderful November and remember to give thanks not only on Thanksgiving Day but every day!

Pam



Jericho House Benefit Concerts

Riverlawn is happy to again host a Jericho House benefit concert this year. It will be on Sunday, November 16th at 7:00pm, featuring choir members and instrumentalists from both Riverlawn and St. Andrew UMC. There will be anthems shared from our combined choirs, selections by a string ensemble, solos & congregational participation.

Also on November 16th at 6:00 p.m., Riverlawn will be celebrating with our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.



Join in us on Wednesday nights for Family Night, a time to enjoy friendships and our church family, with dinner at 5:30. Activities for the children and youth begin at 6:15.

WEDNESDAY KITCHEN CREW



November	5	Team A: Mimi Albert Gayle Micheal
	12	Team B: Pam Johnson Frances Miller
	19	Team C: Judy Clingenpeel Sherry Claar
	26	NO FAMILY NIGHT

If you are unable to assist, please try to switch with another worker or contact Pam Johnson (304-545-2772).



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Missions will once again be involved with Operation Christmas Child and the collection of Shoe Boxes. National Collection Week runs from **November 17—November 23, 2025**. Boxes are now available in the back pew of the church, along with instructions/suggestions on what to purchase the children, separated by boy/girl, and age groups (5 to 9, and 10-14), as well as mailing instructions. **November 23rd is the deadline** to bring in your filled shoebox. If your shoebox is filled before the 23rd, you can bring it to the sanctuary and place it in front of the church. If you have any questions you may contact Steve Wilson or Linda Wilson.





The Annual Riverlawn Thanksgiving Dinner is Sunday, November 16, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to bake a turkey breast which will be purchased and left at the church to pick up there. You are welcome to bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert. The church will provide the turkey, rolls and drinks.

Afterward, the choir and an ensemble of instrumentalists will be presenting special music following dinner. Members of St. Andrew UMC will be joining our choir. Megan Bailey will be back at the keyboard for us, Aaron Sowards, flautist, and Molly Page, violinist will be sharing solos. As a part of the program that evening, we will be recognizing the work of Jericho House. Carla Kay Hoskins, director of Jericho House, will be our honored guest. Monetary gifts will be accepted during the event. Mark your calendar for this evening of yummy food, fellowship and music.

Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up and clean-up after the dinner. You can contact Beckie Croghan (304-552-1652) – if you have any questions.



- 3th—Brie Davis
- 4th—Carroll Miller
- 6th—Kathy Barnes & Becky Goodwin
- 7th—Mimi Albert
- 9th—Ansley Shamblin
- 10th—Paul Mullins
- 16th—Barb Willson
- 18th—Charley Bryan
- 19th—Steve Wilson & Kathie Beth Bowens
- 20th—Ann Cox
- 25th—Pam Mullins & Adam Recknagel
- 29th—Shirley Hyatt & Clemente Twyman



We are looking for people to sponsor **35 families** this year, help assemble the food baskets (**Friday, December 19th**), and to help distribute the baskets (**Saturday, December 20th**). We need sponsors for the baskets, food items, or you can provide monetary contributions. A sign-up sheet insert will be in the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Joe Lothes (304-304-767-9313) or the church office (304-727-8872)



ST. ALBANS FOOD PANTRY

Top Needed Items:

- Canned pasta
- Syrup
- Crackers
- Pudding
- Boxed pasta sides
- Beef ramen noodles
- Peanut butter
- Pancake mix
- Spam
- Chicken / turkey gravy

Thank you



*Sunday 2nd & 9th, join Brenda Petry in the Cottage, for **The Chosen, Season 5**.

*Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., in the Cottage, there is a Bible Study. Join Pastor Chris for **Every Thought Captive**.



Saturday, November 8th, at Cracker Barrel in Cross Lanes. A time for fellowship, devotion and prayer.



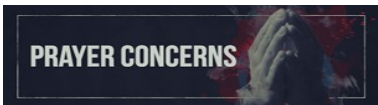
HANGING OF THE GREENS
Saturday, 29th, 9:00 am



**CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS**

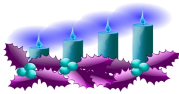
Christmas Poinsettias will be available from Gritts Midway Greenhouse. All purchase requests, with payment, must be submitted to the church office by **Friday, November 21st**.

See inserts in the church bulletin for more information on colors available and price.



Wanda Smith & Family; Joe & Jane Lothes; Joyce Ryan; Rachel & Dawson Cottril; Fred Gierich; Linda Wilson; Becky Goodwin; Betty McAdam; Janice Sims; Dawn Scheick; Jane Lothes; Sherry Claar; Kathy Barnes; Cathy Lothes/Robert Philbrick; Ralph Nunn/Jonah Cart/Vikki Williams/Madison Morris; Dana Snyder/Abby Goff/Carol Nunn Family; JJ Callaghan/Randy Fizer; Sherry Ellis; Dale Dodrill; Eddie Mcfall (Linda Ross' son); Angel Grover/Lori Goodwin (Brenda Petry); Janet Young; Mick Hughes and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.

Prayer list for churches of WV Presbytery and our Nyeri partnership church of the week of **November 2:** Church: Ndugamano; Parish: Thegeenge; First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar; First Presbyterian Church, Williamson.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The Season of Advent begins **Sunday, November 30**. Let us prepare to enter this special season of waiting and anticipation for the arrival of our Savior—God with us!



CHOIR REHEARSAL

6th—7:00
13th—7:00
20th—7:00
27th— **NO REHEARSAL—THANKSGIVING**



Visitation Teams/Schedule

11/02 Mary Reppert & Sharon Herndon
11/09 Mimi Albert & Jamie Albert
11/16 Linda Wilson & Steve Wilson
11/23 Linda Monday & Parry Johnson
11/30 Robin Burnam & Joe Lothes



BUILDING SECURITY

After church lock-up for November is Mary Reppert.

After hours security check for November:

11/02 Jamie Albert
11/09 Joe Lothes
11/16 Dennis Emmett
11/23 Larry Hyatt
11/30 Randy Dodrill

If you are unable to cover the security check on your scheduled week, please let Pat Croghan know (304) 989-1894. Thank you.

2025 Riverlawn Elders and Board of Deacons

Elders:

Jamie Albert, Clerk of Session, Community & Family Ministries, Evangelism
681-340-1128; James.macd.albert@gmail.com

Dennis Emmett, Finance & Stewardship
304-610-7535; emmett@suddenlink.net

Sharon Herndon, Christian Nurture
304-444-2071; Polecat818@hotmail.com

Parry Johnson, Buildings & Grounds
304-926-4745; Parryjohnson1@gmail.com

Joe Lothes, Missions
304-767-8313; fishlothes@hotmail.com

Steve Wilson, Worship & Fellowship
304-741-7890; stevewillie@suddenlink.net

Session Meeting—November 16 at 1:30 pm via Zoom

Deacons:

Mimi Albert—304-546-6547
Mimialbert72@yahoo.com

Robin Burnam – 304-722-5665
robinsnestsawv@hotmail.com

Linda Monday – 304-541-4927
lindadmonday@gmail.com

Mary Reppert—304-419-2755
Reppert.mary@gmail.com

Linda Wilson – 304-741-3113
Linda.wilson867@gmail.com

Deacons' Meeting—Nov. 2nd following worship



November 11

Dates to Remember

- 11/02 Daylight Savings Time Ends
Deacons' Meeting — following Worship
- 11/08 Men's Prayer Breakfast—Cracker Barrel in Cross Lanes — 8:30 a.m.
- 11/09 Congregational Meeting — following Worship
- 11/16 The Annual Riverlawn Thanksgiving Dinner — 6:00 p.m.
Special Music Program benefiting Jericho House — 7:00 p.m.
- 11/21 Deadline for poinsettia orders
- 11/23 Deadline for Operation Christmas Child boxes
- 11/26 No Family Night Dinner/Bible Study
- 11/27 No Choir Rehearsal
- 11/29 Hanging of the Greens — 9:00 a.m.
- 11/30 First Sunday of Advent



Riverlawn Strives To
Purge ourselves of pride by focusing on glorifying God
Teach the truth through fellowship & discipleship
Demonstrate a life of love through service to others
Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need
Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love





The Hezekiah House Recovery Center
627 Rust Street
St. Albans, Wv 25177
Open House

Come see the “finished product” at our second Open House.
November 17, 2024 1:00—5:00 p.m.

Refreshments

The Hezekiah House is a six bed aftercare facility for those battling addiction, offering long term support for up to three years, if necessary.