



The mission of Riviera Baptist Church is to bring God glory through loving Him, loving one another, and sharing God's love with our world both locally and globally.

BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE

I know what you're thinking: "Why so positive, Pastor?" Well, I have to admit that this time of year is usually hard for me. I overate and overspent during the holidays, so I'm trying to cut calories and pinch pennies. The colder weather is here, and we can expect another few months of cloudy skies. The flu bug is also cycling its way through our community. But in spite of this challenging time of year, I'm very excited about 2018.

A couple of weeks ago, I was sharing a devotional with the staff from Joshua 24. In talking about the typically short lifespan of generic New Year's resolutions, I'm reminded that Scripture teaches us to make spiritual resolutions. Joshua called the people of Israel to turn from the idols of their forefathers and put their trust in the Lord. He says, "Now fear the LORD and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Through this process of setting spiritual resolutions, the Lord has been encouraging me to be hopeful. Ephesians 3:20 says, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations..."

We all have our shopping lists of requests for God. And boy, can I imagine God doing some amazing things in our church. But Paul says God can and will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. And He does it through His power at work in His church. The Holy Spirit is in each one of us, which means God's power is already at work to accomplish inconceivably great things.

That's exciting - but there's more! The whole point of God doing these immeasurably great things through you and I is that in the end, God will get the glory. And this is something God is doing throughout all generations, which means God is still at work doing the impossible at Riviera Baptist Church, in Eugene, in Oregon, in 2018. The motto that I've adopted for myself - and even written on a reminder rock to put on my desk, in an imitation of the ancient Israelites - is "Believe the impossible."

I want to challenge you to believe the impossible this year. Believe the impossible for your life. Believe the impossible for your families, and believe the impossible for our church. Why? Because God is at work in each of us, for His glory!

In His grace,

Pastor Toby Gallego

WHAT'S INSIDE

Christmas 2017
90th Birthday Bash
New Pastor Hire
AND MORE!

LEADERSHIP

Toby Gallego

Senior Pastor

Matt Atwell

Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Family Ministries

Annie Pasquinelli

Worship & Media Director

Tina Averill

Office Assistant

Anna Buettner

Youth Intern

Barb Dopkus

Treasurer



THANKSGIVING 2017

In following our annual tradition, Riviera Baptist Church and Eugene Japanese Baptist Church joined forces this year for a Thanksgiving celebration that brought everyone together for a memorable time of fellowship and following Christ.

This year, Pastor Yuji Hayashi of EJBC brought the message at our joint Sunday service. This was followed by a potluck Thanksgiving meal provided by members of both congregations. The food was delicious, as always – as were the desserts! Families from both churches enjoyed the time together, bridging cultural differences and sharing in the oneness of the body of Christ.

We're likely to have another great celebration as we continue this tradition into 2018. Continue to praise God in a spirit of thanksgiving throughout the year!



CELEBRATING 96

It's not often that members of our congregation reach such a milestone birthday, so we celebrated in style!

Mib Wilson has reached 96 years of age, and several of RBC's Prime Timers marked the occasion with a trip to Arby's Restaurant on River Road. They even got the sign filled out to match the party! Cake and conversation were a big part of this celebration.

We're glad to be able to honor your continued service to God's kingdom here!



Photos by
Barb
Wilson.

Below:
Group
photo of
Prime
Timers.

WINTER 2018

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas at Riviera was a little different than usual. In 2017, December 24th fell on a Sunday, so instead of an evening Christmas Eve gathering, we had our festivities that morning. We had two services that morning to accommodate the big turnout. The Youth Worship Team also performed a special musical number, which was a song by Lauren Daigle and Chris Tomlin entitled “Noel.” After that, the church went on break, and families celebrated Christmas Day at home.



The Youth Worship Team worked long and hard to perform a special piece this January – which they performed on all their own instruments!

The song, entitled “Hold Me” by Jamie Grace, was arranged to accommodate their musical talents. A piano, a keyboard, a guitar, a ukulele, and a conga were all involved, and some of the girls sang and played at the same time. It was an incredible display of the gifts of music that God has given to each of the members of the YWT.

In case you missed it – or just want to hear it again – you can listen to their performance on the RBC YouTube page!



WELCOME TO RBC, ATWELL FAMILY!

For the last several months, the RBC personnel committee has been hard at work searching for the right person to join us – and at long last, we've got someone!

Matt Atwell has agreed to fill the newly created role of Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Family Ministries. Originally from a farm in Oklahoma, Matt graduated from Oklahoma Wesleyan University, where he met and then married his wife Leslie. Both of them accepted Christ at the ripe age of 7 years old – and they enjoy a wide variety of sports and physical activities. They married in 2011, the day after graduation.

Soon afterward, the new couple traveled to the West African country of Guinea, where they served as missionaries for two years.

They returned to the States after their mission time concluded, and then moved to North Carolina to pursue Master's degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. During this time, Matt became involved in the American Ninja Warrior program and was even a contestant on the show. Their family also grew in size with the addition of Judah and Emory.

The Atwells are currently moving into their new home in the Eugene area and getting settled out west. After driving across the continent – with a short pit stop to see the Grand Canyon – they plan on getting right to work, teaming up with us to bring God's word to Eugene.

We are very excited to have them here, and we can't wait to see what they will bring to Riviera and to the community! Welcome, everybody!



If you're interested in getting involved with more programs like this, talk to some of Riviera's Women's Ministry leaders!

On Saturday, February 10th, the women of Riviera Baptist Church gathered in the Fellowship Hall to share in the spirit of the season – and to conclude the annual Secret Sister program.

With Valentine's decorations galore, these women showed that God's love connects us all. They shared in a lovely brunch and exchanged gifts. Those who were involved in the Secret Sister program revealed who had been sharing gifts with each other over the course of the year. There were positive vibes all around!

The Women's Ministry program is gearing up for another season of fellowship, Bible study, and social events. Keep an eye out for the next events, which will be announced in the bulletins and on the RBC website.



Easter Schedule 2018

March 30th: Good Friday Prayer Walk

April 1st at 9:00am: Worship Service

April 1st at 10:00-10:45am: Potluck Brunch

April 1st at 11:00am: Worship Service

RESURRECTION AND CELEBRATION

The most serious – and arguably most celebratory – holiday season is fast approaching. Easter falls on Sunday, April 1st this year, and here at RBC, we are already preparing to make this holiday a celebration to remember.

On March 30th, we will be holding another open house-style Prayer Walk. This is an individual, reflective service where participants follow a guide book around the stations of the cross. At each station, there is a Scripture passage and a focus on a particular moment of the Easter story. Props and artwork will set the mood and provide visual and tangible guidance. A prompt will facilitate a moment of careful prayer and reflection before the participant moves to the next station. The sanctuary will be open for several hours that day so that congregants can come when they are able, and take their time going through the circuit.

This type of service was well received last year, and we hope to build on that this year. It's a great way to refocus on what our salvation cost before we celebrate the joy of resurrection a few days later.

Because of typically high attendance, we will have two services on Easter Sunday. More information about times will be made available as March comes to a close. If you're available to help with the Good Friday Prayer Walk, sign up for a time slot to host the sanctuary for that day. You can also sign up to bring a casserole for Sunday.

And don't forget to invite friends, family, and more to join us for Easter! Let's celebrate and be filled with joy for the Lord!

REACHING OUT

KENYA MISSION TRIP

Ryan Moore, in conjunction with Northwest Collegiate Ministries at the University of Oregon and Northwest Christian University, is bringing a team of college students with him to the African nation of Kenya.

This mission is part of a program called Living Room International, which provides hospice care for children and adults in Kenya who are dealing with severe and sometimes terminal health problems. It focuses on providing dignity to those suffering from serious issues like HIV / AIDS or cancer, and supporting children who are malnourished and may not survive to adulthood. More information is available online at their website, LivingRoomInternational.org.

There are a handful of local students and leaders who are going on this trip with Ryan Moore in August. They are raising the money for the international flights and travel necessities themselves, so if you would like to support them, simply make a note of it on your offering envelope and put it in the plate on Sunday.

You can also help by praying for a safe and fruitful trip! These young missionaries – and the people they're helping – will surely need it.



RIVIERA: LOOKING FORWARD

Spring is nearly here, and that means we're going to begin preparations for our annual summer activities! If you're interested in getting involved with these events, talk to the RBC leadership and keep an eye out for new information, coming soon!

- Church Retreats
- Vacation Bible Adventure
- Youth Camp
- Block Party
- ...and More!



CITYFEST WITH ANDREW PALAU

For several years, pastors and community leaders in Lane County have prayed and dreamed of a unified effort to serve the community and share the Good News in the Eugene / Springfield area – and now, we're finally seeing it come together.

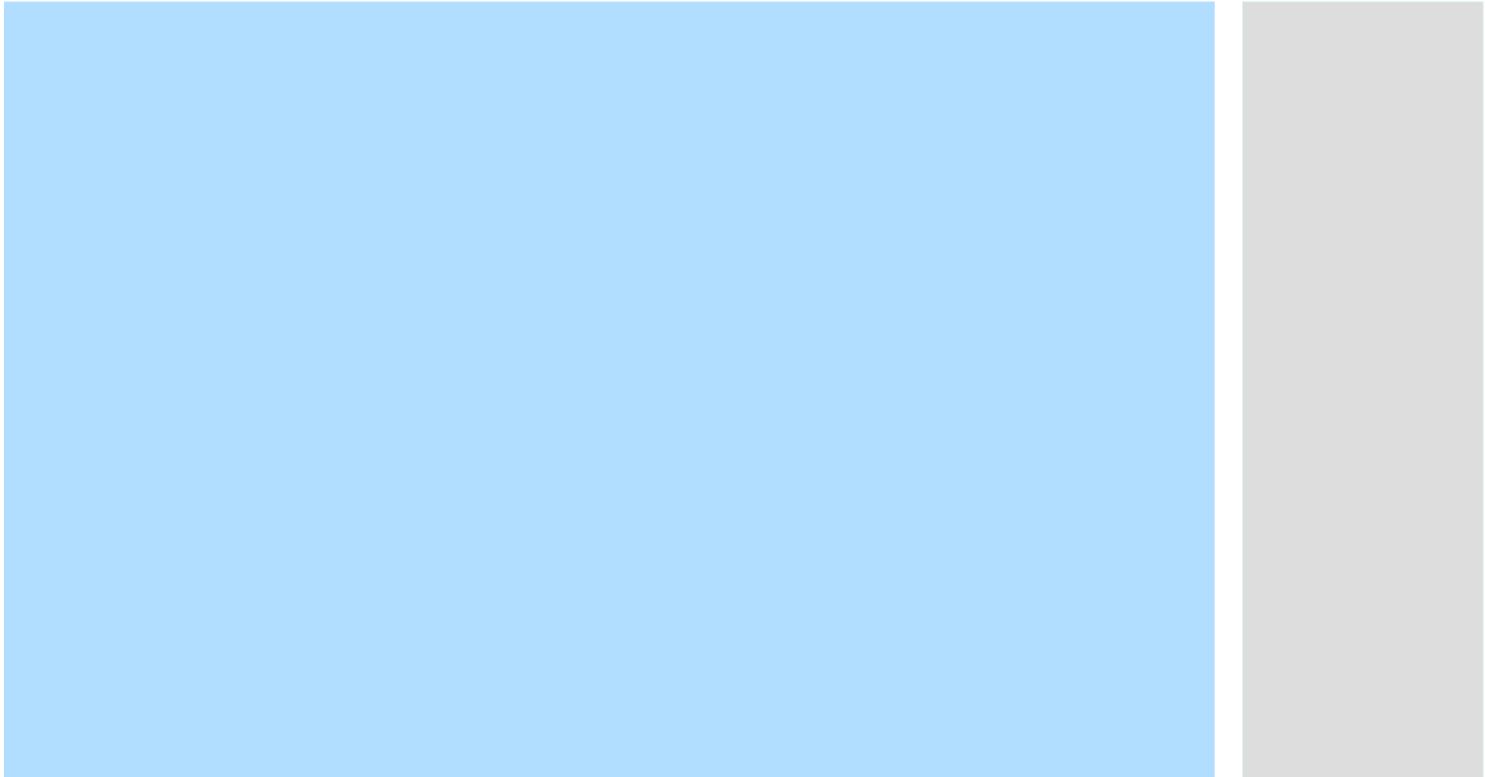
Over the past several months, the One Hope group, along with over 70 local churches and para-church organizations, has been leading a campaign called CityServe, which is a series of outreach and service programs designed to reach key groups of people in our community. This spring will mark the beginning of the Mobilization phase of this campaign, and includes fundraising and training programs for several upcoming outreach events.

Everything in this campaign is building up to the CityFest event with Andrew Palau, a presenter who will speak at a huge evangelistic festival here in Eugene this July. Work is already underway to prepare hearts, minds, and resources for this event.

Watch for upcoming programs and more information, coming soon! It's time to spread the Good News in a big way.



3071 River Road
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FEBRUARY / MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Lord's Supper	12	13	14	15	16 24-Hour Prayer Vigil	17 St Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Good Friday	31