



'Round the Bend Jan '26

ALL ABOUT RIVERBEND

Ready to take a next step? Riverbend has many ways to serve. Click the button to find your place to jump in.

SERVE WITH US

Stay in the loop with all things happening around the 'Bend! Click the button to subscribe.

**GET THE WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER**

Whatever season you're in, we hope you'll discover encouragement, meaningful relationships, and the grace of Jesus through groups. Click the button to explore all options.

FIND A GROUP

Thank you for fueling the mission and vision of Riverbend. Give by clicking the button, tapping Give in the app, texting [riverbendgive](https://text.riverbendgive.com) to 77977, or visiting riverbend.com/give.

**GIVE TO
RIVERBEND**

New here, or want to take a next step? We'd love to get to know you. Click the button to fill out a Connect Card.

**CONNECT
WITH US**



DISCOVER (OR RE-DISCOVER) YOUR PLACE IN OUR RIVERBEND FAMILY OF FAITH

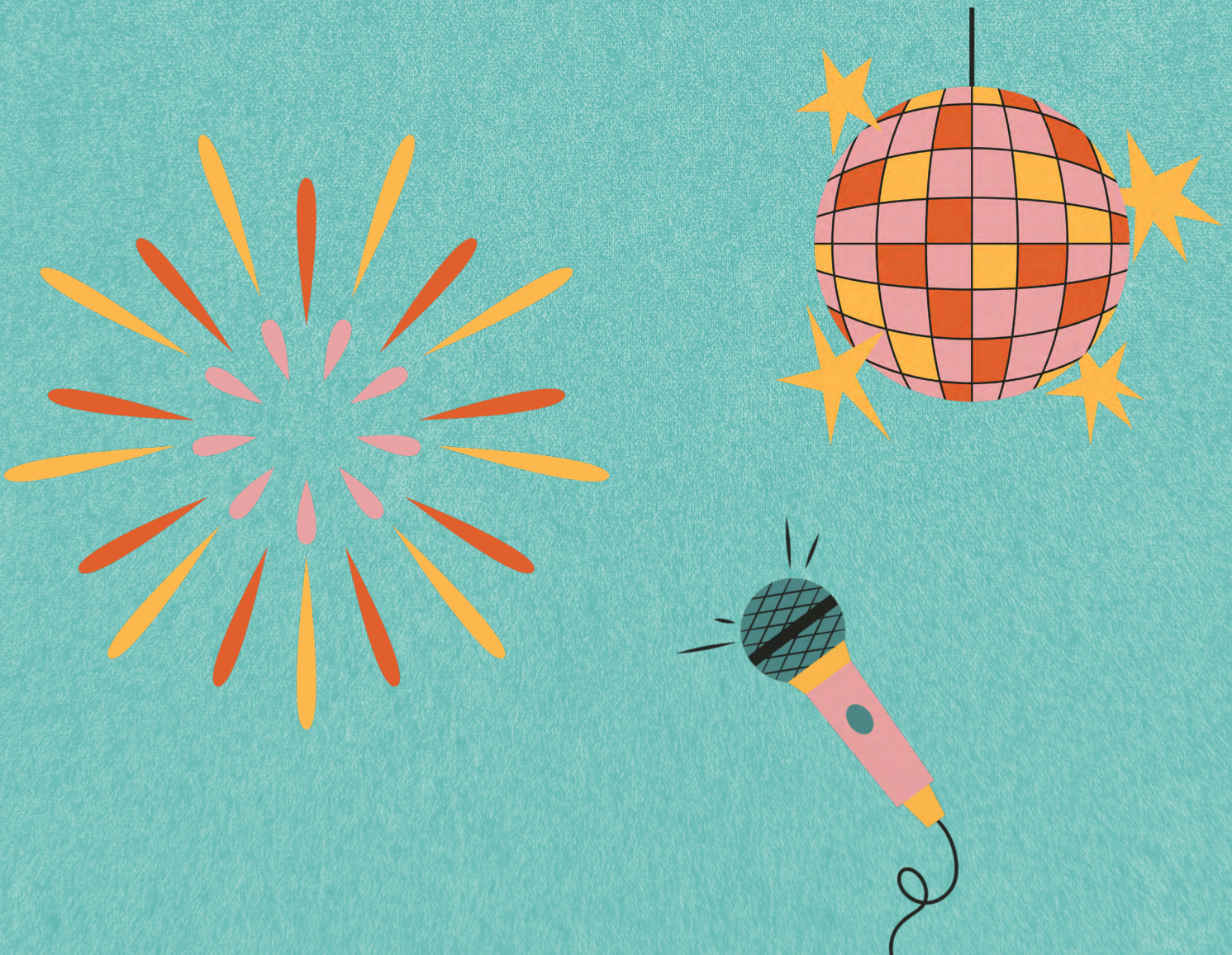
As a new year begins, it often invites reflection, and sometimes a brave nudge to take a next step in our faith.

Whether that step feels small or courageous, you don't have to take it alone. As we head into 2026, we have intentional spaces to help you grow, connect, and discover where God may be leading you next.

One of those opportunities is DIVE — a chance to Discover, Immerse, Venture, and Engage with the heart of Riverbend. **Whether you're brand new or have been here for years, DIVE offers a meaningful way to explore who we are, what we believe, and where your unique puzzle piece fits within our church family.** We host DIVE sessions quarterly. Our next DIVE will be on January 18 from 11:45AM - 12:45PM in Room 206! Free to attend, catered lunch is provided. Sign up [HERE](#).

Alongside DIVE, our Groups are launching on January 11. **Groups are an inviting way to build authentic, life-giving relationships and grow together in community.** To check out our Groups offerings for this season, visit riverbend.com/groups.

This new year, we'd love to take the next step with you!



MESSAGE FROM DR. DAVE HANEY

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

-Mark Twain

"You don't stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing."

-George Bernard Shaw

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

-Abraham Lincoln

"How old would you be if you didn't know how old you was?"

-Satchel Paige

"The afternoon knows what the morning never suspected."

-Robert Frost

This year, 2026, I will turn 70 years old. I know and have known many people who have lived well past 70 years, and yet somehow, I have failed to imagine myself among them. I know that I am not alone in this. It seems that the older most people get, the less comfortable they are with imagining themselves to be "old."

And yet, to have the opportunity to grow old is considered to be a privilege and one of God's great blessings. The Bible is particularly affirming of the value of "old age." However, the "value" of getting older often includes an important caveat of continuing in righteousness and usefulness.

Psalm 84 says of the righteous:

¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.

In Titus chapter 2, Paul encourages Titus to challenge older men to lead by example:

² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

This is not only true of individuals, it is also true of congregations and churches. While no relevant and life-filled church wants to see itself as "old," there is great value in the longevity and maturity of a spiritual community. While the appeal of the *"its-all-happening-right-right-here-at-the-shiny-new-thing-that's-unlike-any-of-those-old-things"* mojo is worn off, the more valuable appeal of *"we've-been-there-and-done-that-and-we've-seen-some-things,"* mojo remains. And this is the stuff of which life-long bonds are built, and multi-generational communities are grown.

In light of the 2,000 year history of the 'Capital C' Church, Riverbend is comparatively embryonic. Yet locally, by comparison, Riverbend is one of the most established and well-tenured large churches in the greater Austin area. In just 3 years, in 2029, Riverbend will enter the second half of its first century.

There is no reason for us to imagine that in the next 50 years we will not see God increase and multiply the engagement, enthusiasm, excitement and fruitfulness that has been true of Riverbend's first 50 years. God did not raise up this family of faith to impact and influence a single generation. In fact, I believe that we can confidently say that the first 50 years of Riverbend's impact was simply one generation's preparation for the even greater opportunities ahead for the coming generations in the next 50 years.

When I imagine myself at 70 years old, I do not imagine myself as someone who is even close to done. In fact, it is my belief and strong conviction that these 70 years have simply been the set-up and the preparation for the best that is yet-to-come. I haven't lived this long or worked with this much enthusiasm to imagine that I will miss the party we've all worked so hard to be a part of.

Buckle up my friends, we're about to get the party started.

"None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm."

-Henry David Thoreau

"We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."

-George Bernard Shaw



Dave Haney
Senior Pastor



UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE: SWEETHEART DANCE

FEBRUARY 13 | 6:30PM - 9PM | RIVERBEND CHURCH

Join us for a sweet night at our "Sweetheart Dance," a magical evening filled with sweet moments and heart-warming memories! \$35/person. Sign up [HERE](#).

PRETEEN LIFT CAMP: REGISTRATION OPEN!

JUNE 17-20 | HIGHLAND LAKES CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Located just one hour from Austin, Highland Lakes "Lift" Camp offers an exciting four-day experience tailored for students who have completed 3rd to 5th grade. Register by April 1. More info and sign up [HERE](#).

STUDENT LIFE SUMMER CAMP @ THE YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

JUNE 22-26, 2026 | REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31

This summer camp will be an experience that Students will never forget as they continue to grow in their faith. They'll develop deeper connections with other students and leaders through small group Bible study, engaging worship, and indoor/outdoor activities built around strengthening relationships. The camp is designed in such a way that God's Word remains center-stage. Sign up [HERE](#).

CENTRE

UNPLUGGED AT THE CHAPEL

Our Unplugged concert series is a great opportunity to listen to some fantastic music in our beautiful Riverbend Chapel with cocktails, wine, and light snacks provided by local vendors! Tickets for upcoming Unplugged concerts can be purchased at riverbend.com/events.

January 22 @ 7:30PM | Bob Schneider

More about Bob Schneider [HERE](#).

February 26 @ 7:30PM | Gritty Sunset

Tickets coming soon!

CARE

GPS CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 28 | 8:30AM - 2:30PM | RIVERBEND CHURCH

As a caregiver for an aging member of your family, you know how challenging it can feel to try and provide the best care possible while balancing your life. Riverbend has partnered with AGE of Central Texas to offer this FREE conference for caregivers where you'll discover local resources, acquire skills to better manage common caregiving situations, and connect with national and local experts on aging.

WOMEN'S

WOMEN'S GETAWAY - LUMINOUS: WIRED FOR CONNECTION - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

JANUARY 23-25, 2026 | JORDAN RANCH RETREAT CENTER | SCHULENBURG, TX

Our Women's Getaway retreat will be a peaceful weekend to rest, reconnect, and grow through inspiring sessions, meaningful community, and spiritual renewal. Step away from the busyness of life and return refreshed, empowered, and ready to make 2026 your brightest year yet! More info & register [HERE](#).



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

DEEPER JOURNEY INFORMATION SESSION

JANUARY 11 | 11:45AM - 12:30PM | ROOM 203

Learn about Riverbend's 8-month discipleship program called "The Deeper Journey." This transformational course is ideal for anyone desiring to deepen their relationship with Christ and explore how their faith can be strengthened and enriched.

RIVERBEND CHURCH

WINTER GROUPS

JANUARY 11 - MARCH 1

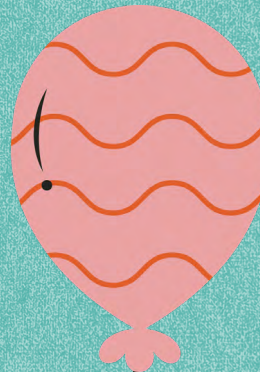
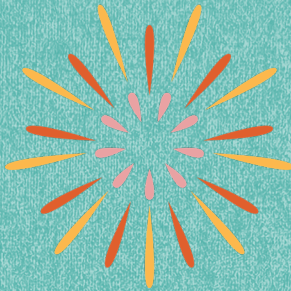
Check out our groups offerings at riverbend.com/groups to find your fit!

DIVE: DISCOVER, IMMERSE, VENTURE & ENGAGE @ RIVERBEND

JANUARY 18 | 11:45AM - 12:45PM | COMMUNITY CENTER ROOM 206

Curious about taking the next step at Riverbend?

DIVE is your invitation to Discover, Immerse, Venture, and Engage as we explore what it means to have a deeper commitment, connect with others, and be part of our mission and community. Whether you're new or ready to go further, DIVE is the perfect place to start. Sign up [HERE](#).



AS SEEN IN: STROLL DAVENPORT & GREET NW HILLS MAGAZINES

In partnership with Riverbenders Mark & Kayla Jerz

Faith, Friends, and The Rockies: The Week That Changes Everything

How Riverbend's Summer Camp Builds Community and Shapes the Next Generation

The mission of Riverbend Student Ministry is to help students Discover, Deepen, and Deploy the Good News about Jesus. One of the most meaningful ways we pursue that mission is by taking students each year to Student Camp in Estes Park, Colorado. More than a change of scenery, camp provides an intentional environment where students can encounter God and take real steps forward in their faith. Whether a student is just beginning to explore who Jesus is, or is ready to live out the Gospel with greater boldness, camp offers a place for them to grow.

Youth Pastors Reyn Harpole and Delaney Estes have seen the transformational impact of this trip on countless students. Many return home with renewed hope, a clearer sense of purpose, and a deeper desire to follow Jesus. Some even go on to influence their families, schools, and communities because of what God began in them during their week in Colorado. Camp creates space for moments that stay with students for the rest of their lives. These moments are shaped by passionate worship, Biblical teaching, meaningful conversations, and unhurried time together in the beauty of the mountains.



Students also come to camp looking for genuine community. Throughout the week, they develop real friendships that continue long after they return home. These relationships are formed through shared experiences, laughter, and the simple joy of being surrounded by people who truly care. At camp, students are supported by adult leaders who love Jesus and are committed to investing in the next generation. These leaders walk with students, encourage them, pray for them, and help them navigate the questions and challenges they face.

Student Camp is designed to equip students to live out their faith in their everyday lives. As they encounter the love of Jesus in a personal way, they head home ready to share that love in their schools,

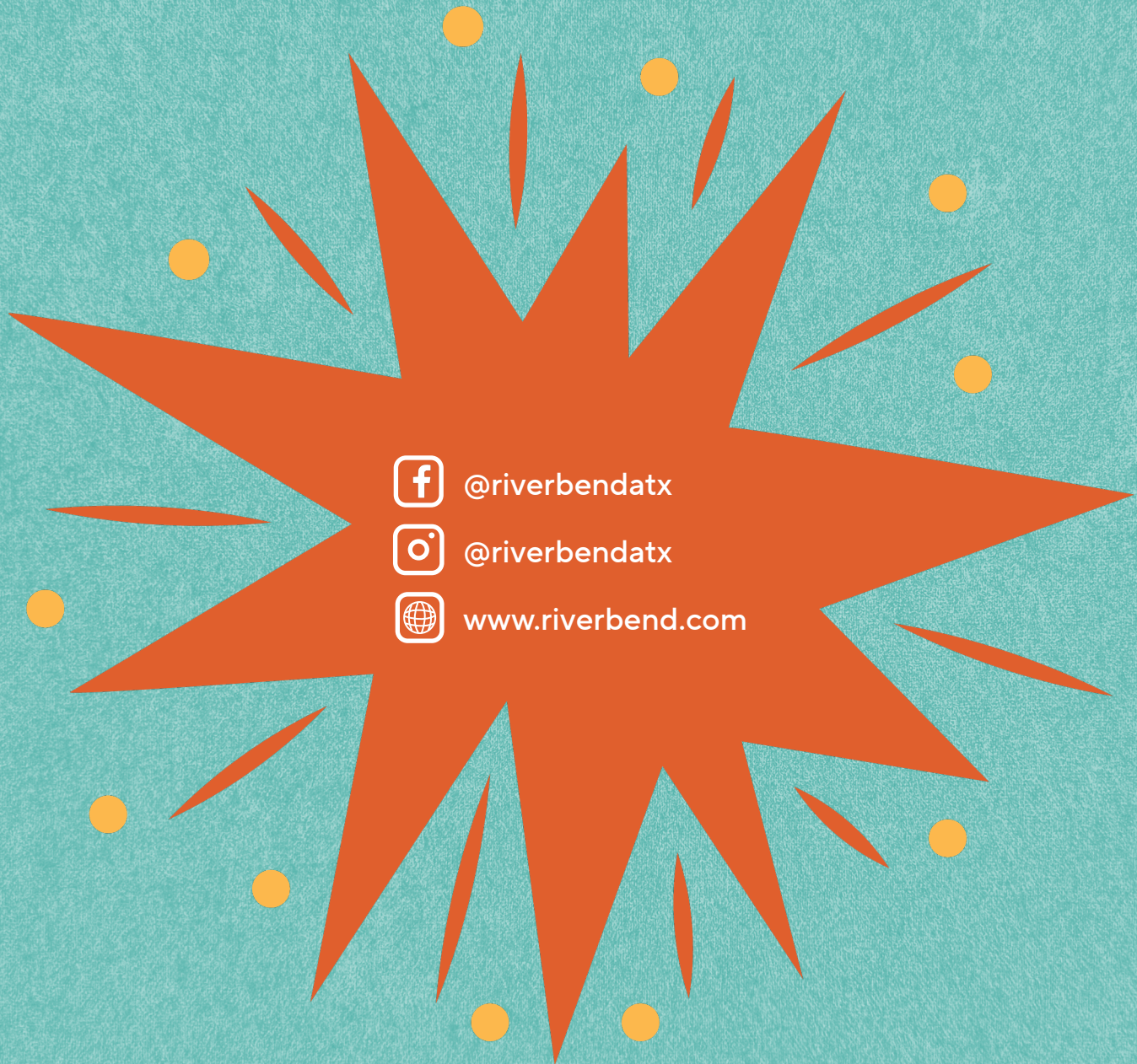
homes, teams, and spheres of influence. Youth Pastor Reyn Harpole describes it this way: "Youth Camp changed the trajectory of my life forever, and I have made it my mission to help as many teenagers as possible have that same experience."

Whether you are already involved in Riverbend Youth or not, coming with us to camp is an incredible opportunity for any teenager, and all are welcome!

More information can be found at riverbend.com/events.



We envision a welcoming
community in service to others
compelled by God's grace.



@riverbendatx



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www.riverbend.com

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 riverbend
CHURCH