



**T H E  
M E S S E N G E R**

**April 2016**

**RiversEdge United Methodist Church**

**\*\*\*\*\* [www.riversedgeumc.org](http://www.riversedgeumc.org) \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* [www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org](https://www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org) \*\*\*\*\***

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When our daughter, Abby, was born, it was a joyous occasion. She was the first grandchild on both sides of the family. Everything seemed new: new parents, new grandparents. Joy abounded. Then we brought Abby home from the hospital, and as I looked at her in the bassinet sleeping, I said, “Ok. Now what?”

“Now what?” It’s an appropriate question to ask, especially after a period of joy in our lives. When things start returning to “business as usual,” it’s very common to let life go back to the way things were.

We’ve just celebrated Easter. The stories of the resurrection of Christ, His being raised from true death to new life, still reverberate in our brains. But after the hymns end, after the breakfasts are eaten, how many of us will ask: “Now what?”

What does it mean that Jesus rose from the dead? There are many traditional responses, but most often relate to when we die. What about now? What about while we are alive? What does it mean to us, and more specifically, how do we live our lives differently knowing that Jesus conquered the grave for all humanity?

We will be spending the next seven Sundays hearing and learning from the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, two books that are often believed to be written by a person or persons tradition calls “Luke.” We will hear how the authors answered the question “Now what?” with the stories of the disciples who allowed themselves to be guided by the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully we will hear answers to our “Now what?” questions for our lives today.

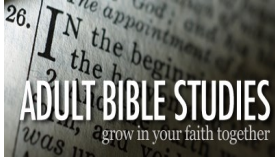
One thing is for certain. The answers to our “Now what?” questions will involve more than our individual selves, if we pattern our lives after the example of the scriptures - especially the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. As we live into these scriptural stories, may we be given new eyes to see, new ears to hear, and new bodies to work for the Kingdom of God - ushered into this world now through the power of the Resurrection.

Happy Easter!

Pastors Andy and Kristi Hopp

## OUR PRECIOUS LIFE

This is the monthly group for widows held at the church on the 1st and 3rd Monday's. Participants will need to bring their bibles. This month's meeting will be **April 4 and 18** (7:00-8:30 p.m.). If you have questions please contact Pastor Kristi via e-mail (kristi\_hopp@yahoo.com) or cell (309-573-3061).



Adult group **DIGGING DEEPER** will be on **Sunday mornings** at 9:15 a.m. We will be digging deeper into the Bible passage we hear that morning, deeper into what it means to follow Jesus, deeper into how God is at work in our own lives and the world. Please come with questions and a learning spirit. Bring your favorite Bible, or use the ones we have. Let's learn together!

Often, what we believe the Bible teaches has been influenced by art, music and literature. **THE MINING AND BRICK-LAYING** Course is open to all adults who are willing to search for the deep truths of the Bible that have often been overlaid by images created by our churches and our culture. It is my hope that in the process we will come to know Christ more fully, who is our sure foundation. The group will meet **Tuesday, April 5 and 19** at 7:00 p.m.

*Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp*



**KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE** will meet on the third Monday of the month (**April 18**) at 8:30 a.m. at **Bob Evans** in East Peoria.

Participants will need to bring a copy of the Upper Room devotional magazine and their bibles. The goal is to meet for an hour and a half (8:30-10 a.m.). If you have questions please contact Pastor Andy via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



## APRIL SHOWERS

*Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof. Psalm 65:10"*

When April skies begin to frown,  
And the cold rain comes pelting down,  
We must not grumble nor complain,  
Nor idly say, we hate the rain.

God sends the rain; the dusty ground  
It softens in the fields around;  
The moisture every plant receives,  
And springs afresh in flowers and leaves.

Should God forbid the showers to fall,  
Nor send us any rain at all,  
The ground would all grow hard and dry,  
And every living plant would die.

All things would starve and perish then—  
No food for birds, nor beasts, nor men;  
Then do not murmur, nor complain,  
God, in His goodness, sends the rain.

<http://www.utmostchristianwriters.com/pd-poetry/pd-poetry-5.php>



The **DIVORCE SUPPORT** is open for anyone who would like to join. This group is for anyone in midst of divorce or who are living life after divorce. We meet on **April 11 and 25** at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us please contact Pastor Kristi Hopp via cell (309-573-3061) or e-mail (kristi\_hopp@yahoo.com).



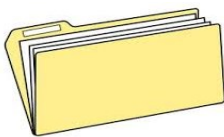
### TAKE CARE OF MY CHURCH

If anyone has suggestions for the trustees to improve our church building and grounds or sees a need for items necessary for our comfort, please place your suggestions on a note card or paper and place it in the wooden church sitting on top of the piano in the 'Hospitality Hall'.



### FUNERAL DINNERS

If you would like a phone call and/or email notification in order to donate food or help in set-up and clean-up when we are providing a funeral dinner, please let me know by calling me at 822-8770, emailing me at [jude187@mchsi.com](mailto:jude187@mchsi.com) or contacting me in person. I would like to create a list of volunteers. I want to thank all of you who have provided food and help in the past.



### UPDATING RECORDS

If you would like your name added to the birthday list, have had an email address change or would like your email address added to any of the church email groups (1-receive announcements & newsletter, 2-receive prayer requests, 3-receive Pastor Andy's Thought for the week). See Judy, email at [jude187@msn.com](mailto:jude187@msn.com) or call at 822-8770. Also, check with other family members.

*Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Secretary*



10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS** are still needed. There really is joy in serving! If you are interested in ushering, reading scripture, greeting or being an acolyte, please sign up on the Schedule Sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

We need an additional two to three adults who are willing to **TEACH THE JUNIOR HIGH CLASS** who come to Sunday School. This will allow our children to have lessons which are more tailored to their grade level. If you are interested, please contact Gale Allen, April Nauman, or Pastor Andy. Please help us teach the next generation about living our lives in the image of Jesus.

If you are interested in doing **SOMETHING SPECIAL** (music, reading poetry, inspiring pictures, life testimonies or other creative ways to worship God on Sunday, contact Judy (822-8770) or Pastor Andy (883-1422). Thanks to all of you who have assisted in the past.

The **PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM** is looking for singers and musicians. If you have any interest learning more, please contact Jarrod Doty at church, by email at [jdoty69@gmail.com](mailto:jdoty69@gmail.com) or by phone at 309.657.8904.

If you, or anyone you know, want to fill in on the **ORGAN** or **PIANO** occasionally, please text or call Carla Doty at 657-8903 or email at [dougdoty@aol.com](mailto:dougdoty@aol.com).

**CHOIR**—Anyone from 7th grade up to 100 years is invited to join us. If you think that you don't sing well enough and would like to try it anyway, please come. Other members will guide you along.

Also, we welcome special numbers: solos, duets (or any number of individuals), instrumentals and other forms of worship. Music plays a very important role in our worship experience. This is an opportunity to serve. You will feel blessed.

*Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair*



- ◆ Barb Jacobs is happy that Dottie, Larry, and Trenton are finally on the upswing. Thanks for your prayers.
- ◆ Barb Bishop is happy Emily is home for spring break.
- ◆ Sharon McClellan is finally feeling relief from a sinus infection from the past three months.
- ◆ Bonnie Smith's grandson and family were in town for a visit. Prayers for their safe return.
- ◆ Roger and Marilyn Hodge celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Thanks to all the volunteers who helped install the sanctuary carpet and the new projector and screen.
- ◆ Monte Doty has a new cancer treatment trial starting in Chicago.
- ◆ Linda Ellison can be taken off the list. She is doing well.
- ◆ Bill Cotton's knee is recuperating. He is thankful for the prayers.
- ◆ Evonne is thankful for the mystery person who cleaned her yard and for finding out why her back wasn't healing properly.
- ◆ Lou Hilkie received good scan results.
- ◆ Kristina Bencher's mom, Elyse, is healing very well from her broken knee and is starting a new job that she has been working toward for a long time.
- ◆ Libby Northrip is thankful a co-worker's husband, Michael Kohl, is doing well and is back to work.
- ◆ Barbara Sue Waldrip's first cataract surgery went well.
- ◆ Barb Bishop is thankful Mayo's ruled out all things bad for her mom, Elva Coven. The new regimen seems to be helping. Praise the Lord!
- ◆ John and Judy Schaer are thankful Aunt Estella and Evelyn Schaer were able to join us for Easter worship.
- ◆ Val Huser is excited to announce that Ashley and Billy Aman are expecting a baby boy at the end of July!



Our **NEW WEBSITE** is live. Be sure to check it out at [riversedgeumc.org](http://riversedgeumc.org). where you will find newsletters, calendars and announcements. If you see pictures that you are in and would like them removed, please let Pastor Andy or Judy Schaer know. The committee wanted pictures to depict the life of our church.

*Submitted by: Publicity Committee*



John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck load, he will take them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Youth Group Program.



Our Missions Committee is asking us to collect "**Box Tops for Education**" for the Riverview Grade School. You may bring them any Sunday to church, and leave them in the yellow box. From time to time during the year we will take them to the school. Thank you for your prayers, and the many ways we support our local school!



Every time we have Food Pantry Day, we will have our **King's Closet** upstairs at the Annex. We have clothes, other small items, or produce for local people to take and use, if they need it. Bring items all month. It comes in free and goes out free, no charge. Anything left over will be taken to Good Will or South Side Missions.

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### CHURCH EQUIPMENT POLICY

Due to potential damage to our church equipment, our kitchen equipment needs to stay in our kitchen. The white tables can't leave the church property, and the white chairs can't leave the church building. We have metal chairs available. If you want to borrow them, please contact the church office.





**Silent  
Auction**



**When...**

**Date: Saturday 4/16/16**

**Time: 4-8 p.m.**

**Where...**

500 N. Chicago St.  
Spring Bay, IL

**Menu...**

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread,  
Dessert & Beverage  
"To-Go" orders available!

**Cost...**

\*\*\*\*\*DONATION\*\*\*\*\*

**Silent  
Auction  
Ends @ 7**

**To donate  
items,  
contact  
Amy Potter  
alp82673@  
yahoo.com  
648.4292**

Dinner sponsored by:



**Silent Auction Items and Dessert Donations Needed!!!!**

All proceeds to benefit **Monte & Donna Doty, Butch & Sharon McClellan & Marcia Houston** for medical expenses.

This event is open to the public.



# Palm Sunday



## Music Special by Jeanne Brennan 'Rise Again'



# Easter SUNDAY

## Music Special by Monte Doty 'He's Alive'



# April 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Youth Lunch & Movie (Youth Room)	4 7 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Our Precious Life	5 9 a.m. MABL 7 p.m. Lay Leadership	6 7 p.m. Choir	7 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	8 9 a.m. -11 a.m. Food Pantry/ Kings Closet	9
10	11 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	12 7 p.m. Ad Council	13	14	15	16 'Special Benefit' 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Silent Auction
17	18 8:30 a.m.Keeping the Flame Alive ( Bob Evan's) 7 p.m. Our Precious Life	19 9 a.m. MABL	20 7 p.m. Choir	21 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	22	23
	25 6:30 p.m. 4-H	26	27	28	29	30



**OUR MOTTO:** "The Church That Cares"

**OUR MISSION** (our purpose): "Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through our welcome, worship, and witness."

**OUR VISION** (what we hope to be): "We are a community of caring people striving to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors."

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**O.U.R.: Outwardly Upwardly Righteously**  
(first Sunday of month)

**NURSERY:**

Sunday 8-11:45 a.m. (infant-kindergarten)

**LOL: Ladies of Learning**  
7 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays

**SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS :** 9:15-10:15 a.m.

D.O.C.K. (Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Youth (grades 6 – 12)

Digging Deeper (Adults)

**OUR PRECIOUS LIFE:**

7 p.m. 1st & 3rd Monday

**DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP:**

7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

**YOUTH GROUPS:** (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Sunday Once a Month TBA

11:45 a.m. – Jr. High & Sr. High

**KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:**

8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday @ Bob Evans

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** (7<sup>th</sup> grade-Adult)

September through May

7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

**M.A.B.L.: Mining and Brick Laying**

9 a.m. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

