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April 2017

A Note from your Pastor:

There are times when I sit down to write this reflection and I think to myself, “I’ve got nothing.”

I believe all of us, at some point, have felt like we were running on empty. It can be a scary time, especially if the GPS is telling us the next gas station is twenty miles away, and we only have ten miles left in the tank. We wonder how we will make it, and we curse our physical limitations.

As such, we fear being empty. We want to keep the tank topped off, or at least half full. We often use the image of the half empty glass to determine whether a person is an optimist or a pessimist. We place a high value on not being empty.

Yet, we Christians are a peculiar people. On Easter, we celebrate the most wonderfully empty thing of all time - the empty tomb. We really need to be clear, here. Without the empty tomb, there is really no reason for Christianity to exist. Sure, Jesus was a marvelous teacher who healed the sick and included the outcast. But without the empty tomb, he would have been just another martyr in a long list of Imperial Rome’s victims.

Paradoxically, it is the empty tomb which gives us Christians our passion. It is the emptiness of the threats Death speaks to us which gives us power.

So, as Easter approaches, are we ready to be “empty” people once again? Are we ready to let go of the junk in our lives that keeps us from receiving the power of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to Christ’s resurrection and power over the grave?

Let us, once again, say “No” to death and “Yes” to life!

Happy Easter!
Pastor Andy



Hero Central 2017 VBS prepares kids with special abilities to *Do good! Seek peace and go after it!* Ps. 31:14B (CEB). Kids learn God's heroes have Heart (Samuel Anoints David), Courage (Abigail), Wisdom (Jesus Goes to the Temple), Hope (Beatitudes), and Power (Pentecost). Grab your cape and get ready to fly with epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories! Join us **July 10-14**. Please contact Joanne or Joe Helms if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions (822-8905).

Easter
Lilies



Please see Judy Schaer, email at Jude187@msn.com or call at 822-8770, if you are interested in purchasing an Easter Lily for our Easter Services. You are to take them home with you after the service.

THE RESURRECTION

We hold so close to our hearts
The cross where Jesus died,
But so much more than the blood-stained cross
Is that Jesus came back to life

The stone's been rolled away;
The tomb lay open and bare —
They looked for Him, and then the angel said
That He is no longer here

Oh what joy they must have felt
To see Him just once more,
To eat with Him, to drink with Him,
To receive Him back as Lord

So much did He accomplish
Through His death upon the cross
And in His rising from the dead,
He reconciled us back to God

Nothing else could bridge the gap
That sin had wrenched apart —
Now we can freely go to God
And receive Christ in our hearts.



- ♦ The 5 Schaer sisters, daughters of Louis & Roamaine Schaer, came from around the state to share in worship yesterday. They attended this church as youth.
- ♦ Denise Miller expressed JOY that her family came to worship to celebrate her mother, Vicky Harms, becoming a member of RiversEdge.
- ♦ Sue Stutts, neighbor of Brenda Story-Philips, is adjusting to her leg amputation and has even learned to drive. She wants to thank everyone for their prayers.



OUR PRECIOUS LIFE (monthly group for widows) is going on hiatus while Pastor Kristi is gone, unless there is a lay person who would want to partner with Pastor Andy to get the group going again.

Adult group **DIGGING DEEPER** will be on **Sunday mornings** at 9:15a.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!

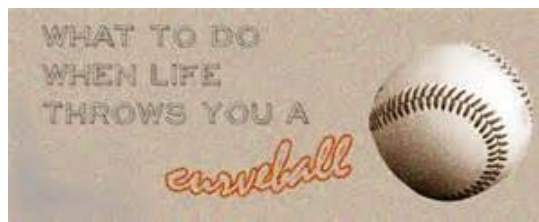
KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE will meet on the third Monday of the month (**April 17**) at 8:30 a.m. at a **Bob Evans**. Participants will need to bring their daily devotionals and their bibles. If you have questions please contact Pastor Andy via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



Pastor Andy will be starting a group to help us meet our self-improvement goals for 2017. It will be called "**Our Better Selves**". Its goal is to support and encourage - not to chastise. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Andy with some suggestions for meeting dates and times.



John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. Aluminum CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. 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 Church account.



CURVE BALLS: Learn to hit curve balls, life rarely pitches straight. God can teach you how to swing. This group is open for anyone who would like to join. We meet on **April 10** and **24** at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us or want more information, please contact Pastor Andy Hopp via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS** are still needed. 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 still need one **SUNDAY SCHOOL** teacher. We are working towards having two teachers per class. Please talk with Pastor Andy, Gale Allen or April Nauman if you'd like to help. Please help us raise the next generation of Christians.

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 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.

There is still room for more **CHOIR** participants. We meet on Wednesday evenings (to be announced) at 7pm. 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. Remember that there is **JOY IN SERVING JESUS**.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



Be sure to check out website at riversedgeumc.org where you will find the newsletters, calendars and announcements regularly. 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: Communications Committee**



Check out our new QR code (Quick Response Code) at the end of the newsletter. You can use your smart phone to scan the code and check out our website. ***Submitted by: Communications Committee***

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.



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). See Judy Schaer, email at Jude187@msn.com or call at 822-8770. Also, check with other family members.



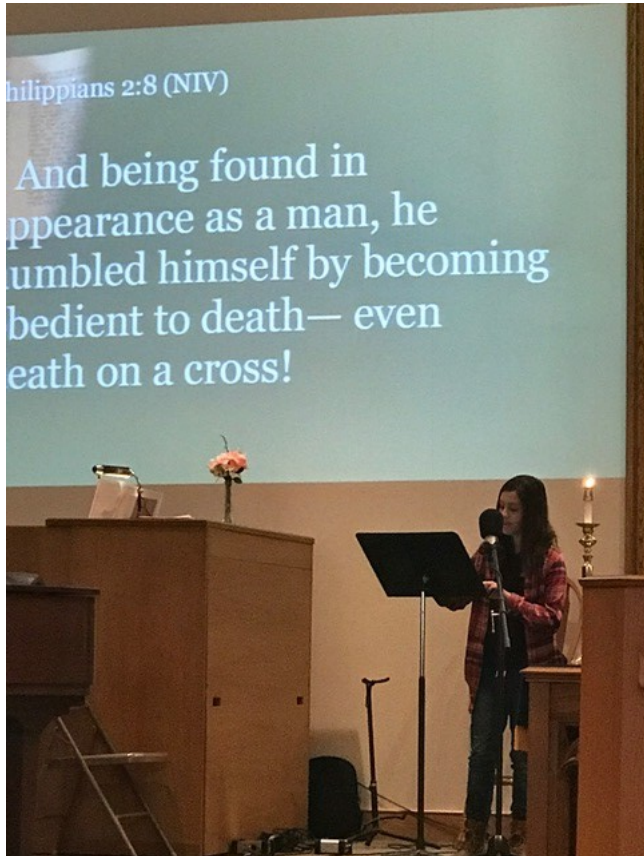
Every time we have **Food Pantry** Day, we will have our **King's Closet** upstairs at the Annex. We have clothes, other small items or produce for local people to take and use, if they need it. Bring items all month. It comes in free and goes out free, no charge. Anything left over will be taken to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



If you have any **USED JEANS**, please bring them to the church for Tracy Arnold. Her mom's church is using them for a project in which they are involved.



Mark your calendars for **July 26, 27 & 28**. The Missions Team will be having their annual rummage sale for missions. Start collecting your 'treasures'!!



April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 7 p.m. Trustees	4 7 p.m. Ad Council	5	6	7 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry/King's Closet	8
9 Palm Sunday 5:30 a.m. O.U.R. At the Schaer's Guest Speaker	10 7 p.m. Curve Balls	11	12 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	13 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	14	15
16 Easter Services: 7:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. Breakfast	17 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (at Bob Evans)	18	19 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23	24 7 p.m. Curve Balls	25	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.

NURSERY:

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

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

D.O.C.K. (Preschool – 5th grade)

Youth (grades 6 – 12)

Digging Deeper (Adults)

CHOIR PRACTICE: (7th grade-Adult)

September through May

7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

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

CURVE BALLS SUPPORT GROUP:

7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:

8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday



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