



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

August 2016

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

***** www.riversedgeumc.org *****

***** www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org *****

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A Note from your Pastors:

Sometimes, the most basic lessons from the Bible are the most difficult to put into practice. We recently heard again the story of Mary and Martha. Martha was too distracted to spend time with Jesus. The opportunity of a lifetime was presented to Martha, to learn at the feet of the Son of God, but she wasn't able to appreciate it because her attention was occupied by the demands of decorum and by jealousy.

When Methodism began, everyone was required to be in a small group in addition to attending Sunday worship. In those meetings, the famous question was asked, "How is it with your soul?"

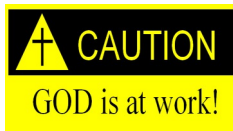
So, how it is really with your soul? With the constant barrage of demands in our work and home life, have we allowed ourselves to become too distracted like Martha? Are we missing out on the blessedness of life because of our culture or because of our own internal expectations?

Do we realize this is the only life we are given to live? Are we letting life slip by? Have all the days become the same? Monotonous? Boring? Painful?

What if we were to remind you that the Holy Spirit hovers along side of us every moment of every day? Each moment, if we choose, can be a holy moment. As a monk named David Steindi-Rast advised during his TED talk, "Stop, Look, Go." Stop the distractions. Look around us for the presence of God and in the blessings we have been given. Then, make a decision and go forth into this moment, this opportunity to live life as fully as possible.

Our doctrines tell us that our life is a gift from God. Each moment we breathe is an opportunity to cherish the life we have been given, and the power and agency God has given us to make a difference in our lives and in the lives of others. If you are reading this on your own without assistance, you have more power and agency than many humans on this planet. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you have the power and agency to make this world a better place. Stop. Look. Go.

Blessings,
Pastors Andy and Kristi Hopp



- ♦ Vanessa Doty made it safely back from her mission trip to Guatemala where she did hard work of carrying blocks for building a foundation.
- ♦ Jodi Helms & Todd Jones were married.

AUGUST IS...

Admit You Are Happy Month
 American Adventures Month
 Audio Appreciation Month
 Black Business Month
 Cataract Awareness Month
 Catfish Month
 Children's Eye Health and Safety Month
 Children's Vision and Learning Month
 National Eye Exam Month
 Family Fun Month
 Get Ready for Kindergarten Month
 Goat Cheese Month
 Happiness Happens Month
 Immunization Awareness Month
 National Back to School Month
 Neurosurgery Outreach Month
 Panini Month
 Peach Month
 National Picnic Month
 Psoriasis Awareness Month
 Romance Awareness Month
 Sandwich Month
 Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month
 Water Quality Month
 What Will Be Your Legacy Month
 Win with Civility Month

<http://popculturemadness.com/Trivia/August/>



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 PRECIOUS LIFE

This is a monthly group for widows, held at the church on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. Participants will need to bring their bibles. If you have questions please contact Pastor Kristi via e-mail (kristi_hopp@yahoo.com) or cell (309-573-3061). This month's meetings is **August 1st** at 7:00 p.m.



"KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE" will meet on the third Monday of the month (**August 15**) at 8:30 a.m. at a **Bob Evans** in East Peoria.

Participants will need to bring a copy of the Upper Room devotional magazine and their bibles. If you have questions please contact Pastor Andy via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



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!

Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp

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'.

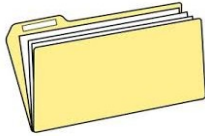




The **DIVORCE SUPPORT** is open for anyone who would like to join. This group is for anyone in midst of divorce or who are living life after divorce. We meet on **August 8 and 22 at 7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in joining us please contact Pastor Kristi Hopp via cell (309-573-3061) or e-mail (kristi_hopp@yahoo.com).

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 the 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 or call at 822-8770. Also, check with other family members.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



Our **NEW WEBSITE** is live! Be sure to check it out 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: Publicity Committee



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 need two adults who are willing to **TEACH OUR YOUTH** who come to Sunday School. We are currently looking for one more teacher for the junior high age group. 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.

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.

The **CHOIR** summer sabbatical is coming to an end. The first rehearsal is planned for Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. and our first Sunday will be September 18. 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.

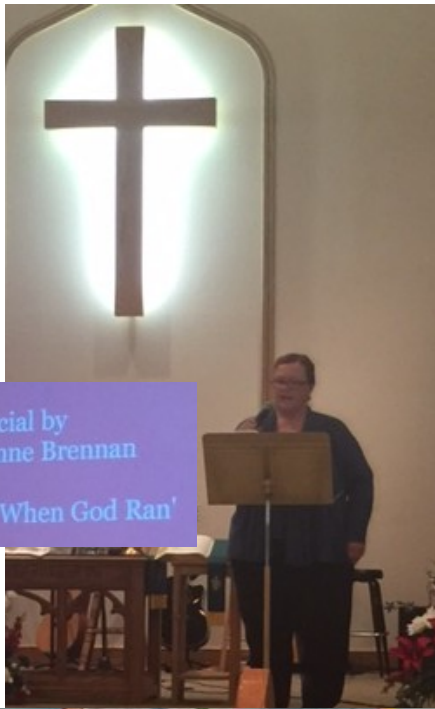
Also, we welcome special numbers: solos, duets (or any number of individuals), instrumentals and other forms of worship. Music plays a very important role in our worship experience.

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

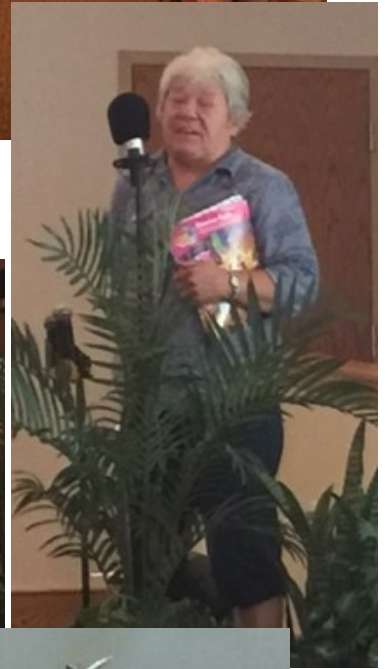


Every time we have Food Pantry Day, we will have our **King's Closet** upstairs at the Annex. We have clothes, other small items, or produce for local people to take and use, if they need it. Bring items all month. It comes in free and goes out free, no charge. Anything left over will be taken to Good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



Music Special by
Jeanne Brennan

'When God Ran'



AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Our Precious Life	2	3	4	5 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's Closet	6
7	8 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	9 7 p.m. Ad Council	10	11	12	13
14	15 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (Bob Evans)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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)

YOUTH GROUPS: (6th – 12th grades)

Sunday Once a Month TBA

11:45 a.m. – Jr. High & Sr. High

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)

LOL: Ladies of Learning

7 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays

OUR PRECIOUS LIFE:

7 p.m. 1st Monday

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP:

7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:

8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday

