



Interim Pastor:

Floyd Blackard | FloydBlackard@outlook.com | 217-556-6414

Secretary: Judy Schaer | jude187@msn.com | 309-822-8770

Editor: Amy Potter | alp82673@yahoo.com

I am a retired United Methodist Pastor who has served over fifty years in The Illinois Great Rivers Conference and the predecessor Central Illinois Annual Conference. I was born and raised in St. Louis, Mo. I am married to my high school Sweetheart, Bobbi, and we have two grown children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

I graduated with a B.A degree from Central Methodist College (now University) in Fayette, MO. And then earned a M.Div. degree from Eden Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. After being ordained in the Missouri East annual conference in 1967, I transferred to the Central Illinois Annual Conference. I retired after 46 years of service in 2007 and moved to Springfield.

Since then, I have served six interim appointments ranging from a six-week study leave to a two-year interim at Fairbury. This past year I served eight months at Sugar Creek UMC, south of Springfield and two months at Petersburg UMC north of Springfield.

I believe that Wesley's three simple rules as recast by Bishop Ruben Job are the bedrock of being faithful United Methodist Christians together. "First, do no harm, do good and stay in love with God." I also believe, with Paul, that God has poured out the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon the faithful so that within every congregation we have all the gifts and abilities that we need to be faithful to God's calling in our place and time. If we covenant together to follow the three simple rules, we will call forth, value, and nurture each other's gifts so that together we may glorify God and do the work that God has given us to do.

I am being appointed as an interim pastor to The RiversEdge United Methodist Church while your pastor, Andy Hopp, is on an indefinite leave for healing. I look forward to sharing with you in being the church that God is calling us to be in this time and place.

At present I plan to be in town at various times, depending upon what is scheduled, and on Sundays for Worship. I will also be available for appointments. Our Superintendent, Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce has arranged for local pastors to be available in case of emergency. In an emergency please contact: Randy Waldrip (309-367-2892 or 309-265-6410), Ron Call (309-822-8808 or 309-369- 1699) or Judy Schaer (309-822-8770 or 309-645-6625).

My cell phone number is 217-556-6414 (text as well as call). My e-mail is FloydBlackard@outlook.com.

Your servant in Christ,
Floyd Blackard



Dennis Hill is working with ensembles (small groups) for music specials. There is room on the signup sheet for other specials (solos, duets, reading, etc.). Music is a very important part of our worship experience. If you are interested in any of these possibilities, please contact Judy at 822-8770 or 645-6625.

Choir rehearsals will be on Wednesday, **December 6, 13** (tentative) and **20** at 7:00 p.m. There is plenty of room for new people. If you haven't tried it and don't think you are good enough, come anyway and learn from those who have had experience. This year we will try 5th grade on up. **Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair**



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **December 8**. 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.



Karen Hermacinski is decorating the church starting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, **December 8** and then on Saturday, **December 9** if needed. Please come and assist her. It is a big task!



Rehearsals for the Children's Christmas Program "The Power of the King" takes place on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. They will be performing it on **December 10** during 2nd service. A major winter storm is threatening to shut down the entire state. A bus transporting a children's choir on their Christmas tour is stranded by the storm, so the choir takes refuge at the radio station K-I-N-G. The station's power goes off just as they are about to broadcast the annual Christmas show and the stranded children's choir hastily puts together a live radio broadcast telling the joyous Good News of Christmas.



The Midwest Mission Distribution Center of the United Methodist Church is helping to supply clean-up buckets for the record THREE hurricanes. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Supplies bought through DollarDays (<https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html>) would be the best way to donate, as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices. Monetary donations may be sent to:

MMDC, P.O. Box 56, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629
www.midwestmissiondc.org office@midwestmissiondc.org



- ♦ Amy Potter's pregnant neighbor, Kelsey Clarkson, was in a car accident. She had a sonogram and the baby is fine. Thanks for the prayers.
- ♦ Steve Hermacinski has reached his one year of sobriety.

Upcoming Services

December 3 - 1Corinthians 1:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37, Come, Lord Jesus, Come

December 10 - 2 Peter 3:8-15 and Mark 1:1-8, Prepare Ye The Way of The Lord (Second Service is Children's Program, may or may not have sermon)

December 17—1 Thessalonians 5:12-28, John 1:6-28, Why do we celebrate Christmas?

Pastor Flloyd will be in Connecticut with family Dec 18-24 and Rev. Judy Doyle will cover the Christmas and New Year's eve Services

December 24— Christmas Eve Services:

8:00 a.m. Regular Service

8:45-9:45 a.m. Breakfast (no Sunday School)

10:30 a.m. Christmas Celebration (replacing 7:00 p.m. service)

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service



Be sure to check our 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.

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**

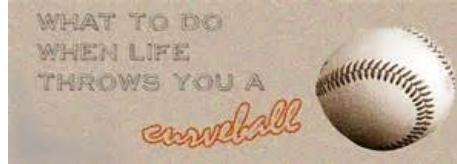


John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. Aluminum CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck 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.



Adult group **DIGGING DEEPER** is 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 **December 18** at 8:30 a.m. at Misty's. Participants will need to bring their daily devotionals and their bibles.



CURVE BALLS: Learn to hit curve balls, life rarely pitches straight. God can teach you how to swing. Open for anyone who would like to join. We meet on **December 11** 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).



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

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



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.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair

Did you see the
new signs???

The Communications Committee has put up new directional signs inside the church. Welcome signs will be coming soon. You may have already noticed the new signs on the front and back doors as well as in the restroom stalls. These signs will be changed monthly to inform you of current events happening at the church. **Submitted by: Communications Committee**



USED JEANS

If you have any old jeans, any size or color, please bring them to church for Tracy Arnold. Her mother's church turns them into rugs to raise money for missions.



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.



I would like to thank everyone for their support at our blood drive this past Saturday. We were able to collect 17 units that can be divided 3 ways each, so that a total of 51 people could get some benefit from our donor day. I would like to plan another blood drive after the first of the new year, maybe early February. Thanks again for your donations. **Sincerely, Joe Helms**



For Shut-Ins and Those Who Moved

Marie & Pam Lemons, 1604 N. Tremont St., Spring Bay, IL 61611
 Myrtle Smith, 500 Centennial Dr., East Peoria, IL 61611
 Kay & Ken Clore, 348 S. Montana, Morton, IL 61550
 Russ & Nancy Draggist, 1620 N Tremont St., Spring Bay, IL 61611
 Junior & Fran Garber, 318 Flag St., Metamora, IL 61548
 Donald Jacobs M54354, Mt. Sterling Prison, 2500 Rte. 99 South, Mt. Sterling, IL 62353



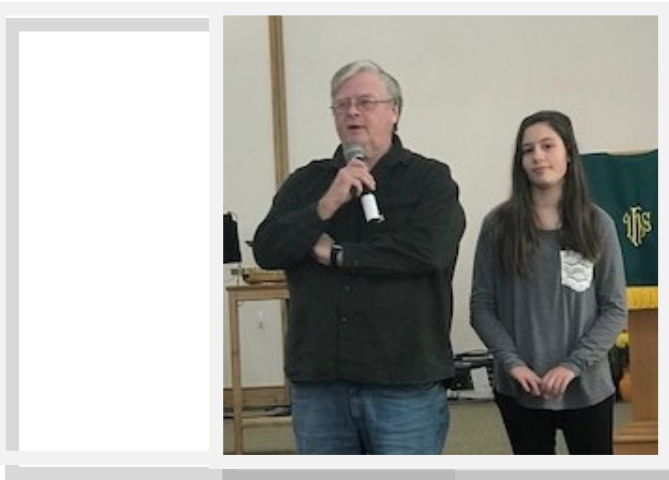
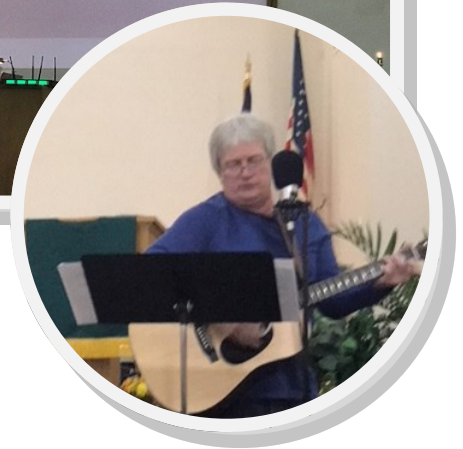
Riverview Grade School held their annual Trunk or Treat celebration on Halloween, Oct. 31. RiversEdge UMC was represented by Daphne Northrip, Libby Northrip, and Randy Waldrip. We handed out candy, REUMC fliers, and REUMC ink pens to about 120 happy children. Thanks to Barb Waldrip and Roxanne Ruder for their help in securing and preparing the treats!





Dylan Baily
 Esther Belsly
 Joe Belsly
 Betty Belsly
 Welcome Bishop
 Henry Bishop
 Marty Bishop
 Nadine Bishop-Gunzenheiser
 Rene Bonchard
 Clare Braun's parents Dorothy & Stanley
 Mary Ann Byrds
 Geneva Cain
 Lester Call
 Don Calvin
 Marcella Claywell
 Don Claywell
 Bill Cotton
 Joan Davidson
 Rob Davidson
 Denny Dodwell
 Shelly Doty
 Monte Doty
 Wally Groom
 Harold Gunzenheiser
 Joseph Helms
 Elizabeth Helms

Myrtle Hodge
 Sylvia Hrabak
 Richard Kelly
 Roscoe Land
 Goldie Land
 Dewitt Lung
 Libbie Lung
 Ralph Lung
 Everett McClellan, Sr.
 Nancy Melinde
 Estella Newell
 Dave Philips
 Frank Poignant
 Bernice Poignant
 Shirley Rubel
 Bill Rubel
 Warren Sahlin
 Evelyn Schaer
 Louise Schoonover
 Jim Schoonover
 Ellen Todd
 Frank Waldrip
 Mary Waldrip
 Judy Webster



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	7	8 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/King's closet 10:00 a.m. Decorate Church	9
10 10:30 a.m. Youth Christmas Program	11 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	12 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	13 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	14	15	16
17	18 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Misty's)	19	20 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 8:00 a.m. Regular Service 8:45– 9:45 a.m. Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Christmas Service 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 O.U.R. New Year's Eve Party (tba)						

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



www.riversedgeumc.org

www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org

