



THE MESSENGER

February 2017

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

www.riversedgeumc.org | www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org

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A Note from your Pastor:

Come and you will see!

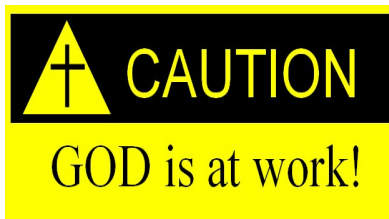
One of the lectionary texts that wasn't preached this year was from the Gospel of John, Chapter 1, verses 29 to 42. This is one of my favorite stories in the whole Bible. Andrew and the beloved disciple are, at first, disciples of John the Baptizer. They were learning from him about the ways of God. Suddenly, Jesus is walking by and John points to Jesus as the one whom they need to follow next. Andrew and the other disciple ask Jesus where he was staying, and Jesus says to them, "Come and you will see."

Later in the story, Andrew introduces his brother, Simon (Peter), to Jesus. Andrew followed Jesus, then invited his brother to come and see.

This passage is my core understanding of our call to evangelism. We are called to introduce people not to a place, party, or platform, but to introduce them to Jesus. This is both easy and difficult. When we have encountered Christ, whether it was at a retreat like Walk to Emmaus or during a joyous (or difficult) time in our lives, introducing Him is easy since we, too, have gone and seen. If we haven't spent time with Christ in a daily walk with Him, we might need an Andrew to introduce us again. Other names for this "Andrew" might be: parent, guardian, friend, mentor, pastor, or spiritual advisor. I think it is completely normal for us to need an embodied example of Jesus in our lives, someone who shows us again what it means to follow the Risen Savior.

Not only do we need an individual example of Christ living among us, we the Church are called the Body of Christ for a reason. That's why, when we are introducing new people to our church, it is less about buildings and programs, and more about the people who are trying to live their lives in the model of Christ. May we, the RiversEdge UMC, continue being a good example of Christ's love and care in our communities, so that each of us might confidently encourage others to "come and see" our Savior, Jesus.

Blessings,
Pastor Andy



- ♦ An extra joy from Denise Miller: Joy joy joy!! Baby Jude gets to come home!!!
- ♦ Orda & Harold Doty thank everyone for the cards and good wishes for their 70th wedding anniversary. It made their day even better.
- ♦ The food pantry served 63 families (197 individuals). Thanks to all the food pantry helpers.



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: Publicity Committee

GOD'S VALENTINE GIFT

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By: Joanna Fuchs



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 (**February 20**) 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 also be having a **NEW MEMBER CLASS** during the Digging Deeper time on February 12, 19 and 26. Please see him if you would like to join.



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 **February 13 and 27 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).

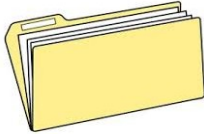




John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. Aluminum CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck load, he will take them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Youth Group Program.

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



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 (as announced) at 7 p.m.. 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.

OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Sharing a meal together



What is Pastor Kristi trying to do??



Count up Carla's points



Put on those thinking caps

February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 7:00 p.m. Trustees	7	8	9 4:30 p.m. Publicity Committee	10 9:00-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ Kings Closet	11
12	13 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans)	21 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	22	23	24	25
26	27 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	28 7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership	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

