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January 2018

Epiphany Greetings,

May the light of God's Love guide your life just as the light of the star guided the magi to the place where they could honor The Prince of Peace.

First, I want to tell you how much I am enjoying sharing your journey as a community of Disciples of Jesus Christ. I have been warmly welcomed among you and I give thanks that God has placed me with you for this time. I commend all of you who are sharing your gifts and skills in the ministry of Christ through RiversEdge United Methodist Church. I was privileged to share in your Food Pantry Ministry and see you taking seriously God's command to feed the hungry and care for your neighbors in need.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Children's Christmas Program and appreciate the hard work of the children, teachers and parents. I am also enjoying the gifts of those who share in the worship services. The musicians, Choir, Praise Band and technical people all make our Worship joyful, and inspiring as we open ourselves to God.

I am reminded again that we are a body with many parts and each part has a vital role in the life of the whole. God has given us all the gifts and abilities that we need to be his faithful disciples and when each of us employs the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us the whole body is built up in love and service. It is a privilege to share in this faithful community of disciples.

As we look forward to January 2018, I am excited about continuing to share with you as we seek to be faithful to God's mission for us.

If you or someone you know needs a pastoral visit, please let me know. I know that I am not as readily available as a pastor who is living in town, but I will provide pastoral ministry as needed. Again, I can be reached at 217 556 6414 or FloydBlackard@outlook.com.

On page 2 you will find the scripture lessons and sermon titles for each Sunday in January. I invite you to read and meditate on the scriptures before worship each week.

Your servant in Christ,
Floyd Blackard

Special MUSIC

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, **January 10** and **24** 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 **January 5**. 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.

Upcoming Services

January 7 – Epiphany Sunday – Sacrament of Holy Communion

Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: Epiphany – God sends salvation for ALL!

January 14 – Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant (Baptismal Covenant IV, Hymnal p. 50)

Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: Baptized, cleansed, forgiven and empowered by The Holy Spirit

January 21 –

Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: Let's go fishing

January 28 –

Colossians 3:12-17 and Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: Deliver us from "Impure Spirits," O Lord.



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



- ◆ Russ & Diane Vance are thankful to the Lord for friends who pray always. Thank you Lord for answering.
- ◆ Jane Winkler's tests show that she is cancer free.
- ◆ Bernie & Judy Meyer are back from their stay down south.
- ◆ There was a large 'Food Pantry' article in the Woodford Courier.
- ◆ A big thanks to all involved in the Sunday School Children's Christmas program last Sunday. FANTASTIC JOB!
- ◆ Myrtle Smith has enjoyed the Christmas cards that she has received.

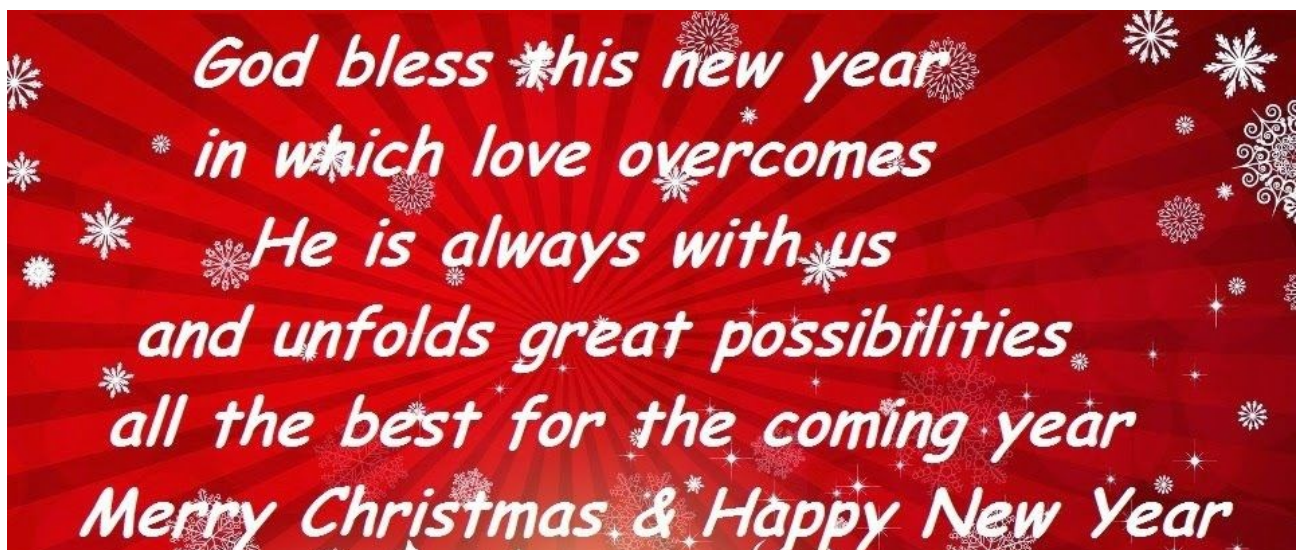


Be sure to check our website at riversedgeumc.org where you will find the newsletters, calendars and announcements regularly. If you see pictures that you are in and would like them removed, please let Pastor Andy or Judy Schaer know. The committee wanted pictures to depict the life of our church.

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.

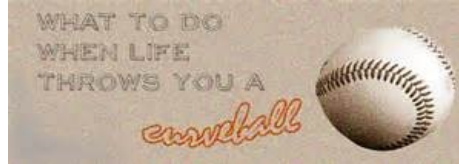




Adult Bible Studies

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 **January 15** 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 will not be meeting in January. 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.

The New Year

Dear Lord, as this new year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,

Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To bear me to that farther shore
Before another year,

It matters not — my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!

--*Martha Snell Nicholson*



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry Kings Closet	6
7	8 7:00 p.m. Trustees	9 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	10 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	11	12	13
14	15 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (at Misty's)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	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)

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

