



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

July 2016

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

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

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

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July ★★

A Note from your Pastors:

What would happen if we wrote this article without any spaces? Not only is it difficult to read, it is highly difficult to type without spaces. We need the pauses in order to see the words.

The same is true with our lives. We often say we should “count our blessings,” but how can we count our blessings when we are feeling driven to go from one thing to the next as fast as we can go?

The scriptures give us many commandments. Some are easier to follow than others. Today, we’d like to talk about a commandment which seems impossible to follow.

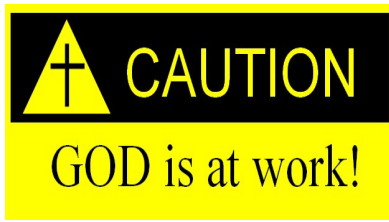
Yes, we’re talking about the commandment to take Sabbath. It’s one of the big ten, yet so many people, Christians included, seem to disregard it. Not only that, Christians are often the ones cajoling others to break the Sabbath commandment. In this age of heated debates over morality, we find it troubling to see so many people talking others out of their weekly day of rest.

The ten commandments are listed twice in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. The first is in Exodus, chapter 20. The second is in Deuteronomy, chapter 5. Deuteronomy is a Greek word which can loosely mean “the second telling of the law.” In looking at the Sabbath commandment, the reason for taking the break in Exodus is because God rested on the seventh day after creating all things. The reason for taking Sabbath in Deuteronomy is because the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt, and all need rest, even slaves.

We, in this culture, have allowed ourselves to become slaves of busy-ness. Some of us have done it willfully, while others are forced to work beyond six days a week in order to maintain a single job or work multiple jobs to put food on the table. While it might be “the way things are,” not taking a weekly Sabbath is a breaking of one of God’s top ten commandments. We Christians have a duty to both observe the Sabbath rest weekly, and to work toward a world which allows all to rest one day a week. Otherwise, we will continue to careen into oblivion. We will never rest, never pause, never cease, and thus, never count our blessings or be refreshed to enjoy the one life we have.

Let us not continue being slaves to busy-ness, and let us cease from telling others to be busy like us. Let us honor God by observing the ten commandments, especially the commandment to stop each week and rest for a day.

Blessings,
Pastors Andy and Kristi Hopp



- ◆ It was a joy to see John Weber playing the keyboard for the Praise Team
- ◆ April Nauman is thankful for the children in her Sunday school class.
- ◆ Weston Lange's baseball team needs to win one more game to play in the championship. They have never beaten the remaining team.
- ◆ Meagan Osenkarski got married! Pray for safe travels for the attendees.
- ◆ Myrtle Smith thanks everyone for the greeting cards that she received on her 97th birthday.
- ◆ Cindy and Mike Osenkarski's family was able to attend service.
- ◆ Matt Kirkham graduated from the Police Institute in Champaign last Thursday and is officially a police officer in Normal.
- ◆ Breanna Kirkham interviewed for another position with State Farm and has accepted the job offer.
- ◆ Jeanne Brennan thanks us for prayers lifted up over the Cedar Creek forest fire in Arizona. The fire did not hit the town of Show Low, where she used to live.



Don't forget the **BLOOD DRIVE** is Saturday, July 16 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Give the gift of life. Signup now!

OUR PRECIOUS LIFE

This is a monthly group for widows, held at the church on the 1st Mondays. Participants will need to bring their bibles. There will be no meeting this month. If you have questions please contact Pastor Kristi via e-mail (kristi_hopp@yahoo.com) or cell (309-573-3061).



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!

Often, what we believe the Bible teaches has been influenced by art, music and literature. **THE MINING AND BRICK-LAYING** course is open to all adults who are willing to search for the deep truths of the Bible that have often been overlaid by images created by our churches and our culture. It is my hope that in the process we will come to know Christ more fully, who is our sure foundation. The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at **9:00a.m.** This month we'll meet on **July 5 and 19.**

Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp



"KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE" will meet on the third Monday of the month (**July 18**) 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).



July 11-15, 9:00AM – 11:30AM



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.



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. There really is joy in serving! 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.

Thanks to all our musicians for providing a message in music in our worship services. The choir will be on sabbatical until September. Because music is a very important part of our worship experience, we need to have people sign up for **SUMMER MUSIC SPECIALS** or **SOMETHING SPECIAL** (reading poetry, inspiring pictures, life testimonies or other creative ways to worship God on Sunday) on the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or let Judy know (jude187@msn.com or 822-8770). If you feel you don't have the talent, ask a friend, relative or someone you would like to hear.

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.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



The Fourth of July is more than just a celebration of summertime — it's a time to celebrate our freedom and how far we have come.

1. The Declaration of Independence began as a letter to King George to explain why the Continental Congress voted to declare independence from Great Britain.
2. The Declaration of Independence was started on July 2, 1776 and the Continental Congress approved the final wording on July 4. The American colonies were declared free and independent states.
3. The first Independence Day was celebrated on July 8, 1776 and the official signing took place on August 2.
4. 56 people signed the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the majority of it.
5. The first Independence Day on July 8, 1776 took place in Philadelphia. The White House celebrated Independence Day for the first time in 1804.
6. The Declaration of Independence has five parts. They are: the Preamble, the Statement of Human Rights, Charges Against Human Rights, Charges Against the King and Parliament, and the Statement of Separation and Signatures.
7. According to census.gov, 2.5 million people celebrated the first Independence Day, compared to 316.2 million people today.
8. July 4 was officially declared a holiday in 1870, nearly one hundred years after the Declaration of Independence was written.
9. Currently, the oldest Independence Day celebration in the U.S. is held in Bristol, Rhode Island.
10. 2016 marks this year as the 240th Independence Day.

<http://www.wheelsforwishes.org/news/ten-interesting->

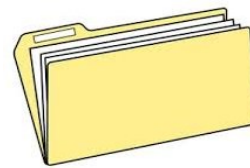


John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck load, he will take them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Youth Group Program.



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.



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 and 2-receive prayer requests, 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The **ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE** will be held on **July 28** and **July 29** from 10 to 7 pm. That is a Thursday and Friday only. On Saturday we will pack items up to be sent to different destinations. Please bring items to the church and place them in the old nursery room downstairs or you may bring them the week of the 24th. We will be getting items ready for the sale then. If it is before that, Roxanne Ruder has volunteered to let you into the church to unload items. Please contact her. On July 10th there will be a Backpack Buddy Bulletin board at the back of the church with the supplies needed for Riverview Grade School. The items will have to be back on the 24th (a Sunday). That following Monday (25th) they are being packed and delivered to the school. We will meet at 10 a.m. to do this and then start setting up for the garage sale. Hopefully on that Sunday, the 24th, some wonderful, kindhearted men will carry up tables from the basement for us to put the items on. We will have a sign up sheet for those wanting to help set up and for those wanting to help during the rummage sale. There will also be pork chops, chips and soda at the rummage sale. \$5 for the meal and \$3 for sandwich only.

This is our only money making activity for our mission activities. Flood buckets, Missionary Priscilla Jaiah, Tuition for two students in Africa, while Ecuador flood relief and Texas flood relief were special givings, snack packs for school children is monthly, the Bishop's African University fund, and then all those that are delegated by the conference. We also do many things that don't cost money too.

Money spent from the last garage sale went to Africa to Priscilla Jaiah and two students tuition for school. Ecuador and Texas flood relief and Midwest flood bucket supplies.

Thanks for all your help. Please think about volunteering your time during July.

Submitted by: Missions Committee

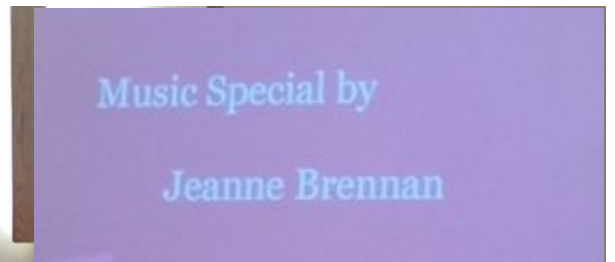


The **DIVORCE SUPPORT** is open for anyone who would like to join. This group is for anyone in midst of divorce or who are living life after divorce. We meet on **July 11 at 7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in joining us please contact Pastor Kristi Hopp via cell (309-573-3061) or e-mail (kristi_hopp@yahoo.com).



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'.



July 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 9 a.m. MABL	6	7	8 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry & Kings Closet	9
10	11 9-11:30 a.m. VBS 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	12 9-11:30 a.m. VBS 7 p.m. Ad Council	13 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	14 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	15 9-11:30 a.m. VBS	16 8 a.m.-Noon Blood Drive
17	18 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (at Bob Evans)	19 9 a.m. MABL	20	21	22 5:30 p.m. Wedding rehearsal	23 4:30 p.m. Wedding
	25 10:00 a.m. Missions Committee Packing Book Bags	26	27	28 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Rummage Sale For Missions	29 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Rummage Sale For Missions	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.

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

NURSERY:

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

LOL: Ladies of Learning
7 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

D.O.C.K. (Preschool – 5th grade)

Youth (grades 6 – 12)

Digging Deeper (Adults)

OUR PRECIOUS LIFE:
7 p.m. 1st Monday

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP:
7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

YOUTH GROUPS: (6th – 12th grades)

Sunday Once a Month TBA

11:45 a.m. – Jr. High & Sr. High

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:
8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday

