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July 2017

A Note from your Pastor:

“Do you accept the **freedom** and the **power** God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”

This quote should sound familiar, as we have been fortunate this year to have had seven baptisms at our church. It is an important part of our liturgy, because it is an integral piece in our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. While some may think baptism is our ticket to heaven, we understand it to mean so much more. Baptism is our initiation, our beginning, to follow Jesus as His disciple. Disciples of Jesus know that the world isn't as God would wish it to be. When we take on the mantle of Christ, we accept the challenge to work in the world for the betterment of all.

I know this is the month when we in the United States celebrate our independence from the rule of Britain. We celebrate with many traditions: cookouts, fireworks, family gatherings, et cetera. We join our fellow citizens in celebrating freedom. While this is a good thing, we must remember that freedom for the Christian does not necessarily mean the same in the secular world. While the temptation is always there to believe we are completely free to do whatever we want, Christians know this isn't true. Not only have we given our lives to follow the commandments of the Lord, we also hear the words of Paul echoing in our minds and hearts reminding us that even if we are strong, we are not allowed to put a stumbling block in the way of others (Romans 14.1-13). In other words, our individual liberty is not more important than the welfare of the community (Romans 15.2).

This is why we have the pledge above in our baptismal affirmation. As followers of Christ, we have chosen to make this world a better place for all, not just for ourselves. Galatians 5.13a states, “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence” (NRSV)

So when your faces glow from the explosion of fireworks or when the sweet scent of buttered corn on the cob enters your nostrils, please say two prayers. First, say "Thank you" to God and to those whose sacrifices allow us to enjoy these freedoms, and second, say “Help us, Lord, to come to the aid of those who don't have the freedoms we enjoy.”

Blessings,
Pastor Andy

Summer Sing Camp

We have started a summer music experience. Choir members, adults, youth of all ages and musicians are invited/encouraged to join in. Let us make this a great experience in our church. We know our young people and adults are involved in a lot of other activities, but maybe we could find an hour in the week (**Wednesday** nights @ 7:00 p.m. as announced) to Praise our God and lift our Spirit. Jeanne Brennan and Dennis Hill will be leading this experience. Hope to see many of you!!!



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **July 14**. 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.



Hero Central 2017 VBS prepares kids (2 yrs.—6th gr.) with special abilities to *Do good! Seek peace and go after it!* Ps. 31:14B (CEB). Kids learn God's heroes have Heart (Samuel Anoints David), Courage (Abigail), Wisdom (Jesus Goes to the Temple), Hope (Beatitudes), and Power (Pentecost). Grab your cape and get ready to fly with epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories! Join us **July 10-14** from **9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Please contact Joanne Helms if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions (822-8905).

**RUMMAGE
SALE**

FOR MISSIONS

The Rummage Sale will begin setting up on Monday **July 24** about 10:00 a.m. If volunteer men could possibly bring up tables on Sunday, it would be greatly appreciated. We will definitely need help on Monday and Tuesday setting items out and sorting clothes and things. Please consider helping the committee. In the past, help has been scarce and we REALLY need you. We will also need help during the sale itself with collecting donations and bagging items. Perhaps you could come and work two or three hours during the day. Finally on Friday, we will be bagging up the items so Salvation Army can come and take the leftovers away. Last but not least, we need your treasures, clothes and whatever! For the past 3 years we have been blessed with people who have moved giving us the items they couldn't sell or didn't want to give to another charity or want to take with them. This year we don't have that. Please put your items in the large room next to the old bathroom in the basement. Thank you very much.

Submitted by: Deb Kamp, Missions Committee Member

July 23 All school items need to be at the church.

July 24 Set up rummage sale item 10:00 a.m. Pack up school supplies and take them to Riverview earlier.

July 25 Set out Rummage sale items.

July 26 Set out rummage sale items. 12:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. open for business.

July 27 Open for business from 8:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.

July 28 Open for business from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Afterwards, pack up items for Salvation Army to take away.



- ♦ Judy Schaer gives a big thanks to all of our musicians who provided a fantastic spiritual message in song at our 'Sing & Savor' worship service. The fellowship of worshippers was very rewarding.
- ♦ Evelyn Schaer is improving and enjoys having company.



The Backpack for Buddies bulletin board is up in the back of the sanctuary. There are ten 8th graders needing backpacks this year. The supply list was very lengthy. Luckily Roxanne has been picking up school supplies that fit the list whenever the Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington has some. We are also collecting money for 15 Texas Instrument calculators for the 5th graders. They will be able to use these through high school. Please put the money in a box at the back of the sanctuary. All of these items will be needed by Sunday, **July 23** because we would like to take the items to Riverview Grade School on the morning of July 24 before we start the activities for the rummage sale. Thank you! **Submitted by: Deb Kamp, Missions Committee Member**

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.



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**



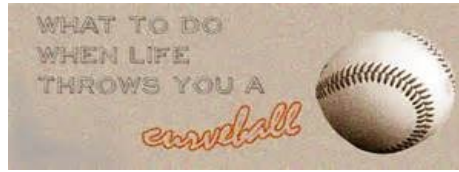
John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. Aluminum CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck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



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 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

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE will meet on the third Monday of the month (**July 17**) at 8:30 a.m. at **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).



encourage



WE NEED YOU
SEEKING ALL WILLING SERVANTS OF JESUS

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair

USED JEANS

If you have any **USED JEANS**, please bring them to the church. Tracy Arnold is collecting them for her mother's church to make rugs for the homeless.



The Publicity Committee is in the process of getting signs for the inside of the church. These 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**



Supplies for Flood Buckets

Urgent Need! Last month the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) sent almost 4,000 Cleaning Buckets to Missouri and Illinois flood victims. We are running low on all Cleaning Bucket supplies, especially Bug Spray. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations or supplies bought through **DollarDays** would be the best way to donate as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center
P.O. Box 56, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629
<http://www.midwestdistributiondc.org>
office@midwestdistributiondc.org

Financial Giving Survey

Your financial contributions enable our church to do all of the things that you value – music, worship, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Missions, and more!

We realize that the world has changed and your preferences for giving may have changed also. Please complete the survey below and return it to the church to let us know the giving method you prefer. **Your Finance Committee**

Please mark your current & preferred giving method below	Using Now	Prefer to Use
Envelope System (currently available) - cash or check		
Bill Pay (currently available) – donation automatically deducted periodically from your checking or savings account - cost to church is \$0.00 – your bank <u>may</u> charge you		
ACH (future) – donation automatically deducted periodically from your checking or savings account - cost to church is 0.5% to 1.25%		
Credit or debit card (future) – Available on website; one-time or repeating donations – cost to church is 2.2% to 3.0%		



July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Happy Fourth	5	6 7:00 p.m. Finance	7	8
9 O.U.R—TBA	10 9:00 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. VBS 7:00 p.m. Trustees	11 9:00 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. VBS 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	12 9:00 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. VBS 7:00 p.m. SSC TBA	13 9:00 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. VBS	14 9:00 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. VBS 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's Closet	15
16	17 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans)	18	19 7:00 p.m. SSC TBA	20	21	22
23 School Back- pack Items due	24 Pack up school Items 10:00 a.m. Sale Setup 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	25 10:00 a.m. Sale Setup	26 Noon-6:00 p.m. Rummage Sale 7:00 p.m. SSC TBA	27 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Rummage Sale	28 8:00 a.m.— Noon Rummage Sale Sale Pack up	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

One Nation Under God

One Nation Under God we live
Think about all some had to give

We the people share freedom's life
In a world of ever present strife

Be grateful to those who keep this true
Warriors of our red, white, and blue

They're trained by those of great skill
Honed to perform, so strong their will

They show what love is all about
They'll fight for us, there is no doubt

Defending bravely what we are
No holding back each heartfelt star

Highly praise these men and women
Giving thanks time and again

Those in uniform will always be
The golden pride of this country

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