



THE MESSENGER

June 2016

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

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

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A Note from your Pastors:

Walking our dog has so many health benefits. I've been amazed, however, at how I can reflect on life and God while walking him as well.

When Monk was little, he would sniff around for squirrels and other critters. I'd chuckle to myself as he'd be on the scent, so he thought, while the squirrel was standing fifty feet away in the opposite direction. I thought Monk would eventually grow out of this practice, but no. Even today, he still was going in one direction while the squirrel was going in another.

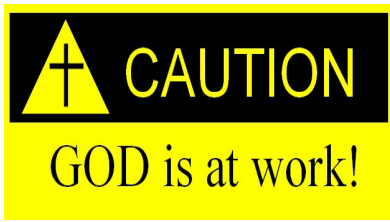
A similar pattern can appear in our own faith journey. While we might not be hunting rabbits, we might flitter here and there thinking we are close to God but not actually encountering God's presence. Sadly, just because we age doesn't mean we are growing in wisdom with regards to our faith.

I grew up in a Christian tradition which valued reciting standard prayers from memory. Some of those prayers were repeated several times in a row. It all became very monotonous and boring. I dreamed of growing up, and growing out of such life draining practices. "Surely, our relationship with God is more dynamic than words printed on a page," I thought to myself.

The wisdom, which is missed with this thinking, is that we humans need spiritual practices to stay connected with God, the source of our well being. Now, certain spiritual practices might speak to some of us more than others, but it is important to have a daily discipline with which we stay close to God.

Now that we have celebrated Trinity Sunday, the many weeks of "Ordinary Time" begins. It's also the beginning of summer, when a thousand other things call for our time and attention. It is our hope and prayer for you to stay connected to God and growing in faith during this season. Worship, small groups, and Sunday School will still be happening. Our teachers will still be preparing lessons for us to connect and grow in God. The liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green. May the green symbolize our growth in spiritual wisdom, and not our desire to remain as spiritual newbies.

Blessings,
Pastors Andy and Kristi Hopp



- ♦ Monte and Donna Doty would like to thank everyone for their generous gifts and continued prayers.
- ♦ Doug and Dianna Delinski will be blessed with a granddaughter in September by daughter Corinne (and Chad).
- ♦ Juanita Garber would like to thank everyone for their kindness shown her at the loss of her daughter Karen.
- ♦ Sharon McClellan is so thankful that Butch's angiogram showed no blockages in his major arteries.
- ♦ Brian Doty wished Dianna Delinski a Happy Birthday.



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



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 **June 13 and 27 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).

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. This month's meeting will be **June 6** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. 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!

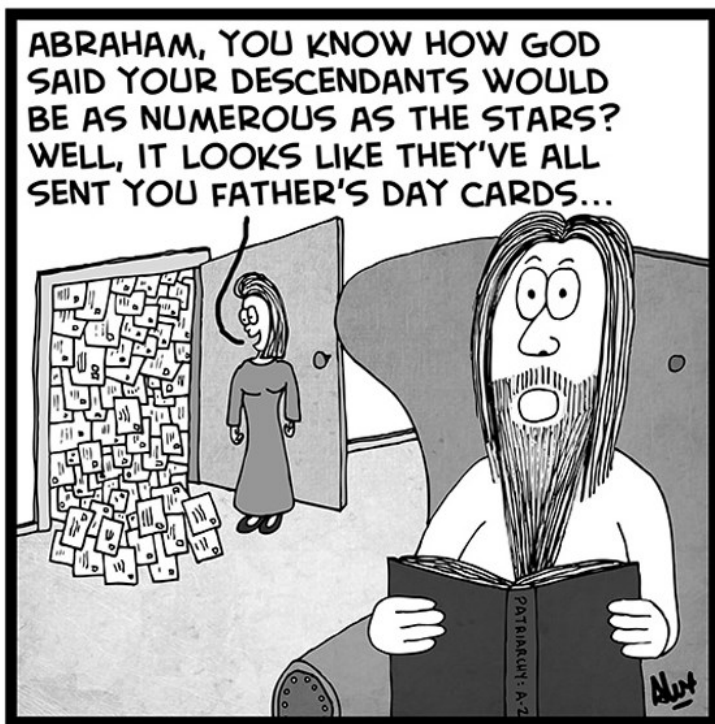
Often, what we believe the Bible teaches has been influenced by art, music and literature. **THE MINING AND BRICK-LAYING** course is open to all adults who are willing to search for the deep truths of the Bible that have often been overlaid by images created by our churches and our culture. It is my 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 **June 7 and 21.**

Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp



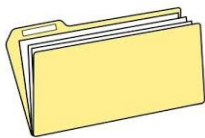
"KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE" will meet on the third Monday of the month (**June 20**) at 8:30 a.m. at a **Bob Evans** in East Peoria.

Participants will need to bring a copy of the Upper Room devotional magazine and their bibles. The goal is to meet for an hour and a half (8:30-10 a.m.). If you have questions please contact Pastor Andy via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



FUNERAL DINNERS

If you would like a phone call and/or email notification in order to donate food or help in set-up and clean-up when we are providing a funeral dinner, please let me know by calling me at 822-8770, emailing me at jude187@mchsi.com or contacting me in person. I would like to create a list of volunteers. I want to thank all of you who have provided food and help in the past.



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 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. 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 signup 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



Gretchen Andrews

Battle Ground Middle School, West Lafayette, IN

Josie Pullen

Riverview Grade School

Savanna Call

St. Clare's Catholic School (8th grade) in O'Fallon, IL

Aleah Groom

Henry-Senachwine Grade School

Naomi Roxby, Gavin Mitchell, Robert Pitts,

Ryan Pitts and Katlyn Pitts

Metamora Township High School

Shania Brown

East Peoria Community High School

Blake Markum

Pekin Community High School

Isaiah Groom

Henry-Senachwine High School

Bryce Meyer

Limestone Community High School

Rachel Pleasant

ICC Associate Degree

Cari Gunzenheiser

ICC School of Nursing

Bret Gunzenheiser

SIU Post Graduate School

Samantha Markum

Millikan University



Our Missions Committee is asking us to collect "**Box Tops for Education**" for the Riverview Grade School. You may bring them any Sunday to church, and leave them in the yellow box. From time to time during the year we will take them to the school. Thank you for your prayers, and the many ways we support our local school!



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.

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.

✓ MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The annual rummage sale will be held on **July 28** and **July 29** from 10 to 7 pm. On Saturday we will pack up the items. We are hoping that these two days will bring in the same amount of money we need. If you have items they may be brought to the church and placed in the old nursery room downstairs or the first door on the right downstairs as you go in the riverside doors. As always items can be brought the week of the sale also.

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

Riverview Backpack Buddies is also coming up in July so be watching for the supply board.

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

Submitted by: Missions Committee



The essence of the father's role
Is to mirror God's own heart
And to value instruction in God's ways
With the grace that God imparts

Every father needs God's wisdom
To carry out his role,
As the tower of strength and support
For each fragile heart he holds

And there's no greater reward in life
For a father to take his place
And uphold the values of the Lord
With integrity and grace.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Fathers are wonderful people

Too little understood,

And we do not sing their **praises**

As often as we should...

But **FATHERS** are just wonderful

In a million different ways,

And they merit loving **compliments**

And accolade of praise,

For the only reason Dad aspires

To **fortune** and success

Is to make the family proud of him

And to bring them **HAPPINESS...**

And like our Heavenly Father,

He's a **guardian** and a guide,

Someone that we can count on

To be **always** on our side.

Happy Fathers Day



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'.



June 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	3	4
5 5:30 p.m. O.U.R. @ Schaer's	6 7 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Our Precious Life	7 9 a.m. MABL Bible Study	8 Annual Conference	9 Annual Conference	10 Annual Conference 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry & Kings Closet	11 Annual Conference
12	13 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	14 7 p.m. Ad Council	15	16 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	17	18
19	20 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans)	21 9 a.m. MABL Bible Study	22	23	24	25
26	27 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	28	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.

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

CHOIR PRACTICE: (7th grade-Adult)

September through May

7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

M.A.B.L.: **Mining and Brick Laying**

9 a.m. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

