



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

May 2015

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

\*\*\*\*\* [www.riversedgeumc.org](http://www.riversedgeumc.org) \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* [www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org](https://www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org) \*\*\*\*\*

500 N. Chicago Street, Spring Bay, IL 61611-9118 – Phone: 309-822-8279

Editor: Amy Potter, Email: [alp82673@yahoo.com](mailto:alp82673@yahoo.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Andrew Hopp  
Cell: 309-883-1422  
Email: [try2hopp@msn.com](mailto:try2hopp@msn.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Kristi Hopp  
Cell: 309-573-3061  
Email: [kristi\\_hopp@yahoo.com](mailto:kristi_hopp@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Judy Schaer  
Phone: 309-822-8770  
Email: [jude187@msn.com](mailto:jude187@msn.com)

\* \* \* \* \*



## A Note from your Pastors:

For many of us under 50, Journey's song "Don't Stop Believin'" is in our Golden Oldies playlist. As we begin the month of May, many are beginning the preparations for graduation celebrations. Whether it is in school, scouting, or other clubs, being promoted to the next level brings both a sense of accomplishment and a sense of the unknown. For us parents and grandparents, we might worry about our children and grandchildren as they continue on with their life journeys. We might wonder if they will stop believing, stop following the God whom we have tried so diligently to teach to them.

But here's the rub. We claim a God who is not a set of rules, but a living person - Jesus Christ. First and foremost, our faith life is a journey rather than a narrow, singular path. It is a journey because we are unique, and we follow a Person who loves us unconditionally.

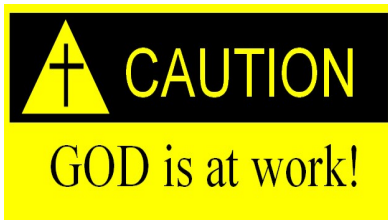
If we are being honest with ourselves, few of us have stayed on a straight path from high school graduation until now. Career missteps, families created, health challenges - all of these things have made a once straight path crooked. Yet, when we release the notion of straight paths, we can often see the hand of God directing us, even when His direction took us off-roading. For Pastor Kristi and I, this off-roading came in our call to a specific seminary - the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, at a specific year - 2005. While the call we each heard was different, answering the call has enabled a new family to be born, and a partnership in ministry that has been rewarding. Looking back, we would have never been able to plan or predict where we'd be today, but we are confident God has been with us in our winding paths.

In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, the prophet had a vision of God leaving the temple and taking up residence with those who were exiled to Babylon. Not only is God on the move, God often goes ahead of us - preparing the way before we even see the path.

You see, we often feel like we are tempted to leave God behind when we graduate, when we move out of our parents' home, but that isn't the case. We don't, and can't, leave God behind. Rather, we often stop looking for the God who is always journeying with us. If we think of God as a set of rules, then yes, we often leave some of those rules behind. However, when we realize how God daily beckons us to discover His presence, we will regain and redevelop our sense of wonder for both God and God's living creation.

We can't promise anyone's path will be straight, narrow, and practical if they pursue God daily in this fashion. What we can promise is that it will be a faithful response to the One who created us and loves us - every step of the way.

Blessings,  
Pastors Andy and Kristi Hopp



- ◆ Barb Waldrip had (successful) cataract surgery.
- ◆ Evonne's surgery wound has finally healed.
- ◆ Larry and Jane Winkler are home from their winter in Hawaii (Larry is recovering from pneumonia).
- ◆ Della Stewart was happy that her mother-in-law, Mary Kelso, was in worship.
- ◆ Butch & Sharon McClellan welcomed a new grandson on March 28, Killian Alexander Davis, born to Butch's daughter, Jon and Dawn Davis.
- ◆ Butch & Sharon McClellan gives a huge thanks to all who helped with the 'Benefit' on Saturday night. The response was overwhelming and the love was felt. Love to all!
- ◆ Joe Helms gives thanks to Michael's in Washington for providing the spaghetti and bread for the 'Benefit'.
- ◆ Marcia Houston thanks everyone for their thoughts and gifts.
- ◆ Orda Doty thanks everyone for their prayers and cards. She is doing much better.



Our **NEW WEBSITE** is live! Be sure to check it out at [riversedgeumc.org](http://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*



4-H IS OPEN TO ANY YOUNG PERSON AGE 8-18. Members can choose from a wide variety of projects. Anyone who is interested may contact Scott or Jennifer Adams (383-2029) for more information. Their next meeting is **May 23** at 6:30 pm at the church. The group will be planting flowers in our church bell flower bed ahead of their meeting.

## 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 **May 2** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. If you have questions please contact Pastor Kristi via e-mail ([kristi\\_hopp@yahoo.com](mailto: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 **May 3 and 17.**

*Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp*



**"KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE"** will meet on the third Monday of the month (**May 16**) 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](mailto:try2hopp@msn.com)) or cell (309-883-1422).



If any of you have any **FAMILY MEMBERS GRADUATING** this May-June, please let Judy know (822-8770 or [jude187@msn.com](mailto:jude187@msn.com)) so they can be recognized in the newsletter and bulletin.



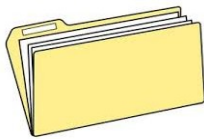
### TAKE CARE OF MY CHURCH

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'.



### 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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.

If you are interested in doing **SOMETHING SPECIAL** (music, reading poetry, inspiring pictures, life testimonies or other creative ways to worship God on Sunday, contact Judy (822-8770) or Pastor Andy (883-1422). Thanks to all of you who have assisted in the past.

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](mailto: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](mailto:dougdoty@aol.com).

**CHOIR**—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.

Mark your calendars! The trustees have scheduled **WORK DAYS** for the Saturdays of **May 14** and **21** from 8am-noon. The more people that participate, the quicker the work will be completed.

*Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair*



**Thank  
YOU,**  
(very much)

To all who donated items, attended and contributed to our 'Benefit' silent auction for Monte Doty, Butch McClellan and Marci Hodge Houston. And to all the workers who made this project possible. So far the total raised is \$12,901.50.



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 **May 9 and 23 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 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!



Estella Newell, our oldest church member, will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on May 15. She does enjoy receiving cards. You may mail her birthday wishes at 500 Centennial Dr, Apt 323, East Peoria, IL 61611.

**MEMORIAL DAY  
FREEDOM  
Family Flag  
TIME  
TOGETHER  
REMEMBERANCE  
LAND OF THE FREE  
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE  
Parades & BBQ  
THANKFUL**



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.

# MAY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 5 p.m. O.U.R. at the Belsly Barn (bring lawn chair)	2 7 p.m. Our Precious Life 7 p.m. Trustees	3 9 a.m. MABL	4	5 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	6 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's Closet	7 4 p.m. Wedding
8	9 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	10 7 p.m. Ad Council	11	12	13	14 8-noon Work Day (spring cleaning)
15	16 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans)	17 9 a.m. MABL	18	19 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	20	21 8-noon Work Day (spring cleaning)
22	23 6:30 p.m. 4-H 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	24	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.

**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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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:** (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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:** (7<sup>th</sup> 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

