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May 2017

A Note from your Pastor:

I'm fully aware of the irony of writing an article on keeping the Sabbath while I am on vacation. For me, the rest has allowed my brain to think more creatively.

We find the command to rest on the Sabbath day in at least two places in scripture. I would like to focus on the passages in Exodus and in Deuteronomy.

Some of the commandments are given as if they were the inverse of the Nike slogan - "Just Don't Do It." Others have reasons attached. This is true for the Sabbath in both locations, but the reasons given are different. In Exodus, chapter 20, verses 8 through 11, the reason we are to observe the Sabbath is because God observed a Sabbath. In a way, we become like God by resting one day a week. When my children take up my good habits, others can see they are my children. (The converse is true, too, with my bad habits, but let's not go there.) Likewise, when we rest on the seventh day, whenever that day of the week may be, we let people know that the God we serve is a God who doesn't expect people to work 24 X 7.

In Deuteronomy, chapter 5, verses 12 to 15, we find a different rationale. The commandment to rest is not because we will be acting like God. Instead, we are to rest because our ancestors were once slaves and were not allowed to rest. Indeed, many of us remember the stories of how Pharaoh continued to demand the same daily number of bricks while continuing to add more work to the Hebrew people. In Deuteronomy, God reminds the Israelites and us, that we aren't to pile work on others thereby preventing their chance to rest.

Jesus said the two greatest commandments are to love God and to love one's neighbor. The reasons given for observing the Sabbath encompass those two great commandments. It is my hope and prayer for Christians to learn to cherish the Sabbath again, not by bringing back "blue laws" but by caring about whether human beings are even being given a chance to rest in this culture which prizes productivity over personhood.

Blessings,
Pastor Andy



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **May 12**. 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.



As requested on a survey that was done a few weeks ago during the church services, we will have another Mostly Music Sunday and a potluck after the 10:30 service on **June 11**. Fried chicken, drinks and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. If you are willing to share your talent, please contact Judy at 822-8770 or jude187@msn.com."



Hero Central 2017 VBS prepares kids 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**. Please contact Joanne or Joe Helms if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions (822-8905).



Mark your calendars for **July 26, 27 & 28**. The Missions Team will be having their annual rummage sale for missions. Start collecting your 'treasures'!!



If you have any **USED JEANS**, please bring them to the church for Tracy Arnold. Her mom's church is using them for a project in which they are involved.



Pastor Andy will be starting a group to help us meet our self-improvement goals for 2017. It will be called "**Our Better Selves**". Its goal is to support and encourage - not to chastise. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Andy with some suggestions for meeting dates and times.

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.



- ◆ Cindy & Mike Osenkarski celebrated their 25th anniversary!
- ◆ Kristina Bencher and Heidi West were able to give out 430 Easter Baskets to the less fortunate kids.
- ◆ Emily Pleasant states that friend Isaac Braun is no longer in Arizona but is back home going to ISU.
- ◆ Steve Nauman was among the MTHS '73-'74 football team that was inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday night.
- ◆ Happy 85th birthday to Roger Hodge!
- ◆ Bernie & Judy Myer are back from their winter stay in the south.
- ◆ April Nauman expressed joy that son Michael survived his first-time mountain skiing. Prayers that he continues to be protected.



OUR PRECIOUS LIFE (monthly group for widows) is going on hiatus while Pastor Kristi is gone, unless there is a lay person who would want to partner with Pastor Andy to get the group going again.

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 on the third Monday of the month (**May 15**) at 8:30 a.m. at a **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).

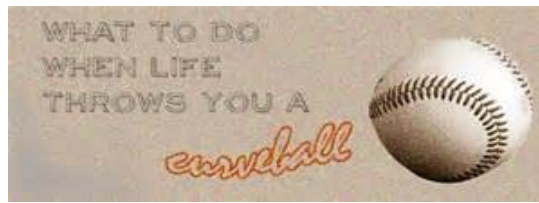


John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. Aluminum CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck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



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 meet on **May 8 & 22** at 7:00 p.m. 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).



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.

There is still room for more **CHOIR** participants. We meet on Wednesday evenings (to be announced) at 7pm. 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. Remember that there is **JOY IN SERVING JESUS**.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



Be sure to check out 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**





May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Trustees	2	3 7 p.m. Finance Committee	4	5	6
7 O.U.R (TBA)	8 7 p.m. Curve Balls	9 7 p.m. Ad Council	10	11	12 9-11 a.m. Food Pan- try/King's Closet	13
14	15 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans)	16 7 p.m. Lay Leadership	17	18	19	20
21	22 7 p.m. Curve Balls	23	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.

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



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