



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

October 2015

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

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

***** 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

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Hopp
Cell: 309-883-1422
Email: try2hopp@msn.com

Pastor: Rev. Kristi Hopp
Cell: 309-573-3061
Email: kristi_hopp@yahoo.com

Secretary: Judy Schaer
Phone: 309-822-8770
Email: jude187@msn.com

* * * * *



A Note from the Pastor:

“May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1.3 Common English Bible

We have often heard of being “born again” as the moment we are “saved,” when we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. While there is nothing wrong with this viewpoint, it is not the only valid viewpoint. I chose this verse to illustrate another way of understanding being born anew.

We humans, at least in this culture, love nostalgia. We often want to go back to the way things were, to when things were better. Sometimes, this is just silly. We often think Twinkies were six inches long when we were kids, but now they are only four inches. In this instance, our memory plays tricks with us because we weren’t fully grown when we were children, so things did look bigger to us then than they do now. Other times, things were better in the past. I would like to go back to when my hands didn’t shake, or before I broke my arm in an auto accident. Most recently, I’d like to go back to the time when my friend Lindsay was still healthy before cancer claimed his earthly life.

Here’s my point: Jesus died. We sing about it all the time, but we are living on the other side of the resurrection. We all know things turned out better in the end. Well, we believe it did. In the resurrection, Jesus was changed. He wasn’t the same as he once was. In addition, he still bore the scars of his humiliation and death within his body. These marks were not removed in his new life given to him by God.

In the same way, we too can be offered new life. We can be born anew. While it is often easier to daydream about how things were in the past, we are called to live in the present toward the future. Just because my arm won’t swing a bat doesn’t mean I can’t enjoy baseball. Just because a marriage ended doesn’t mean a new one is doomed or lesser. Just because life didn’t work out as we had planned, it doesn’t mean it isn’t worth living.

Being born anew, then, is our willingness to say yes to God and yes to life each and every day. Sometimes saying yes will be easy. Sometimes it will be near impossible. But with the help of Christ and our fellow travelers of faith, we can say yes each day. We can be born anew to a living hope, not just at our life’s end, but as we live life, each and every day.

Blessings,
Pastor Andy



- ◆ Happy Grandparents Day!
- ◆ Evonne Cowling says the new piano is fantastic!
- ◆ A big "Thank You" to all who worked so diligently to get the new piano.
- ◆ Joe Helms is thankful the Reclaimed/Resale store in Metamora will be giving a portion of their sales profits in September to the Food Pantry.
- ◆ It was a joy to see 20-30 hummingbirds in one location.
- ◆ Tyson Dickens got his cast off.
- ◆ Gloria Barth came home after knee surgery.
- ◆ Joe and Joanne Helms are celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Kelly Burt has a new job which allows her to work the same shift as her husband.
- ◆ Rick Brooks received good health news!
- ◆ Mark Baldwin is thankful for healing from health issues, but asks for prayers for his move to Pekin. He is also thankful his dad is doing better.
- ◆ Libby Northrip is thankful her co-worker, Franny, is recovering well after having emergency surgery on Thursday to remove a brain tumor.
- ◆ Jordan Doty came home!
- ◆ Larry and Jane celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Rick and Kathy Brooks celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Gloria was at worship and the knee surgery went well.

HALLOWEEN Family Fun Night

We have decided to cancel the **FALL FESTIVAL** this year. We are planning a **HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN NIGHT** on October 31 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. instead. We will have candy, food, s'mores, games and a bonfire for the surrounding communities. This event will be free, but donations are welcomed. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Amy Potter (309-648-4292) or Evonne Cowling.

Submitted by: Family Life Committee



Our **NEW WEBSITE** went live on September 3. Be sure to check it out at riversedgeumc.org. We intend to add the newsletter, calendar 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



Pastor Andy is leading an adult group on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. We will be **DIGGING DEEPER**: 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 Monday mornings at 9 a.m.

Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp





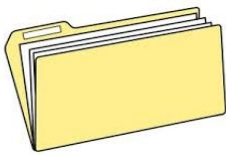
TAKE CARE OF MY CHURCH

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 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 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 an additional two to three adults who are willing to **TEACH THE YOUNGER CHILDREN** who come to Sunday School. This will allow our children to have lessons which are more tailored to their grade level. 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 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.

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.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



We are wanting to start a “Walk and Pray” Group. Pastor Andy would like to help people meet their fitness goals along with taking time to be with God. He doesn’t have a group formed, so if you are interested, please contact Pastor Andy at 309-883-1422 or try2hopp@msn.com.



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 **October 12 & 26 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).



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.

The Youth are collecting **BIBLES** between now and November 1 to be taken to 'Love Packages' where they will be processed for sending overseas for Christmas. You may leave them on the credenza in the Bridge area.



Moms give and give and give some more, but they rarely take time to receive. No wonder mom-burnout threatens to snuff out the simple joys of being a mother.

Wouldn't it be nice if moms had some time just for themselves to encourage one another, learn from each other's challenges and most of all, be refreshed through laughter? That is what **MomTime** is all about! Come and join us for MomTime Saturday, September 26 at 10 a.m. – food, faith, friends and fun!



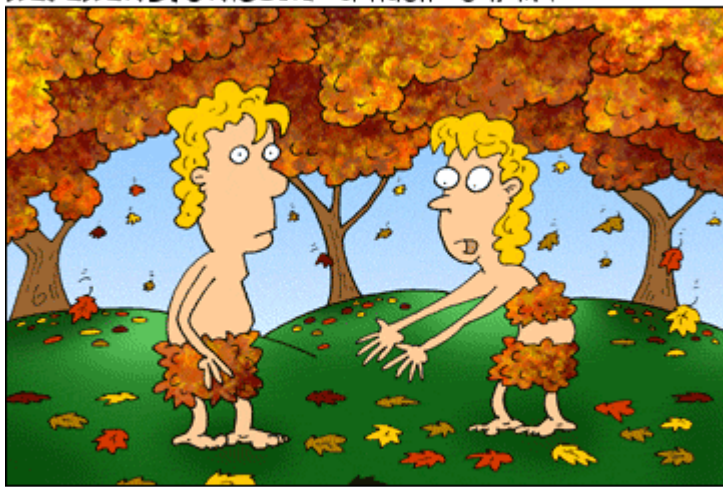
Our Missions Committee is asking us to collect "**Box Tops for Education**" for the Riverview Grade School. You may bring them any Sunday to church, and leave them in the yellow box. From time to time during the year we will take them to the school. Thank you for your prayers, and the many ways we support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



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.



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?



Pastors Kristi and Andy are going to start a new monthly group called "**KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE**". They will meet on the third Monday of the month at 8:30am at a restaurant of the group's choosing. The first meeting will be at 'The Galley' at East Port in East Peoria on October 19th. 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 (8:30-10am). If you have questions please contact Pastor Andy via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



Pastor Kristi is going to start a new monthly group for widows, held at the church on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm. It will be called "**OUR PRECIOUS LIFE**". The first meeting will be on October 19th. Participants will need to bring their bibles. The goal is to meet for an hour and a half (7:00-8:30pm). If you have questions please contact Pastor Kristi via e-mail (kristi_hopp@yahoo.com) or cell (309-573-3061).



Over 100 pairs of shoes were given to WaterStep after the August garage sale. Your shoes went to a non-profit organization whose mission is to end many of the world's problems by providing access to clean water. They provide personal water treatment systems, health and hygiene education while training those conducting the projects in the third world countries. The donated shoes are sold to poorer regions of the world to provide merchants with a living. The recipients of the shoes will have healthier feet avoiding parasites, mites, cuts and bruises. Thank you for the giving of your shoes.

The Missions Committee will be collecting **SMALL PIECES OF LUGGAGE** during the month of October to give to the Foster Children Social Care Service of the area. Small pieces are needed for the children in which to place their clothes as they make their move. We have some donated already. Many times all they have is a garbage bag in which to put their clothes. This will make the children feel more secure, hopefully.

Christmas is coming and The Santa Express from Chaddock will be sending us children's names for their Christmas presents. It is hard to believe Christmas is less than 90 days away!

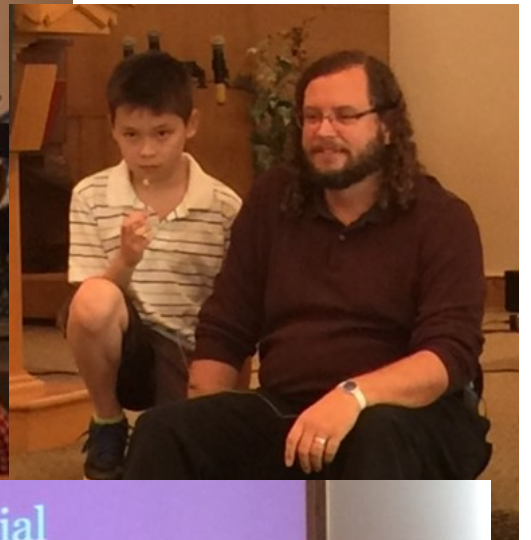
We do thank you for all your help.



There will be a **BLOOD DRIVE** in the fellowship hall from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on Oct 24. You may call Joe Helms at 635-3508 to reserve a time slot. Set up helpers at 6:45 a.m. and close out helpers at 12:15 p.m. would be appreciated.

October 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	2	3
4 4 p.m. O.U.R. @ Cunningham's	5 7 p.m. Trustees	6	7 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8 7 p.m. MABL Bible Study	9 YAR (Junior High Youth Annual Retreat) at Lake Williamson	10 YAR continued 10 a.m. Church Annual Conference
11	12 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	13	14	15 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	16	17 10 a.m. Mom Time
18	19 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ the Galley) 7 p.m. Our Precious Life	20	21 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22 7 p.m. MABL Bible Study	23	24 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Blood Drive
25	26 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	27	28	29 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	30 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry & King's Closet	31 6-9 p.m. Halloween Family Fun night



Music Special
Monte Doty



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)
Adults

YOUTH GROUPS: (6th – 12th grades)

Sunday Once a Month TBA
11:45 a.m. – Jr. High & Sr. High

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)

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

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT:
TBA

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

RiversEdge United Methodist Church
500 N. Chicago St.
Spring Bay, IL 61611-9118

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

