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October 2017

A Note from your Pastor:

James' letter to the church is often a stumbling block for Protestants. Indeed, Martin Luther is said to have wanted to remove it from the Bible. He didn't follow through with this desire, which is a good thing. Living a life in Christ means changing our behaviors when they don't line up with Christ's example.

I find it painfully sad how this verse from the Letter of James is not heeded in our land today: "You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger" James 1.19 NRSV. My Facebook and Twitter feeds are full of people who are quick to anger, quick to speak, and slow to listen. During the height of the presidential campaign, I had to unfollow some folks due to their constant barrage of negative comments and sharing of false news.

As I sit here and reflect, it is becoming painfully clear how much of a threat it is to listen. What do I mean? Simply this: listening isn't the same as hearing. For those of us whose ears still work, it is simple to hear things. Listening is more than just hearing sounds. Listening requires an openness and a vulnerability towards the one speaking. When we actively listen, we must be ready to have our hearts and minds changed. If we are not willing to change, then we aren't listening.

The Shema, the command of God to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6.4, begins "Listen, O Israel!" Listen to the LORD. Listen to God's commands. It isn't enough to hear the laws. We have to follow them.

Listening, true listening, offers us opportunities for healthy change. Yes, we don't need to accept hook, line, and sinker, what someone is telling us. However, as Christians who believe that all are made in the image of Almighty God, we have a responsibility to truly listen to those who speak.

One of the most Christian things we can do is to listen to those who are hurting or suffering. Being a companion and having compassion reflects the path the Lord Jesus took with us. Let us recommit ourselves to James' admonition. In this polarized culture, one of the most radical things we can do is to be slow to anger, slow to speak, and quick to listen. Let us not remove these words from our living bible. Let us show the world what it means to be truly Christian by truly listening.

Blessings,
Pastor Andy



Dennis Hill will be working with ensembles (small groups) for music specials. There is room on the signup sheet for other specials (solos, duets, reading, etc.). Music is a very important part of our worship experience. If you are interested in any of these possibilities, please contact Judy at 822-8770 or 645-6625.

The next rehearsal for **Choir** will be on Wednesday, **October 4** at 7:00 p.m. There is plenty of room for new people. If you haven't tried it and don't think you are good enough, come anyway and learn from those who have had experience. This year we will try 5th grade on up. Dennis Hill will also be working with individuals for music specials. Let us worship in song.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **October 6**. 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.



Join us for Mostly Music Sunday, **October 22** at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with a potluck after 2nd service. Fried chicken, drinks and table service will be provided. Bring a dish to share!

Want to share your talent? Contact Barb Waldrip (367-2892/bswaldrip@gmail.com) for 1st service or Judy Schaer (822-8770/jude187@msn.com) for 2nd service.

Church members are invited to meet in the Sanctuary at 12:30 p.m. for our annual Charge Conference with our District Superintendent, Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce.



The Midwest Mission Distribution Center of the United Methodist Church is helping to supply clean-up buckets for the record THREE hurricanes.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Supplies bought through DollarDays (<https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html>) would be the best way to donate, as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices. Monetary donations may be sent to:

MMDC, P.O. Box 56, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629
www.midwestmissiondc.org office@midwestmissiondc.org



- ♦ Val Huser is thankful for the birth of her granddaughter, Evelyn Mae Huser, born September 1. Also, thankful for the safe evacuation from South Carolina this week for Evelyn, her mother Angela and dad Tim (Tim had to travel back by himself to Hilton Head, SC Fire and Rescue to take care of the needs of residents after Hurricane Irma).
- ♦ Carla Doty is thankful that daughter Jaymie Freeman's echocardiogram shows that her heart is fully functioning with her meds.
- ♦ Sharon McClellan has prayers of joy for her brother Norman Hodge who has been declared 'clean & cancer free'.
- ♦ Doug and Dianna Delinski welcome their new grandchild, Zoey Michele, born on 9/18 to Trent & Nikki Delinski.



The mission committee has sent \$200 to UMCOR for flood relief in Texas and Florida. This is money from the rummage sale we had. Thanks to all.



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.



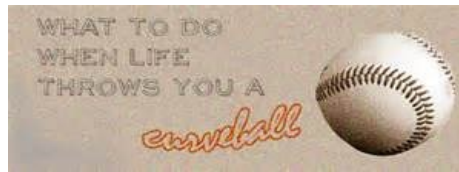
If you would like your name added to the birthday list, have had an email address change or would like your email address added to the any of the church email groups (1-receive announcements & newsletter, 2-receive prayer requests). See Judy Schaer, email at Jude187@msn.com or call at 822-8770. Also, check with other family members.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



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 (**October 23**) 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).



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 **October 9** and **23** 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).



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.



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.

Another **NEW** opportunity! Would someone like to take care of the pencils (sharpening and arranging) in the pews??? This would help Judy out.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



The Communications Committee has put up new signs inside of the church. Welcome signs 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**



USED JEANS

If you have any old jeans, any size or color, please bring them to church for Tracy Arnold. Her mother's church turns them into rugs to raise money for missions.



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.

INNER LIGHT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. – 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 NIV

When Autumn Leaves Begin to Fall



When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all
Colors bursting with the sun
Rays shine down on everyone.

There is a leafy autumn smell
I walk on softness where they fell
Floating gently to the ground
Touching down without a sound.

Animals are scurrying to and fro
Instinctively the creatures know
The leaves scattered everywhere
Beautifies a place once bare.

Rising up to the bluest sky
A tree looks down, creaks a sigh
Nestled in her hollowed place
Life will wait through winter's race.

When the tress at last have shed
Sturdy branches though not dead
Beneath the earth roots hold tight
Tall and stately through the night.

When autumn leaves begin to fall
The Father orchestrates it all
Blooms in waiting seem to say
He is coming back someday.



Again dressed in a formal gown
Branches filled and hanging down
See the miracle of God once more
Birds leap from her branch to soar.

Here I stand in wonder of this
A soft wind blows to me a kiss
My spirit tells my mind to hush
Peace abounds in Christ for us.

The seasons change, come and go
But this is what I truly know
When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all.



by Kathleen Higham

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7:00 p.m. Trustees	3 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	4 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry & King's Closet	7
8 5:30 p.m. O.U.R. @ The Calls	9 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22 Mostly Music /Potluck 12:30 p.m. Charge Conference	23 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans) 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	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



www.riversedgeumc.org

www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org

