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# *September 2017*

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## A Note from your Pastor:

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5.17 NRSV

As our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren head back to school, we send them our love and prayers. We pray that every day will be an opportunity for their growth, both personally and professionally.

What about us? Do we still look for something new in our lives each day, or has life become tedious, monotonous, painful, or dreary? On the other hand, have new things become the bane of your existence? Perhaps you are tired of everything being new. "Can't we just go back to the old ways?"

The Greek word for "new" in the passage above is *kainos*, but like many Greek words, there are different English words or different understandings which can go with the word. First, "new" can mean unused or recently come into existence. I think the word, fresh, may apply here. Second, "new" can mean unknown or strange. Finally, "new" can mean the opposite of old.

Our level of fear toward something new will depend greatly on which of these three aspects we deem valid. Going in reverse, the highest fear comes with the last definition. Oftentimes, the new is portrayed as surpassing the old. As we all continue to age, the "threat" from the young continues to grow. Next, we naturally fear that which is unknown. When personal computers became commonplace in the 80s, many people older than me feared breaking them if they hit the wrong combination of keystrokes. I still hear some people fearing technology today. Finally, the least fearful aspect of new is the one first listed. Most of us would prefer fresh clothes, tools, supplies, bodies. It's not that we want an unknown body, we just wish ours would work as well as it used to.

So, what does all this have to do with the Bible verse? As you can imagine, our understanding of the passage depends on how we interpret the word "new." Is the person who is in Christ superior to others? Is the person who is in Christ strange and different to others? Or is the person who is in Christ refreshed for the work of ministry? It is my hope for us individually, as well as our church, that we will focus on this understanding of new as being refreshed. Let us pray during the month of September for refreshment, for our souls and for the church's soul. May God's Spirit enliven our spirits again so that we may become, once again, God's new creation.

Blessings,  
Pastor Andy



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **September 8**. 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.



Dennis Hill and Jeanne Brennan 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 first rehearsal for **Choir** will be on Wednesday, **September 20** 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**



The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who donated items for the rummage sale and those who worked hard and made it possible to display all those items. Without your help, it would have taken twice as long. We greatly appreciate all of you. The rummage sale made \$2,336. This is fantastic. We will be able to do all we did before and a little more. It seems God always provides no matter how much we worry about it. The shoes went to Shoes for Car seats which also helps third world countries start small businesses and helps build clean water wells. The left over blue jeans went to the lady who needs them to make quilts for the homeless. The rest of the items went to the Salvation Army, who came and picked them up.

The Backpack Buddies was a success and money was collected for 15 TI-34 calculators for low income 5th graders at Riverview Grade School, who will use them probably through high school, and supplies for 10 low income 8th graders. The school was very appreciative of all we do. It is amazing how much money it takes to send a child to school now-a-days.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you do. 2 Corinthians 9: 7-18, taken out of context....God loves a cheerful giver. This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service which you have provided, you will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

**Submitted by: Deb Kamp, Missions Committee Chair**

Thank you to all who donated blood. We had 14 donations which will help 42 people.

**Submitted by: Joe Helms**



- ♦ April Nauman states that her granddaughter, Reagan Wayne Kirkham arrived safely, on August 14 at 8:31am. Her heart arrhythmia is still present but EKG showed non-serious type. She will have another EKG in a few weeks to see if it is resolved. Breana said her epidural went so smooth and delivery was quick. Thanks for the prayers.
- ♦ Kristina Bencher is so excited to have accepted a job offer at Finance of America Mortgage. Prayers for a smooth transition for her and especially Charlotte.



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.



Be sure to check our website 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.

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.



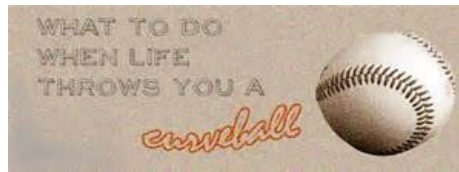
If you would like your name added to the birthday list, have had an email address change or would like your email address added to the any of the church email groups (1-receive announcements & newsletter, 2-receive prayer requests). See Judy Schaer, email at [Jude187@msn.com](mailto:Jude187@msn.com) 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 (**September 18**) 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 **September 11** and **25** 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**



**ALL HANDS ON DECK!!** Hurricane Harvey has not stopped raining on Texas but we are getting ready to help its survivors. We have purchased 27,000 trash bags and volunteers are rolling them - getting them ready for Cleaning Bucket Kits. Other volunteers are assembling the kits. It has been a busy year for flood relief and we will need all the Cleaning Bucket Kit supplies. Bug spray is in especially short supply. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations or supplies bought through DollarDays (link below) would be the best way to donate, as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices. For more information. you may go to the website: [www.midwestmissiondc.org](http://www.midwestmissiondc.org) or phone 217-483-7911. Monetary donations can be sent to:

MMDC, P.O. Box 56, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629  
[www.midwestmissiondc.org](http://www.midwestmissiondc.org)  
[office@midwestmissiondc.org](mailto:office@midwestmissiondc.org)  
<https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html>

Thank you for all your support!

#### ***Midwest Mission Distribution Center Staff***

Another volunteer report: Nancy Utsinger, a member of RiversEdge, reported that she and 224 volunteers spent Monday morning, August 28 at the Midwest Food Bank in Normal (one of our Spring Bay food pantry donors), packing boxes for a one-week supply of food to be sent to Texas for families of 4. They packed enough boxes to fill one semi. In the afternoon volunteers finished packing boxes for the second semi. She stated: "What a way to meet and make new friends from around Illinois plus meeting the head of Habitat for Humanity."



The Communications Committee is in the process of getting signs for the inside of the church. These 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.

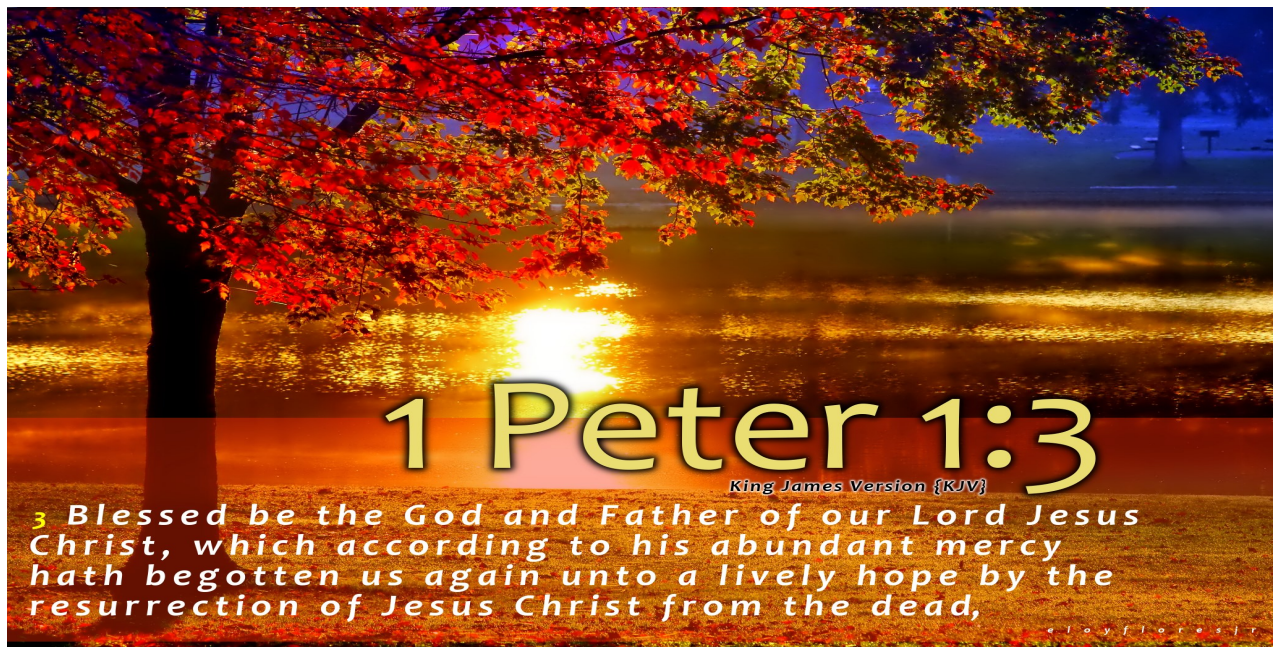


After the blizzards and after the drifts,  
after the snowbanks and temperature shifts...  
After the blossoms from light colored buds,  
after the rainstorms and after the floods...  
After the heat from the high summer sun,  
after the grain that is ripe for autumn...  
come September harvest.

When old farmer Elmer is out on his field,  
reaping the harvest with plenteous yield,  
reminding me fully of lost, lonely souls,  
that we need to harvest from Satan's controls.  
To he who repents and to he who believes,  
to all who accept Him, to all of the sheaves...  
come September harvest.

The harvest is plenty with laborers few  
but these are the souls that we need to get to.  
If we love our neighbors as we ourselves love -  
(you must know by now what I'm speaking of...)  
For though this big world is in stark opposition,  
we recommit fully for this great commission...  
come September harvest.

***By: Louis Gander***



# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 7:00 p.m. Trustees	6	7 4:30 p.m. Communica- tions	8 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ Kings Closet	9
10 5:30 p.m. O.U.R. @ the Ruders	11 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	12 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	13	14	15	16
17	18 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ Bob Evans)	19 7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership	20 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	21	22 6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	23 3:00 p.m. Wedding
24	25 7:00 p.m. Curve Balls	26	27	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.

**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

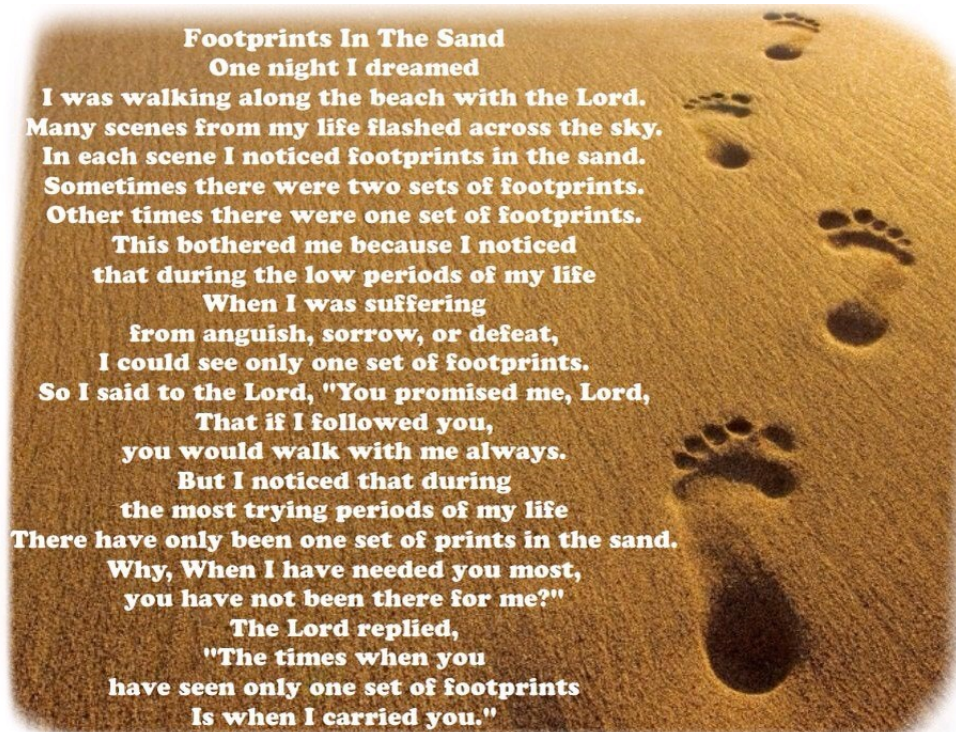
**O.U.R.: Outwardly Upwardly Righteously**  
(first Sunday of month)

**CURVE BALLS SUPPORT GROUP:**

7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

**KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:**

8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday



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

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

