



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

November 2015

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

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

***** www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org *****

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A Note from the Pastor:

Last Sunday, the passage for the sermon was the story of the healing of blind Bartimaeus in the Gospel of Mark (10.46-52). I focused on the translation of anablepo, which can be translated as “see” or “see again.” I chose to translate it as “see again,” but for this reflection, I’d like to think about what it meant if Bartimaeus was born blind and was asking to have sight for the first time.

If Bartimaeus was indeed born blind, then what are some of the reasons he might have had for wanting the sense of sight? Well, the story itself gives us a clue. He was a beggar. In our culture, to make one’s living by begging is not a reputation builder. For us, begging would be humiliating. If there was a way to not beg, we’d want it as well, regardless of the unintended consequences.

This question is still rattling around in my brain, however: “How do we know to want something when we’ve never had it to begin with?” How would someone who has never heard a sound know to want the sense of hearing? How would someone who is short know to want to be tall? I could go on and on, but it seems there is a common element in many questions like this. The element is comparison. We want to be like someone else. We see someone having something we don’t have, and we want it. There is a darker side of this, too. If we have been demeaned, criticized, or attacked because we weren’t tall enough, fast enough, have the correct ethnicity, et cetera, we may want something we don’t have precisely because we want to end the torment we experience from the mouths and hands of others.

As I said in the sermon, what are our deepest desires? It could very well be to see, to hear, to taste, to talk. These are not bad things to desire. My desire in this article is to call us to do two things. First, are we truly taking the time to discern how our desires align with the desires of God, and second, are we conscious of the ways in which we may be contributing to the desires of others by our statements and actions regarding their supposed disability?

The first question is our inner journey. How are our desires being formed and reinforced? More importantly, how well do we accept our core selves? Are we at peace with who we are fundamentally?

The second question is our outer journey. How are we lifting up the spirits of those around us, especially those who are differently abled than we are? Do we intentionally or unintentionally make them feel inferior to us? Do we imply with our words or actions they are burdens to us? A simple example might suffice. I have heard repeated comments throughout my life regarding the cost involved in making sidewalks handicapped accessible. How, do you suppose, these words sound to those who are dependent on a wheelchair, but still desire to be independent human beings?

Perhaps the crowd in the story was trying to silence Bartimaeus since he was calling attention to the ways in which society failed to care for those who weren’t able to see - a society which left him to his own devices to earn a living, which sadly, was begging.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



- ◆ Bonnie Smith had a good visit with her son and daughter-in-law in Mississippi.
- ◆ Deb Hanley and her family (Pastor Andy's sister) travelled to Illinois.
- ◆ Amy and Jason Potter celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Amber was inducted into the Metamora Hall of Fame as a member of the 2003 Cross Country team.
- ◆ Judy Meyer is thankful for having a successful eye surgery.
- ◆ Doug Doty is thankful to have celebrated 45 years of marriage with the most amazing person he knows.
- ◆ Larry and Jane's grandson Ben Winkler was ordained.
- ◆ Kim & Darren Mitchell's daughter Bryana had a white coat ceremony for her veterinary studies.
- ◆ Virginia Munson was back in church after her health issues.
- ◆ Kerry Ridge is doing very well.
- ◆ Bonnie's son and daughter-in-law were in for a visit.
- ◆ Jainie's, brother in law's son Tyler just graduated from Marine boot camp.
- ◆ Libby's co-worker and new baby continue to improve in health.
- ◆ Members of Sharon McClellan's family have reconciled.
- ◆ Judy Meyer's second eye surgery went much better than the first.
- ◆ Monte is doing well with his new chemo treatment.
- ◆ Joy for the beautiful Fall weather.



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 Schaar know. The committee wanted pictures to depict the life of our church.

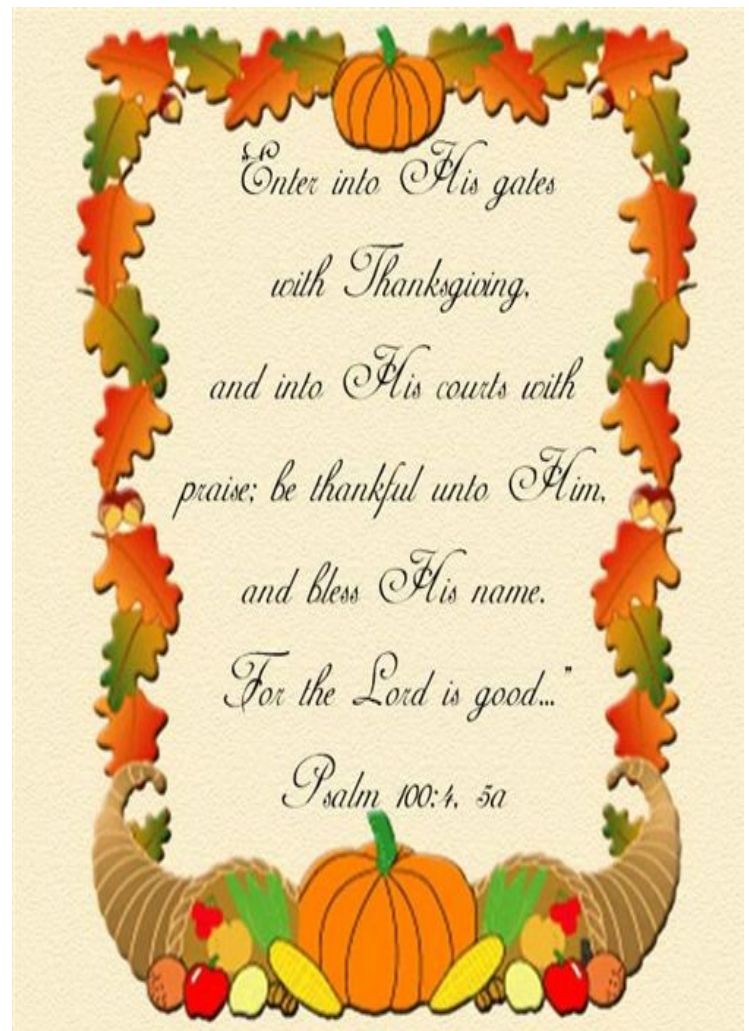
Submitted by: Publicity Committee



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 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 **November 9 & 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).



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.

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



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.





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 8:30 a.m. at a restaurant of the group's choosing. The next meeting will be November 16 at The Galley.

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) or cell (309-883-1422).

PRAISE THE LORD

GIVE

THANKS

TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD;
HIS LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER.

Psalm 106:1 NV

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We have received the names for Santa Express from Chaddock. There are five children and we hope that everyone will participate in making this their best Christmas ever. Two of the children are brother and sister and have one thing on their list, they have requested a Wii. Another child has requested a Nintendo DS. This will be a challenging set of gifts this year. Look for the Santa Express Bulletin Board and have fun.

Thank you for the many suitcases donated. We will deliver them and they will be put to good use. Thank you very much.

Submitted by: Deb Kamp, Missions Committee



Practice for the Christmas program, **Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior**, will begin the month of November. Sunday, November 1st, CDs with the songs that need to be learned were given to the participants.

We welcome any child or youth that is interested in being in the program to join us for practice on Sunday mornings. Practice will be held during the month of November from 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. so as not to interfere with the regular Sunday School time.

Please look for more information concerning practice times in December and the date of the program in upcoming bulletins and the December newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Helms at 822-8905, April Nauman at 265-8221 or email april.nauman@gmail.com, or Dianna Delinski at 696-8822 or email delnski6@mtco.com

Submitted by: April Nauman, Sunday School Teacher



NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 5 p.m. O.U.R. at Nauman's Daylight Saving Time Move Clock Back 1 Hour	2 7 p.m. Trustees	3	4 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	6	7
8	9 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	10 7 p.m. Ad Council	11	12 7 p.m. MABL Bible Study	13	14
15 10:30 a.m. Youth Led Service & Sock Drive	16 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (@ the Galley) 7 p.m. Our Precious Life	17	18 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	19 7 p.m. Ladies of Learning (LOL)	20 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry & King's Closet	21
22	23 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	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)
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

OUR PRECIOUS LIFE:

7 p.m. 3rd Monday

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP:

7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:

8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday

LET US GIVE THANKS

If we have lived another year
And, counting friends by regiments
Who share our love and confidence,
Find no more broken ranks,
For this let us give thanks.

If, since the last Thanksgiving-time,
Have we been blessed with strength and health,
And added to our honest wealth,
Nor lost by broken banks,
For this would we give thanks.

If through adversity we trod,
Yet with serene and smiling face,
And trusted more to saving grace
Than charlatans and cranks,
For this let us give thanks.

If we have somehow worried through
The ups and downs along life's track,
And still undaunted can look back
And smile at Fortune's pranks,
For this would we give thanks.

If every page in our account
With God and man is fairly writ,
We care not who examines it,
With no suspicious blanks,
For this let us give thanks.

- Hattie Howard

