



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

October 2016

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

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

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Ocotober

A Note from your Pastors:

Sins, sinners, and baseball

Last Sunday, we spent a great deal of time talking about sin during the "Digging Deeper" adult Bible study. We didn't come up with an exhaustive list of sins. Rather, we talked about Matthew 5.48 - "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." NRSV. This idea of being perfect has been with us Christians since the fifth century, when the Bible was translated into Latin. In Latin, the word which translates "telios" essentially means "flawless" where in the Greek it means "whole, complete." This has been the cause of anguish for almost two thousand years. All of us knows what it is like to grow into maturity. We know what it's like to leave our foolish ways behind us to become healthy and whole. None of us knows what it is like for a human to be flawless.

But yet, it's this Latin translation which keeps many of us calling ourselves "sinners." We see that we have flaws, thus we are sinners every day of our lives because we are not flawless. The problem, other than being contrary to the Greek of scripture, is we wear this label so tightly we can fail to see how God is at work trying to heal us, trying to make us whole and complete.

This whole notion of sinners and healing reminded me of baseball. Most of us know about batting averages. A person who hits every pitch would have an average of 1.000 while someone who never gets a hit would have an average of 0.000. Great batters have an average above .300. Think about it. Someone who gets a hit once every three times at bat is considered great. What would happen if a batter said to himself or herself, "since I'm not batting perfectly (1.000), I might as well not try to bat." Who on the team would bat, if everyone had this idea?

The same attitude can be a problem in our faith life. We are called by Christ to live holy lives. If we think holy means "flawless," then few of us will try to make the effort. However, if we realize how Christ calls us to become complete, whole, healthy, we will make the effort because we will know that while we might miss the mark from time to time, it is no excuse to not try, to not grow, to not be healed.

We don't need to bat "a thousand" in order to be a faithful follower of Jesus. We just need to know two things. 1. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be healed to live holy lives and 2. The grace of God does not stop when we don't bat "a thousand." If you feel like giving up, please don't. If you feel like not trying, rethink your attitude. Christ didn't ask us to be flawless, He asked us to become complete. Missing the mark doesn't end our rotation in God's batter's box. Batter up!

Blessings,
Pastors Andy and Kristi Hopp



- ◆ April Nauman is thankful for the young children in Sunday school who recognized and asked for us to pray for the anniversary of 9-11.
- ◆ Doug and Dianna Delinski celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Mary Poignant announced that she will be a grandma again in March.
- ◆ The food pantry had 67 families consisting of 220 people.
- ◆ Mike & Cindy Osenkarski: "We have a major joy! We are the proud grandparents of a beautiful perfect baby boy. Jason Robert Cox was born on Friday. Mom, Dad, and Baby are all doing well after a very long haul. All turned out well. We would like to thank everyone for their prayers. Prayers Work!"
- ◆ Dianna & Doug Delinski are grandparents to a new granddaughter, Piper Mae, born on September 22. Corinne, Chad and Piper are now home and everyone is doing great. Thanks for prayers said for them.



We are seeking the addresses for the following military individuals: Brian Rezak (Afghanistan), Tyler (graduated from boot camp), Alex Bigelow (South Korea), Isaac Braun (Arizona), Jordan Doty (Jacksonville, FL), Jason Lynn (Texas), Kyle Rummel (Florida), Tyler Graves (Afghanistan), Isaiah Herzog. Please call Joe Helms at 822-8770 or 635-3508 with the information.



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 Youth Group Program.



OUR PRECIOUS LIFE is a monthly group for widows, held at the church on the 3rd Monday. Participants will need to bring their bibles. If you have questions please contact Pastor Kristi via e-mail (krishopp@outlook.com) or cell (309-573-3061). This month's meeting is **October 17**.

Adult group **DIGGING DEEPER** will be 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 17**) at 8:30 a.m. at a **LePeep**. Participants will need to bring a copy of the Upper Room devotional magazine and their bibles. If you have questions please contact Pastor Andy via e-mail (try2hopp@msn.com) or cell (309-883-1422).



The Sun Foundation is looking for gardeners to help establish Joanne Bloom's Memorial Garden located on the corner of Sun Rd. and Blue Heron Rd. off of Route 26 in Marshall County. It is a native wildflower butterfly garden with areas that need weeding, seed collecting and planting. Please contact Dominique Kreie at 309-246-7413 if you are interested. Their schedule is flexible.



Mark your calendar for **October 9**. A **MOSTLY MUSIC & MEAL** (service at 10:30am) is being planned. If you are interested in providing a special number, please let Judy know (822-8770). Fried chicken, drinks and dinnerware will be furnished. You are invited to bring a dish to share.



Pastor Kristi is expanding the 'Divorce Support Group' to help others with varied challenges.

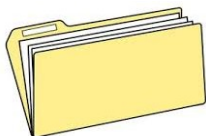
CURVE BALLS: Learn to hit curve balls, life rarely pitches straight. God can teach you how to swing.

This group is open for anyone who would like to join.

We meet on **October 10 and 24 at 7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in joining us or want more information, please contact Pastor Kristi Hopp via cell (309-573-3061) or e-mail (krishopp@outlook.com).

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.



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



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.

Submitted by: Publicity Committee



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



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.



OCTOBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 5pm O.U.R. at the Call's	3 7pm Trustees	4	5 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7 9-11am Food Pantry King's Closet	8
9 10:30am Mostly Music Service 11:45 Meal 12:30 Charge Conference	10 7pm Curve Balls	11 7pm Ad Council	12 7pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
16	17 8:30am Keeping the Flame Alive (at LePeep) 7pm Our Precious Life	18	19 7pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23	24 7pm Curve Balls	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)

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

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

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE:
8:30 a.m. 3rd Monday



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