



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

September 2016

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

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

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

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A Note from your Pastors:

Psalm 34.18 "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit."

As pastors, my wife and I have ample opportunity to sit and pray with those with heavy hearts. The reasons for the sadness are many, but hearts broken by grief is our specialty. Not only have we lived through the loss of many loved ones, we have also spent much time learning how to counsel those who are grieving. We have seen what works, and we have seen what doesn't.

Many times, our theology, our thinking about the ways of God, come up short when tragedy strikes. Throughout centuries, we have often rationalized tragedy as part of God's will. While this is an option, it isn't a path Pastor Kristi and I tread. We are Methodists, and we believe in free will. We also believe that God doesn't send hardships to test us. It is written in James 1.13 "No one, when [tested], should say, "I am being [tested] by God"; for God cannot be [tested] by evil and he himself [tests] no one." NRSV, with "test" being a valid translation.

So, during times of grief and anguish, I turn to the Psalm 34.18. This passage is a direct contradiction to the belief that God blesses good people and curses bad people. Bad things happen to good people. The grace and the joy of this passage is our mighty God is near to us when sorrow and pain visits us. While the sorrow and pain aren't immediately lifted (after all, our grief is a direct reflection of how much we loved someone), our burdens can be made lighter through the presence of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement and support of others.

Pastor Kristi and I thank you for your prayers and encouragement during this difficult time for us.

Blessings,
Pastors Andy and Kristi Hopp



- ♦ The surgery of Russ Vance's grandnephew Curt went well & he was able to come home the next day.
- ♦ Joe Helms thanks Doug Doty for mowing his lawn while he was in the hospital.
- ♦ Joe Helms states that Blayde & Desirae each broke their best times at the cross country meet.



SEPTEMBER HISTORY NOW YOU KNOW...

- According to the Georgian calendar, September is the ninth month. But, on the Roman calendar, it was the seventh month. September has had 29 days, and 31 days; but, since the time of the emperor Augustus, it has had only 30 days.
- The Autumn Equinox is September 22
- September Gemstone: Sapphire
- September Flower: Morning Glory
- More people are born in September than any other month!
- Baby Safety Month
- Better Breakfast Month
- Blueberry Popsicle Month
- Chicken Month
- Classical Music Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Honey Month
- Mushroom Month
- Papaya Month
- National Piano Month
- Potato Month
- Rice Month
- Self Improvement Month

<http://popculturemadness.com/Trivia/September/index.php#sthash.eAaqUYmJ.dpuf>

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'.

OUR PRECIOUS LIFE

This 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 (kristi_hopp@yahoo.com) or cell (309-573-3061). This month's meetings is **September 19**.

Submitted by: Pastor Kristi Hopp



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 (**September 19**) 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).

Submitted by: Pastor Andy Hopp



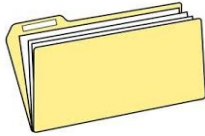
John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. Aluminum CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. If you have any, you may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church. You may call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck 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.



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 **September 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).

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



Our **NEW WEBSITE** is live! Be sure to check it out 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 need two adults who are willing to **TEACH OUR YOUTH** who come to Sunday School. We are currently looking for one more teacher for the junior high age group. 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.

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.

The **CHOIR** summer sabbatical is coming to an end. The first rehearsal is planned for Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. and our first Sunday will be September 18. 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.



September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 7 p.m. Nominations /Lay Leadership	7	8	9 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry & King's Closet	10
11	12 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group (cancelled)	13 7 p.m. Ad Council	14 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17
18	19 8:30 a.m. Keeping the Flame Alive (at LePeep) 7 p.m. Our Precious Life	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 7 p.m. Divorce Support Group	27	28 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	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)

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

