



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

September 2015

RiversEdge United Methodist Church

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

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

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## A Note from the Pastor:

Emoticons. Perhaps you know this word, perhaps you do not. For those who don't, an emoticon is a set of symbols to help convey emotion in a written document. For example, :) is used often for a smiley face, while ;) is often used for a wink. As we communicate more and more by the written word, we have felt it necessary to include these emoticons in our writing, especially if we are trying to be funny or sarcastic. Too often, when we read a message from someone, we can put our own voice on top of the words instead of the writer's voice.

You may not realize it, but we have a similar issue with our Bible. Our scriptures are written texts, and as much as we may wish we had emoticons in our Bible, we do not. So, here is what can happen. If we view God as an angry God, then when we read the Bible we will hear the words with an angry tone. If we view God as a loving God, we might hear the words with a more soft or pleading tone.

This is one of the reasons why we read scripture aloud in worship. We need to hear the words of God, not just think them. Hearing the words with different tones can help us understand God's message to us more completely. When the scriptures were written, most were illiterate. So the letter of Paul to the Galatians was read aloud, not read in silence with everyone reading his or her own copy. In addition, a good reader would change their tone even when reading this short letter. He or she might have bellowed "You foolish Galatians!" while later softly reading the sentence "My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness." (Gal 6.1 NRSV)

The same is true for us, whether we are speaking the scriptures aloud at worship or in a small group setting with friends or family. We have a responsibility to look at the text and to interpret the text rightly so that we might speak it correctly. Not every word in scripture should be read with an angry tone, nor should it be read, heaven forbid, in MONOTONE. May we be God's emoticons, sharing with others the love and compassion of Jesus Christ in the way we read the Bible aloud for others to hear.

Blessings,  
Pastor Andy



- ◆ Thankful for the Hopp's safe travels.
- ◆ Jane Winkler thanks all who worked on the rummage sale.
- ◆ Marilyn Hodge is home.
- ◆ Randy Waldrip's sister and brother in law, Guy and Brenda Armstrong, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Evonne is happy her dog is doing ok and that she still has a job at Metamora Grade playing the piano.
- ◆ Pastor Andy is thankful for the blacktop sealers Lonnie Rich recommended to the church.
- ◆ Jeremy Doty home from Louisiana & Jordan Doty will be home soon!
- ◆ The Cotton's grandson and his bride are expecting.
- ◆ Evonne is joyful her water pressure tank was repaired at a third of the cost.
- ◆ Julie Weber is expecting a baby.
- ◆ Amy and Jeff Morrow celebrated their ten year anniversary.
- ◆ Dianna Delinski's thankful that nothing was damaged and no one was hurt when the roof over the garage collapsed.

## HALLOWEEN Family Fun Night

We have decided to cancel the **FALL FESTIVAL** this year. We are planning a **HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN NIGHT** on October 31 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. instead. We will have candy, food, s'mores, games and a bonfire for the surrounding communities. This event will be free, but donations are welcomed. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Amy Potter (309-648-4292) or Evonne Cowling.

*Submitted by: Family Life Committee*



Our **NEW WEBSITE** will be available on September 3. Be sure to check it out at [riversedgeumc.org](http://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 Schaer 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*





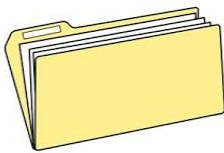
### TAKE CARE OF MY CHURCH

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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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.

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 [jdody69@gmail.com](mailto:jdody69@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 [doug-doty@aol.com](mailto:doug-doty@aol.com).

**CHOIR** The summer sabbatical is coming to an end. The first rehearsal is planned for Wednesday, September 9 at 7p.m.. 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*



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](mailto: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 **September 14 & 28 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](mailto: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.

The Youth are collecting **BIBLES** between now and November 1 to be taken to 'Love Packages' where they will be processed for sending overseas for Christmas. You may leave them on the credenza in the Bridge area.



Moms give and give and give some more, but they rarely take time to receive. No wonder mom-burnout threatens to snuff out the simple joys of being a mother.

Wouldn't it be nice if moms had some time just for themselves to encourage one another, learn from each other's challenges and most of all, be refreshed through laughter? That is what **MomTime** is all about! Come and join us for MomTime Saturday, September 26 at 9:30 a.m. – food, faith, friends and fun!



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.

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### 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.

Work while you work,  
 Play while you play;  
 One thing each time,  
 That is the way,  
 All that you do,  
 Do with your might;  
 Things done by halves  
 Are not done right  
 — Anonymous

### FINISH THE WORK

While working for Jesus  
 we have to press on til we finish  
 laboring for our master  
 and selfish goals relinquish  
 to look on the harvest fields  
 that are already ripe  
 to reap in the lost souls  
 of every color and stripe  
 loving souls as we labor  
 the way that Jesus did  
 giving out the saving message  
 not letting the gospel light be hid  
 We must finish the work  
 that Jesus gave us to do  
 to lay up treasures in heaven  
 and to our calling ever be true

[http://cavaliersonly.com/labor\\_for\\_jesus](http://cavaliersonly.com/labor_for_jesus)



"He follows your 'tweets.' That's how God  
 always knows what you're doing."



The mission committee would like to thank all those who donated items for the Riverview Backpack buddies. We filled twelve backpacks with supplies and the youth group filled an additional four more. That was a tremendous response for those in need. They really appreciated it when we took them to the school.

We would also like to thank those that donated surplus goodies to our garage sale. We made \$1500 for our mission outreach. This is great since weekend snack pack takes \$1000 for the year. The school did an all call to all the Riverview families and there were a few mothers with daughters who were able to get great school clothes for them. The girls had fun picking them out. A big thank you goes out to all those that worked during the week to get it all ready and then to take the donations. We could not have done it without you.

If you would like to be on the Missions Committee please let the nominations committee know.

The Missions Committee will be having a small luggage drive soon for the foster children. Many times they have to keep their clothing in garbage bags as they move from place to place. Those who donated these items to the garage sale...we hung onto them for this drive. Thank you for them.

*Submitted by: Deb Kamp, Missions Committee*





**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 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Youth (grades 6 – 12)  
Adults

**YOUTH GROUPS:** (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Sunday Once a Month TBA  
11:45 a.m. – Jr. High & Sr. High

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** (7<sup>th</sup> 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

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT:**  
TBA

**DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP:**  
7 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mondays

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**500 N. Chicago St.**  
**Spring Bay, IL 61611-9118**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

