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March 2019

UNSTUCK: CHURCH LIFE CYCLE

If we are on the right path and not facing any difficulties then think again, we may be on a wrong path, because right path contains difficulties. Most organizations start, grow, thrive, lose momentum, decline and eventually end up in life-support. Recently, through the help of (IGRC) our conference REUMC was doing an assessment of our current state or assessing our church life cycle, the following are some of our findings and the current stages of our church. We are in the stage of maintenance. Every church just like any other organization might be on a launch phase, momentum growth phase, strategic growth phase, sustained health phase, maintenance phase, preservation phase or life support phase. There is an ed-ucative video on the igrc.org website, in the following link. (<https://www.igrc.org/assessment>). This concept comes originally from the book called *Unstuck Church: Equipping churches to experience sustained health*.



No ministry slips into a maintenance season intentionally, but this is the path every church drift toward if intentional steps aren't taken to avoid it. What's crazy about this phase is that, on the surface, everything about the church can still appear very healthy. Growth is likely still happening, though at a slower pace. The church may be financially healthier than it has ever been. That said, there will be red flags. The ministries begin to focus more on the people who are already connected to the church than the people they are trying to reach. The focus scale tips toward sustaining systems and structure rather than remaining on the vision. Methods begin to supersede mission. At this stage the priority focus will be to keep people happy. The complexity reigns. There is a shift toward an inward focus. The vision stales. The ministry silos are formed.

For us to get unstuck we need a new shift and a transition or a reverse journey. Each stage is unique, but the left-side is more a sweet spot, but unfortunately many of the traditional churches on the right side of the curve. The journey and its invitation for us as a community is to have a shift in the curve. We believe God desires for every church is to live out its purpose at the pinnacle of sustained health. Many Christians believe that a truly spirit-led ministry has no structure, because God is a spontaneous God. We know it is natural to know the fact that healthy things grow, and hope is not a strategy. Let's journey from inside focus to a community focus. Every new beginning starts with prayer. As we approach this season of lent and leading towards Easter lets have that hope build in our heart. Trust in God, empty ourselves and believe in God who work works through the process to renew our minds and changes our hearts. We all are distinct in our own way, just like our church is about the ministry and its mission, Our role is to bring clarity to what's most important and take strategic action. We can get stuck in any phase of growth on our way to sustained health. In our personal life we can get fixated at any stage of life without reaching our full potential. We can also get stuck sliding down the other side of the life-cycle, experiencing pain of infectiveness and decline.

I am reminded of what Jesus said to Peter, "Upon this Rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail. "God will prevail and receive the glory. **Amen. Pr. Binu Peniel**



Come join us for Bible Study at **9:15 a.m.** on **Sunday** mornings. Pastor Binu is leading an Alpha bible study. The Alpha course is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. It is described by its organizers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life".



Monthly **Food Pantry** Days are **March 1** and **29**. 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.



First, we are asking you for your ideas and input to evaluate our youth programs, Sunday School, Children's activities, etc., from preschool to college. It seems in the 7 to 8ish years I've been coming to RiversEdge and witnessing, that our youth are fading away. In order for us to survive as a church, we need to bring our kids back, invite new ones, contact those that have left and keep those that we have now. I am asking you for your thoughts and ideas on how we can sustain and keep our kids and invite new kids to join us. Christ is and should be our #1 priority and it's up to us to teach them, get them excited about church and therefore, keep them excited. Maybe it's sprucing up our Sunday school rooms, new material or one of your kids has mentioned why they do not like Sunday school or church. Without Christ in their lives, they may never get to know Him, whether it's in our church or one of their choosing when they grow up.

You may contact me at kshermacinski050713@gmail.com , 309-431-0711 or before/after church. Your help is truly needed for our church growth with Christ. We will have a meeting after 2nd service **March 3**.

Second, Joe Helms and I are starting up our Junior High and High School Youth Group. A spring trip is being planned now to go down to Kentucky to see the life-size Arc. We are also planning on going to Baby Fold with a pizza party or bowling, etc. We are asking for the age groups of 6th on up parents and grandparents to have a short meeting in the near future for ideas related to this. We are so excited to get this going. We are hoping that our youth participants will invite their friends and then pray that these friends will say something to their parents. What a great way to get new bodies in the pews, plus a great way to grow our church.

I pray that you will give great consideration to these 2 ideas as I would truly love to see our church grow, youth program strengthened and see new people by the end of the year 2019. Thank you so much for your time. Please pray about our church. Your thoughts and ideas are appreciated. **Submitted by: Karen Hermacinski**



You may stop in at RiversEdge anytime on Ash Wednesday, **March 6**, during the hours of 7:00 a.m. -9:30 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. to receive communion, receiving of ashes and a time of prayer.



We are having our next American Red Cross Blood Drive on **March 30**, 8:00 a.m. to Noon. I will have a sheet available to SIGN UP. We would really like to have a lot of donations. The RED CROSS has a very serious shortage of blood and plasma products. They are looking for help as a blood shortage continues. As always thank you for your past donations. **Submitted by: Joe Helms**



We will be having a 'Mostly Music' Sunday morning church service at 10:30 a.m. on **March 31**. The Praise Team will be singing plus the choir and several specials. Let us fill our sanctuary and lift the roof with our congregational singing. Let the spirit fill our souls as we worship our God. I can't imagine what it would be like to hear 200 voices singing praises!!!! For those interested in hearing a full message by Pastor Binu, you may worship at 8:00 a.m. Even better, attend both services with Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:15 a.m. We will finish our morning worship with a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share). Fried chicken, drink and dinnerware will be furnished. Hope to see you for a fantastic morning of worship. **Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Co-chair with Jarrod Doty of the Worship Committee**

STEP-UP AND SERVE.

USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE TO SERVE OTHERS.

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. The new sign-up sheets for the whole year are in place. Also, if you are interested in doing a children's message, see Pastor Binu. There is room on the signup sheet for other **SPECIALS** (solos, duets, reading, etc.). If you are interested, please contact Judy at 822-8770 or 645-6625.

We still need one **SUNDAY SCHOOL** teacher. We are working towards having two teachers per class. Please talk with 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 657-8904.

NURSERY—PAID POSITION. Need an adult to assist/oversee the nursery on Sunday mornings. See Matt Freeman or Ron Call if you are interested or know of anyone that might be or if you would like additional information.



“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.” —2 Corinthians 4:1, NRSV

The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries is celebrating 200 years of mission. In Matthew 28:19-20 (NRSV), Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ... and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

For 200 years, the General Board of Global Ministries has been the mission and humanitarian- assistance agency for The United Methodist Church. Today it facilitates mission in more than 130 countries, leading the church’s work in global health.

Missionaries are essential to Global Ministries work. Serving in more than 60 countries around the world, they come from many places and backgrounds, witnessing and working in dramatically different locales and cultures. They engage in a range of activities and professions by serving as pastors, educators, congregational and leadership developers, agriculturalists, health coordinators, doctors and much more.

When your congregation supports the World Service Fund, you help Global Ministries to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission. Thank you! ***Adapted from Global Ministries webpage***

Our missionary is Priscilla Jaiah. We support her with our rummage sale money. Rev. Priscilla Legay Jaiah is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church and the Superintendent of Ganta Mission Station of the United Methodist School in Liberia, West Africa. As the Superintendent, she oversees the agricultural program, coordinates training, staff development programs and outreach activities, and engages with local and international partners to increase funding for program support. ***Submitted by: Deb Kamp, Missions Committee***



Scan the QR code at the end of the newsletter with your smart phone or visit riversedgeumc.org. You will find the newsletters, calendars and announcements. Check out new pictures/videos that have been added. If you see pictures that you are in and would like them removed, please let Judy Schaer know.

Submitted by: Communications Committee



John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. You may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church or call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. When he gets a truck load, he takes them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Church account.

GOD | AT | WORK

- ◆ Don Jacobs would like to thank everyone who took the time to send him greetings at Christmas time. They were very much appreciated.
- ◆ Ron Call is thankful to everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and acts of kindness following his time in the hospital and after coming home. All are appreciated.
- ◆ Jake and Barb Jacobs have the joy of the addition of their 13th great-grandchild, Albagail.
- ◆ Joe Helms announced the joy the Food Pantry had in being one of the Reclaimed Resale's 3 charities for the month of January. They were given a check for \$2500.
- ◆ Joe also shared the joy of receiving \$800 in gift cards to the Metamora IGA from Lisa Obery who chairs a food basket drive in Metamora.
- ◆ Denise Miller was able to be in worship. She is able to be out and walking after her knee surgery.
- ◆ Gladys Call is now doing rehab at Snyder Village in Metamora.
- ◆ Orda Doty is thankful for all the prayers and concern while she was at OSF this past. She is glad to be home.
- ◆ Holly Lynn counts it both a joy and concern that Jacob has decided to go back on active duty. He will be at Fort Campbell, KY.

Dear Congregation,

Since having the opportunity to serve on the Trustees, I have become so much more aware of the needs for the church/parsonage and food pantry buildings. I have also become so much more aware of those who dedicate their time and donate their services to maintenance and repairs.

In 2018, we had the opportunity to do some much-needed updates in the parsonage. When we asked for volunteers, many of you stepped up to take on a task. For all of your time & talents shared ... THANK YOU!

Holly Lynn



The Midwest Mission Distribution Center of the United Methodist Church provides disaster relief supplies around the world. Supplies bought through DollarDays (<https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html>) would be the best way to donate, as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations may be sent to:

MMDC, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558
www.midwestmissiondc.org | office@midwestmissiondc.org



Severe Weather in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee Wildfires in California

Hurricane Michael (Alabama – West Florida - South Georgia), Hurricane Florence (South Carolina) & Hurricane Maria (Puerto Rico)

Earthquakes and Tsunami in Indonesia

Typhoon Mangkut

To support relief efforts consider a gift to U.S. Disaster Response at https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/PageNavigator/umcor_donate.html?type=1002&project=901670

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's Closet	2
3 11:45 a.m. Youth/Parent Meeting	4 6:00 p.m. Trustees	5 6:00 p.m. 2nd Service Worship Planning	6  7-9:30 a.m. 4-7:00 p.m. (stop in anytime)	7	8	9
10  5:30 p.m. O.U.R. @ Schaer's	11	12 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	13 4:00 p.m. 1st Service Worship Planning	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20 7:00 p.m. Choir	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's Closet	30 8:00 a.m.— Noon Blood Drive
31 10:30 a.m. Mostly Music & Meal						



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www.chaddock.org

December 31, 2018

RiversEdge UMC at Spring Bay
Rev. Judith Doyle
500 N Chicago St
Spring Bay, IL 61611-9118

Dear Judith,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts, including trucks, clothing, a poncho and many other items, which you have given to the children of Chaddock!

The children we serve are dealing with a whole range of challenging emotional issues. One of the things that will be impressed on their memory is that you, who did not even know them, personally decided to give them gifts over the holidays.

We hope that participating in the Santa Express program this year has been a blessing for you—please know that your gifts will certainly bring great joy to the children we serve!

Neither the children nor the staff at Chaddock will forget your kindness. Thank you once again for supporting Chaddock's life-changing work with children.

Blessings to you,

Debbie Reed
President/CEO

Jeff VanCamp
Executive Director
Chaddock Children's Foundation

DR/JVC:dks

PS: You can see the impact of your gift by visiting our website, www.chaddock.org, and our Facebook page for current photos, stories, and other items of interest.

Thanks so much + blessing on the new year! Shanna

Thank You so much for all you did for me this Christmas. I really enjoyed my new Baja hoodie and my new Jordans. I appreciate you going out of your way to buy these things for me. Christmas was great! I really hope you enjoyed your Christmas as well.

Thanks!

—frankie



Thank You for the Christmas presents I appreciate you
Merry Christmas
—frankie

In recognition of your
generosity, mission, and
sense of compassion for the
children at Chaddock,

we are pleased to recognize
RiversEdge UMC at Spring Bay
as a 2019 Partner Church



Thanks.

Many thanks to all of you who gave to us this Christmas. May the Lord bless you in this new year.

*From our Chaddock Family to yours,
Chaddock*



Thank You for the giant bag of gummy bears. I love them so much! I was so happy when I ~~opened~~ opened it. Thank You!

—Harmoni

thank You
For my mp3
It has help
me stay calm
and it has become
great coping
Skill



Loaves and Fish is a weekly feeding ministry providing a free hot meal, food pantry, worship service, educational assistance, clothing room and medical clinic to those in need each Saturday.

Begun in 1994, Loaves & Fish serves from 250 - 375 guests weekly.





Our Motto "The Church That Cares"

Our Mission

"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

OUR VISION

"Our vision is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors through our witness, welcome and nurture ."

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)

Sunday Morning (All Ages)

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)



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