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December 2019

REUMC - 2019

In the year 2019, RiversEdge has experienced new possibilities and some growing challenges. The year went so fast and the season of advent is already here. I personally want to thank God for all that He is doing.

As I was reflecting, I was amazed and thanked God for all the great things He did in the year 2019. The beginning of the year we started an alpha bible study and offered a campaign to reach 100 new guests. I personally don't know the number of people who visited our congregation, but I am sure there are many who came back to church and joined our congregation. The Unstuck Church assessment was truly an eye opener and a life changer. This helped us to find where our church currently is and we identified that we are in our maintenance stage. After this new awareness, we tried our best efforts to change our focus to shift our community to momentum growth phase and strategic growth phase. No ministry slips into a maintenance season intentionally, but this is the path every church drifts toward if intentional steps aren't taken to avoid it. This year our ministries focused more on the people who are already connected to the church than the people we are trying to reach.

The strategic development began by asking the difficult question such as WHY and why are we doing what we are doing to be an effective and vibrant community. We came up with 70 new ideas for our church. The wonderful part of it was all of them came from the people and from the local community. It was a bottom up approach to leadership. It was also an eye opening for us to know that out of 70, 40 some ideas we could implement with available existing resources. There are many who helped in that process and I truly appreciate all the servant leaders within our church.

As part of this revitalization process, we also received a miracle through Kim Blickenstaff. He is a wealthy investor who was baptized in our church and where spiritual legacy is connected. He came back to us and promised to give us financial investments for our expansion in taking care of all the improvement within the church and offered to build a new food pantry.

This year we also had two meetings with our community leaders. This was a gathering where around 30 people from our community who are the business leaders, School Superintendent/Principal, business owners, village board, Mayor and friends of Kim Blickenstaff gathered to brainstorm and celebrate. The best was this community initiative happened under the leadership of the church, and the community felt that the church is a welcoming community.

During last Easter service, we had 207 people in attendance. This was first time in few years we crossed our 200 mark in worship attendance. We started to see a steady progress thereafter.

As of now, we have more progress with our revitalization process and we are hoping to expand our outreach ministry by building a new food pantry and expanding our geographical and spiritual growth. We are also trying to take care of the business of the church and going to concentrate on the leadership development of the congregation. This year we also replaced our old thermal water furnace unit, which was more than 40 years old, removing over 10,000 lb. of metal from our building.

We started to strengthen our children's ministry this year in 2019. We invested our resources to re-create a new renovated place for our Sunday schools and trying out a new syllabus along with our new children's worship we call "Lighthouse Worship" and the Branding is on progress. We had a great VBS program during last summer where around 40 students from the community had a chance to learn the Word for a week. Today we have Sunday school for all ages starting with toddlers, kindergarten or preschool. We are still in the process of creating more furnished rooms available. We also learned about the immediate need in the Riverview Grade School and our church outside campaign launched a program to help and already started to take momentum which we call Riverview Kindergarten Assistance Boot camp. We also started a "sew powerful purse project" where we will be stitching purses for vulnerable girls in Zambia.

Our next target is to develop our leaders (leadership development -100) and a program to create an “exchange charity model” with our food pantry and community outreach ministries. We want to continue to create more sustainable partners and develop more trusted friends in the community by building bridges. We are also attempting to strengthen the spiritual aspects of our church by strengthening our relational capitals. Also want to continue to explore new and fresh expression of faith. Soon, we also want to see a young family support group start just like our O.U.R. soon.

Overall it was a great year; please continue to uphold the leadership in your prayers as we together continue to strive for excellence and God’s kingdom representation in Spring Bay and beyond.

Although we can’t go back and make a new start, we can start from now and make a new ending.

Thank you so much for all the leaders and we can’t do any of it without your help, contribution and leadership.

May God continue to bless you and may God enlarge your territories.

Pr. Binu Peniel



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **December 20**. 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.



Please join us in worship as the Lighthouse Learners tell the Christmas Story with both words and music. The program **Cookin' Up Christmas – Where Love is the Main Ingredient** will be performed during the 10:30 a.m. service on **December 22**. “This year the annual choir Christmas party is stirring up something new. Instead of the party being all about them, the choir members have collected favorite recipes from their church members and are cookin’ up some treats to share with the community. Join Miss Paula Queen, Emerald Lasagna, Betty Rocker, Rachael Day, Bobby Grey, Martha Steward and Alfred Brown as they collect recipes, cook together and wrap gifts. In the midst of teamwork they learn about the real ‘recipe’ of Christmas: God’s love!” **Submitted by: The Education Committee**



You, your friends and family are invited to our Christmas Eve service on **December 24 @ 7:00 p.m.!** We’re going to celebrate the great love God has for everyone when He gave us His only Son, Jesus Christ. The service will include singing Christmas carols, a Christmas message and candle lighting.

The Education Committee invites you to join Lighthouse Ministry bible study groups for all ages during the 9:15 a.m.—10:15 a.m. hour as well as Children's Church during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Youth Worship Opportunities:

Lighthouse Learners is a place for our youth to get excited about Jesus! Through our Bible lessons, our mission is to teach our young ones biblical truths, showing them the love of Jesus and helping them to show His love to others. Lighthouse Learners is offered Sunday's September—May from 9:15 a.m.—10:15 a.m., ages birth—12th Grade.

Birth—Preschool taught by Mebin Peniel—Little Light Nursery
 K—2nd taught by Jaymie Freeman—upstairs Bell Room
 3rd—5th taught by April Nauman—upstairs Breakwater Room
 6th—8th taught by Cindy Osenkarski—downstairs Beacon Room
 High School taught by Roxanne Ruder—downstairs Harbor Room

Lighthouse Worship Service is offered during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service for children 4 years old through 6th grade. Children start out in the worship area with their parents. During children's time they are invited to come forward for a special message from the pastor or guest presenter. After that they may go back to Lighthouse Worship Service in the Lighthouse Chapel or remain in the worship area with their parents. Busy bags are available for those that wish to remain in the worship area.

Adult Worship Opportunities:

Lighthouse Keepers is for age 16 through adult who are welcome to join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Lighthouse Chapel. Each Sunday participants will explore and strengthen their faith and understanding of God's word. These lessons may be offered via a book study and/or a video series, with discussion among class members. Through these studies we hope to increase our ability to follow Christ with our heads as well as our hearts and hands.



It has been brought to our attention that announcements and prayer concerns from the RiversEdge e-mail account are going to some people's 'junk mail' or Spam folders. If you are on the email list to receive them, please check those folders.



Please remember that we have a Fellowship Time with coffee, donuts and hot tea every **Sunday** morning after first service. All are encouraged to stop by and enjoy some snacks and conversation. Please contribute to the Fellowship Fund when you are able. The cost of this time is supported by your donations, not the church budget.



Are you interested in joining the Choir? You don't have to be a great soloist to join in our fellowship and share in providing a message in song. In fact, if you haven't had any experience, come and stand next to our talented singers and learn from them. We rehearse usually 2 to 3 Wednesdays a month (as announced) at 7:00 p.m. Our next rehearsals will be **December 4** (tentatively). We hope you will consider joining us and receive a blessing by letting God use you in sending an inspirational message to your listeners. There are no age restrictions, just anyone who has an interest in singing.

Looking to Serve?



The Trustees are looking for someone for **SNOW REMOVAL** from all sidewalks and steps of the church and parsonage. This includes the sidewalk from the parsonage to the church. We require the snow be removed within 24 hours of snowfall. Please contact Buzz Cunningham 696-3280 or Carla Doty 657-8903.

10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS** are still needed. If you are interested, please sign up on the Schedule Sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Also, if you are interested in doing a children's message, see Pastor Binu.

The search is on. We are looking for a **KEYBOARD PLAYER and GUITARISTS** for our Praise Team at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please contact Jarrod Doty (657-8904), Carla Doty (657-8903) or Judy Schaer (645-6625).

We still need **VOLUNTEERS** to backup teachers for the Lighthouse Learners classes when regular teachers may be absent. Please contact April Nauman if you are interested.

The Education Committee is making it very easy for anyone to **VOLUNTEER** to help with the 10:30 a.m. Lighthouse Worship formerly known as Children's Church by offering an online sign up site. All you need to do is click on or copy and paste this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050845a8ab2ea5f94-sunday>

A screen will come up listing all the dates available. Simply check the **Sign Up** box next to **Leader or Helper** on the date you have chosen. Next click on the **Submit and Sign Up** tab at the bottom of the page. This will take you to the page **Sign Me Up** where you will see **Sign Up as** with a box under that says **Display an alternate name on the sign up (like a child or spouse)**, click that box and then enter your name, hit the blue **Sign Up Now** box and you are finished and registered for that particular date. **High school age is also encouraged to sign up as a Helper.** If you have any questions or need help with signing up please do not hesitate to ask Jaymie Freeman 657-8902, April Nauman 265-8221 or Cindy Osenkarski 712-7853.



- ◆ Buzz Cunningham's grandson Colin was awarded the 'Eagle Scout Badge' plus the 'Eagle Scout Palm Award'.
- ◆ We at RiversEdge celebrate the one-year anniversary of Pastor Binu and family serving our church.
- ◆ Thanks to all of our veterans.
- ◆ Willella Rich attended first service worship after being absent for several months.
- ◆ Evan Hermacinski thanks everyone for the soda pop can tabs.
- ◆ Don Hrabak celebrated his 90th birthday.
- ◆ Praises for those who give of their time and talents to bring a joyful noise to our worship services (Choir, Praise Band and other musicians).



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



Ongoing Response

**Hurricane Dorian—Florida, Georgia, South Carolina,
 North Carolina & Virginia Conferences
 California Wildfires**

**Flooding—Great Plains (Kansas/Nebraska), Arkansas,
 Texas & Dakotas Conferences**

Severe Storms—West Virginia, Oklahoma & Mississippi Conferences

Flooding & Tornadoes—Wisconsin & West Ohio Conferences

Hurricanes—Michael, Florence, Harvey & Irma

To support relief efforts consider a gift to U.S. Disaster Response at
<https://advance.umcor.org/Projects.aspx?PREGION=NA&PCNTRY=USA&PIMPACT=0003#results>

FLOOD BUCKETS are in the church foyer on west entrance to the building. If you know anyone needing the buckets (containing cleaning items) and/or hygiene kits, please contact Randy Waldrip at 265-6410.

Opportunities To Support

Golden Cross

CHURCH BEYOND THE DOORS

The children's ministries listed below are part of the Golden Cross Ministries of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. REUMC supports these through an annual donation in our church budget. To learn more about these ministries, go to www.igrc.org/goldencross. If you wish to make a personal offering to these charities, you may send a check to the addresses below. Please note in your donation that you are a member of REUMC.

Chaddock

205 S. 24th St.
Quincy, IL 62301

Chaddock is on the cutting edge of residential treatment for children who have experienced severe abuse, neglect or other trauma in their early years of development, and is nationally-respected for the excellent results demonstrated in our Developmental Trauma and Attachment Program (DTAP). The Chaddock team includes over 230 highly trained employees who serve thousands of children and families every year through foster care and a full range of preventative, educational, and treatment services.

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

1200 N. 13th St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205

Improving the quality of life for residents of all ages by providing quality early childhood development services, comprehensive youth services, individual and family support services, services to older adults, and housing economic development services which will help move individuals and families out of poverty. Programs today include the Day Care Program, Emergency Services Program, Community Organizing and Outreach Program, Youth Services including Recreation, Education, and Cultural Arts, and a wide range of Comprehensive Family Support and Family Preservation Services.

The Baby Fold

108 E Willow St.
Normal, IL 61761

The Baby Fold embodies Christian principles to wrap expert care and treatment around children and families who are passing through the storms of life that can impact any of us. Through the compassionate lens of trauma informed care, we offer hope, health, and safety through special education, foster care, post adoptive therapy, and a variety of early intervention services that benefit children, parents, and communities.

Spero Family Services

2023 Richview Rd.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Spero Family Services offers hope, help and healing by providing Christ-centered human services to meet the ever-changing needs of individuals, families and communities. Honoring God, we envision communities where people are physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy.

BREAK THROUGH PRAYER CHALLENGE

5-5-5

@ 5.00 O'clock (AM or PM)
5.00 Minutes
For 500 N. Chicago St.



Let us set our alarm and give five minutes every day in prayer for our church family. Triple-5 (5-5-5) Prayer Challenge. Pray for 5 Minutes @ 5 AM or 5 PM for 500 N. Chicago St. Prayer concerns:

God give us a breakthrough in worship, discipleship, leadership, vision and mission.

God give us a breakthrough in generosity.

God give us unity in our church.

God bless us and enlarges our territory and influence.

God anoint us to develop Christ's nature.



Our Conference, Our Kids is a program to create a \$2.50 million endowment to support the spiritual life programs at each of the Conference's Child Welfare agencies – The Baby Fold in Normal, Chaddock in Quincy, Cunningham Children's Home in Champaign, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood house in East St. Louis, and Spero Family Services in Mount Vernon.

We believe that supporting the chaplaincy at these agencies will make a long-term positive influence on the lives of the children and families served. Having this endowment will assure the support of these chaplains and help insulate them from the uncertainties of the state budget and other funding sources.

REUMC has made a \$500 donation to Our Conference, Our Kids this year. If you would like to make a personal donation, you can place an envelope in the church offering – please clearly mark it for "Our Conference, Our Kids – Advance 6960".



RiversEdge UMC is teaming up with Riverview School to assist kindergarten students who are behind in their knowledge of things that should have been learned before entering school. You may assist in helping these students on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00—2:30 p.m. A Riverview teacher will be in charge, you will only assist. Anyone who works with children, whether at school or church, are required to fill out a 'background check' form which will be available at the church. For more information, you may contact Dianne Pointer at dcpointer@gmail.com or 696-4441.



Looking for a great Christmas present? Riverview Grade School After—School Program is fundraising by selling the Peoria Dining Tour Books for \$30. These books offer buy one, get one free coupons for over 120 restaurants. If you would like more information or would like to purchase one, call the school at 822-8550. Thanks and have a wonderful school year. **Dianne Maxheimer**

A few Christmas facts from thesqua.re

Here's 10 Christmas facts you didn't know about the jolly season:



According to scientists, Santa would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second.



Putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the homes of the poor.



Carols weren't sung in churches until the 13th century.



Around 60 million Christmas trees are grown each year in Europe.



The world's tallest Xmas tree was 221ft high and was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.



In 1647, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas festivities. The law stayed in place until 1660.



Believe it or not, many parts of the Christmas tree can actually be eaten, with the needles being a good source of Vitamin C.



The largest Christmas cracker was 45.72m long and 3.04m in diameter. It was pulled in Australia in 1991.



The Beatles hold the record for most Christmas number 1 singles, having topped the charts in 1963, 65 and 67.



The highest-grossing Christmas movie is 2000's "How The Grinch Stole Christmas".

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6:00 p.m. Trustees	4 6:00 p.m. 2nd Service Worship Planning 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	5	6	7
8	9	10 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry King's Closet	21
22 10:30 a.m. Kids Christmas Program 11:45 a.m. Lunch (TBA)	23	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 O.U.R. New Year's Eve Party (TBA)				

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary

LITTLE LIGHT NURSERY: Birth—Kindergarten
Sunday 8:00 a.m.—11:45 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY AT RIVERSEDGE UMC:

Sunday 9:15—10:15 a.m. **Lighthouse Learners:**
Birth—Preschool in Little Light Nursery
K—2nd Grade in upstairs Bell Room
3rd—5th Grade in upstairs Breakwater Room
6th—8th grade in downstairs Beacon Room
High School in downstairs Harbor Room

Sunday 9:15—10:15 a.m. **Lighthouse Keepers:**
16—Adult in Lighthouse Chapel

Lighthouse Worship Service:
10:30 a.m. in Lighthouse Chapel

Our Motto
"The Church That Cares"

Our Mission

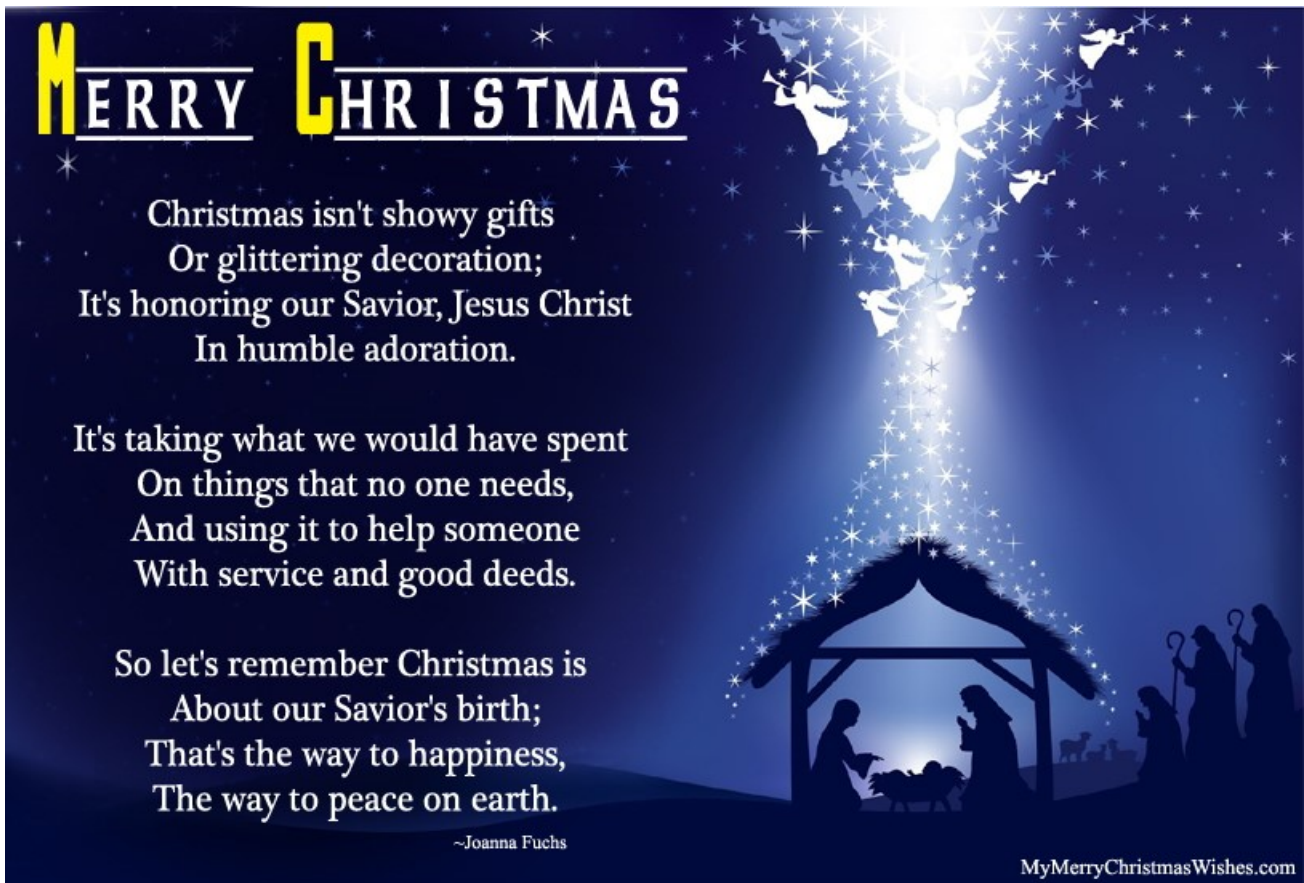
"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

OUR VISION

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

CHOIR PRACTICE: 7th Grade—Adult
7:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced
September through May

O.U.R. (Outwardly Upwardly Righteously): Adults
5:30 p.m. one Sunday a month, as announced



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas isn't showy gifts
Or glittering decoration;
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ
In humble adoration.

It's taking what we would have spent
On things that no one needs,
And using it to help someone
With service and good deeds.

So let's remember Christmas is
About our Savior's birth;
That's the way to happiness,
The way to peace on earth.

~Joanna Fuchs

MyMerryChristmasWishes.com



www.riversedgeumc.org

www.facebook.com/riversedgeumc.org

