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November 2019

NO HOLINESS WITHOUT SOCIAL HOLINESS

Holiness is a powerful word used in the Bible frequently. First of all, the Holy God differs from the rest of the creation. There is another word used for holiness in the Bible is sanctification. Holiness comprises two dimensions, one is inward holiness, and another is outward holiness. To be holy means to believe in, trust, love, worship, imitate, obey, delight, rejoice, seek and find our happiness in God and desire to enjoy the presence of God. The outward holiness is relating to our response with the rest of the created being. In the entrepreneurial language, it is our corporate social responsibility. How can we be a witness for Jesus Christ in the world and follow his teaching through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first commandment while the second one says: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus also said to his disciples if you love me, you would follow my directions. Christian life in its completeness knows as people of the red letters. In other words, following Jesus' own words.

When we talk about Jesus' movement, there is no scope for solitary religion or individual holiness. Holy solitaires are a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than a holy idolater. According to John Wesley, the gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love is the length, breadth, depth, and height of Christian perfection. In my previous Christian tradition, I have heard people say: it is up to them, let them deal with God, they and God will deal and God will judge them. There is no social commitment or social responsibility. In the postmodern context, we even look at businesses and their social responsibility. The solitary gospel is again not an eastern idea it was not the original intent of Jesus Christ. There is no individual holiness only social holiness because God is social. He created human beings in His image to be relational creatures. We become fully human when we share in the relationship with God and with other human beings. Our relationship is defined based on how we love God and how we love your community. As a spiritual being and as leaders of the church we have a social responsibility. Social justice is the will of God. There is a message of holiness in the context where human beings struggle for human dignity, liberation, and fulfillment, terrorism, war, poverty, violence, injustice, racism, casteism, classism, sexism and secularism. Our struggles for human dignity, freedom and social reform have been a response to God's demand for love, mercy, and justice, in the light of the kingdom. We need to stop proclaiming the gospel, which is personal that fails to express itself in relevant social concerns. We also proclaim no social gospel that does not include the personal transformation of sinners. It should be our conviction that the good news of the gospel must judge, redeem, and reform the sinful social structures of our time.

For a long period, Christianity has been defined by a false concept of the church. As a result, believers have built walls around their lives, keeping culture and communities at a distance, and the culmination of spirituality is highlighted or portrayed as way away from the culture or disconnected from the world. I strongly believe this again does not come from the Judeo-Christian values or world view or outlook towards life. Before the church became an established community, Jesus instituted an army that brought the transformation to the community, society and the world. God is waiting for us (our generation) to transform our churches, families, educational systems, governments, technology, and media arts and commerce. It is not done yet. You and I have a great role to play in understanding our individual contribution to shaping our society. Release God's power in your sphere of influence. Become an unstoppable citizen in God's Kingdom. It's our time to arise and be a light in a dark world. Create an intelligent Plan. Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm said, Winston Churchill.

During this season of thanksgiving, it is time for us to move forward in building our family, our community, our society and our church. Arise and build.

Blessings and prayers!

Pr. Binu Peniel



The Sewing Group will meet on Tuesday, **November 19** at 1:30 p.m. to start their Christmas projects. All Sewists are welcome. Please bring the following:

- ♦ Working Sewing Machine (power cord and foot controller)
- ♦ Manuel (in case of problems)
- ♦ Tools: seam ripper, thread snips/scissors, bobbins, etc.
- ♦ Christmas fabrics, fat quarters work, at least 2 each of 2 contrasting fabrics
- ♦ Thread, one neutral and one matching color for top stitching

See you there in the Hospitality Room! *Submitted by: Barb Waldrip*



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **November 22**. 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 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 (weekly cost is \$18.00 but we've only collected about \$6.00 each week). The cost of this time is supported by your donations, not the church budget. *See you Sunday! Randy Waldrip*



If you are interested in attending the Grace Family Christmas program at the Peoria Grace Presbyterian Church on **December 6, 7 or 8**, please let Carla (657-8903) or Jeanne Brennan (itsme@mtco.com) know.



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.





Choir has started! Are you interested in joining in? 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 **November 6** and **November 20** (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.



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.



- ◆ Brian and Karen Doty are proud to announce that they have a new granddaughter named Maven Elizabeth. Mom and daughter are doing great. Maisley, her big sister, is very happy.
- ◆ Orda Doty celebrated her 91st birthday with many of her family members Saturday. Her birthday was Wednesday, October 23.
- ◆ The Nauman's son-in-law Matt Kirkham applied for another position with the Police department in Normal. It would be a Monday-Friday job.
- ◆ Denise Miller is grateful for the flood buckets that the church provided for cleanup after their basement was flooded during the last big rain storm.



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**

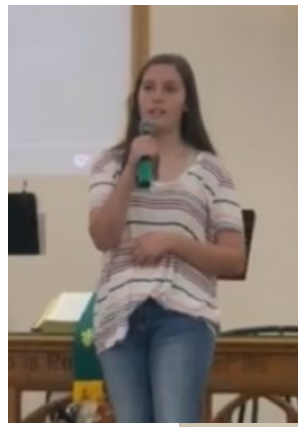
Severe Storms—West Virginia, Oklahoma & Mississippi Conferences

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.



The Illinois Great Rivers Conference
of The United Methodist Church
recognizes
RiversEdge UMC

For Faithfully Supporting Connectional
Giving Through the Payment of 100%
of Your Apportionments for the Year
2018

Rev. Dr. Frank J. Beard
Bishop, Illinois Great Rivers Conference

Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce
District Superintendent

Mike Pickell, Chair
Conference Council on Finance & Administration



It is once again time for the Chaddock Children's Christmas gift giving. This year we asked for younger children so we will see what we are sent. The Chaddock Santa Express board should be up by the first Sunday in November. All gifts must be in by November 29. All gifts must be unwrapped with the name of the person attached to them. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Submitted by: Deb Kamp, Mission Committee Member



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.



A Christmas program has been chosen **Cookin' Up Christmas – Where Love is the Main Ingredient**. “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!”

CDs of the songs have been passed out to the kids so they can begin listening and learning them before our regular practices begin this month. Please encourage your child to participate in this program. It’s a wonderful, fun way for them to use the talent/gift that God has blessed them with and to share in telling the story of Christmas.

The program is tentatively scheduled to be performed during the 10:30 a.m. service either **December 8 or 15**.

Submitted by: The Education Committee



Looking for a place to have dinner? Riverview Grade School After—School Program is fundraising by selling the Peoria Dining Tour Books. 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***



November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 	4	5	6 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (tentative)	7	8	9
10	11 6:00 p.m. Trustees	12 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 1:30 p.m. Sewing Group 6:00 p.m. Staff/Parish	20 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (tentative)	21	22 9—11:00 a.m. Food Pantry King's Closet	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29 Santa Express Items Due 6:00 p.m. Christmas Decorating	30 10:00 a.m. Christmas Decorating (if needed)

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



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