

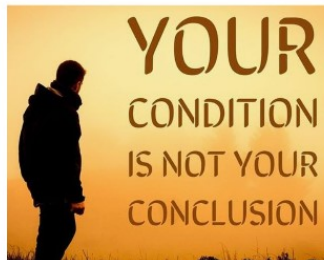


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September 2019



The childhood rhyme Mary had a little lamb is based on an incident in the life of Mary Sawyer of Sterling, Massachusetts when her lamb followed her to school one day. The lambs at school being frowned on by the educational establishment, the teacher kicked the lamb out, but Mary's little lamb waited for her outside the school. What makes the lamb love Mary so much asked her classmates? Mary Loves the lamb, you know the teacher replies. Saying that kindness to animals will gain their loyalty. As documented by poet Sarah Joseph Hale, the story published in 1830. According to the New England historical society, the story goes deeper than that. Sawyer persuaded her parents to allow her to hand raise the lamb after its being rejected by its mother.

All you know about the defenseless, gentle, animals the most profound is a painful one. Even now and then a ewe will give birth to a lamb and immediately reject the lamb without providing the adequate support, milk or care. Sometimes the lamb is rejected because they are one of the wines, they are found not to be healthy or the mother doesn't have enough milk or she is old and frankly quite tired of child bearing. The shepherd's call this type of lamb's bummer lambs. Without adequate intervention of the shepherd the lamb will die. The shepherd will take that little lost lamb into his home and hand feed it from a bottle and keep it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with warm cloths and hold it close enough to hear a heartbeat. When the lamb reaches certain age and become strong the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock. Later on when the shepherd comes in the morning to check on his flock the first one to approach the shepherd will be the bummer lamb. They know his voice and they can smell.

Christ calls himself the good shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out to new pastures. A good shepherd always walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. We are loved, even though at one point we were a bummer lamb. The world might have rejected us, called us unworthy, taken our opportunities and privileges but remember we have a good shepherd who takes care of bummer lamb.

Our condition is not our conclusion. It is not all over. Your dreams are the beginning of what God can do in your life. Where I am today is not my destiny. Today's struggle is not an end in itself. I will come out of this and I am not a victim but I am a victor. Dream big, start a new life in Christ and forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new start. If you are reading this let me promise you it is not all over, there is life beyond our present struggle. Our condition is not our conclusion.

Blessings and prayers!
Pr. Binu Peniel



With the start of a new school year the teachers at REUMC are excited to resume their regular class schedule on Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. beginning **September 8**. We have chosen a new curriculum FaithWeaver Now! that ties into our children's church curriculum KidsOwn Worship. Our children's church for ages 4 years old through 6th grade will also resume Sunday, September 8th during the 10:30 a.m. worship after a one week hiatus. By using these two programs that go hand in hand we are looking forward to creating a firm foundation of faith that will help the young people in this church grow in their desire to follow Christ and build their relationship in knowing him as their friend and Savior. And have fun at the same time!

The teachers are also excited as plans are being made to make the small chapel area a more warm, welcoming and suitable worship space for the younger crowd. New paint has already been put on the walls and we hope the other components are not too far behind. Even with these much anticipated changes, the room will still be a multi-use room for meetings, Bible study, a bride's room, etc. Please feel free to stop by either before or after worship and check out this new worship and praise area and see the progress being made.

Speaking of progress, the education committee would like to make progress on finding volunteers to help share in the building of our young people's faith. So, if anyone has an inkling or feeling a nudge to lend a hand with teaching a Sunday school class or children's church, please contact Jaymie Freeman (657-8902), Cindy Osenkarski (712-7853) or April Nauman (265-8221). We are hoping to rotate teaching responsibilities so that a commitment could be only for several (non-consecutive) months/weeks a year, or a fill-in on an as needed basis, or whatever you feel prompted to do. All material is provided and experience is not required - as the saying goes "God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies those he calls. :)

Think of Moses. God equipped him, he taught him what to say and helped him to say it, he gave him a helper. So if you are feeling the slightest inkling go ahead be a Moses. :) The rewards can far outweigh any hesitation you may have. The kids in this church are truly a delight to know and interact with.

Please pray for:

Open hearts and minds of class members to hear the word of God speaking to them.

An abundance of "Moses" heed the call and step forward.

The current teachers that they might continue to strive do their best to prepare their hearts and minds to present the lessons in the best way for their kiddos to hear them and take them with them everyday.

Ways and ideas to encourage more kiddos in our area who are currently without a church to try our Sunday school and/or children's church.

For the best name to give to our Sunday school and children's church.

Thank you, Jaymie Freeman, Cindy Osenkarski and April Nauman



Choir will be starting up! 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 first rehearsal will be **September 18**. 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?



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.

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. We also need **VOLUNTEERS** to backup Sunday School teachers for the youth when regular teachers may be absent.

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.

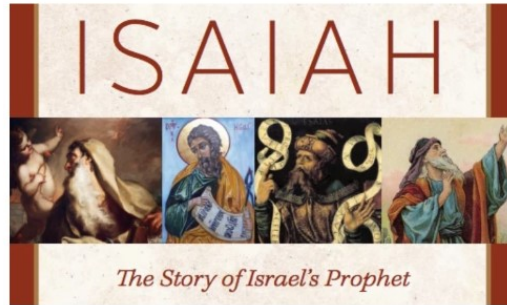
VOLUNTEER needed to power wash the bricks surrounding the base hold the old church bell on west side of church; also, the bricks on the outside of the church building's west and north side.

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 are in need of **MUSIC SPECIALS** for our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Music is very important in our worship experience. If you know of anyone within or outside of our church who is willingly to share their talent with us, please contact Judy (645-6625). One does receive a blessing in serving our Lord in worship.



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.



A new adult bible study **Isaiah** is being provided at **9:15 a.m.** on **Sunday** mornings. The study involves a set of eight 20-30 minute videos and a study guide for each group member. This workbook includes five individual studies per week, to be done at home. On Sunday, the group gathers to view the filmed study, talk about the individual work from the week and focus on some group discussion questions. It is being led by Russ Vance. Come and join in the learning experience and fellowship. Russ puts in the time of preparation, let us take an hour to appreciate. **Let the adventure begin!**

TAKE A SEAT PROJECT

The 'older' metal chairs are being sold for \$1 each. There are about 60 available (available for pickup after **September 21**). There are also 5 or 6 benches for \$5 each. Call Holly (822-0642) or call/text Carla (657-8903). As Carla says, "First Come, First Get".



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **September 27**. 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.



Mark your calendar for Sunday, **September 29**. We will again have a mostly music service at the 10:30 a.m. service and a potluck meal following at 11:30 a.m.. If you are interested in providing a music special, please let Jarrod (657-8904, jarroddoty@leader1.com) or Judy (645-6625, jude187@msn.com) know.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Co-chair with Jarrod Doty of the Worship Committee



- ◆ Tony Ruder survived his episode of his heart stopping and being successfully revived. Continue prayers for his recovery.
- ◆ Thankful for the rain that was received.
- ◆ Chad Reiter has found local employment. Thanks for all your prayers.
- ◆ The Barth's thank you for your prayers. They love their church family. (They still need a lot of prayers as they face Lloyd's serious health issue.)



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 weekly cost for the donuts is \$18.00, and we have recently collected only about \$6.00 each week. The cost of this time is supported by your donations, not the church budget. **See you Sunday! Randy Waldrip**



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



Flooding—Illinois Great Rivers, Great Plains (Kansas/Nebraska), Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Iowa & Dakotas Conferences
Tropical Storm Barry Shooting, Virginia Conference
Flooding, Tornadoes and Storms, Mississippi Conference
Tornadoes, West Ohio Conference

Ongoing Response


California Wildfires Hurricane Michael Hurricane Florence
 Hurricane Maria Hurricane Harvey Hurricane 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.



September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3 7:00 p.m. Nominations	4 6:00 p.m. 2nd Service Worship Planning	5	6	7
8	9	10 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	11	12	13	14
15 5:30 p.m. O.U.R. @ The Helms	16 6:00 p.m. Trustees	17 6:00 p.m. Staff/Pastor Parish	18 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 9-11:00 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's Closet	28
29 10:30 a.m. Mostly Mu- sic Service 11:30 a.m. Potluck	30					

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)

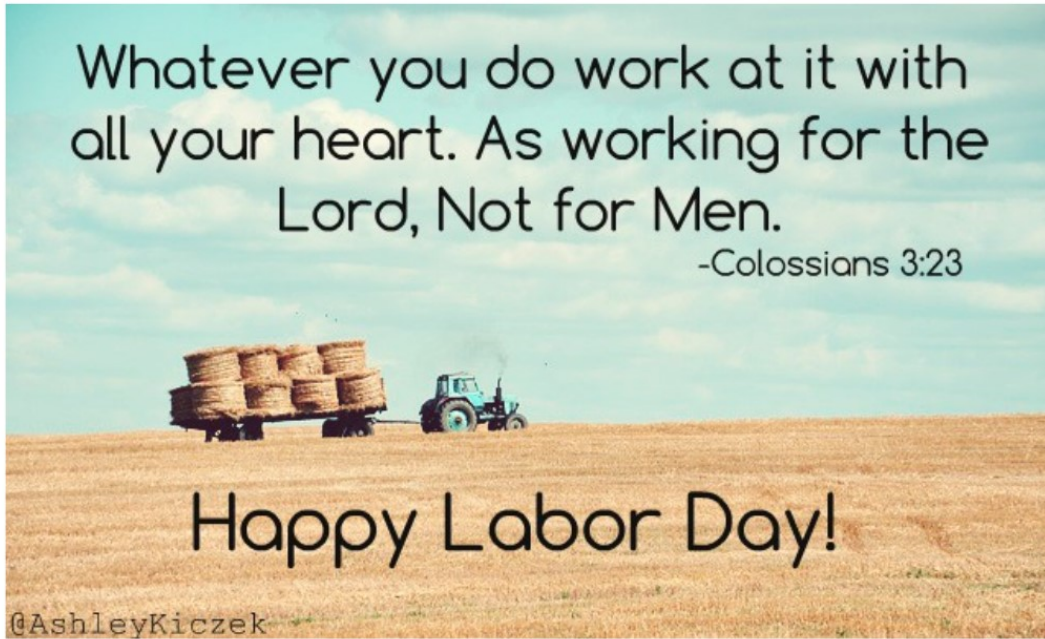
CHOIR PRACTICE: (7th grade-Adult)

September through May

7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

O.U.R.: Outwardly Upwardly Righteously

(first Sunday of month)



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