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If we ignite our passion, we become an extra-ordinary individual. People without passion are susceptible to depression and find no purpose or meaning in life. Passion produces quality, energy, creativity, enthusiasm, innovation, and excitement. Everything in life accomplished and sustained with passion. Passion produces the best result, and it is the same when it comes to relationships. A Christian life without passion is like a river without water. If we want to be happy and bring joy and fulfillment to our Christian life, we should have passion. Passion for the Lord.

John Wesley laid a plan for us to follow when it comes to our spiritual disciplines or following our spiritual passion. I truly believe every courageous Christian follows spiritual disciplines. Even though God's grace is freely available for all we are expected to engage in the means of grace. It is a way through which God works invisibly in disciples, mastering, strengthening and confirming faith so that God's grace pervades in and through disciples. The means of grace also can be divided into works of piety and works of mercy.

Works of piety for individual practices of reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others. Communal practices are to regularly share in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another) and studying Holy Scriptures.

Works of Mercy for individuals are doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry and giving generously to the needs of others. When it comes to communal practices, we are invited to seek justice, ending oppression and discrimination and addressing the needs of the poor.

Since ancient days of Christians throughout the centuries practiced these spiritual disciplines, I am sure this not only helped them in personal growth but helped them to be a witness to our faith in the community. Bible says: "What does the Lord truly require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah: 6: 8). It was the spiritual passion that makes St. Peter to step out of the boat. It was the spiritual passion that makes Noah preach the word. It was the spiritual passion that helped St. Paul to serve God as a missionary to unknown worlds. God has always the passion to chase after you. Do you have the passion to follow Christ? The Psalmist says: My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Ps: 73: 26).

Lent is a time of intentional pause, fasting, studying the scripture, meditation, and prayer as we think of Jesus moving toward the cross. Lent can be observed in many ways, following any of the above spiritual practices or in a media-saturated world, we could intentionally be a witness in our world. One of the simplest ways to do is by posting a scripture or a photo a day for the next 40 days in your social media platform. Enjoy time in meditation through photography and while you do that please tag #Blessed@RiversEdgeUMC.

Your brother on the journey of faith.

HOW *Happiness* Happens

Do you want to know how to bring a new level of happiness into your life? Please join us in the Chapel at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday morning for our Lighthouse Keepers study of Max Lucado's "How Happiness Happens". Please join us! Topics include:

Accept One Another Bear With One Another
Serve One Another Forgive One Another
Carry One Another's Burdens Love One Another



For those wishing to join the membership of RiversEdge, classes are scheduled Sunday mornings at **9:15 a.m.** in the fellowship hall downstairs on **March 15, 22 and 29** OR Wednesday evenings at **7:00 p.m.** on **March 18, 25 and April 1**. Members will be received on Palm Sunday, **April 5**. Please let Pastor Binu or Judy Schaer know if you are interested in joining.



Monthly Food Pantry Day is **March 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.



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.



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.



Joe Helms is asking for items (edible and otherwise) to pack up and send to our Active Duty Personnel during this Easter season. Edibles should be able to withstand the heat and the banging around during shipment. You may leave your items on a table in the Hospitality Hall.



by Deb Kamp

Years back when the church monies were in short supply we decided to start a Missions Committee with hopes of getting our money from elsewhere. That is how the rummage sale got started. The money for missions comes from the rummage sale, not the church budget. This past August the rummage sale fell short of our expectations. We need about \$2,000 or more to continue funding those chosen.

This year the church ad council decided to take \$500 off the top to give to the Bishop's project of "Our Conference, Our Children" which is a really good cause, funding 5 child welfare agencies since the government is pulling back. They are The Baby Fold, Chaddock Children's Home, Cunningham House, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services that used to be the United Methodist Children's Home.

This left us very short of funds this year since the Rummage sale only took in about \$1,700. We give \$500 to our missionary, Rev. Pricilla Jaiah, \$525 to Liberian Grade school scholarships. This enables 3 children to go to school, which really makes a difference in their lives. We give UMCOR Disaster Relief in the United States \$100 and Midwest Missions Distribution Center \$100. These two agencies help the people of Spring Bay when the river floods. And last but not least, we give \$125 every month when children are in school, to the Metamora Area Weekend Snackpac which distributes 4 lunch items, 2 breakfast items and 2 snack items to each child of low income households every Friday at Riverview Grade School.

This totals to \$2,450. So we are at least \$650 short this year. Granted, some of the Snackpac money could come out of the July 2020 rummage sale, but that might leave the year 2021 missions short. So we are asking that you can find it in your heart and in your finances to give a little to missions during the month of March.

Thank you so much for all you do.



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. 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.



by Jamie Freeman and
April Nauman

We are excited to announce that Lighthouse Learners will be doing a children's Easter Program on Palm Sunday, **April 5**, Because He Lives! We would LOVE for your children or grand children to be a part this celebration of Easter!

Music is ready and will be handed out as April sees you or will be delivered. Words to the songs and the script are now available. The program consists of 9 scenes, 5 songs with narration in between. Brian Doty will be joining in singing one of the songs with the kiddos - Because He Lives (Amen).

Practice starts **March 1** from **9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.** in the nursery learning motions for the songs and then from **9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.** in the fellowship hall to practice singing.

thank you ♥

Thank you so much for the abundance of Christmas gifts, 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 and Jeff VanCamp, Executive Director of Chaddock Children Foundation

Thank you for your kind and very generous donation to the Metamora Area Weekend Snackpac program. Your donation will allow the program to provide a weekend snackpac for over 250 qualified students in 9 schools for the school year. Thank you for your support to help us fight childhood hunger in our area.

Laura Ringger, Metamora Weekend Snackpac Treasurer



Would you like to try something new? There is an opportunity to work in the SOUND BOOTH during 2nd service. You would forward the slides on the wall while Doug does the sound. If interested, please see Doug.

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 are still looking for 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).

Volunteers are needed to assist the leaders of the LIGHTHOUSE WORSHIP during the 10:30 a.m. service (after the opening music and children's message). You can see Jaymie or April if you are interested in assisting them or want more information. You can also sign up on the sheet on the small table in the back of the sanctuary. The Education Committee is making it very easy to sign up 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.



There are still several boxes offering envelopes on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please look for your name and pick them up. If you haven't been assigned a number yet and would like to start using them in order for the church to send you a document for your records of your giving, see Doug Doty (256-7965). You also may have your financial services automatically mail your giving to the church.

K ⚠️ GOD AT WORK ⚠️ GOD AT WORK ⚠️ GOD AT WORK ⚠️ G

- Joe Helms was thankful for Grace the new keyboard player in the Praise Band.
- Kim Blickenstaff had a joy the Village Inn and Marina has been purchased and the restaurant will be re-opening soon.
- Val Huser was thankful for the Praise Band, and that she can sing without having to play the piano. Also, the banjo was great!
- James (Han) Soon is doing better than before. Your cards were appreciated. Please continue your prayers as he continues to recover.
- Joanne Helms came home after her back surgery. She is still experiencing pain. Please continue to pray for her as she recovers.



The Midwest Mission Distribution Center of the United Methodist Church provides disaster relief supplies around the world. The best way to donate Supplies is buying through Dollar-Days using this link (<https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html>) because they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices. However, 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



More than 1,280 earthquakes have hit Puerto Rico's southern region since December 28, 2019, with more than two dozen of them a magnitude 4.5 or greater. Recently, another earthquake hit the island on Wednesday - January 15, 2020 registering a 5.2 magnitude. The earthquakes have caused a preliminary \$110 million in damage, and have damaged or destroyed more than 550 homes. More than 250,000 Puerto Ricans remain without water and half a million have no power. You can help by sending a donation to the address above. 100% of your donation goes directly to the people in need.

Ongoing Response

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

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



MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 a.m. Worship Service /Communion 9-10 a.m. Easter Program Practice 9:15 a.m. Lighthouse Ministry 10:30 a.m. Worship Service /Communion 5:30 p.m. O.U.R. @ Schaers	2	3 6 p.m. Trustees	4 6 p.m. 2nd Svc. Worship Planning 7 p.m. Choir Practice	5	6	7
8 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9-10 a.m. Easter Program Practice 9:15 a.m. Lighthouse Ministry 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	9	10 7 p.m. Ad Council	11 7 p.m. Choir Practice	12	13	14
15 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9-10 a.m. Easter Program Practice 9:15 a.m. Lighthouse Ministry Membership Class 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	16	17	18 7 p.m. Choir Practice Membership Class	19	20	21
22 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9-10 a.m. Easter Program Practice 9:15 a.m. Lighthouse Ministry Membership Class 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	23	24	25 10 a.m. Food Arrival @ Pantry 7 p.m. Choir Practice Membership Class	26 11 a.m. Food Pickup @ Morton for Pantry	27 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry/ King's Closet	28
29 8 a.m. Worship Service 9-10 a.m. Easter Program Practice 9:15 a.m. Lighthouse Ministry Membership Class 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	30	31				

WORSHIP SERVICES:

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

LITTLE LIGHT NURSERY: Birth—K

Sunday 8:00 a.m.—11:45 a.m.

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY:

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): Adult

5:30 p.m. one Sunday a month, as announced

THIS HOUSE

Bless this house, O Lord, we pray.
Make it safe by night and day.
Bless these walls so firm and stout,
Keeping want and trouble out.
Bless the roof and chimney tall,
Let thy peace lie over all.
Bless the doors that they may prove
Ever open to joy and love.
Bless the windows shining bright,
Letting in God's heavenly light.
Bless the hearth a-blazing there,
With smoke ascending like a prayer.
Bless the people here within...
Keep them pure and free from sin.
Bless us all, that one day, we
May be fit, O Lord, to dwell with Thee.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



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