

IGNITE INVITE INVOLVE

I was thinking about what is going on in the world and in our nation today and I thought of the lament of Psalm 13:1 and others, “How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?” I was thinking about our current environmental crisis and how we resist any change in our behavior and even deny any responsibility for our part in it. I remembered that Romans 8:19 says that creation is waiting for us to get our act together. “For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.” And I wondered how God feels about it all. Does God lament what we have been and are doing, “How long O humans, How long?” How long will it take for you to accept the grace I offer to you and to all of creation? How long will you reject my love? How long will you punish yourselves for your sins that I have already forgiven? How long will you reject your fellow human beings whom I love just as much as I love you? And when I searched for “How long” in the Bible I was reminded that God does lament over us. “THE LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? (Numbers 14:11)

I remembered that Jesus wept over Jerusalem. “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing” (Matthew 23:37). Jesus longed to gather all the children of Jerusalem together. It seems we want to divide and drive away those whom God in Christ longs to bring together.

I remembered the vision of John in Revelation of the New Jerusalem coming down to earth from heaven. “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.”

The river of the water of life is crystal clear. All pollution is gone. The tree of life bears fruit every month. Hunger is eliminated. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. All war and terrorism are gone. The curse is no more. Anything and everything that causes pain and suffering and death are no more. God’s original intent for creation is fully restored. This is the kingdom we pray for when we pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” This is the kingdom promised to come down from heaven when God recreates a new heaven and a new earth. It doesn’t get any better than this and we are called to join God in creating this heaven on earth.

How do we join God in creating heaven on earth? We begin by accepting God’s love. Teresa of Ávila said that the sinner is actually one who does not love himself or herself enough. We do not see or admire the whole self; so we split and try to love the good self and reject the bad self. But Jesus told us to let the weeds and the wheat grow together until the harvest, lest we destroy the wheat by trying to pull up the weeds (see Matthew 13:24-30).

We accept God’s forgiveness for anything and everything we have done or left undone. We are set free from fear of anyone or anything knowing that we are sealed for heaven here and now and forevermore. Knowing we are God’s beloved children we love all of God’s other children. Knowing we are God’s beloved children we no longer need any things to make us feel important therefore we do not consume more of God’s natural resources than we need and all of God’s children have food and shelter and feel safe.

Let us continue to join God in creating heaven on earth.

Shalom in Christ,

John

May	
Shelby Murphy	5/2
Mark Clevenger	5/4
Nancy Carver	5/9
Earlene Harvey	5/12
Kalie Holt	5/19
Jolene Murphy	5/20
Carl Baney	5/22
Jay Pugsley	5/29
Florence Shelby	5/29



June	
Noah Holt	6/1
Debby Pittenger	6/8
Barbara Hewitt	6/9
Drew DeHaven	6/12
Fritz Dolak	6/13
Mick Phelps	6/14
Jeanne Richardson	6/16
Steve Kreps	6/17
John Young	6/18
Herb Blank	6/22
Larry Campbell	6/22
Norm Thompson	6/23
Della Stafford	6/25

Anniversaries



May 18 th	Fritz & Deb Dolak
May 26 th	Joe & Sara Mitchell
June 2 nd	Joe & Betty Speece
June 3 rd	Mick and Jan Phelps
June 6 th	Jerry & Ann Golden
June 6 th	John & Missi Young
June 12 th	Gary & Laura Shadoin
June 17 th	Barry & Judy Turner

Community Garden

"Care for God's Good Creation by participating in the Riverside Community Garden!"

Are you craving some homegrown tomatoes or fresh green beans? The Riverside community garden is ready for planting! Please contact Emily Hart at eakathman@bsu.edu or 812-360-2800 to reserve your space in the garden this summer."

Summer Special Music

Riverside family – as the summer approaches and the choir season draws to a close, we have the opportunity to continue joining in community fellowship and praise through song. Every Sunday morning from 9:20 to 9:40, please join Colin and Emily for pre-worship singing. We will do a mixture of old favorites, new beauties, and classic standards. You will have the opportunity to request pieces for the following week, singing the songs that move you in a relaxed atmosphere that prepares us for the service to come. Whether you are a trained vocalist or a whispered worshiper you will be glorifying our Lord, the Lord of dance and music!

Thanks with a grateful heart for...

Sandy Abbott and Hester Mitchell for sharing the Cross Carnations with our home bound friends.

Marlene Boyer and Leta Settle for decorating the altar so beautifully each Sunday.

Everyone who came out to work on the church grounds on April 20.

Notes To and From Our Church Family

Dear Riverside Family,

We want to thank you so much for your prayers, hugs, cards and visits to the calling hours for my brother Randy (Bryan Combs). So comforting to know you were with us during this heartbreaking difficult time. Love, hugs and prayers to each one of you.

Earlene, Bob and Pixie

To all my sisters and brothers in Christ at Riverside -- Thank you for the generous outpouring of household items and clothes for the folks in need. You all have been a great blessing to them. Thank you also for your wonderful faithfulness to the ministry at Covenant Partners. May God pour out His richest blessings on the community of faith and ministry at Riverside UMC.

In the One who loved us first, Pastor Linda McBride

Kids' Hope

Another year of Kid's Hope is almost at its end. Our church mentored thirteen students at Mitchell Elementary School. It was a good year for everyone. We will be ending our Kid's Hope year the second week in May. Our last day will be May 12th. We are also preparing a luncheon for the teachers that same week.

We thank all of you who mentored these special students again this year. We also want to thank the substitutes, because we could not have this program without you. The prayer partners are important also. These students and mentors need your support and we know prayer works.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for next year next please let me know. It only requires one hour per week to make a big difference in the life of a child. You will not regret it.

Laura Shadoin
Kid's Hope Director

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News from the Missions Team

THANK YOU RIVERSIDE for a GREAT Mission Sunday on April 17! We collected \$1,195.18 from our Mission Jars that will be used to support Sierra Leone and Sarah Turner, our current Mission projects. Thanks to the Builders and Add-a-Links class for providing the delicious meal. Keep filling your jars with your extra change and bills, it really adds up and helps spread God's word. Our next Mission Sunday will be in July or August.

Riverside used their skills and talents to help Habitat on April 22 & 23. On Friday, the crew worked on a rehab house on South Ebright and Saturday we worked at the Habitat office painting and organizing the warehouse. Thanks to Nancy Campbell and everyone who helped prepare the lunches and provided delicious cookies, they were enjoyed by everyone!

Upcoming Projects - during the months of May and June, the Mission team will be collecting toilet paper for Covenant Partners and Christian Ministries. After hearing Linda McBride and Andrea Smith speak at our Mission lunches, there is never enough toilet paper! Take advantage of the specials and buy an extra package of toilet paper. Riverside will provide workers for the Food Pantry on June 15, 16, 17 - watch for the sign-up sheets in June.

Look for ways to lend a hand to a neighbor or those in the community who need a little extra help- REACH OUT AND SERVE! THANK YOU RIVERSIDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY !!!!!

Covenant Partners Ministry

Supply Bags Due Dates

Bags are due: Monday, May 23

Bags are due: Monday, June 27

Please put the following in a paper bag with handles:

1 hand soap, 1 dish washing liquid,
1 box of tissues, 4 rolls of toilet paper,
1 small bottle/box laundry detergent,
shampoo

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2016 Habitat for Humanity

THANK YOU

WEEKEND HABITATORS

Once again the Riverside Weekend Habitators helped one Muncie family realize their dream of a new home and helped Muncie Habitat clean up their home. Thanks to the work of Jack Richardson, Larry Souders, Barry Turner, John Young, Mick Phelps, Joe Phelps, Larry Campbell, Ron Brown, Frank Campbell, Betty Campbell, Judy Turner, and Joe Speece. They worked in the basement of the rehab house installing insulation, did some landscaping, organized tools and materials and several other projects. They reorganized and cleaned the Habitat warehouse, painted the porch railing and did some landscaping. Thanks to Nancy Campbell and her crew of cooks the workers had a great lunch each day to keep them going. Nancy's crew included Mary Schumacher, Marge Salisbury, Betty Speece, Beverly Reese, Pat Brown, Leta Settle, and Marlene Boyer. The work could not have been completed without the cookies. They provided enough go power to keep everyone working. Thank you, Jan Phelps, and Betty Speece for the cookies. Thanks to everyone including anyone I have forgotten who helped make this all happen.



**Woodcarving Classes.....
meet the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursday's
of each month at
10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

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ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Endowment Committee has recently been reorganized due to Jack Stanton resigning as Chairperson and some members no longer with us. The new committee is Larry Campbell, Susan Reno, Bill Campbell, Jan Phelps and Darwin Keyton as Chairperson. The reorganized committee met on April 13, 2016. The Endowment guidelines were passed out and reviewed so everyone on the Committee would be familiar with them. The current balances in the Endowment Funds were reviewed and some changes will be made in an attempt to earn the maximum amount of return on the investments.

Darwin will be contacting the Chairperson of the Endowment Committee for High Street United Methodist Church and asking him to meet with our committee for they recently changed some things with regard to their investments so we want to see if what they did might apply to Riverside.

There are several ways to support ministry in the name of Jesus the Risen Christ through Riverside. First and most obvious is giving to Riverside on a regular basis with God's tithes and your offerings. This money is used to support ministry through the general operation of the Church and the buildings. Perhaps you would like to remember someone that has passed away recently or even a long time ago. You can give to the Riverside Memorial Fund, which is used at the direction of the Governing Council of the Church. Any gift that exceeds \$2,500.00 will go in to the Endowment Fund Account. The third way you can give is to request in your will that "The Riverside United Methodist Church of Muncie, Inc." receives some money from your estate. Any memorial fund donations or bequests of \$2,500.00 or more go in to the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is structured so that only the interest earned on the Funds can be used to support new ministries and not normal operating expenses.

If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, please contact a Committee member. As you can imagine, the Endowment Fund Document is lengthy and somewhat complicated so it would be best to discuss with either the pastor or a committee member. In future newsletters, we will keep you informed of the actions taken by the Endowment Fund Committee.

Submitted by: Darwin C. Keyton, Chairperson

CLOSE KNIT FRIENDS



The Riverside Knitters have been meeting each Tuesday evening from 7:00-8:00 in the upstairs room 301. Anyone with an interest in knitting is welcome to join this delightful intergenerational group. Some are just learning to knit, beginning with a dish cloth. Other more experienced knitters work on prayer shawls. And some are continuing with projects that were already underway when we began meeting. There is always someone to help with a dropped stitch or "confused needles." In spite of the differences in our ages and abilities, we have some

things in common: We enjoy the company of other knitters and sharing in this spirit filled endeavor. What a blessing! All knitters are welcome each Tuesday from 7:00-8:00!!!

QUILTERS

There is now a quilting group that meets in Room 101 at the same time the Woodcarvers meet in Fellowship Hall. This is a group comprised of quilters from Covenant Partners and from Riverside. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 10:00 am to noon. All quilters, regardless of experience, are welcome to attend.



Greeters for May/June

Date	Outside Door	Inside Door	Sanctuary Mingler
May 1	Mick Phelps	Jan Phelps	Fred Wallace
May 8	John McKillip	Sara McKillip	Laura Shadoin
May 15	Dick Murray	Jan Johnson	Hester Mitchell
May 22	Jack Stanton	Lynn Wright	Cindy Miller
May 29	Barry Turner	Judy Turner	Pat Ashcraft
June 5	Ron Brown	Pat Brown	Mary Schumacher
June 12	Fred Wallace	Wilma Grile	Kay Rankin
June 19	Bob Harrison	Sharon Harrison	Marlene Boyer
June 26	Susan Reno	Sandy Jordan	Leta Settle

Caring Friends Card List

A little about “Caring Friends” -- this group meets the first Monday of each month at 3:00 pm to reach out to people through cards, visits, flowers to hospital/home, and in other special ways.

Wilma Carney, 1600 N Walnut St, Muncie 47303

Maurice and Nancy Carver, 9509 N. Sugarwood Court, Muncie, IN 47303

Julia Cougill, 1812 E 17th St, Muncie 47302

Florence Irey Crum, 1601 N. Morrison Rd., #511, Muncie, IN 47304

(mother of Julia Pittenger/Susan Reno)

Mary Jane Eiler, 108 Roosevelt Road, Muncie, IN 47303

Kay Farling, Brookdale Place at Willow Lake, 2725 Lake Circle Dr . #216, Indianapolis 46268

Don Fields, 121 1st Avenue NW, Carmel, IN 46032, (father of Missi Young)

Dorothy Hawkins, Lynd House, 2401 E McGalliard, Room 108, Muncie, IN 47303

Nadine Johnson, 4100 N Morrison Rd, Muncie, IN 47304 (mother of Judy Turner)

Fritz and Ruby Miller, 99 Lakeshore Drive, Melbourne, FL 32901-7845

Roberta Phelps, PO Box 34, 338 N Fulton St, Parker City, IN 47368, (mother of Mick Phelps)

Rex and Donna Pittenger, 5801 W Bethel Ave., Room 531, Muncie 47304

Anna Mae Schenck, Fall Creek Retirement Village, 625 E Water St, Apt 8, Pendleton 46064

Della Stafford 5801 W Bethel Ave #517, Muncie 47304

Jeanette Taylor, Golden Living Center, Memory Care Unit, 2701 Lyn-Mar Dr, Muncie 47304

Sarah Turner, c/o Agape Flights GHB 27997, 100 Airport Avenue, Venice FL 34285

Helen Manet-Valos, Golden Living Center, Room 213, 2701 Lyn Mar Dr., Muncie 47304

(mother of Shirley Modesitt)

Melissa Wallace, 1412 W. Tree Lane, Muncie, IN 47302, (daughter of Fred and Elaine Wallace)

Louise Whitaker, 5801 W Bethel Ave #501, Muncie 47304

Max and Mary Whitaker, 555 Salem Ave., Waterman Village, Mt. Dora, FL 32757

Facilities Team

Our Facilities Team and other volunteers work each Wednesday on major and minor repairs needed to keep our facilities in good shape so that we can gather to worship, study, and serve God through following the Risen Christ. The child's toilet between the nursery and toddler room has been replaced, the water fountain on the third floor has been replaced, lights and doors have been repaired and replaced, along with many other small projects.

One of the major projects recently completed is the replacing of the flashing around the bell tower which was allowing water to leak into the sanctuary during heavy rains. Also replaced were several slate tiles that had come loose and fallen to the ground. McGuff Roofing, Inc. did the work at a cost of \$4,175. We have an estimate from Jud Construction to repair the damage done inside the sanctuary by this leak and replace ceiling tiles that have come loose for \$4,908.50.

The deck and steps leading to the east entrance between the education wing and the sanctuary have deteriorated to the point of becoming a safety hazard. An earlier estimate for new concrete steps and repair of just the surface was for \$14,900.

The fascia and soffit on the sanctuary wing need repair and painting. This project and replacing the gutter and downspouts with larger ones to better handle the volume of water coming off the roof has been estimated at \$19,682.

The brick on the sanctuary wing is in need of repair, tuck pointing, cleaning and sealing to prevent interior water damage and further deterioration. An earlier estimate was for \$28,700.

The parking lot will soon need to have the cracks filled and be resealed and striped.

As you can see there are several major projects that need attention. To contribute to these projects above and beyond your regular tithe or to make a special gift mark it "Above and Beyond."

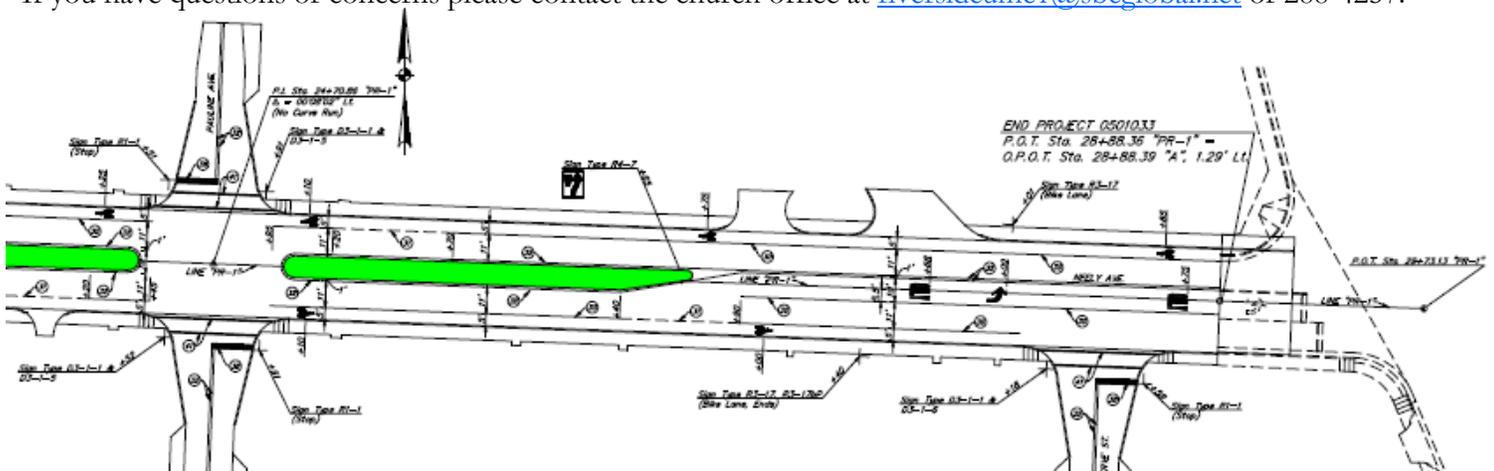
Neely Median Modification

You may have seen the semi load of yellow pipe near our storage garage on Pauline. Vectren has begun to relocate the gas lines along Neely. The city of Muncie will beautify West Neely Avenue from N. Wheeling Avenue to New York Avenue with medians similar to those on Ball State's campus and in Minnetrista. The timeline we have been given shows Neely closed from Tuesday, May 3 through Friday, October 28. That means access to our parking lot will be limited to the alley off of Pauline and the entrance off of Marsh.

Since it will be difficult to access our handicapped parking spaces and turn around they will be temporarily moved to the north side of the education wing and only drop off of passengers will be allowed in the lower lot near the main entrance.

Once the street is widened with medians and bike lanes there will no longer be on street parking. In anticipation of this project the trustees have installed signs in our church parking lots restricting parking to authorized vehicles only with a warning that unauthorized vehicles will be towed. So far, we have only had one vehicle towed. Only specified staff is authorized to have vehicles towed.

If you have questions or concerns please contact the church office at riversideumc1@sbcglobal.net or 288-4257.



General Conference 2016, May 10-20, 2016

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

Please pray for our General Conference of the United Methodist Church, May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. Reverend Lisa Schubert Nowling, pastor of College Avenue United Methodist Church, is a delegate and will be joined in Portland by her 4 month old daughter and her husband. Please pray for her specifically. For the list of the other Indiana delegation visit <http://www.inumc.org/2016delegation>. I challenge you to join me in praying the Lord's Prayer at noon everyday over General Conference and the city of Muncie.

Delegates and others can follow the proceedings on the General Conference website at <http://gc2016.umc.org> (or <http://umc.org/gc2016>). You can also follow General Conference on Facebook and Twitter using [#UMCGC](#). Features will include news coverage in multiple languages, with daily summaries, feature stories and videos, such as interviews with delegates, volunteers and other key individuals. All plenary sessions, worship services, episcopal and laity addresses, and other special events will be live streamed.

Intro to Keeping a Spiritual Art Journal or “Soul tending through Art Making”

Rev. Marianne Chalstrom

Saturday, June 11, 2016

Riverside United Methodist Church, 1201 N Wheeling Ave, Muncie IN 47303-2874

A spiritual journal is a place to record, reflect, and explore the growth of our soul, the spiritual dimension of our lives. More than words, the use of images adds depth and meaning to our expression. This workshop will introduce the use of magazine collage to expand the soul's expression and explore the spiritual journey. Begin with the art of collage, (simple cut and paste) add reflection and writing to gain inner wisdom from this art journaling practice. Discover more comfort, guidance and fun in your regular spiritual practice. Marianne will show you how.

Bring a sketchbook at least 8 ½ x 11 inches, scissors, glue stick, and old magazines you don't mind cutting up.

Optional text: *Living into Art: Journey through Collage*, by Lindsay Whiting (Paper Lantern, Hot Springs, CA, 2008).

A freewill offering will cover lunch and a freewill offering will provide an honorarium for Marianne. Her travel expenses and overnight accommodation have been provided by an anonymous donor.

Tentative Schedule: Saturday, June 11, 2016

9:00 registration and coffee

9:30-11:30 session 1

Lunch break

1:00- 3:00 session 2

Marianne Chalstrom: During the four decades of ministry that spanned two denominations and two states, several churches and numerous positions, Marianne's passion has always been spiritual growth of persons and congregations; she has led retreats, small groups and workshops since her time in seminary. Alongside this professional involvement has been a life-long love of creative expression of many kinds—sketching, needlework, card-making for example. In recent years the ministry of spiritual development has come together with her personal interest in creative expression with art media, discovering the healing and illuminative possibilities in her own life and that of others. Marianne is a retired elder in Indiana Conference, UMC. She has her BA and MA degrees from IU Bloomington, and M.Div. from Phillips Seminary, Oklahoma. Marianne lives in South Bend, IN with her husband Darrell. They have a grown son and two grandsons, also in South Bend.

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