

Keith's Corner

The last time I wrote to you, I highlighted the changing seasons in the life of Riverside. Here we are, two months later, and new paces and changes are becoming a bit more normalized. Seasons continue to change from Summer's warmth to Autumn's breezes to Winter's chill, and the work of God continues with excitement and with joy.

Throughout the months of November and December, exciting things will be taking place in the life of Riverside. For the past five months, the Church has been observing the season of Ordinary Time. There are no high holy days or seasons until we reach the month of December, beginning the season of Advent. Our November sermon series, *Extraordinary Time*, is an intentional non sequitur from the liturgical season in which we find ourselves. We will be observing in worship All Saints' Sunday (November 3), American Thanksgiving (November 17) and Reign of Christ Sunday (November 24). These extraordinary days remind us that God is found both in the ordinariness and the extraordinariness of our lives.

In December, we will transition into the season of Advent and begin a new liturgical year. The candles on the Advent wreath will be lit. Special readings will be read aloud. Familiar carols will be sung. Our December sermon series *Be Born In Us Today*, will emphasize the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy, and love, and how God wishes to birth each of these themes in our hearts and lives during this holy season. Our worship on Christmas Eve and the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 29 will bring a climax to our Christmas celebrations. It is my sincerest hope that you will make plans to join us as we celebrate the Word made flesh – God in Christ.

The seasons continue to change, and in the midst of changing seasons, God is revealed in new and exciting ways. Our faith siblings in the United Church of Christ often sing a hymn this time of year that reminds us of this reality:

*Each winter as the year grows older,
we all grow older too.
The chill sets in a little colder;
the things we thought we knew
seem shaken and untrue.*

*So even as the sun is turning
to journey to the North,
the living flame in secret burning
can kindle on the earth,
and bring God's love to birth.*

*O Child of ecstasy and sorrows,
O Child of peace and pain,
brighten today's world by tomorrow's,
renew our lives again;
Christ Jesus come and reign!*

May it be so for each of us in these holy months.

Sincerely, in Christ
Pastor Keith

Advent and Christmas at Riverside

Advent Sermon Series

Our Advent sermon series, *Be Born In Us Today*, will emphasize the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Christmas Eve Service

Our traditional evening service of carols and candles will be at 7:00 p.m in the Riverside sanctuary. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Mitten Tree

Please bring gloves, scarfs, and hats for the mitten tree. These items will go to Muncie area children.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias may be ordered in memory or in honor of your loved ones to adorn the Riverside sanctuary during the Advent. Order forms will be in your church bulletin Sunday, November 3 through 17 and returned by Monday, November 18. Both red and white poinsettias are available to order. The cost is \$12.00. Checks are made payable to RUMC marked Poinsettia



CHRISTMAS WITH HEIFER

During the Advent Season, the Mission Team will be ready to help you with your Christmas shopping. What do you buy the person who doesn't need anything or the child who has too many toys? How about a goat, llama, a sheep, chickens, bees, or a heifer? By purchasing an animal or a share of an animal you can help others in need and help them learn to become self-sufficient. It is also a great way to teach children and grandchildren about sharing and helping others. Barry and I visited the Heifer International Center in Little Rock, AK and were very impressed with their programs around the world – they are changing lives and helping to break the cycle of poverty. Animals to purchase include:

- Chickens- \$20 per flock – each hen can lay 200 protein –packed eggs per year
- Goat - \$120 or \$10 per share – can give a gallon of milk each day
- Bees - \$30 – pollinates crops and can be sold to buy food
- Llama - \$150 or \$20 per share – warm wool and opportunities for income
- Sheep - \$120 or \$10 per share – wool and income
- Heifer - \$500 or \$50 per share – provides healthy milk and manure for fertilizer

Visit the Heifer table in December and make your Christmas shopping easy and change a life forever!

Judy Turner, Missions

MISSIONS

There are many fall/winter Mission activities and opportunities for Riverside.

In September and October Riverside reached out to the community in the following ways:

- Collected coats, mitten and hats and had a \$130 donation
- Hunger Walk for Christian Ministries - \$220 donation
- Mission team served a lunch to 90 people at Main Street on Sept. 29
- Supported the Covenant Partner Bazaar - \$100
- Provided bags for Covenant Partner's Community Day
- Volunteers fixed food at the Fresh Direction Kitchen for children in Muncie
- Taiama Enterprise Academy in Sierra Leone opened on Oct.11 with 50 students. Pictures of the celebration will come in the future.

November and December Mission opportunities:

- Nov. 10 – M&M Mission Sunday. Bring your M&M Mission money and it will be dedicated during the worship service. There will be a lunch and short program following the service. Watasha Barnes Griffith from the YWCA will speak about their programs, outreach and needs. In November we will be collecting journals, spiral calendars, lotions, and footie slippers for the residents.
- Dec 1 – Riverside will provide an evening meal for Covenant Partners. Donations will be needed. Sign up at the Missions bulletin board in the lobby.
- Main Street dinner to be served in December.
- Food Pantry Volunteers in December.
- Heifer Christmas Project – start making your list for chickens, goats, llamas, bees, sheep. Come visit the Heifer Table in December.
- Fresh Direction/Inside Kitchen volunteers
- Bishop's Christmas Offering on Christmas Eve.
- Prayers for the residents of the United Methodist Children's Home. We will also collect Box Tops for the Children's home.
- Riverside will send \$1000 to Taiama Enterprise Academy to fulfill our pledge for 2019.

**The NEEDS are GREAT and RIVERSIDE'S HEART and GENEROSITY are GREAT!
Thank you for all you DO and GIVE to help those in need!**

*Notes from Linda McBride
Covenant Partners Ministries*

Please check out the items below for CP bags in the future. If you have stocked up, go ahead and use what you have already purchased.

Dates: November 18 – December 16

- 1 Liquid hand soap 11.5-15 oz.
- 2 Liquid detergent 42-64 oz.
- 3 Dishwashing liquid 14-18 oz
- 4 Shampoo 15-18 oz
- 5 Tissue 1 box, 2 ply, 148 count
- 6 Bathroom tissue 4 rolls, 2 ply, 240 sheets

*Notes From Linda Keyton
CP Supply Bags*

Please double bag items unless you use a heavy plastic bag. Extra bags are available downstairs in the hall. Also make sure all lids on bottles are secure so they do not leak.

Also if you have signed up provide bags monthly and will be gone or can not provide them let the church office know because Riverside is committed to 50 bags per month.

Last, but not least, RUMC and Covenant Partner members thank you so much for your monthly dedication. You are the BEST!

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

A quilting group meets in Room 101 at the same time the Woodcarvers meet in Fellowship Hall. Quilters from Covenant Partners, Riverside, and other churches attend. 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.



CLOSE KNIT FRIENDS

The Riverside knitters have been meeting each Tuesday evening from 7:00-8:00 upstairs in room 302. 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 so much in common. All knitters are welcome each Tuesday from 7:00-8:00.

Sunday School Classes

Wisdom Seekers: The class is focusing on *Becoming Better Acquainted with God*, knowing God through the study of scripture. Who is this God that we worship? How do we come to know God? As human beings we cannot ever fully comprehend all that God is. However, God is revealed to us in a number of ways, most fully in Jesus Christ. Through study of scripture, Old and New Testament, we can know God better and thereby love, worship, and serve him completely. Leader: Florence Shelby

Master's Charges are studying *Unfinished* written by Richard Stearns. Two thousand years ago Jesus gave an urgent assignment to his followers right before he left. At its essence it was not just an invitation to believe; it was a bold call to action. It was a challenge to go into the world to reclaim, reform, and restore it for Christ. Simply stated, the message of this book is that God has invited you to join him in this world-changing mission. And if you are not personally participating in God's great endeavor, you could be missing the very thing he created you to do.

Thanks with a grateful heart for...

Beverly Reese, Barry & Judy Turner, Alan McGee and Joe Speece for the countless hours they have spent working on our church grounds this summer.

Pat Brown and her helpers who prepared and served the food donated by very generous people from our congregation for the family and friends of Jeanne Richardson.

Our wonderful Greeters and Hosts who welcome all our regular attenders and our guests each Sunday with a big smile and warm greeting.

Pat Brown for coordinating the Consecration Luncheon with the caterer and Linda Keyton for her assistance with serving the meal.

Thanks To and From the Congregation

Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support. You are a blessing to us and to the work in Zambia. God bless you, ***Ken and Deb Vance***

Thanks very much for the prayers and cards during my surgery and recovery. They were very much appreciated. Your Friend in Christ, ***Joyce Kendall***

Thank you for the donation of 50 cleaning bags and items for the clothing giveaway to Covenant Partners Ministries in September. Also, thank you for the financial donation to Covenant Partners Ministries. We appreciate your faithful support of his ministry. God bless you, ***Pastor Linda and everyone at CPM***

Greeter Schedule November and December 2019

Date	Outside Door	Inside Door
Nov 3	Sandy Abbott	Nancy Campbell
Nov 10	Herb Blank	Karen Blank
Nov 17	Bob Harrison	Sharon Harrison
Nov 24	Barry Turner	Judy Turner
Dec 1	Ron Brown	Sally Wetzel
Dec 8	Gary Shadoin	Susan Reno
Dec 15	Darwin Keyton	Jan Johnson
Dec 22	Cindy Miller	Lynn Wright
Dec 24	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Dec 30	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>

THE BOOK NOOK: CHECK THEM OUT!

There are 5 items on the table just inside the library that you might want to look at...and maybe check them out!

1-HOW TO ATTACK ANXIETY by Joyce Meyer – 4 CD’S

- These 4 cd’s will help you enjoy your life while God is working on your problems, increase your peace anytime using 7 scriptural insights, work with the Holy Spirit to simplify your life, and Living in the moment to let tomorrow’s troubles melt away

2-WHY WORRY by Andy Stanley – 2 CD’s

- Andy explores what Jesus had to say about the important topic...where worry comes from, why it is difficult to overcome, and what you can do to conquer it!

3-CHANGE YOUR WORDS – CHANGE YOUR LIVE by Joyce Meyer (book)

- Some of the topics about words we use include the impact of words, how to tame your tongue, how to be happy, when to talk and when not to talk, speaking in faith and not fear, the corrosion of complaints, do you really have to give your opinion, the importance of keeping your word, the power of speaking God’s word, and how to have a “smart” mouth.

4-ENOUGH- DISCOVERING JOY THROUGH SIMPLICITY AND GENEROSITY by Adam Hamilton (book)

- Money has great power in our lives. Used wisely, it is one key to accomplishing our goals, providing for our needs, and fulfilling our life purpose. However, finances can become a source of all-encompassing misery. Changes in the economy and various trials can find people wondering what

they will do. But...Adam Hamilton believes that regardless of the reason, we all have what we really need. Enough.

5-AUDACIOUS by Beth Moore (book)

- Beth Moore is a well-known writer and speaker. As she reflected on over 30 years, she realized that her vision for women was incomplete. It lacked something they were aching for...something Jesus was longing for. See what missing link Beth identifies by digging through scripture and unearthing life experiences...it is AUDACIOUS...and it is for all of us!

If you wish to check out any of these titles, simply sign the book on the table with the books in the library. There are plenty more on the shelves too!

Caring Friends Card List

Pat Ashcraft, The Hearth at Tudor Gardens, 11755 N Michigan Rd. Apt. 234, Zionsville, IN 46077-9325

Leona Barber, Albany Health Care, 910 West Walnut, Albany, IN 47320

Mary Ann Beuoy, Palmer Hills, 2617 Maplecrest Rd., Apt. 116 Bettendorf, IA 52722-7807 (563)742-1985

Dorothy Bowman, 6609 Brindale, Muncie, IN 47304

Wilma Carney, 1600 N Walnut St, Muncie 47303

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

Jo Clevenger, 1700 W Riggin Rd, Muncie, IN 47304

Julia Cougill, 800 Antler Dr Apt. B, Middlebury, IN 46540-9441

Odessa DeHaven, 2300 W White River Blvd., Apt #12, Muncie, IN 47303

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

Kay Farling, Hoosier Village Hawthorn Hall, 9999 Hoosier Village Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46268

Dick and Ruth Garringer, Water's Edge Village, 2200 W White River Blvd, Muncie, IN 47303

Barbara Hewitt, 4301 W Laurel Oak Lane, Muncie 47304

Peggy Park, Room 532, 5801 W Bethel, Muncie 47304

Roberta Phelps, Park Place Room 106, 359 Randolph St, Parker City, IN 47368, (mother of Mick Phelps)

Rex Pittenger, Elmcroft Senior Living, 1601 N Morrison #206, Muncie 47304

Joan Strait, 5801 W Bethel #162, Muncie 47304

Lila Thompson, 708 S Rambler Rd, Muncie 47304

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

Weather Related Church Closing Information

The Facilities Team wishes to advise you that if the city declares a snow or other emergency and requests that travel be restricted to essential or emergency travel only, Sunday services will be cancelled. This would also pertain to any meetings scheduled during the week. We, however, encourage you to use good judgment when the streets and roads are hazardous to travel on when a State of Emergency has not been declared.

The cancelling of Sunday Services will be announced on WLBC 104.1 and will appear on WTHR and Fox59. If a meeting is cancelled, committee chairs are responsible for contacting committee members.

If a snow or other emergency prohibiting travel is not declared we will have church for those who can make it safely to Riverside. If you do not feel safe traveling to church, please stay home. If you have a responsibility at church for the Sunday in question, please stay home, but notify the church (288-4257) of your decision to do so. That will keep us from worrying about you being stuck in the snow and allow us to recruit a replacement among those who are able to travel.

You don't have to be in church to worship God. Jesus in John 4 tells the Samaritan woman that location doesn't matter. We are to "worship the Father in spirit and truth" (John 4:23). However, Luke tells us that "on the Sabbath day [Jesus] went into the synagogue, as was his custom "(Luke 4:16). And Hebrews 10:25 admonishes us "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

November	
Ron Brown	11/6
Bob Harrison	11/16
Dick Garringer	11/21
Missi Young	11/22
Julia Pittenger	11/28
Hester Mitchell	11/29
Dale DeHaven	11/30



December	
Betty Campbell	12/1
Sandy Hunter	12/1
Nancy Campbell	12/4
Sarah Turner	12/5
Jack Richardson	12/9
Kay Rankin	12/18
Sara Mitchell	12/27
Steve Dettman	12/29

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
December 3	Ron and Pat Brown
December 16	Mark and Amy Clevenger
December 20	Dale and Debbie DeHaven