



In Step 2 of the Fruitful Congregation Journey, we have a coach and a team of consultants assigned to us by the

Conference. Ed Fenstermacher, Associate Director of Church Development for the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church is our Lead Consultant. Jennifer Hudson, children's director at

Delphi UMC, and Rev. Kathy Miller pastor of Centerville UMC will also be on our consultation team. Kathy will serve as our church's coach if we vote to continue on to Step 3 in the process and adopt the three prescriptions that come out of our consultation.



We have submitted a Self-Study document, completed online and paper surveys, and a MissionInsite report based on census data for an area within a five mile radius of Riverside, along with recent bulletins and newsletters.

After they have reviewed the survey and other material, our consultation team will then meet with us on **Thursday, January 16 and Friday, January 17**. The Fruitful Congregation Journey Two-Day Consultation will involve interviews with church staff and lay leadership beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. There will be a Focus Group from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. followed by an **All-Church Potluck/Pitch-In Meal at 6:00 p.m. and a Congregational Workshop from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** All church members/attendees are invited to this workshop. Staff (paid and volunteer) and the leadership of the church are required to attend this session. Ed Fenstermacher Lead Consultant will be providing teaching, which is designed to help us move from maintenance to missional thinking. This is a “must meeting” for as many of you as possible. On Friday there may be optional interviews. There will be a **Presentation of the Report to our Church Council from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 17**. Please mark your calendars and plan to be present.

Based on the self-study, the surveys, the interviews, the focus group, and the workshop the consultant’s report about our church will offer three prescriptions about how we should proceed to be more fruitful in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We will have town hall meetings to discuss the recommended prescriptions and then a Church Conference to vote to accept or reject all three prescriptions from the Assessment Report.

**"People don't want to be changed they want to be blessed."
- (Stephen Gilligan)**

The rich young man could not perceive how following Jesus could be a blessing and so he resisted. On the other hand James and John were able to perceive that following Jesus was a blessing and they followed him.

All sustainable change is an inside job.

Jesus didn't come and impose salvation on us; he came and lived as one of us.

And he didn't come to bring us less death; he came to bring us abundant life.

He walks with us.

He talks with us.

He cries with us.

He laughs with us.

In short: he lives with us.

And he invites us to live with him in a life of blessing.

In John 10:10 as translated in *The Message* Jesus says, “I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” We are called to live that real and eternal life by following Jesus and we are called to share it with others so that they too will be blessed to be a blessing.

Shalom in Christ, John

BIRTHDAYS

January

2nd Mary Jane Eiler
3rd Laura Shadoin
15th Kay Farling
16th Pauline Miller
20th Drew Pittenger
30th Joe Speece
31st Jordan Murphy



February

1st LaVerne LeMaster
4th Mary Schumacher
7th Darwin Keyton
8th Shirley Modesitt
9th Inga Hill
14th Andy Pittenger
15th Joyce Kendall
19th Bill Campbell
21st Betty Bailey



Anniversaries



February 26th Tom and Janet Schamp

Notes To and From Our Church Family

Thank you for all your news of the church. I know I will never be a part of the church again. It has been difficult, but I am adjusting slowly. Thank you for all the years I was there and the friends I had. It was a big part of my life! God Bless –
Kay Farling

Thank you for the financial donation to Covenant Partners Ministries, for the meal you provided in October, and for the turkeys and hams for our holiday meals. You are a blessing to our ministry.
Pastor Linda and everyone at Covenant Partners Ministries

Give thanks with a grateful heart for...

The IHOP Men's Breakfast Group for donating \$100 toward the Star Lighting celebration.

Everyone who helped with "Hanging of the Greens."

Melinda Shocklee for creating the beautiful centerpieces, Colin and Emily Hart for leading the singing of Christmas carols, Pat Brown for organizing the food and everyone who helped prepare the meal for the Kids' Hope Christmas Party.

Everyone who shared their stories during the *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* Stewardship campaign.

All of our excellent liturgists who serve faithfully each Sunday in this important ministry.

Colin and Emily and the Riverside Choir for playing such an important role in the Star Lighting event, caroling on Wednesday and singing on Sunday at Vespers at Westminster Village, and in our Christmas Eve service.

Everyone who served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army red kettle fund raiser for supporting those in need.

Everyone who donated to our annual Heifer Project to give animals that keep on giving as their offspring are passed on to others in need.

Eric & Shelby Murphy for painting the Christmas images on our church windows.

Susan Reno and Julia Pittenger who helped Missi Young paint the parsonage kitchen and family room.

Larry Campbell and Barry Turner who repaired copper pipes in the parsonage kitchen.

Everyone who has contributed Personal Care Bags for Covenant Partners.

The Trustees for remodeling the parsonage kitchen with new cabinets and counter to replace the original cabinets and counter top from the 1960's using undesignated memorial money.

Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes

Saturday, February 8, 2013 is the annual Walk-a-Mile fund raising event for Muncie Mission. If you've attended in the past you already know the thrill and pride you feel as you are walking alongside your friends and neighbors as you support the people who call the Muncie Mission their home. Remember we all meet at 8:00am at the Muncie Central Fieldhouse to get registered, and the walk to the Mission begins at 9:00am. Information regarding how you can donate will be available at the church. For more information click the following link: www.walkformunciemission.com/



Winter Lay Academy

Learning and leading courses fulfill a two-fold purpose. They equip all of us to become better Christian leaders, and they provide advanced courses for Lay Speaking Ministries. If you are not currently a lay speaker you may be interested in pursuing that office once you have experienced the courses.

The emphases in Lay Speaking Ministries are LEADING, CARING and COMMUNICATING. We all need good communication skills to lead others and share our faith stories, but YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO PREACH (unless that is your desire) after taking a lay speaking or learning and leading course.

The dates are January 26 thru March 2 at Muncie Riverside UMC 1201 N Wheeling Avenue 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration forms can be found on the table in the Narthex.

United Methodist Women

Each year in November, the Riverside United Methodist Women collect a “Thank-Offering” from its members to share with a local mission at the Christmas season. The UMW decided to earmark the monies to go to Christian Ministries. Their offering was specifically designated for gift cards for teenagers, since many times, community Christmas efforts go to the younger children in the way of toys and clothing. Thank you to the dedicated and giving women of Riverside UMW.

2014 MINI-SCHOOL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**Saturday, January 25, 2014
9:30 am – 2:30 pm
Richmond Central UMC
1425 E Main St. Richmond IN 47374
765-962-8500**

**Registration - 9:00 am.
Program - 9:30 with a speaker on the “Roma” (known to use as gypsies)
Lunch 12:00**

Child care provided – bring sack lunch for your child.

Bring a non-perishable food item for a local pantry.

For reservations please send \$6 to:

Bev Kennedy, 4713 N. Camelot Dr., Muncie, IN 47304 by 1/20/14

Include your name and the name of your church/unit.

News from the Missions Team

December was a busy month of reaching out and sharing GENEROSITY and God's love. Riverside sent 75 sheets and towels to the YWCA, collected items for the Covenant Partner's Christmas store, sent our monthly sacks, rang bells for Salvation Army and sent 85 Christmas cards to Veterans through the Red Cross. We are finishing up our "Joy to the World" Heifer project and will share the total collection amount at a later time.

January 2014 will start another year of mission opportunities. Riverside will be helping with the Food Pantry and Sleep Room in February. The Mission team will continually look for opportunities to reach out and serve others. We also would welcome anyone interested in missions to join our committee. If you are interested contact Karen Blank or Judy Turner.

Thank you Riverside for giving so generously and supporting Mission projects.

COVENANT PARTNERS MINISTRIES Community Day Dates

Bags are due: Monday, January 27 for distribution on Wednesday, January 29.

Bags are due: Monday, February 24 for distribution on Wednesday, February 26.

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.

Weather Related Church Closing Information

The Trustees wish 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.

If a meeting is cancelled, please contact Tom Schamp (765) 749-4410. He will contact WLBC 104.1, WTHR Ch 13 and Fox59 Ch 11. An e-mail will be sent to those who have given their e-mail address to the church. If possible, an announcement will also be placed on the church's answering machine. If in doubt, please call the church 288-4257 or Pastor Young at 288-3826 or his cell at 278-8733. Committee chairs may also consider establishing a telephone chain call procedure for their committee. 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 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."



If you shop online you can create micro-donations to Riverside UMC.

UMCmarket is the United Methodist Church’s gateway to micro-donations through online shopping. UMCmarket has been vetted and proven by the United Methodist Church’s General Council of Finance and Administration, GCFA, as a new way to create income-streams to our local churches and their ministries. All donations acquired through the member’s shopping go directly to our churches or church-related organizations.

Our GCFA has partnered with hundreds of stores who’ve agreed to give back a portion of your purchase. It’s their way of saying “thank you” to UMCmarket for referring customers to them. The money that they give back goes automatically as a donation to Riverside UMC when you’ve selected it in your account.

To join UMCmarket go to umcmarket.org. You will receive an e-mail to confirm your registration e-mail address. Then you can login. Click on the organizations tab and then type “Muncie R” in the search box and then enter. “Riverside Muncie, IN” should appear just below the search box. Click on it and then click on the green join organization button. Then click on the “Download our micro-donations plug-in and donate to your church when you shop.” The plug-in will automatically let you know if an online store is participating with a pop-up window. Or you can go to the UMCmarket homepage and select a category to see what stores are participating.

The more people who know about UMCmarket, the more our church benefits. So, spread the word!

WELCOME - HOST AND MINGLER SCHEDULE

Date	Outside Door	Inside Door	Lobby Mingler	Sanctuary Mingler
Jan 5	Fred & Bob Wallace	Barry Turner	Judy Turner	Leta Settle
Jan 12	Jack Stanton & Dorothy Bowman	Marge Salisbury	Mary Schumacher	Cindy Miller
Jan 19	Jerry & Ann Golden	Karen Blank	Herb Blank	Nancy Campbell
Jan 26	Darwin Keyton & Dustin Meeks	Pat Brown	Jennifer McGunnegill	Sandy Abbott
Feb 2	Mark & Amy Clevenger	Laura Shadoin	Sally Wetzel	Linda Keyton
Feb 9	Joe & Judy VanWinkle	Sara Mitchell	Odessa DeHaven	Hester Mitchell
Feb 16	Dick Murray & Jan Johnson	Ann Beuoy	Betty Lacey	Sandy Hunter
Feb 23	Larry & Nancy Campbell	Marlene Boyer	Cindy Miller	Laura Shadoin

Special Members

Below is a list of members who are unable to attend our services. Please contact the church office at 288-4257 if you know of others who were not included on this list.

Mary Helen Baker, Lincoln Center East, 1029 E 5th St, Room 409, Connersville 47331-3361
Eva Case, 4713 W Robinwood Ct, Muncie 47304
Julia Cougill, 1812 E 17th St, Muncie 47302
Kay Farling, Brookdale Place at Willow Lake, 2725 Lake Circle Dr. #213, Indianapolis 46268
LaVerne LeMaster, 5801 W Bethel Ave, Muncie 47304
Pauline Miller, 2113 N Maplewood Ave, Muncie 47304
Fritz and Ruby Miller, 99 Lakeshore Drive, Melbourne, FL 32901-7845
Jeanette Perkey, 5801 W Bethel Ave, Muncie 47304
Donna Pittenger, 5801 W Bethel Ave, Muncie 47304
Anna Mae Schenck, Fall Creek Retirement Village, 625 E Water St, Apt 8, Pendleton 46064
Della Stafford 5801 W Bethel Ave, Muncie 47304
Jeanette Taylor, 1217 W Neeley Ave, Muncie 47303
Bill Terhune, 5801 W Bethel Ave, Muncie 47204
Louise Whitaker, 5801 W Bethel Ave, Muncie 47204

In God's Time: The Bible and the Future

The Reverend Dr. Craig C. Hill from Duke Divinity School will speak at High Street United Methodist Church on Saturday, January 25 at 10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with lunch between. On Sunday, January 26 he will preach at High Street at 8:30 & 9:45 a.m. and then at College Avenue at 11:10 a.m.

Enormous confusion exists today concerning the Bible's teaching about the future. Millions of contemporary Christians are caught up in "rapture" fever evidenced by the phenomenal success of the *Left Behind* novels. At the opposite end of the spectrum are those, such as the leaders of the Jesus Seminar, who believe that Jesus did not teach about the approaching Kingdom of God.

In God's Time offers an alternative to these two poles in the debate, an alternative that is at once faithful and sane, readable and scholarly. Author Craig C. Hill encourages Christians both to take seriously and to think sensibly about the hope of God's ultimate victory. His new book includes chapters on the nature of the Bible, the history of prophecy, the meaning of apocalyptic writings, the interpretation of Daniel and Revelation, the expectations of Jesus, and the hopes of the early Christians. It also includes an appendix ("Not Left Behind") on the subject of the rapture. Endorsed by a wide array of top scholars and church leaders, *In God's Time* is a reliable guide to this often bewildering but always fascinating subject.

Dr. Hill's academic specializations include first-century church history, Pauline theology, and eschatology. His interests are reflected in his published works, including *Hellenists and Hebrews: Reappraising Division within the Earliest Church*, the Romans portion of *The Oxford Bible Commentary*, and *In God's Time: The Bible and the Future*.

Hill is an ordained elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and has held several pastoral appointments, including serving as chaplain of Christ Church, Oxford, John Wesley's undergraduate college.

Using Energy Prudently: A Workshop for Congregations

January 12th, 2014

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 W. Bradford

2 PM – 5 PM

In both your faith building and your members' homes, reducing energy use by 25% or more is easy and inexpensive. This workshop will equip you with the tools you need. It will cover:

- **Sealing your building's envelope**
- **Using thermostat set points and zoning**
- **Maintaining and replacing HVAC Equipment**
- **Choosing cost-effective lighting options**
- **Detecting and acting on "energy hogs"**

Presenters: Building professionals & leaders from congregations that have been reducing their energy use by 25% and more.



Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light of Delaware County, "calling together Hoosiers of faith as stewards of creation in order to promote renewable energy and energy conservation and efficiency as a faith response to climate change."