

Keith's Corner



Which one is clearer: one or two? One or three? Three or Four?

Okay, I'll admit it. I actually enjoy going to the eye doctor. The eye exam isn't always the most fun (pupil dilation, anyone?). But I know that when the light of the eye scope goes dim, an even better light shines at the end of the tunnel. I get to shop for new eyeglasses. Trying on different frames in varied sizes and shapes and colors is always fun for me. I've worn eyeglasses since I was in fourth grade, and now that I'm an adult, buying my own specs is always a fun adventure.

How much will my insurance cover if I go with these frames?

Can I get these with Crizal™ coating?

Will my insurance cover Transition™ lenses?

Can you throw in some extra cleaning cloths while you're at it?

Oh, the things I will do to have 20/20 vision and look great in doing so!

As we enter into the year 2020, I have been thinking a lot about how "20/20 Vision" is a term that need not apply to optometrists and opticians. It should also apply to us as Christians and as a community of faith called Riverside United Methodist Church. Now that the business of the Advent and Christmas seasons are largely behind us, the question looms, "Where do we go from here?" The Season of Epiphany helps us capture the 2020 Vision God has for us. It is unfortunate that Epiphany goes often underrated in the life of the Church. Sandwiched between Advent/Christmas on one side and Lent/Easter on the other side, Epiphany isn't overly acknowledged or celebrated with great fanfare like it should. Throughout this season, we hear the stories of Jesus' healings, signs, and miracles that were used to point onlookers to God's new vision for Creation. Oftentimes when suffering seems inevitable, we cry out to God for a miracle to keep it away. But the miracles of Jesus show us that miracles are a response to pain, never as a means to avoid it. Jesus' healings and miracles were also never an end in and of themselves. Rather, they always pointed to something greater—or someone greater. They served as eyeglasses that gave spiritual 20/20 vision to those who dared to follow Jesus.

Throughout the Epiphany season, we will be preaching a series of sermons called "2020 Vision." In this series, we will look closely at these ancient stories and allow them to shape our spiritual vision for the upcoming year. We will ask ourselves, "What message was God trying to convey to God's people then? And, what message is God trying to convey to God's people now?" This series will begin on January 5 and continue through February 23. Although I would encourage you to be attend any and all of these services, I especially encourage you to attend on January 12, where we will observe "Baptism of Christ Sunday," and renew our own Baptismal Covenant.



On February 26, we will begin the season of Lent by observing Ash Wednesday. Our Ash Wednesday service, with the imposition of ashes, will be held at the church at 7:00PM. Please plan to attend this beautiful, reflective service as we collectively begin our respective Lenten journeys.

Although the winter weather will become harsher as we move through January and February, there is much warmth and energy to be found at Riverside UMC. I hope you will join us as we journey into God's 2020 Vision for us all.

Now, where did I put that number for Ossi Eyes? I need to schedule my annual eye exam!

Sincerely, in Christ

Pastor Keith

PS. I owe a debt of gratitude to Tom Schamp for mentioning "20/20 Vision" in a recent meeting and for thus planting the idea of the sermon series.

MISSIONS

November and December were filled with lots of outreach opportunities.

- M&M Sunday – Watasha Barnes Griffin presented a very informative program about the many services that the YWCA provides for the women and children in Muncie. Riverside collected many items for the women during November.
- November M&M collection- \$732.44 to support Mission projects.
- Provided food items for Covenant Partner’s Thanksgiving meal.
- Dec. 1 – served a meal for Covenant Partners following their worship
- Collected items for Covenant Partner’s Christmas store
- Provided 3 hams, green beans, potatoes, cakes, cookies, and candy for Covenant Partner’s Christmas dinner
- Sent \$200 to Habitat
- Sent \$1000 To Taiama Enterprise Academy to fulfill our 2019 pledge. The school opened in October with 60 students and is doing well.
- Volunteers worked at the Inside /Out Kitchen
- Provided 50 bags each month to Covenant Partners.
- Mitten Tree – mittens and scarves will be distributed to school children in Muncie.
- December- Heifer collection will be triple matched as of Dec. 20.

January and February Upcoming Opportunities

- Inside/Out Kitchen Volunteers
- **January 12 – M&M Mission Sunday – Ken Vance, our missionary from Zambia, will give an update on his work in Zambia. We will have a meal following worship and then a short program.**
- “Soup”er Bowl Soup Collection in January
- Muncie Mission Walk-A-Mile on February 8. Riverside will have a group of walkers that will be asking for donations.
- February 19, 20, 21 – Riverside will be providing volunteers for the Food Pantry.
- Indiana United Methodist Children’s Home E-mail Prayer line- please be a faithful Prayer Warrior for these young people.

Riverside’s financial help and giving spirit has helped and blessed many lives locally and around the world in 2019. Many people have experienced GOD’S LOVE through YOU! Thank you for your willingness to support our Mission Projects – Your generosity is AMAZING!

Sunday School Classes

Wisdom Seekers, 8:30 am, Main Level, Room 203
Topic beginning in January: “God’s Promises”
Leader: Florence Shelby

Master’s Charges, following worship, Upper Level, 302
Leaders: Class Members

Thanks with a grateful heart for...

Judy Turner and Karen Blank for creating the beautiful Advent display on the bulletin board in the lobby.

The Advent Readers and Candle Lighters Darwin and Linda Keyton, Dick Murray and Jan Johnson, Daniel and Jennifer Kuhn, Tom and Janet Schamp and Andrew and Marge Salisbury.

Larry Campbell and Joe Speece for repairing the window sill in the sanctuary.

Walk a Mile in My Shoes 2020

Saturday, February 8
8:00 am – 11:00 am

The 16th annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes will bring HOPE and HEALING to neighbors from across East Central Indiana. Your support provides food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and a new path for those bound by addiction. Join 2500+ neighbors and new friends as we brave the cold to show our love and compassion for our neighbors. Visit munciemission.org/walk for more information.

EAST DISTRICT LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

Winter 2020 February 9, 16, & 23 - 2:30-5:30 PM
Riverside UMC



You are invited to join us for the Lay Servant Ministries Academy to begin or continue training for living out the call to make disciples for the transformation of our churches, communities, and world.

For course details or to register visit <https://inumc.swoogo.com/eawlsa>.

Boy Scouts Troop 1 -- Calendar of Events

- 1/4 Saturday Clean and rebuild patrol boxes for both 1 & 19.
- 1/19 Sunday Coin Show @ Delaware County fair grounds. We will be running the concession stand.
All proceeds go to the scouts accounts.
- 1/24-1/26/20 Winter camp for both troops.
- 2/9 Sunday Boy Scout Sunday
- 2/29 Saturday Train Show - We will be running the concession stand.
All proceeds go to the troop (not the scouts). This is their service to the troop.
Money pays for trailer plates/insurance, merit badge and rank patches, supplies and equipment.

Greeter Schedule January and February 2020

Date	Outside Door	Inside Door
Jan 5	Darwin Keyton	Linda Keyton
Jan 12	Alan McGee	Marge Salisbury
Jan 19	Herb Blank	Karen Blank
Jan 26	Barry Turner	Judy Turner
Feb 2	Larry Campbell	Nancy Campbell
Feb 9	Joe Mitchell	Sara Mitchell
Feb 16	Dick Murray	Jan Johnson
Feb 23	Susan Reno	Cindy Miller

January	
2	Mary Jane Eiler
3	Laura Shadoin
15	Kay Farling
30	Joe Speece
31	Jordan Murphy



February	
4	Mary Schumacher
5	Joan Strait
7	Darwin Keyton
9	Inga Hill

Anniversary

February 26 Tom and Janet Schamp

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, 1029 7th Avenue E, Bradenton FL 34208
Jo Clevenger, 1700 W Riggins 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."