

Keith's Corner



Dear Riverside United Methodist Church,
Grace to you and peace in the Name of Christ!

I am a man of routine. I value it and strive to structure my life around it, fully knowing that routines can change at a moment's notice. But as I have come into my adulthood, I have also come to value routine in the morning. Like clockwork, I brew my pot of coffee, retrieve my newspaper, scan the headlines, and then do the daily crossword puzzle (always in ink). Doing the crossword is one of my favorite parts of the day. It gets the wheels of my brain turning, and there is always a sense of satisfaction whenever I can complete it without any assistance. However, there are times when I get stuck, because the answer I have entered may appear to work and fit. But it is not the answer the puzzle writer had in mind. Back to square one I go - literally!

Over the past several months, I have written to you many times mostly dealing with the church's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Filled with uncertainty and not knowing the right answers, many people, including me, have been left feeling puzzled, thinking one answer might work but it turns out not to work at all. There are many times in our lives where we move forward confidently, thinking the answers or responses we have devised for ourselves will work. They may even make sense to us or fit in the moment, but it turns out to be the wrong direction.

I also believe the life of faith can be like that too. Many of us have been taught theologies or ideologies that have been ingrained in our psyches. We may even treasure them, but eventually they can trip us up and prove to be inadequate or even wrong. Beginning July 5, I will be preaching a sermon series for the remainder of the summer, called *Puzzled*. Each week, we will be looking at an idea or a theology that many of us have been taught and considering, "Does this answer work in life's puzzle?" More so, and even more seriously, do those answers hold true to the witness of scripture and the nature of God?

Sometimes the answers we think we have figured out need to change. And, that's not necessarily a bad thing. While not always easy, change is a good thing. They are to be celebrated and welcomed. Riverside UMC has also seen several changes. We celebrate the change in appearance as our entryway has been reconstructed and remodeled. Later in the year, we will be dedicating our new entryway and rededicating our church building as a space set apart for the worship of the Triune God. We celebrate the changes that are forthcoming in our technology as new camera equipment begins to be installed. We celebrate new opportunities for growth and for worship as we have begun to raise money for a new piano, moved our Bibles & Bagels location to West Side Park, and discerned how we can best be the Church in the face of a changing society. We celebrate the new faces that have come to call Riverside UMC home, giving thanks that God is growing and expanding our church family. Later in the year, we will be welcoming and receiving new members into the life of Riverside.

This is an exciting time to be a part of Riverside UMC. God is doing incredible things here, and I am continually honored, humbled, and blessed to be your pastor in the midst of all of it - even the puzzling moments! And yet, even then, I will grab my pen, go back to square one, and journey with you until the puzzle is filled - until God's will is done - for us all.

Sincerely, in Christ
The Reverend Keith A. Turner
Pastor, Riverside United Methodist Church

News from the Missions Team

We have not been able to do many of our Mission projects the past two month due to Covid-19 restrictions. Our M&M Mission Sunday was supposed to be in May, but of course we were unable to have our collection and program. If anyone would like to contribute, you can write a check and be sure to mark it Missions and it will help support our upcoming projects.

Thanks to the support of many people, Riverside contributed 50 Covenant Partner bags in May and June. Community Day was held each month with masks being worn and social distancing as the bags were distributed one at a time. Covenant Partners was very appreciative of Riverside's support! We will continue to provide 50 bags each month.

On May 27, I received an email from Ken Vance informing us that his wife Debbie had passed away. She had tested positive for malaria but seemed to be doing better and her death was unexpected. At our next Mission meeting we will discuss making a memorial donation in her honor.

In July we will be sending scholarship money to Operation Classroom to provide an education for 4 students in Sierra Leone. We will also be accepting monetary donations for the Hearts and Hands United in Muncie. Our next M&M Mission Sunday Lunch and Program will tentatively be Sunday, August 9. Susan Bennett from the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home will be our speaker. If the August date does not work, we will plan for September. Please continue to fill your M&M jars as that money is used to support our Mission programs.

The Mission Team Appreciates Your Generosity and Support!



Back to School Supplies



Again this year we have been asked to continue our support of Difference Makers and Hearts and Hands United as they work to provide backpacks and school supplies to children throughout Delaware County. Due to COVID-19 the distribution of sneakers will not take place this year but the need for school supplies is still there. If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause please write School Supplies on the memo line of your check or on your offering envelope with the amount you are donating on the special projects line. Donations must be in by Sunday, July 19.

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart for...

Thank you to these lovely ladies for helping to make sure the kitchen is in tip top shape for future delicious meals. Pat Brown, Wilma Grile, Linda Keyton, and Susan Reno were so wonderful to help with the Kitchen Spring Cleaning Event at the first of March. It just SPARKLES!!! Any items that were not being used were donated to the Mission. We would like to request that if you are keeping items in the refrigeration, please put your name on them. It was a very busy time for all! Thank you again, Lynn Wright.

Judy Turner and Beverly Reese for working on the church grounds.

Alan McGee for his work on the Community Garden.

Notes To and From Our Church Family

From Linda McBride and Covenant Partners Ministries:

To our brothers and sisters at Riverside UMC, Please accept our sincere gratitude for your financial donations in March, April and May, along with cleaning/ personal care bags. Your help is making a positive difference in people's lives especially during this very difficult period in time. We appreciate your faithful support of this ministry, and we pray that all our brothers and sisters in Christ at Riverside are well. May God watch over you, strengthen you, and keep you from all harm. God Bless you.

Report from the Endowment Fund Committee

As I'm sure you all know by now, investment accounts have taken a big hit over the past few months including the Church Endowment Fund. In a recent conversation with our Investment Advisor, he is encouraged based on what he is seeing and feels our Fund will continue to grow over the next few months. We hope that we have withdrawn the final payment from the Fund for the remodeling of the entrance way and our current balance is \$309,767.62. The Facilities Team is looking in to what other projects need to be done at the Church but at this time there are no plans to withdraw any additional funds for a while.

Darwin C Keyton
Chairperson, Endowment Fund

Habitat for Humanity

Work continues on Habitat projects in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Habitat a family recently moved in to their new home in the south-central neighborhood. This project, which was built from the ground up, was also one of Habitat's women led builds. Habitat currently has three builds underway with another two builds taking place later this year. Anyone wishing to volunteer on any Habitat project should contact Joe Speece, the Riverside Habitat for Humanity coordinator.

Caring Friends Card List

“Caring Friends” is a group that 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.

Pat Ashcraft, The Hearth at Tudor Gardens, 11755 N Michigan Rd Apt 234, Zionsville, IN 46077-9325
 Leona Barber, Albany Health & Rehabilitation Center, 910 W Walnut St, 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, IN 47303
 Maurice Carver, 1029 7th Ave #207, Bradenton, FL 34208
 Jo Clevenger, 1700 W Riggin Rd, Muncie, IN 47304
 Julia Cougill, 800 Antler Dr Apt B, Middlebury, IN 46540-9941
 Odessa DeHaven, 2300 W White River Blvd, Apt 12 Muncie, IN 47303
 Mary Jane Eiler, 108 Roosevelt Rd, Muncie, IN 47303
 Kay Farling, Hickory Hall, 5292 Snowbell Ln B6, Indianapolis, IN 46268
 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, 5801 W Bethel Ave #532, Muncie, IN 47304
 Roberta Phelps, Park Place Room 106, 359 Randolph St, Parker City, IN 47368, (mother of Mick Phelps)
 Joan Strait, 5801 W Bethel Ave #162, Muncie, IN 47304
 Lila Thompson, 708 S Rambler Road, Muncie, IN 47304
 Melissa Wallace, 1412 W. Tree Lane, Muncie, IN 47302, (daughter of Fred Wallace)
 Mary Whitaker, c/o Marsha Smith, 2000 Tam O’Shanter Dr, Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

Greeters for July and August

In keeping with social distancing guidelines for the rest the year we have decided to eliminate the Inside Door Host. We will continue with a Greeter at the main entry door. The person scheduled will be contacted during the week prior to their scheduled Sunday to confirm that the person is comfortable serving in that capacity. A mask and hand sanitizer will be available and encouraged to be used. Greetings shall be touchless.

July	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Main Entry Door</u>
7/5	Dick Murray
7/12	Herb Blank
7/19	Bob Harrison
7/26	Lynn Wright

August	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Main Entry Door</u>
8/2	Barry Turner
8/9	Sandy Hunter
8/16	Sharon Harrison
8/23	Darwin Keyton
8/30	Karen Blank



July

Joe Mitchell	7/1
Amy Clevenger	7/2
Julia Cougill	7/6
Peggy Polk	7/10
Marge Salisbury	7/12
Sharon Harrison	7/14
Keith Turner	7/19
Frank Campbell	7/26
Cindy Miller	7/30

August

Ruth Garringer	8/2
Bob Harvey	8/4
Jerry Hill	8/7
Lynn Wright	8/7
Odessa DeHaven	8/9
Mary Ann Beuoy	8/13
Marlene Boyer	8/16
Erika Pugsley	8/16
Peggy Park	8/31
Larry Souders	8/31

Happy Anniversary

Herb & Karen Blank	7/28
Rich & Aonde Carraway	8/27

Riverside United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Turner

email: keith.turner@inumc.org

Music Director : Rebecca Dorn (rebeccadorn@yahoo.com)

Admin. Assistant:

Karen Miller (riversidemuncie@gmail.com) – April/Oct

Julia Pittenger (riversidemuncie@gmail.com) – Oct/April

Media and Community Connection Director:

Tom Schamp (tom.riversideumc@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Karen Miller (karenjmiller516@gmail.com)

Custodian: Jama Tyburczyk

*Riverside
United
Methodist
Church*