
Keith's Corner



Dear Church Family,

Grace to you and peace in the name of our loving and faithful God!

The date of this publication, September 1, 2020, marks my one-year anniversary as the pastor of Riverside United Methodist Church. I remember my first Sunday here well. Excitement filled the air as did nervousness. I looked out on a congregation of 41 strangers, knowing only a few by name. Now, I stand before my church family, having been a part of your lives as your pastor, spiritual leader, and shepherd. However, no one could have ever expected what would transpire over the course of the year. I am still considered to be a “new pastor,” and no “new pastor” ever expects to spend three months of their first year preaching to a video camera lens, another three months (and counting!) with 50% of the congregation worshipping in-person with the other 50% worshipping via YouTube, and six months doing pastoral “visits” primarily over the phone. Yet day by day, we march on, learning to adapt with both successes and failures, even though some days we find it harder to march than other days. It is in those moments, when I realize that even though everything in the world around us might be unstable and tumultuous, the God we worship in Jesus Christ remains constant and faithful. As the old gospel song instructs us to pray, “When the storms of life are raging, stand by me./When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea,/thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me. (United Methodist Hymnal, 512)”

Because God in Christ remains faithful and constant, so must the witness and ministry of Christ's Church. We are still God's people. As a new and young pastor, I am also frequently asked, “What is the purpose of the Church in this world?” This question is an important one, especially because many people in my age demographic (Millennials and Gen Z) either have left organized religion in droves or have never had a church experience at all. There are many ways to answer that question, but I wholeheartedly believe the primary need for and purpose of the Church today is twofold: to offer authentic spiritual community and to be the embodiment of God's grace in an often judgmental, exclusive world. Therefore, as Summer transitions into Autumn, our respective September and October sermon series will explore these themes in-depth.

First, in September, our sermon series, Living into Community, will explore four key practices that build and sustain community. Inspired by Dr. Christine Pohl's book of the same title, we will consider the practices of gratitude, promise-keeping, truth-telling, and hospitality. Much more than dry and dusty duties, these practices are holy realities on which spiritual community stands or falls. When we replace gratitude with grumbling/complaining, promise-keeping with infidelity, truth-telling with betrayal, and hospitality with unwelcome, the foundation of Christian community erodes. In September, we will discern together how we can cultivate these practices here at Riverside. By cultivating them, we are poising and positioning ourselves to grow as a church community.

Second, in October, our sermon series, Dimensions of Grace, will dive into our Wesleyan understanding of grace as United Methodist Christians. As United Methodists, grace is central to our theological framework. No other tradition of Christianity has a more comprehensive understanding of grace. I do not say that to be flippantly braggadocios, but I do say that with a healthy sense of pride and celebration. For it is our understanding of grace that drew me to the United Methodist Church and planted within me the desire to serve as a pastor in it. Throughout this month, we will move through prevenient grace, justifying grace,

sanctifying grace, and perfecting grace. While these may be highly theological words, they impact our lives every day. Yet we are not merely recipients of grace, we are also witnesses, ministers, and givers of grace. Grace calls forth responsibility from each of us. In this sermon series, we will consider who we are as a people of grace and what that grace calls us to do so that we may continue to grow as a church community.

Being an authentic, grace-filled community is sometimes hard work. As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us, it demands us to change and to adapt, even though we may not know what the end result will be. Beginning this month, we will notice several changes in the life of our church leadership. For 12 years, Tom Schamp has served as our church's Media and Community Connection Director. He has given our church so much both on the frontlines and behind the scenes. However, beginning this month, he will experience this thing called "retirement." Also, for nearly 40 years, Julia Pittenger has served Riverside as the organist. Like Tom, she has also given our church so much both on the frontlines and behind the scenes. She, too, has shared her intent to retire from her organist position. We are also immensely grateful for what they have given to Riverside, wish them well in retirement, and look forward to the ways they will continue to serve the church in years to come. I would invite you to be on the lookout for more information concerning retirement celebration parties, wherein we will celebrate and give thanks for both Tom and Julia's ministry.

As a community of faith, we believe that God's grace is always at work in us, with us, through us, beyond us, and even despite us. I invite each of you to connect with God's grace and even discover dimensions of grace anew at Riverside United Methodist Church this Autumn. And, in doing so, rest assured in the timeless faithfulness of God.

Sincerely, in Christ
Pastor Keith

Greeter Schedule September & October 2020

Date	Outside Door
Sept. 6	Dick Murray
Sept. 13	Herb Blank
Sept. 20	Bob Harrison
Sept. 27	Judy Turner
Oct. 4	Barry Turner
Oct. 11	Mary Schumacher
Oct. 18	Darwin Keyton
Oct. 25	Karen Blank

New Riverside Website

Over the past several months a new Riverside website has been under construction and we are now ready to announce its presence on the internet. The website address is www.muncieriverside.org. The content is much the same as the old website but the format is quite different. Actually, the old website is still up to date. Going forward you will notice new enhancements so check back often.

Riverside UMC Governing Council

Monday, July 20, 2020

Members present: Florence Shelby, Larry Campbell, Tom Schamp, Darwin Keyton, Karen Miller, Karen Blank, Laura Shadoin, Pastor Keith Turner and Sandy Hunter

Pastor Keith led a devotion and prayer on Mathew Chapter 6

Review of Minutes 1/13/2020. Approved Karen Miller seconded Florence Shelby.

Review of Business Via email The following business was approved by the council during the Covid pandemic. 1. Purchase of video camera. 2. Inclusion of housing credit for Pastor Keith.

Endowment Committee Darwin Keyton gave the balance of \$322,005.84 as of 7/20/20.

Balance of Endowment as of August 26 is \$343,014.

Facilities Team Pastor Keith and Darwin Keyton gave the report in Larry's absence due to illness. The total bill has not been paid to the contractor due to the handicap door not working properly. The team is on hold due to the covid virus. Pastor John and Missi left the parsonage in sparkling order.

Mission Team Karen Blank gave the report. Report attached.

Treasurer report given by Karen Miller. Approved by Laura Shadoin seconded by Karen Blank.

Staff-Parrish Relations Laura Shadoin reported they have not met. They plan to meet in the Fall. Tom Schamp is retiring September 1st. Due to our current financial situation we possibly will not hire a replacement. The media team will work one Sunday a month. Julia Pittenger will no longer be playing the organ. Both Tom and Julia will be greatly missed. There are plans to celebrate their years of service sometime in the Fall.

Pastor's report Pastor Keith's report is attached. Pastor Keith moved into the parsonage last Monday. Five rooms have been painted and the carpets were cleaned. A new refrigerator will be delivered. The ice maker was broken and it was small and very old. Also new light fixtures were purchased for the dining room, entrance hall and hallway. There was a discussion of matching the funds contributed by the congregation with the memorial fund. The cost will be \$5000 for "the new to us" piano, delivery and tuning.

A motion was made by Karen Miller to use what has been collected so far (\$1740) and the remainder of the money come from the Virginia Sharp estate for the new piano. Seconded by Laura Shadoin. Motion passed. Pastor Keith asked us to consider establishing a Benevolence fund for the discretion of the Pastor when there is a need.

Next meeting October 19,2020

Florence Shelby gave the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm

Sunday School Classes

Wisdom Seekers will not meet until further notice.

Master's Charges will resume this fall, no specific date has been set.

Covenant Partners quilting group plans to begin meeting again in September.

News from the Missions Team

During July and August Riverside's generosity has been spread around the Muncie community, Indiana and the world.

- \$500 to the Muncie YWCA
- \$100 – Memorial to Deb Vance to support the church in Zambia
- \$960 – 4 student scholarships for Operation Classroom
- \$1000 – to meet our pledge to the Tiama Enterprise Academy in Sierre Leone
- \$1187.57 was collected for missions
- \$100 to the United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon, IN
- 50 Covenant Partner Bags each month in July and August

THANK YOU RIVERSIDE!!!!

On Sunday, August 9, Susan Bennett from the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, shared a wonderful message about the residents and the programs at the Children's Home. It is a safe and structured spiritual home environment that meets the needs of so many young people. One of the programs that provides direct support to the young residents is the Auxiliary. Through this group, the youth receive backpacks, birthday parties, field trips, pizza parties and many other "fun" things! During the month of September, the Mission team is offering you the opportunity to become an Auxiliary member and support these programs. There will be information and envelopes available at the Mission Table. You can become an Auxiliary member for only \$15 – check it out! You can also be on their monthly Prayers of Hope list which allows you to pray for the specific needs of the residents. See Judy for more information.

Thank you to the ladies who volunteered at the Food Pantry in August. We will be providing the Covenant Partner bags in September and October.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS A BLESSING!

Covenant Partners Ministry

Supply Bags Due Dates

Bags are due: Monday, September 21

Bags are due: Monday, October 26

Please put the following in a double bagged plastic bag:

1 hand soap, 1 dish washing liquid,

1 box of tissues, 4 rolls of toilet paper,

1 small bottle/box laundry detergent, shampoo

Coats Against the Cold

It is with much sadness that I share the news with you that the annual Coats Against Cold coat drive has been canceled for 2020. There was just no way to distribute coats while exercising social distancing. The organization Hearts and Hands United wants to make you aware that you can still donate coats and they will store them until next Fall. You can contact Kay Walker, Center Township Trustee, at 765-760-0405.

Thanks with a grateful heart for...

Barry and Judy Turner, Joe Speece, Alan McGee, Beverly Reese and Laura Shadoin and anyone else who have worked on the church grounds.

Mick Phelps for his guidance as the Youngs moved out of the parsonage and Rev Keith moved in.

Larry Campbell for refinishing the wooden handles that are on the exterior doors on the education wing.

Barry Turner for changing light bulbs throughout the church building and doing some plumbing.

Thanks to and from the Congregation

From Ron Brown, Angie, Amy and David:

Thank you sincerely for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness in preparing Pat's favorite recipes for her funeral dinner. It is deeply appreciated by the family of Patricia Brown.

Covenant Partners Ministries express gratitude for the continued faithfulness and generosity in giving supply bags.

Bob Wallace thanks everyone for the prayers.



Backpacks, Schools Supplies

The Riverside congregation donated \$838 for the purchase of backpacks and school supplies. This will benefit many needy children of Muncie and Delaware County. Al Holdren was given the check. Hearts and Hands United wishes to thank you for your kind generosity.



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, 1027 7th Ave E #207, Bradenton, FL 34208
 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, Hickory Hall, 5292 Snowbell Ln, Unit B, Indianapolis, IN 46268
 Ruth Garringer, Water's Edge Village, 2200 W White River Blvd, Muncie, IN 47303
 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 #162, Muncie, IN 47304
 Lila Thompson, 708 S Rambler Rd, Muncie, IN 47304
 Bob Wallace, 1908 S Haney St, Muncie, IN 47302
 Melissa Wallace, 1412 W. Tree Lane, Muncie, IN 47302, (daughter of Fred Wallace)
 Mary Whitaker, c/o Marcia Smith, 2000 Tam O'Shanter Dr., Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

September	
Karen Miller	9/2
Sandy Abbott	9/4
Aonde Carraway	9/7
Linda Keyton	9/7
Tom Schamp	9/9
Wilma Grile	9/12
Nellie Campbell	9/16
Debbie DeHaven	9/17
Aloyse Baney	9/23
Barbara Parker	9/24
Sandy Jordan	9/30
Jan Phelps	9/30



October	
Rich Carraway	10/1
Dorothy Bowman	10/5
Leta Settle	10/21
Jerry Thomas	10/21
Wilma Carney	10/22
Eric Murphy	10/23
Leona Barber	10/28
Sally Wetzell	10/30
Janet Schamp	10/31

Anniversaries ***

September 6	Bob & Earlene Harvey
October 19	Darwin & Linda Keyton
October 24	Larry & Nancy Campbell