



## March-April Reminder

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“Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.”<sup>1</sup>

We often think of Lent as a time to give something up. It is usually either something we shouldn’t be doing in the first place like over-eating or cussing or smoking; or it is something we like or enjoy like chocolate or desserts or watching TV. It is seen as a deprivation in keeping with penitential preparation of our souls for Easter and linked to Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness. I invite you to consider Lent as a season of preparation for receiving something. It is a time for doing something to make us mindful of what God in Christ has already done for us in his life, death, and resurrection.

So, whatever you choose to do this Lent, may it prepare you to celebrate the gift of God’s love which we see validated and proclaimed by the empty tomb. May your Lenten discipline roll away what ever stands in the way of your embracing God’s love. May it turn you toward others in the world for whom Christ died. May it open you up so that you can receive more fully God’s gift of grace and give to other’s more fully God’s gift of grace.

May your Lent this year be grace-full.

Shalom in Christ,

John

<sup>1</sup> The United Methodist Book of Worship, (Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992), ¶320.



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### Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### March...

1<sup>st</sup> Dale Hunter  
7<sup>th</sup> Bill Pittenger  
11<sup>th</sup> Elaine Wallace  
12<sup>th</sup> Darci DeHaven  
19<sup>th</sup> Maurice Carver  
20<sup>th</sup> Judy Turner  
21<sup>st</sup> Barry Turner  
Karen Blank  
Jo Ann Ware  
26<sup>th</sup> Beverly Reese  
29<sup>th</sup> Jo Clevenger  
30<sup>th</sup> Fred Wallace



#### April...

1<sup>st</sup> Melinda Shocklee  
5<sup>th</sup> Tammy Holt  
6<sup>th</sup> Pat Ashcraft  
7<sup>th</sup> Pat Brown  
Gary Shadoin  
Nicole Affolder  
13<sup>th</sup> Charles Gronendyke  
John Spence  
17<sup>th</sup> Allison Mitchell  
19<sup>th</sup> Caity Baird  
21<sup>st</sup> Kendra Ervin  
29<sup>th</sup> Jeanine Souders  
Susan Reno



#### March...

3<sup>rd</sup> Harold & Wilma Grile  
11<sup>th</sup> Carl & Aloyse Baney

#### April...

3<sup>rd</sup> Joe & Debbie Ervin  
18<sup>th</sup> Bill & Leona (Floyd) Barber

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Give thanks with a grateful heart for...

Everyone that helped prepare meals for the *Yes!*<sup>13</sup> small group study.

Dale Hunter sharing his gift of art by allowing us to display his beautiful paintings.

To Jim Reese, Bob Harvey, Ron Brown, Larry Campbell, Barry Turner, Mark Clevenger and Dale DeHaven for building the wheelchair ramp.

To everyone that donated towards the wheelchair ramp.

To Ron Brown for helping Harold Grile with a number of tasks that needed done at the parsonage.

To Pat Brown and the Bread of Life team for preparing the meal following the funeral service for Joe Carraway.

To Tony Collins for repairing the threshold at the kitchen door and installing a door sweep.

To Jim Reese for faithfully clearing the snow off the sidewalks and steps around the church building.

To Deb Dolak for sharing her gift of music with us each Sunday and for filling in for Julia when she's not here.

To Larry Campbell for installing a rod on the lectern for the Paraments, touching up the pews and doors; and for making new door stops for the sanctuary doors.

To a giving Riverside member for the donation of new floor mats for the entry and kitchen.

To the Riverside community and Pastor John...for all the cards, visits, and love recently expressed...Mary Kay Farling.

Chi Omega is thankful for our generosity in allowing them use of our facilities recently.

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Give thanks with a grateful heart for...

From Julie and the Carraway Family...Thank you so much for the sweet service...it was all we could have hoped for. The dinner following was an amazing part of our day...first time mom had eaten in a week. Thanks for all the love and support.

Covenant Partners continues to be blessed by Riverside's financial support.

Thank you Riverside: We met our goal of bringing "Joy to the World" with our Heifer Project plus more! With the \$2,450 collected, we purchased two heifers, two llamas, four sheep, five goats, chickens, ducks, and rabbits. Your generosity will help many families an opportunity to become self-sufficient. We look forward to another Heifer Project next December.

## *Lenten & Easter Services*

*March 28<sup>th</sup> 9:45am*

*April 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00pm*

*April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00pm*

*April 4<sup>th</sup> 9:45am*

*April 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00am*

*&11:15am Cantata at Gethsemane*

*Palm Sunday-Cantata at Riverside*

*Holy Thursday at Riverside*

*Good Friday at Gethsemane*

*Easter*

### **World Day of Prayer**

Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Lutheran Church of the Cross  
4401 N Wheeling Ave, Muncie

9:30 Registration

10:00 Program

"Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God"

**DALE MENDENHALL  
WILL BE PREACHING ON  
SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH**

*Ministry Support*

**Trustees' Corner**

If you recall last Fall we added a significant amount of insulation to the attic at the parsonage. The cost for this work came to \$866. This also included installing a roof vent for the utility room and sealing up air leaks. We were told we would recoup the expense in approximately three years. After just two months (December '09 and January '10) we've saved \$201 when compared to the same two months in '08 and '09. We're well on our way to recouping our investment.

**Spring Spruce-up Day**

You're invited to join the Trustees on Saturday morning the 24<sup>th</sup> of April to help "Spruce-up" the church grounds. Following the "Never-ending Winter of 2009/2010" here's a great opportunity to get outside, get a little exercise and work along-side your fellow Riversiders. Mark your calendars.

**Cardinal Greenway Volunteer Opportunity**

The annual Great Greenway Tour will be held on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. The GGT will be expanded this year so more volunteers will be needed and the best part is you can be involved even if you don't ride a bicycle. Crossing Guards will be needed to assist participants as they cross streets and highways. The new, extended, White River Greenway will be included in the tour this year so participants will be crossing at the High St. Bridge. Sign-up sheets will be available as the time draws closer. Gee, I hope the snow has melted by then.

**Appointments**

Martha Lyon, pastor at Gethsemane, has been appointed to Decatur First UMC effective July 1, 2010 and she is being followed by Vicki Perkins who comes from Hanover First UMC. Please pray for all three congregations and pastors in this time of transition.

Our current District Superintendent, Dr. N. Dale Mendenhall, has been appointed as pastor of High Street UMC effective July 1, 2010. Dale is following Jack Hartman who is retiring.

**BISHOP COYNER APPOINTS REV. DAVID BYRUM AS NEW EAST DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT**

I am just so pleased that Bishop Coyner has appointed David Byrum as the new East District Superintendent. I have known Dave for years. He has been consistently a pastor with whom I have been impressed. Not only am I excited to have Dave follow me as superintendent but I am also looking forward to him being my superintendent beginning July 1.

I know you will keep Dave and his wife Becky in your prayers as they enter this transition period. Please also pray for the church where he has been serving for over thirteen years, First UMC in Valparaiso.

*Dale*  
Dr. N. Dale Mendenhall

**RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE**

**MISSIONS UPDATE**

As soon as we have all the numbers on collections and donations from 2009, we will post them in the next newsletter to keep you updated on how RIVERSIDE has been the hands of God in so many ways this past year.

We are off to an exciting 2010 with our Missions Goals! One of our new initiatives will be Operation Classroom. Here is a brief summary of this important mission program:

**Operation Classroom is a not-for-profit organization partnering with selected schools and health care facilities in Sierra Leone and Liberia that seeks to work with the United Methodist Church to:**

- Provide a first-rate educational system in United Methodist schools (supported through scholarships).
  - Develop a viable vocational program in these schools.
  - Train pastors, principals, and teachers in a basic understanding of counseling.
  - Upgrade medical programs and facilities at Kissy Hospital in Sierra Leone and at Ganta Hospital in Liberia (Operation Doctor).
  - Provide much-needed basic school supplies to the United Methodist village schools. (There are over 90 village schools in Liberia that are not the “selected U.S. supported schools” and these grass-roots church schools have few, if any, school supplies, books, teaching aids, or desks.
- Operation Classroom has its roots in Indiana United Methodism as a Christian outreach designed to provide an opportunity to participate in hands-on mission experiences. Persons and churches from over 30 states now participate in this partnership!

You ask, “How will Riverside be helping with this cause?” Glad you asked! There are 3 ways:

1-We will focus an upcoming month (April) to collect items for “YES” kits to be distributed to youth in these countries. These kits give needed supplies for schools along with a Bible! You can start purchasing the items anytime, and then watch for updates in the bulletin on a collection box. Below are the products to include for each kit. The “Yes Kit Cloth Tote Bags” will be made by a separate committee, so your donation of items can temporarily be put into a zip lock bag.

**Secondary School YES (Youth Essential Supplies) Kit**

- 4 pens
- 1 solar calculator
- 1 ruler or protractor
- 4 notebooks (8 1/2 x11)
- 1 NIV or RSV Bible (We will purchase these at a discount through Operation Classroom)

**Instructions:** Items may be placed in a [YES kit cloth tote bag](#).

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### **New Elementary YES (Youth Essential Supplies) Kit**

(for K-5 students):

- 4 pencils
- 1 eraser
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 1 box crayons (24 count)
- 3 notebooks
- 1 ruler
- 1 pr blunt scissors
- 12 sheets construction paper (varied colors)
- Religious coloring book
- Good News New Testament (We will purchase these at a discount through Operation Classroom)

**Instructions:** Items may be placed in a [YES kit cloth tote bag](#).

2-Second way you can help is to make a donation of a scholarship to Operation Classroom. For \$75 you can provide the 2009-2010 school fees for a needy student, who without your assistance will not be able to attend school. For this amount (or any portion of \$75), just make a check out to Riverside with Operation Classroom on the subject line.

3-A mission trip to Sierra Leone or Liberia is in the planning stages for next year. Please let Pastor John know if you have interest in going. This should prove to be a very rewarding trip.

**Riverside has been recognized as a  
CROP WALK Honor Church  
for raising more than \$750 and/or having a minimum of five walkers averaging more  
than \$100 per Walker.**



### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

We will receive a special offering on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> to support the mission work of UMCOR. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, your gifts lay the foundation for all of UMCOR's work. They allow UMCOR to act on your behalf and bring much-needed relief and joy to vulnerable children and adults alike.

UMCOR receives no apportionment or World Service funds of any kind. Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project—not on home office costs.

Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed. UMCOR's specialized ministries—responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees—all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.



### Cross & Flame Award

The United Methodist Church accepts the programs of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies as contributing to the church's goals in its ministry with children and youth. The Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting of the General Commission on United Methodist Men and the National Association of United Methodist Scouters recognizes men and women who give unusual amounts of time and energy in dedicated service with children and youth. The Cross and Flame program gives recognition to adult leaders who have given exceptional service in the use and promotion of programs for young people.

On Scout Sunday, February 14, 2010 we presented James A. Reese with the Cross and Flame Award in recognition of his long and faithful support of scouting.

Jim Reese earned his God & Country and his and Eagle Scout the two highest awards for a Scout. As a Scout he also received the Golden Eagle Award and as an adult the District Award of Merit both from the Golden Eagle District, Crossroads of America Council, BSA. As an adult he continues to share his passion for scouting. He was a Den and Pack leader for Cub Scouts and a Troop leader for Boy Scouts. He served on the District Committee and was recognized by the National Court of Honor in 1995 with the Silver Beaver, the highest award for adults in Scouting. He continues to serve as Riverside's local church scouting coordinator with Troop 1 and Crew 1.

Jim continues to live out the highest ideals of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. This letter of gratitude is from the Executive Director of Meals on Wheels:

Dear Pastor Young, Jim Reese, and Construction Volunteers,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of time, cost and the construction of a wheelchair ramp recently built for on of our Meals On Wheels clients, which could not have come to us at a more critical time for her and her family. Even though the idea did not actually originate from the program staff, we are truly humbled by Jim Reese acknowledging a need while delivering meals, then taking the idea and making the project happen. A program like Meals on Wheels has always been a result of work by many hands, heads, and hearts where each of our wonderful volunteers and contributors has mad an essential gift, either with time or contributions, to the success of our program.

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Please know how much of a difference your project has made to our client. It gives us great pleasure to be able to acknowledge our volunteers and celebrate the great work being done in our community. I am very thankful to each of them individually as well as how they perform as a team. In every sense of the word and on every level, they truly make this program a success.

Although our client will not be able to thank you personally for your generosity, please allow me to express a thank you for designing and building a difficult wheelchair ramp and making it possible for her to easily access her home. Words cannot really express the difference your gift has made to she and her family as well as to all of us here at Meals On Wheels and we wish your and yours the very best for 2010.

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches.

They have been identified as: 1 - Bin Sleepin, 2 - Bin Arguin, 3 -Bin Fightin, 4 -Bin Complainin, and 5 -Bin Missin.

Their leader, Lucifer Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy..

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along.

Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others.

These Groups are known as Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

**NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT!**

(However, you can spot them if you bin lookin and bin goin.)

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### March and April Hosts and Minglers

DATE	OUTSIDE DOOR	INSIDE DOOR	LOBBY MINGLER	SANCTUARY MINGLER
03/07/10	Herb & Karen Blank	Jo Clevenger	Bill Campbell	Nellie Campbell
03/14/10	Dale & Debbie DeHaven	Margaret Ann Deboy	Pat Ashcraft	Hester Mitchell
03/21/10	Bob & Earlene Harvey	Odessa DeHaven	Sandy Hunter	Kay Farling
03/28/10	Larry & Nancy Campbell	Henry Dorton	Betty Lacey	Cindy Miller
04/04/10	H. Shelby & C. Gronendyke	Wilma Grile	Susan Reno	Sandy Jordan
04/11/10	Bob & Fred Wallace	Sandy Hunter	Betty Lacey	Hester Mitchell
04/18/10	R. Brown & L. Campbell	Virginia Sharp	Wilma Grile	Kay Farling
04/25/10	Mark & Amy Clevenger	Sara Mitchell	Betty Lacey	Sandy Jordan



#### COVENANT PARTNERS COMMUNITY DAY

**Community Day** will continue on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please bring your bags of supplies by Tuesday, March 23rd for the next event on March 25th. Also, please see Susan Reno or Mary Schumacher if you would be willing to share part of your day on those Thursdays from 10-2 with the people at Covenant Partners. You will be blessed.

#### DELAWARE COUNTY UNITED METHODIST MENS LENTEN BREAKFASTS

The Delaware County United Methodist Men Lenten Breakfasts will be held consecutive Saturdays at 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the following locations:

- February 27     Muncie High Street UMC, Jerry McNary 789-6409
- March 6         Muncie Riverside UMC, Jim Reese 468-8822
- March 13        New Castle First UMC
- March 20        Daleville UMC, Judy Fuller [pjandterry@comcast.net](mailto:pjandterry@comcast.net)
- March 27        Muncie Gethsemane UMC, Bill Fosnaugh, [billfosnaugh@att.net](mailto:billfosnaugh@att.net)



The Kids Hope Mentors and Prayer Partners gathered recently in Fellowship Hall for lunch and a time of sharing their stories and experiences with one another. Following an excellent carry-in lunch many of the Mentors shared some very interesting stories. Larry Campbell told how he helped his student with a project that was entered in a local Science Fair. Their project earned an Honorable Mention. Congratulations Larry. Darwin Keyton told how he neglected to mention to his student that there would be a substitute for him and how it really disappointed him because he really looks forward to Darwin being there each week. Earlene Harvey shared how she, from time to time, has to be somewhat stern with her student and reminds her that she's there to help her, not to be a babysitter. There was a general discussion re the activities the Mentors and students get involved in during the hour. Karen Blank mentioned that she has seen Garfield material that is designed to help students with their school work. She volunteered to make this material available to all the Riverside Mentors. The Riverside/Mitchell Kids Hope program is still growing. More Mentors & Prayer Partners will be needed next year. Won't you help?

Below is a story from the Kids Hope website:

### **From a Mentor**

"I first met my 'Little Guy' three years ago when he was in the third grade. One of his teachers said, 'He needs more self-confidence. He needs to feel more comfortable socializing with others.' He was very shy and subdued. Very early in our sessions it became evident that he liked to draw, and he was good at it. So, at the beginning of our period if he seemed 'down in the dumps,' we would start off with drawing. Doing this made him come alive. I have kept 37 of his drawings.

During our time together, we studied reading, writing, spelling, math, composition, checkers, and cards. Keeping in mind his 'lack of confidence,' I tried to help him improve his self-esteem by using such phrases as: 'you are improving; that was great; you have come a long way and I think you can now do anything you want to do.' Over a period of time, he came to realize that I really meant what I was saying and he began to improve. We went from hardly speaking to giving each other 'high fives,' grinning, and smiling. Just recently, I received two unexpected hugs.

I felt we were making some progress but I wondered what the 'Little Guy' thought. So I said, 'I am going to write a short story about our time together. Would you like to write something for me to use in the story?' He said he would. However, when he came to our next meeting, he said he had not written anything, but had memorized what he wanted to say. So he spoke and I wrote: 'Three years ago, I really needed help in math, and when Mr. M came along, he helped me with math. If he had not come I would have failed. I'm really glad he showed up. He helped me improve over the last two years....Although he's been teaching me math, he also helped me bring a smile.'"