



March-April Reminder

As we continue our Lenten journey to the cross and reflect on *The Hole in Our Gospel* let us continue to reflect on the question Richard Sterns struggled with and challenges us to struggle with, “What does God expect of us?”

Philippians 2:6-11 is thought to be an early Christian hymn to the Christ journey. It is a path of *kenosis* (self-emptying). Jesus emptied himself and became one of us. He humbled himself and became a slave and gave everything on the cross. This is the path of transformation. When we open ourselves up and empty ourselves out God will use us and we will “shine like the stars.”

Here is the hymn in context (Philippians 2:1-15):

¹ *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,* ² *then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.* ³ *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,* ⁴ *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God,*

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ *rather, he made himself nothing*

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man,*

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place*

and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,*

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,*

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,* ¹³ *for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

¹⁴ *Do everything without grumbling or arguing,* ¹⁵ *so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky* ¹⁶ *as you hold firmly to the word of life.*

The recruiter who called Richard Stearns asked him a challenging question, “Are you willing to be open to God’s will for your life?” I ask that question of you, “Are *you* willing to be open to God’s will for *your* life?” I ask that question of us as Riverside United Methodist Church, “Are *we* willing to be open to God’s will for *our* life together?”

The challenge is to trust God knowing that God wants us to be transformed and set free to serve one another joyfully. God wants to work in you “to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” “Are you willing to be open to God’s will for your life?”

Shalom in Christ,

John

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March...

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



April...

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



March...

11th Carl & Aloyse Baney

April...

3rd Joe & Debbie Ervin

March-April Reminder

Give thanks with a grateful heart for...

Betty Lacey would like to thank everyone for all the visits, phone calls, and cards. They are all very much appreciated.

A Better Way would like to thank Riverside for the donation of \$500.00 in memory of Ferne Dawson. We are grateful for your generous gift in her memory. She must have been a special person and friend for people to give so generously. We are sure she will be missed...Keith Doudt.

As member of the Board of Directors for A Better Way, I want to thank you for your donation in memory of Ferne Dawson...Ed Armantrout.

Barb Hewitt and Peg Polk for sharing their creative talents with everyone by displaying interesting themes on the Lobby Bulletin Board.

Sandy Hunter, Fred Wallace and Pat Brown for helping with "unhanging" the Christmas Greens.

Andy Pittenger for unclogging and repairing some of the gutters and downspouts on the church building.

Nancy Campbell, Pat Brown, Dorothy Bowman, Judy Turner and Sandy Abbott who helped prepare and promote the Super Bowl Subs fund raiser for the Kids Hope SERVE Camp.

Leona Barber for sharing her "Love" decorations with us for Valentines Day.

Tony Collins for helping us solve some computer problems very late on a recent Saturday evening.

The volunteers that worked at the Food Pantry in February.

Marlene Boyer and Leta Sue Settle for sharing their creative talents with us by decorating the Altar.

Ron Brown for helping Tom Schamp install the new TV in the Lobby.



Easter Flower Order Forms...

can be found on the table in the Narthex.

Deadline to place your order is Monday, March 12th.

March-April Reminder

COVENANT PARTNERS COMMUNITY DAY

Please bring your bags of supplies by Tuesday, March 20th for the next event on Thursday, March 22nd.

Items to included: unscented hand soap (1 bar or bottle), laundry detergent (small bottle or box), dish detergent (16 oz), Kleenex (1 box), and toilet paper (4 rolls).

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.

Riverside Riders

Our first ride won't be until May but isn't it nice just to think about rolling along the beautiful Cardinal Greenway, enjoying the sunshine, warm temperatures and listening to the birds sing again. Now's the time to start checking the condition of your tires, spraying some WD-40 on the moving parts and just basically dusting off the ole Schwinn to make it road-worthy.

We were somewhat disappointed last summer in the number of people that were able to ride on the first Saturday of each month so we've been talking about changing the day and perhaps even the time of the rides. Sometime in the next few weeks we'll ask you to fill out a brief survey where you can let us know what day and time works best for you.

Radical Hospitality: Rides to Church and Valet Parking

It has come to our attention that there are members of our congregation who occasionally need a ride to church but are unwilling to ask someone to "go out of their way." It has also come to our attention that there are members of our congregation who choose not to come to church on days when it is icy for fear of falling in the parking lot. It has been suggested that we recruit people who would be willing to provide rides to church and/or would be willing to offer valet parking on days when the weather is bad. Then we can make these services known and available so that those who are unwilling to ask for help will be encouraged to do so. If you are willing to provide rides to church and/or Sunday School please let us know the areas of town you are willing to pick up from and the frequency. If you are willing to provide valet parking so that those who fear falling can get out of their cars under the canopy before church and/or Sunday School and return to their cars under the canopy following church please let us know. And if you have suggestions as to how to make this work efficiently please let us know that as well.

Missions

Riverside had a great 2011 participating in local, state, and world missions. We want to thank everyone who had a heart for being the hands of God to help with one of so many areas that we worked in-- Covenant Partners monthly sacks, Christian Ministries weekly food donations and helping at the pantry, Habitat for Humanity, UMCOR donations, Kid's Hope, Salvation Army, Muncie Mission Walk-a-Mile, CROP Walk, First Choice for Women, YWCA donations, Coats Against the Cold, dinners for Covenant Partners, Sleep Room Volunteers, and the Heifer project.

Actual cash raised or donated for the above Mission objectives was \$25,333. Value of things donated in addition to this (coats, items in bags, food donated, time donated, etc.) was approximately \$8,500. Riverside donated approximately 1,050 cans for Christian Ministries and over 1,000 bags with needed cleaning items to Covenant Partners.

Of the above cash total, Fern Dawson left a wonderful donation to the Builders Class and Caring Friends. Thanks to her kindness, there was a lot of additional help we were able to give such as A Better Way, South Madison Food Pantry, Christian Ministries Hope House Roof, Covenant Partners, Wayside Mission, YWCA, Salvation Army, Muncie Mission, and Habitat for Humanity.

There are too many people to thank for the dedication to help with Missions, so just know that each person who gave in any fashion has been the hands of God to someone in need or furthering of his word. We have a wonderful, giving church.

God Bless You for your service.

The Missions Committee



One Great Hour of Sharing

We will receive a special offering on **Sunday, March 18** 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.

March-April Reminder

Delaware County Poverty Awareness Week

March 10-March 18

“Solving the puzzle of poverty...What is my piece?”

Events planned include:

Poverty simulations

Storytelling events

Church presentations

Community Bus Tour

Health Forum

Second Harvest Soup Lunch and Tour

Plus many more!

Go to <http://teamworkql.org> for the schedule and details

Kids Hope SERVE Camp Fund Raisers

Riverside and the Muncie Bob Evans Restaurant will form a partnership on Thursday the 5th of April (this date is Holy Thursday) to raise funds to support the Kids Hope SERVE Camp. Beginning at 6:00am until closing, whenever a special flier is presented a percentage of the check will go to Kids Hope. These fliers will be available at church and will also be sent out as an attachment to an e-mail. You may then forward the e-mail with attached flier to everyone in your computer address book. The recipient may then print it and take it with them to Bob Evans anytime on the 5th of April.

Bob Evans has made fund raising as easy as pie. No food to prepare, no orders to assemble and nothing to deliver. Just show up at Bob Evans anytime on the 5th of April with a flier in hand and you'll be raising money for the Kids Hope SERVE Camp. Oh yeah, invite your friends and family and make it a party. Celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Celebrate it at Bob Evans.

***** ALSO *****

Don't miss out on the **Loaded Potato Bar** with dessert and drink following service on Sunday, March 11th. The cost is \$6.00 payable at the door.

From the Endowment Team...

We are pleased to report that \$500 from the interest earned from our endowment funds has been used to enhance the media at Riverside through the purchase of two flat screen TVs. One is being used by the Seeds of Hope youth class led by Tammy Holt and the other has been installed in the Lobby.

We thank God for your gifts to the endowment fund and the funding provided for the continuance of ministry at Riverside.

Three Simple Questions: Knowing the God of Love, Hope, and Purpose.

On Easter Sunday I will begin an eight week sermon series based on Rueben Job’s book, *Three Simple Questions: Knowing the God of Love, Hope, and Purpose*. The three simple questions are “Who Is God?” “Who Am I?” and “Who Are We Together?” I invite you to consider those questions and share your questions with me as I prepare this series of sermons.

Job concludes his introduction, “Therefore, I invite you to a new exploration of these three simple questions with the confidence that they will lead you to a new understanding of the God of love who made you and a new understanding of yourself as a son or daughter of this God, as a part of the whole human family, and as a part of the living body of Christ in the world.” Shalom in Christ, Pastor John

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Special Thanks to the team of volunteers that provide coffee and snacks each Sunday morning in the Joseph W. Rankin Library. A sign up sheet is available in the Lobby for anyone that can help. See Amy Clevenger or Tom Schamp for instruction on the operation of the coffee brewer.

March and April Hosts and Minglers

DATE	OUTSIDE DOOR	INSIDE DOOR	LOBBY MINGLER	SANCTUARY MINGLER
Mar 4	Susan Reno & Wilma Grile	Odessa DeHaven	Sandy Jordan	Kay Rankin
Mar 11	John & Sara McKillip	Sandy Abbott	Susan Reno	Pat Ashcraft
Mar 18	Jack Stanton & Dorothy Bowman	Kay Farling	Jo Ann Ware	Sandy Hunter
Mar 25	Fred & Bob Wallace	Jo Ann Ware	Sara Mitchell	Amy Clevenger
April 1	Mark & Amy Clevenger	Hester Mitchell	Sandy Abbott	Margaret Ann DeBoy
Easter April 8	Jerry & Ann Golden	Earlene Harvey	Jo Clevenger	Bob Harvey
April 15	Joe & Judy Van Winkle	Henry Dorton	Dorothy Bowman	Wilma Grile
April 22	Dick & Ruth Garringer	Jo Clevenger	Virginia Sharp	Pat Ashcraft
April 29	Ron Brown & Larry Campbell	Nancy Campbell	Kay Farling	Fred Wallace

Having Greeters each Sunday is an important ministry at Riverside. If you are unable to serve when scheduled please ask someone to fill in for you.

March-April Reminder

2012 Community Lenten Services

*Friends Memorial Church
418 West Adams St, Muncie.*

Each Wednesday through March 28th.

Services begin at noon with a light lunch and fellowship time to follow.

*March 7 Julia Corbitt Hemeyer, Community Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church
March 14 James Lawson, Terrestrial Temple
March 21 Rev. Fr. Dennis Goth, St. Lawrence Catholic Church
March 28 Jim Garrett, First Brethern
 Good Friday: April 6, Noon. High Street United Methodist Church*

Anthems illustrating the "Seven Last Words," Dr. Duane Karna, BSU, Conducting. Message by Rev. Dr. Dale Mendenhall, High Street United Methodist Church

DELAWARE COUNTY UNITED METHODIST MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFASTS

All breakfasts will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end by 9:00 a.m.

March 10	Muncie Center Chapel UMC
March 17	Daleville UMC
March 24	Muncie Gethsemane UMC



Holy Week Services

<i>April 1st</i>	<i>9:45am</i>	<i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i>
<i>April 5th</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>Holy Thursday Service at Gethsemane</i>
<i>April 6th</i>	<i>9:00am-10:30pm</i>	<i>The Way of the Cross at Riverside</i>
	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>"Remember" at Riverside</i>
	<i>9:00pm</i>	<i>"Remember" at Riverside</i>
<i>April 7th</i>	<i>9:00am-2:00pm</i>	<i>The Way of the Cross at Riverside</i>
<i>April 8th</i>	<i>9:45am</i>	<i>Easter</i>

Remember
Good Friday, April 6th 7:00 & 9:00 p.m.

On Good Friday, April 6th, at 7 & 9pm the combined choir of Riverside and Gethsemane UMC will present the musical, “**Remember**,” in the sanctuary of Riverside UMC. As Mary shares her memories of Jesus in the hours after His death your heart will be touched as you experience the deep reality of the Passion and life of our Lord and Savior portrayed meaningfully by youth and adults with fresh, new music. On this Good Friday take an hour and “**Remember**” the touch of Christ’s hand.

The Way of the Cross
Good Friday, April 6th 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Holy Saturday, April 7th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Way (or Stations) of the Cross has been a common way of participating in the passion (suffering) of Christ as a part of Good Friday services. Stopping at each station reminds the participant of different moments of Christ's passion journey and encourages reflection and contemplation. Its inspiration came from the desire to imitate the journeys of early Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land, especially to the places of Christ's redemptive suffering. The version offered here differs from traditional ones in that it includes only stations with a biblical basis.ⁱ

These fourteen stations were created by individuals, groups, and classes from Gethsemane United Methodist Church and Riverside United Methodist Church to accompany the 2011 Good Friday cantata, Tapestry of Darkness.

ⁱ Adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, (The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992), 366.