



May-June Reminder

“Two men looked out from prison bars; one saw mud the other saw stars.”

It has been said that we live not just in a place but in our description of the place. That can be said of us as individuals and as groups of people such as a congregation. Our environment shapes us to some degree and how we describe our environment shapes us to a much greater degree.

My sense is that the same is true of groups of people like church congregations. We live together not just in Muncie and not just in Riverside UMC but in our individual and collective descriptions of Muncie and Riverside. We can look up in gratitude or down in despair.

Viktor Frankl, the eminent psychologist and founder of the so-called Third Viennese School of Psychotherapy (Logotherapy), provides a revealing example of what it means to express gratitude for wholeness and wellness. Frankl was a prisoner in the concentration camps during World War II. Dr. Gordon Allport, in his preface to Frankl's significant work, says that "there he found himself stripped to a literally naked existence. His father, mother, brother and his wife died in the camps or were sent to the gas ovens, so that except for his sister, his entire family perished in these camps. How could he -- every possession lost, every value destroyed, suffering from hunger, cold and brutality, hourly expecting extermination -- how could he find life worth preserving? A psychiatrist who personally has faced such extremity is a psychiatrist worth listening to"¹

Frankl answers Allport's question when he recounts his experience immediately following his liberation from the camps: "One day, a few days after the liberation, I walked through the country, past flowering meadows, for miles and miles, toward the market town near the camp. Larks rose to the sky and I could hear their joyous song. There was no one to be seen for miles around; there was nothing but the wide earth and sky and the larks' jubilation and the freedom of space. I stopped, looked around and up to the sky -- and then I went down on my knees. At that moment there was very little I knew of myself or of the world -- I had but one sentence in mind -- always the same: "I called to the Lord from my narrow prison and he answered me in the freedom of space." "How long I knelt there and repeated this sentence, memory can no longer recall. But I know that on that day, in that hour, my new life started. Step for step I progressed until I again became a human being."¹

Viktor Frankl survived the concentration camps of the holocaust and reflected on his experience in the camps and how some people survived and others gave in to the despair of the camps and died. Those who survived had some reason to live and that reason sustained them through the horrors of the death camps. Usually that reason was someone or something beyond the person. Writing of being reminded of his wife by a fellow prisoner at Auschwitz as they walked in the icy cold one morning he says, "A thought transfixed me: for the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth -- that love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: *The salvation of man is through love and in love.*"¹

We survive as a congregation only when we have a reason for being that is someone or something outside of our congregation. The current description of thriving congregations is that they are "outward focused." Their focus is not inward on those who are already active in the congregation but rather on those beyond the walls who need a saving relationship with the God of love through Jesus, the risen Christ. We will survive as a congregation only when we share the salvation that comes through love and in love with Muncie and the world around us.

I invite you to reflect on the following:

How you came to know Jesus.

How you came to be a part of Riverside UMC.

Your best experience of being a part of Riverside UMC.

Your current experience of being a part of Riverside UMC.

Your hopes and dreams for Riverside UMC in five to ten years.

I then invite you to share with others what you notice in your reflections and listen to where God is calling us as a community of faith to reach out to those beyond the walls who need a saving relationship with the God of love through Jesus, the risen Christ.

Shalom in Christ,

John A. Young

¹ Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984), 7.

¹ Frankl, (Simon and Schuster, 1984). 96.

¹ Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Part One, "Experiences in a Concentration Camp", Pocket Books, ISBN 978-0-671-02337-9 pp. 56-57

May-June Reminder

Birthdays



May...

2nd Shelby Murphy
4th Mark Clevenger
Carla Wheeldon
9th Nancy Carver
12th Earlene Harvey
13th Eric Schamp
19th Kalie Holt
20th Jolene Murphy
22nd Carl Baney
28th Florence Shelby
29th Troy Campbell

June...

1st Noah Holt
8th Debby Pittenger
9th Barbara Hewitt
10th Kim Brown
12th Drew DeHaven
13th Fritz Dolak
14th Mick Phelps
16th Jeanne Richardson
18th John Young
22nd Larry Campbell
Herb Blank
23rd Norm Thompson
25th Della Stafford
29th Gladys Hunter
30th Ruthanne Watson

Anniversaries



May

5th John & Marlene Boyer
18th Tom & Dianne Baird
Fritz & Deb Dolak
26th Joe & Sara Mitchell

June

2nd Randy & Tami Rankin
Joe & Betty Speece
3rd Mick & Jan Phelps
6th Jerry & Ann Golden
John & Missi Young
12th Gary & Laura Shadoin
17th Barry & Judy Turner
21st Terry & Viv Jacobs
26th Harry & Florence Shelby

May-June Reminder

Give thanks with a grateful heart for...

Jim Reese for planning, the Men of Riverside for serving, and the Women of Riverside for preparing the egg casserole dishes for the East District Mens' Lenten Breakfast at Riverside on the 3rd of March.

Everyone that has helped pull weeds and clean up the Riverside Median at Wheeling and McGalliard.

Tony & Amanda Collins, the Gethsemane and Riverside choirs, and the musicians Julia and Daniel for the many hours of planning and rehearsal that went into making the evening of Good Friday a very spiritual experience.

The Adult Education classes, Life Groups, and individuals that served meals at Christian Ministries Sleep Room.

The Media Ministry Team for faithfully serving each Sunday morning to help Pastor John in bringing a meaningful service.

Nancy Campbell and her helpers for planning and serving the Potato Bar Fund Raiser. All proceeds go to the Kids Hope SERVE Camp.

Jim & Bev Reese for overseeing the development of the Riverside Community Garden.

To everyone that came out to eat at Bob Evans to support Kids Hope SERVE Camp.

To Cindy Miller for assisting in the hanging of the Way of the Cross banners in Fellowship Hall and to those that served as Hosts for the Good Friday and Holy Saturday observance.

Julia Pittenger for filling in as Administrative Assistant in the church office.

Leona Barber for sharing her Easter and St. Patrick's Day decorations that were on display in the Narthex.



RIVERSIDE RIDERS

The Riverside Riders are planning a ride on Saturday the 12th of May. We will meet at the church at 9:00am and will ride over to the Cardinal Greenway. Destination is the Mill Creek Restaurant in Gaston for breakfast. Why don't you plan to join us?

PORK CHOP DINNER

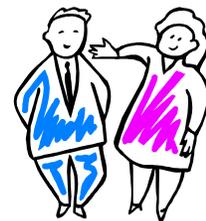
South Muncie Cluster

The South Muncie Cluster will hold its 4th Annual Pork Chop Dinner /Fundraiser for Covenant Partners Ministries on Friday, May 18th from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm at Muncie St. Paul's UMC, 1707 E 26th St., Muncie. Adult or Carry-Out Meal \$8.00. Hog Dog Dinner or extra pork chop \$5.00. Tickets may be purchased from any of the South Muncie Cluster Churches.

MAY AND JUNE HOSTS AND MINGLERS

DATE	OUTSIDE DOOR	INSIDE DOOR	LOBBY MINGLER	SANCTUARY MINGLER
May 6	Bob & Earlene Harvey	Pat Brown	Marge Salisbury	Karen Blank
May 13	Susan Reno & Sandy Hunter	Nellie Campbell	Bill Campbell	Hester Mitchell
May 20	Jack Stanton & Wilma Grile	Virginia Sharp	Cindy Miller	Lynn Wright
May 27	Mark & Amy Clevenger	Ann Beuoy	Pat Ashcraft	Dorothy Bowman
June 3	Jerry & Ann Golden	Sandy Hunter	Betty Lacey	Mary Schumacher
June 10	Fred & Bob Wallace	Sandy Jordan	Sara Mitchell	Margaret Ann DeBoy
June 17	Jack Richardson & Pat Ashcraft	Bill Campbell	Nellie Campbell	Amy Clevenger
June 24	Joe & Judy VanWinkle	Sandy Jordan	Margaret Ann DeBoy	Sandy Abbott

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.



MISSIONS REPORT

- \$1,500 was donated to the Heifer project
- Riverside's contribution of \$1,192 to Muncie Mission's Walk-A-Mile helped raise \$68,000
- On March 11 Missions served dinner to about 65 people at Covenant Partners Ministries.
- Various groups signed up to help with the sleep room March 11-17. We will be doing this again this year since they plan to stay open during the summer this year
- Have collected 283 cans for Christian Ministries food pantry through the end of March
- Have collected 318 bags for Covenant Partners through the end of April
- Upcoming food pantry dates are May 23-25
- June 25-29 will be Kid's Hope SERVE Camp
- September 30 is the CROP Walk
- Our major mission goal this year is drilling a well in Sierra Leone, West Africa – goal \$6,000
 - We will have two fundraisers for this:
 - An ice cream social (date to be announced later) this summer
 - On Sept. 16th we will have the main fundraiser and involve the entire congregation. We want to tap into the gifts of the congregation by “digging deep” and sharing our acts of service or talents. These will be purchased or auctioned off at the event.

COVENANT PARTNERS COMMUNITY DAY

Please bring your bags of supplies by Tuesday, May 22 for the next event on Thursday, May 24th. **Items to be 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).**

In June, please have your bags to the church by Tuesday the 26th for delivery on Thursday, June 28.

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.

NEWS FROM COVENANT PARTNERS

When Pastor Linda McBride was asked for a “dream list” for Covenant Partners, she wrote an article titled “The Ultimate Dream: A church that does not sleep...always open, always helping to fulfill the needs of the community in the name of Jesus, showing the love of Christ on a daily basis up close and personal.” While the entire list is available by request, their newsletter noted that part of it had already been fulfilled. “The Builders Class at Riverside UMC has given us three 12-quart stock pots, two 12-inch stainless steel skillets, a 16-quart roaster oven, two non-stick muffin tines, and three 3.2 gallon swinging-lid trash cans for our kitchen. Thank you dear friends! They will be well used!” Riverside was thanked yet again for preparing a Sunday evening congregational meal in March.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Christian Ministries Food Pantry will remain open this summer. We need workers to help on May 23, 24 and 25 between 9:00 am and noon. There will be a sign-up opportunity in the lobby in early May.

HEIFER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Heifer Project. Once again, Riverside met its goal of providing a "Joy to the World" collection of two sheep, four goats, two llamas, and one heifer. By giving a Heifer contribution, you are helping a family become self-reliant and independent. Thanks for reaching out and helping others.

COMMUNITY GARDEN



There were quite a few people at the church Sunday afternoon, April 22, to work with the Urban Gardening Initiative (UGI) group making cold frames to start small plants and raised-bed frames for gardens. We now have five raised-bed frames at the community garden at church. They are up for "adoption" by anyone who would like to start a small garden this summer. We have four families or groups participating right now! If you are interested in claiming a spot and starting a garden, please see Jim or Beverly Reese.

DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

NEW OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am – 12:30 pm Monday – Thursday
(April – September) 8:00 am – 10:00 am – Friday

Tom & Dianne Baird's email is: tbaird7913@comcast.net

Deb DeHaven's work email is: ddehaven@jardenbc.com

Terry & Viv Jacob's new phone numbers are: 765-760-3021 & 765-760-3022

Sandy Jordan's cell number is: 717-4547

Shirley Modesitt's email is: Shirley-412@comcast.net. Mike & Shirley's phone number is: 896-9967

Mick Phelps' cell number is: 744-3807

Peggy Polk's phone number is: 896-9599 and her email is peggypolk710@yahoo.com

Beverly Reese's email is: beverlyreese@ymail.com

Gary Shadoin's email is: garyshadoin@hotmail.com

Joe Speece's cell number is: 303-324-6738

Nancy Thompson's new address is 820 Misty Pines Circle, Woodland Park, CO 80863; phone number is 765-722-1319

Elizabeth Watson-Hopkins' new address is: 6775 Calistoga Circle, Port Orange, FL 32128

KIDS HOPE

The Kids Hope end-of-year party will take place on Saturday, May 19, from 10 am to noon. This party is for the kids and mentors and will be held at “The Play Station” in the Industrial Park near the airport.

SERVE CAMP

The Kids Hope SERVE Camp will be held from June 25 through June 29. The deadline for the kids is June 1. If you would like to help with the camp in any way, please see Barry Turner.



Faithfulness

Message from Dr. Roger, KHUSA Child Psychologist

In our world of failed relationships and broken promises, faithfulness has become a vanishing commodity. The children we mentor are often victims of unpredictable commitments from family members and friends. So where can we look as mentors for a model of what it means to be a faithful encourager of children? I suggest it is Jesus as he mentored his disciples. Jesus showed his disciples that they must help those in greatest need regardless of their family of origin. What are the characteristics that Jesus demonstrated to his disciples:

1. He made a three year commitment to their training.
2. He was intimately aware of each one's strengths and weaknesses.
3. He accepted them with their shortcomings, but always encouraged them to be more than they thought they could be.
4. He supported them during times of crisis i.e.; the life threatening storm on the Sea of Galilee.
5. He prayed that the world would not overpower them.
6. He spent time with them during the commonplace events of life, like sharing a meal.
7. He taught them things they would need to know to be survivors in a difficult world.

The children we mentor exhibit all the same needs as Jesus' disciples did. I am suggesting that if we follow these time tested supports, our children will experience the kind of faithfulness that caused Jesus' disciples to change the world.