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February 2018

Dear Friends at RiversEdge U.M.C.,

Thank you for your support as we travel through a bit of uncertainty together. There is still no word on when or if Pastor Andy will be returning to the Pastoral Ministry of RiversEdge. So, I will be continuing our journey of discipleship with you for a while. It is a joy and a privilege to be a part of your fellowship. I have been asked to share about some of my plans for the next month and beyond.

“Scenes from Matthew’s Gospel” will be the theme for our worship together for February and March. All of our Gospel texts will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew. The weekly schedule is printed elsewhere. I invite you to read the stories each week before we share in worship. In fact, I would encourage you to read the entire Gospel of Matthew between now and Easter, April 1. Often, we read and study the Gospels in bits and pieces so that we do not get a coherent view of the whole story. That is one of the reasons that I chose to focus on Matthew for this season.

Lent 2018. The season of Lent is forty days (excluding Sundays) prior to Easter, (April 1, this year). Lent Begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14.** We will begin Lent with a service of Ashes and Communion. The practice of marking the foreheads of the faithful with ashes is an ancient tradition of the church, reminding us that we are mortal and sinners in need of the saving love of God. During Lent we are asked to remember the temptations of Christ and to examine ourselves in the light of God’s love and forgiveness so that we may turn from those things that separate us from God and turn toward those things that bring us closer to the fullness of life in Jesus Christ. I always include Communion in the Ash Wednesday Service because the Sacrament reminds us that God is always with us even in the times of testing. Our Service will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a brief prayer service and then I will remain until 7:00 p.m. to share the ashes and communion with anyone who would like to participate.

The Sermon on The Mount. During Lent the messages will be drawn from the great teaching passage in Matthew’s Gospel that we know as the “Sermon on the Mount.” If there is interest, we will also organize Bible Study groups to study the Sermon on The Mount in greater depth.

Confirmation Class. I have been asked to offer a confirmation class since there has not been one for a while. Any young people in seventh grade or above who are interested in studying about what it means to be a Christian and a part of The United Methodist Church are invited to share in a class that will begin in February and go through May. The purpose of the class is to prepare young people to affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and commit themselves to being a part of His Church and that part of The Church that is RiversEdge United Methodist Church.

I know that there are those among our fellowship who come from different traditions within the Christian Family. Some of those traditions practice “Believer Baptism” and only offer the sacrament of Baptism to those who have already confessed their faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. The United Methodist Church is a part of that part of the Church that offers the Sacrament of Baptism to infants and children. We believe that the Sacrament is a sign and symbol of God’s love and claim that the baptized child has become God’s child and part of God’s family, The Church.

We, as the Church, promise to surround the child with love and to witness to God's grace so that the child will grow up and come to a time when he or she may affirm for him or herself their faith in Christ and commitment to live as a follower of Jesus and a part of His Church. Those of us who have this understanding of Baptism must have a time when we invite those who have been baptized to affirm their faith and Commitment of Christ and His Church. The Purpose of a "Confirmation Class" is to allow the young people to explore the meaning of Faith in Christ so that they make a conscious commitment to Christ and His Church.

Please let me know if there are any additional young people who would like to share in this confirmation class. I would like to meet with the youth and parents during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, February 4, to discuss possible schedules for the class. Please let me know if you are interested but cannot be present at that time.

May God's abundant grace fill your lives and give you joy.

Floyd



Dennis Hill is working with ensembles (small groups) for music specials. There is room on the signup sheet for other specials (solos, duets, reading, etc.). Music is a very important part of our worship experience. If you are interested in any of these possibilities, please contact Judy at 822-8770 or 645-6625.

Choir rehearsals will be on Wednesday, **February 7** and **21** at 7:00 p.m. There is plenty of room for new people. If you haven't tried it and don't think you are good enough, come anyway and learn from those who have had experience. This year we will try 5th grade on up. **Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair**



Monthly **Food Pantry** Day is **February 9**. We will have our **King's Closet** upstairs at the Annex. We have clothes, other small items or produce for local people to take and use, if they need it. Bring items all month. It comes in free and goes out free, no charge. Anything left over will be taken to Good Will or South Side Missions.



As we prepare ourselves for the season of Lent, there will be an Ash Wednesday service at **5:00 p.m.** on **February 14** followed by a time for those who can't attend the service to still be able to stop in and receive the ashes and communion (until 7:00 p.m.).



'**Finding Spring Again**' is a free educational grief seminar offered by UnityPoint Hospice-Peoria, to persons experiencing the loss of a loved one, on Thursday, **March 8** from **5:30 p.m.** to **7:30 p.m.** at the Methodist Atrium Conference Room ABC in Peoria. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by **March 6** to 309-672-5746.



SUNDAY MORNING classes for all ages at 9:15 a.m. We will be digging deeper into the Bible passage we hear that morning, deeper into what it means to follow Jesus, deeper into how God is at work in our own lives and the world. Please come with questions and a learning spirit. Bring your favorite Bible, or use the ones we have. Let's learn together!

Upcoming Services

February 4, Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:13-23, Sermon: "Who, do you say I am?"

February 11, Transfiguration Sunday: Matthew 17:1-18, Sermon: "From Mountaintop to reality"

February 14, Ash Wednesday – A service of ashes and communion (Come and Go) 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Lenten Series – Reflections on The Sermon on The Mount

February 18, 1st Lent -Matthew 5:1-12, sermon: "Jesus redefines "Blessed."

February 25, 2nd Lent - Matthew 5:13-16, sermon: "Being Salt and Light"



- ◆ The food pantry received donations from St. Mary's of Lourdes Church and Willow Hill UMC.
- ◆ We received a thank you from Laura Ringger for donating to the Metamora Area Weekend Snackpac program.
- ◆ Our congregation was recognized as a Chaddock Partnership Church by Jeff VanCamp and Jeff Rasche.
- ◆ We received several thank yous from the Children and staff at Chaddock for the Christmas gifts.



Be sure to check our website at riversedgeumc.org where you will find the newsletters, calendars and announcements regularly. If you see pictures that you are in and would like them removed, please let Judy Schaer know. The committee wanted pictures to depict the life of our church. Scan the QR code (Quick Response Code) at the end of the newsletter with your smart phone to easily access our website.

We have put up new Welcome signs inside the church entrances in addition to the directional signs. The signs on the front and back doors and in the restroom stalls will be changed monthly to inform you of current events happening at the church. **Submitted by: Communications Committee**



The Midwest Mission Distribution Center of the United Methodist Church is helping to supply clean-up buckets for the record THREE hurricanes. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Supplies bought through DollarDays (<https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html>) would be the best way to donate, as they are shipped directly to MMDC at the Center's bulk prices. Monetary donations may be sent to:

MMDC, P.O. Box 56, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629
www.midwestmissiondc.org | office@midwestmissiondc.org



John Schaer is still collecting **ALUMINUM CANS** to recycle. CANS only, no aluminum disposable pans or other items. You may leave them in the entry area of the river side of the church or call John at 822-8770 if you would like him to pick them up. Once he gets a truck load, he will take them to the recycle center. Not only will this help the earth, but the money will go to the Church account.

What is Confirmation?

In the Church of Jesus Christ, different groups have developed different practices concerning how a person accepts the gift of salvation offered by God and becomes a member of the Body of Christ. For most Christian denominations, including United Methodists, the gift and sacrament of Baptism is offered to children who are unable to respond with an affirmation of their faith. Parents and or sponsors bring a child to the Baptismal font offering up the child as a child of God. The Church proclaims the love and mercy of God through the Sacrament of Baptism and the parents and congregation promise to raise the child in the faith until such time as the child is mature enough to affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Churches that offer infant or child Baptism usually invite maturing young people to share in a class in which they study the meaning of the Christian Faith, the uniqueness of their Denomination, and their responsibilities as a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Church. At the conclusion of this time of study, the young people are given an opportunity to accept God's love and affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is recognized in a worship service where the young people are "confirmed" as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His Church and the particular congregation / denomination to which they belong.

Those who would like to participate in this confirmation process, along with their parents are invited to meet with me during the Sunday School time on Sunday, February 4. We will be discussing calendaring for the class sessions, so please bring your calendars so that we can work around conflicts.



If you would like your name added to the birthday list, have had an email address change or would like your email address added to the any of the church email groups (1-receive announcements & newsletter, 2-receive prayer requests). See Judy Schaer, email at Jude187@msn.com or call at 822-8770. Also, check with other family members.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair



10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS** are still needed. If you are interested in ushering, reading scripture, greeting or being an acolyte, please sign up on the Schedule Sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

We still need one **SUNDAY SCHOOL** teacher. We are working towards having two teachers per class. Please talk with Gale Allen or April Nauman if you'd like to help. Please help us raise the next generation of Christians.

The **PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM** is looking for singers and musicians. If you have any interest learning more, please contact Jarrod Doty at church, by email at jdoty69@gmail.com or by phone at 309.657.8904.

If you, or anyone you know, want to fill in on the **ORGAN** or **PIANO** occasionally, please text or call Carla Doty at 657-8903 or email at dougdoty@aol.com.

Submitted by: Judy Schaer, Worship Committee Chair

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Missions Committee 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Food Pantry/ King's Closet 9:00a.m.— 11:00 a.m.	10
11 O.U.R 5:30 p.m. @ Buzz & Diane's	12	13 Ad Council 7:00 p.m.	14 Ash Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24 Blood Drive 8:00 a.m.— Noon
25	26	27	28			

Our Motto "The Church That Cares"

Our Mission

"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

OUR VISION

"Our vision is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors through our witness, welcome and nurture ."

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

NURSERY:

Sunday 8-11:45 a.m. (infant-kindergarten)

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS : 9:15-10:15 a.m.

D.O.C.K. (Preschool – 5th grade)

Youth (grades 6 – 12)

Sunday Morning (All Ages)

CHOIR PRACTICE: (7th grade-Adult)

September through May

7 p.m. Wednesday evenings, as announced

O.U.R.: Outwardly Upwardly Righteously

(first Sunday of month)

The Best Valentine is GOD

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16



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