

November 1, 2015

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church – 217-629-9721

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

November is here. Are you ready for it? We are about to enter one of the busiest times of the year. Thanksgiving is coming and Christmas is just around the corner.

There will be a Community Wide Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday, November 13th from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Riverton Elementary School sponsored by Teddy Bear Christian Child Development Center. We are asked to supply desserts.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be at St. James Catholic Church on Sunday, November 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Being the new kid in town, I have been asked to preach. There will be a dessert potluck after the service.

The Hanging of the Greens will be Saturday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m. Please come and help us make the church beautiful for Advent and Christmas. The First Sunday of Advent is November 29th and will be United Methodist Men's Sunday. Jim Craner will be speaking.

The Choir is already practicing for the Cantata coming up next month. We always welcome more voices. If you would like to join the choir talk to Carly Shank or show up to choir practice on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

With all of the things to do this time of year it is easy to forget what Thanksgiving is all about.

Psalm 100 <A Psalm of thanksgiving.> ¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. ² Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. ³ Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. ⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (NRSV).

What are you thankful for? Maybe this has been a tough year for you. For many, if not all of us it has been a year of change. Some have faced illness for themselves or someone that they love. Some said goodbye to friends and loved ones. The one thing that holds true through all of life's struggles for me is that God is here for us. Looking back I can see where God has brought me through the tough times. So, what are you thankful for this year?

In Christ's service,

Pastor John

THANKSGIVING
MESSAGE



RFUMC Calendar – November 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School <i>Daylight-Saving Time ends</i>	2	3	4 9:00 AM Quilters; 7:00 PM Choir	5	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School; 6:00 PM Trustees	9	10 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	11 Veterans Day 9:00 AM Quilters; 7:00 PM Choir	12 7:00 PM Charge conference, Sherman UMC	13 5:30-8:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Riverton Elementary	14
15 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School; 6:00 PM Finance and Administration	16	17 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	18 9:00 AM Quilters; 7:00 PM Choir	19	20	21
22 Christ the King Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School; 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service	23	24	25 9:00 AM Quilters; 7:00 PM Choir	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens
29 First Sunday of Advent, United Methodist Men Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker Jim Craner; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School	30					

Looking Ahead...

December 13, 4 PM – Christmas musical

Next newsletter deadline: November 15.

Please send items to carlyshank@yahoo.com

PRAYERS
OF Thanks

November Anniversaries

Tim and Bobbie Sexton	11/9/1979
Jim and Kim Ruscioelli	11/23/1983
Tom and Melissa Pantier	11/23/1991

Trustee Updates

The trustees send their condolences to the family of Harold Shepherdson. Harold willingly filled the empty post a few years ago when Mr. Ernie Grieme died. Harold has always been generous in sharing his expertise in brick work. He has repaired many damaged areas on the church building. He will be missed.

As time allows, the trustee men have been working in the basement of the parsonage to complete the laundry room area and updates for the downstairs bathroom and storage areas. It is slowly coming together and will enhance the home.

The two dead trees have been taken down and out completely. The firm also hauled away the piles of leaves that were left from last year. During this past year, we have had some trees planted; had some issues with those trees; and the nursery will plant three new trees this fall.

Veterans Day Events

In worship on Sunday, November 8, we will honor the veterans among our congregation and remember those who served and have passed from this world. Veterans are encouraged to wear uniforms. Please send photos of our church veterans to Kim Beckey at rivlhk3@att.net

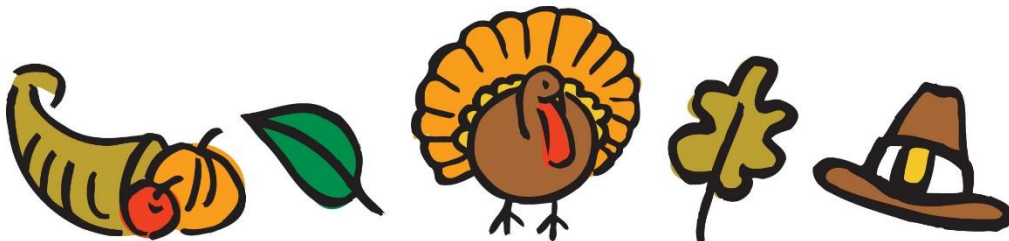
Later that afternoon, Clear Lake Township will host the 15th Annual Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony. The congregation is invited to join the event at 1:00 PM at the Veterans Memorial Park, located at the corner of 3rd and Lincoln Streets in Riverton (corner of the church property).



VETERANS DAY

Scrip News

Christmas is coming!!! Please remember to do your shopping with gift cards this year and/or use gift cards for actual gifts. This program was implemented specifically to use the proceeds to pay down the principal of the church loan. Each year Two or Three Thousand dollars have been paid on the loan. We are very close to having another thousand dollars go to that purpose. If you have any questions regarding this program, PLEASE!!! ask Judy McCullough or Doris Lamkey for help. Order days and pick up days will be every week from November 22 until Christmas week.



“You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.”

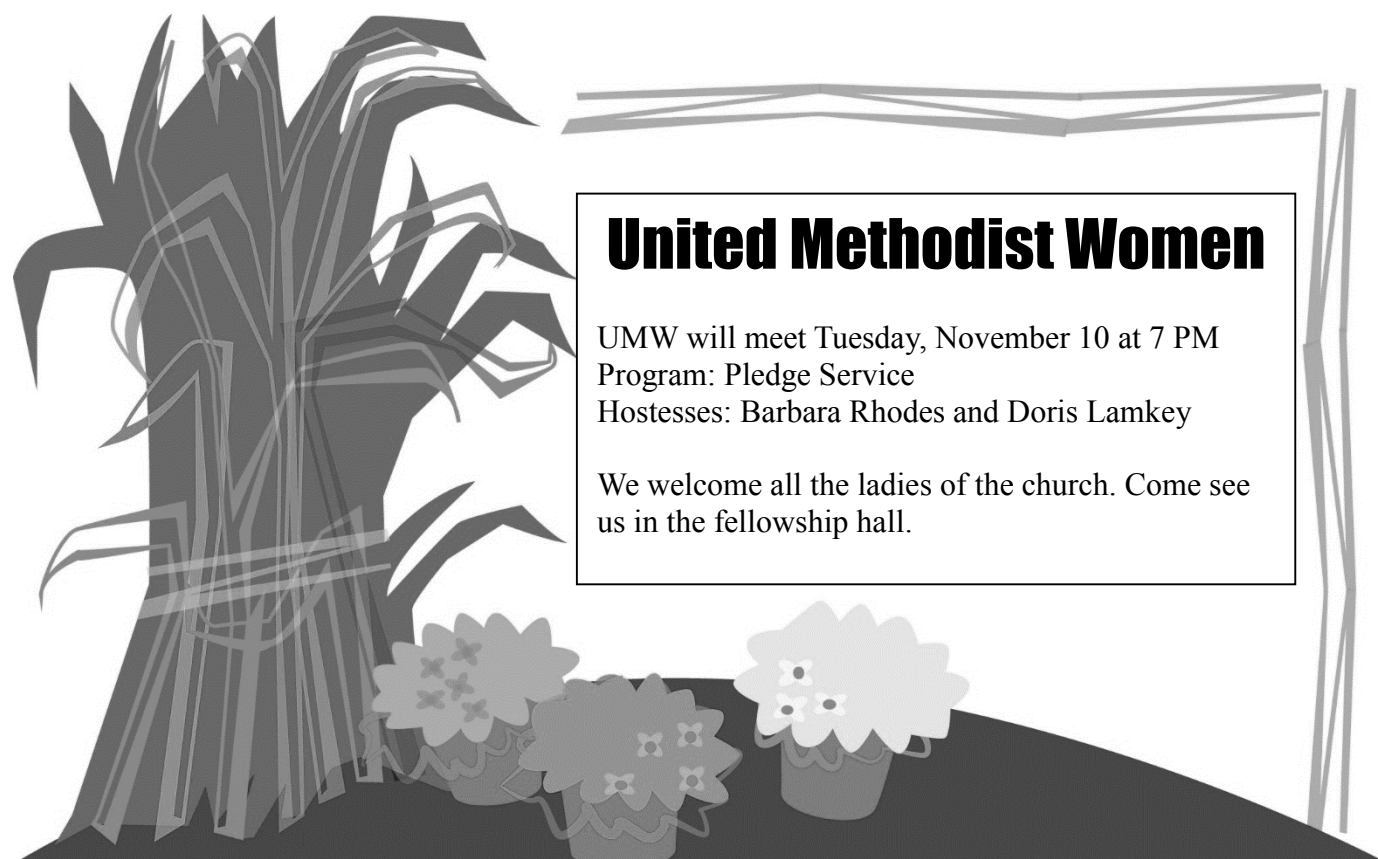
—*John Bunyan*

The Quilters

A new quilt is in the frame and the quilting has begun. It is made of quilt blocks that were donated, put together with material that was donated, with a quilt back of material that was donated and is being sold to a family for the price of the batting, marking, quilting and binding. If you would like to consider buying such a quilt, there may be another one coming in about a year. Please let someone from the quilting group know you might be interested.

November Birthdays

Grace Carriker	11/2/1930
Mike Armintrout	11/4
Nancy Daniels	11/5/1941
Bobbie Sexton	11/8/1958
Cheryl Allison	11/9
Bill Mann, Jr.	11/10
John Cross	11/11/1958
Ellen Dixon	11/12/1947
Tom Pantier	11/16/1957
Scott Binion	11/18/1976
Elijah Byers	11/20/2009



United Methodist Women

UMW will meet Tuesday, November 10 at 7 PM
Program: Pledge Service
Hostesses: Barbara Rhodes and Doris Lamkey

We welcome all the ladies of the church. Come see us in the fellowship hall.

Staff-Parish Update

It has been brought to our attention that while we shared details about Pastor Cross at the time of his assignment and he shared additional information about himself in his first few sermons, not everyone in the congregation had been able to read his biography, so it is included it here.



John Michael Cross was born November 11, 1958 and is the fourth of five sons of George and Wanetta Cross from Woodland Illinois. He attended the Woodland Grade School and The Watseka Community High School graduating in 1977.

He worked for the Unit Nine School District as Head Custodian for five years and approximately ten years in the construction trades. In 1992 he received his call to ministry. July 1993 he started serving the Armstrong Penfield Parish UMC as a Student Licensed Local Pastor while attending Danville Area Community College.

July 1996 John started serving the Sadorus Parkville Parish UMC and transferred to the University Of Illinois, Urbana Champaign to finish his Bachelors Degree graduating in 1999. In the fall of 1999 he matriculated to Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore Kentucky. July 2002 he started serving the Cisne Johnsonville Parish UMC. December 2003 John graduated with a Masters Of Divinity Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary.

January 2004 John started his first full time appointment, serving the Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish UMC.

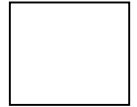
In June 2004 he was commissioned as a Probationary Member of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church. In June 2007 John was Ordained as an Elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church.

July 2011 John started serving the Eldorado Raleigh Parish UMC, were he remained until joining us earlier this year.

John has been active in the Walk To Emmaus spiritual renewal movement since 1992 and currently serves as the Community Spiritual Director for the Little Egypt Walk To Emmaus.

John is single, never married, and still looking, but not looking for help finding. John can be reached by email at jmcross58@gmail.com and by phone and text at (217) 622-2057.

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Address Correction Requested

RFUMC PHONE: (217) 629-9721
WEBSITE: www.rivertonfirstumc.org

Thank You!

In this month of gratitude, know that we are so grateful for the many things that members of our church do, both the visible and the more behind-the-scenes contributions. Many thanks to Barb Lucas for preparing the bulletin each week, to Mary Pugh for preparing the newsletter for mailing, to Melissa Pantier for the expert planning put into Trunk-er Treat, to Nadine Mackenzie and Hope McKenzie for their work in Christian education, and to all who pray for members of our church. Let's keep the gratitude going – please send your newsletter editor more notes of gratitude to be included next month!

MISSION STATEMENT: *Our mission is to draw people into relationship with Christ and the church and to lovingly challenge them to spiritual growth.*

OUR VISION: *A warm fellowship of Christians in the Riverton area, growing in numbers and spiritual nurture, with facilities and programs to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ for generations to come.*