

January 2016

# The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church – 217-629-9721

## Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

If you are like me you find it hard to believe that we are starting another new year. It is that time of the year when many people resolve to make changes in their lives. Are you making any New Year's Resolutions? I do not like to be pessimistic, but it has been my experience that few New Year's Resolutions ever get kept. That does not mean that they are a bad thing.

I suspect that each and every one of us has things that we should change in our lives. Maybe God, through the Holy Spirit is calling you to change. It takes a great commitment and effort to make serious changes in our lives. Luke 14:28-29 says,

<sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him.

I believe that we should always consider what it is going to take to bring about change in our lives. If we do not the first time things get tough we can give up, but if we realize from the start that it is not going to be easy, then we have a chance.

Almost three years ago, I made the decision to change my eating habits in order to become healthier. I had reached almost five hundred pounds, I had type 2 Diabetes, and was finding it difficult to do the ministry that God was calling me to do. Almost two years ago, I added riding a bicycle for exercise.

It has not been easy, but with the help of [myfitnesspal.com](http://myfitnesspal.com), [mapmyfitness.com](http://mapmyfitness.com), and the support of friends and family, I have lost one hundred seventy pounds and am riding my bicycle or exercise bike almost every day for an hour. I am off of all of my Diabetes medications and am able to get around better than I have in twenty years.

Are you prepared to pay the cost to make changes in your life? If so, the beginning of the New Year is a good time to start. As you count the cost I would ask that you factor in one other thing, Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Don't forget that in Christ we can accomplish great things.

Have a Happy New Year and God bless you,

In Christ's service,  
Pastor John



# RFUMC Calendar – January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School and Retiring of the Greens	4	5 7:00 PM Trustees	6 Epiphany 10:00 AM – noon Parish Nurse hours	7	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School; 10:30 AM Parish Nurse available; 6:00 PM Finance and Administration	11	12 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	13 9:00 AM Quilt- ers; 10:00 AM – noon Parish Nurse hours; 7:00 PM Choir	14	15	16 4 – 7 PM Beef & Noo- dle Dinner
17 First Scrip order Sun- day of 2016; 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School;	18 Martin Lu- ther King Jr. Day, Ob- served	19	20 9:00 AM Quilt- ers; 10:00 AM – noon Parish Nurse hours; 7:00 PM Choir	21	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School	25	26	27 9:00 AM Quilt- ers; 10:00 AM – noon Parish Nurse hours; 7:00 PM Choir	28	29	30
31 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School						

Ron Armintrout 1/2/1951  
 Cheryl Atkins 1/2/1944  
 Cheryl Armintrout 1/3/1951  
 Robin Compton 1/14  
 Karen Koger 1/18/1961  
 Connie Thomas 1/20/1966  
 Nik Caldwell 1/24/1947  
 Butch Baker 1/29/1953  
 Robert Lucas 1/29/1979  
 Brian Pfeiffer 1/29/1990



John and Rose Cessna  
 January 2



# The Meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.



Pastor John would like to thank the members of the congregation for their generous holiday gift to him.



## United Methodist Women

UMW will meet Tuesday, January 12 at 7 PM

Program: Prayer and Self-Denial, Nadine Mackenzie

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

## Join us for the Beef and Noodle Dinner

Saturday, January 16, 4-7 PM

The United Methodist Men will serve a Beef and Noodle Dinner on Saturday, January 16 from 4-7 p.m. Dinners are available for eat-in or carry-out and quarts of beef and noodles will also be sold for carry-out. The dinner will include beef and noodles, green beans, biscuit, and dessert.

Please use the tickets on the reverse for the dinner.



Beef & Noodle  
Dinner

**Riverton Methodist Men**  
**Beef and Noodle Dinner**  
**January 16, 2016**  
**4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Price includes a Hearty Serving of Beef and Noodles,**  
**Green Beans, Biscuit, Dessert and Drink**

	Number	Cost per Each	Amount
Dine in		\$8.00	
Carry Out		\$8.00	
Quart of Beef and Noodles only		\$10.00	
<b>Total</b>			

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# Introducing our Faith Community Nursing Program



Judy Lafary, RN with a specialty in Parish Nursing is acting as Parish Nurse for our congregation. This is a specialty within the nursing profession and health ministry. She acts as a staff member and works in tandem with the clergy and congregation. A parish nurse promotes and practices WHOLISTIC health (body mind and spirit). She must abide by HIPPA regulations and acts as mandatory reporter for abuse or exploitation of children, seniors, the disabled and domestic abuse.

Judy will be available to anyone in the congregation and their family members. She will be available anytime by phone or email. (217)629-7559, cell (217)720-0303, [judith62@gmail.com](mailto:judith62@gmail.com)

Regular office hours will be on each Wednesday from 10 till Noon in the fellowship room next to the sanctuary of our church. At that time she can do blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, oxygen levels checks, review medications, assist with referrals and any questions, do consults and insurance assistance.

The second Sunday of each month after the morning service, Judy will be available for any of the above services.

There will be monthly visits or follow up calls for the homebound and extended care facilities for church members, including family members as requested by church member.

There will be hospital visits as needed. Follow up visits or calls for post procedure and post hospital stays as needed.

Judy will be available as companion or transport to doctor visits. Available as health care advocate and educator.

Please keep our Health Community Nursing Program and Judy in your prayers, and feel free to ask her any questions.

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

***RFUMC 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.*



## **Silent Auction, Dinner, Concert Saturday, February 6, 6:00 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to the Riverton United Methodist Church fellowship hall on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 6:00 p.m. for a three-course fundraising dinner and silent auction, with music provided by a Christian music trio from Forsyth, Three4One.

We hold this annual dinner as a fundraiser for our long-term planning purposes. The three-course dinner is guaranteed to be delicious!

The church relies on the important donations of many area businesses and organizations in support of this event. Items that will be auctioned include: gift certificates for many restaurants and stores; lots of gift baskets for women, men, and kids; jewelry; toys; and many more items!!

There is no ticket price for the dinner; donations are accepted. Space is limited, and this event is VERY well-attended, so reservations are required. Please place your **reservation** with Melissa Pantier at 629-7248 or 741-8172 or on Facebook (or on the sign-up sheet at church) by January 30.

This event has gained a reputation as a *great* time of music, fellowship and friendship. (You don't have to bid on items to enjoy this event. It is a lot of fun and a great way to meet and get acquainted with others in the church!) Please bring your whole family.



**2016 CHURCH COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS**

Trustees		
Class Of 2016	Class Of 2017	Class Of 2018
Ron Armintrout	Judy McCullough	Rick Carr
Nik Caldwell	Lori Payne-Mullett	Mel Allison
Tom Pantier	Don Sutton	George Skaggs

<b>Council Chair</b> George Skaggs
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<b>Treasurer</b> Angela Rentschler
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Staff Parish Relations		
Class Of 2016	Class Of 2017	Class Of 2018
Cheryl Allison	Erin Martincic	Jim Craner
Nik Caldwell	Carly Shank	Mary Pugh
Barb Lucas	George Skaggs	Larry Lafary

<b>Financial Secretary</b> Tom Pantier
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<b>Lay Leader</b>
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Nominations and Leadership Development		
Class Of 2016	Class Of 2017	Class Of 2018
Sharon Caldwell	Rick Carr	Barb Rhodes
Nancy Hermes	Hope Mckenzie	Janet Gowen
Sharon Stroisch	Don Sutton	Marilyn Rentschler

<b>Lay Member of Annual Conference</b> Lori Payne-Mullett
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<b>UMW President</b> Kim Beckey
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Worship		
Sharon Caldwell	Carly Shank	Patsy Skaggs
	Judy Lafary	

<b>UMM President</b> George Skaggs
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Hospitality		
Sharon Caldwell	Rose Hughes	Kathy Jones
Karen Koger	Sharon Stroisch	Lori Payne-Mullett
Barb Rhodes	Jolene Carr	

<b>Special Events Coordinator</b> Melissa Pantier
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Offering Counters		
Sharon Caldwell	Rick Carr	John Martincic
	Tom Pantier	

<b>Parish Nurse</b> Judy Lafary
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Education		
Hope McKenzie	Nik Caldwell	Nadine Mackenzie

Media		
Ron Armintrout	Kim Beckey	Nik Caldwell
Andrew Fitzpatrick	Tom Pantier	Carly Shank

The Church Council is made up of the Chairpersons of each Committee and the Elected Officers of the Church.

Prayer		
Dot Hendricks	Barb Lucas	Lori Payne-Mullett

Stewardship		
Ron Armintrout	Rose Hughes	Tom Pantier

Riverton First United Methodist  
429 East Lincoln  
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

RFUMC PHONE: (217) 629-9721  
WEBSITE: [www.rivertonfirstumc.org](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.org)

## Connect with Riverton First United Methodist

NEWSLETTER: Are you still receiving this newsletter in print? Consider doing something for the environment in 2016 and ask to be added to our email newsletter list. We will start sending you the newsletter over email rather than through the mail. Send an email to [carlyshank@yahoo.com](mailto:carlyshank@yahoo.com) and identify yourself and the email address you would like us to use for the newsletter.



WEBSITE: If you haven't visited our website for some time, browse to [www.rivertonfirstumc.org](http://www.rivertonfirstumc.org).

FACEBOOK: Search for Riverton United Methodist Church for very up-to-date photos, videos, and more. Thanks to some of our members for their updates and postings.

*Next newsletter deadline: January 17; send articles to [carlyshank@yahoo.com](mailto:carlyshank@yahoo.com)*