

February 2016

# The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church – 217-629-9721

## Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I write to you from Florida. On my drive down, I started thinking about things that I need to do in 2016. I spent considerable time thinking about confirmation. I remembered an old story, maybe you have heard it before.

A small town had three churches: Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic. All three had a serious problem with squirrels in the church building and each, in its own fashion, had a meeting to deal with the problem.

The Presbyterians decided that it was predestined that squirrels be in the church and that they would just have to live with them.

The Methodists decided they should deal with the squirrels lovingly in the style of Charles Wesley. They humanely trapped them and released them in a park at the edge of town. Within 3 days, they were all back in the church.

The Catholics had the best solution. They baptized and confirmed the squirrels. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

I believe that confirmation is a very important opportunity in the lives of the young people of the church. If a confirmation class is successful, the young people who participate will come away having accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, joined the church, and made a commitment to use the Gifts that God has given them to further the Kingdom of God. In my experience, some youth make the connection and some do not. How many times do you see someone take the confirmation vows and that is the last time you see them in church? I find this very frustrating. In talking to other pastors, I have discovered that many have similar frustrations. We live in a day when church membership seems to be the goal rather than making sure that someone has a relationship with Jesus Christ. For me that is not good enough.

Today I was reading a blog that talked about the list of things that confirmands should know before starting confirmation. One person that responded noted that they helped teach confirmation classes and they did not know some of the items on the list. When active members of the congregation do not even know some of the basics of Christianity that is a real problem that needs to be addressed. I have found what I believe to be some very good confirmation material that does a good job of laying out the essentials of what the confirmands should know.

If you went through confirmation and have any insights into how to make our class successful, I would love to hear from you. What made the connection for you? What did not work? In the next couple of months, we will be starting confirmation. As we prepare to do a confirmation class here at Riverton, I would like to ask you to keep our confirmands, and those leading them, in your prayers.

In Christ's service,

Pastor John



# RFUMC Calendar – February 2016

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                           | TUESDAY                                      | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                              | SATURDAY                              |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|  | 1                                | 2<br>7:00 PM<br>Trustees                     | 3<br>9:00 AM Quilt-<br>ers; 10:00 AM –<br>noon Parish<br>Nurse hours;<br>7:00 PM Choir                            | 4        | 5                                   | 6<br>6:00 PM<br>Valentine's<br>Dinner |
| 7<br><b>Transfiguration<br/>Sunday</b><br>9:30 AM Worship;<br>10:30 AM Adult<br>Sunday School; Scrip<br>order day  | 8                                | 9<br>7:00 PM<br>United<br>Methodist<br>Women | 10<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b><br>9:00 AM Quilt-<br>ers; 10:00 AM –<br>noon Parish<br>Nurse hours;<br>7:00 PM service | 11       | 12<br><b>Lincoln's<br/>Birthday</b> | 13                                    |
| 14<br><b>Valentine's Day<br/>First Sunday in Lent</b><br>9:30 AM Worship;<br>10:30 AM Adult Sun-<br>day School; 10:30 AM<br>Parish Nurse available;<br>6:00 PM Finance and<br>Administration | 15<br><b>President's<br/>Day</b> | 16   | 17<br>9:00 AM Quilt-<br>ers; 10:00 AM –<br>noon Parish<br>Nurse hours;<br>7:00 PM Choir                           | 18       | 19                                  | 20                                    |
| 21<br>9:30 AM Worship;<br>10:30 AM Adult Sun-<br>day School; Scrip order<br>day  | 22                               | 23   | 24<br>9:00 AM Quilt-<br>ers; 10:00 AM –<br>noon Parish<br>Nurse hours;<br>7:00 PM Choir                           | 25       | 26                                  | 27                                    |
| 28<br>9:30 AM Worship;<br>10:30 AM Adult Sun-<br>day School  | 29                               |  |   |          |                                     |                                       |

## Looking Ahead...

March 5, UMW Chili Supper  
 March 20, Palm/Passion Sunday  
 March 25, Good Friday  
 March 27, Easter Sunday  
 May 4, Mother – Child Banquet  
 May 8, Mother's Day

*As the first Sunday in Lent falls on Valentine's Day this year, may we remember that Jesus' self-giving love is the greatest love of all.*



# Trustee News

The trustees met the first Tuesday of the new year--2016--and welcomed the new members Rick Carr and Jack Wilson. Also, the slate of officers for the new year were selected as follows: Lori Payne-Mullett, chairperson; George Skaggs, vice chairperson; Judy McCullough, secretary/treasurer. The trustees reviewed the past accomplishments and discussed the projects they hope to complete this year.

The trustees are thankful for the donations and dividends they receive, enabling them to complete the jobs for upkeep/maintenance; and also for being able to keep up the payments of the church's loan. With the assistance of many donations, the trustees have gotten the church loan below \$87,000.00.

A big project to be considered---It may be necessary to make repairs to the parking lot this year and re-seal it. We will begin the process of getting bids and suggestions. Until then, they hope to complete the parsonage basement project.

## An Early Start to Spring Cleaning

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.



FEBRUARY  
BIRTHDAYS

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Keaton Martincic | 2/4/2008  |
| Les Hendricks    | 2/8/1931  |
| Mel Allison      | 2/11/1947 |
| Roberta Bernahl  | 2/11/1929 |
| Aden Byers       | 2/14/2005 |
| Melissa Pantier  | 2/16/1962 |
| David Beckner    | 2/17      |
| Jeri Sucech      | 2/19/1945 |
| Devan Martincic  | 2/22/2001 |
| Carly Shank      | 2/24/1975 |
| Katie Sutton     | 2/24/1979 |
| Kim Ruscioelli   | 2/26/1954 |
| Taylor Binion    | 2/28/2009 |

## United Methodist Women

UMW will meet Tuesday, February 9 at 7 PM

Program: Judy Lafary

Hostesses: Eileen Kendle & Dar Schermerhorn

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

# What Defines Us


When their minivan was hit by a drunk driver, Gerald Sittser lost his mother, wife and daughter all at one time. Sittser, a religion professor, escaped without physical injury but was then forced to navigate his extreme loss. Eventually he concluded that “the experience of loss does not need to be the defining moment of our story” (quoted in AHA, by Kyle Idleman). Instead, “the defining moment can be our response to the loss,” Sittser says.

“In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus warns in John 16:33 (NIV) — no sugar-coating or pretending there. But then he says, “Take heart!” Jesus doesn’t want our troubles to define us; he wants to define us! The defining truth of our story is that Jesus has “overcome the world” — even at its worst. He’s stronger than our struggles and sorrows. And in him, so are we.

—Heidi Mann

# Scrip Update

Our church family had a very active Christmas season with the gift cards. Thank you to all of you that made use of this wonderful convenience. This account made another \$1,000.00 payment on the loan principal at the end of the year. There is also a good start of money accumulating for another payment in the near future. Remember that EVERYONE loves a good gift card in their Valentine envelope! Then immediately following Valentine Day is Easter. Children receive too much candy, so think about hiding gift cards for the movie theater, sports stores, Dairy Queen, Chuck E. Cheese, etc. Many opportunities to assist you in filling those Easter Baskets.



FEBRUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Ron and Cheryl Atkins      | 2/11/1967 |
| Butch and Pat Baker        | 2/14      |
| Jerry and Judy McCullough  | 2/18/1970 |
| Roger and Melissa Pfeiffer | 2/27/1988 |

Order days will be February 7 and 21, March 6 and 20. The pick-up days for your cards will be the next Sundays. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor John Cross, Doris Lamkey or Judy McCullough.

# Pastor’s Office Hours

Pastor John’s Office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon unless called away or at a meeting. If I am in my car will be parked by the back stairs. Please come to the stairs on the back side of the building or call my cell phone at 217.622.2057 and I will unlock the elevator or front door for you.

# Chili and Soup Supper

Riverton Methodist Church

Where: 429 E. Lincoln St.

When: Saturday, March 5, 2016

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Chili or Soup, Dessert and a Drink

Chicken Salad Sandwich  
and Hot Dogs are Extra.

**EAT IN OR CARRY OUT**

\$8.00 for dinner, or a quart to go

\$4.00 for pint

# PRAYER REMINDERS AS OF JANUARY 26, 2016

## CANCER PATIENTS:

David Yockey  
Charlotte Johnson  
Ron Greenwood  
Cathy Seachrist  
Theresa Snyder  
Scott Maberry  
Angela Rentschler  
Don Allison  
Barb Rhodes  
Debbie Olson  
Pat, Tami, & Ed  
Diane Kindred

Nik Caldwell  
Ed Maberry  
Sharon Coleman  
Barbara Trout  
Marilyn Kunard  
Julie  
Jerrl Forden  
Harley Hepner  
Peggy Rossetti  
Bob Lane  
Vivian Mae Slingsby

Gene Canaday--Parkinson's

Craig Crawford – I.P.F.

Jay McCullough

Allen Webb

Tom Stroisch—COPD

Rodney Cross

Elijah Joseph

Cindy Logsdon

Roberta Bernahl

Kelsey Hindert

Margaret Farris

Marie Howarth

Marj Todd

Jackie Wilson Sr.

Mike Lucas

Megan Mackenzie

Robin Gandy

Barbie Walters

Sharon Falzone

Regina Jones

Nelly Webb-Newborn preemie

Flood Victims

People dealing with Alzheimer's

State Budget

Richard Douglas

Diane

Those with job concerns.

Jack Caldwell

Pete & Sara Karrick

Barb Lucas – knee surgery

Those Traveling.

Storm Victims

People who no longer attend the Riverton First United Methodist Church, but still live in the area.

Our world, the church universal, martyred Christians, our nation, servicemen and women and their families, Riverton First United Methodist Church and our Pastor.



To make changes and additions to this list, please contact Pastor John at (217) 622-2057 or [jmcross58@gmail.com](mailto:jmcross58@gmail.com).

**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.*

# Ministry Action Plan for 2016

Riverton United Methodist Church

| Area 1       | Ministry to People                                | Annual               | Monthly             | Weekly             |
|--------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 11           | Transient Help                                    | \$ 100.00            | \$ 8.33             | \$ 1.92            |
| 12           | Hospitality and Growth                            | \$ 500.00            | \$ 41.67            | \$ 9.62            |
| 13           | Education   | \$ 800.00            | \$ 66.67            | \$ 15.38           |
| 14           | VBS   | \$ 700.00            | \$ 58.33            | \$ 13.46           |
| 15           | Worship   | \$ 1,500.00          | \$ 125.00           | \$ 28.85           |
| 16           | Music   | \$ 250.00            | \$ 20.83            | \$ 4.81            |
| 17           | Youth   | \$ 100.00            | \$ 8.33             | \$ 1.92            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>Area 1 Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 3,950.00</b>   | <b>\$ 329.17</b>    | <b>\$ 75.96</b>    |
| Area 2       | Ministry of Administration                        | Annual               | Monthly             | Weekly             |
| 20           | Finance Committee                                 | \$ 1,750.00          | \$ 145.83           | \$ 33.65           |
| 21           | Office Expense                                    | \$ 5,000.00          | \$ 416.67           | \$ 96.15           |
| 22a          | Custodial Supplies                                | \$ 200.00            | \$ 16.67            | \$ 3.85            |
| 23           | Insurance   | \$ 4,520.00          | \$ 376.67           | \$ 86.92           |
| 25           | Utilities (elec., gas, water, phone)              | \$ 9,500.00          | \$ 791.67           | \$ 182.69          |
| 27           | Annual Conference Expense                         | \$ 1,000.00          | \$ 83.33            | \$ 19.23           |
| 28           | Capital Improvements                              | \$ 11,795.76         | \$ 982.98           | \$ 226.84          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>Area 2 Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 33,765.76</b>  | <b>\$ 2,813.81</b>  | <b>\$ 649.34</b>   |
| Area 3       | Ministry of Our Staff                             | Annual               | Monthly             | Weekly             |
| 30           | Clergy Stipend (salary: \$44K, health ins: \$12K) | \$ 56,000.00         | \$ 4,666.67         | \$ 1,076.92        |
| 30b          | Pastors Professional Expense                      | \$ 1,000.00          | \$ 83.33            | \$ 19.23           |
| 30c          | Pastoral Cable, Phone                             | \$ 1,380.00          | \$ 115.00           | \$ 26.54           |
| 31           | Pastors Travel                                    | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ 250.00           | \$ 57.69           |
| 32           | Pastors Continuing Education                      | \$ 500.00            | \$ 41.67            | \$ 9.62            |
| 33           | Organist (@ \$60.00 service - 56/year)            | \$ 3,640.00          | \$ 303.33           | \$ 70.00           |
| 33a          | Guest Organist                                    |                      | \$ -                | \$ -               |
| 35           | FICA * Withholding                                | \$ 500.00            | \$ 41.67            | \$ 9.62            |
| 36           | Nursery Care (@ \$17.50 - 56/year)                | \$ 1,120.00          | \$ 93.33            | \$ 21.54           |
| 37           | Guest Speakers                                    | \$ 300.00            | \$ 25.00            | \$ 5.77            |
| 38           | Custodial Salary (@ \$40.00 - 52 weeks)           | \$ 2,340.00          | \$ 195.00           | \$ 45.00           |
| 39           | Workers Compensation                              | \$ 542.00            | \$ 45.17            | \$ 10.42           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>Area 3 Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 70,322.00</b>  | <b>\$ 5,860.17</b>  | <b>\$ 1,352.35</b> |
| Area 4       | Connectional Ministry                             | Annual               | Monthly             | Weekly             |
| 40           | Pension   | \$ 9,900.00          | \$ 825.00           | \$ 190.38          |
| 41           | Clergy Support and Administration                 | \$ 10,776.00         | \$ 898.00           | \$ 207.23          |
| 42           | Benevolences / Connectional Ministries            | \$ 6,240.00          | \$ 520.00           | \$ 120.00          |
| 44           | Medical Insurance                                 | \$ -                 | \$ -                | \$ -               |
| 45           | Missionary Support (Connie Wieck in China)        | \$ 1,000.00          | \$ 83.33            | \$ 19.23           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>Area 4 Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 27,916.00</b>  | <b>\$ 2,326.33</b>  | <b>\$ 536.85</b>   |
| Total        | Summary of All Areas                              | Annual               | Monthly             | Weekly             |
| Area 1       | Ministry to People                                | \$ 3,950.00          | \$ 329.17           | \$ 75.96           |
| Area 2       | Ministry of Administration                        | \$ 33,765.76         | \$ 2,813.81         | \$ 649.34          |
| Area 3       | Ministry of Our Staff                             | \$ 70,322.00         | \$ 5,860.17         | \$ 1,352.35        |
| Area 4       | Connectional Ministry                             | \$ 27,916.00         | \$ 2,326.33         | \$ 536.85          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>\$ 135,953.76</b> | <b>\$ 11,329.48</b> | <b>\$ 2,614.50</b> |

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)



*Next newsletter deadline: February 21; send articles to [carlyshank@yahoo.com](mailto:carlyshank@yahoo.com)*