

December 1, 2015

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church – 217-629-9721

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

For many years it has bothered me how we are so busy this time of year that we rush through Christmas, or how we treat from Thanksgiving to Christmas as the Christmas Season. Have you ever arrived at Christmas and been so ready for the busyness to be over with that it is a relief that it is over? Is this the attitude that we as Christians should have about the celebration of the birth of our Savior?

We are entering the season of Advent.

Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. *Advent* derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." The season proclaims the comings of the Christ—whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings; historically, the season was marked by fasts for preparation. Each Sunday of Advent has its distinctive theme: Christ's coming in final victory (First Sunday), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus Christ (Fourth Sunday). (*United Methodist Book Of Worship*).

Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare to receive Christ anew into our hearts. We prepare to celebrate the fact that God sent His Son to Earth to teach us of God's love for us, to teach us how to love each other. God sent His Son to a lowly stable with a manger for His bed, not to a fancy palace with servants and privilege. God sent His Son to be a Servant and a Sacrifice.

I know that December is busy for all of us with all kinds of activities, work and family Christmas parties, and extra church services, but please take some time this year to contemplate Christ's coming and prepare to receive Him anew this year. Also please come and join us for the Christmas Musical on December 13th at 4:00 p.m. and our Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 10:00 p.m.

In Christ's service,

Pastor John





RFUMC Calendar – December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00 PM United Methodist Women	2 9:00 AM Quilters; 7:00 PM Choir	3	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School; 6:00 PM Trustees	7	8	9 9:00 AM Quilters; 7:00 PM Choir	10	11	12 9:00 AM Choir
13 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School; 4:00 PM Christ- mas musical	14	15 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	16 7:00 PM Fi- nance and Administra- tion	17	18	19
20 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 10:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School	28	29	30	31		



More Thank You's!

Extending gratitude beyond the “usual” month of this focus, 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 Kim Beckey for preparing and operating our on-screen worship presentations each week; to Dot Hendricks for emailing devotions and prayer requests (if you would like to join her list, email her at dothendricks@att.net); to trustees Ron Armintrout, Tom Pantier, and George Skaggs for piling and burning leaves on Veteran’s Day; and to Nik Caldwell for fixing some recent issues with the church phone line.



Lisa Dungey	12/1
Betty Peel	12/1
Harold Shepherdson	12/2/1932
Lawrence Lafary	12/5
Timothy Phillips	12/11
Tom Higgins	12/13
Sandy Caldwell	12/16/1962
Alexander Sloman	12/17/2003
Melissa Pfeiffer	12/18/1963
Glenna Wainwright	12/21
Jolene Carr	12/23/1963
Carolyn Binion	12/24/1949
Eileen Kendle	12/27/1942
Debbie Shipman	12/29
Timothy Sexton	12/29/1957
Tyson Binion	12/31/2005



Bill and Yvonne Mann	12/8
Roger and Melissa Pfeiffer	12/18/1988
Richard and Jolene Carr	12/28/2009
Tyler and Samantha Sloman	12/28/2002

United Methodist Women

UMW will meet Tuesday, December 1 at 6 PM
Note new date

Program: Christmas potluck; \$5 grab bag
Hostesses: Rose Hughes, Betty Peel,
and Nancy Daniels

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

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.*

Riverton First United Methodist
429 East Lincoln
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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

Please join us for the **Christmas Musical** program,
The First Noel: Celebrating the Birthday of a King
Sunday, December 13 at 4 PM



There will be performances by the choir and the children of the Sunday School, and lots of special moments that will help all of us celebrate the birth of our Lord. Please join us for the performance and stay afterwards for a few minutes to celebrate with some holiday cheer.

Next newsletter deadline: December 20; send articles to carlyshank@yahoo.com