

June 1, 2012

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church, (217) 629-9721

A Call to Pray, Whenever

The story is told of a man returning to his car in the parking lot at a shopping mall. In the lot he saw a young woman struggling to get a small child out of a shopping cart. The child appeared to be 8 or 9 years old. At first glance it seemed they were just having fun. But as he watched he realized there was a real problem. Each time the mother tried to pull the girl out of the cart, and the cart began to roll. The man offered to help by holding the cart still. But it didn't take long for the man to understand that he needed to do more than just hold the cart still. The braces on the little girl's legs were catching on the frame of the cart, and she was not able to help herself. The man quickly put down his packages and lifted her legs out of the cart.

Afterward he had time to reflect on the situation. He compared it to the way we pray. We struggle in prayer for our loved ones, trying to pull them out of some bondage that holds them in its grip, as the cart held the child. Just as the mother did all she could, we try to handle our problems by ourselves. But some problems can be too complicated or too big to handle alone. Just a short prayer, like just holding the cart still, is not sufficient. We need more power in our prayers so that we can join actively with others in their struggles.

Let's not be cart-holders as we pray – but leg-lifters! Circumstances are often more involved than we might first think. We do not know the “braces” other folks around us are struggling with. What seems to us to be as simple a solution as “cart-holding” to their struggles might not suffice at all. We may need to help free their braces. This could mean praying longer, more often and more intelligently for the concerns around us. The better we know people, the more we care about them, the more effectively we can intercede for them in prayer.

Yet, the man didn't need to inquire about how the girl came to have braces on her legs, or how long she would have to wear them. He didn't even need to know her name or family background. He could see the immediate need and could address it, then and there. It might be that they would all stop and get acquainted afterwards, and he would know all about their life. But it could also be that either he or the mother and daughter, or both, had other appointments to keep, and could not stop and talk. Our ministry to others in prayer consists in supporting the person and situation in prayer as we understand them. We don't have to know everything; nor do we have to supply our opinions about how the prayers should be answered. God already knows all about it. But God still asks us to pray because it is good for us and it is good for those for whom we pray. Who knows, God may just lead us into a surprise situation, like seeing a mother and child having difficulty in a parking lot, so we can help at that particular moment. And we may never see them again. But God's work has been done because we have responded.

Pastor Jonathan Dixon

RFUMC Calendar – June 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Trinity Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 Sunday School	4 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	5	6 9:00 AM Quilt- ing	7	8	9 7:30 AM United Methodist Men
Annual Conference in Peoria				Pastor's Vacation...		
10 9:30 AM Wor- ship with Guest Speaker Ms. Tamara Bivens; 10:30 AM Sunday School	11	12	13 9:00 AM Quilt- ing	14 8:00 PM VBS Pro- gram	15	16
6-8:30 PM Vacation Bible School, with St. James Catholic Church				...Pastor's Vacation		
17 Father's Day 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 6:30 PM Fi- nance Commit- tee; 7:15 PM Administrative Council	18	19	20 9:00 AM Quilt- ing; 7:00 PM Stewardship Team	21	22	23
24 9:30 AM Wor- ship; 10:30 Sunday School	25	26	27 9:00 AM Quilt- ing	28	29	30

Looking Ahead...

July 10, 6:00 PM UM Women's Indoor Picnic
 August 24, Fried Chicken Dinner
 September 9, United Methodist Women Sunday

October 13, Chili Supper
 November 11, United Methodist Men Sunday
 November 18, Comm. Thanksgiving Service

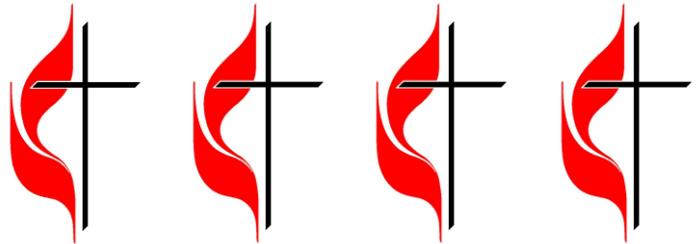
June Bible Readings

Below is the reading schedule to continue our project of reading through the Bible in one year. I will continue to use passages from the week's readings in our worship together (although we may vary from it some for special days like Father's Day). May we know God's blessing as we read and worship together using these passages.

MAY	<i>Law</i>	<i>History</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Poetry</i>	<i>Prophets</i>	<i>Gospels</i>	<i>Epistles</i>
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 28 – June 3	Deut. 7-9	2 Chron. 29-32	Psalms 125-127	Eccles. 3-4	Zephaniah	Act 11-12	James 4-5
June 4-10	Deut. 10-12	2 Chron. 33-36	Psalms 128-130	Eccles. 5-6	Haggai	Acts 13-14	1 Pet. 1-3
June 11-17	Deut. 13-15	Ezra 1-5	Psalms 131-133	Eccles. 7-8	Zech. 1-7	Acts 15-16	1 Peter 4-5
June 18-24	Deut. 16-19	Ezra 6-10	Psalms 134-136	Eccles. 9-10	Zech. 8-14	Acts 17-18	2 Peter
June 25 – July 1	Deut. 20-22	Neh. 1-4	Psalms 137-139	Eccles. 11-12	Malachi	Acts 19-20	1 John 1-3

June Birthdays

Kim Beckey	June 4
Jack Armbruster	June 5, 2008
Leigh Anne Logsdon	June 5, 1984
Patsy Skaggs	June 5, 1947
Ken Carriker	June 12
June Hallford	June 12
Doranne Julian	June 12
Kelsey Greenwood	June 13, 2002
Michael Pugh	June 18
Marilyn Kresse	June 20
Scott Pantier	June 20, 1995
Marjorie Todd	June 20
Avett Shank	June 21, 2010
Sarah Carriker	June 26, 1996
Marion Upton	June 26, 1941
Brett Pearson	June 27
Cindy Logsdon	June 28, 1957
Darlene Schermerhorn	June 30



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

John and Erin Martincic	June 2, 2007
Scott and Shawn Binion	June 3, 2006
Ron and Cheryl Armintrout	June 7, 1970
Mike and Barb Lucas	June 12, 1976

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.

Memorial Garden Information

Beautification of our Memorial Garden on our grounds continues with planting of rose bushes this spring. The Memorial Garden is a not-for-profit and church-operated with burial plots for cremated remains. These 18" by 18" gravesites are free to church members and their families and others who have been a part of our church family. Flat markers for the grave site are permitted. Burial permits are necessary and are part of the cemetery ledger which also includes the quadrant and grave numbers for each burial. Please feel free to contact Pastor Dixon if you have questions or need more information.

Vacation Bible School Update

It is almost time for VBS. Come join us on a trip to Promise Island where you will discover God's life-saving love and the promises God has for all of us. You will also get to meet a very special new friend named Cooper the Dog who just loves VBS. VBS will be held at the Riverton Catholic Church on Sunday, June 10-14 from 5:30 PM-8:30 PM. Registration will begin at 5:30 PM with a light meal served at 5:45 PM prior to the opening program at 6:00 PM. The closing program will be held on Thursday night, June 14th at 8:00 PM at the Riverton United Methodist Church. Each night we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Riverton Food Pantry. VBS is for kids who will enter Pre-K (3-year-olds) up to 6th grade this fall. We will be passing out registration forms in the coming weeks at church, and new volunteers are always welcome. For further information, please contact Hope McKenzie at 217-416-7892.

Summer Sunday School: "We Are the Church"

Sunday School will continue throughout the summer on Sunday mornings at 10:30. Beginning on June 10, we will be doing something a little different with the Pre-K through high school students. We'll still have music at the beginning of the hour and we'll have a Bible- or faith-based craft activity each week. But the primary focus of the hour will be to get to know some of the adult members of the church. Each week, we'll invite members of the church family to join us for the hour and they'll be given the full "Oprah"-like interview treatment so the kids can learn more about the individuals' families, vocation, faith, and service to the church. If you're interested in joining us for one or more weeks this summer, please contact Carly Shank at 217-553-1018.



Quilt Gossip

The quilters just finished a beautiful and unusual quilt for a member of our church. The quilt top in the frames at the present is an antique top that the family wishes to use only for a display of their great-grandmother's handiwork. Anyone is welcome to come quilt. We will be glad to help you learn the proper quilting styles and the discussions you might get involved in will keep you in stitches for days!!!

Trustee News

The trustees took their meeting time in April and worked at finishing off the areas that had new drains and tiles laid underground. They are hoping that this newest work will channel some of the waters away from the church building as well as the parsonage, down toward the pond area. At the same time two ladies worked at cleaning out the area around the air conditioners and some other spots that needed to be cleaned. A special thank you to Scott Pantier who took up the bricks at the southeast corner of the church, repositioned the area and laid the bricks back in place. He has made the brick patio even with the concrete sidewalk. Then to enhance the area even more....Marion Upton sanded and refinished the park benches that are in place on the brick patio. Thanks to everyone for their hard labor.

It has been the trustees desire to update the parsonage kitchen, utility room and lower bath. It is still in the talking stage, but we hope to at least do some work in the kitchen in the next year. However, a bigger problem has come to take precedence. Our church's exterior walls need to be tuckpointed. We are in the process of getting bids and feel this is a project that needs to be accomplished before another winter. This project will be expensive! We have deep concern and do not wish to put our church in more debt. Please keep this matter in your prayers as the trustees review the figures and make a decision on how much to do at the present time.

Scrip Time

Summer is almost here. Graduations. Showers. Weddings. College preparations. Vacations. All these events can use a gift card. The next order date will be June 3, 2012. Enclosed is the newest SCRIP order form. Please feel free to fill it out and turn it in at church on that Sunday. This program just paid another \$1,000.00 on the loan's principal at the end of April. If the orders continue to increase, we should be able to pay able to put a second \$1,000.00 by September. Thank you all for your past participation.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will not meet in June due to VBS. See you in July!



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Address Correction Requested



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Next Newsletter Deadline:
June 17, 2012
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