

September 1, 2015

The Oaks



Riverton First United Methodist Church – 217-629-9721

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I have to make a confession: I have never been much of a reader. I do not enjoy reading, I read because I have to not because I like to. I am an audio learner, so when I can I listen to books. A few years back I listened to the audio book *You Lost Me* by David Kinnaman. Mr. Kinnaman works for the Barna Group and his book is based on research looking into why young Christians in their late teens and twenties leave the church. As you might expect there are many reasons that young people leave the church, but there is one that really started me thinking.

Many young people think that the church has a “shallow faith problem.” These young people look at the churches that they grew up in, at their parents, families, and friends and see people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, but have a very shallow faith. They go to church on Sunday, donate money to the church, attend church functions, and serve on committees and boards, but do not put their faith into action. These young people see a real disjunction in what they read Jesus say in the Bible and hear in sermons and what they see the members of their church doing with their lives.

These young people do not think that the church is doing enough to care for the poor, the needy, the widow, and the orphan, the least, and the lost. I wonder what our young people think about us.

Sometimes a thought, an idea, hits too close to home. I am a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I left a job that I loved, family, and friends to dedicate my life to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ but, even on my best days I know that I am not doing all that I could to live out my faith. How about you?

As you would have read in last month's newsletter, the Staff-Parish Committee is organizing some small get-togethers for me to meet with members of the congregation to talk with him about the past, present, and future of our church. Part of what I would like to know is what your ideas are for outreach ministries for the future of the church. How can we put feet to our faith?

One thing that I would like to put together is a mission trip for the summer of 2016 to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center Sheyenne, North Dakota. This is a ministry to the Spirit Lake Reservation. Two years ago I went with the Cache River District to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center and made a deep connection to this ministry. The trip would cost approximately \$650.00 per person. That cost includes food and lodging. Depending on what week we would be going we might be doing construction work on the reservation, and/or VBS and/or work on the ministry center itself. Our group two years ago had people with many different skills and a wide age range. There was something for everyone to do. To be able to reserve a week at the ministry center I would need to know that we have some real interest, so if you are interested in going please let me know.

In Christ's service,

Pastor John

RFUMC Calendar – September 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir	3	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School; 6:00 PM Trustees	7 Labor Day	8 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	9 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir	10	11	12
13 United Methodist Women Sunday 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School; 6:00 PM Finance and Admin- istration	14	15 6:00 PM United Methodist Men	16 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir	17	18	19 4-6:30 PM UMM Beef and Noodle Dinner
20 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School	21	22	23 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir	24	25	26
27 9:30 AM Worship; 10:30 AM Adult Sun- day School	28	29	30 9:00 AM Quilting; 7:00 PM Choir			

Looking ahead...

October 17 – Chili/Vegetable Soup Dinner
 October 31 – Trunk-er Treat
 November 22 – Community Thanksgiving
 Service

Next newsletter deadline: September 20



United Methodist Men Beef and Noodle Dinner

Saturday, September 19
4:00-6:30 PM in the fellowship hall

\$8.00/meal (eat-in or carry-out)
\$10.00 for a quart of beef-and-noodles

Join us for fellowship and a meal!



Trustee News

It has been a busy month.....busier than had been expected! We have been getting bids recently to take down two dead trees in back of the church. We were especially concerned about one tree being so close to the Memorial Garden. The job was assigned, the company arrived, trees taken down, stumps taken out and EVERYTHING has been cleaned up. They even took away the piles of leaves from last year.

Then the clothes washer had a problem at the parsonage. A part had to be ordered and by the time you read this newsletter, the washing machine should be repaired.

THEN....those of us in church on August 16, 2015 came face-to-face with a lot of hot air (not the minister now!) Two of the three air conditioners were not working. It was decided to move the service downstairs with the air conditioner that was working. It so happened that the Mel Allison Family had the basement set up to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. So we had church, received inspiration from the minister, welcomed a new member, Larry Lafary, then had anniversary cake. It was all good!

First thing Monday morning the air conditioner repairman was called. He found the problems, cleaned all the units and replaced the filters also. We sincerely hope that September will be a quiet month.

Quilters

The quilters have been working on a 9-patch block/plain block quilt for several weeks. It should be completed in the next month. Another quilt, if ready, will go into a quilt frame. Although we recently lost a delightful quilter, we have been blessed to have a young man join the group. Mrs. Lamkey has been teaching him the technique; he has improved, but is still learning. He is really enjoying the "conversations". Come join the group!

September Anniversaries

Michael and Mary Pugh	9/1/1968
Les and Dorothy Hendricks	9/17/1988
Kevin and Tracy Scales	9/21/1994
Nik and Sharon Caldwell	9/21/1968
Marion and Pat Upton	9/26/1964

Choir Resumes

Our choir has started fall rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7 PM. No auditions required! We welcome anyone with a desire to sing God's praises into our choir; we will teach you what you need to know. We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7 PM for 60-75 minutes and briefly before each Sunday morning service at which we will sing. If you have questions about choir, please see Carly Shank or contact her at carlyshank@yahoo.com or 553-1018.



Scrip Program

Please be aware of the fact that Christmas is coming....sooner than you might think! Better begin stocking up with those gift cards for all the family, your dearest friends and especially for the folks that serve you every day, like the paper people, trash collectors, mail person, etc. Don't wait till the last minute and feel too pressured. Order now and relax, enjoy the "Reason for the Season" this year.

Staff-Parish Relations News

Now that Pastor John has had some time to settle in, Staff-Parish has been organizing some small get-togethers for members of the congregation to talk with him about the past, present, and future of our church. Everyone is invited to participate! We will keep these sessions small, with ten people or fewer, and short, with a plan for the formal conversation to last no longer than 90 minutes. Many of these sessions will be held in members' homes. Sign up on Sunday morning at service.

The United Methodist Women

UMW will meet Tuesday, September 8, 7 PM
Program: Bonnie Klaves
Hostess: Janet Gowin

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

September Birthdays

Judy Lafary	9/1
Lesta Fitzpatrick	9/2
David Sims	9/7/2000
James Rusciollelli	9/17/1940
Erin Martincic	9/20/1978
Lori Payne-Mullett	9/25/1962
Tori Scales	9/26/2003
Mike Lucas	9/29/1955

United Methodist Women Sunday

Please join us in worship for United Methodist Women Sunday on September 13. Bobbi Blackard will return to our pulpit as guest speaker this Sunday.

Up until September 13, 2015, the UMW will be collecting school supplies for the Riverton School District. We have been asked to collect headphones (with the straight plug), and child size tennis shoes, along with the other school supplies.

United Methodist Women School Supply Wish List *Items are due by Sunday, September 13.*

Headphones with straight Plug (NO Earbuds)**

Children Size Tennis Shoes**

CRAYOLA Crayons 24 Box*

CRAYOLA Washable Markers (Classic Colors Broad Tip)*

Pink Pearl Erasers

#2 Ticonderoga Pencils

Black Dry Erase Markers

Pointed Scissors

2 Pocket Folders (no Pronged)

2 Pocket Pronged Plastic Folders (Blue, Red, Orange, Green)

Wide Rule Spiral Notebook

Glue Sticks

Yellow Highlighters

Regular Colored Pencils

Loose Leaf paper (Wide Lined)

Composition Book (Wide Rule)

Pencil Sharpener

White Erasers

Post-it Notes

Elmer's Glue

Zip-loc Sandwich Bags

Zip-loc Gallon Bags

Disinfectant Wipes

** Special Request from the school

* Requested Brand from the school



Riverton First United Methodist
429 East Lincoln
Riverton, IL 62561



Address Correction Requested

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

Are you still receiving this newsletter by mail?

Please consider giving us your email address so that we may email you the newsletter instead! Please email newsletter editor Carly Shank at carlyshank@yahoo.com with your request to start receiving it by email.

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.*