



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KEOKUK
The Church by the River

Volume 11 Issue 9

RIVERSIDE CURRENT

September 2014

As you know, our church has begun to take the next steps along a path of spiritual transformation, to grow deeper in our faith and broader in our outreach. Two different “listening events” were held this summer for people to share their hopes and dreams for our congregation; notes from both were mailed to your home this week. We on the Session encourage you to read them with an open mind and a prayerful heart.

Your Session is deeply engaged in prayer and Bible study, seeking to discover UPC’s particular purpose as God’s church here in Keokuk. There are more than 30 Christian churches and fellowships in our town, and we are convinced we need a firm understanding of exactly why we are here to guide us as we move forward. We are studying the following Scripture passages, and we ask that you read and pray along with us.

Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus said, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

Mark 16:15 – Jesus said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to every creature.”

Luke 24:47 – Jesus said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Ephesians 4:12-13 – His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God’s Son. God’s goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

John 4:23 – Jesus said, “But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way.”

James 1:22 - You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves.

Later in the fall and winter, we will move through both a visioning process and a strategic planning process. At each point in the journey, detailed information will be shared with the congregation, so that you can get involved in the activities that most interest you.

Jesus called his first disciples to work for the coming kingdom of God with urgency, because it absolutely wasn’t going to wait for anyone. Yet at the same time, he told them not to worry, not about food or clothing or anything else, because God had them under His care. We may be different disciples in a different time, but the message is still the same. The work demands our urgent attention, but we need not be anxious about what might happen, because God has everything in His hands.

Praising God always, in all ways!

Church Calendar September 2014

Tue Sep 2, 2014

8am LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Wed Sep 3, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn

Where: HyVee's Cafeteria

3:30pm Prayer group

Sat Sep 6, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours

Sun Sep 7, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed

10:30am Worship Service

Tue Sep 9, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

Wed Sep 10, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn

Where: HyVee's Cafeteria

3:30pm Prayer group

6pm WoRM Wednesdays

Sat Sep 13, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours

Sun Sep 14, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed

10:30am Worship Service

Tue Sep 16, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

6pm Session Meeting

Wed Sep 17, 2014

8:30am Keokuk Ministerial Association

Where: At Keokuk Area Conference

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn

Where: HyVee's Cafeteria

3:30pm Prayer group

6pm WoRM Wednesdays

Sat Sep 20, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours

9:30am Deacon's Meeting

Sun Sep 21, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed

10:30am Worship Service

Tue Sep 23, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

Wed Sep 24, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn

Where: HyVee's Cafeteria

3:30pm Prayer group

6pm WoRM Wednesdays

Sat Sep 27, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours

Sun Sep 28, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed

10:30am Worship Service

Tue Sep 30, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

September Birthdays

3	K. J. Cannon
5	Jami Bliss
6	Jenna Schofield
7	Molly Montgomery
12	Bruce Brandt
12	Ali Bliss
18	Gary Altgilbers
19	Greg Swan
21	Emily Fuller
24	Michelle Potratz
29	Dena Cannon
29	Angie Peterson
30	Lauren Bliss

On the Prayer List

10 August 2014



- Dena announced that LeRoy Guymon passed away on Saturday, and that the funeral service will be here at the church on Tuesday at 2:00.
- Emily let us know that she will be moving to West Union next week, where she has accepted a job! She thanked the congregation for their support and love over the years and asked for our prayers as she takes on this new adventure.
- Ann let us know that that Beckah passed her board exams and will be working at the hospital in Iowa City.

17 August 2014

- Joe invited us to participate in two different 5K walk-runs to support worthy causes in our community. On the 16th, you can support autism and K-Play (accessible playground equipment for Keokuk). Come out again on the 23rd to support Wounded Warriors.
- The congregation lifted prayer for teachers and students as they return to classrooms for a new school year.
- Please pray for the congregations and leaders of the churches in our presbytery (East Iowa).

24 August 2014

- Ray asked us to pray for his grandmother, Toni, who is in the hospital for heart failure.
- Joe asked that we pray for a friend, Fred, who has had hip replacement surgery, for quick and complete recovery.
- Marianna let us know that Olive Davis' son, Kenneth, died earlier this month.
- Randi asked us for prayers for her father, Bill, for healing of his body, and for her mother, Mary, for strength and peace of spirit.
- The congregation lifted prayer for all the people caught up in the conflict in Ferguson, MO, that both peace and justice, as complicated as those are, may come to pass.

31 August 2014

- Randi thanked the congregation for prayer on behalf of her father, Bill. He is much improved and safely back home, which makes him very happy.
- Joe let us know that Fred's surgery went well, but asked us to keep him in our prayers for a swift and complete recovery. He also let us know that Fred's best friend died this week, and offered a prayer for the family and all those who are mourning.
- Finally, Joe lifted a prayer of thanks that he has a simpler life than Jacob's, to which a spontaneous chorus of "Amen!" was heard throughout the room.
- Please pray for those in Napa County, California who were injured or displaced from their homes in the earthquake this morning, and for the safety of all those responding to help.

*If you or someone you know is in need of prayer,
please let the pastor or any of your elders or deacons know.*

You've waited all summer, but now it's back! WoRM Wednesdays, our mid-week youth education program, starts September 10th at 6:00 pm. WoRM stands for Workshop Rotation Model, an education method that helps children engage Bible stories with all of their senses, so they come away with a deep and lasting memory of God's Word. There will be weekly activities for ages pre-K through 6th, and service projects for middle school and high school youth. And the last Wednesday of each month will be a "Church Family" carry-in and game night, so we can all enjoy each other's company.



The 11th annual Gil Sargent Memorial Hoopin' On the River 3 on 3 Tournament was once again hosted at UPC. It was a little soggy this year, but it didn't seem to dampen anybody's spirit! The kids played some amazing basketball, and had a great time while raising scholarship money in memory of Gil Sargent. We are proud to be able to help support programs for the youth of our community, like this one, and thanks to everyone who helped welcome folks, arrange tables and chairs, ran errands for our guests, or prayed for the rain to let up a little!

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