



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KEOKUK  
The Church by the River

Volume 11 Issue 6

June 2014

## RIVERSIDE CURRENT

Summer is here, and life feels a little more spacious, somehow. While our freedom isn't limitless, of course, I still insist it feels glorious to be able to go outside without worrying about where we left the parka, much less the hat, mittens, and boots!

In the rhythm of our lives, summer is a season when we get to sit back (a little) and reflect (at least a little) on where we've been and what we've done. And, boy! have we done a lot this school year! The confirmation class met weekly most of the year, studying the Bible and asking questions, growing in our faith and learning to be servant leaders, all while having fun! The Wednesday evening WoRM program was a great success, with our school-aged children learning the stories of the Bible with all their senses. Adult education wasn't neglected either – we learned about growing the church Deep and Wide, we read about some of the things Presbyterians believe, and we studied the Bible – Luke, and James, and now Joshua. All the church officers, elders and deacons, came together this year in a joint retreat to explore what it means to be a servant leader of God's people. You have amazing leaders among you, gifted and enthusiastic and effective, and I for one praise God for raising them up!

We also did a lot of ministry this year. We did service projects to help people recover from disasters, supported the community pantry with donations of health and hygiene items, participated in both ecumenical and civic events in our community and partnered with Common Ground to raise money for youth programs. Deacons delivered food, ran errands, sent cards and letters, prepared funeral meals and holiday get-togethers, reached out to the homebound and to the grieving. The scholarship programs of this congregation continued to support students in all kinds of circumstances, both here and at Louisville Seminary.

It hasn't been all work, though. We've celebrated birthday parties and baptisms, ordinations and graduations, wedding showers and baby showers. We've shared food and fellowship, music and conversation, a lot of laughter and a few tears. This is what our life together is supposed to be about – work and worship in a community of faith. There are many things that will try to distract us from this calling – worry, fear, pride, memory, expectation. Don't let them. The life we were given in Christ is for freedom, and friends, it is true! Life is more spacious here in the body of Christ, with plenty of room for the love the Spirit wants to breathe into us!

*Praising God always, in all ways!*

## Church Calendar June 2014

### Sun Jun 1, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service  
Where: Fellowship Hall

### Tue Jun 3, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### Wed Jun 4, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group  
7pm Brenda Copeland -  
Southern Gospel Concert  
Where: Sanctuary

### Thu Jun 5, 2014

10:30am Tri-State Women's Connection  
Where: Fellowship Hall

### Fri Jun 6, 2014

8am Pastor's Cont. Ed - PEIA Spring  
Leadership Seminar  
Where: Camp Wyoming

### Sat Jun 7, 2014

8am Pastor's Cont. Ed - PEIA Spring  
Leadership Seminar – no office  
hours  
Where: Camp Wyoming

### Sun Jun 8, 2014 - Pentecost

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service w/ communion  
Where: Fellowship Hall

### Tue Jun 10, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### Wed Jun 11, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group

### Thu Jun 12, 2014

All day Rummage/Food Sale  
2pm Caring Hearts Grief Support

### Fri Jun 13, 2014

All day Rummage/Food Sale

### Sat Jun 14, 2014

8am General Assembly Convenes  
9am Pastor's Office Hours

### Sun Jun 15, 2014 – Graduation Sunday

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service  
Where: Fellowship Hall

### Tue Jun 17, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours  
6pm Session Meeting

### Wed Jun 18, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group

### Sat Jun 21, 2014

8am General Assembly Ends  
9am Pastor's Office Hours  
6pm Over 40 Listening Event

### Sun Jun 22, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service  
Where: Fellowship Hall

### Tue Jun 24, 2014

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### Wed Jun 25, 2014

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group

### Thu Jun 26, 2014

2pm Caring Hearts Grief Support  
Where: Fellowship Hall

### Sat Jun 28, 2014

9am Pastor's Office Hours

### Sun Jun 29, 2014

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service  
Where: Fellowship Hall

## June Birthdays

5 Buck Curfman  
10 Jacob Altgilbers  
14 J. T. Swan  
16 Lilyana Bliss  
20 Aileen Jinkens  
22 Marlee Washburn  
23 Bill Heller  
24 Aubrey Mahannah  
28 Sally Miller  
29 Keith Miller

## Graduates

**Lauren Bliss**, Associate, Southeastern  
Community College  
**Amber Hall**, Special Education, Western Illinois  
University  
**A. J. Swan**, Diploma, Keokuk High School  
**Beckah Swan**, Nursing, University of Iowa  
**Emily Terry**, Occupational Therapy Assistant,  
Kirkwood Community College



#### **4 May 2014**

- Dena gave testimony of how God is moving in the lives of our young adults, answering prayer.
- Ann invited us to attend the May meeting of Church Women United this Friday (not the 9<sup>th</sup>).
- Lori offered a prayer of thanks for all the prayers and support she received while look for a job, and thanks that the prayers have been answered!

- Joann asked that we pray for LeRoy's health
- Brian asked for prayers for his daughter Sasha, for healing of many things.
- Steve let us know about his project to collect oral histories from some of our older members, starting with LeRoy. If you'd like to read the book or listen to the interview, see Steve or Rev. Randi.

#### **11 May 2014**

- Ann offered a prayer of thanks to Joann, Cindy, and Kim for their help with the Church Women United breakfast on Friday. It was a wonderful event, and their efforts were deeply appreciated.
- Kim noted that the end of the school year is a stressful time, and asked us to pray for both students and teachers.
- K.J. extended an invitation to attend a pancake breakfast on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Oddfellows lodge, to raise money for playground equipment accessible to special needs children in our community.

#### **18 May 2014**

- Randi offered a prayer of thanksgiving to have Jeanette and her family with us today.
- Joann invited the congregation to donate baked goods for the rummage and food sale to be held in June, to benefit the Tri-State Scholarship fund.
- Randi offered a prayer of thanks for all the mothers, natural or otherwise, who cared for us, but also asked us to remember and pray for people who do not find much to celebrate today – those who suffered abuse at the hands of their mothers; women who lost children or had to give them away or could never have them in the first place; children left to care for mothers with addictions or mental illness. We pray for us all.

#### **25 May 2014**

- KJ asked us to keep his sister and brother in our prayers. Both are battling throat cancer. Marie is stage 4 and quite ill – please pray for God's guidance and support as she makes decisions about treatment.
- Kim offered a prayer of thanks and praise for graduating students and expressed joy for all their accomplishments.

Brenda Copeland will be presenting an evening of southern gospel music at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, here at United Presbyterian Church. Plan to join us, and bring your friends! You can find out more about Brenda's music at [www.brendacopelandministry.com](http://www.brendacopelandministry.com).

The annual rummage sale will be held 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and 8:00 am to noon on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, to raise money for the Tri-State Scholarship Fund. Come down to search for a treasure, and bring your friends with you!



Worship will be held in Fellowship Hall throughout the summer. It will be cooler and a little more intimate, but every bit as reverent as worship in the sanctuary. Join us often, and invite your friends – there's an empty chair waiting for you!

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