



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KEOKUK  
The Church by the River

Volume 11 Issue 5

May 2014

## RIVERSIDE CURRENT

Through the month of May, we'll be talking about the:

### Great Ends of the Church Great Ends of the Church

There are six of them, and together, they constitute a kind of roadmap that lays out our purpose, or reason, for being. We will be examining each of these "great ends", one per Sunday, and I hope that you will make a special effort to attend during this sermon series. The series will be pod-cast on our church web site ([www.churchbytheriver.net](http://www.churchbytheriver.net)), so if you miss one, you can listen at your convenience.

- ✦ the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind (April 27)
- ✦ the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God (May 4)
- ✦ the maintenance of divine worship (May 11)
- ✦ the preservation of the truth (May 18)
- ✦ the promotion of social righteousness (May 25)
- ✦ the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world (June 1)

None of the six are especially surprising, yet I suspect we could come up with half a dozen different interpretations of what, exactly, is meant by each and every one of them. There's nothing sinister in that, but unless we all agree which direction we want to row our boat, we probably won't get very far.

Throughout the summer and fall, we will be holding a series of listening events, where you can be part of the conversation. The first event, for our young adults, will be held May 10<sup>th</sup>. Others will follow, bringing together different "slices" of our congregation, to consider what we should do and be as the church of Christ in our town and our time. Please listen to the sermons, study the weekly Bible passages, pray about the life of our church, and participate in a listening event when you are invited.

We don't have to find The. Perfect. Answer. – because the *real* perfect answer, Jesus, has already found us. Every road belongs to God, and God can bless our work no matter what we decide to do. But we do have to make a decision, and then get to work.

*Praising God always, in all ways!*

## Church Calendar May 2014

### **Fri May 2, 2014**

9am Church Women United  
Where: UPC Fellowship Hall

### **Sun May 4, 2014**

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service

### **Tue May 6, 2014**

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### **Wed May 7, 2014**

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group  
6pm WoRM Wednesdays

### **Thu May 8, 2014**

2pm Caring Hearts Grief Support

### **Sat May 10, 2014**

8am 164th Stated Presbytery Meeting  
Where: Camp Wyoming  
42nd Avenue, Wyoming, IA  
9:30am Deacon's Meeting  
6pm Young Adult Listening Event  
Dinner, childcare provided

### **Sun May 11, 2014**

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service  
2pm Graduation (A. J. Swan)  
Where: Oddfellows Lodge

### **Tue May 13, 2014**

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### **Wed May 14, 2014**

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group  
6pm WoRM Wednesdays

### **Sun May 18, 2014**

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service

### **Tue May 20, 2014**

6pm Session Meeting

### **Wed May 21, 2014**

3:30pm Prayer group

### **Thu May 22, 2014**

2pm Caring Hearts Grief Support

### **Sat May 24, 2014**

9am Pastor's Office Hours

### **Sun May 25, 2014**

9:30am Adult Christian Ed  
10:30am Worship Service

### **Tue May 27, 2014**

2pm Pastor's Office Hours

### **Wed May 28, 2014**

11:30am Lunch-N-Learn  
Where: HyVee's Cafeteria  
3:30pm Prayer group  
6pm WoRM – Year End Party

### **Sat May 31, 2014**

9am Pastor's Office Hours

## May Birthdays

1	Emily Bliss
7	Betty Riter
9	Ethan Marshall
9	Gabe Miller
23	Devon Altgilbers
27	Thomas Montgomery
27	Tyler Bliss
28	Chloe Sage
29	Ann Harshbarger



### **6 April 2014**

- Joe offered thanks to Mae for sharing the beauty of her birthday flowers with us in the sanctuary this morning.
  - Joe also invited church members to team up with the Oddfellows for Earth Day and help clean up Keokuk.
  - K.J. said he was glad to see the street torn up in front of the church – a new street will make an even better location for the summer basketball event.
- Meg lifted two prayers of praise, one for A.J., who has been offered an Army scholarship, the other for Beckah, who has interviews for ICU nursing positions.
  - Barb R. asked us to pray for her brother-in-law, Roger, related to his kidney transplant, and told us about the difference prayer is making for Amy and Danny, and asked us to keep it up. She also asked us to pray for her as she makes difficult decisions.
  - Ann had a joy, telling us about the birth of a new great-grandchild, Locklyn Belle, and reminded us that order forms for Easter lilies are due next week.
  - Lani asked for our prayers as he will be going for surgery on April 7<sup>th</sup> to treat the cataract in his left eye.

### **13 April 2014**

- Cindy K. let us know about a scholarship Doris' PEO chapter is establishing for an aspiring music student.
- Ann reminded us that Easter lily orders are due.
- Dena asked for our help filling eggs for the children's Easter Egg Hunt. If you can, please pick up a pack on your way out and bring them back next Sunday.
- K. J. reminded us about the Earth Day clean-up on Saturday, meeting at Rand Park at 8:30. Even if you can't help, come encourage the workers!
- Randi thanked Amber for stepping up to take on Small Talk and teach the children about Jesus.
- The beautiful flowers we enjoyed today were sent by Angie Ames' family, in honor of her 94th birthday!

### **20 April 2014**

- Joe invited everyone to Maundy Thursday worship this week. There will be a meal at 6:30, followed with worship in Fellowship Hall.
- KJ talked about the Earth Day clean-up yesterday, and thanked those who helped.
- Ann told us that Church Women United will be meeting here on May 9th, and asked for help with the breakfast.
- Keith had an announcement – he let us know that Brook agreed to marry him! Congratulations to both of you.
- Barb A. shared a joy - Gary's cousin, Kim, who we have been praying for, got married.
- Joann thanked her "secret friends" for the beautiful flowers she received.

### **27 April 2014**

- Randi let us know a new adult Bible study on the book of Joshua is beginning next Sunday at 9:30, no pre-requisites to participate.
- Amber asked us to pray for the family of John Varner as they grieve his sudden passing.

- Joe asked that we pray for his brother Peter, for health and marriage issues.
- Please pray for Ike, who is undergoing cancer treatments
- Ann reminded us that Church Women United will be meeting here May 9th
- Joann let us know that the confirmation class is “graduating” next Sunday and invited us to stay for cake afterward to help them celebrate.
- Joe offered thanks to all who helped with Easter breakfast.

The family of A.J. Swan would like to invite you to a Graduation Open House on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, any time between 2 and 5 pm at the Oddfellows Lodge here in Keokuk, to mark “commencement” from one phase of life into the next with a little celebration.

**RESERVE THE DATE:** Tri-State Women’s Connection has arranged a concert for early June that you won’t want to miss. 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).

If you have near-new items for the annual rummage sale, please start setting them aside to bring to the church. The rummage sale will be held June 12 and 13 this year, along with a food sale, to raise money for the Tri-State Scholarship Fund. If you need more information, contact any of your deacons.

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