**THE VIEWPOINT**

**The Monthly Newsletter of Riverside Community Church**

**United Church of Christ**

**July - August 2013**

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**The Green Team**

**Vacation Bible School 2013**

**Grow In Faith!**

**Have Fun!**

**Change The World!**

**Reflections**

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*“Listen! A sower went out to sow*…” *Matthew 13:3*

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As the berries ripen and the vegetables grow, the rooms of Riverside are filled with the laughter, footsteps and voices of children participating in “Renew” our Green VBS with its motto: *“Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.”*

While the children sing, plant, play and create, they have been reflecting on a story told by Jesus that many have come to know as the “parable of the sower.” In the parable, a God-like sower takes seeds and scatters them on all kinds of ground. Some seeds wither and die, some are eaten by birds, and some fall on good, rich soil and produce abundantly. *(See Matthew 13: 3-9 for the whole story.)*

God, it turns out, is an extravagant (*some might even say* *reckless*) gardener who scatters seeds of love and visions of justice with abandon. God doesn’t limit the sowing to ground that is fertile or hearts that are open. God spreads dreams of love and compassion even into hearts that are rocky with fear and parched with grief.

And guess what? We are called to be fellow gardeners with God. God gives us seeds of God’s kingdom, visions of God’s justice, and invites us to join in the wild, reckless, and seemingly impractical act of scattering them into the broken, dry and barren places of our families, neighborhoods and world.

The practical ways of the world tell us to hold on tight, to sow only on fertile ground, to stay away from people or places that look rocky or weedy. Yet in the midst of it all, God lifts up God’s arms, flings seeds far and wide, and invites us to join in the joyful sowing, for there is no scarcity in the gardening practices of God. God’s seeds of love and visions of justice *will not* run out.

Sisters and brothers, in these precious days of summer, I pray that we might sow with abandon—waiting with open, expectant eyes for the ways of God to take root and grow.

Blessings,

Pastor Vicky

**RIVERSIDE BULLETIN BOARD**

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*First Sunday of the month is Communion Sunday. Children grades K-Middlers are invited to Sunday School in the Fireside Room after the Children’s Time on the summer Sundays we meet in the sanctuary. Younger children may remain in worship or in the nursery with Ann Zuehlke and Anik Suprapti.*

**Chancel Choir** and **Gospel Choir** are on a break for the summer. We look forward to seeing them again this fall.

**Cheers** group meets at 10 am on July 16 in Pastor Vicky’s office.

**FISH/Local Missions** FISH offering July 28. Local Missions offering August 25.

**Pockets of Plenty** July 21 for Peace Village. August 18 One Community Health (formerly known as La Clinica).

**Mission Board** meets August 8 at 1 pm.

**Council** will convene Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30 for a meeting and potluck at the home of Gean Rains.

**Down Manor Bible Study** on Mondays from 10 – 11 am. No gathering on July 22 or July 29.



The **Chancel Choir** will resume rehearsals on September 4 and return to worship on September 8.

The **Gospel Choir** will sing every third Sunday.

**New Choir Members Are Always Welcome!**

Please contact Choir Director Perry Cole at [pcc@hrecn.net](mailto:pcc@hrecn.net) if you are interested

In joining either choir.



**JULY and AUGUST**

Marbe Cook July 3

Lindesay Crooks July 9

Vicky Stifter July 9

Joshua Humann July 16

Casey Beaman July 18

Brenda Kaiser July 21

Marlene Van Metre July 21

Tim Mayer July 23

Dorothy Mellenthin July 23

Fran Cody July 26

Matthew Fauth July 26

Donna McCoy July 26

Michelle Redmond July 26

Eric Fauth July 28

Stephanie Harris July 28

Linda Lang July 28

Marilyn Murray July 28

Connal Rea August 1

Jo Herring August 2

Olivia Newcomb August 4

Peggy Woodruff August 6

Tom St. John August 8

Judy Nelson August 11

Tim Foley August 15

Addison Redmond August 19

Wendy Foley August 23

Virginia Sheppard August 23

Zella Laraway August 26

Caleb Trumbull August 28

*Have we missed your birthday?*

*Please let the church office know*

*at* [*rcc@gorge.net*](mailto:rcc@gorge.net)*.*

**June 2013**

**Special Offering Totals**

**Pockets of Plenty $ 172**

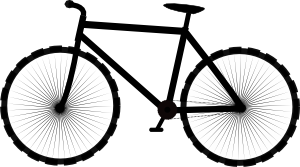
**Youth Mission Trip**

**Local Missions $ 354**

**Thank you for your Generosity!**

*Doctor cycling across the country to speak at Rockford Grange in Hood River at 7 p.m. on July 23*

Dr. Wendy Ring will speak at 7 p.m. at the Rockford Grange (4250 Barrett Dr.) on July 23rd about how climate change affects our health and what we can do about it. Dr. Ring is the organizer of Climate 911, a national organization of physicians dedicated to raising the alarm about climate change as a public health emergency and advocating for prompt effective solutions. She and her husband, along with a team of cyclists, are on a pedal powered speaking tour from Washington state to Washington DC. Ring says “ The bad news is that we're already seeing new kinds of infections; increased toxins in our air, food, and water; and increased emergency room visits, hospitalizations and deaths as a result of climate change. The good news is that the same commonsense policies we can put in place to slow global warming will also reduce our national epidemic of chronic diseases. Its a win-win situation.”

[](http://www.clker.com/clipart-bike-bicycle.html)



**Solar Report**

**JUNE 2013**

*Energy Produced*  
JUNE Total 978 kWh

Previous Month 939 kWh

Y-T-D 4.17 MWh

Carbon Offset 1,489 lbs.

**Carbon Offset for this month:**

**the equivalent of 17 trees.**



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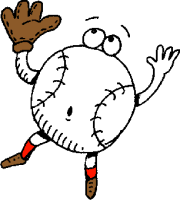
*It is a blessing to have others praying for us. It is also a blessing when we pray for others. Let us bring our prayers to God.*

for Hazel Bowe, Margaret Marshall, recovering from surgery…Royal Ewing, recovering from a recent fall…

for all of those in need of healing…

**God in your grace,**

**Hear our prayers**

[](http://www.free-clipart-pictures.net/softball_clipart.html)

**Summer Church League Softball** heads into its final week, July 22. The final game will be at 6:30 p.m. at Westside School and anyone is welcome to come cheer on the RCC bunch. It has been a really fun season, with many innings of exciting, well-played ball. Kaptain Kirby thanks everyone who put on a mitt and picked up a bat. In no particular order: Steve Nybroten, Michelle Beaman, Doug Beaman, Molly Fauth, Eric Fauth, Gary Rains, Scott Johnson, Jack Trumbull, Vicky Stifter, Chris Mallon, Connal Rea, and Catherine Kiyokawa, along with a boost from the Edwards clan: Maggie, Mary and Billy.

***Breaking Sports News:***

**Riverside Wins! 13 to 12 coming from behind in the 6th inning July 15 in a warm and dusty game with the Unitarians!**

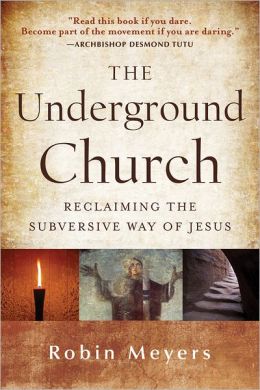
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**Riverside Reads!**

As you reach for a good book this summer, the Riverside Council encourages you to pick up **“The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus**” by Robin Meyers.

Riverside members who have read it thus far describe it as *“transformative”* *“a challenging wake up call”* and *“a breath of fresh air*.” Archbishop Desmond Tutu proclaims *"Robin Meyers has spoken truth to power, and the church he loves will never be the same."*

Council members and Pastor Vicky will convene book discussions in the coming months. If you would like to borrow a copy, contact Lorre in the church office. If you would like to purchase one of your own, Waucoma Bookstore has several available.



**Was it Fun?**

Inevitably, when I get back from any outing with the youth, parents and church members ask about the event, “Was it fun?”

I hope it’s a question we toss out these days as an opening line, and that we can move deeper with them in discerning the value of the experience.

It was certainly the first question people asked me about the recent mission trip our teens took to the Yakama Christian Mission.

Was it fun?

Well, if you consider a week of sleep deprivation, ripping out deeply soiled carpet at a homeless shelter, hearing hour long lectures about our history with the Native Americans, pulling up weeds and trying to get 6th grade boys to draw being fun, then YES!  We had tons of fun.

What we really had were meaningful and life-changing experiences where we realized as a team, and from listening to our Spirits, we can be the hands of Christ in the world. And because this is a special group of teens who have bonded together through serving, reflecting and praying about their mission, we can make just about any situation become “fun”.

Yes, I am at fault as well for asking children on many occasions, “Was it fun?”. But I hope to move away from that question and help them understand that “fun” doesn’t always come in fair rides, movie going, dances, ice cream, etc. The list of “fun” activities in this world is long and plentiful.

But “fun” in the Spirit looks different. It happens on a mission trip when a little girl that is coloring a card for her daddy tells you that he is in prison. “Fun” comes when you’ve sweated in front of your friends and transformed a urine stained bathroom into a clean white space. ”Fun” comes when you sit in circle, and can pray about a lame goat you met who might have to be put down.

Suddenly, “fun” takes on new meaning.

May you find new meaning and have lots of “fun” this summer, as I have with my youth on the Yakama Reservation.

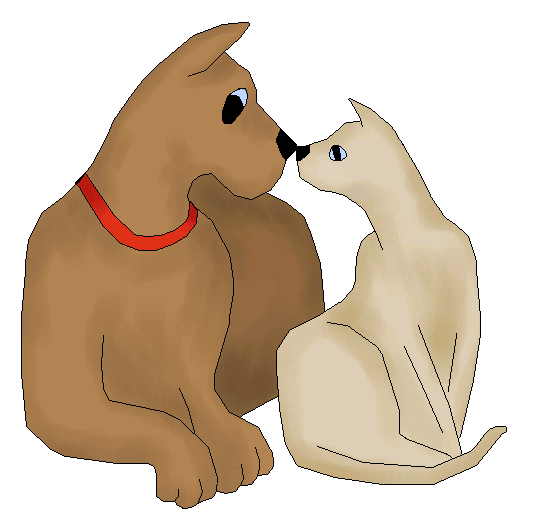
Blessings,

Elaine

[[](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.free-clipart-pictures.net/free_clipart/house_clipart/house_clipart_12.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.free-clipart-pictures.net/house_clipart.html&h=200&w=190&sz=11&tbnid=96Xr9DBNMv0f4M:&tbnh=90&tbnw=86&zoom=1&usg=__5K20daRxpZPGedpW842t3xcQc5Y=&docid=0zmcj5swQumXbM&sa=X&ei=ikfgUaP0C8S4igKew4HYCg&ved=0CDcQ9QEwAg&dur=2076)](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.free-clipart-pictures.net/free_clipart/house_clipart/house_clipart_12.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.free-clipart-pictures.net/house_clipart.html&h=200&w=190&sz=11&tbnid=96Xr9DBNMv0f4M:&tbnh=90&tbnw=86&zoom=1&usg=__5K20daRxpZPGedpW842t3xcQc5Y=&docid=0zmcj5swQumXbM&sa=X&ei=ikfgUaP0C8S4igKew4HYCg&ved=0CDcQ9QEwAg&dur=2076)

HOUSE/PET SITTER

AFFORDABLE & RELIABLE

House/pet sitter Marilyn Murray donates half of her earnings to our church. If you have need of pet or house and garden care while you are away, give her a call at 541-806-0867.[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&docid=UK5dj0i-E-NXfM&tbnid=yz18zjC4k5cV3M:&ved=&url=http://clipartmountain.com/clipart3/dogcat6.htm&ei=E0ngUaW3I4GkigLXn4CwAg&psig=AFQjCNGAM8D2qIs50o02Fk1RJ9Yi9XiDWQ&ust=1373739667630205)

**Christian Nurture Dates**

**To Remember!**

**Friday, July 5th** Middlers Random Friday Night meeting: barbecue at Big Cedars Campground

**Friday, July 5th**: Teens at Fish Foodbank

**Sunday, July 7th**: Noon: Orientation meeting/decorating for VBS; 2nd Sunday Night at Koberg Beach 5:30 pm

**Monday, July 8th-Friday, July 12th** “Renew”, the Green VBS at Riverside. Sponsored by GEM.

Camp Adams Summer Schedule: [www.campadams.org](http://www.campadams.org/)

Camps available for K-12th through July and early August. Scholarships available at Riverside.

**Sunday, August 21th** and **28th** Teen Group Time/Place TBA

**Friday, August 30th** Random Friday Night for ALL Middlers. Incoming 6th graders welcome!



***Meet Our Guest Preachers***

***Jean Doane July28***

*Jean came to ordained Christian ministry in mid-life, after a career as a field agent with the Federal Trade Commission in Los Angeles. She is a member of Bethel Congregational UCC in Beaverton and lives in Aloha, OR with her husband, Jim. They have two grown sons, twins Matthew and Michael. Jean’s passion is global ministries. She served a 6-year term on the national UCC Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries boards of directors. In the past 3 years, Jean has been to Haiti twice, working with Susan Lea Smith of First Congregational UCC Salem to bring clean water and sanitation to the people of Haiti’s Central Plateau Region.*

***Maggie Sebastian August 18***

*Made in the image of God, what does it mean, then, when our brains are diseased causing our bodies to fail?  Is dementia The Early Death of all that we are or does God continue to nourish, sustain, and rejoice in communion with our souls?  Rev. Maggie Sebastian, a member of Hood River Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a chaplain at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital will address these questions using Scripture, science, and Christian witness.  Maggie lives in Condon, OR where her husband is the pastor of Condon United Church of Christ.*

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&docid=0-kwYSPKsZpw2M&tbnid=vzI3wWxh5iMDsM:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http://kiscoteens.blogspot.com/&ei=LErgUaqzDMe5igK6xoFA&bvm=bv.48705608,d.cGE&psig=AFQjCNFrlyUzIxaZof-4zRqTqM6Ub0QFxA&ust=1373739913483892)

Summer Reading List

Here is what some Riverside folks are reading this summer…..

Diana Beterbide: Anything by TC Boyle and *The First Oregonians*, edited by Laura Berg.

Karen Harding: 3 books from ecotherapist and river guide, Bill Plotkin: *Soulcraft*, *Nature and the Human Soul, Wild Mind; Becoming Animal*, by David Abram; *The Power of Parable*, by John Dominic Crossan; *The Underground Church*, by Robin Meyer.

Keith Harding: *The Visionseeker* series by Hank Wesselman, Ph.D. *Sacred Economics* by Charles Eisenstein, *The Wealth of Nature, Economics as if Survival Mattered* by John Michael Greer, *Age of Greed: The Triumph of Finance and the Decline of America, 1970 to the Present* by Jeff Madrick, *American Chestnut, The Life, Death and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree* by Susan Freinkel, *The Dying of the Trees, The Pandemic in America's Forests* by Charles E. Little, *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jim Robbins, *The Sacred Language of Trees* by A. T. Mann,

*Creating True Peace* by Thich Nhat Hahn

Erica Didier: *Death at La Fenice*: A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery.

Alison Betzing: *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed about her trek from the Mojave Desert to The Bridge of the Gods here in Oregon along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Ann Harris: *The Underground Church*; *Divergent* by Veronica Roth; *Inferno* by Dan Brown.

Charley Boonstra: *The Saffron Kitchen*  by Yasmin Crowther.

Tim Foley: *The Spy Who Jumped off the Screen* by Thomas Caplan.

Perry Cole: *The Arkansas Valley* series by r. William Rogers

Riverside Community Church Council Meeting Highlights

**JUNE 2013**

*Compete minutes available in the church office*

***Congregational Assessment & Giving Guidelines:*** Vicky, Karen, Mariloy and Alison Betzing will meet prior to the August council meeting to discuss the steps for going forward. Next year when Vicky is on sabbatical and when Tony Robinson returns, it would be good to report back to Tony on things that have been done. Vicky suggested a book to be read by the council “Underground Church” by Robin Meyers. Kim and Vicky are working on the Giving Guidelines and will have something to present in August. Steve requested that the guidelines be sent to council members to ponder prior to the meeting.

***Open & Affirming:*** Between now and fall round table discussions will be held as to what it means for Riverside to be O & A. Publicity has consisted of a press release to the Hood River News, an update of the website, and notification of the national office. Not much in the way of feed back from the press release other than a couple of congratulatory notes from community members. One family has withdrawn pledge support in response to the O & A vote.

***Proxy Procedure:*** Proxy voting will be allowed for all matters decided by a vote at congregational meetings. The council approved the following procedure:

* + Proxy vote forms will be available in the church office 2 weeks prior to a congregational meeting.
  + Proxy forms are available to active members, as defined in the Riverside Community Church bylaws, for designating another active member to vote on their behalf at the meeting.
  + The proxy form must be signed by the designator and presented at the congregational meeting by the designee.

**Pastor’s Report** Vicky reported that summer worship time and format are underway. The Diaconate team helped in planning a fresh look for the sanctuary and Pioneer Room. Joan requested that there still be a place for collecting donated items. “Sunday Starters - Conversations That Matter” is the Christian Nurture Hour series through July 7. Vicky will plan for a new series in the fall. The Down Manor Bible study group will continue to meet throughout the summer, Vicky conducted a memorial service for Don Hosford in early June. She plans on those who are ill, homebound or in the midst of crisis.

**Treasurer’s Report** Gean reported that she will meet with Vicky and Kim in July to review the financial status of the church. They will also review any trends as noted by accountant Rich Utroske. Vicky noted a few small funds on the Balance Sheet that should be removed or redesignated.

**Mission** Joan reported that the Health Care For All presentation on June 9 was well attended. The board encourages participation in the High Tea fundraiser for Ugandan women in need of fistula surgery. Joan, Steve and Ann Harris are working on scheduling casual meetings a various locations for members to discuss a revised mission statement. They will distill the collected information and aim to have a revised statement in August.

**Christian Nurture** Karen reported that the Christian Nurture Board met June 6 and set the Sunday School schedule. Board members have been helping but more volunteers are needed. Vacation Bible School coming up July 8 – 12. “Lotsa Hands”, the online volunteer program, is now working better.

**Building & Maintenance** will meet June 27.

Vicky will draft a message to the absent council members. It was suggested that phone call reminders be made prior to the August meeting.

The next meeting will be a potluck at Gean’s on August 20 at 5:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by

Lorre Chester-Rea

*Church Calendar For* 

July 1, 3 & 5 RCC week at FISH Food Bank

July 7 Worship in the Pioneer Room 10 am.

We celebrate Holy Communion

July 8 -12 Vacation Bible School at RCC

July 14 No Service at Riverside: Outdoor Worship

At Toll Bridge Park 10 am. Brunch Potluck to follow worship

July 16 Cheers group meets at 10 am

July 21 Guest Preacher Rev. Steve Lusk

July 22 & 29 No Down Manor Bible Study

July 28 Guest Preacher Rev. Jean Doane

After worship presentation on

Jean’s work in Haiti.



*Church Calendar for *

August 4 Worship in the Pioneer Room 10 am

We celebrate Holy Communion

August 8 Mission Board meeting 1 pm

August 11 No Service at Riverside: Outdoor WorshipAt Waterfront Park in Hood River with Bethel UCC 10 am.

Potluck to follow worship

August 18 Guest Preacher Rev. Maggie Smith.

August 20 Council meeting and potluck at Gean Rains’

August 25 Guest Preacher Rev. Karl Vercouteren.



**Outdoor Worship**

*No service at Riverside on the following Sundays:*

**August 11**

Waterfront Park

Picnic Shelter

In Hood River

(the shelter nearest to the playground)

We gather at 10 am for a joint worship service with our friends from Bethel UCC

Potluck following the service ~

bring food to share, chairs and place settings.

**July 14**

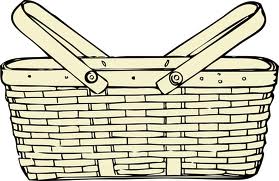
Toll Bridge Park

(approximately 15 miles south of Hood River just off of Hwy. 35.

Special music by Molly Schwarz

Brunch potluck following the service ~ bring food to share, chairs and place settings.



[[](http://www.google.com/imgres?client=firefox-a&hs=b3V&sa=X&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&biw=1515&bih=782&tbm=isch&tbnid=e6FSiaOD2iZRjM:&imgrefurl=http://www.clker.com/clipart-10646.html&docid=QmI9qYAN6LIWdM&imgurl=http://www.clker.com/cliparts/1/d/6/8/11954302261298281065johnny_automatic_picnic_basket.svg.hi.png&w=600&h=390&ei=b4_lUabyIsjAiwL5n4DwCA&zoom=1&ved=1t:3588,r:37,s:0,i:200&iact=rc&page=2&tbnh=181&tbnw=279&start=26&ndsp=29&tx=170&ty=75)](http://www.google.com/imgres?client=firefox-a&hs=b3V&sa=X&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&biw=1515&bih=782&tbm=isch&tbnid=e6FSiaOD2iZRjM:&imgrefurl=http://www.clker.com/clipart-10646.html&docid=QmI9qYAN6LIWdM&imgurl=http://www.clker.com/cliparts/1/d/6/8/11954302261298281065johnny_automatic_picnic_basket.svg.hi.png&w=600&h=390&ei=b4_lUabyIsjAiwL5n4DwCA&zoom=1&ved=1t:3588,r:37,s:0,i:200&iact=rc&page=2&tbnh=181&tbnw=279&start=26&ndsp=29&tx=170&ty=75)

[600 × 390 - clker.com](http://www.google.com/imgres?client=firefox-a&hs=b3V&sa=X&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&biw=1515&bih=782&tbm=isch&tbnid=e6FSiaOD2iZRjM:&imgrefurl=http://www.clker.com/clipart-10646.html&docid=QmI9qYAN6LIWdM&imgurl=http://www.clker.com/cliparts/1/d/6/8/11954302261298281065johnny_automatic_picnic_basket.svg.hi.png&w=600&h=390&ei=b4_lUabyIsjAiwL5n4DwCA&zoom=1&ved=1t:3588,r:37,s:0,i:200&iact=rc&page=2&tbnh=181&tbnw=279&start=26&ndsp=29&tx=170&ty=75)

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Summer Greetings!

It is a wonderful time of year, isn’t it? For me, summer is a time of growth and renewal. Trying new activities and renewing friendships

Here at Riverside, it is also a time for growth and renewal. We began earlier this year with the congregational assessment conducted by Tony Robinson. One of the things that we learned was the importance of the mission statement. A clear and meaningful mission statement can give focus to our actions, as well as communicate who we are to the wider community.

We would like to bring greater clarity and focus to our mission statement, but this is not the work of just a small committee... WE NEED YOU!

In the next few weeks, we will be hosting casual, gatherings to share thoughts and begin this process. We promise that they will be fun and refreshing… perfect for summer!

Call or email now to RSVP for one of the following gatherings:

**Thursday, July 25**- 7:00pm dessert at Ann Harris’s House

**Sunday, August 4** – light lunch and discussion after church at Riverside

**Thursday, August 15** – 6:00pm light dinner picnic at Tucker Park

Here are some statements to help you prepare for the gathering you will attend:

I joined Riverside because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I see Riverside’s purpose in my life as being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I see Riverside’s purpose in the community as being\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

At Riverside, I am learning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I think God’s calling and dream for Riverside is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Please jot down your thoughts about these statements and other thoughts that come to mind.

Then gather with others as we continue on our journey of growth and renewal.

Call Ann Harris (541) 806-2525 or email at [harris.annj@gmail.com](mailto:harris.annj@gmail.com)

**Riverside Community Church**

**United Church of Christ**

**Hood River, OR 97031**

**Pastor Vicky A. Stifter**

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**The Viewpoint**

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Editor: Lorre Chester-Rea - email address: rcc@gorge.net. Editor reserves

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**Also visit: ucc.org and cpc.org**

**for more information on**

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