

THE VIEWPOINT

The Monthly Newsletter of Riverside Community Church
The United Church of Christ
May 2014

Choir Appreciation!

Chancel Choir and Children's Choir May 11
Gospel Choir May 18



Reflections



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

As the time of my sabbatical nears, more and more of you are beginning to ask two important questions: “Where are you going? What will you be doing?”

Between May 20 and August 20, I will step away from my pastoral role at Riverside for a time of rest and spiritual renewal. Like a river otter, I find that I am most at home near moving waters. They are, for my body and soul, a place of great nurture and inspiration. For this reason, I am planning to be on or near rivers as often as possible during my sabbatical. At times I will be alone, steeped in silence. At other times I will be with family and friends, steeped in laughter, reflection and connection. Highlights of my time away will include my first ever journey to the Yosemite Valley, a 5-day white water rafting adventure with John and the girls on the Yampa river (the last free flowing river in the Colorado River basin), a kayaking trip on the John Day River, backpacking in the Cascades and a week-long retreat at “Ghost Ranch” in Northern New Mexico with John Phillip Newel—an internationally known author, educator and spiritual leader who is steeped in the rich traditions of Celtic spirituality.

While I am away, you will be blessed with a wonderful variety of guest preachers and worship experiences. Thankfully, Elaine Thompson will work several additional hours each week to help plan the Sunday service. Lorre Chester-Rea will continue to “steer the ship” from the church office. Royal Ewing and other local clergy will be available in case emergency pastoral care is needed, and moderator Gean Rains will gracefully keep everyone and everything moving forward. I am deeply grateful for their support, as well as for members of the Cheers group and the Diaconate Board for their willingness to take on additional responsibilities during my absence.

Thank you for this opportunity to step away for a time of renewal and re-connection with God and God’s precious creation. I am eager to return to you inspired, energized and filled with bold new visions for our future together.

In the meantime, may you be well, happy and at peace.

Blessings & Gratitude,

Pastor Vicky

RIVERSIDE BULLETIN BOARD



Worship time 10:30 am. First Sunday of the month is Communion Sunday. Children grades K-5th are invited to Sunday School in the Fireside Room after the Children's Time. Younger children may remain in worship or in the nursery with Ann Zuehlke and Mirian Castillo.

Church Office Hours are 9 am – 2 pm Monday through Friday.

Chancel Choir Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 9:15 am and Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. *Perry Cole, Choir Director & Diana Beterbide, Accompanist*

Gospel Choir sings during worship the third Sunday of the month. Rehearsal at 9:00 am on singing Sundays. *Choir Director Tim Mayer, Accompanist Paul Thompson*

Children's Choir sings during worship on the 4th Sunday of each month and rehearses after Sunday School every Sunday. *Jo Herring and Pam Riedl, Choir Directors*

Pockets of Plenty Offering will be May 11. Proceeds will help support United Church of Christ special mission offering "Strengthen The Church"

FISH will be May 18.

Down Manor Bible Study on Mondays from 10 – 11 am. Everyone welcome!
No Bible study on May 26.

FISH Food Bank Riverside's next service week is May 5th, 7th, and 9th.
Volunteers please call: Judith Poage @ 541-990-2209.

Support for Requa Family If you are interested in providing a meal or other forms of support for Brett, Shaun, Austin and Amy as they face the challenge of Brett's diagnosis of cancer, please contact Diana Beterbide for more information at dianabeterbide@gmail.com or 541-386-7872.



Ruby Betzing	May 2
Gwen Thomas	May 2
Dell Charity	May 3
Kory Harding	May 5
Racheal Mallon	May 5
Keith Harding	May 6
Judie Mohar	May 6
John Elliott	May 8
Charley Boonstra	May 10
Helmut Riedl	May 15
Stu Watson	May 15
Joe Betzing	May 20
Doug Busby	May 21
Styles DeLeon	May 23
Jim Wade	May 23
Susan Baldwin	May 27
Judith Poage	May 28
Elaine Thompson	May 30
John Vogel	May 30

*Have we missed your birthday?
Please let the church office know
at rcc@gorge.net.*



*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 the Requa Family, as Brett continues treatment for cancer...Hazel Bowe... Sue Hukari...and for all those in need of healing... for Rick Hulett and all who will miss him...

**God In Your Grace,
Hear Our Prayers**

**Riverside Community Church
Council Meeting Highlights
April 15, 2014**

Complete copy of minutes available in the church office

Present: Gean Rains, Pastor Vicky, Steve Nybrotten, Matt Rankin, Mary Margaret Evans, Jo Herring, Michelle Redmond, Sandy Spellecy, Bob Olson, Lorre Chester-Rea, Sue Hukari, Karen Harding, Judie Holt-Mohar

Fish Food Bank Garden Does Riverside want to have one of the plots to plant and maintain? 50% of produce from plot goes to food bank. Discussion that team or coordinator needed of Riverside were going to pursue project. Will be put out in reminders on Wednesday, if no response, Riverside will not proceed with project this year.

Formation of Finance Committee Becoming obvious that we need a small group of people that will look long term (3-5 yrs down the road) at financial picture. Mary Margaret Matt Rankin, Bob Olson and Steve Nybrotten were asked to meet with Gean to brainstorm/discuss. Committee would work both with endowment group and budget committee.

Procedures for Possible Gift of Stock Need to have protocol and process for gifts of stocks to happen. Jo Herring said that the endowment committee will take care of this process. Some people might be interested in giving stocks in lieu of pledge. Committee needs to find way to receive gifts such as this.

Personnel Policy Sentence added to Sick Leave “No compensation for unused sick leave is made at the end of a term of employment.” Also need to address shift in workload so that time taken off for benefits are real and not additional responsibilities to be made up outside of contract hours. Many felt that this policy should be standard operating procedure. Also still a concern that there was not a dollar amount attached to the cost of this policy or that there were no details about how the change in workload to provide benefits would be addressed. Policy on file in church office. Mary Margaret stressed the need for Personnel Committee to examine these types of discussions.

Mission/Identity Statement Steve Nybrotten presented potential mission statement from committee: Nurturing resilience of spirit, building community, welcoming all. Vicky said it is important that the word justice be included in statement because that is the essence of who we are as a UCC church (possibly building a community of justice).

Sabbatical Calendar Update Most Sundays are filled at this point. Next two weeks will deal with pastoral care and staff issues. Vicky’s last Sunday is May 18th.

2014 Directives Directives are filed in church minutes from the January 26th 2014 Annual Meeting. Champion and Teams were established for each directive.

Front Porch Ministry Meeting about the Concept of Front Porch Ministry. Focus of Front Porch concept is to explore how we go to people instead of them coming to us. Look at all parts of our ministry and how to infuse this idea into all areas. People wanted more information, more process.

Request to rent Nursery Space Council gave consent for staff to explore renting Nursery for establishing early childhood program (3-5 yrs) based on Practices of Reggio Emilia and also offer extended care program (5-8 yr olds) and come back with recommendation to council at the May meeting

Treasurer Total Pledges approximately \$8100.00 behind in total contributions to date. Unpledged part of the budget shows most drastic reduction (need to address)

Pastoral Relations Committee Meet 2-3 X per year. Purpose: Make sure Vicky feels nurtured and supported. Again need for Personal Committee brought up so Pastoral Relations committee has information on which to base recommendations. End of year need committee needs to make recommendations/changes to pastor’s responsibilities and salary. Use evaluation in May to make those recommendations. Will look at last evaluation survey sent out to continue with or modify.

Minutes Submitted By
Judie Holt-Mohar, Council Secretary



MAY

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Spring Fling Beach Party @ Springhouse Cellars 6-10 pm
4 Christian Nurture Hour 9 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am Communion Children's Choir Rehearsal After SS Music Board Meets After Worship	5 Down Manor Bible Study 10 am	6	7 Choir 7 pm	8	9 Friendship Guild 1 pm Pioneer Room	10
11 Chancel Choir 9:15 am Chancel & Children's Choir Appreciation Pockets of Plenty Offering	12 Down Manor Bible Study 10 am	13	14 Choir 7 pm	15	16 Middlers 3:30 Teen Babysitting Night 6-10 pm	17
18 Gospel Choir Appreciation FISH Offering Friendship Guild/Teen Bake Sale	19 Down Manor Bible Study 10 am	20 Cheers 10 am Council 5:30	21 Choir 7 pm	22	23	24
25 Chancel Choir 9:15 am Guest Preacher Rev. Gary Davis	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> No Down Manor Bible Study	27	28	29	30 Youth Group Lock-In Portland	

**CHRISTIAN NURTURE
DATES TO REMEMBER!**



**Youth/Teen Dates
to remember for May!**

Saturday May 3: 6 – 10 pm
Springhouse Cellars – help
with Spring Fling Beach
Party fundraiser

Friday May 9: 3:30- 5 pm
FISH Food Bank

Friday, May 16:
3:30-5:30 pm
Middlers @ RCC

6-10 pm
Teen Babysitting

Sunday, May 18:
Bake Sale with Friendship
Guild after church

Friday, May 30: WRYE Lock-
In at First Congregational
Church in Portland



**Vacation
Bible
School**

It's never too early to
register for "Renew", our
"Green" VBS!

**Summer dates are
July 14th-18th,
Monday- Friday,
9 am - Noon.**

"Renew" is an
environmentally-focused
program that inspires kids
to grow in faith, have fun
and change the world.
More information at
www.riversideucc.com.
Follow links to "Nurture
Your Children"



**Church League
Softball**

Women and men who
are post-high school
ages are invited to
join Riverside's
Softball Team.
Games start in June.
Contact Coach Kirby
at 541-490-5315 if
you are interested in
playing.

**April 2014
Special Offering Totals**

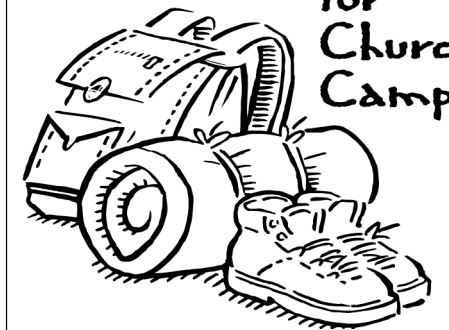
Pockets of Plenty \$ 317.51
Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute

Local Missions \$ 212.50

**Thank you
for your Generosity!**

**It's Time to Take
The Plunge and
Register for
Summer Camp!**

**Sign up
for
Church
Camp**



**Register now at
Campadams.org**



FRIENDSHIP GUILD
All Riverside Women
Are Welcome!

Friday, May 9
1 pm
in the Pioneer Room

Looking forward to
seeing each of you!



4th Annual
**SPRING
FLING**
Dinner and Auction

SPRING HOUSE CELLARS
Saturday May 3rd 6-10 p.m.

Put on your shorts and sandals and crazy beach shirt! Bring your family and friends for an evening of **fun and food**.

Enjoy a *yummy Beach Party dinner* of Hawaiian BBQ pork and chicken plus noodles, rice, Hawaiian macaroni salad and fresh fruit.

And don't forget dessert!

You will have the opportunity to bid on one of 13 fabulous desserts to be served at your table.

LIVE MUSIC BY
Tim Mayer

SILENT AUCTION

LIVE AUCTION

HULA HOOP CONTEST

GERIATRIC LIMBO
How low can you go?

TICKETS:
\$25 per Adult
\$10 per child (Ages 6 - 15)
5 and under are free
Purchase a table for 8 for \$160
No Host Bar

For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Lorre at 541-386-1411

All funds raised at the Spring Fling will support the ministry and mission of Riverside Church in the Columbia Gorge, including services and support to those who are hungry, homeless, and vulnerable.



Dear Riversiders,

During the month of May we usually schedule “Choir Appreciation Sunday”, a day when we recognize all the work the various choirs have put into providing us with a full season of wonderful music to enjoy during the service. The chancel choir is always to be commended for their dedication and exemplary music, along with Perry Cole, director and Diana Beterbide, accompanist. This choir, director and accompanist come every Wednesday night to practice, not to mention all the special services where the choir performs, and they sing at memorials as well. The gospel choir also needs to be honored – with Paul Thompson on bass and Tim Mayer on jazz piano, who are instrumental in selecting songs and organizing the group. And we hear the gospel choir not just every 3rd Sunday, but they have added their unique sound to special events like MLK Day. The gospel choir is a great reflection of the spirit of Riverside, and I thank everyone who has participated, along with Evelyn Charity, who was the original founder of the gospel choir.

This year, I also want to recognize the considerable efforts and inspiration of Jo Herring and Pam Riedl, who created the Children’s Choir. It was absolutely incredible of those two women to step up and orchestrate this effort. The kids, along with Jo and Pam, stay after church every Sunday to practice songs. Then, we are blessed to hear them every 4th Sunday of the month – or special times like Palm Sunday.

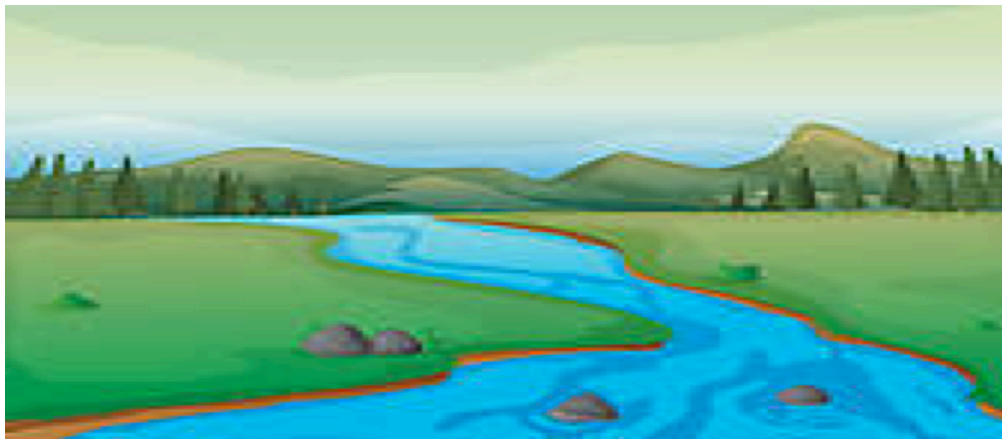
So give a special thank-you to those who have enriched our church experience through music. We don’t need to wait for any certain month to let choir members know how much they are appreciated. I’ll never forget the day Sammie Kaiser came running up to me after the service, asking, “Did you hear me singing?” She was so proud of herself.

Well, we do hear all of you: Chancel, Gospel and Children’s Choir, and I just want to say, “I heard you singing – and it was fantastic!”

Elaine Thompson
Director of Christian Nurture

I like to live in the sound of water
in the feel of the mountain air. A sharp
reminder hits me: this world still is alive;
it stretches out there shivering toward its own
creation, and I'm part of it. Even my breathing
enters into this elaborate give-and-take,
this bowing to sun and moon, day or night,
winter, summer, storm, still – this tranquil
chaos that seems to be going somewhere.
This wilderness with a great peacefulness in it.
This motionless turmoil, this everything dance.

-William Edgar Stafford (1914 – 1993)



*Christ is risen...**Christ is risen
indeed! Alleluia!***

As followers of Jesus, we are invited to proclaim these words, long after the Easter bunny has hopped away, long after the jelly beans are eaten, and long after the Easter Sunday crowds have departed for home.

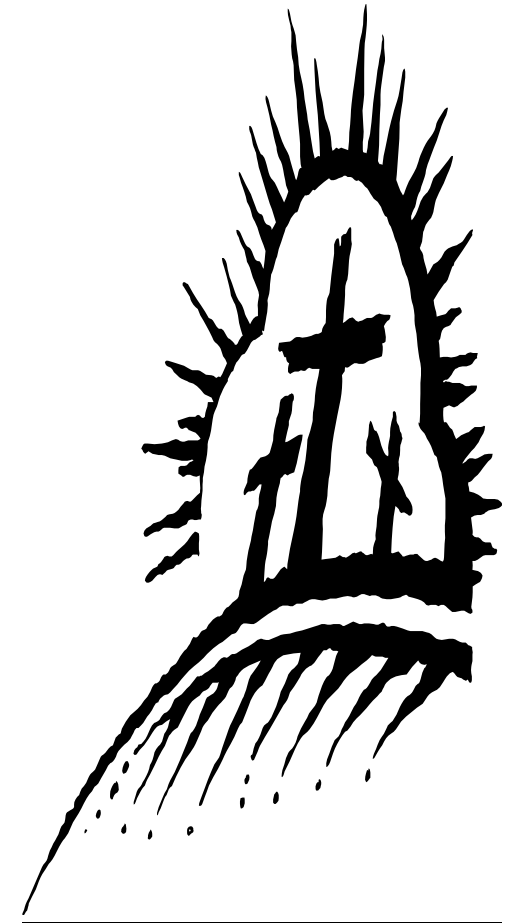
In the life of the community of faith, Easter is not a day, but a season—one that takes us through 50 days and seven Sundays—all the way to the winds and fire of Pentecost on June 9th.

Along the way, we are invited to practice the art of resurrection. Upheld by the grace of God and the power of the Spirit, we are invited to peek outside the comfort of our small, familiar “cages” and dark tombs. We are invited to walk, even if our legs are trembling and our steps small, into the just and breathtakingly beautiful world that God envisions for us. .

For, despite plenty of evidence to the contrary, the empty tomb assures us that the forces of fear and death do NOT have the final word in our lives and our world.

So let's say it loud, clear, and often: *Christ is risen...**Christ is risen indeed!***
The persistent love of God is on the loose. Now and forever.

Blessings of Easter
Pastor Vicky



Community Events of Interest



Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ
Hood River, OR 97031
Pastor Vicky A. Stifter

Could It Be Dyslexia? “The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia” documentary showing at Andrews’s Pizza and Skylight Theater **Thursday, May 8, 2014** at 6:15 pm. Sponsored by Decoding Dyslexia Columbia Gorge.

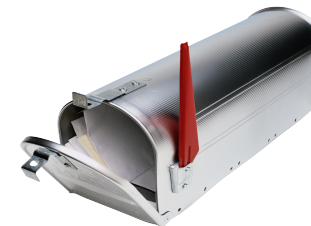
VOCI Community Choir under the direction of Mark Steighner presents “The Choral Global Village: Around the World in Song”, **Sunday May 11th at 2 PM & Monday May 12th at 7 PM** at the Hood River Valley High School Auditorium. Concerts include Voci's first ever commissioned work, a beautiful Latvian folk song, "Ai, Dievini," arranged by Ethan Sperry. Other musical selections span the globe from America, Kenya, the British Isles, and more! This is a great opportunity to celebrate with Mom for Mother's Day! \$10 suggested donation.

Volunteers In Action Providence Volunteers In Action program sponsors an Annual Clean-up on Saturday, May 17. Start with breakfast at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital at 8:30 am and then head out to help clean up yards of those who are unable to do so. Contact Rodger Schock for further information and inspiration.

About Strengthen The Church Special UCC Mission Offering:

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking.”

Pockets of Plenty Offering May 11



The Viewpoint

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Visit our website at: www.riversideucc.com
Also visit: ucc.org and cpc.org
For more information on
The United Church of Christ