

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS – MARCH 31, 2019

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP — Join us at Tara and Dan Gregus's home, 140 Lawton Road, Riverside, on Friday, **March 29** at 7:00 pm for an evening of fun with your church family! Bring an appetizer and a beverage to share. Please contact the church office or sign up on the board outside Dale's office if you are interested in hosting a future Friday Night Fellowship.

FIFTH SUNDAY MISSION AS WORSHIP — Please remember that each of our Fifth Sunday Mission as Worship events will have something for all people, regardless of age or physical ability. As the date approaches details will be made available.

Sunday, March 31 — BEDS PLUS Meet at the church at 9:50 and we will carpool to St. Barbara's 8900 Windemere, Brookfield. The parking lot is behind the school off of Prairie Avenue. There is work for everyone regardless of age or physical ability. Some of us will build new wooden shelves (please bring any appropriate tools you have) and others of us will be able to sit at tables and organize the stuff that goes on the shelves! Once our work is complete there will be a brief service of thanksgiving at the worksite. BEDS Plus is celebrating 30 years of service. Their mission is to help vulnerable individuals stabilize their lives through housing and supportive services. Since 1988, BEDS PLUS has given the homeless a safe place to sleep, hot homemade meals, professional counseling, and the job services they need to become self-sufficient.

Sunday, June 30 — Hofmann Dam River Rats. We will join forces with the River Rats to help beautify and maintain the Des Plaines River.

Sunday, September 29 — The Boulevard

Sunday, December 29 — TBD

JUBILATE: Oak Park Concert Chorale at RPC!

Sunday March 31, 2019 @ 4pm, Paul Lindblad, Director

Tickets for sale in the church office: Adults \$18.00; Students & Seniors \$10.00

LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE —Throughout Lent, we will follow the way of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa, which is Latin for the Way of Sorrow. Traditionally this is a processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem, believed to be the path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion. We are going to look at various stories from Jesus' life where tears and sorrow figured prominently and seek to understand how God through Jesus transforms our lives.

- On Maundy Thursday, April 18, we will gather in the Social Hall at 6:30 pm for soup and at 7:00 pm participate in an interactive service which will conclude with communion.
- Good Friday Prayer Vigil—a sign-up sheet will be available. The sanctuary will be open during the day for prayer and meditation.
- Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, led by Rev. Doug Asbury, outdoors or indoors, depending on the weather. A light meal in the manse will follow.
- Easter Sunday will be filled with bells, trumpets and celebrations including communion.

- Sunday, April 28, is our annual Jazz Sunday.

LENTEN PRACTICES — Prayer is an essential part of the Lenten experience. There is a saying that without prayer, fasting is just dieting. Without prayer, almsgiving is just social work. Prayer connects us with our loving God. As an act of preparation for worship, you are invited to read the Scripture that will be used in worship.

Fasting helps us focus on God. Sometimes we are called to give up a food item. Sometimes we are called to give up something which is occupying our time, like video games or endless checking on social media. This is a good time to think about what is ruling your life. What is occupying your time and thoughts? Give that thing up. And then when Lent is over, contemplate where your focus went when you no longer had that thing. Were you more able to focus on God and others? If so, try not to let whatever you gave up take over your life again.

Almsgiving is the act of giving to the poor. Through almsgiving we share God's love with others, and we recognize that the gifts we have are not really our own. If the thing you are fasting from leaves a little extra money in your pocket, then give that money to a worthy charity which helps the poor. You can also donate goods. If you really want to push yourself, give your time in direct service to another. Acts of service can be considered almsgiving, especially if you do them with the intention of sharing your gifts. You might encounter Jesus in the faces of those you are serving. This year as part of your almsgiving you are invited to bring the following items each Sunday for use in our Little Food Pantry. As an act of service, you are invited to help us stock the pantry.

- Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 31 – Oatmeal—Fifth Sunday Mission as Worship
- Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 7 – Canned Ravioli or other canned meals - John 11:17-44
- Palm Sunday, April 14 – Peanut Butter & Jelly - Luke 19:41-44
- Easter Sunday, April 21 (not a Sunday in Lent) – Canned fruit - John 20

FUNDRAISERS — Mark your calendars now!!

Spring Stewardship Auction Sunday, May 19, 4:30 pm This year the fall stewardship auction will be held in the spring. A themed meal will be provided. If you would like to donate items for the auction, please contact Ellen Hamilton or the church office.

Strawberry Social, Wednesday, July 17

Oktoberfest, Saturday, September 28

Trivia Night, Friday, October 25

Christkindlmarkt, Saturday, December 7

CHOCOLATE FOR LENT —Using themes from the 2000 Academy Award nominated film Chocolat, our next Theology on Tap series invites us to use Lent and chocolate to gain deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance and maturing in Christ. Monday, March 18 – Monday, April 15 we will then meet at 7:00 in the parlor for discussion and Chocolate desserts!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL — is open to all ages. In combination with Sunday School, Jr. High

Youth group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Volunteers are needed. Sign up outside of the Christian Ed office or contact Diante. **March 31 – Spring Break, April 7 – Jesus Blesses the Children**

CARERS TRUNK APRIL — This month the CARERS Committee will be collecting cereal of all kinds for BEDS Plus, which serves the homeless.

SHARE THE HARVEST—Spring is here! Take time now to look at your outside and see where you could plant a garden for Share the Harvest.

JR & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH —Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities.
Sunday, March 31— we are serving dinner at the Boulevard. More details to follow.
Saturday, April 20 — we will be going to the movies. Please bring money to cover the cost of the ticket plus any snacks you might like.
We need an Adult Volunteer for each activity.

THANK YOU – Thank you to everyone for the flowers, meals, cards, and notes. I am regaining my strength and well on my way to recovery. If you are planning to stop by the office to see me in the next few weeks, please call first to make sure I am in the office and not working from home. — Dale

EASTER MEMORIALS — Express your love in memory or honor of family and friends through a holiday memorial. All memorials will be printed in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. See attached flyer or stop in the church office for more information.

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

THIS WEEK

Sunday, 3/31

9:00 am Human Scene
10:00 am Fifth Sunday – BEDS Plus
3:00 pm The Boulevard
4:00 pm Oak Park Concert Chorale

Monday, 4/1

7:00 Theology on Tap

Tuesday, 4/2

6:30 am Men's Forum
7:00 pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, 4/3

4:15 pm Riverside Ringers & Singers
6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 4/4

6:30 am Women's Forum

Sunday, 4/7

9:00 am Confirmation Class

9:00 am Sunday School

9:00 am Human Scene

10:00 am Worship with Baptism

11:00 am Coffee Fellowship

11:00 am Open Gym

2:00 pm Worship at Cantata