



Family of God, citizens of the Kingdom, greetings in the peace and joy, the love and life, of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I hope this finds you well. In fact, I hope that this finds you more than well – more than okay, more than getting by, more than surviving ... I hope this finds you thriving for the sake of the Kingdom! I hope this finds you firmly established in God our Father, who is our Rock, in close fellowship with Jesus, who is our Redeemer, and filled and fueled by the Spirit, who is the Resident of our hearts!

Recently, we have begun looking more closely at the Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven. There is a “Not Yet” aspect to the Kingdom – that which is still to come, when Christ returns, and when we finally join Him in the glory of Heaven forevermore. We pray for this every week: “Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, *Thy Kingdom come.*” Jesus taught us to pray for this, to long for this, to be expecting this. May this anticipation be ever present in our lives.

But, as we’ve touched on before, the Kingdom is not simply for the future. It is not far off. It is here and now. There is also the powerful and purposeful “Already” aspect of the Kingdom! Christ has established His Kingdom here on earth. He brought it with Him when He was born. He exhibited it through his teaching, through His calling, through His miracles, and most of all, through His death and resurrection. He ushered it in, advanced it while here on earth, commissioned his disciples to do even greater works in His name, sent His Spirit to dwell within so that the Kingdom could be spread throughout, and it has been advancing ever since.

Why is this so important? Why must we have eyes to see, ears to hear, minds that conceive, and hearts that are open to this glorious, powerful, purposeful reality? Because until we do, we will not fully live into our call to advance the Kingdom! So how do we live mindful of the Kingdom? How do we go about our Kingdom work?

We have been commanded to “*Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.*” Christ has commissioned us to make disciples of all nations. He has called us to be His sent ones, to proclaim the life that is found *in* Him and the life that we now live *for* Him! The Word tells us that the Kingdom is not just about talk; it’s about power! Are we yielding ourselves as Christ’s instruments, so that the power of His Spirit can work mightily through us and around us, for the sake of the lost, for the sake of the broken, for the sake of the Kingdom?

A co-laborer for the Kingdom,

Pastor Chris



FEBRUARY

Probably one of the most common symbols we see during the month of February are hearts. They're everywhere... boxes of candy, valentines and even jewelry. The heart is often used to represent love.

The Bible has quite a bit to say about the heart. From Proverbs we find the following quotes: "Do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments." (3:1).

"Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart." (3:3)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." (3:5)

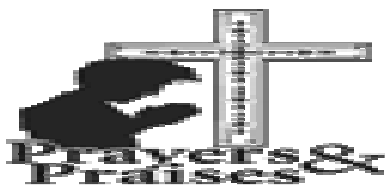
"Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live." (4:4)

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." (4:23)

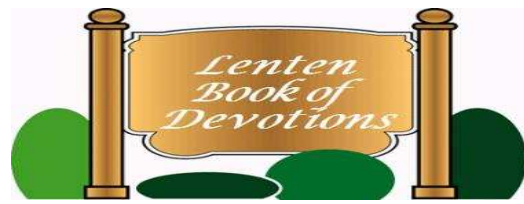
And from Matthew 12:34.... "Out of the Heart, the Mouth Speaks."

As we celebrate this special month may we be reminded to love God with our whole heart.

Blessings! Pam



Prayer & Praise service February 12th at 6:00pm.



Greetings to my Brothers and Sisters in Christ":

Since we have just finished putting away Christmas Decorations, it is hard to imagine that Easter is just around the corner. We will celebrate our holiest time of the year a little earlier this year—April 8th.

A number of you have indicated that you would like to have another Lenten Devotion Book. Ash Wednesday or the first day of Lent will be February 22nd. Mary Reppert and I have agreed to compile your contributions. Forty devotions is a big order for such a small church, but we have achieved this in the two previous years and I am sure that we can do it again.

As a little reminder, this can be something that you compose or it can be a favorite poem or devotion that you have read and would like to share. The Daily Bread is a nice format to us—scripture, a brief devotion and a closing prayer. If you would like to submit more than one devotion, that would be great.


I am challenging each of our Church Leaders (Elders and Deacons) to set the example by submitting an entry. These should be in by Sunday, February 12th.

Thanks for your help and say a little prayer that we will reach our goal and honor Our Lord in this special way.

In His Name
Joyce Ryan



Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. It lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays) and ends the day before Easter Sunday. It is one of Christianity's oldest traditions. Christians from ancient times kept the 40 days of Lent for penitence and prayer. They used meditations on Christ's suffering, crucifixion, death

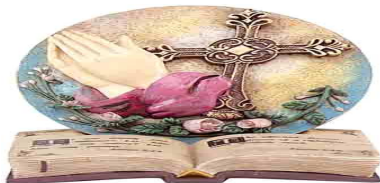
SOUPER

BOWL
OF CARING

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING will be Sunday, Feb.5th
 The Souper Bowl luncheon will follow the 11:00 am service. You can drop your can goods off at the church so that we can reach our goal of 2,000 The can goods will go to the St. Albans Food Pantry/Christ's Kitchen and all monetary donations will go to Christ's Kitchen and Jericho House. A special thanks to our children for their involvement and a special thank you to Jim and Barb Recknagel for all their hard work and continued support of this ministry!



DATES TO REMEMBER

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Feb. 5th | Super Bowl of Caring | 12:15pm |
| Feb. 12th | Prayer & Praise Service | 6:00pm |
| | Deadline for Lenten Devotional | |
| Feb. 20th | Deadline for Newsletter | 9:00am |
| Feb. 22nd | Ash Wednesday Service | 6:30pm |



PRAYER CONCERNS

Joe Lothes; Charlie Kellam; Hazel Pritchard; Bill & Janet Young; Jane McKinley; Jane Lothes' aunt Edye & her sister Kathy Barnes; Jan Owens; Sally Murray; Doc Ranson; also remember those serving in the military.



BIDDY BASKETBALL
RECOGNITION
SUNDAY

Basketball Recognition Sunday

will be March 4th. We encourage all of you to attend our Champions of Character Service, which includes an awards ceremony & lunch for everyone following the 11:00 am worship service.

Our Bidy Basketball players have worked very hard over the past several weeks and have learned many new skills while developing characteristics of a "true winner".

We wish to thank the coaches and everyone who helped to make this basketball program possible and successful!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR BASKETBALL PLAYERS! GOOD JOB!!!



Many, many thanks to Jim and Barb Recknagel for everything they do here at Riverlawn. Bidy Basketball has been so much fun for the children and a real delight to watch. We know that you both have put a lot of hard work into it.



BIDDY BASKETBALL
RECOGNITION
SUNDAY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT

- Feb. 1 June Paxton & Janice Sims
- Feb. 8 Pam Johnson & Laura Cottrill
- Feb. 15 Judy Clingenpeel & Linda Means
- Feb. 22 Pam Johnson & Hannah Bowman
- Feb. 29 Joyce Ryan & Bob Wilson



We welcome and affirm our new officers:

Elders: Vicki Barrie and Dennis Emmett,
Deacon: Linda Wilson.

We also want to express our thanks to those who have completed their term of service;

Elders: Ann Brannen and Barb Recknagel
Deacons: Judy Clingenpeel and Betty McAdam.

Session

- Vicki Barrie
- Pat Croghan
- Connie Campbell
- Randy Dodrill
- Dennis Emmett
- Joe Lothes
- Ron Spradling
- Steve Wilson

Board of Deacons

- Bill Bryan
- Emma Rose Cavender
- Caroline Dodrill
- Mary Reppert
- Linda Wilson
- Nancy Young



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S PURPOSE

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- To support the mission of the church worldwide,
- To work for justice and peace, and
- To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.



CIRCLE II—12:30 PM, Tuesday Feb. 7th

CIRCLE III— 7:30 PM, Monday Feb.13th

Newcomers are always welcome at either circle meeting that fits your schedule. Please plan to attend!

All programs planned by the Riverlawn Presbyterian Women are offered to all women of the Church and community. Please feel free to join us !



*Come Join Us
For A Time of Fellowship*

**RIVERLAWN'S PHONE NUMBER:
(304) 727-8872**

**RIVERLAWN'S WEB PAGE ADDRESS:
www.riverlawnchurch.org**

**RIVERLAWN'S E-MAIL ADDRESSES:
rpc.pastor@suddenlink.net**

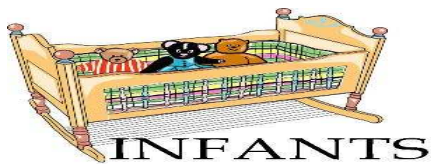


FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1 Nita McLaren
- Megan Emmett
- 9 Connie Campbell
- 12 Pat Croghan
- 13 Paul O'Dell
- 16 Trevor Barrie
- 20 J. B. Recknagel
- 26 Bob Sutphin
- 28 Barbara Recknagel



- Feb. 5 Laura Cottrill
- Feb. 12 Ann Brannnen
- Feb. 19 Lucy Suchy
- Feb. 26 Toni Sayre

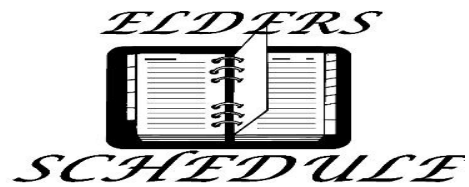


- Feb. 5 Gayle Michael
- Feb. 12 Julie Ljkowski
- Feb. 19 Caroline Dodrill
- Feb. 26 Linda Stephens



JUNIOR CHURCH

- Feb. 5 Beckie Croghan
- Feb. 12 Debbie Roberts
- Feb. 19 Nikole Kilbert
- Feb. 26 Susan Bryan



- Feb. 5 Pat Croghan
- Feb. 12 Vicki Barrie
- Feb. 19 Steve Wilson
- Feb. 26 Dennis Emmett



VISITATION

- Feb. 5 Bill Bryan 545 2455
- Dennis Emmett 727 2468
- Feb. 12 Emma Rose Cavender 727 4577
- Joe Lothes 767 8313
- Feb. 19 Nancy Young 727 2463
- Ron Spradling 727 5744
- Feb. 26 Linda Wilson 722 2463
- Connie Campbell 727 8786



- Feb. 5 Giersch's
- Feb. 12 Larry Hyatt
- Feb. 19 Tom Suchy
- Feb. 26 Ron Spradling



- February Nancy Young
- March Linda Wilson
- April Bill Bryan