

# The River View

## Riverside

Join the Journey

[www.RiversideEPC.org](http://www.RiversideEPC.org)

August 2020

### From the Pastor— God's Desolations

As we move into the most uncertain Fall in recent memory, here are some things we can count on:

God will be worshiped, and his Word will be proclaimed at Riverside. I am so thankful we have been able to meet safely for worship, though our capacity and comfort have been sorely challenged by the pandemic. I commend the faithfulness of our members in participating in worship whether remotely or in person.

The office will remain open as much as we are able. I have enjoyed getting to meet with people **outside in the parking lot where masks aren't required. Come on over and let's catch up!**

**Your leaders will be committed to the good of the body. We will be looking at children's programming for the Fall this month and ask for your prayers as we consider possibilities.**

Last Sunday, as I read our call to worship from Psalm 46, I was arrested by the eighth verse: *Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth* (NIV). God brings "desolations" to pass? **And this is something we are urged to look at? We have seen our fair share of desolations this year—disease, death, political and social outrage, economic catastrophe, a ubiquitous sense of weariness and frustration, not to mention months of unprecedented disruption in the church's gathered worship. The year 2020 is a smoldering wreck for which "desolation" seems a fairly appropriate term.**

**In Psalm 46, the desolation is God's defeat of the enemies of his people. The Old Testament frequently describes the costly victories God wins for his people. He claims the mess of overturned chariots, broken weapons, and scattered armies as the result of his sovereign work: *He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth* (v. 9, NIV). The path to shalom is a messy one.**

While our contemporary situation might not seem at all analogous, I am convinced that it is. What is God up to in the desolation he has allowed to ravage our world? Scripture assures us that things are not out of control. The God who is bringing all of history to its appointed end has all the details figured out too: *who works everything in conformity to the purpose of his will* (Eph 1:11). What if **we actually believed the promise of Romans 8:28, that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"?**

God alone can turn the desolations of the present into the glories of the future. His purposes are deep and long range. By faith in his promises, I expect that we too will someday look back on the **troubles of the present time and say, "Come and see the desolations he has brought on the earth."** He says to us now: *Be still and know that I am God* (Ps 46:10 NIV).

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### Who to Contact

Church Office 320-251-5801 Office Hours  
 Pastor Isaac Gould M, T, Th 9:00-4:00  
 W 12:00-4:00  
 320-428-5784 (cell)  
 Financial Sec.– Pam Dille Mon. 9:00–12:00  
 Secretary – Jane Borrón Tues.-Fri 9:00-1:00  
 Treasurer—Mark Johansen 253-0786  
 Custodians—ServiceMaster (contact office)  
 Prayer Line—Judy Swanson 320-240-9070

No Session Meeting in July, 2020

Avg Attendance—

Budget Summary - as of June 30, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
June Income	12,759.36	14,109.00
June Expenses	17,495.14,	20,665.41
YTD Income	91,827.71	106,154.00
YTD Expenses	100,419.14	114,805.46
YTD Net Income (loss)	(8,591.43)	

Riverside Planned Mission Support - 2020

Pregnancy Resource Center

YFC—BRAID

Haiti - Hope Orphanage

EPC WO (Burdall, Hamd, McKay)

Chicago 720

Arrive Ministries SENT

Terebinth Refuge

Place of Hope

St. Cloud Christian School

### August Birthdays

- 3 Chris Jones
- 5 Dave Henry
- 7 Claire Moorlag
- 8 Sharla Huls
- 12 Ronan Westlund
- 13 Stephen Pennertz
- 14 Karla Holland
- 14 Ann Kelley
- 14 Mark Stumvoll
- 19 Pat Weihrach
- 21 Tessa Gould
- 22 Lewis Henderson
- 22 Doug Stockinger
- 26 Gean Wiltgen



*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or got it wrong, please call Jane at 251-5801 and let her know so we (hopefully) won't make the same error in the future! Thanks!*



### August Anniversaries

- Bob & Kim Koopmeiners 8/10
- Dave & Lindsey Henry 8/12
- Jon & Sara Moorlag 8/18
- \*Mike and Pam Dille 8/19

*\*50 or more years*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **40th General Assembly** has been rescheduled from June to **September 17-18** at Hope Church in Memphis. Because of the unique situation, GA will be “business only” this year, convening on Thursday morning and concluding on Friday.

Contact the office for more information if desired.

### Your 2020 Elders/Deacons

#### Elders

- Rick Petersen (18-20) P, B 320-774-5006
- Deb Johansen (19-20) W, CE 320-253-0786
- Matthew Pennertz (19-21) F, WC 320-405-8212
- Linda Paulson (19-21) M, N 320-420-2921
- Patrick Farrell (19-21) B, W 320-232-3643
- Dave Jones (20-22) N, CE 320-267-1054
- Mark Olson (20-22) P, WC 320-252-7242
- Bruce Glanzer (20-22) F, M 320-290-6818

Key:

- B** Building/Grounds
- CE** Family Ministry
- M** Missions/Outreach
- P** Personnel
- WC** We Care
- F** Finance
- N** Nominating Committee
- W** Worship

#### Deacons:

- Josh Mumme (18-20) DL, CH 320-266-7101
- Stephen Pennertz (18-20) S, H 320-237-1445
- Nadine Sagen (18-20) FL, V 320-980-9395
- Mike Beltinck (19-21) UG, CP 320-363-4238
- Deanna Petersen (19-21) CP, FS 320-774-5005
- Gean Wiltgen (19-21) CS, T, MM 320-290-2798
- Jay Blomquist (20-22) FL, V 320-229-2766
- Dave Markgraf (20-22) S, H 320-493-2720
- Christine Morris (20-22) RS,UG 320-292-7022

Key: **DL** Deacon Liaison (Head Deacon)

- CH** Coffee Hour
- CS** Corresponding Sec.
- FL** Funeral Luncheons
- MM** Meals Ministry
- S** Sanctuary
- UG** Ushers/Greeters
- T** Transportation
- CP** Communion Prep
- FS** Food Shelf
- H** Hospitality
- RS** Recording Sec.
- V** Visitations
- NC** Nominating Committee

## Our Larger Community

### The Philemon Project

Greetings Riverside,

I hope all is well for you, your families, and the community. Here's our latest update. I wanted to ask if you know of a church or foundation looking to invest with a reliable global partner, please consider sharing our work with them. We can not carry out the work without partners investing in the mission of God.

On behalf of The Philemon Project's GROW Early Childhood Development and Adult Mentoring Ministry, and all the kids and staff, I would like to thank you for your interest and care for the work. After being closed for a little over three months, we are now allowed by the Lebanese Ministry of Health to open at 50% capacity, following COVID protocols of mask wearing and as much social distance as possible. During the time of closure, our dedicated teachers made socially distant house visits, delivered craft items and worksheets to go with teaching videos they made for the kids, and the kitchen staff made home cooked meals that parents could pick up—no contact, from the building. We also distributed \$12,000 worth of grocery store vouchers, so that parents who had lost their jobs, could buy much needed food for their families. Our Social Worker also made socially distant home visits to show the love of Christ, and was continuously in contact via text and calls with our parents. God is good!

We are so grateful for your interest and ongoing support of the work. Please find attached pictures.

God bless you all.

Warmly in Christ,

Robert

Donate: <https://www.epcwo.org/supportphilemongrow/>

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World Outreach—Middle East  
Adjunct Faculty—IMES, Beirut Lebanon  
Lebanon Mobile +961.3.48.38.66  
USA Mobile No. 202-525-9090  
[www.thephilemonproject.org](http://www.thephilemonproject.org)



## Our Riverside Community

If you are still uncomfortable joining us in person, you can join us on Sunday mornings at [riversideepc.org/sunday](http://riversideepc.org/sunday) or on our [Youtube channel](#) to view our worship in a live stream format.

If you are unable to view our service online the audio portion of the sermon will be available on our website, usually by the following Tuesday. We can also provide CDs (audio only) or DVDs (audio/video) of the sermon. Let us know if you need a copy and which format works for you.

**Volunteers are needed!** We need volunteer ushers, sound techs, and projection/streaming techs for this summer. Summer is a hard time to schedule in the best of years, and with COVID it is even harder! Please sign up for a Sunday you can help on our SignupGenius [Sunday Servants](#) page. Blessings to you!



## Bible Studies

(at the church unless noted)

**Wed. Morning Men's Bible Study**  
6:30 a.m. weekly—Sartell Perkins  
Meeting via Zoom

**Thurs. Morning Women's Bible Study**  
9:00 a.m.—Sept-May  
Off until Fall

**Fri. Morning Men's Bible Study**  
9:00 a.m.—Sept-May  
Off until Fall



If you, or a loved one, are in need of prayer, please contact

Judy Swanson, 320-240-9070 or  
Ruth Tidd— 387-2980

to have your prayer request included on  
Riverside's confidential prayer chain.

## rightnow MEDIA

Our church subscription to the studies on Rightnow Media continues to be available for all of you to use. There are hundreds of studies and children's content on RightNowMedia.

As part of Riverside's membership, anyone in our congregation is eligible for a free account.

If you haven't signed up for your free account yet, and would like to do so, please contact Pastor Isaac or the office to get the required invitation link sent to you.

*A Note from Jane—*

*By now most of you have probably heard that I will be retiring on October 1st. It's hard to believe I've been here over 19 years! It has been a blessing to me (and my family) to have had the flexibility you have provided me, as well as the many friendships I have come to cherish! This "job" has never felt like one. I have always tried to look at it as a mission field for service. Thank you for the opportunity to love and serve you all..*

## Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Riverside wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

[Online Giving](#) lets you go to RiversideEPC.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

**Mail Giving**—If you prefer to mail your contributions to the church, or use your bank's Bill Pay option, please use our PO Box number rather than the street address:

Riverside Church  
PO Box 139  
Sartell, MN 56377-0139