

Riverside Reader

...a Biblically-based, cost-compassionate, small-camp experience.

IN THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1
Work Day Farm Update	2
Pioneer Woman RSI Training	3
Stewardship Page	4
Summer Camp Zarephath	5
Programming	6
Calendar	7

NEW

The Reader has a new look!

Here at Riverside, we are so grateful for the time you take to stay up to date on the praises, the prayer requests, and all of the happenings at camp. We hope you enjoy receiving the Reader even half as much as we enjoy crafting it each quarter. And this issue comes with even more excitement than usual as we have been able to reduce the cost of production AND print our newsletter in color! Not to mention, the redesign was created by a volunteer at no charge. We hope you enjoy the new layout as well as the same wonderful camp updates you've come to look forward to.

Happy reading!

Rare, Remarkable Place

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Every morning, I show up for work and I am stunned by the physical beauty of this special place. As someone who is newer to Riverside, the "awe factor" definitely has not worn off. Nor can I imagine it doing so anytime soon.

In June of 2019, we dropped off our five-year-old (who was a homeschooled Kindergartener at the time) at Riverside's VBS Day Camp. It was the first time we had ever taken him anywhere and left him there. I was so nervous for him. Would he be scared? Overwhelmed? Uncomfortable? As I drove away, watching him stand shyly next to his teacher and meet the other kids in his grade, tears were fighting to break free and roll down my cheeks.

Ok, they weren't fighting. They were flowing freely.

I remember the hours dragging by for that whole first day as I sat at home with his two-year-old sister, just watching the clock and waiting for it to say, "time to go!" I checked my phone all day long in case someone from camp called to tell me he was inconsolable and needed to be picked up. I texted my husband at work, who did his best to ease my anxiety. I expected to be needed. I expected to be missed. I expected tears and him begging me not to make him go again tomorrow.

What I did not expect was to pick up a little boy who was practically vibrating with excitement, unable to decide what he wanted to tell me first about his special day at camp. His joy was overflowing. He absolutely could not wait for the next morning to come so he could spend the day at Riverside all over again. He would have lived here the entire summer had we allowed it.

At the conclusion of the week, he proudly performed the songs he had learned during camp at Riverside's Family Fun Night. Again, the tears were threatening to escape, but this time they were tears of joy. My son was singing about his Mighty God and there is nothing more beautiful than that.

Riverside is special. I knew it after my son's first day of VBS and I know it today. After 88 years, Riverside is still here. It is growing and

servicing more people than ever before. Perhaps it's bordering on proud to say that God has plans for Riverside, but I believe that to be true.

Ten years ago, this camp was overseen by two people. Fast forward to today, Riverside has a staff of 13 committed, passionate people who want nothing but the best for this rare, remarkable place.

In recent years, it would be logical to assume that Riverside has struggled, but by God's amazing grace, it has flourished instead. We have the incredible privilege to be able to serve over four thousand people annually. That's four thousand lives impacted in some way by our staff, volunteers, donors, and prayer partners. That's four thousand lives touched, in some way, by the love of Jesus.

It's easy to focus on the effect that this place has on the campers who get to spend time here. It's our mission, after all, to provide a place where people can know, grow in, and share Jesus with others. But I think it's also easy to forget the impact that Riverside has on its employees.

A year ago, I left my full-time job in order to spend the summer at home with my two young children. We didn't know what the summer would look like for our kids, and we didn't want to send them to daycare again with all of the 'unknowns' hanging in the air. We trusted God to provide for us and knew that this was His plan for our summer. And it was a wonderful summer. But in the fall, when the kids were back in school, I knew it was time to pursue work again. I knew I needed something part-time, and the job market was terrifying. As usual, God had a plan, and I was brought to Riverside.

I could not have wished for a better work environment than what I've gained through Riverside. Hearing stories of God working through time spent here is so rejuvenating. Taking calls from people who were impacted by Riverside years ago is so encouraging. I am beyond grateful to be a part of the team assembled here and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for Riverside's future. Please take a few moments and read about the latest happenings here at Riverside! ■

Work Day | Farm Update

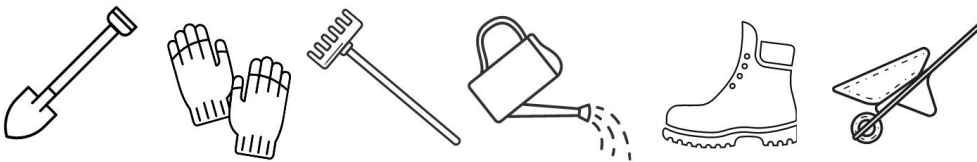


Work Day, Hooray!

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

On Saturday, May 14th, 60+ volunteers showed up at Riverside ready to work. And work we did! With the impressive size of our Work Day crew, we were able to complete many necessary projects before Summer Camp Season begins. Flowers were planted throughout the camp. Garden beds were weeded and mulched. Mountain bike trails were constructed. Hex Ball and Nine Square were set up and are ready for fun! Gravel was spread along walking paths, and a truck load of black dirt was applied to the lawn in front of the Retreat Center.

A delicious spaghetti lunch and ice cream were served to all who donated their time and energy to helping Riverside prepare for its busiest time of year. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their hard work at this year's Work Day! ■



Support Riverside with your Amazon purchases!

Did you know that when you shop smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.05% of your purchase to the charity of your choice? Choose Riverside Bible Conference Association Inc to support your favorite Bible camp!

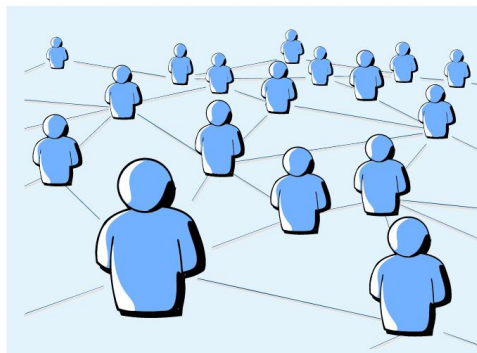
Life on the Farm

by Tessa Olson, Farm Assistant

If you are accustomed to River Hills Farm in the summer, you may not recognize the Farm in the winter! The normal hustle and bustle are replaced by a calming white blanket of snow and the animals curl up in their houses... all except the chickens, who would go and sit outside no matter what. It takes a lot of preparation to get the farm and animals ready for the cold months, and possibly the same amount of effort to get everything set for warmer weather! We are all happy that the snow has melted away and the temperatures are finally above freezing. We had to postpone rolling out our hoses until the nights got warmer. The first week of May, we got everything set up for our summer watering system. Over the next few weeks, we began to prepare for our first event of the spring: the Spring

Open House/Pancake Breakfast! We received our first order of chicks on May 19th and brought Bell (horse) and Madeline (mule) back from their winter pasture at the Family Farm. Soon, the ponies will be moved into their newly re-fenced dry lot (pen without grass).

We are also excited to welcome Kjersten Kazda to the Farm Team as our Farm Tech. Kjersten is a missionary supported, seasonal staff member and started at Riverside in mid-May. She will assist in all farm-related activities and be Tessa's "right hand" throughout the summer. Please join us in prayer for the continued health for our animals, and for our field crops (hay, decorative corn, and pumpkins) as we've begun to work the land and plant. ■



RBC Connections Wants Your Help!

Was Riverside a quintessential part of your childhood? Did you make lifelong friends during your days at camp? We'd love to meet them! As RBC Connections, Riverside's new alumni group, seeks to expand, we find ourselves in need of your help. If you have names and addresses and/or phone numbers of camp friends, please share them with us. We would love to hear how Riverside impacted their lives.

Homecoming Camp is coming up at the end of July and we want to invite as many Riverside alumni as we can. It will be a wonderful time to fellowship, spend time with your families, and get caught up on all the current happenings at Riverside. Please send your friends' contact information to Mickey Kaufman at mickey@riversidebiblecamp.org. We can't wait to see you all here!

Pioneer Camp

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Women of all ages are welcomed to attend a retreat called "The Heart of a Pioneer Woman" at the end of every April. For one rustic Saturday, attendees get to take a step back into simpler times and hone various pioneering and homesteading skills. Over 60 women were registered for this year's event, and it did not disappoint!

The aroma of freshly-baked, sweet and savory French pastries filled Haven of Hope in the morning and was replaced by the delicious scent of fresh sourdough bread in the afternoon. In the Hebron Retreat Center, women learned the science and technique behind artfully crafting homemade mozzarella and cottage cheeses. The Chapel hosted family-rearing seminars and food preservation tips and tricks. Even though the forecast was slightly less than ideal, over a dozen women braved the windy, misting, 50-degree weather to take part in an informative, introductory course to foraging and tinctures.

These were just a few of the many options available for the day. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn about photography, rabbit-keeping and breeding, woodworking, flower planting, and the process of creating maple syrup.

This camp is a highly anticipated event, and we are thrilled to see attendance growing. It is rare to have an event that attracts such a diverse group of individuals, and it is a joy to be a part of it. Looking around the dining hall during breakfast and lunch, I saw smiling faces, heard joyful laughter, and felt the spirit of camaraderie. Having all of those women gathered together, encouraging each other, learning alongside one another, and sharing Jesus put the beautiful heart of Riverside on display.

Sheila Luck, our event's keynote speaker, led two large-group sessions in the chapel between workshops. Sheila dove into what it means to pursue the heart of God and shared a number of relatable (and sometimes laughable) stories of pursuit from her own life.

At the end of the day, the ladies enjoyed more fellowship, a puzzle exchange and a variety of sweet pies for dessert. Five lucky women even got to take home indulgent gift baskets from the raffle!

If this is the kind of day that sounds like absolute perfection to you, then make plans to join us at Pioneer Woman 2023! ■



RSI Training Weekend

by Tessa Olson, Farm Assistant

Every year Riverside invites youth, ages 14-18, to come to camp for RSI Training weekend. RSI (Riverside Servanthood Institute) participants are the muscles of camp during the summer. This group of teenagers can volunteer in 4 different crews: Kitchen, Operations, Farm Crew, and Project Crew, and those that are 16 or older can serve as co-cabin leaders. Within these crews, they will run the dish pit and help in the kitchen, keep the campus clean, take care of the animals and help run farm visits, help complete work projects around the grounds, and care for children as co-cabin leaders. They are a true blessing to us and make the summer run so much smoother.

At the beginning of April, 30 teenagers joined us at camp to learn about and train for their roles during the summer. Not only were they able to get hands-on experience for each crew, but they also were able to learn our emergency procedures and practice them in scenarios. Each attendee worked in the kitchen, visited the farm, and participated in classroom-style discussions. The co-cabin leaders were able to act out possible scenarios that might happen with their campers and received feedback on their responses. At the end of the weekend, each attendee filled out an application and was interviewed by their prospective crew leaders. Coming away from the weekend, we can confidently say that the students gained valuable knowledge that will assist them in their service this summer. We are so excited to have them join our ministry and help us grow this summer! ■



Sustaining Riverside Financial Report: 2022-2023

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 14,532.20	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 23,540.57	\$ 150,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 9,008.37)	



*"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."
Psalm 27:14*

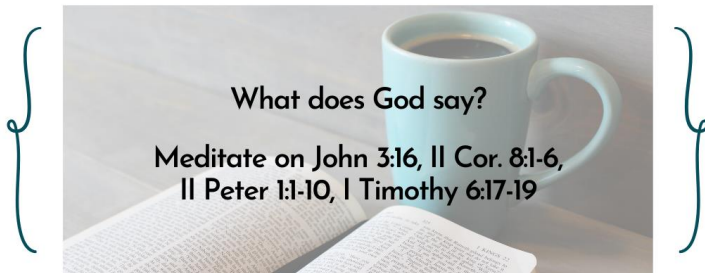
Partnering in Prayer

Riverside's Stewardship Committee has recently begun assembling a Prayer Team. These dedicated individuals are meeting a great need for Riverside. Each week, the staff communicates prayer needs to Bob Olla, a member of Riverside's Stewardship Committee. And each week, Bob shares those requests with the Prayer Team. In this way, Riverside is receiving specific, intentional prayer for the trials, the triumphs, and the needs of the staff and the camp. This dedication to the camp is invaluable. Would you like to commit to partnering with us in prayer as we head into the summer season? If so, please contact Bob Olla directly at 920-538-5501 or pastorbobolla@gmail.com. ■

God is a Giving God

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

"God so loved the world that He gave..." Thus begins one of the most quoted verses in the Bible - John 3:16. It's the nature of God to give. "God so loved...that He gave." He gave us His Son so that we might be saved. He gives us all things in His Son so that we can live abundant lives. As we grow in our faith and walk with the Lord, we become more and more like Him. So, we also give. A growing, committed Christian cannot keep from giving - giving time, giving resources (including money), giving of self in service to others. Are you a giving Christian? Why or why not? ■



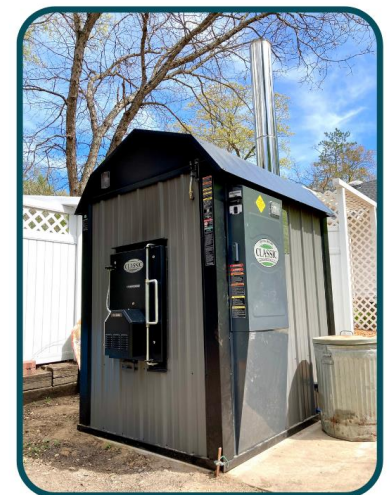
Warm Weather & Warm Retreats

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

God is good. All the time! On Monday, May 16th, Riverside's new wood burning furnace was delivered and installed. While the weather has now shifted to summer temps, we are so grateful to be able to plan for wood-fueled heat next winter. Powering the Retreat Center's furnace with wood instead of LP saves Riverside thousands of dollars each and every year. This is instrumental in helping us provide a cost-compassionate camp experience for hundreds of students every summer.

We are thankful to those who have contributed to the cost of this replacement and we are still seeking donations to cover the remaining balance. Your generous donations are making a big difference here at camp. ■

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."
-Philippians 1:3-5*



Summer 2022 Programming Overview

by Megan Nelson, Program Director

The theme for the 2022 summer for Riverside Bible Camp is **Pursuit**. The theme verse is Proverbs 21:21, "Whoever pursues righteousness and love will find life, prosperity, and honor."

This Camp season, I desire to see young people be called higher in their faith - to take a serious step away from casual Christianity and the cultural norm, and step into Christ-likeness. I also desire for the unchurched who attend our camps to hear the promise of God for authentic identity and purpose in Christ. As the world sprints farther away from righteousness, how can we call our children closer to it? That is the question on my heart this year. As Christians, we are called to live lives in constant pursuit of Christ and His righteousness. The speakers for each camp will seek God in fulfilling this theme within their sessions. Please pray that the Spirit of God moves to open the hearts of all young people attending each camp this year.

We will have the same scheduled events as in years past with the addition of an extra TREK camp, introduced last year. The reception of this new event went so well that the leadership has

decided to have two TREK camps this year. We will also have a new camp toward the end of the summer for Riverside's alumni group, RBC Connections.

Currently, we have 5 LIFT members for the summer: Molly McGinn, Kayla Sytsma, Rose Schumacher, Drew and Emma Nelson. Jolene Wyman will return to her role as RSI Kitchen Coordinator and Ashley Elmhorst as RSI Coordinator for the summer months. There is still a need to fill the roles of more Cabin leaders for each camp. Please consider this ministry opportunity as you look into your own summer schedule. We would welcome your service in this area.

This summer will also be a transitional season for Riverside as I move out of the Program Director position and Lucero Olson moves in. Lucero has been here for the past two years, first as a LIFT member and now as the Program Assistant. He has been and will continue to be a diligent leader at Riverside. I am thankful for the time I've served at Riverside and ask for your prayers as my family and I move into our new calling. ■

2022 LIFT Members



Emma Nelson



Drew Nelson



Rose Schumacher



Ashley Elmhorst
RSI Coordinator



Molly McGinn



Kayla Sytsma



Jolene Wyman
RSI Kitchen Coordinator

Zarephath Moving Forward

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

Finally! After two years of waiting for permission to rebuild, we are close to finally being able to begin the reconstruction of Zarephath, a cabin that was destroyed during a windstorm in the spring of 2019. Only a couple more decisions to be made, and they are all looking positive.

Zarephath will be better than it was before. It will become housing for summer staff and available as well for family reunions, group retreats, and other year-round events. It will be fully usable during the summer and the winter months – with cooking and dining facilities, heating and air-conditioning. There will be a small apartment available for temporary staff housing as well as 4 separate sleeping rooms - each with its own, private entry.

This project has required a lot of planning and will need many hands to do the work. Right now, there is work that needs to be done on the foundation and the moving of another building to provide the space needed. The pouring of the new foundation and the construction of the shell of the building has been donated by a local building company. By late summer, we will be involved in the completion of the interior of the building, which we will do with volunteer help. How can you help? Can you come and volunteer for several days? Can you bring a group for a week? Can you give money towards the project? The insurance money will help but we are still in need of at least \$50K to finish the project.

The use of Zarephath will be a great asset to the ministry possibilities here at Riverside. This windstorm "catastrophe" has given us a great opportunity to provide more and better housing options for campers and staff. Please consider becoming a Zarephath Build Partner.

Contact the office for more information and to indicate your desire to be involved. ■

Programming



Vacation Bible School & Day Camp

June 13-17, 2022

Cost: FREE



Mon - Thurs: 9:00-3:00, Fri: 9:00-12:00

register online at:
riversidebiblecamp.org

**For students entering kindergarten through completed 6th grade*

RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP & AMHERST BIBLE CHURCH:
FAMILY FUN NIGHT
FRIDAY JUNE 17
DOORS OPEN AT: 05:00PM
VBS PRESENTATION AT: 07:00PM
FREE FOOD, BOUNCY HOUSES, SPECIAL PRIZES, PETTING ZOO, AND CARNIVAL GAMES
JOIN US AT
NELSON PARK | AMHERST, WI

T R E K
TEEN ADVENTURE PROGRAM
JULY 26-31 &
AUGUST 7-12
RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP &
MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

RIVERSIDE Bible Camp VACATION SEASON
SUMMER Family CAMP 2022
AUGUST 19-21
RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP & MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

Riverside's 2022 Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 13-17 VBS Day Camp
- 17 Family Fun Night
- 19-25 Senior High Camp

JULY

- 6-8 Adventure Camp
- 10-15 Junior Camp
- 17-22 Junior High Camp
- New!** 24-30 RBC Connections Homecoming Camp
- 26-31 TREK Teen Adventure Camp 1

AUGUST

- 7-12 TREK Teen Adventure Camp 2
- 19-21 Summer Family Camp



Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events!

SEPTEMBER

- New!** 16-18 RBC Connections Senior Saints Retreat
- 30-2 Harvest Family Camp

OCTOBER

- 1 Fellowship Supper/Celebration Service
- 14-16 Craft Camp
- 15 Lumberjack Day

DECEMBER

- 1 Christmas Open House
- 31 New Year's Eve Party



Over the years, many in-kind donations have been made to Riverside. These gifts are a wonderful blessing to the ministry and provide needed resources. Please check our list of current needs, and if you can help with an item or provide funds to purchase it, let us know!

- Heavy Duty Planer
- Small Kitchen Wash Cloths
- Paint Brushes (Assorted Sizes)
- Lapel Mic (for guest speakers)
- 1/2 inch Battery Impact Driver
- Funds for Archery Targets & Backstop Netting
- Wooden Bench Swings
- New Box Fans
- Kitchen Oven Mitts
- Electric Upright Piano
- Scuba Tanks (for paintball)
- Implement/Passenger Tire Tubes



6355 Cty Rd DD | Amherst, WI | 54406
715.824.3198 | www.riversidebiblecamp.org

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Amherst, WI
Permit #3



New Camp Apparel is coming soon!

2022 apparel is being ordered now! Riverside gear makes a great camp souvenir, Christmas gift, or treat for yourself. All of our great new Riverside merchandise will soon be posted to riversidebiblecamp.org/shop.



Connect With Us!



[facebook.com/
riversidebiblecamp.org](https://facebook.com/riversidebiblecamp.org)



[riversidebiblecamp](https://www.instagram.com/riversidebiblecamp)



office@riversidebiblecamp.org



www.riversidebiblecamp.org



715.824.3198