

# Riverside Reader

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

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## "Find us Faithful"

by Darrie Nelson, Executive Director

*We're pilgrims on the journey  
Of the narrow road,  
And those who've gone before us  
Line the way.  
Cheering on the faithful,  
Encouraging the weary,  
Their lives a stirring testament  
To God's sustaining grace.*

These words rang throughout the chapel this past summer during our first RBC Connections Homecoming Camp. How fitting the lyrics of this Steve Green song seemed then as the attendees reflected on their time at Riverside and on those who came before us. The friendships that were formed, the memories made, the photos taken, the life lessons learned, all contribute to the rich history of Riverside.

As I reviewed our historical documents in preparation for a presentation on Riverside's history, I marveled at the testimonies of God's sustaining grace. I read many seemingly insignificant acts that assuredly contributed to where we are as a ministry today.

The very same things are still occurring today at Riverside. Faithful volunteers and committed staff are still performing seemingly insignificant acts that are contributing to where we will be "one day." I'm thankful for all of these individuals and the important part they play, right now, at Riverside.

The words of reflection found in Steve Green's opening verse are only the beginning. He goes on to write this:

*Surrounded by so great  
A cloud of witnesses,  
Let us run the race  
Not only for the prize,  
But as those who've gone before us.  
Let us leave to those behind us,  
The heritage of faithfulness  
Passed on thru Godly lives.*

Here is where it gets real, it's not just reflection, it's a challenge. As we run the race, are we leaving a heritage of faithfulness to those who come behind us? Even more

specifically, are you passing a heritage of faithfulness on to your children, or your family, or your friends, or your community? That was the inspiration for the words of this song as Steve reflected on the impact his parents had. I trust you can say the same; that all the seemingly insignificant acts in your life add up to a powerful heritage of faithfulness in your family.

There is no doubt that eighty-eight years after this little spot along the Tomorrow River was carved from the woods, we continue to witness faithfulness in action at Riverside. These acts of faithfulness by volunteers, staff, prayer warriors and supporters are a privilege to witness. Throughout my now twenty years as Executive Director at Riverside, God has always provided the right person at the right time to meet the right need.

Many exciting things are on the horizon in the next several years and I'm looking forward to seeing God use the faithfulness of His people to sustain and grow His work here at Riverside.

With some significant regulatory challenges being overcome recently, we now have a team working to identify how our buildings, structures, and grounds can be enhanced to ensure Riverside flourishes for at least the next eighty-eight years. Additionally, a small team we call the Stewardship Committee, works diligently to ensure we communicate the opportunities we all have to serve and support the Lord's work here at Riverside. There are countless others, in big and small ways, faithfully helping to ensure that new and exciting possibilities become reality.

A newly rebuilt Zarephath cabin with housing for 12-16 people is coming in 2023 and there are likely several other site and building improvements in the coming years that will be laying the groundwork for many more participants to give life to the refrain found later in this great Steve Green song from years ago:

*May all who come behind us find us faithful. ■*



We hope you enjoy this very special, 60th issue of the Riverside Reader. For 21 years, the Riverside Reader has been a fun and engaging way to share camp news with Riverside's dedicated audience.

Read on for the latest updates from your favorite Bible Camp!



# Harvest Family Camp | Craft Camp

## Harvest Family Camp

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Campers crab-walking across campus with a gourd tucked under their chin. Delicate steps taken by campers with tiny pumpkins precariously perched atop their heads. Pies, pies, pies. These are just a few of the sights we saw at this year's Harvest Family Camp. While it was a smaller, more intimate affair this year, there was certainly no shortage of fun or truth.

Riverside was very excited to have national expert on youth development and family ministry, Greg Speck, as this year's speaker. Greg shared Biblical truth with us, made us laugh, and captivated our attention with his engaging speaking style. He encouraged us and challenged us while teaching our families how to "Live Right Side Up in an Upside-Down World."



Lana Seefeldt and her infamous pies



On Saturday night during our annual Celebration Service, our staff got to share about the impact Riverside has had this past year. It is always such an encouragement to hear about lives being changed by Jesus through the work we do here. Over 400 students came to summer camps this year and we were honored to be able to serve them. Marriages were renewed and strengthened during Marriage Cafés and marriage retreats throughout the year. Friendships were formed and bolstered during youth retreats. And families grew closer while making special memories during reunions and holiday gatherings.

Looking back over the last year, we have a renewed sense of purpose as we look forward to the many exciting things God has planned for Riverside in 2023. ■

## Gettin' Crafty

by Tessa Olson, RSI Coordinator/Digital Marketing Coordinator

All the ladies in attendance had a wonderful time at Craft Camp. The lower level of the Retreat Center was filled with laughter, accomplishments, and some frustration with technology not cooperating. There was sewing, quilting, scrapbooking, and many different painting projects all happening at the same time. We enjoyed wonderful food prepared for us by our volunteer cooks, Rachel, Millie, and Eric. They spoiled us with delicious homemade soups and bread, pies and pumpkin fluff, and many other treats and meals. The ladies also took a trip into the Amherst Bible Church's Shed for some thrifting. Everyone who went came back with some fun treasures or additional crafting supplies. Thank you to ABC for

opening it special for us! One highlight of Craft Camp was the wonderful massage therapist, Dawn Lutter, from That Healing Touch, LLC. Most of the attendees signed up for a 30- to 60-minute session and walked away feeling well-refreshed.

One specific crafting accomplishment from the weekend was the creation of the front of a large, queen-sized, jean quilt. Although the backing still needs to be sewn on, the laborious task of creating the front panel was completed! Great job to Virginia Elmhurst for this ambitious project!

Although there was more talking happening than crafting at times, we believe that means it was a successful retreat. If you have a bunch of unfinished crafts laying around, or maybe just a few, consider coming to Craft Camp next year! ■





## A Year in Review

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

RBC Connections is just finishing its first year. It has been a year of experimenting with many ideas. In early 2022, we took "Riverside on the Road" and had three regional events – the UP of Michigan, Chicago, and Minneapolis. At each of our regional events, we had the pleasure of sharing a meal with Riverside Alum while hearing stories of past summer camps. These events also provided us with the opportunity to share all the latest camp news with everyone.

In July, RBC Connections held its first weeklong summer camp called Homecoming Camp. The year concluded with a weekend retreat in September. Through the various events and activities, our mailing list has grown to over 250 people. And we know there are many more alumni scattered around the United States and even overseas.

The Fall Retreat was well-attended. About 40 people met together for two days. We spent the time getting reacquainted - with each other and with Riverside. We worshipped; we listened to God's Word; we sang; we talked; we ate good food; we explored the camp; we enjoyed our time together, in a place that means so much to us.

The plan for next year is to continue having regional events. On January 21, we will return to the UP for a brunch meeting in Escanaba at Christ the King Lutheran Church. In February, we plan to be in Merrill, Wisconsin, for an event there. (Details to come later.) We would like to have at least two other regional events. Please contact us at Riverside if you are interested in having "Riverside On The Road" in your town or area. Also mark your calendars now – Homecoming Camp 2023 will be held August 30th – September 3rd. It is open to all former campers, former staff, and former volunteers - and their families. Plan to attend. Invite others with whom you are in contact and make it a time of reunion. The program will be terrific, with lots of time to talk, listen, and reconnect. Watch the website for more information ([www.riversidebiblecamp.org/rbc-connections](http://www.riversidebiblecamp.org/rbc-connections)).

Riverside holds a special place in our hearts. Let's get back together again! ■



Top: Wagon ride through the woods and to River Hills Farm during the RBCC Weekend Retreat  
Bottom: Attendees enjoying a meal together at RBCC Weekend Retreat in September



WHAT: Full Brunch provided at RBC Connections event

DATE: Saturday, January 21st, 2023

TIME: 9:30am-11:30am

PLACE: Christ the King Lutheran Church  
1230 18th St North  
Escanaba, MI 49829

RSVP: By January 18th to Mickey Kaufman at 630.235.1948 or by email to [mickey@riversidebiblecamp.org](mailto:mickey@riversidebiblecamp.org)



### RBC Connections is now on Facebook!

Stay up to date with Riverside's alumni group, RBC Connections. Scan the QR code to the left to join their new Facebook group. There, you will find all the latest info about upcoming Connections events and Riverside news. Do you know someone who would love to be a part of our upcoming events? Please feel free to invite them! RBC Connections exists to connect Riverside's 'formers' with each other and with Riverside, so, the more the merrier!





# Stewardship

## Sustaining Riverside Financial Report: 2022-2023

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 116,269	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 130,206	\$ 150,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): <small>as of December 1, 2022</small>	(\$ 13,937)	



*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."  
2 Corinthians 9:8*



- Ways To Give*
- mail a check
  - text "riverside" to 40101
  - use MyWell giving app
  - visit the "donate" tab on our website
  - list Riverside in your Will or Estate Planning
  - give equipment or property (gift-in-kind)
  - volunteer

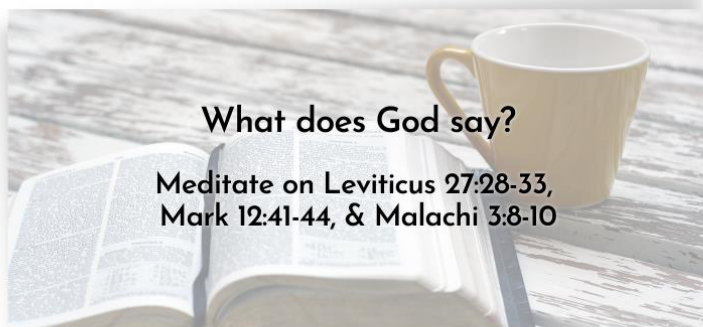
## God Intends for us to Give

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

In the Old Testament, God set a standard of giving for His people, both for the tithe and for offerings. Israel knew what God expected. In not giving God what He intended, the Israelites were robbing God. "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me. But you ask 'How do we rob You?' In tithes and offerings," says our God. (Mal 3:8). In the New Testament, there are examples of people who gave and who were commended for their giving – the churches of Macedonia, the Philippian church, the widow who gave all she had, and many others. God intends for all of us to give. ■

## Wish List

Are you looking for a big way to bless Riverside? Do you or someone you know have a 12-15 passenger van that could be considered for donation? Summer Camp season will be here before you know it, and a large passenger van is one of the top items on our wish list. Having safe, reliable transportation for our campers is a great priority. In the past, we've had to rely on rental vehicles to fill this need. We believe that one day we will have our very own! ■



### What does God say?

Meditate on Leviticus 27:28-33,  
Mark 12:41-44, & Malachi 3:8-10



## Riverside is Growing!

With Riverside's continued growth, several new employment opportunities are available. We are currently seeking the right individuals to fill the positions of Assistant Camp Director and Farm Manager/Project Specialist. The onsite Assistant Camp Director will provide direct supervision of the programming, housekeeping, caretaking, facility/auto maintenance, and foodservice areas. The ideal candidate must have a strong personal relationship with Jesus, well-developed interpersonal skills, experience working in the Christian Camp industry, and be capable of managing the various departments that keep Riverside running efficiently. This individual will report directly to the Executive Director, Darrie Nelson. The Farm Manager/Project Specialist will manage the farm and ensure that all camp vehicles and equipment are in good working order as well as assist with a variety of onsite projects throughout the year. CDL and welding experience preferred but not required. If you are interested in learning more about these positions or submitting your name for consideration, please email your resume to [office@riversidebiblecamp.org](mailto:office@riversidebiblecamp.org). ■



# Lumberjack Day | Riverside Staff

## Lumberjack Day

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

Lumberjack Day was an exciting time for volunteers to serve camp by preparing Riverside for the winter months. We spent the day splitting, hauling, stacking, and milling wood that had accumulated from donations and fallen trees on camp property. If you're not aware, the Retreat Center is heated in the winter primarily by a wood-burning furnace, so all the wood that was split, hauled, and stacked will go toward heating the Retreat Center for all of our own winter events and all the guest groups that we serve throughout the winter. We had seniors splitting, families hauling, and young kids stacking wood all day long. A secondary motive for getting all the wood moved and cleaned up was so that we could clear, level, and prepare a spot for a

much larger broomball court this year! Having the broomball court in the Rec Center has been great, but we wanted to make something closer to a normal court size that will let more people play at once safely and comfortably. We're excited for all the awesome fellowship and competition that will happen on the new broomball court this winter!

We were also blessed to have Glenn Aavang bring his sawmill out to mill some lumber to be used for various projects around camp. Thank you to everyone who came out and split, hauled, stacked, and milled wood - it's a great service to the ministry of Riverside, and we are so grateful! ■

## Meet the Team at Riverside



Left to Right: Annie & Brian Hulka, Maria & Darrie Nelson, Tessa & Lucero Olson, Scott Latzig, Mickey Kaufman, Janeé Kazda, David Kaufman, Elyse Erdahl



Darrie Nelson  
Executive Director



Lucero Olson:  
Program Director  
Tessa Olson:  
RSI Coordinator &  
Digital Marketing  
Coordinator



David Kaufman:  
Construction Manager  
Mickey Kaufman:  
Director of Stewardship  
Ministries



Brian Hulka:  
Caretaker  
Annie Hulka:  
Housekeeping



Janeé Kazda:  
Bookkeeper



Scott Latzig:  
Volunteer Staff



Elyse Erdahl:  
Administrative  
Assistant



## Upcoming Events



**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
DEC 31 | 6PM | AMHERST, WI **PARTY**

**ELEVATE**  
**YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT**  
**AGES 18-29**      **COST \$45**  
**JAN 13-15, 2023**

The poster has a dark blue background with a white silhouette of snow-capped mountains at the bottom. The text is in white, bold, sans-serif font. The top left corner has a pattern of white dots.

February 24-26  
6th-8th Grade

**IGNITE** *ignite the fire*  
**INFUSE** *fuel the flame*

9th-12th Grade  
February 10-12

A stylized graphic of a flame in red and orange, with yellow and white outlines, set against a dark, smoky background.

**2023**  
**Marriage Café**

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FEBRUARY 28  
MARCH 21  
APRIL 18

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FROM 6-8PM  
\$10 PER COUPLE

A photograph of an older man and woman sitting on a wooden bench, looking out over a green landscape with trees.

# Calendar of Events

## DECEMBER

1 Christmas Open House

31 New Year's Eve Party



Looking for more information about one of our events?  
Go to [www.riversidebiblecamp.org/programs](http://www.riversidebiblecamp.org/programs)

## JANUARY

13-15 ELEVATE  
Young Adult Retreat

## FEBRUARY

10-12 INFUSE  
Sr High Retreat

24-26 IGNITE  
Jr High Retreat

28 Marriage Café

## MARCH

21 Marriage Café

24-25 GRIT  
Men's Retreat

## APRIL

14-15 Association Meeting

18 Marriage Café

21-23 RSI Training  
Weekend

29 Pioneer Woman

## MAY

13 Work Day

27 Spring Open House  
Pancake Breakfast



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!

- 12-15 Passenger Van
- 6" Kitchen Wash Cloths (white)
- Paint Brushes (Assorted Sizes)
- 1/2 inch Battery Impact Driver
- Funds for Archery Targets & Backstop Netting
- Wooden Bench Swings
- Heavy Duty Planer
- Scuba Tanks (for paintball)
- Implement/Passenger Tire Tubes
- Reams of White Copy Paper

*(n) \$0.35 per person per week, though by 1946 this rate would increase to \$0.75 due to inflation*



# Giveaway

What makes Riverside special to you? 88 years of memories have been made at Riverside and we would love to hear your favorites! Whether you were at camp this summer or 50 years ago, share with us the most memorable part (or parts) of your experience here. We will enter all of your submissions into a random drawing and the winner will receive their choice of a Riverside Swag bundle, or a FREE WEEK of summer camp! Keep an eye out for the spring issue of the Riverside Reader, you might just see your story published!

## Information to include with your submission:

- Full Name
- Mailing Address
- Year of Camp attended
- Shirt Size
- Favorite Memory of Camp
- Do you give Riverside permission to publish your story in the next Riverside Reader?  
(your answer does not affect your ability to win the drawing.)

Email your response to [office@riversidebiblecamp.org](mailto:office@riversidebiblecamp.org) or mail to 6355 Cty Rd DD, Amherst, WI 54406

\*Deadline for submissions is January 30, 2023. Winner will be randomly chosen and notified January 31, 2023\*



## BROOMBALL

If you follow us on social media, you may remember seeing a poll question not too long ago. We showed a few pictures and videos of the staff working on an open space across the street from camp. Digging, leveling, building low berms...all of their hard work has paid off!

We are so excited for all of the campers who will get to enjoy the brand-new broomball court that we've assembled. While we have enjoyed having broomball in the covered Recreation Center, we have always been limited by the Rec Center's smaller footprint. The new court will be closer to a standard court size. This larger court will allow for more people to play at a time, maximizing the winter fun we have around here each year. ■



6355 Cty Rd DD | Amherst, WI | 54406  
715.824.3198 | [www.riversidebiblecamp.org](http://www.riversidebiblecamp.org)

In the early 1940s, Riverside decided to make their grounds available to other church groups to rent. What was the first per-person rental fee that Riverside ever charged for one full week of camp?

- a) \$0.35
- b) \$1.00
- c) \$2.25
- d) \$5.00

Find the answer on the bottom of page 7!



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