

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2016

Riverside Current

News From Riverside Alliance Church
Akron, Ohio

Embracing The Season

Most of us won't want to admit it, but the season is changing. The weather is getting cooler, the leaves are turning and falling, and before we know it, Thanksgiving will be upon us. And then, believe it or not, it will be Christmas! We have a choice: deny it's happening, or embrace it for all its worth. Paul encouraged the Colossian believers to embrace the season they were in: a season to grow their roots deep into Jesus so true thanksgiving would continually flow from them. As you walk through the changing seasons ahead, would you embrace the shift from summer into fall, toward Thanksgiving, and then to the ultimate reason for giving thanks: Jesus, God in the flesh, come as a helpless baby to live among us as our rescue. My prayer for our church family in these changing seasons is that we each, and all together, would embrace our need to be deeply rooted in Him and would rejoice with thanksgiving every step of the way. Many blessings to you and yours as we journey toward Christmas, 2016.

Together On The Journey With You,
Pastor Jim Souza

Colossians 2:6-7

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow

with thankfulness.



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Riverside Worship

Psalm 145

I will praise you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. I will bless you every day, and I will praise you forever. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! His greatness is beyond discovery!

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts. I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy of your righteousness.

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to get angry, full of unfailing love. The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will bless you. They will talk together about the glory of your kingdom; they will celebrate examples of your power. They will tell about your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of your reign. For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule generation after generation. The Lord is faithful in all he says; he is gracious in all he does.

The Lord helps the fallen and lifts up those bent beneath their loads. All eyes look to you for help; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him sincerely. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them. The Lord protects all those who love him, but he destroys the wicked. I will praise the Lord, and everyone on earth will bless his holy name forever and forever.



Hebrews 10:24-25

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Bible Studies

It's not too late to get involved! Come join one of our women's Bible studies. Join us on Monday nights at 6:30 pm (see Pat Morgan for more details) or Wednesday nights at 7 pm for a deeper look at our summer Personal Spiritual Formation series (see Dawn Souza).

PLEASE NOTE – DATE CHANGE!

Our annual Christmas brunch will be moved a week ahead to Saturday, December 17th. Please note the change! Details to follow. Please be praying about friends you can invite to join us.

CCO/ College Ministry

Yellows, reds, oranges, purples. The trees are now exploding with color. These brilliant colors are beautifully contrasted against the bright blue skies and the warm sunshine of the last few weeks. Yet I have seen so many people looking down.

I don't mean just looking down so they don't trip. I mean they feel isolated, hurt, forgotten, overlooked. They look down because they don't want to make eye contact. They don't want others to see their pain and mistakes.

Over the last few weeks, I have been invited to sit, to hike, and to rock climb with those who often are alone. In these times, I have heard and seen a repeated statement- I'm not good enough. I'm not a good enough conversationalist. I'm not a good enough friend. I'm not a good enough rock climber. I'm not a good enough person.

It's like they feel they have to prove themselves worthy of something- that I will somehow reject them because of their skill sets or abilities.



I know that I have repeated this statement in my own life. However, I am trying to remind myself that it's a lie. It's an identity issue. Our self-worth is not based on our abilities. We don't just have a law we are held in custody to - we have faith in a Messiah who came to us to remind us that we are His. All who receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become His children. (Gal 3:23-29; John 1:12)

God is saying to us "You're my beautiful daughter! You're my wonderful son!" He doesn't reject us, rather He is the God who runs and skips out to us when we return from messing up. He's

the God who sees our downcast eyes, our pain and mistakes, and still daily says "you are Mine. And I love you more than you can ever know."

Of course, as His children, he sets the bar high for us, and calls us to follow Him, which is a hard calling. But He is with us through all of it.

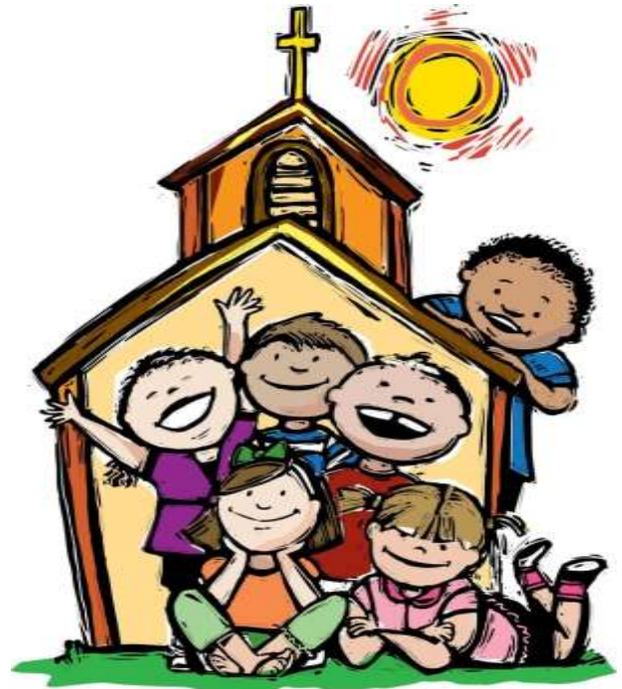
And He gives us little reminders of that love.

Some of my friends don't know who Jesus is. They don't know how deeply they are loved and how uniquely they have been made. But even in looking down, they are looking at something really cool, though they may not see it. Each one of those yellow, red, orange, and purple leaves lying on the ground is a beautiful masterpiece. Each one is uniquely crafted. If such beauty can be put in a leaf even as it falls away from the tree, how much more beauty is placed inside each of us?

Blessings,
Jen Golden

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

WE HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE WITH THE CHILDREN'S HOUR DURING CHURCH TIME. WE ARE CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH THE ELEVATE CURRICULUM AND THE KIDS ARE REALLY ENJOYING IT. ASK THEM ABOUT SOME COOL THINGS THEY ARE LEARNING AND HOW IT RELATES TO THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE! THE KIDS WILL JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS. ONE EXAMPLE BEING MISSIONS SUNDAY!



WE HAVE SOME EXCITING THINGS IN THE WORKS FOR THE KIDS! WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TIMES AND DATES FOR PARTIES. SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE WORKING ON ARE: FIELD TRIP TO THE FIRE STATION, FUNNY HANDS DAY, SILLY HAT DAY, WINTERWONDERLAND, SPRING FLING, TREASURE HUNT, FLIP FLOP FRENZY AND BANANAS GONE BONKERS!!!

WE ARE ALSO STARTING PLANS FOR VBS MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 12TH - 16TH PRAY ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!!



stay current



Join us on Wednesday, November 23, 6:30pm for our annual soup supper and Thanksgiving & Praise service. Please bring your favorite pot of soup to share and a testimony of how God is working and moving in your life!

The next Alliance Men will meeting will be November 12. Our vision is to be a movement of Great Commission men who glorify God by advancing Christ's Kingdom in our families, churches, work, communities, and serving mission field needs. OUR MISSION is to strengthen our local churches by making disciples who walk with God humbly, shepherd our families responsibly, relate to one another honestly, share the gospel courageously, support mission field needs willingly. OUR CORE VALUES are linking men to Christ, linking men in building Christian character, and linking men in service



We'll hang the greens on Saturday, November 26, 10:00am! Your help is needed to put up the decorations for Christmas season. This is a great time of fun and fellowship for the whole family! See Maryanne Dunn if you have any questions.



Annual Business Meeting to elect Officers for 2017 will be Sunday December 11.

Sunday, December 18