

**Weekly Updates – September 25, 2022**

What is the Gospel Message Series:
September 11: God Creates, Genesis 1
September 18: Guest Speaker, Dylan Harper - Extinguishing Anxiety, Philippians 4:4-9

September 25: In God We Trust, Romans 5:1-12
October 2: Broken and Free, Romans 5:12-21
October 9: Brian Ellis Preaching
October 16: People Change, Romans 6
October 23: Jesus is the Way, John 14

October 30: Jesus is the Gatekeeper, John 10
November 6: We Respond: Transformation, Deut. 6:4-9

November 13: We Respond: Giving All of Our Lives, Matthew 10:37-39
November 20: We Respond: Discipleship, 2 Kings 2:1-14

**Sunday worship services** Sunday worship services will be live on our You Tube channel at 10:00am. Our in-person worship service is also at 10:00am. We offer Kids on the Rock (our children’s program) for babies through 5th graders.

**COVID Protocols and Guidance:** River Rock's leadership closely monitors recommendations and guidance from the CDC and Kent County Health Department. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID, we ask that you please refrain from attending in person and encourage you to worship with us online.  If you have any questions regarding COVID measures in place, please feel free to contact any member of River Rock's Board.

**River Rock Staff Transitions:** Last Sunday, it was shared that after 8 1/2 years on staff at River Rock, **Jen DenOuden** will be leaving her role.  Jen's final day on staff is September 26. She will be pursuing a new career opportunity in communications. Join us in praying for and blessing Jen through this transition!

Please join us in welcoming a new intern to staff from Calvin Seminary, **Cody Miedema**. Cody will be working in a variety of ways at River Rock and will be with us for two years.

**River Rock Board Nominations Through September 25:**
River Rock's Board is made up of Elders and Deacons who provide leadership to the church. Now through September 25, nominations are being collected for individuals who might be willing and able to accept the role of Elder or Deacon. Copies of the letter sent out to church members, descriptions of the roles of Elder and Deacon and nomination forms are available at the Info Table on Sundays.  Nomination forms can be dropped off at the Info Table on Sundays, mailed to the church office or emailed nominations can be sent to Board Clerk, Katy Spengler, at kt.praygrnorth@gmail.com.  With any questions, contact any member of the Board.

**Herman’s Boy September 26:** Join Pastor Bill at Herman’s Boy on September 26 from 8:30am – 10am! Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and time to connect!

**Women’s Fall Bible Study:** Join us this Fall for an 8-week session studying the Book of Mark. Study will be every Tuesday at 7pm, from September 27 through November 15. There is no cost to participate. To sign up, stop by the Info Table or register online at <https://forms.gle/Dpvfcg8oievMW49L8>. We would love to see you there!  With any questions, contact Allyssa Thompson at allyssat@riverrockcommunity.com.

**River Rock Connections Classes:**

Are you new to River Rock, interested in learning more about us or starting the process of becoming a member? River Rock is hosting Connection Classes beginning on Sunday, October 2 following the worship service. This is a four-week series of classes that are each around 30-40 minutes. Classes cover getting to know the Board, learning about ministry opportunities, vision, mission and more. To learn more or sign up to attend, contact Pastor Bill at billf@riverrockcommunity.com.

**Hand2Hand Ministries:**
River Rock will again be partnering with Hand2Hand Ministries this school year to provide food to students over the weekends who are in need. Our partner schools are North Rockford Middle School and Meadow Ridge Elementary. If you are interested in serving once per month at one of these schools, contact Jen DenOuden at jen.denouden@gmail.com.

**North Kent Connect Senior Pantry Volunteer Opportunity:**
North Kent Connect has asked River Rock to help support their monthly Senior Pantry by supplying coffee and refreshments to those who attend. We are looking for volunteers who might have interest in serving in this way on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10am- Noon. If you are interested in signing up or learning more, contact Mary Hulst at mimijean1949@gmail.com.

**River Rock Online Directory:** River Rock now has an online directory available for anyone who is active in our database! To access the directory, simply go to this link: <https://engage.suran.com/riverrock>. You will need to set up a username and login if you do not currently use this link to give online. Once you have set up an account, you will find a link for "Groups" under the drop down.  Here you will find the online directory. If you have any questions or issues, please contact shelleyp@riverrockcommunity.com.

**Adults:** If you are interested in joining a Real Life Group (small group), contact Brian at briane@riverrockcommunity.com.

**Next Steps at River Rock Church:** Have you checked out the Next Steps document that is available each week? Next Steps is a resource you can use in a small group, with a family, on your own or with a friend. It includes an overall idea for the week, and some follow up questions from the Sunday message. Look for it to be emailed to you each week as well as available at the Info Table!

**Kids On The Rock:** We offer in-person Kids on the Rock during the service for Babies-5th grade. **KOTR would love your help on Sunday mornings in our Babies-Preschool and K-5 KOTR program.**To volunteer for either Babies-Preschool or K-5, please contact Lisa Nyenhuis at Lisan@Riverrockcommunity.com We do ask that you fill out a background check on an annual basis.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Do you have an interest in knitting or crocheting? River Rock has a Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry that provides comfort to those going through a difficult time or transition. The next meeting date is September 29 from 1-3pm. All skill levels are welcome! With any questions, contact Mary Hulst at mimijean1949@gmail.com.

**Women’s Book Club:** The next meeting date for Women’s Book Club will be October 1 at 9:30am at Marlene’s Carriage House. The book to be discussed is “The Dearly Beloved” by Cara Wall. With questions contact Alyce VandeLune at atvande@yahoo.com.

**Men’s Book Club:** The next meeting date for Men’s Book Club will be October 15. 7:30 AM at Bostwick Bakery on Plainfield.  The book being discussed is “The Wright Brothers " by David McCullough. For more information, contact David Monsma at djmonsma@yahoo.com.

**Team World Vision:**
For the last six years, River Rock has partnered with World Vision to raise funds for clean water projects around the world.  Team World Vision trains for and runs/walks a half or full marathon to raise funds and bring awareness to this need.  You can get involved by supporting those who are training! Questions? Contact Ralph Koscheka at ralph930@gmail.com.

**Church Assistance Program with Pine Rest:**River Rock partners with Pine Rest to offer a Church Assistance Program (CAP). CAP offers free, confidential counseling with expert clinicians to you and your household members. There is no co-pay or out-of-pocket cost; just make sure to identify yourself as a CAP member. Call 616.455.6210 to get connected.

Congratulations to **Yoon and Lisa Choi** as well as grandparents **Kwang and Jin Choi** on the birth of Toby Jinwon Choi born on September 8. Mom and baby are doing well!

**Do you have a prayer request?**Email it to Prayer@riverrockcommunity.com and the prayer team will receive it and lift your request up.

**Prayer and Care Email -** do you want to pray for our community more deeply?  Sign up to receive the Care and Prayer Email by sending an email to prayer@riverrockcommunity.com.

**Upcoming Communion and Benevolence Offering Dates:** October 2, November 13 and December 25

**River Rock Caring Communities**

The purpose of the caring communities is to encourage, to be known and feel cared for, and to share the Radical Love that God has lavished on us as we live Real Life. Hopes are that Council members will:

● Connect once/twice a year
● Care for each other in times of need
● Lift needs in prayer

Do you have any needs, prayer concerns, or praise to share?  We'd love to hear from you!  Contact your Caring Community Council member listed below.

Group Letters/Council Member
Care Group 1    Michelle Norquist   A-B      Dmquist@hotmail.com

Care Group 2   Jana Kim                 C-G     jaja24601@sbcglobal.net

Care Group 3   Scott Robinson       H-Ki     buck1015@hotmail.com

Care Group 4   Larry Hulst              Ko-Mi   lhulst.lhc@gmail.com

Care Group 5   David Jaeger          Mo-Ri   dajaeger@charter.net

Care Group 6   Patti Kenyon           Rob-T  jimpattik@charter.net

Care Group 7   Justin Behm            U-Z     justin.behm@gmail.com

**River Rock Board Contacts:**

*Elders:*

Jared Gunderson (Board Chair) (616) 560-5159, jargund@gmail.com

Larry Hulst (616) 822-0409, lhulst.lhc@gmail.com

Michelle Norquist (616) 204-3866, Dmquist@hotmail.com

Scott Robinson (616) 862-6435, buck1015@hotmail.com

Jim Stull (Elder Chair), (616) 292-4794, jstull@scottchristopherhomes.com

Katy Spengler (Clerk) (616) 443-6278, kt.praynorth@gmail.com

*Deacons:*

Justin Behm (Deacon Chair) (616)443-1385, justin.behm@gmail.com

John Broersma (616) 822-9308, broersma.john@gmail.com

Mary Jo Brill (616) 332-6539, mjbrill91@gmail.com

David Jaeger (616) 433–8030, dajaeger@charter.net
Patti Kenyon (616) 328-1933, jimpattik@charter.net

Jana Kim (616) 648–1434, jaja24601@sbcglobal.net

**Staff Contacts:***Pastor Bill Flavin (Lead Pastor),* Billf@riverrockcommunity.com (414) 491-5131,
*Allyssa Thompson* (Worship Director), Allyssat@riverrockcommunity.com (616) 295-7508
*Brian Ellis*, (Next Gen Pastor), briane@riverrockcommunity.com (616) 481-9843

Cody Miedema (Intern), codym@riverrockcommunity.com

*Jen DenOuden* (Director of Community Life), jend@riverrockcommunity.com (616)466-8910

*Lisa Nyenhuis* (Children’s Ministry Director), Lisan@riverrockcommunity.com (616) 446-2864
Shelley *Plambeck* (Accounting), Shelleyp@riverrockcommunity.com (616) 262-6931

**Financial Information:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2022 Tithe/Offering/Gifts:  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Last Week | Year-To-Date | 2022 Budget | End of Year | Avg Weekly |
|  | 11-Sept | 11-Sept |  | Needed | Needed |
| General Ministry  | $ 4,874 | $ 255,901 | $ 588,784 | **$ 332,883** | $ 22,192 |
| Benevolence Ministry | $ 71 | $ 7,174 | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Building Ministry  | $16  | $ 1,611 | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| KOTR-Child Sponsor | $  | $ 363 | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Grants | $  | $ 8,500 | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| VBS | $450  | $ 550 | $ - | $ - | $ - |

**2022 Financial Snapshot:** Thank you for the $255,901 received through September 11, '22. The Budget has been passed for 2022. Please talk with an Elder or Deacon if you have any questions.

**Benevolence:** If you or someone you know needs support, please notify the Deacons. We can assist in many ways.

You can give your gifts online through our website https://riverrockcommunity.com/give/ by text (1-616-727-0611) or mail to River Rock Church, 6060 Belding Road, Rockford, MI 49341.

