

Riverside Reader

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1
INFUSE ELEVATE	2
RBC Connections	3
Stewardship Update	4
New Year's Eve Farm Update	5
Upcoming Events	6
Calendar Most Wanted	7

Kingdom Work

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Winter is a unique time for us at Riverside. While there is a peaceful stillness that settles over the camp during the week, there is still a constant flurry of activity if you look in the right places. The farm is always bustling with projects and chores. The broomball court is being tended to almost daily. A sitting caretaker or housekeeper is a rare sight to behold. And the office is an endless revolving door of staff coming and going.

It's easy to think of wintertime at Riverside as the "slow season," but after spending just over a year here now, I can honestly say that Riverside has no "slow season." At least, not that I've witnessed...

Our rental calendar has groups of various sizes and purposes coming to stay every weekend that we are not hosting an event of our own. The Riverside Reader is constantly in production. Promotional materials to advertise all of our upcoming events are always being designed and distributed. We spend this season planning for our upcoming retreats, coordinating volunteers, communicating with our donors and campers, and sending out monthly email updates via the Riverside RoundUp.

I guess I never considered just how much "behind-the-scenes" work goes into running a Bible Camp. When I first arrived in the fall of 2021, I assumed that the summer would be very busy and the rest of the year would be very quiet. I couldn't be happier about how very wrong I was. All of this activity; the phone calls, the email inquiries, the events, the marketing demands, means that Riverside is thriving. Our community is actively seeking to be a part of what God is doing here and He is consistently equipping us to do His work.

And it truly is HIS work, not ours. God has instilled in each of us a love for Riverside and we are thrilled to see our team grow as the needs of the camp increase. Each one of us sees the incredibly special thing that Riverside is. We walk the grounds and we can envision what Riverside could one day become. We are all content with how it is now, yet eager to see it become even more. Kingdom work is being done here every single day, and we count

ourselves blessed to be able to play a small part in it all.

Hearing stories of God moving in people's lives during their time spent at Riverside gives everything we do here such great purpose. Last year, a reluctant spouse came along to a marriage retreat and left Riverside having experienced healing and encouragement in their marriage. Something like that can happen anywhere, but it happened here, and we got to witness the joy in the aftermath.

Countless memories have been made here over the last 88 years. In the last issue of The Riverside Reader, we asked you to share some of your favorites. Here is what just a few of you had to say:

"My favorite memory of camp is when I made friends and I was able to become closer to God. I really loved to go swimming and...the games that were provided for us to play!"

-Lillyana

"I used to attend Riverside as a child, and later, as a teen. I was shy and dreaded coming by myself as a child, but there was one person that I always looked forward to seeing; and that was Peggy Stedman. I knew she would make me feel welcome...Now, at 63 years old, I still go to Riverside for periodic family reunions. Our children and grandchildren are now making their own memories at Riverside. For this we are thankful and truly blessed."

-Candi

"My favorite memory is from last year, 2022. I had the privilege of teaching Adventure Camp. It was so amazing to see how children ages 6-8 loved the Lord. Their enthusiasm for Jesus was AMAZING. Can't wait for this summer to do it all again."

-Lori

Thank you to everyone who shared your special memories with us. And congratulations to our Giveaway winner, Candi Stine Frost! ■



It's hard to believe, but Summer Camp season is just around the corner! We are so excited about the friendships that will be forged, the conversations that will take place, and the lives that will be changed forever by Jesus. Please join us as we pray for campers to learn more about what it means to "Draw Near" to God this summer. And don't forget to get your kids and grandkids registered before June 1st to receive a \$10 discount on the registration fee!

INFUSE | ELEVATE

INFUSE

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

An impressive crowd of Senior High campers came to Riverside's Infuse Winter Retreat. We had over 50 campers in attendance! Campers heard from a long-time friend of Riverside, Jaime Sherf, during the sessions. Jaime shared the many awesome characteristics of God, how He has the power and desire to carry our burdens that we are unable to, and how we can live a life drawing near to Him daily. Jaime also prepared morning devotions for the campers to engage with. These devotions each challenged them to analyze and apply different portions of scripture that supported what they heard in the sessions.

On Saturday, campers were challenged to compete, in their teams, in a photo scavenger hunt that sent them to many places including the sledding hill, the Rock of Ages, and the bell. The pinnacle of the competition for the weekend was the Broomball Tournament on Saturday afternoon where teams participated in a double-elimination tournament, with the Blue Water Buffalos coming out on top. Campers spent the night sledding down the very icy sledding hill, playing more broomball, and hanging out in the Retreat Center with snacks and games. We're thankful to all the families that brought their children out, and to all the cabin leaders, cooks, and volunteers that served this weekend. It was a fantastic event!



What is LIFT?

If you've graduated high school and wonder what it would be like to serve in full-time ministry, then LIFT might be exactly what you're looking for! Leaders Inspired Eor Truth is an opportunity for young adults to experience full-time ministry without a long-term commitment. During the months of June and July, you will live at Riverside and enjoy scheduled days off and regular paychecks while you provide leadership for our various summer camps. The ideal candidates for LIFT are college-aged adults who have a strong relationship with Jesus and a passion for serving in youth ministries. Being enthusiastic and approachable will make this a summer to remember for all the campers you'll be interacting with. Our staff will help you with support-raising and answer any questions you may have about what a summer serving at Riverside would look like. If this opportunity sounds like a perfect fit for you, please contact our Program Director, Lucero Olson, at lucero@riversidebiblecamp.org or 715.824.3198 for more information.

We can't wait to serve with you this summer!

ELEVATE

by Tessa Olson, RSI Coordinator/Digital Marketing Coordinator

What a wonderful and intimate time Elevate was this year! Elevate, our young adult winter retreat, had lower attendance this year, so we made the decision to shorten the weekend from the original 3 day camp to a 24 hour camp. We filled that time with board games, sledding, snacks, and much discussion. The sessions were a "round table" style, held in the loft of the Retreat Center, and led to a relaxed and intimate feel where we could ask questions throughout the message and discuss our own ideas. Moses Robbins was the speaker for the weekend, and he dove right in during the two sessions on Saturday. Moses described himself as being "raw" in his speaking style and encouraged us to not split apart over biblically controversial topics, along with doing our own research.

Another highlight of the weekend was the sledding hill! It's always a 50/50 chance that the young adults will want to go sledding, but almost everybody headed out to take a couple trips down the hill! Lucero and his wife (that's me!) even brought their puppy out for a short time and he enjoyed running up and down the hill to greet the sledders at the bottom.

Overall, the weekend was a huge success, even with it being shortened! Thank you to everyone who came out to participate and thank you to everyone who prayed for safety leading up to the event.



Homecoming Camp 2023 Aug 29th - Sept 3rd

Make plans to join us for an exclusive week of summer camp dedicated to all of Riverside's "formers." If you grew up attending camp, volunteering, or even served on staff here, this camp is for you! Gather together with other Riverside alumni and recapture the spirit of summer camp. Our Homecoming Camp is structured with minimal programming to ensure maximum time for reconnecting with each other. Visit the alumni tab on our website to learn more and register today! www.riversidebiblecamp.org/rbc-connections



Riverside-on-the-Road: Escanaba

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

It was 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, in Escanaba, MI. Brunch was ready. "Riverside on the Road" was back in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for RBC Connections' annual get-together of former Riverside campers, staff, and volunteers. And they came. There was a comfortable and exciting buzz in the room as old friends greeted each other – and as new friends were introduced to the group.

Beginning sometime back in the late 1950s, Don Summers and, later, Lowell Fox transported young people from all over Michigan's Upper Peninsula to a small camp in central Wisconsin called Riverside. The campers came to spring and fall retreats and/or spent a week at summer camp. They made life-long friendships and many made significant decisions in their Christian life. "Riverside on the Road" is an opportunity for "formers" to meet together, to renew relationships, and to recall what God has done in their lives through the ministry of Riverside.

We were a small group that morning. We had a wonderful time. But we could have been so many more. We need you. Can you help us identify people who qualify as Riverside "formers?" Who do you keep in contact with from your days at Riverside Bible Camp? Would you share their contact information with us?

"Riverside on the Road" will be holding several more local events in 2023. We look forward to seeing some of you there.

We all have our "Ebenezers" (1 Sam. 7:12) – those places that are a reminder to us of God's faithfulness over the years. In Scripture, we are told to remember our past, to return to the monuments that remind us of what God has done for us in the past. Riverside is one of those places for many of us. Come be part of what RBC Connections is doing to reconnect people – to each other and to their "Ebenezer." We look forward to hearing from you.

ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING Saturday, April 15th, 2023

All Riverside Bible Conference Association Members are encouraged to attend. Friday night lodging available.

NEW THIS YEAR:

10:00am–Site Planning Draft Presentation and Feedback Forum

Come early and be a part of planning Riverside's exciting future! This forum will take place prior to the Association Meeting at 1:00pm on Saturday.

Interested in joining the Association and being a part of the governing body of Riverside?

Contact the office at
office@riversidebiblecamp.org
or 715.824.3198

Top 3 Reasons to join the Riverside Bible Conference Association:

1. Because I believe in the ministry of Riverside
2. I desire to see it grow.
3. I want to be part of the Riverside Support Team.



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 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:	\$ 217,997	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 195,955	\$ 150,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): <small>as of February 20, 2023</small>	\$ 22,042	



"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever."
Psalm 112:5-6



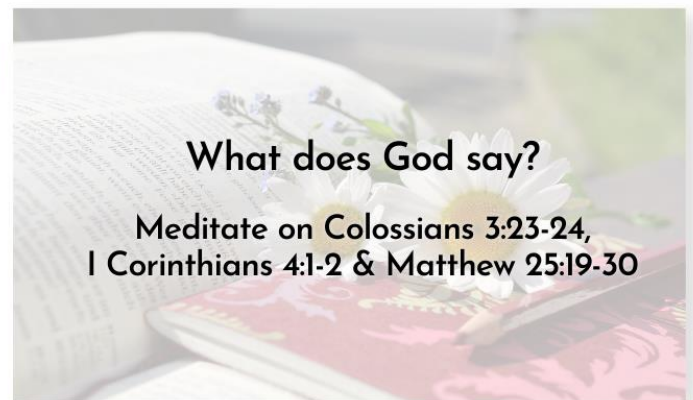
How to Give

- 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

We are Stewards

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

We need to adopt an attitude of a steward – God has entrusted to me, not given me, His assets. We are trustees and managers of all that God owns and of 100% of what God gives us to manage – not 10% of what we possess. It all belongs to God. What is required of us is faithfulness – taking care of God's things in God's way for God's purposes and His glory. ■



What does God say?

**Meditate on Colossians 3:23-24,
I Corinthians 4:1-2 & Matthew 25:19-30**



Have you thought about the lasting impact your life will have after you are no longer here? Riverside has partnered with PhilanthroCorp, a nationwide, Christian estate-planning service, to ensure that the legacy you leave reflects your values and your personal desires. PhilanthroCorp has helped thousands of families create estate plans that meet their goals, save taxes, and support the family members and ministries they care about. Starting with a simple phone call, PhilanthroCorp will work with you to assist you in creating a plan just for you.

And the best part? As a friend of Riverside, PhilanthroCorp's planning services are provided at absolutely no cost to you! So, what are you waiting for? It doesn't matter if your assets are few or many. Ensure that your legacy is one that you believe in. Enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your affairs are in order. Visit the "Donate" tab on our website to learn how to get started!

www.riversidebiblecamp.org/donate



WELCOME

In January, we excitedly welcomed our newest staff member to the team at Riverside. Nikole (Niki) Beecher grew up attending summer camp here and has served with both RSI and LIFT. Her history with Riverside, her passion, and her driven work ethic make her an excellent addition to the camp. Niki has been a member of the National Guard for three years and has trained as a diesel mechanic for the last two years. As Riverside's Mechanic/Project Specialist, Niki's primary focus will be the maintenance of the camp's vehicles, machinery, and equipment. She will also implement various camp projects (of which, there is never a shortage!) as needed throughout the year. Please join us in welcoming Niki to Riverside as she fills this greatly needed role. ■

New Year's Eve

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

New Year's Eve at Riverside is always an energetic, fun-filled celebration. We rang in the new year with our friends, family, neighbors, and even some new faces! The children got to enjoy a challenging group game which had them trying to open gifts while wearing oven mitts. Lots of laughter and smiles ensued. At 10pm, we had a balloon drop from the loft for the kiddos who wouldn't make it to the celebration at midnight. The adults had their own group game that had them guessing the titles of Christmas Songs by their acronyms. YAMOMG stumped a lot of us! And, of course, everyone enjoyed playing a wide variety of games late into the night. Dominoes, Euchre, Quirkle, Up &

Down the River, and many more board games were in constant rotation throughout the evening. Every year, the food and the games vary and the selection is ever-changing! As always, midnight was marked by a spectacular fireworks show and a our very own Riverside Ball Drop.

Do you have a favorite game or dish to pass? Do you find yourself in need of a safe and highly entertaining New Year's Eve party to attend with your whole family? Then please, join us at our New Year's Eve party this year. You won't regret it! Oh, by the way, the acronym? YAMOMG? It was "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch!" ■



Spring Open House & Pancake Breakfast May 27 | 8am-11am

Zoro agrees, Riverside's Spring Open House is the place to be! With carnival games, farm animals, pony rides, face painting, and more, this morning at the farm is one the kids will remember. Start your visit at Camp with a FREE pancake breakfast, then take a wagon ride down to River Hills Farm for a fun-filled morning of activities. We can't wait to see you here!



Farm Update



Life looked just a little bit different at River Hills Farm this winter. While we had to say goodbye to our mule, Madeline, earlier in the year, we did still have many familiar faces eagerly awaiting our daily rounds. Our ponies, Zoro and Daisy, could be seen enjoying the pasture all winter along with our horse, Bell. Ember, our Red Wattle Hog, was rooting up tasty treasures with eight rapidly growing piglets beside her. And we were excited to welcome two young Holstein steers to our ranks who now call the family farm "home." Like our hogs and chickens, these steers will spend their days outdoors and will be well cared for until they have matured. Interested in purchasing a share? Contact the office for more information.



Riverside in Haiti

Riverside is proud to help support an orphanage in Lajeune, Haiti run by Beauvoir Deshommes. His orphanage/school has been growing and our VBS campers were able to send over \$3,000 last summer to help build a girls' dormitory (pictured at right). Please join us in prayer for our upcoming trip to Haiti. We are asking God to use us during our time there and that He would prepare the way for safe travels for all on the way there and back.

If you would like to bless the orphanage in a big way, they have a great need for an older model truck or the funds to purchase one. If you can meet this need, please contact the office.



Upcoming Events

2023
Marriage Café

MARCH 21
APRIL 18

FROM 6-8PM
\$10 PER COUPLE
CHILDCARE PROVIDED



GRIT MEN'S RETREAT

God's Radical Infinite Truth

March 24-25, 2023
\$55
Men ages 16+



April 21st-23rd
Ages 14-18

RSI
TRAINING CAMP

Riverside Bible Camp



The Heart of the
Pioneer Woman

Saturday, April 29
8am-5pm

Cost: \$75
(optional overnight +\$10)

For women of all ages
Registration opens
March 15th

Calendar of Events

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

JUNE

- 12-16 VBS Day Camp
- 16 Family Fun Night
- 20-22 Adventure Camp
- 25-1 Senior High Camp

JULY

- 9-14 Junior Camp
- 16-21 Junior High Camp
- 25-30 TREK Adventure Program

AUGUST

- 18-20 Summer Family Camp
- 29-3 Homecoming Camp

OCTOBER

- 6-8 Harvest Family Camp
- 7 Fellowship Supper
- 20-22 Craft Camp
- 21 Lumberjack Day

DECEMBER

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



Looking for more information about one of our events?
Go to www.riversidebiblecamp.org/programs



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
- Measuring Spoons/Cups - Stainless Steel, full sets
- Funds for Zippered Mattress Covers (Full/Queen)
- 1/2 inch Battery Impact Driver
- Funds for Archery Targets & Backstop Netting
- Wooden Bench Swings
- Heavy Duty Planer
- Funds for Office Chairs
- Implement/Passenger Tire Tubes
- Broomball Helmets



(d) Sheep & goats! That's right! While it does still grow at camp, the overwhelming lack of poison ivy is all thanks to some hungry livestock from years ago.



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Permit #3

We are so excited for our upcoming
Spring Open House/Pancake Breakfast!
Can you find all six hidden stacks of
flapjacks in this issue?



When families first started meeting
at Riverside, the land was overrun with
poison ivy. A solution was quickly agreed upon to
eradicate the pesky plant. How did they manage it?

- a) Pesticide donation from a local florist
- b) Months of dedicated, gloved volunteers
- c) It slowly died out on its own
- d) Hungry sheep & goats

Find the answer on the bottom of page 7!



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