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#### A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVE

##### **Better Together**

Many years ago, I attended a conference at a church in Charlotte, NC. I was early and the tables and chairs were being set up. I walked into the large auditorium and a lady was putting the finishing touches on tables. She noticed me. "Are you here for the pastors' conference?" she asked. Then she eagerly explained, "That's our pastor over there setting up tables with us. He is just one of us." I could tell in her voice that she had a deep respect for his willingness to set up tables.

Monday night I was cooking for the fifty people who came to the missions farewell. A guy from our congregation asked if he could help and I said, "Sure!" We cooked together for the first hour or so. Then he said, "OK, now it's time for you to get out of here and visit the people."

How did he know that I was feeling the pull to be visiting with the people who were in attendance? I love to serve the basic needs of people, but I also desire deeply to shepherd and encourage. I gave him the conventional courtesy, "Are you sure?" He affirmed, and I took off my manly apron and headed out.

Later I was thinking about how the gifts of the body work. They are often dormant until the need arises. This year, for instance, the number of tech people we

have needed rose quickly. As needed, God provided and still is.

It seems to me that showing up is a prerequisite. I don't remember who said it, but there is an old saying that "90% of encouragement is showing up." Another way to say it would be "you have to show up if you're going to use your gifts".

By the time the evening was over, I had seen gifts of hospitality, encouragement, faith, helps, and service all poured out for the common good. There were little things like holding a mom's baby so they could eat and sharing food like that tomato salad and those chocolate chip cookies that were the best I've ever had. There was the invitation to sit with us and join our discussion.

There was also the prayer on the side of faith for a situation that seemed overwhelming and needed God's hand. There were some hands set to cleaning and even a few Corona hugs. All in all, it was very good to be together.

All of this to say that we are better together.

#### **RVC | kids**

##### **Reopening - Phase 2**

We have been tiptoeing through our soft opening, and I feel it has been going really well. Parents, you have been doing an amazing job signing your kids up, picking them up immediately after first service, and respecting our guidelines. We are now ready to proceed with phase 2!

## Phase 2

- Family units = anyone ages 1-7 can be signed up for RVC | kids
- Sign up by
  - Email: [Tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com](mailto:Tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com)
  - Text: 317-289-4394
  - Call church office: 920-231-9690 (Monday – Thursday)
- One parent drops off in large fellowship area
- Temperature check upon arrival
- Sanitize hands before entering
- Immediately pick up your child after to allow for cleaning

Check out our helpful video on Facebook RVC | kids or the RiverValley webpage

<https://www.rvcoshkosh.com/connect/rvc-kids/>

We are currently looking for volunteers. If you are willing, please contact Tracy Fettner.

**GIVING UPDATE**

YTD Giving 5/1/20 - 7/31/20

Actual: \$179,738.68

Budgeted: \$173,732

Weekly Giving: 8/3/20 - 8/9/20

\$12,698.00

**PRAYER TEAM**

RiverValley Church's Prayer Team meets every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. On the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month we meet at RVC. On the second and fourth Thursdays we meet at Oakbrook Church on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Oshkosh.

**LADIES BIBLE STUDIES THIS FALL****Tuesday Evening Zoom Study**

We will be offering a Tuesday Night Ladies' Study on Zoom this fall, starting September 1st, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We will study Jackie Hill Perry's Jude: Contending for Faith in Today's Culture. Please RSVP by August 25<sup>th</sup> to Amanda Heise via email at

[heise.amanda.m@gmail.com](mailto:heise.amanda.m@gmail.com)

**Study of Esther - a Beth Moore Study**

RVC moms: When was the last time YOU felt pampered and cared for?! (Spoiler alert: this fall!) Nicole McFarlane will be offering the Bible study Esther: It's Tough Being A Woman (especially in such a time as this!). All the details will be delivered to your email inbox. Grab your favorite beverage and give the email a read! This is YOUR TIME to be filled. We have special plans for this group ... hope you will join us! Questions? Contact: Nicole McFarlane at

[nicmac525@me.com](mailto:nicmac525@me.com) or 920-379-3899.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study**

All women welcome! Ladies Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 17, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. If you are interested or would like more information, contact: Laura Ehrlich at [lauralevlove@yahoo.com](mailto:lauralevlove@yahoo.com).

**Thursday Evening Bible Study**

Ladies, we will begin our study on 1 and 2 Timothy, an In and Out Precept Study, September 10th. We will meet Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at RiverValley Church. If you are interested or would like more information, contact:

Debbie Hoff - [bluwnab@hotmail.com](mailto:bluwnab@hotmail.com) or

Tracy Fettner - [tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com](mailto:tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com)

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

You may want to participate in these events/opportunities. It is up to you to decide what is safe based on your comfort level.

**Evangelical Child & Family Agency (ECFA) "Bike and Hike"** – Reserve the morning of Saturday, September 12, to show your support for the life-giving options of the ECFA at their annual bike and hike event. Brochures are available in the RiverValley Church office, or you can go to the link below for more information. This event will meet at Bethesda Park in Waukesha and ride/hike along the Fox River Trail. Covid-19 safety guidelines will be followed.

<https://www.ecfawisc.org/bikeandhike>

*ECFA offers compassionate and Christ-centered services to children, families, and individuals through adoption and pregnancy support services.*