

Riverside Reader

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

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You may notice that registration looks a little different this year! Riverside has made the change to a new registration software that we believe will be more user-friendly than our previous provider. Campwise offers many useful features to help improve the efficiency and accuracy of all things related to camp management. We are looking forward to better serving our community with its implementation.

Abide & Bear Much Fruit

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

“Bear much fruit.” We often hear that phrase in Christian settings, but for those not fluent in Christian-ese, I think the true meaning of that directive sometimes gets lost.

Have you ever listened to a fellow believer tell you something that you found concerning? Something you knew the Bible did not support? I have. And, at the time, it felt hypocritical to say anything because I wasn’t modeling Christ flawlessly then (or ever!).

“I believe the Bible is the Word of God and I’m not living it out perfectly either, so who am I to speak up or offer correction?”

When we know the truth and refrain from speaking it, we do something selfish. No matter our circumstances, we are to consider others more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:3). And another’s need for the truth and love of Jesus will always be more important than whatever our present situation happens to be. Speaking the truth in love is just one way we can bear fruit.

As I heard one pastor phrase it, “the fruit isn’t for the tree.” A plum tree doesn’t eat plums. A peach tree doesn’t eat peaches. A healthy fruit tree is sustained by *water*, and the resulting fruit is for the benefit of those passing by.

This is why we can be wrestling with something in our own lives and still speak truth and love to those around us with sincerity and conviction. If we are rooted in Christ, our lives are sustained by the *Living Water*, and our fruitfulness is a direct result of that relationship.

What is this spiritual “fruit?” Described in Galatians 5, the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. I think it’s important to note that the word for “fruit” in the original text is singular, not plural. The implication, then, is if we have the Spirit within us, we should exhibit the entire collection of characteristics since, all together, they make up the singular fruit of the Spirit.

Our fruit reveals the condition of our heart.

It also identifies us to outsiders. Walking past two trees - one with fruit and one without - it is obvious to passersby which one is an apple tree. As Jesus says in Matthew 7:20, “Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

Those difficult conversations with believers can result in growth if you let them. They can encourage us to ask ourselves *why* we believe certain things and find out if there is a real biblical foundation for those beliefs. Spoiler alert - sometimes there is not.

My deep dives into Scripture will occasionally reveal that I’ve believed some things that maybe sound nice, but aren’t rooted in truth. They have also provided ample support for the truths I already knew. And sometimes, they’ve allowed me to respond to such conversations with love AND Scripture. Because love without truth is shallow, and truth without love is harsh.

We are commanded to love. We are commanded to obey God’s Word and to bear fruit from it. How can we obey it if we don’t know it? How can we “bear fruit” if we are not living our lives rooted in Christ?

This year at Riverside, our theme is “Abide.” Our theme verses come from the book of John:

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” - John 15:8-9

If we are true disciples of Christ, we will abide (make our home) in His love. We will hide His Word in our hearts and allow it to cultivate a faithful life of fruitfulness.

Would you join us in prayer for this upcoming summer camp season? Pray that:

- the staff and volunteers would glorify God by abiding in His love and bearing much fruit.
- the campers would be moved by God’s Word to live their lives devoted to Him.
- Riverside would continue to live out its mission to provide a place where people of all ages can come to know, grow in, and share Jesus Christ. ■

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Service & Faith: Fellowship of Christian Farmers of WI

by Darrie Nelson, Executive Director

At Riverside Bible Camp, we are continually blessed by the faithful service of friends and partners whose lives reflect Christ's heart for community, stewardship, and service. One ministry that stands out in this regard is the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International (FCFI) — an organization whose mission is to encourage Christian farm families and agricultural professionals to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to build up faith within the agricultural community.

Founded in 1985 to foster Christian fellowship and support among those in farming and rural life, FCFI promotes opportunities for believers to share the Gospel at farm shows, commodity exhibitions, and other agricultural gatherings across the United States and beyond.

We have seen this mission lived out locally through the dedicated involvement of members of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers here in Wisconsin.

We want to offer special thanks to Scott Fisher and Bob Koopman for their tireless hours of service maintaining vehicles, tractors, and equipment at both the camp and River Hills Farm.

Scott's willingness to step in wherever needed — whether it's fixing equipment or tuning up a tractor — has been a tremendous blessing to our ministry operations and daily work.

From constructing new bunk beds to executing building demolition to erecting a stone retaining wall, Scott and his crew from FCFI have accomplished many projects at Riverside. In addition to the hours of service, FCFI made a generous donation of a beautifully refurbished Ford 8n tractor to replace our old camp tractor as it was near the end of its long and useful life.

We are deeply grateful for Scott and the brothers and sisters in the Fellowship of Christian Farmers of Wisconsin. The heart of this ministry — serving, sowing, and reaping for Christ — resonates deeply with Riverside's own calling to be a place where Christ's love is lived out in tangible ways. ■



Serving, Sowing, Reaping for Christ Around the World

Homecoming Camp 2025

by Mickey Kaufman

People sitting on the porch of the chapel or dining hall, chatting. Singing in the chapel - a lot of older hymns. As evening falls, firelight on the island with the soft strumming of a guitar and a lot of the old campfire choruses being sung. Daily chapel sessions, preaching and teaching from God's Word just as we all remember it from our youth. Great food, sweet fellowship, walks in the woods, and visits to the Farm to see the animals and enjoy tea in the garden.

These are the sights and sounds of a very special, adult-focused camp held every summer at Riverside. It started four years ago as a time for former campers, staff members, and volunteers to meet together at the place where many life-long relationships began - and which we recognize as being very significant in our development as Christians. Some accepted Christ at Riverside; some were baptized here; some even met their spouse at Riverside; but all made friends and grew in their faith.

Homecoming Camp 2025 lived up to expectations - and much more. We started off the week with a time for spiritual retreat, focusing for over 24 hours on Psalm 23 and our relationship as sheep to our Heavenly Shepherd. After that, we had four days of teaching on the wonderful subject of Grace. Interspersed into that time were two inspiring concerts, a boat ride on the Chain O' Lakes, times of group sharing (testimonies, prayer requests, stewardship topics, and many other subjects), along with individualized activities. We relived some of our memories, met with old friends from those days, and made some new friends. It was a great week!

What is it?

- A time of reconnecting with Riverside for those who had attended camp here as a child or youth;
- A place to reconnect with old friends, a reunion;
- A camp that offers in-depth Bible studies, discussion and prayer times, and quiet spiritual retreat options focused on adult needs and priorities;
- Lots of opportunities for active adult activities - like a pontoon boat ride on the Chain O' Lakes, concerts by well-known Christian artists, teatime at the Farm, singing around the campfire, shopping, visiting the area, hikes, water sports, and much more;
- Lots of time to sit on the porch of the dining hall, or on the patio of the Retreat Center, or anywhere else, to drink coffee and get caught up with old friends as well as getting to know new ones.



Who comes to Homecoming Camp?

- Adults - there is no children's program provided
- Former campers, staff members, and volunteers
- Friends of Riverside, prayer partners, financial supporters
- New friends, often invited by former campers

When is it held?

Homecoming Camp, or Connections Camp, is held during the first week of August each year. Historically, it has been a full week of camp, Monday through Saturday, with a flexible schedule that allowed campers to come for a couple of days or the whole week. All who attend are desiring to reconnect with Riverside and to deepen their relationship with the Lord. A great side benefit is reconnecting with friends.

This year, Homecoming Camp will look a little different. As we continue to work out the details for this year's camp, we hope you will consider joining us for this unique experience - reconnecting with Riverside after many years, connecting for the first time since those days of youth, or getting acquainted with the camp for the first time. You won't regret the time that you spend with the Lord and with others in this very special place! ■



Family Camp | Farewell

Harvest Family Camp 2025

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Family Camps at Riverside are always a special time and Harvest Family Camp this year was special indeed. 16 families spent the weekend at Riverside and almost every room was filled - including the three new rooms in Zarephath!

Dr. Chris Rupe was our speaker for the weekend. He is the founder of Back2Genesis (B2G), a ministry dedicated to giving glory to God by restoring a Biblical view of life's origins in the church and in the culture. B2G does this by upholding the authority of the Word of God and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With a bachelor's degree in Biology and a PhD in Geology, Dr. Rupe sees the evidence for the truth of God's Word in the life and earth around us and points it all back to Jesus.

After speaking throughout the weekend at Riverside, we had the unique opportunity to invite the surrounding communities to Faith Community Church in Waupaca for a Sunday evening presentation. About 100 people attended the event and Dr. Rupe ended the evening with a Q&A session, addressing many questions from the crowd. Thank you to those who prayed for & attended Harvest Family Camp, we know the Gospel was heard by all!

If you and your family would like to experience a Family Camp at Riverside, be sure to check out Summer Family Camp August 14-16, 2026 and Harvest Family Camp October 2-4, 2026. It will be a welcomed weekend away that your family won't soon forget! ■



Dr. Chris Rupe
Biologist, Sedimentary Geologist
Founder of Back 2 Genesis



With Gratitude for Faithful Service: Mickey & David Kaufman

by Darrie Nelson, Executive Director



After five years of faithful service at Riverside Bible Camp, we recently wished a happy retirement to our Stewardship Director, Mickey, and her husband David, as they relocated to Illinois.

While we will deeply miss them, we are incredibly grateful for the way God used their gifts, hearts, and dedication during their time with us.

Mickey faithfully oversaw Riverside's stewardship ministry - building meaningful relationships with donors and supporters who love Riverside. She brought care and intentionality to every detail - thoughtful thank-you notes, Christmas cards, regular communication, and personal connection - helping supporters feel known, valued, and connected to the mission of Riverside.

Mickey also played a key role in hosting Homecoming Camp each summer, creating space for former campers and friends of Riverside to reconnect with one another and with the ministry they cherish.

In addition, Mickey helped launch and lead 'Riverside on the Road,' an outreach ministry that took Riverside beyond our Wisconsin borders. Through gatherings in various states across the Midwest, she helped strengthen relationships with alumni and supporters, sharing stories of what God is doing at Riverside and inviting others to remain part of the journey.

David's impact was equally significant. During their time at Riverside, David oversaw and completed numerous building and improvement projects, investing countless hours of skilled, hands-on labor. His dedication helped maintain and improve our facilities, ensuring that Riverside remains a welcoming, safe, and functional place for ministry to happen for years to come.

Together, Mickey and David served with humility, generosity, and a deep love for Riverside Bible Camp. We are thankful for the countless ways they poured into this ministry and into the people God has called here.

They have begun a new chapter in Illinois, so we send them with our heartfelt thanks, prayers, and blessings. Riverside is better because of their faithful service, and their impact will continue to be felt along the river for years to come. ■

Sustaining Riverside Financial Report Fiscal Year: May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 213,313.35	\$ 175,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 223,288.50	\$ 175,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): <small>as of February 2026</small>	(\$9,975.15)	



*"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf."
-Proverbs 11:28*

Love Motivates

by Mickey Kaufman

"God so loved...that He gave..." Jesus teaches that those who follow God are motivated to live by the same values that God has. These values are part of God's personality and should be qualities found in God's children. These values include loving like God loves. It isn't about what we will get out of giving to others; it is about what God has given us and responding to His love. What does God say? And what does it mean? ■

Reflect on Matt. 6:19-21, Luk. 12:33-34,
Luk. 14:13-14, 1 Tim. 6:17-19, Matt. 19:16-30



Make Your RMD Work for a Cause You Love

If you are age 73 or older, you may be required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA each year. Many use this distribution as a meaningful way to invest in the charitable causes they believe in.

By directing all or part of your IRA distribution to Riverside Bible Camp, you can help provide Christ-centered camp experiences while potentially reducing your taxable income. Your gift supports life-changing ministry—helping young people grow in faith, build lasting relationships, and encounter God in a powerful way.

Turning your RMD into a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you to turn a financial obligation into an eternal impact. We encourage you to consult with your financial or tax advisor to see whether this giving option is right for you. If it is, please contact Darrie Nelson at the camp office and he would be happy to help coordinate the process if it is right for your financial situation.



PhilanthroCorp

Have you thought about the lasting impact your life will have after you're gone? Riverside partners with PhilanthroCorp, a nationwide, Christian estate-planning service, to ensure that the legacy you leave reflects your values. 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 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!

RIVERSIDEBIBLECAMP.ORG/DONATE

WONDERING HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT RIVERSIDE? THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

- Use the MyWell Giving App
- "Donate" Tab on our Website
- Text "riverside" to 40101
- List Riverside in Your Will or Estate Planning
- Volunteer
- Mail a Check
- Join our Prayer Team
- Give Equipment or Property (Gift-in-Kind)

Upcoming Events

Marriage **CAFÉ**
at Riverside Bible Camp

OPEN TUESDAYS 6-8PM

FEBRUARY 17TH
MARCH 24TH
APRIL 21ST

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

\$10/COUPLE

The graphic features a light blue background with a white brick pattern. At the top, there are green and white vertical stripes. In the foreground, there is a white table with two green chairs, a red teapot, and two mugs. A white sign hangs from the table with the text 'CHILD CARE PROVIDED'.

PIONEER WOMEN'S *day*
APRIL 25, 2026
8AM-5PM

The graphic is a collage of images. The top left shows hands sewing a white fabric. The top right shows jars of pickles and an open Bible. The bottom left shows hands in green gloves planting a seedling in a garden. The bottom right shows a loaf of bread and slices on a wooden board.

RIVERSIDE
Bible Camp

RSI Training Camp
May 1st - 3rd
Ages 14-18

We want you!

**Come
Serve at
Camp!**

The graphic has a background of vertical yellow and white stripes. At the top left is the Riverside Bible Camp logo. A red diagonal banner contains the event title and dates. Below the banner, the text 'We want you!' is written in a blue script. At the bottom, a red oval contains the text 'Come Serve at Camp!' in white.

RIVERSIDE
Bible Camp 

**SPRING OPEN HOUSE &
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD
8AM-11AM

The graphic features a stack of pancakes topped with blueberries. A white label with a decorative border is overlaid on the pancakes. The label contains the Riverside Bible Camp logo with a small rabbit icon, the event title, and the date and time.

TOP 10 most wanted

In-kind donations are a wonderful blessing to Riverside's ministry. Please let us know if you would like to donate an item listed below or if you would like to provide the funds needed to purchase it.



● Wooden Bench Swings (3)*

● Fire Rings

● XL Campfire Roasting Sticks

● Polystyrene Adirondack Chairs



● Funds for Bunk Beds (\$200 ea.)

● Riding Mower

● Paintbrushes - Variety



● Funds for Mattresses (\$150 ea.)

● Funds for Van Roof Rack

● Funds for Camera Drone



*One bench donated, 3 still needed

2026 Schedule

March

24 Marriage Café

April

11 Association Meeting
21 Marriage Café
25 Pioneer Women's Day

May

1-3 RSI Training Weekend
9 Workday
23 Spring Open House

June

8-12 VBS Day Camp
12 Family Fun Night
16-18 Adventure Camp
21-27 Senior High Camp

July

5-10 Junior High Camp
12-17 Junior Camp
21-26 TREK (Sr. High)
31-4 TREK (Young Adult)

Association Weekend

Friday & Saturday
April 10th & 11th, 2026

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

Contact the office at
office@riversidebiblecamp.org
or 715.824.3198

All Riverside Bible Conference Association members and their spouses are encouraged to attend. Lodging available.

Weekend Schedule

6pm Friday - Celebration Supper & Service
9am Saturday Morning - TBD
12pm - Lunch is served
1:30pm - Annual Business Meeting

Why should I join the Association?

- I believe in the ministry of Riverside.
- I want to use my skills to serve the Lord.
- I want to be a part of Riverside's future plans.



6355 Cty Rd DD | Amherst, WI | 54406
715.824.3198 | riversidebiblecamp.org

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Permit #3

Spring & Pancake OPEN HOUSE Breakfast

The Spring Open House & Pancake Breakfast is almost here! We look forward to seeing you all at this event every year, and so do the animals down at the farm!

Can you find all the farm animals hiding in this issue?



Peacock



Rabbit



Pig



Chick



Pony



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(715) 824-3198