

Markle  
Riverside



Spirit



*The Mission of the Church*

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

*Vision Statement*

A Community serving, loving, and growing in Christ so that people experience God's love.

*Church's Core Values*

To develop a community of faith that has G R I T :

GLORIFY God through worship

REACH others through caring

INVITE persons to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

TEACH God's Word

March



# Events Calendar

**3/1:** Communion Sunday



**3/3, 10, 17, 24:** Community Harvest Farm Wagon rolls in at 12:30pm @ Markle Church of Christ

**3/4, 11, 25:** Ladies book study



 **3/18:** Deacon Board meeting 6pm



**3/21:** Master's Pantry open for business from 9-10am @ Markle Church of Christ parking lot

**3/20:** Psalms, Hymns, & Spiitual Songs vol 9



**3/21:** She Abides Conference

**3/28:** Town Easter Egg Hunt 11AM



# Stay Connected through the week

Nursing Home and Assisted Living - our Elder Care

## Heritage Pointe

801 Huntington Ave, Warren, IN 46792

Jeanne Wilson  
Joyle Allen  
Jean Mossburg  
Connie Price  
Jim & Bea Davis

## Assisted Living

7833 W Jefferson Blvd  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Joan Buroff - Apt 204  
Bill Bowman - Apt 325



*Happy Birthday*

3/7 Cameron Bonner  
3/8 Esli First  
3/9 Ryan Stephens  
3/9 Mary Beth Morgan  
3/11 Tina Bowman  
3/11 Stephanie Davis  
3/12 George Hoopingarner  
3/13 Olivia First

*Happy Anniversary*

WHO'S NEXT?!

*celebrate*



## Worship and Christian Education

### **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pastor Daniel First  
PO Box 378  
Markle, IN 46770

Office: 260-758-2855

Email: [markleriveside316@gmail.com](mailto:markleriveside316@gmail.com)

Web: [markleriveside316.com](http://markleriveside316.com)

### **WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School/Fellowship - 9am

Sunday Worship - 10am

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

#### **During morning worship:**

Nursery: ages 6 mos to 4 yrs old

Children's Church: ages 5 - 8 yrs old

Every other week: **3/1, 3/15 & 3/29**

Jr Riversiders Class: ages 9 - 13 yrs old



During their most recent visit to the U.S., we had the joy of welcoming Lowell and Claudia with us on a Sunday morning. They shared powerful stories of how God is moving in Kigoma, Tanzania – stories that reminded us that the Gospel is alive and at work in ways we may never fully see this side of heaven.

As a church family, we have faithfully supported “Joy In the Harvest” ministry for many years, and many of us look forward to their regular updates. Their latest letter (included on the next page) carries both encouragement and some significant concerns.

We invite you to take a few moments to read their update carefully and then commit to praying for them. Please pray for health, for God’s favor in their ministry, and for His protection over them and those they serve. Our partnership with them is not only financial – it is spiritual. Let’s stand with them in prayer.



**Lowell & Claudia Wertz**  
**P.O. Box 1344**  
**Kigoma, Tanzania**

March 2026

Dear Friends,

So much has happened recently. In my last newsletter, due to election violence, we were hunkered down in our house, unable to go on the street. We had previously planned a medical-dental trip to South Africa for that time. Airline tickets and hotel reservations were bought. When the country had so many deaths, cut internet, closed borders, and many flights were cancelled. It was too dangerous to travel out through the Dar es Salaam airport.

The bordercrossingintoBurundi was still open. It was a forty-five minute drive in the Land Cruiser. With two other missionaries we successfully crossed. A terrible six-hour drive got us to Bujumbura, Burundi's capital. My son Luke, in America, was able to purchase new airline tickets to Nairobi and then onto Johannesburg.

In Johannesburg, going through our medical appointments, Claudia's gynecologist wanted to do an urgent biopsy of a suspicious growth. Just one day in the hospital and the news was good – benign. She had difficult oral surgery to remove two molars and an MRI that revealed three vertebrae out of position. Treatments were started with a bio-kineticist. She has been suffering with a lot of back and leg pain.

While in South Africa, in the midst of political uncertainty and medical issues, we got word that the government was going to confiscate all of JOY's land and buildings for a Chinese railroad. A team of "evaluators" descended on all our properties with cans of red spray paint and marked every building, wall, and gate as being condemned. This was a total surprise as earlier we had been told by a survey team that the route of the train would not affect JOY. To be clear, this is what we stand to lose: our home, the community center, Radio JOY, four guest houses, computer school, feeding center, library, church, apprenticeship school, and all utility buildings, water wells, and supportings tructures. We would lose all our land – every inch. Now in Kigoma, we are doing everything humanly possible to save the ministry. And what is impossible for us, we trust the God of the impossible.

In the midst of great challenges, God makes Himself very real. Frankly, I am surprised at how much of His peace we have received. We are concerned, of course —it has taken 35 years to build JOY. But after 46 years of missionary service, we have confidence in the Lord. He has taken us to mountain tops and through deep valleys. We know and trust Him. And now we wait on Him.

Your prayers are so appreciated. Let's see what God is going to do.

Love,

*Lowell + Claudia*