

Church Office

20 E. Milwaukee St. #212  
Janesville, WI 53545  
608-758-0943

[mail@riverhillscommunitychurch.org](mailto:mail@riverhillscommunitychurch.org)  
[www.riverhillscommunitychurch.org](http://www.riverhillscommunitychurch.org)

Meeting location

Marshall Middle School  
25 S. Pontiac, Janesville

Pastor:

John Swanson

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*Declaring the greatness of God and serving  
others for joy and His honor (II Cor. 4:5)*

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July 29, 2000

Dear ,

Recently I read about a convention in Florida for collectors of fountain pens. The organization that sponsors the convention is only a few years old and the convention is even younger. Yet they were expecting over 1500 people to attend and they had over 100 exhibitors and would have twice that many if they had the space. These people were spending lots of money and a whole weekend in order to come together to admire pens and fellowship with others who admired quality writing utensils! They do this because they love to do it. They don't do it out of duty but out of delight.

I don't know if you've ever thought about it this way but the Bible tells us to do with God what those men and women do with fountain pens. Psalm 34: 1-3 says, "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together." Here is an invitation to join together with those who admire the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ in order to rejoice in Him and declare His greatness. What humans do with everything from pens to dogs to sports to Star Trek, the Bible commands that we do with God. We are commanded to join together to worship Him because we are so impressed with Him and so delighted with all He is for us in Jesus.

All of us know that we have the capacity to admire and delight in and praise people and things. But we also know that none of us are naturally inclined to do this with the God who made the world. In fact, all who are honest with themselves know that Paul's description of humans in Romans 1: 21-23 is true for them, "Although they knew God they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped and served created things."

God is going to have to work a miracle in us, if we are going to become people who admire him and gladly give up all else to know and worship him. It is this miracle that each of us needs to daily ask God to perform in us. When we read the Bible or hear the Bible taught we are to ask God to do this work in us. This is the work that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit will do. We are going to be learning about this work of God in the next seven weeks as we look at John 13-16 on Sunday mornings. I'm yearning to be a church that loves to gather together each week because we share in common a great admiration for our Creator and Savior and delight in worshipping him together. Let's all pray that God would mercifully make us this kind of church.

Asking for a transformed heart,

P.S. On **September 10<sup>th</sup>** we (RHCC) are inviting the 7 churches and 250 people who have been praying for and investing in our church for the past three years to join us for worship, lunch and a program that seeks to admire God's work of calling our church into existence. Please put this date on your calendar and be prepared to help host these dear brothers and sisters and to worship God with them on that day.