

Riverside Mennonite Church Profile

Our Vision: "Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Riverside's Story

For over 100 years it's been about God and His faithfulness. Beginning in about 1911 in very rough conditions, some very brave and dedicated people formed this church in the middle of undeveloped land. Here we are today with a very diverse body of believers. Our backgrounds differ in many ways, but our purposes remain focused on the power of God, the redeeming work of His Son Jesus, and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We believe the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and that God has called us to share the gospel (Good News) message. The church's affiliation is with Rosedale Network of Churches (RNC). RNC's website: www.rosedalenetwork.org.

Riverside Mennonite Church is located in rural Arenac County, Michigan. The church stands in the countryside, about 8 miles from the nearest town, Au Gres (population 950), surrounded by fields and nearby woodlands. There are small businesses, restaurants, small factories, a public school and a couple of doctor's offices in Au Gres. The next nearest, larger town is Tawas City/East Tawas where there are more opportunities for shopping (including a Walmart) and a small hospital. Tawas is a 20 minute drive from the church. Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay is just five miles from Riverside and provides recreational and economic opportunities to the community.

The church body includes not only farm families, but also laborers, tradespeople, professionals and retirees. There are a number of families with young children, continuing the tradition of active church attendance and participation. Typical attendance on a Sunday morning is around 75.

About the Church Name "Riverside": In the days when the church was being formed, there was a river that ran about 1/4 mile away (can be seen on Google Maps). This was the East Branch of the Au Gres River. Since then, there have been some drain projects that have redirected the waters to different branches (e.g. Whitney Drain project) to better manage waters in this area. This leaves the East Branch of the Au Gres pretty dry these days!

Currently, the pastoral team at Riverside is composed of a Lead Pastor and Assistant Pastor. Both are paid part time positions. The Assistant Pastor shares Sunday speaking responsibilities with the Lead Pastor (once or twice each month) along with other shared responsibilities as negotiated with the Lead Pastor and Board of Elders. The church's overseer is from another RNC church in the thumb of Michigan and is periodically called upon for guidance and support.

The three elders (selected by the congregation for three year terms), along with the Lead Pastor and Assistant Pastor comprise the Board of Elders. The Board meets monthly to prayerfully intercede for the needs of the church and to conduct other church business.

God's Purposes for Riverside

- Experience God's presence
- Bring the Good News of Jesus to our world
- Care for the needs of others

- Equip believers
- Encourage each other

Ministries at Riverside: There are many ways that people serve the Lord and the needs of the church. Riverside is blessed with many men and women with willing hearts, hands and skills to spread the Word and share the love of God to the church family and community. An exceptionally active church body is one of Riverside's strongest assets, and the types of service are quite varied. Here are some of the ministries that rely on our members:

- Sunday School for all ages
- Men's Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study
- Prayer Groups
- Junior and High School Youth Ministries
- Women's Sewing/Quilting
- Service Committee (Community Service)
- Au Gres Christian Charities (affiliate)
- Northern Michigan Relief Sale
- Gospel Road Quartet (retired)
- Bible Memory
- Summer Bible School
- Monthly Fellowship Meals
- Childcare During Church Services
- Rosedale International

Typical Sunday morning shedule:

9:30 Call on the Lord Prayer Time

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Worship

Opening (announcements, prayer requests)

Worship and Praise

Speaker (Pastor or Assistant Pastor)

Closing and sending forth

What is the music part of the worship service like? Usually about 15-20 minutes in length, there are a variety of hymns (acapella) and current worship songs (projected on the front screen) that would be heard on a Christian radio station. We use guitar, bass guitar and cajon (box drum), and occasionally keyboard and ukulele to accompany the worship choruses or a backing track may be occasionally used. Sometimes one person will lead, and at other times a team of 4 to 7 may assist. If you enjoy singing harmony, you will love to participate! [Hymnal A Worship Book](#) was recently adopted at Riverside, and can be found in the racks in the back of the pews along with the [The Mennonite Hymnal](#).

More information can be found on the the church website: www.riversideministries.com