
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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I want to start out by saying thank you for all of the ways members of the congregation have supported me over the past few weeks. Whether it has been meals provided, cards sent, prayers offered, or an email or text simply letting me know you are thinking of me and praying for me, I have so appreciated the many ways you have shown your care. All of the meals that were brought were just wonderful. When I was told people were going to be bringing meals, I was thinking in terms of people bringing by a casserole. (Which would have been just fine!) Instead we were treated to some of the best meals I've had in a long time, complete with extras like fresh fruit, homemade rolls and yummy deserts. We still have food in the refrigerator and freezer that we are making our way through. I can't thank all of you enough for taking care of us so well.

It has been a disappointing few weeks. I went into surgery with hopes that the cancer had not spread to the lymph nodes and I would be able to avoid chemotherapy this time. That was not the case. Cancer was found in the initial "sentinel node," which led to the removal of a total of 24 lymph nodes. The good news is that of the 24 removed, only three showed signs of cancer. The bad news is, once cancer has gotten into any of the lymph nodes, chemotherapy is recommended. Even after I knew that the lymph nodes were involved, I tried to hold out hope that somehow I would still be able to take my trip to Scotland this fall as planned, either by delaying the start of chemo or taking the trip in the midst of it. After meeting with my oncologist about treatment, I had to come to grips with the reality that neither of those options were a good idea. There have been studies that have shown that delaying the start of chemo increases the chance of recurrence and lowers the rate of survival. While it may be debatable what the actual odds are, when you're literally dealing with life and death, the stakes are too high to do anything but follow the recommended treatment plan.

I also thought about trying to make the trip in the midst of chemo treatments. After all, last time we took a vacation to Colorado in the middle of my chemo, and other than being too tired to do some things, I got along fine. However, even before meeting with my oncologist, I began to rethink that. It's one thing to drive a couple of states over for a week-long vacation. It's quite another to travel internationally for three weeks, with long flights, little energy and little in the way of an immune system to even fight off something as simple as a cold. As you might expect, my oncologist didn't think much of the idea of a trip to Scotland in the middle of chemo, either.

So, at this time I am cancelling my renewal leave and trip to Scotland. As disappointing as that is, I know that it is really the only smart thing to do. The good news is, I did purchase trip insurance at the time I purchased my plane tickets, so I should be able to get a full refund of what I have paid. I'm disappointed that I won't get to spend time in Scotland with my friend Kathy, but it falls under the category of "Sometimes you just gotta do what you gotta do."

Right now I am still trying to regain my strength. I still have a fair amount of pain, (I think the number of lymph nodes removed has a lot to do with it.) and I certainly have not regained the level of energy I had a few weeks ago. I have not yet been able to leave my recliner and sleep in my bed, so thank God for the miracle of the La-Z-Boy recliner! I am amazed at how long and laborious things as simple as getting cleaned up and dressed can be! And there must be some kind of unknown rule that the harder it is to lean down and pick something up; the more likely it is that you will drop things on the floor! I have one more drain that has to be removed (hopefully this week) and then will likely start

chemo about the middle of the month. The plan for chemo is to have it every three weeks for 12 weeks, so I would hopefully be done with it before Thanksgiving. Radiation may also be recommended, but I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.

I plan to continue to work while taking chemo. Last time I was able to do so by working when I was feeling good, and resting when I needed to. I hope this time will be the same. The good thing about being a pastor is that unlike many other jobs, I have a lot of control over the hours I work. So, if I need a nap in the afternoon I can take one, and if I'm feeling good at midnight I can write my sermon then!

I said in my sermon today, (August 6th)

"In my heart is a melody, a song of hope for the future, a confidence that God walks with me through all things; that God guides me when I have no idea where I'm going or why. It's a song of confidence that God's care for me is sufficient, that just as God has been with my though all my yesterdays, that he will be with me though all my tomorrows, whether they be good or bad, happy or sad."

I'm going to keep singing that song. Again, thank you for all your prayers and support, I am blessed to be serving among you.

Pastor Kathy

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

If you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your **email address**, phone number, **or are only using cell phones**, please contact the church office with the current information. **Thank you!**



If you would like to be included in the **PHONE Prayer Chain** that goes out as needed through our VoiceWave system and/or the **Weekly Prayer Partner EMAIL** which includes scripture readings, prayer requests, birthdays, and weekly reminders, please email or call the church; especially if you have not received these lately. If you have email, but do not receive information from the church this way, please give your email address to the office. We may not have it, and it's important that we do going forward so you can stay updated. Thank you.

HOSPITALIZED

Please contact the church office or Pastor Kathy if you know a member has been admitted to the hospital. With the new privacy laws being strictly enforced there are many times we are unaware of hospitalizations. We would rather get ten calls than none at all. Thank you. **Prayer concerns** can be called into the office (472-2324) or emailed to the office at rockrapidsumc@premieronlinenet or Pastor Kathy at kathysides@hotmail.com and they will be sent out.

Prayers~

- ✚ Pastor Kathy (recovering from surgery)
- ✚ Barb Fegan- recovering from cancer surgery
- ✚ Barb Middle
- ✚ Fred Roach- broken hip
- ✚ Betty Vinson- has returned to Lyon Manor after being hospitalized with pneumonia
- ✚ Marlys Brown- diagnosed with Parkinson's



Praise God~

☺ Celebrating Jack & Holly Spitler's birthdays



01~ Gable Sieperda

02~ Toby & Jill Lorenzen

02~ Colby McIntire

03~ Jim & Becky Rydell

03~ Rylan Maxwell

03~ Ben Sides

04~ Dave & Marilee Schleusner

04~ Rhonda Menning

05~ Dale Hasche

05~ Steve & Laurie Herman

06~ Travis & Erin Berg

06~ Jacob Kumba

09~ Abbie Gacke

10~ Greg & Liz Stubbe

11~ Jim & Lila Kennedy

12~ Scott & Sheila Maxwell

13~ Wyatt Stubbe

13~ Melissa Baade

13~ Jeremy & Krista Sprock

13~ Maggie Sides

14~ Avery Littlefield

14~ Gwen Vander Zee

15~ George & Margaret Shurr

15~ Corey Heimensen

15~ Jacob Steenblock

15~ Dan & Jami Vander Zee

16~ Sam Halse

17~ Jaimee Lorenzen

18~ John Vander Zee

19~ Ed Brown

19~ Dave Schleusner

20~ Veronika Stubbe

20~ John & Chris Vander Zee

21~ Larry & Mary Holland

22~ Jill Lorenzen

22~ Debbie Selken

25~ Tom Wall

25~ Wyatt & Heather Stubbe

27~ Donna Inderwisch

28~ Kiaha Borman

29~ Leroy & Judy Griesse

30~ Vicki Kiel

30~ Doug & Michele Baade

31~ David Fegan

31~ Linda McCormack

31~ Dylan Sprock

*We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information. Please contact the office with the correct/missing information. Thank you!

Reminders and Announcements



Community Bingo will be held the 1st Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Rock Rapids Health Centre. All are welcome.



Moms In Prayer International

Do you want to be a part of changing the world, not just now, but for generations to come?

We're excited to announce a new community ministry which will be hosted by FRC beginning this fall - Moms in Prayer. Join us for 1 hour each week during the school year as we cover our children and the school staff in prayer.

All moms, grandmas and women are invited to join us on Wednesday, August 9th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at FRC for an informational meeting. You are not committing to anything by joining us. Please come see what it's all about! And while you're at it, grab a friend or two.



You are all invited to an Old Fashioned Missionary "Fun" Night at 1st Reformed Church, Rock Rapids on August 16th at 7:00 p.m. The night will include: Piano Music- Ethanie Pulscher, Skit- An Old Fashioned "Human Ford" on their way to the "Fun" Night. Featured Missionary Speaker: Amy Kim, South Asia (Daughter of Roger and Carol Oliver). Refreshments of Old fashioned Rootbeer Floats will be provided in the social hall.

Results of August 1st Church Conference

I wanted to let you know the outcome of the Church Conference that was held on August 1st regarding the sale of the property the church owns on the SW corner of South 3rd Avenue and South Greene Street. Our District Superintendent, Tom Carver, officiated at the meeting. For the purpose of starting discussion, it was moved and seconded that the church authorize the Board of Trustees to sell the property. What followed was some very informative discussion about the history of the property, and the pros and cons of keeping or selling the property. After much discussion it began to be apparent that the general feeling was that it would be best not to sell the property at this time. Since this seemed to be the consensus, the original motion to authorize the sale of the property was withdrawn. Since no further motion to sell the property was introduced, at this time, we will not proceed with selling the property. If you have any questions, please feel free to visit with me about this.

Pastor Kathy



If you are on Facebook, make sure you "like" the Rock Rapids Methodist Church page.



Please be sure to check out our website at www.rockrapidsumc.org You can find our monthly calendar with events and church activities under the news/events tab.

**2017 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

June 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of Ad. Council: (Names of Absentees underlined)

Randy Waagmeester – chairperson; Al TeSlaa – Member at Large; Jill Schlumbohm – Christian Education; Shawn Wibben- Treasurer; Rhonda Menning – Evangelism & Lay Member to Annual Conference, Evelyn Baldwin – Financial Secretary & Stewardship/Financial; Dave Fields & Mary Fields – Lay Leaders; Judy Griesse – Memorial Committee; Kelli Docker – Missions; Tom Vinson – S/PRC; Kim Waagmeester – SS Superintendent; Heather Heimensen – Youth; Lainn Menning – Trustees; Kathy Van Berkum – Worship; Kathy Sides – pastor; Sonya Peterson – Communications

CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER

Randy Waagmeester

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Evelyn Baldwin
2nd: Lainn Menning

OLD BUSINESS

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Jill: No report. Bible School was enjoyed by the attendees.

EVANGELISM/Rhonda: Putting together a Bible study for July.

WORSHIP/Kathy Van Berkum: No report.

TREASURER/Shawn: **-\$10,000 approximate deficit**

Motion to approve: Lainn Menning
2nd: Tom Vinson

FINANCE SEC./Evelyn: Will be printing statement of giving at 6 months. Still in need of a chair for finance committee.

LAY LEADER/ DAVE & MARY – Excellent message by Mary on June 25. No report.

MEMORIAL/Judy: No report. Received a Memorial of \$1325 and \$50.

MISSION/Kelli: No report. Mefor's gave a presentation on May 22.

SPRC/Tom: No report.

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: No report.

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy: Jill Schlumbohm and Shannon Munson will be leaders of Third Avenue Youth Squared.

TRUSTEES/Lainn: empty lot issues and carillon replacement.

Smith & Bell Company is the carillon company. Will sell corner lot on 3rd & Greene. Asking price of \$20,000. Sale of the land will go toward replacement of the carillon. Lainn will take calls for the lot. Kitchen door is fixed.

PASTOR/Kathy:

Work on membership letters – 2nd notice needs to be mailed before Charge Conference.

July 23 – Don Nelson

July 30 – Jackie Austin

August 6 – Earl Sides

September 24 – Tom Carver

October 1 – Dean Shelly

October 8 – Ryan Christensen

October 15 – Laity Sunday

Contact conference regarding pulpit supply funds.

Confirmation class will be started this fall.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Meeting – August 16 at 7 p.m.