
The Joyful Noise

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One of my many favorite passages of scripture is 1 Corinthians 13, or as some have called it, “The Love Chapter.” It seems an appropriate selection as we move into February and the approach of Valentine’s Day. We need that reminder of the importance of love, and the qualities of love:

Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful
or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.
(1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

As many of you know, my mom just died. As I write this, her funeral is the day-after-tomorrow. The death of a loved one has a way of making you question whether you expressed your love and appreciation for that person well enough, or if you let far too many “thank yous” and “I Love Yous” go unsaid and just assumed they knew. I’m sure I am guilty of failing to let my mom know how much I loved her far, far too many times. Hopefully she knew it, but I still should have said the words.

So often on Valentine’s Day we think of what we can give someone to show our love. Candy and flowers seem to be popular expressions of our devotion. But I came across a story in “Chicken Soup for the Soul” not long ago that reminded me that no material gift (even chocolate, which I am especially fond of!) is as great a gift as letting people know that they are loved and appreciated. At first the story’s title, “A Story for Valentine’s Day” seemed odd, as there is absolutely no mention of Valentine’s Day in the story. But after reading it, it makes sense. The husband in the story gave his wife a much sweeter gift than a box of chocolates; a gift that says “love” more clearly than a dozen roses, and lasts a whole lot longer. Here is the story:

A Story for Valentine's Day

by Jo Ann Larsen

Larry and Jo Ann were an ordinary couple. They lived in an ordinary house on an ordinary street. Like any other ordinary couple, they struggled to make ends meet and to do the right things for their children.

They were ordinary in yet another way – they had their squabbles. Much of their conversation concerned what was wrong in their marriage and who was to blame.

Until one day when a most extraordinary event took place.

“You know, Jo Ann, I’ve got a magic chest of drawers. Every time I open them, they’re full of socks and underwear,” Larry said. “I want to thank you for filling them all these years.”

Jo Ann stared at her husband over the top of her glasses. “What do you want, Larry?”

“Nothing. I just want you to know I appreciate those magic drawers.”

This wasn’t the first time Larry had done something odd, so Jo Ann pushed the incident out of her mind until a few days later.

“Jo Ann, thank you for recording so many correct check numbers in the ledger this month. You put down the right numbers 15 out of 16 times. That’s a record.”

Disbelieving what she had heard, Jo Ann looked up from her mending. “Larry, you’re always complaining about my recording the wrong check numbers. Why stop now?”

“No reason. I just wanted you to know I appreciate the effort you’re making.”

Jo Ann shook her head and went back to her mending. “What’s got into him?” she mumbled to herself.

Nevertheless, the next day when Jo Ann wrote a check at the grocery store, she glanced at her checkbook to confirm that she had put down the right check number. “Why do I suddenly care about those dumb check numbers?” she asked herself.

She tried to disregard the incident, but Larry’s strange behavior intensified.

“Jo Ann, that was a great dinner,” he said one evening. “I appreciate all your effort. Why, in the past 15 years I’ll bet you’ve fixed over 14,000 meals for me and the kids.”

Then “Gee, Jo Ann, the house looks spiffy. You’ve really worked hard to get it looking so good.” And even “Thanks, Jo Ann, for just being you. I really enjoy our company.”

Jo Ann was growing worried. “Where’s the sarcasm, the criticism?” she wondered.

Her fears that something peculiar was happening to her husband were confirmed by 16-year-old Shelly, who complained, “Dad’s gone bonkers, Mom. He just told me I looked nice. With all this makeup and these sloppy clothes, he still said it. That’s not Dad, Mom. What’s wrong with him?”

Whatever was wrong, Larry didn’t get over it. Day in and day out he continued focusing on the positive.

Over the weeks, Jo Ann grew more accustomed to her mate’s unusual behavior and occasionally even gave him a grudging “Thank you.” She prided herself on taking it all in stride, until one day something so peculiar happened, she became completely discombobulated:

“I want you to take a break,” Larry said. “I am going to do the dishes. So please take your hands off that frying pan and leave the kitchen.”

(Long, long pause.) “Thank you, Larry. Thank you very much!”

Jo Ann’s step was now a little lighter, her self-confidence higher and once in a while she hummed. She didn’t seem to have as many blue moods anymore. “I rather like Larry’s new behavior,” she thought.

That would be the end of the story except one day another most extraordinary event took place. This time it was Jo Ann who spoke.

“Larry,” she said, “I want to thank you for going to work and providing for us all these years. I don’t think I’ve ever told you how much I appreciate it.”

Larry has never revealed the reason for his dramatic change of behavior no matter how hard Jo Ann has pushed for an answer, and so it will likely remain one of life’s mysteries. But it’s one I’m thankful to live with.

You see, I am Jo Ann.

So keep in mind this Valentine’s Day, and every other day, for that matter, that what we say and how we treat one another makes all the difference. And, not just in relationships between husbands and wives, but in all our relationships. Love isn’t supposed to be just something we *feel*, it’s supposed to be something we *live*. So in your attitudes, in your speaking, in your actions, live love. (Of course there’s nothing wrong with throwing in some flowers or chocolate, too!)

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 **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@premieronline.net or Pastor Kathy at kathysides@hotmail.com and they will be sent out.



Prayers~

- ✂ Barb Fegan- recovering from cancer surgery
- ✂ Families who have lost loved ones: Betty Vinson, Evelyn Morton, Fred Roach, Gary Waagmeester
- ✂ A large family really struggling
- ✂ Ronnie Boekhout (Ed Brown's neighbor)
- ✂ Shawn Wibben
- ✂ Harlan Harms
- ✂ Jackie Wells
- ✂ Leroy Griesse
- ✂ Kathy Sides family- passing of Kathy's Mom, Maxine Burns



Praise God~

- ☺ Ending the year in the black. Thanks to everyone for their generous giving.
- ☺ Jeff Brown celebrating 18 years of sobriety
- ☺ Those who helped give communion- Jackie A., Jim DG, Kathy VB, and Pastor Kathy~ from Kathy VB~ Love to you all.
- ☺ All our CL-GLR Wrestlers!





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|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01~ Dan Dean | 10~ Brenda Vande Weerd | 19~ Ashley Schweitzer |
| 02~ Pam Attig | 11~ Quintin Sprock | 19~ Dan & Cindy Dean |
| 03~ Renee Hasche | 14~ Joe Kennedy | 22~ Marvin Peterson |
| 04~ Greg Stubbe | 16~ Judy Griesse | 23~ Sean Van Berkum |
| 05~ Mitchell Broesder | 16~ Martina Peterson | 25~ Colleen Wall |
| 06~ Damarkus Borman | 17~ Polly McDonald | 26~ Nathan Herman |
| 06~ Katie Mouw | 17~ Margaret Shurr | 27~ Emily Slides |
| 10~ Sarah Halse | 18~ Dean Schweitzer | 28~ June Waagmeester |
| | | 29~ Dave & Kae Warren |

*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.

February's Focus item: Paper Products



Third Ave. Squared is learning what it's like to make a positive difference in the world as we collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide food to the hungry and compassion to those in need as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. On Sunday, February 4th we will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations. The canned goods

will be donated to Atlas of Lyon County and the monetary donations will be used for our Kids Against Hunger project in March. Thank you for your support in this great cause.

Iowa United Methodist FOUNDATION Scholarships

The Iowa United Methodist Foundation is excited to announce a new easy to use online only scholarship application process for the 2018-19 academic year. All applications and required documents are now paperless. Not only will students apply online, but all required documents such as essays, references, transcripts, and any other required documents will be gathered online as well.

Find out which scholarship may be for you by going to the Foundation website at www.iumpf.org/scholarship. To see if you meet the qualifications select the criteria of the individual scholarship. Please note not all of the scholarships have the same criteria requirements. Scholarship applications for the 2018-19 academic year will be open from **December 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018**. Due to the online only application process the Foundation is unable to accept any applications or required documentation by mail, fax, or email.

Silent Auction- Winter Stewardship Campaign **Donate your time and talents**

•Silent Auction will begin **Sunday, February 18 and run through March 11**

•Examples:

- A pie (one time)
- A pie/month for a year
- Raking leaves
- Painting a room
- A gift basket
- A home cooked meal
- desserts for a holiday
- Wrapping presents
- taking pictures
- Babysitting

Ash Wednesday service:

February 14th @ 7:00 p.m.



To the generous congregation at the United Methodist Church~
Once again we celebrate the joy of our partnership with your many engaged members. What a blessing to receive your continuous support in caring for the food needs served by the ministry. We thank God for you.
~Atlas of Lyon County



Dear Friends at United Methodist Church~
We Thank you sincerely for the cute dolls and hats you brought for our clients at Christmas time. We are grateful for your support.
~Family Crisis Center Staff



Dear United Methodist Church~
The Central Lyon Board of Education and I would like to thank you for your donation to the Backpack Program. Thank you for your continued support of Central Lyon and the District's Students.
~Dave Ackerman, Superintendent

Third Avenue Youth

Third Avenue Youth would like to thank everyone for their support at the groups annual Soup & Pie Meal and Pie Auction.

Third Avenue Youth raised \$1,681.00. We are grateful for the generous support that each congregation gives to our group. Some upcoming events/missions that this money will be used for are: tickets for the Middle School and High School youth to attend No Apologies, volunteering for the Denim Project and giving this organization a donation, serving at Kids Against Hunger, and going on an Urban Plunge Mission Trip in Omaha this Spring. Thank you again for your generosity and helping our youth learn to be the hands and feet of Christ!
-Third Avenue Youth



Thank you so much for the donation you gave us and all of the other help given throughout the years. It is greatly appreciated!

~Central Lyon Student Council

• **Mid Sioux Opportunity, Inc.** is now accepting applications by appointment only for our Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) until April 30, 2018. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past month (30 days), the past twelve (12) months, or the most recent calendar year (tax return). Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for an award will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$21,105
2	\$28,420
3	\$35,735
4	\$43,050
5	\$50,365

For families with more than five members, add \$7,315 for each additional member. Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LiHEAP: 712-472-3746 or 712-722-3611 Wednesday 9:00-4:00. Visit us on the web at www.midsioux.org

4th Sunday/Sunday, February 25th Sunday School Offering & Food Collected for the Central Lyon Backpack Food Program



The offering collected from the Sunday School classes on each 4th Sunday of the month (Sept.-May) will be donated to the **Central Lyon Backpack Food Program**. Students can also donate food items for the program. The school supplied a list of needed items, and that info is printed below. There is a backpack as you enter the Sunday School hallway. Any food items that the Sunday School students bring for donation can be placed in that backpack (4th Sunday or any time).

Donations from non-Sunday School students are welcome too ☺. We will have a collection in the fellowship hall.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of this program that makes a difference to kids right here at home.

Here are a few items that are used frequently with the backpack program.

Individual servings of:

peanut butter
Ramen noodles
any type of Chef Boyardee
Easy Macs
100% juice boxes
fruit snacks
Rice Krispies
granola bars
oatmeal
Nutri Grain bars

Also used are a few items that are kept frozen or refrigerated until bags are packed.

Those items would be:

Uncrustables
any flavor muffins
mini muffins
string cheese
beef sticks
Gogurts

2017 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 27, 2017 at 6:00 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. Mary Peterson – Member at Large;

CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER Randy called the meeting to order. Pastor Kathy opened with prayer.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Al TeSlaa
2nd: Randy Waagmeester

OLD BUSINESS

Computer monitor has been set up. Thank you for the donation.
Phone Tree software has been activated. Shawn Wibben will set this up.

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Jill: Bags of peanuts and fruit were given to all Sunday School students. Backpack program has raised \$340 since Sunday School started.

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: Preparing for Youth Sunday – 2nd Sunday in February. Stuff a Stocking at Avera Behavioral Health – 5 stockings were donated.

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy: Middle School Youth caroling at both nursing homes and Premier Estates.

EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy: Good turnout of UMC volunteers for Bread of Life of all ages.

TREASURER/Shawn: Yearend \$721.33.

Approve:
2nd:

FINANCE/Evelyn: No report.

LAY LEADER/ DAVE & MARY – No report.

MEMORIAL/Judy: No report.

MISSION/Kelli: All missions have been paid.

SPRC/Tom: \$275.00 was given as donations to the staff for Christmas gifts.

TRUSTEES/Lainn: No report.

PASTOR/Kathy: 1st Sunday of May – Confirmation – 8 students. Amber will be gone a few days in January on vacation.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Two people added to Nominations & Leadership Committee – Rhonda Menning and Bobbi Kracht. Motion to add – Mary Fields, second by Randy.

Security training was discussed in light of shootings at churches.

Bible Study starting January 14th following worship service – Creed by Adam Hamilton.

Identify Gifts for the congregation.

Implement” The Caring Congregation” by Karen Lampe

Idea for a fundraiser – Harvest Celebration – Have turkey, potatoes, pies. Keep bringing this forward to all meetings.

Next Meeting – January 31, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.