
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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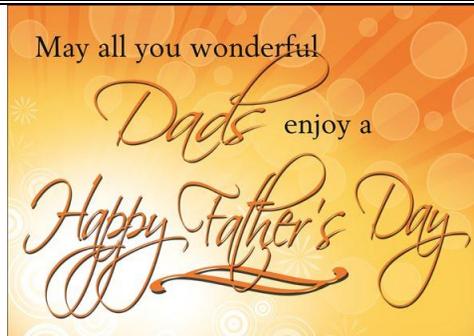
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Maggie just checked the weather forecast and wasn't terribly pleased with what she saw. School's out, and she's ready for hot sunny days; she's ready to go swimming! But what she saw in the forecast were entirely too many icons that showed clouds or thunderstorms, and too many days of spring-like temperatures. She was expecting June to bring "summer," and if the current forecast is accurate, summer is not going to get here as fast as Maggie had hoped it would.

The weather has been kind of up and down lately; one day warm and sunny, the next cool and cloudy. We get used to the warm sunny days pretty quickly; we have a few of them in a row and we start telling ourselves this is the way it is going to be, the nice weather is here to stay! But, this is Iowa, and, this is life. Although we like to *think* that we're entitled to predictability, to normalcy, reality is often different than we think it ought to be. Both in weather and in life in general.

It seems to me that the weather could be seen as a picture of life in general. Life is unpredictable, changing, full of surprises. We can have one day that is unexpectedly wonderful, and a couple of days later along comes a day that is just plain awful. Or maybe it isn't just a day of good or bad, but a whole string of days, or a whole season.

Sometimes we might think we are entitled to all wonderful days, but reality is, no one ever promised us that. Scripture makes it clear that life is full of good *and* bad, joy *and* sorrow. A good example of that are these words from Ecclesiastics:

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;...
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;..”

Life is full of surprises. Some of the surprises life holds are wonderful, delightful surprises, and some of the surprises life holds are just downright awful. I don't know of any better example of this than the months just before and after I turned fifty.

Two-and-a-half months before I turned fifty I gave birth to Maggie. Talk about a surprise!! (Well, of course by the time she was born I was kind of used to the idea, but discovering I was pregnant at age 49 was a very BIG surprise!) To be blessed with a child when I thought it was no longer a possibility was a wonderful surprise. To find myself pregnant at 49 was shocking, somewhat embarrassing, challenging, and life-changing. But nevertheless, it was a blessed, wonderful surprise.

Five months after I turned fifty, I experienced a surprise of a different kind when I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. It was just as unexpected as Maggie, but not nearly as wonderful. It was one of those surprises of the awful kind.

A year earlier I had been scheduling ultrasounds and visits to the gynecologist. Now I was scheduling a mastectomy, chemotherapy and visits to the oncologist and surgeons. A year earlier I had lost my waist. Now I lost my hair.

In the space of 8 months I experienced the best and worst of life. In that time I lived “A time to weep, and a time to laugh.” I was reminded in a very vivid way of what I said earlier – “life is full of surprises. Some of the surprises life holds are wonderful, delightful surprises, and some of the surprises life holds are just downright awful.”

But I was also reminded that God is with us in the midst of the delightful *and* the dreadful. God was there when I held my newborn baby girl in my arms for the first time, and he was there the times I cried in the night because I was so afraid that I wouldn't live to see that baby grow up.

In the wonderful and the awful, God is there. In the sun and rain and snow, God is there. Life is full of surprises, and life is full of God's presence and peace. I believe in the promise of Lamentations 3:21-24; that God is faithful. Therefore I will hope (and trust) in him.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

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~

✂ The Family of Mat Timmer (prayers for the loss of Mat on 5-28-17)

We have had a number of folks on our prayer list for quite some time, and most of them have completed treatments and are doing well. It seems to me that it is time for a fresh start, so we are going to take all those that have been listed off the list and begin a new list. If we've taken someone off that should still be listed, please don't hesitate to call or email the office and ask to have them put back on. I certainly don't want to discourage prayer, but I also don't want the list to stay the same for so long that we lose track of who is most in need of prayer, or quit looking at the list because it is always the same. Thanks for your faithfulness in praying, and for letting us know when folks are especially in need of our prayers.

Pastor Kathy



Praise God~

- ☺ Thank you to all the volunteers who provided meals to the Rice/Timmer family.
- ☺ Missionaries Dr. Emmanuel & Florence Mefor.
- ☺ Congrats to our College graduates- Tori, Kelsey & Lexi who graduated from Morningside. Ben Sides- graduated from Luther College and will be the new Choral Director at Sibley-Ocheyedan.
- ☺ Congrats to the Central Lyon boys track team who won the District Track Meet and all of the boys and girls who qualified for the State meet.
- ☺ More good results for Gable Sieperda track at State
- ☺ Boys track team placing 3rd overall at State
- ☺ Callie Yeakel placing 3rd in the 4x400



01~ Shelby Kracht

03~ Tori Figge

04~ Korey McDonald

05~ Barb Middle

05~ Carl & Nancy DeJongh

05~ Jason & Kayla Engleman

06~ Drew Birkey

08~ Steve & Diane Sieperda

09~ Ayson Rice

09~ Henry & Helen Boeve

15~ Jamie Parkinson

16~ Paige Menage

16~ Jim & Debbie Haberkorn

17~ Dave & Roxanne Ackerman

17~ Whitney Waagmeester

18~ Kim Waagmeester

19~ Randy Waagmeester

19~ Marion McCormack

20~ Delores Berg

21~ Tyler Figge

21~ Ian Wells

22~ George Shurr

23~ Terry VanBerkum

23~ Tom & Amy Menage

24~ Mike & Jackie Austin

24~ Evelyn Busch

26~ Ben Docker

27~ Dave Soroka

29~ Kayden VanBerkum

30~ Ron & Rita Rice

30~ Henry Boeve

30~ Melissa Sticha

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

Reminders and Announcements



2017 Financial Update

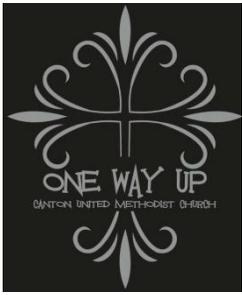
YTD Income: \$61,647.80

YTD Expenses: \$65,004.87

Net Income - \$ 3,357.07



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



One Way Up will again be treating us to a delightful Sunday service on June 11th. Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors to join us for an hour of music and fellowship. A free-will offering will be taken to help with mileage expenses for One Way Up in addition to our weekly offering. Also, after the service if any able bodies could help with the taking down and loading of the group's equipment, it would be greatly appreciated.



VACATION

BIBLE SCHOOL!

Hosted By: Rock Rapids UMC,
First Reformed, and Christian Reformed Churches
Mon., June 5 – Fri., June 9
9 a.m. – noon each day
at First Reformed Church

Salad Luncheon



The 31st annual UMW Salad Luncheon will be taking place **Friday, June 16th** at the Forster Community Building from **11:00 - 1:00**.

If you have not signed up and would like to work, bring food, or donate money, please contact Nancy DeJongh, Bobbie Kracht or the church office.

We will again have salad bowls available for you to take for your salads. This year we also have jelly roll pans that you may use for your bars. These

items will be available at the church starting Sunday, June 4. You may pick these items up off the round table in the overflow room.

Please bring your food items to the community building, Thursday, June 15th from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. OR by 10:00 a.m. Friday, June 16th.

We thank you in advance for supporting this great fundraiser which assists in meeting our pledge. This pledge money then meets the needs of many mission projects that UMW participates in throughout our community, state and the world.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nancy, Bobbie or the church office.
Thank You,

Nancy, Bobbie and Vicki



On Saturday, June 17th we invite you to the Relay for Life Celebration Brunch that will be held at Frontier Bank in Rock Rapids starting at 9 a.m. This will be done before the Heritage Days parade. All are welcome to attend this free-will donation brunch and to honor our survivors and remember those we have lost. We will be holding a Dove and Butterfly Ceremony to honor our Survivors and remember those we have lost. Butterflies represent HOPE and will be for our Survivors, and the Dove represent Flights to Freedom and Hope & Salvation and will be

remembering those that we have lost. Doves and Butterflies will be put onto mason jars for our decorations and will be purchased for suggested donation of \$10. They will be lit in memory and honor of family and friends who have battled cancer. If you would like to purchase, please call Ronda Arends at 479-2762. Thank you for your support of our Relay for Life!

~The Relay for Life of Lyon County Committee



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.



Office Hours
Monday ~ 8:30-12:00
Tuesday ~ Closed
Wednesday ~ 8:30-4:00
Thursday ~ 8:30-4:00
Friday ~ Closed

EFFECTIVE JUNE 5th!

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

April 19, 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.

CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER

Randy called the meeting to order.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Tom Vinson
 2nd: Lainn Menning.

OLD BUSINESS

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Jill: Report by Heather – Senior Bibles arrived. May 21 – date of last Sunday School class dismissing for the summer and resuming after Labor Day. Vacation Bible School sign up forms will be distributed on Sunday, April 23. VBS dates: June 5-9.

EVANGELISM/Rhonda: Nothing to report.

WORSHIP/Kathy Van Berkum: The 4th Sunday Worship is getting underway. The sign-up sheet got buried under other items on the table. April 23 is the next 4th Sunday.

TREASURER/Shawn

Comparison from 1st Quarter 2016 to first quarter 2017

2016:

Income: \$35,553.60
 Expense: \$42,150.19
 Net Income: **-\$6,593.89**

2017:

Income: \$40,350.07
 Expense: \$42,567.90
 Net Income: **-\$2,217.83**

March, 2017:

Income: \$11,499.07

Expense: \$15,606.53

Net Income: **-\$4,107.46**

April 1 - 14th

Income: \$5,750.00

Expense: \$3,904.56

Net Income: **\$1,845.44**

January and February were good months, but income fell in March.

For April, all bills have been paid up to date including apportionments.

Financial information will be posted in church bulletin on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

FINANCE SEC./Evelyn: No report.

LAY LEADER/ DAVE & MARY – No report.

MEMORIAL/Judy: No report.

MISSION/Kelli: Mission Minute will be presented on Sunday, April 23, focusing on the orange color for Rainbow Covenant. Discussed grocery cart food drive and encouraged promotion of donations on first Sunday of the month/Communion Sunday.

SPRC/Tom: Met March 2. Pastor Kathy will be on vacation the following dates:

April 2 – Camp Sunday. Worship service by United Methodist Church Camp staff.

May 21 – Stained glass windows presentation.

June 11 – Annual Conference. One Way Up Music Group. Bible School Songs from VBS students.

June 25 – Terry VanBerkum volunteered to do the sermon.

Discussed the Phone Tree for messages and prayer concerns to congregation.

Newsletters are being mailed to shut-ins and care center residents. Suggested to have Pastor Kathy deliver newsletters to care center residents and shut-ins during her visits.

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: Heather reported on activities and fundraisers for the 2016-2017 year.

Devotionals Given to the youth:

1. Grade based devotional given at the start of the year
2. Lent/Easter Devotional
3. Seniors received a devotional and visa clip w/Bible verse from the youth group.

Activities:

1. Corn Maze
2. Escape 605
3. Lock-In
4. No Apologies - Third Avenue youth paid for Third Avenue Squared's tickets for the event
5. Amazing Race

Fundraisers:

1. Pumpkin Auction/Bake Sale - UMC
2. Soup & Pie Auction - Immanuel
3. French Toast Breakfast - UMC

Outreach:

1. Central Lyon Back Pack Program - donated \$400 of food items
2. Change A Child's Story - donated \$250
3. Christmas - gave nails to adults and candy canes to children of both congregations
4. HDSA Hoop-A-Thon - sponsored a team from our youth group, donation of \$125
5. Kids Against Hunger - volunteered and donated \$400
6. Denim Project - volunteered and donated \$300
7. Delivered Easter baskets to the homebound/nursing home members of each congregation
8. Urban Plunge Mission Trip in Sioux Falls -13 youth attended who paid \$25 and youth group paid remainder, youth group also paid the full amount for the 3 chaperones. Youth presented their experience to each congregation during fellowship hour.
9. Youth Sunday at both churches
10. Easter Sunrise Service

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy: Received a lovely thank you from the Operation Christmas Box representative. We did 12 stations of the cross last Wednesday and plan to watch "The Passion" the next 2 times if they have parent permission. Going to Kids Against Hunger on May 17.

TRUSTEES/Lainn:

- installed bat repellent machines
- having meeting with trustees next Sunday to set up time for spring cleanup
- Copy machine contract is up the end of May. Discuss purchase versus lease. Will discuss at May meeting.

PASTOR/Kathy: RRUMC is hosting the 5th Sunday Service at 7:00 p.m. on April 30th. While the original plan was a choir festival and hymn sing, we have had a couple choirs say that day does not work for them, and almost no one has contacted us saying they want to participate. We will still have the service but it will likely be a hymn sing without the choirs.
Funeral of Dwayne Halse. Funeral of Betty Kumba.

COMMUNICATIONS/Sonya: Discussed options and cost for TV monitors for PowerPoint. Suggesting getting bids from another company besides WebClimber services.

NEW BUSINESS

New signs for churches will be posted in the community coordinated by the Council of Churches. Our portion of the cost will be \$400.

Motion to Approve – Lainn. Seconded by - Randy.

Next Meeting: May 17 at 6:00 p.m.