
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Last month I mentioned being a life-long Methodist (aka United Methodist), and how through the years I've changed from being a Methodist because that's what I'd always been, to being a Methodist because that's what I choose to be. And, what I'm proud to be. As promised, this month I'm going to follow-up with what I like or appreciate most about Methodism in terms of what we believe, what we stand for, and how we do things. And along the way, you may get a bit of a history lesson here and there on our Methodist roots.

As most of you know, "The People Called Methodists" trace their history back to England, and two brothers, John and Charles Wesley, who were ordained clergy in the Church of England or Anglican Church. They didn't intend to start a new denomination, but their efforts to encourage people towards a vital, personal faith eventually grew into a world-wide denomination called the Methodist Church. Here in the United States, due to a merger with the United Brethren Church in 1968, we call ourselves the *United* Methodist Church.

Much of what we believe and how we are organized as Methodists is based on the theology and practice of John Wesley. And many Methodists know what Methodists believe not just because they've been taught it in confirmation class, but they have sung it through the hymns of Charles Wesley. He wrote over 6,000 hymns, and much of our Methodist theology is woven into the words of those hymns. Some of us have sung them for so many years that their message has sunk into our hearts. Through songs like "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing", "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", and "A Charge to Keep I Have", we've learned some of what it means to be a Methodist. And I'm sure one of the reasons I love being Methodist, is that from the very beginning, the Methodists were known as a singing people.

But, there are several other reasons I'd like to tell you about. In honor of my Methodism professor at seminary, who went to the extra effort of trying to make the main points of his lecture spell out a word we would remember, the first letters of the things I like most about Methodism spell a word. You'll figure it out, I'm sure.

The first reason I'm proud to be a United Methodist is our emphasis on **Grace**. We believe, along with other mainline Protestant denominations, that we are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and not by what we do through our works. We don't earn God's grace and forgiveness by being good enough, it is a free gift from a loving God. That's not to say that we don't try to be good or do good works, but we do so as a grateful response for what God has freely given, not to buy God's forgiveness or favor.

While the emphasis on grace itself isn't really unique to Methodists, what I think is unique is how John Wesley saw grace acting in our lives over the course of a life-time. Some tend to emphasize God's saving, forgiving or justifying grace. (That grace received the moment we recognize our need for God and accept what Jesus Christ has done for us.) Wesley emphasized that in addition to Justifying Grace, long before and far after that moment when we are justified or forgiven, God's grace is active in our lives through two other kinds of grace, Prevenient and Sanctifying.

Prevenient Grace is that grace that is active in our lives before we even know who God is or recognize our need for God's forgiveness. We believe that even as an infant, God already loves us, values us, holds us dear. And, that God is working to bring us to that point when we desire a relationship with him. Our belief in Prevenient Grace is why Methodists don't require people to reach a certain age or understanding before they can receive the sacraments: Baptism and Communion. We extend the sacraments to all, a way of affirming that God's grace is available to everyone, and is at work in the lives of everyone, no matter who they are or how old they are. I love that we Methodists trust God's grace to be at work in our lives in every moment, our whole life long.

Just as we Methodists believe Prevenient Grace is active in our lives before we ever ask God for his forgiving or justifying grace, we believe that God doesn't just forgive us and then leave us alone. Instead, God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, continues to be at work in our lives through Sanctifying Grace. That's the grace by which we grow in our faith to become more and more like Christ. I'm proud to be a United Methodist because of the way we see God: a gracious God who loves us before we are even born, seeks us, forgives us, and continues to work on us every day till we die, so that we might become the person God desires us to be.

Well, when I started this I had five things in mind to cover, and silly me, I thought I could do it all in one sitting. But, as usual, I find I have way too much to say, so this is now a to-be-continued article. So, till next month, remember that the first reason I'm proud to be a United Methodist starts with G: our emphasis on God's **Grace**. You'll have to wait till next month to get some more letters and see what word it spells.

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 (going through chemo)
- ✚ Barb Fegan- recovering from cancer surgery
- ✚ Mike Osterberge's wife, Robin- passed away
- ✚ People in path of Hurricanes
- ✚ Steve Kwikkel-pancreatic cancer diagnosis



Praise God~

- ☺ George & Margaret Shurr celebrating 52 years of marriage
- ☺ Thanks again to all who brought food and helped at the tractor ride. Don't forget your pans in the kitchen. ~Kathy





Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 03~ Bart Brown | 12~ Dorothy Dykhouse | 21~ Tori Selken |
| 03~ Carl VerHoef | 12~ Amy Menage | 22~ Vicki Slack |
| 04~ Dave Ackerman | 13~ Sheila Maxwell | 24~ Dale Slack |
| 04~ Jeff Brown | 13~ Lynn Selken | 25~ Kaylee Dandurand |
| 04~ Grace Heimensen | 14~ Ben & Kelli Docker | 25~ Phyllis TeSlaa |
| 04~ Hayden Heimensen | 16~ Kelli Docker | 25~ Cole Schleusner |
| 04~ Megan Timmer | 17~ Jessie Lorenzen | 25~ Taysom Engleman |
| 04~ Larry & Shawn Wibben | 19~ Shirley Roach | 27~ Cindy Dean |
| 05~ Luke Stubbe | 19~ Josh & Megan McClure | 27~ Kenda Kunnari |
| 07~ Lucy Moser | 20~ Joel DeJongh | 29~ Darren Dandurand |
| 07- Madelyn Broesder | 20~ Sonya Peterson | 30~ Ross Ackerman |
| 11~ Sean & Cassie Van Berkum | 21~ Sandy Kumba | 30~ Pastor Kathy Sides |
| | | 31~ Chris Vander Zee |

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

Reminders and Announcements



YTD Income:	\$110,072.62
YTD Expenses:	\$122,322.24
Net Income	-\$ 12,249.62



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

4th Sunday/Sunday, October 22nd 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



We would like to invite families of your church to join us for Family Pumpkin Night Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 6:30pm. It is not required that a parent come, but is helpful with the younger kids. This is for kids in 5th grade and younger.



Pumpkin Auction

Third Avenue Youth's Annual Pumpkin Auction will be on October 15th at RRUMC starting at 10:45 am in the Fellowship hall. As in the past, this fundraiser goes toward Third Avenue Youth's mission projects and group activities.



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.