

---

# The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
302 SOUTH CARROLL STREET ~ ROCK RAPIDS, IOWA 51246

PASTOR KATHY SIDES  
[kathysides@hotmail.com](mailto:kathysides@hotmail.com)

H: 712-472-2770  
C: 515-201-3634

Administrative Assistant, Amber Kooiker  
[rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net](mailto:rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net)

712-472-2324

[www.rockrapidsumc.org](http://www.rockrapidsumc.org)

Volume 41, Issue 4

April, 2018

---



“Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!” I don’t know about any of you, but when I see that phrase, the words don’t just say themselves in my head, they *sing* themselves. As most of you know by now, I love music. I love the way it seems to have a power to express things more deeply, more profoundly, and especially at Easter; more joyfully than the spoken word alone.

I love the old hymns I grew up with, and the way they express truths about God and about our faith in familiar ways. I love the way they can bring back memories of times and people I cherished. But I also love the new hymns that express those same truths in newer ways that might help me understand God’s love for me in a way I never thought of before. I especially love Christmas and Easter hymns. Maybe it’s because Christ’s birth, death and resurrection are such powerful displays of God’s love and God’s power over sin and death, that the songs that tell those stories can’t help but touch us deeply.

I love the hope and joy expressed in our Easter hymns. They seem to shout the good news of the resurrection. A common word in our Easter hymns is Alleluia!. It is an expression of praise, meaning basically, “Praise the Lord!” You might notice the word nearly always has an exclamation mark after it. It’s meant to be proclaimed joyfully!

Maybe our most familiar Easter hymn, and the one I feel like it just wouldn’t be Easter unless we sing it, is “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.” It is a very “Methodist” hymn, written by Charles Wesley, but you’ll find it in nearly every denomination’s hymnbooks. It varies slightly in words from here to there, but it is the same hymn. I like that it feels triumphant; that it expresses the victory of Christ over death. The words of the first three verses as found in “The United Methodist Hymnal” are:

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where’s thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

A newer hymn that wonderfully expresses the hope of Easter is “Christ Has Risen,” which is in our “The Faith We Sing” hymnal. It is written by John Bell, a minister in the Church of Scotland. I love the way it expresses who Christ’s resurrection is for; his followers who were mourning his death, **and** all of us. It also dares us to hope that the power of the resurrection can change us; even those whose lives are “messed or mangled” (which again, is most likely all of us!) Here are verses 1, 2 and 4 of “Christ Has Risen”:

Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,  
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.  
Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;  
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;  
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.  
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.  
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change  
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.  
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been –  
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

Such wonderful expressions of faith and hope and victory are found in those Easter hymns. But I hope we don't leave them and their message behind as we leave Easter Sunday behind. We need to remember to get them out and sing them at other times, because we need to be reminded of the hope and power and JOY of the resurrection.

Some of you may have noticed that Easter fell on April Fools' Day this year. I thought it was appropriate. Even though the resurrection of Jesus may not have fallen on April 1<sup>st</sup>, God pulled off one of the greatest surprises in history on Easter Morning. Everyone *expected* to find Jesus dead. Everyone *believed* that hate had won, that hope was gone. But with the resurrection God says "April Fools! Jesus is alive! Despite what you expected and believed, love has won and hope lives!" Good one, God!!

The best news is, because of the resurrection, love still wins and hope still lives. Every day. Every moment. We sometimes forget that we are to be Easter People. We are to live into the joyous news that Christ is risen; that Christ lives and walks with us. It doesn't matter if it is Easter morning, a few days past Easter or long past; Christ lives! And that should give us hope, not just in April, but also in August. Or even in January. He lives, not just on Easter Sunday but today. Each day. Every day. As the song says,

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

*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](mailto:rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net) or Pastor Kathy at [kathysides@hotmail.com](mailto:kathysides@hotmail.com) and they will be sent out.



### Prayers~

- ✚ Barb Fegan
- ✚ Charlene De Gooyer- sinus infection
- ✚ Jack and Holly Spitler
- ✚ Leroy and Judy Griesse
- ✚ Chloe McClure (Dave & Mary Fields granddaughter)- heart problems- may be looking at surgery
- ✚ John Vander Zee's Mom, Joan Vander Zee in the hospital
- ✚ Ron Boekhout
- ✚ Harlan & Shirley Harms
- ✚ Judi Sieperda- recovering from surgery



### Praise God~

- ☺ Baptism of Claire Vander Zee
- ☺ Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Evelyn Baldwin!
- ☺ Charlene DeGooyer is feeling better



## April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |                           |                          |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 01~ Kim DeJongh           | 09~ Jackie Austin        | 18~ Sam Sides      |
| 04~ Barb Grimes           | 12~ Kaylee McIntire      | 19~ LeRoy Griesse  |
| 04~ Mark & Sonya Peterson | 14~ Veronica Waagmeester | 21~ Connor Maxwell |
| 05~ Linn Menning          | 16~ Jim & Char De Gooyer | 24~ Helen Schol    |
| 06~ Char De Gooyer        | 17~ David Krahling       | 26~ Erica Rice     |
| 07~ Mary Holland          | 17~ Kathy Van Berkum     | 29~ Sydney Wells   |
|                           | 17~ Tate Vande Weerd     |                    |

\*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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Rock Rapids Health Centre. All are welcome.

• **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](http://www.midsioux.org)

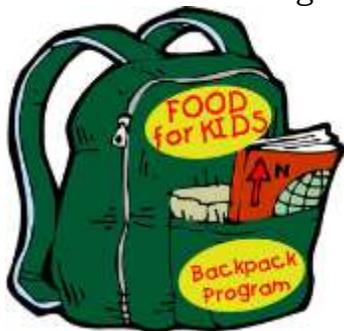
## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday/Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday School Offering & Food Collected for the Central Lyon Backpack Food Program



The offering collected from the Sunday School classes on each 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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.

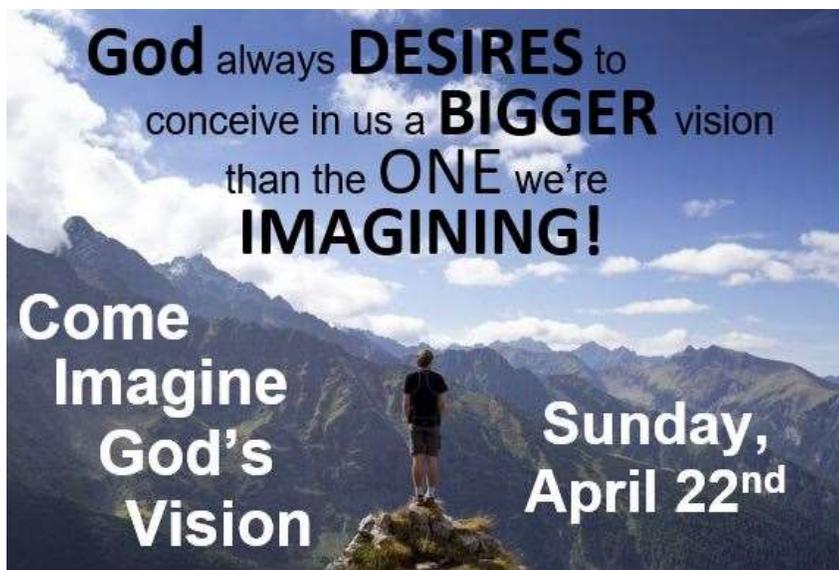
Individual servings of:

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



Northwest District Field Outreach Minister Rev. Ryan Christenson will be with us on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> as we think together about how we as a church can best serve God now and into the future.

**Schedule:**

9:30 Worship - Ryan preaching and leading us in thinking about our current reality and future vision.  
10:30 Small group working with Ryan to review info gathered in worship.  
11:30 All-Church Potluck – Bring food to share and your own table service.  
12:00-1:30 Visioning to determine some goals and next steps.



**Thank you to the Youth for the Easter goodies. The thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.  
~Char De Gooyer**



**Third Ave. Youth~ Thank you for the lovely Easter gift. It contained many nice and useful things. Thanks again.  
~Evelyn Busch**

**UMC MEAL MINISTRY  
MARCH NEWS**

**OUR FIRST MONTHS MEAL MINISTRY WENT WELL. WE SPENT DAYS AND WEEKS PREPARING, CALLING AND SCHEDULING FOR THAT ONE HOUR ON MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>. WE EXPERIENCED SOME BUMPS IN THE ROAD AND CONTINUED WITH OUR GOALS OF GETTING THIS MINISTRY STARTED.**

**WE ARE ASKING FOR CONTINUED PRAYERS, MONETARY DONATIONS AND NON-PERSISABLE DQNATIONS. WE HAVE REACHED OUR FIRST GOALS. WE HAVE HAD A GREAT RESPONSE FROM ALL OF YOU FOR SERVING AND PREPARING, NIGHTS ARE FILLED UNTIL MAY. HELP US REACH THE 2<sup>ND</sup> GOAL TO FILLTHE SUMMER SCHEDULE UP. BEING THE ‘HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS” IS A BLESSING TO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE CONTACT US ON ANY QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS OR CONCERNS; WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT. WE ARE GUIDING THIS MINISTRY WITH TOTAL FAITH IN JESUS FOR HE HAS A PLAN FOR OUR CHURCH AND EACH ONE OF US.**

**A BIG THANK YOU TO:**

**AMY MENAGE, JAIME SCHAR, LAINN MENNING, JAIME KELLY, PASTOR KATHY AND MS FITS FOR PREPARING, SERVING AND POST CARD MINISTRY**

**Luke 6 vs. 38**

**“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with measure you use, it will be measured to you.**

**Thank you and take care  
Rhonda and Kathy**



**BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS!**

**2018 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**February 28, 2018 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; Patty Halse – Lay Leader; 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 Waagmeester called the meeting to order. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Kathy.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Motion to approve: Evelyn Baldwin, second Lainn Menning.

**OLD BUSINESS**

## **REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION/Jill:** Kim reported Camp Sunday is April 8. The UMC Camp Director is unable to attend due to the number of churches he needs to visit. Breakfast meal plans are being discussed for Camp Sunday. Will ask Amber to send an email requesting parents to email pictures for Camp Sunday worship service. For next school year, we'll be inviting Immanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School to join in our Sunday School classes and ask for volunteers to teach.

**THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather:** Donation of \$300 has been given to the Denim Project and \$100 to family of Riley Meyer. French Toast Breakfast is March 4. Easter Sunrise Service is at 7:00 a.m. Ad Board will provide and serve breakfast. Approximately 15-18 youth will be going to Urban Plunge on April 27-29. Financial commitment for youth is \$50 per person. Chaperones – Jon and Janet Fredrichson, Terry Van Berkum, and Shannon Munson. They are planning to attend the movie "I Can Only Imagine."

**THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE:** Will be participating in Kids Against Hunger in March. Souper Bowl Sunday offering was \$479.82.

**EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy:** Meal Ministry will begin at Bread of Life food distribution on March 28. Menu and grocery list have been organized providing a sack lunch. Cost projected to be around \$300 per month. Will prepare approximately 100 bags per month. Would like to order more UMC T-shirts. Sack lunch will be prepared the Tuesday evening prior to the Bread of Life food distribution. Applied for Hunger Relief Fund grant. Kelli Docker family will purchase labels for church postcards that will be added to each bag.

Will be adding wall words on the sound booth wall in honor of Betty Vinson. Next Generation Worship ideas were discussed. Dare To Dream sermon series will start in the fall. Discussed contemporary music the second Sunday of each month.

**TREASURER/Shawn:** UMW donated to After Prom activities. Financial year to date balance - \$4861.23. Approved CAC membership – motion made by Randy, second Patty. Request UMW President or Treasurer to send a monthly report or communication to Ad Council through the office or in person of payables that may be in duplication with the church body, such as CAC memberships, civic donations, etc.

**FINANCE SEC/Evelyn:** No report.

**FINANCE/Heather:** Approved checking account for Meal Ministry. Motion made by Patty Halse, second Evelyn Baldwin.

**LAY LEADER/ PATTY** – Invited the congregation to attend a night out to Sidewalk Prophets Concert on March 8th at Sioux Falls College Campus. Facilitated a two-night workshop in January focusing on Rev. Mike Slaughter's ideas on growing disciples of the "next generation" church.

**MEMORIAL/Judy:** No report.

**MISSION/Kelli:** Grocery cart paper products were delivered to Atlas.

**SPRC/Tom:** Donations from Betty Vinson family was \$1800. Discussed the purchase of wireless mics. Will have all choirs meet to discuss music ideas. Tom and Pastor Kathy are attending Mandatory Ethics training on March 8.

**TRUSTEES/Lainn:** Quotes for the following projects: New carpet in sanctuary, overflow, main floor hallway, minister's office and secretary office – between \$6,000 - \$7,000. New video system. Hopefully new single-phase air conditioners.

Looking for suggestions on whether or not to fix the one broken ceiling fan in the sanctuary.

**PASTOR/Kathy:** Confirmation Sunday has been set for May 6. Pastor Kathy will be on vacation on May 27.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya:** Will talk with Ryan Christiansen about a Visioning workshop.

**UMW:**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Next Meeting;** April 4 at 7 p.m.