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# The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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I got asked again this week if I was Maggie's grandma. It annoys me when that happens! (And it is not a rare occurrence!) It isn't that I'm not well aware that I am plenty old enough to be her grandma. It's just that it seems to me that if you don't know if a woman accompanying a child is their mom or grandma, it would be better to guess mom when you ask. That way you at least have a chance of flattering a grandma by making her feel young rather than insulting an older mom by assuming they are too old to possibly be the child's mother!

Like many children. Maggie went through a stage when she was three where she became very interested in how old people were. And, unlike most adults, she had no concept of there being some questions that some people would rather not be asked. So, she began to boldly ask people; "How old are you?" She asked her daycare provider, various people at church, and even a perfect stranger while we were waiting to be seated at a pizza place! That particular woman didn't feel compelled to reveal her age, so her reply was, "I'm older than you, how old are you?"

I did find that there was a good side to Maggie's age obsession. She couldn't always remember what the answer to her question was, so one day when she was reciting how old everyone in the family was, she shaved ten years off my age!

Being annoyed by someone assuming again that I was Maggie's grandma and thinking back to Maggie's former obsession of wanting to know how old everyone was got me to thinking – why is it that age matters so much to us? For Maggie it was simply the natural curiosity of a three-year-old. But what about the rest of us? Why do we as a society have an obsession with being young or at least looking young? And I've always wondered, why are some people offended at being asked their age?

In the first place, our age is not something we are personally responsible for. How long ago we were born is something we have absolutely no control over, so why should we be reluctant to state a simple fact about ourselves that we cannot control or change?

I would go so far as to say that not only should we not be reluctant to admit how old we are, as we grow older, we should be *proud* of whatever age we have reached. It shows we've been living, loving, and learning, longer than many others. As a result we are deeper, wiser and more well-rounded than some who are younger. Never mind if it shows a little with a wrinkle here or there, or if "well-rounded" might describe our bodies as well as our minds! We ought to be proud of how long we have weathered the ups and downs of this world. And we ought to be thankful for all the opportunities we have had to grow in wisdom.

When the kids were little, they used to watch (over and over again) videos that had episodes of an old Winnie the Pooh show that was called "The Book of Pooh." In one story, Kessie, a young bluebird friend in the Hundred Acre Wood, is trying to find something to do to help her friends. She first tries to help Pooh get some honey, but he tells her the job is better left to someone like him, who knows all about bees. Then she tries to help Rabbit pull weeds in his garden, but is dismissed to go and play when it's evident she doesn't know a weed from a carrot top. Rabbit tells her she doesn't know enough about gardening to help. So Kessie goes to Owl and asks how she can know everything, like he does; how she can get wise. Although Owl often gives very "unwise" advice, in this case, his advice is pretty good. He tells her to observe, to watch, to learn from what she sees around her. Kessie goes out into the Hundred Acre Wood and watches, but soon reports back to Owl that she didn't learn very much yet. Owl tells her that it takes *time*, lots of time.

While Kessie wasn't terribly happy with that answer, Owl was expressing a great truth. We learn from life. We grow wise about so much, we understand so much, by watching, trying new ideas, making mistakes – by living. There is a wealth of experience and wisdom those who have lived a long time have to offer to those who are young.

Now, I know that growing older also brings with it a downside. There are aches and pains and health concerns that some younger folks don't have to deal with yet. I've heard it said – “Growing old is not for the faint of heart.” Or, the less poetic version – “Getting old ain't for sissies!” I know it is true. But we do have a promise. A promise that God will walk with us all the days of our lives. I love these words found in Isaiah 46:3-4:

Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

So Thank God for the journey, for the wisdom gained along the way, and for the promise of God's continued presence. And next time someone is so bold as to ask “How old are you?” answer with pride!

*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
- ✂ The family of Allison, Jerry & Elaine Birkey as they grieve the all to-short life of their daughter and granddaughter Carsin
- ✂ Wilma Geerdes family
- ✂ Mary Peterson- cancer treatment
- ✂ Family of Ben & Jeanie Bertch on the birth and passing of Keenum.
- ✂ 10 shooting victims in Santa Fe, TX



### *Praise God~*

- ☺ Wilma Geerdes life on earth
- ☺ The music “The Lighthouse” and its message shared by Jim De Gooyer
- ☺ Congratulations to Mike & Jackie Austin and John & Chris Vander Zee~ new grandson Evan John Vander Zee was born to Joe & Meredith. Mom & baby are doing well!

# BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

## June Birthdays & Anniversaries

01~ Shelby Kracht	16~ Paige Menage	21~ Ian Wells
03~ Tori Figge	17~ Dave & Roxanne Ackerman	22~ George Shurr
05~ Barb Middle	17~ Whitney Waagmeester	23~ Terry Van Berkum
05~ Carl & Nancy DeJongh	18~ Kim Waagmeester	23~ Tom & Amy Menage
05~ Jason & Kayla Engleman	19~ Randy Waagmeester	24~ Mike & Jackie Austin
08~ Steve & Diane Sieperda	19~ Marion McCormack	24~ Evelyn Busch
09~ Henry & Helen Boeve	20~ Delores Berg	26~ Ben Docker
11~ Zed Heimensen	20~ Jashaun Borman	29~ Kayden Van Berkum
15~ Jamie Parkinson	21~ Tyler Figge	30~ Ron & Rita Rice
		30~ Henry Boeve

\*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.



One Way Up will again be treating us to a delightful Sunday service on June 10th. 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, they will be in need of help unloading their vehicle at approximately 7:30 a.m. the morning of June 10<sup>th</sup> AND after the service loading back up. Thank you!



Many thanks for the prayers, cards, food and visits from this wonderful congregation. I am so blessed with such great friends. Thank you so much.  
~Mary Peterson



# Salad Luncheon



## Salad Luncheon Reminder:

If you have not signed up and would like to be included in bringing food items or work, please call: Vicki Slack @ 472-3874 or Nancy DeJongh @ 472-2941 as we do have some slots still open. If you are already signed up to work or bring food, please check the sign-up sheets so you know what your responsibilities are - we will hang those sheets in the Narthex prior to the luncheon. Salad bowls and bar pans will also be provided and will

be available in the Narthex the first Sunday in June. Please bring your food items to the Community Building Thursday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. OR Friday morning starting at 8:00 a.m. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this very worthwhile mission fund raiser as ALL proceeds go to missions.

Thank you again and hope to see all of you Friday, June 15th!

~Nancy, Bobbie and Vicki

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

At First Reformed

**Mon., June 4 – Fri., June 8**  
**9 a.m. – noon each day**

NEW  
CHURCH  
OFFICE HOURS



Monday ~ 8:30-12:00  
Tuesday ~ Closed  
Wednesday ~ 8:30-1:00  
Thursday ~ 8:30-3:30  
Friday ~ Closed



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](http://www.rockrapidsumc.org)  
You can find our monthly calendar with events and church activities under the news/events tab.

### 2018 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#### April 25, 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

#### CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER

**Randy** – Rhonda Menning opened with prayer.

#### MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Evelyn Baldwin  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Vinson

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dave Fields will be having an entry into parades advertising the Tractor Ride.

Church doors should be open 7 days a week from anytime in the morning to 5:00 p.m. Have Lainn check with Stubbe's to see what hours works with them and will have Amber or Pastor Kathy email Stubbe's with the agreement.

## **REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION/Kim:** May 20 – last day of Sunday School.

Camp Sunday donations \$1016. UMC donation \$500. Possibly another \$300 donation. 13 children will be going to camp.

Confirmation – May 6.

Senior Sunday – May 13.

**THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather:** Done for the summer. Urban Plunge – 24 people going to Omaha.

**THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy:** Done for the summer.

**EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy:** UMC Meal Ministry served April 18. Volunteers from UCC have signed up to volunteer for Meal Ministry. Hot dogs will be on the menu for May. Many compliments from clients and from our congregation.

Sound booth volunteers will go to an adult and a youth due to the new projector system.

Focusing on trying to do a contemporary service. Would like to have a Praise Team start this fall. If you would like to join Praise Team contact Kathy VanBerkum.

**TREASURER/Shawn:** Will send an update.

**FINANCE SEC/Evelyn:** Donation of \$12,000 for the sanctuary screens.

**FINANCE/Heather:** No report.

**LAY LEADER/ Patty:** No report.

**MEMORIAL/Judy:** Will donate to the projector project.

**MISSION/Kelli:** No report.

**SPRC/Tom:** Met on April 19. Completed Another Set of Eyes that was due on May 1. Pastor Kathy will be gone 5 weeks this year. Memorial Day weekend – Jackie Austin. One Way Up – June 10.

**TRUSTEES/Lainn:** Projector screen installation will be scheduled. May 12 is church clean up day. Pastor Kathy is checking into grants/funding to pay for switching from three phase to single phase air conditioning. When we do carpeting, ideas were to get a decorator to help coordinate colors.

**PASTOR/Kathy:** Confirmation Sunday on May 6. Bible covers were made by the Quilters. Sheila will make a cake. Banners were made by Mary Peterson. Harlan Harms funeral is on Saturday. New district superintendent, Ron Carlson, starts July 1.

Thank you cards should be given to those who donate financial gifts.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya:** Will be coordinating

**UMW:** 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salad Luncheon – June 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Small committees were created from the Visioning Sunday with Ryan Christenson. Randy reported on two options for surveys. We decided on the Natural Church Development Survey. There is no cost for the survey. 30 members of the congregation can take the survey, and we want to have this survey taken by a wide age of members.

Winter months ask ushers to scoop snow on sidewalks before worship service.

**Next Meeting** – May 30 at 6:00 p.m.