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# *The Joyful Noise*

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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*Volume 41, Issue 5*

*May, 2018*

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As I write this it is 80 degrees and sunny. Except for a few dirty mounds that are left from the mountains that were created in the clearing off of various parking lots in town, there's no snow in sight. Hallelujah! Spring at last! It may have been slow in coming this year, but just like it does faithfully every year, it finally arrived! And now before we know it, school will be ending and summer will be here.

Speaking of summer, it is a "mixed bag" time in the life of many churches. Hard working volunteers like Sunday School teachers, youth directors and the like, get to take a well-earned break; something they truly deserve to enjoy for their faithfulness and commitment to being present almost every Sunday during the school year. Families get to enjoy vacations and other fun things they aren't able to fit in during the school year. The downside in the church is that worship time seems to lose some of its vitality and excitement with so many people missing. Sometimes those of us "left behind" feel like we must be missing out on all the fun! It's also tempting to feel like we must be doing something wrong when attendance drops.

I have to admit the summer drop in attendance here is more dramatic than what I had been used to in previous churches I have served. Most congregations will see some drop in the summer, but probably not as big as we have here. In fact, when I arrived two years ago I was kind of disappointed with the number of people in worship my first few Sundays. OK, I admit, I even thought, "Oh my, is this all the folks that are going to be active in this church?" But people assured me that many people take off to the lakes during the summer and that they would be back when school started. And, low and behold, they were right! Not having served a church that was located close enough to someplace like the lakes where it was convenient for people to spend weekends away before, it was not something I had expected.

But, it is something I understand; and, something I even approve of. While I **do** think that regular attendance in worship is important, I also think that time away to relax and time together with family is important. And, I think God is OK with us sometimes taking a break and missing worship. It would still be nice if we set aside a little time to sing a song or say a prayer or simply thank God for the day; (I think God would appreciate that) but I don't think we need to feel guilty about occasionally missing worship, especially if we've spent most of the year committed to spending almost every Sunday morning at church.

There is one more downside to the summer drop in attendance, though. And that is, when attendance drops, so does the giving. People are good about remembering to bring their offering when they come to church, but they don't think about it when they are not attending. That's pretty understandable. The thing is, even though attendance goes down during the summer, the cost of running the church doesn't. It stays pretty much the same. So, what ends up happening is that financially, we get farther behind during the summer.

The simple solution to that would be for everyone to remember to keep up your regular giving during the summer by dropping your offering off or mailing it in if you're going to be gone. Also, please remember that you have the option of signing up for regular automatic withdrawals so you don't even have to bother with mailing or dropping off a check. We have a number of people who have signed up for this service, and it has really been a help to the church to have those regular gifts coming in.

The church is already falling behind on the offerings keeping up with expenses this year, so I would encourage you to keep up your regular giving as summer comes, and even think about giving extra if you can. So many churches used to have a number of really big givers that could be depended on to meet their financial needs. Unfortunately, many of those people have passed away or are experiencing health problems or needing nursing care, and they are no longer able to be as generous as they once were. That is the case at Rock Rapids UMC. If you are assuming that a few big givers are able to carry most of the load and so the rest of the folks don't really need to give all that much, sadly, you are mistaken. Reality is that more people need to step up and increase their giving.

That is true not only because the church needs your money, but because you need the opportunity to give. I've heard some say, "It's not a matter of finances, it's a matter of faith." Meaning that it shouldn't really be about giving to meet the church budget, it should be about giving to express our gratitude to God and in order to be faithful with the resources God has entrusted to us. Our giving should be motivated by our faith, not our fear of falling short in our finances.

Well, that is very true, our giving *should* be motivated by the desire to be faithful to what God expects of us and our desire to gratefully give back to God. And, if everyone gave as generously and as gratefully as God desires and deserves we wouldn't have to worry about finances, we'd have far more than we need. But, there is still the practical reality that while our giving certainly *is* a matter of faith, it is also a matter of finances, as the church does need money to operate. If everyone gives their fair share, then all of us together can enable the church to be in ministry that is pleasing to God and reflects the love of Christ. So, please do a little (almost) mid-year check on your giving. Does it adequately express your gratitude? Is it faithful giving that reflects what God has given you?

I hope that all of you have a wonderful summer. Please join us for worship whenever you can. And when you can't – enjoy whatever you are doing!

*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 Spitler family after the loss of our dear friend Jack,
- ✂ Judi Sieperda
- ✂ LeRoy & Judy Griesse
- ✂ Wilma Geerdes
- ✂ Ronnie Boekhout
- ✂ Barb Grimes Father in Pennsylvania- Barb has gone out there
- ✂ Stephanie Slack as she starts back up with chemo every week for 12 weeks
- ✂ Carsin Williamson- Jerry & Elaine Birkey's granddaughter (Allison & Alex's daughter)- born with complications.
- ✂ Family of Harlan Harms
- ✂ Jeff Brower (cousin of Marlys Brown) on life support



## Praise God~

- ☺ The Youth of the church and the wonderful job they did with the Sunrise service.
- ☺ Our Central Lyon Jazz Band- 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at State Championships
- ☺ Thankful Char is out and about
- ☺ New granddaughter Savvy Lynn born to Stephanie & Brice Slack
- ☺ Xander Kane- new great grandson of Ed & Marlys Brown
- ☺ All the great help serving the funeral lunches



## May Birthdays & Anniversaries

02~ Lila Kennedy  
 04~ Destiny Boeve  
 04~ Jessa Vande Weerd  
 07~ Marlys Brown  
 08~ Blake Miller  
 08~ Afton Schlumbohm  
 09~ Matt & Jamie Schar  
 11~ Zed Heimensen

11~ Sutton Schlumbohm  
 11~ Elizabeth Stubbe  
 12~ Spencer Kracht  
 13~ Peter Menage  
 14~ Terry & Kathy Van Berkum  
 18~ Carole Priest  
 19~ Callie Yeakel  
 20~ Bonnie Wilson

22~ Kathy & Earl Sides  
 23~ Cassie Van Berkum  
 24~ Roxanne Ackerman  
 25~ Melissa Olivier  
 25~ Dale & Vicki Slack  
 26~ Dean & Tami Schweitzer  
 28~ Eric & Deb Selken  
 30~ Pat Patton  
 31~ Phil Priest

\*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.

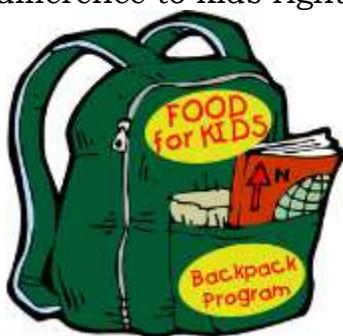
## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday/Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Offering & Food Collected for the Central Lyon Backpack Food Program



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



Join us at the 2018 May Breakfast!!!  
Rock Rapids Peace Lutheran Ladies invite you to  
join us for a morning of fellowship and fun.  
Open to women of all ages. Please bring your  
favorite unique purse.  
Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

## Third Avenue Youth

# YEAR IN REVIEW

### **September:**

- Kick off for the year - all HS students were given a devotional that was purchased by Third Avenue Youth

### **October:**

- Third Avenue Youth went to the Heartland Corn Maze - the youth group paid for the admission, afterwards we went and got a snack, youth paid for their snack
- Pumpkin Auction held at RRUMC
- Shopping at Sunshine for the Central Lyon Backpack Program - youth group purchased food items to this program

### **November:**

- Youth filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- Youth went shopping at Walmart for Avera's Stuff a Stocking, items were purchase and donated to the hospital to give to patients

### **January:**

- Purchased a memorial gift for a youth of Third Avenue who had lost their father
- Third Avenue Youth gave Sarah Halse a donation for her Mission Trip through Northwestern, Sarah had been an active participant of the youth group in HS
- Donated to HDSA Hoop A Thon
- Soup and Pie Auction held at Immanuel
- Youth from HS and MS attended No Apologies, Third Avenue Youth paid for everyone's admission to this event

### **February:**

- Third Avenue Youth gave a donation to the school for the Riley Meyer Memorial
- Volunteered at the Denim Project and gave a donation to this mission organization

### **March:**

- Lock In at RRUMC
- French Toast Breakfast at RRUMC
- Volunteered at Kids Against Hunger and gave a donation to this mission organization
- Purchased items for Easter Baskets and delivered the baskets to the shut ins and nursing home members of the congregations
- Purchased Devotionals for our Seniors

### **April:**

- Senior Farewell Celebration - youth went out to eat and then bowling in Sioux Falls
- 27-29 - Urban Plunge Omaha Mission Trip

Thank you to everyone who has supported Third Avenue Youth financially and through our prayers. With your support we have been able to do mission projects that don't just touch the lives of the people being served but also touching the youth who are doing the serving.

# RRUMC MEAL MINISTRY



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
We made it through the snowy month of April with our UMC Meal Ministry -Sack Suppers. A great big thank you to all those that helped. Elaine Birkey, Amy Menage, Mary Fields, Jamie Schar, Dave & Roxanne Ackerman, Kelli Docker, Rita Rice, Sheila Maxwell and the Ms Fits (for the postcard ministry). You truly are the hands and feet of Jesus. The meal ministry is getting anxious for spring hoping to do some grilling and menu fun for spring and summer. Our faith in this ministry is what we survive on and God sends us what we need at the exact time we need

it. We thank all of you for your monetary donations and nonperishable items. Keep us in your prayers.

~Rhonda and Kathy

*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 the measure you use it will be measured to you.*



*Dear Jackie & Committee,*

*Thank you so much for thinking of me after my surgery.*

*The soup and cookies were great - I'm so thankful to belong to such an awesome church with such awesome people.*

*Thanks again!*

*Judi Sieperda*

# Confirmation 2018

Congratulations to this year's confirmation class on their confirmation Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>!

We welcome the following as the newest professing members of Rock Rapids United Methodist Church:

Maddox Broesder, Connor Maxwell, Afton Schlumbohm, Emily Sides, Kayden Van Berkum, Veronica Waagmeester, Sydney Wells and Ashlynn Yeakel



## *Bailey Herman*

*Daughter of Steve & Laurie Herman  
Bailey will be going to Augustana University  
majoring in Social Work/Psychology  
Congratulations Bailey!*



## *Gable Sieperda*

*Son of Steve & Diane Sieperda  
Gable will be going to Iowa State  
majoring in Entrepreneurship and Psychology  
Congratulations Gable!*





Our Annual Spring Clean Up will be Saturday May 12th at 9 am. We would like to do a good spring clean inside as well, meaning dusting pew benches, front alter and organ wood work, etc. There will be a clip board sent around Sunday May 6th for any and all that are interested in helping with the inside work. Inside cleaners will need to bring their own rags for cleaning and cleaning products. Any yard clean up people will also need to bring rakes, brooms, maybe barrels to put garbage in.

**The back door of the Church will be open at 7 am every day and locked at 5:30 every day except Wednesday during church night. If any group or person has to be in the church after 5:30 it is their responsibility to make sure the church is locked when leaving. Thank you!**

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

**April 4, 2018 at 7:00 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**

Patty Halse opened the meeting with devotions.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Motion to approve: Sonya Peterson

2<sup>nd</sup>: Heather Heimensen

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Church doors should remain unlocked on Wednesday nights during church activities. Other days of the week the church doors will remain unlocked until 5:00 p.m.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **EDUCATION/Kim:**

- Camp Sunday date April 8. Sheila was able to get donations for all the food for breakfast. A camp representative will be present.
- Confirmation is May 6. Bibles have been ordered. Asked to have Quilters make a Bible cover.
- May 13 is Senior Sunday – 2 seniors (Bailey Herman and Gable Sieperda). Heather has ordered the Bibles.

**THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather:** Successful Sunrise Service. Attendance was higher than in past years. Administrative board served egg bake and rolls after Sunrise Service. Last event for youth is April 11. They are going bowling. 25 youth are planning to attend Urban Plunge. Hygiene items will be collected for the homeless for Urban Plunge in Omaha.

**THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy:** Went to Kids Against Hunger in March 28 – packed 3028 meals. Last meeting is April 11 – will be purchasing groceries for Atlas.

**EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy:** UMC Meal Ministry started in March at Bread of Life food distribution. Positive feedback from clients.

**TREASURER/Shawn:** Approximately -\$3,100 behind (Shawn will email exact amount). Ask Randy if we need to purchase a federal wage poster.

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

**FINANCE/Heather:** Heather will be putting envelopes in the pews for attendees if they want to put their name on the cash donations.

**LAY LEADER/ Patty:** See new business.

**MEMORIAL/Judy:** No report.

**MISSION/Kelli:** Silent auction income was \$1,110. Silent auction will be held in the fall. Peanut butter and jelly will be the food product for the month of April.

**SPRC/Tom:** Committee meeting on April 19 to complete Another Set of Eyes.

**TRUSTEES/Lainn:** Discussed video quote (\$17,000) and carpet quote. Evelyn Morton estate donation was given to Memorial Committee. Will ask Memorial Committee to donate to the video system. An estimate to switch from three phase to single phase air conditioner would be approximately \$25,000.

**PASTOR/Kathy:** Visioning Workshop will be held on Sunday, April 22. Email of events has been sent to congregation. Encourage congregation and the Administrative Board to attend.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya:** No report.

**UMW:** Salad luncheon in June.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Patty Halse reported we need to complete the NW IA District survey for new District Superintendent, Ron Carlson. His position starts July 1. This was completed at the conclusion of the Administrative Board meeting and submitted.

**Next Meeting** – April 25 at 6 p.m.