
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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As you may have noticed, we had a remarkably cool stretch of weather during the last part of July. Some years things are pretty parched by this time in the summer, so the cool temperatures and green yards and fields have been a welcome experience. I realize it could all change at any time. It may even have changed between the time I am writing this and the time you read it! There could well be hot and dry days ahead, but for now I am enjoying the cool and the green.

It seems to me that we can experience something similar in our spiritual lives. Sometimes we find ourselves in a good place; much like the cool, green days we've had lately. But sometimes we find ourselves felling that our souls are as parched and dry as the brown grass in a hot, dry summer. In those times, we long for our faith to be refreshed and renewed. We long for God to make himself known in our lives, to revive our thirsty souls and give us joy.

I have a song that speaks to this. (Does that surprise anyone??) It's the old hymn, "Showers of Blessing". The scripture reference for it is from Ezekiel 34:26b, which is written as though God were speaking about his people, Israel:

"I will make them and the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing."

The words to the hymn are as follows:

Showers of Blessing
by Daniel Whittle

There shall be showers of blessing;
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the Savior above.

There shall be showers of blessing:
Oh, that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing,
Now as on Jesus we call!

There shall be showers of blessing;
Send them upon us, O Lord;
Grant to us now a refreshing,
Come, and now honor Thy Word.

There shall be showers of blessing,
If we but trust and obey;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
If we let God have His way.

Refrain: Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.

I like the way it is expressed in the refrain; that what we need are **showers** of blessings, not just little drops of mercy. Sometimes in our lives all we need is just a little sprinkle of grace to refresh us a bit. But sometimes the need is for something more. When our souls feel parched and dry, we long for more. We plead for reviving showers, maybe even a downpour that can wash away all our doubts, fears and weariness, and sink into every crack, satisfying our deepest longings to know God's love and grace.

The song promises that when we feel the need for those "showers of blessing" they will come: "This is the promise of love; there shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the savior above." But it also tells us under what conditions those "showers of blessing" will come: "If we but trust and obey; there shall be seasons refreshing, if we let God have his way."

Maybe those thoughts could be summarized with the phrase – Trust, Obey, and Get Out of the Way! That's not so easy for some of us. Sometimes I'm tempted to think that I can tell God what to do and God will mind me. How utterly absurd! I can't even get one small ten-year-old girl to mind me consistently, why would I think I should be able to control the God of all creation?

Trusting is hard. Obeying is hard. Letting God have his way in our lives is hard. But that is what faith is all about. That is what we are called as children of God to do. And there is one other thing to remember. A phrase included in the scripture that we might overlook. It says; I will send down the showers **in their season**; they shall be showers of blessing." The showers of blessing God promises will come, just as the rain eventually comes to water the earth when it is dry and parched. But, they will come in God's time, in the season of our lives that God determines.

So keep on trusting, and keep on praying:

"There shall be showers of blessing; oh that today they might fall."

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 or Pastor Kathy at kathysides@hotmail.com and they will be sent out.



Prayers~

- ✂ Barb Fegan- eye surgery August 1st
- ✂ Dan & Cindy Dean- Dan's Mother, Ann Hoven passed away.
- ✂ Prayers for Chloe's ongoing recovery from surgery
- ✂ Prayers for the Slack family following the death of Vicki's dad, Gerald Postma
- ✂ Rogers family
- ✂ Safe travel for the Sides
- ✂ Grieving- loss of loved ones
- ✂ Continued prayers for Stephanie Slack, whose next step in treatment will be radiation. (Praise God for clear PET and CT scans!)



Praise God~

- ☺ Wilma Geerdes life on earth
- ☺ Terry Van Berkum preaching
- ☺ Great music
- ☺ Mary Peterson back in church
- ☺ Holly Spitler's birthday.
- ☺ Chloe McClure's surgery was successful
- ☺ Family
- ☺ Summer worship
- ☺ Birth of Daxton Berk De Groot- 7 lbs 2 oz, 19 inches (Parents: Abbey and Derek De Groot~ Grandparents: Terry and Kathy Van Berkum)



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01~ Gable Sieperda | 12~ Scott & Sheila Maxwell | 20~ Veronika Stubbe |
| 02~ Toby & Jill Lorenzen | 13~ Wyatt Stubbe | 20~ John & Chris Vander Zee |
| 02~ Colby McIntire | 13~ Jeremy & Krista Sprock | 21~ Larry & Mary Holland |
| 03~ Jim & Becky Rydell | 13~ Maggie Sides | 21~ Jay Kelly |
| 03~ Rylan Maxwell | 14~ Avery Littlefield | 22~ Jill Lorenzen |
| 03~ Ben Sides | 14~ Gwen Vander Zee | 22~ Debbie Selken |
| 04~ Dave & Marilee Schleusner | 15~ George & Margaret Shurr | 25~ Tom Wall |
| 04~ Rhonda Menning | 15~ Corey Heimensen | 25~ Wyatt & Heather Stubbe |
| 05~ Dale Hasche | 15~ Jacob Steenblock | 27~ Donna Inderwisch |
| 06~ Jacob Kumba | 15~ Dan & Jami Vander Zee | 28~ Kiaha Borman |
| 09~ Abbie Gacke | 16~ Sam Halse | 30~ Vicki Kiel |
| 10~ Greg & Liz Stubbe | 17~ Jaimee Lorenzen | 30~ Doug & Michele Baade |
| 11~ Jim & Lila Kennedy | 18~ John Vander Zee | 31~ David Fegan |
| | 19~ Ed Brown | |

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



To our UMC family,

Thank you so much for the generous gift and continued thoughts and prayers. Our sweet Carsin is missed terribly. We find comfort in the memories we were able to make with her and the reassurance we will be with her again someday. We continue to pave new paths to find our new normal.

Blessings~

~The Williamsons

Alex, Allison, Kinsley, Cael & Carsin



My family, Dale and I would like to express our appreciation for the many acts of kindness shown to us at the passing of my dad, Gerald Postma. You have no idea how much all of what you did meant to us; whether it was a card, hug, text, food, an appearance at visitation/funeral or holding us in prayer - it ALL meant so much and has gotten us through these tough days. Thank you again, our church family is the BEST!

Love,

Dale and Vicki Slack and family

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
You can find our monthly calendar with events and church activities under the news/events tab.

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

May 30, 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. Ryan Christenson, church coach.

CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER

Randy called to the meeting to order. Pastor Kathy opened with prayer.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Evelyn Baldwin

2nd: Lainn Menning

OLD BUSINESS

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Kim: Education Committee is meeting on May 30 at 7:00 p.m.

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: Attended Urban Plunge.

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy: No report.

EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy: Float will be entered in the Heritage Days parade. Evangelism and Worship will meet after worship Sunday, June 3rd to plan for Heritage Days parade. Meal Ministry is well received by recipients. Volunteers and donations have been received and filled. May possibly use the front entrance during the summer.

TREASURER/Shawn: Year to date -- +\$1165.63.

Treasurer Report – Motion to Approve: Randy Waagmeester; second by Al TeSlaa.

FINANCE SEC/Evelyn: Generic envelopes for donations are located in the sanctuary.

FINANCE/Heather: No update.

LAY LEADER/ Patty: No update.

MEMORIAL/Judy: No update.

MISSION/Kelli:

SPRC/Tom: No report.

TRUSTEES/Lainn: Installation of projection system will be sometime between June 11 – June 23. Education on the new projector system will be done by South Central in Sioux Falls.

PASTOR/Kathy/Amber: Amber is making a slight change to her office hours going forward: Mon- 8:15-12:00; Wed- 8:15-1:00; Thurs- 8:15-3:30. Amber will also be taking a few vacation days in June. Due to no bulletin on the 10th and 17th, she will be taking off June 6, 7, 13 & 14.

Thank you to Jackie Austin for leading worship service on May 27.

LeRoy Griesse is now in hospice house in Luverne.

Pastor Kathy gone to Annual Conference June 8-11th. One Way Up will be done the service on June 10th. They will need assistance unloading and loading equipment the morning of June 10. Free will offering for One Way Up. Contact Immanuel Lutheran to invite them to One Way Up.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya: No report.

UMW: Salad luncheon – Friday, June 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Randy reported on security plans for churches. Possibly ask for safety education from our local sheriff's office.

Ryan Christenson: Please see document from Pastor Ryan. (Covenant document will be revised and available later.)

Next Meeting – July 11 at 6 p.m.