
The Joyful Noise

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Any of you who use Facebook know that every once in a while, a “memory” pops up, something that you posted on the same day in a previous year. Today something I wrote 5 years ago came up. Ben was starting college, so I was facing a child leaving home for the first time. I was thinking not only how quickly it seemed the time had passed, but also how it would feel to walk away and leave him on his own in this new place. This is what I wrote:

It's Time

by Kathy Sides

“For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;”

And in between..... a time to laugh and a time to cry;
A time to watch as children grow; a time to love, yet let them go.
A time to watch them spread their wings, to live, and learn, and try new things,
far beyond our watchful eyes. A time for all-too-soon goodbyes;
A time when, on the appointed day, you summon the courage to walk away.
A time to let them be apart, held not in your arms, but in your heart.

Well, I survived walking away and leaving Ben at Luther College 5 years ago. But then the following year Sam headed off for college, and somehow having it be the second year in a row that a son had left home made it that much more alarming. I felt a little like Rip Van Winkle who fell asleep and woke up to find years had passed! I mean, of course I *had* been awake for most of it, but I found myself wondering: how did we suddenly jump from two little guys to two young men in college?

At the other end of the spectrum, the same week we delivered Sam to college, we also moved my then 92-year-old mom to a different living situation. Mom was feeling a little overwhelmed and confused by the changes. As was I. Not only did it seem I suddenly had two grown sons, my mom was suddenly old and frail. How did that happen? Of course, the thing is, those changes happened gradually, little by little, day by day, year after year. It's just that sometimes we don't stop to notice. And then when we do finally stop to take stock of things, we're alarmed by how “suddenly” things have changed so much.

Just like birthdays and the start of a new year, when you have children, fall seems to be one of those times that lends itself to noticing the passage of time. With the start of school, all-of-a-sudden Maggie is in 6th grade, and Emily is in 11th. Now, admittedly, that's only one grade higher than they were just a few months ago, but it *seems* like they are suddenly *much* older than they were yesterday. The boys have both already finished college. Ben just started his second year of teaching at Sibley-Ocheyedan, and Sam is living in Washington, Iowa and working as the sports director at a radio station there. Again, I look around and wonder how time passed so quickly and things changed so much.

So, I've been thinking again about how life is filled with changes. Of course, that is something we know, but sometimes life goes along on kind of an even keel for a while, and you get lulled into forgetting. But, then events such as the start of another school year conspire to kind of jolt you back to the reality of the old adage: “the only thing constant in life is change.”

It is the same in the church. We tend to go along year after year, doing the same things in the same ways, sometimes just because “we've always done it that way.” But sometimes we need to take stock in the changes the passage of time has brought with it, and allow God to do something new with us. As it says in Isaiah 43:19

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

God is known for creating, renewing, for constantly doing a “new thing.” It's us who sometimes get stuck in our routines and resistant to or disconcerted by change.

We've begun conversations about changes we might make in the church to welcome new people and to make sure Rock Rapids UMC continues to be a faithful and fruitful witness to Christ in this time and place. We're not sure yet exactly what some of those changes might look like. But, we need to trust that with much conversation,

a willingness to be flexible and open, much prayer, and the confidence that God is in the midst of the change, God can indeed do a new thing with us. And it might be just as amazing and life-giving as “a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

At times when the reality of change is all around us, and you need something secure to hold on to, remember that God is steady and unchanging. In the midst of all of the change we deal with, personal or shared, good or bad, welcome or scary, God is a sure and constant thing. In the Psalms, the strength and steadfastness of God is often expressed as God being a rock or fortress for us. And so, at times when the world, your life, or even the church seems full of change, it might do us good to hold on to verses like these:

He alone is my **rock** and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken. (Ps. 62:6)

But the LORD has become my stronghold,
and my God the **rock** of my refuge.
(Ps. 94:22)

And, of course, besides the scriptures to reassure us that there is one constant in the midst of life's changes, my favorite hymn also sings a reassurance of God's faithfulness. Here is the first verse and refrain of “Great is Thy Faithfulness”, by William M. Runyan:

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou for ever will be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Aren't you glad, in the midst of this changing world, that there is one constant that we can count on that will never change? I know I am.

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



Prayers~

- ✚ Barb Fegan
- ✚ Dave Fegan- diagnosed with Acute Leukemia and has been transferred to Mayo Clinic for treatment.
- ✚ Sympathy to the family of Bri Erickson
- ✚ Donna Hulshof
- ✚ Roger Van Roekel
- ✚ Dave Warren- eye surgery



Praise God~

- ☺ Nice timely rain
- ☺ Another day!



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 03~ Kylee Kelly | 15~ Anders Baade | 26~ Josh Rockhill |
| 04~ Michele Baade | 17~ Carrie Wall | 26~ Mae Smid |
| 06~ Linn & Rhonda Menning | 18~ Jerry Stratton | 27~ Mary Fields |
| 07~ Barb Fegan | 20~ Susan Hasche | 27~ Jim Waagmeester |
| 07~ Mimi Drenth | 20~ Stacey McIntire | 28~ Ron Rice |
| 09~ Mikayla Miller | 22~ Doug Baade | 28~ Diane Sieperda |
| 11~ Eldon Maxwell | 22~ Hannah Sieperda | 28~ Eldon & Mary Maxwell |
| 12~ Phil & Carole Priest | 22~ Jaylynn Stubbe | 29~ Marlys Henry |
| | | 29~ Mary Peterson |

*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.



Rock Rapids United Methodist Church

Thank you for choosing to partner with Midwest Mission. You have helped change the world by sharing God's love in a practical way.



Third Ave Youth and Third Ave Squared will both kickoff on Wednesday, September 5th!



Sunday School kick off will be **September 9th at 10:30 a.m.**

Curious about the CAT ?



Sunday, September 9th Rev. Ryan Christenson, Interim Associate for Congregational Excellence for the Iowa Conference, will be with us in worship to share information about the results of the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey that the congregation participated in during July and August. Ryan will also be available during the Sunday School/Fellowship hour for continued conversation.

RRUMC Meal Ministry



We are entering the 7th month of this ministry. The summer was busy. We enjoyed grilling the month of June with Dave and Mary Fields running the grill. We baked chicken breast for sandwiches in July and served on a hot night. August was filled with great fellowship on the night of preparing. A big thank you to Mel, Jackie and Nancy from the Congregational United Church of Christ. The month of August the sacks were filled with grapes, cheese and meat kabobs along with delicious baked goods.

Looking forward:

We are staying patient and steadfast with this ministry letting the good Lord lead the way. We have the opportunity to now go outside of our community. We will have two teams on the night of Bread of Life. One group serves in Rock Rapids and the other will go to George, Iowa to the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Rock Rapids Bread of Life is at 6:00 p.m. and the George Bread of Life will be at 5:00 p.m.

Please contact us with any questions or sign up at the table in the front entrance to volunteer or donate non-perishable items. We greatly appreciate any monetary donations to this ministry.

Remember: 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.”



Thank you to all who have prayed for us, donated your time and talents and given monetary donations to this ministry. You truly are the “Hands and feet of Jesus.”

Thank you to Pastor Kathy for your guidance. Thank you to Atlas; Lisa, Beth and Vicki and all the recipients of the sack suppers, your kindness is a blessing.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY COMING TO GET INVOLVED. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 24th our church serves the Bread of Life!

We will need 20-25 people. Please contact Kathy or Rhonda.

God Bless,
Rhonda and Kathy

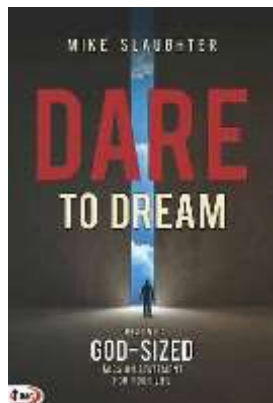


**Saturday, September 15th,
starting at 1 p.m.
Hosting our 6th ANNUAL TRACTOR RIDE**

Dare to Dream – Creating a God-Sized Mission Statement for Your Life

6-week Sermon Series and Study for Adults and Youth (MS and HS)

September 16th to October 21st



Are your goals too small? Are you living the “just get by” plan? Or is there a greater “God dream” for you that, if lived to the fullest, could permeate and inform every move you make? *Dare to Dream* is a startling and inspiring program by popular author and pastor Mike Slaughter that draws on the Bible and a lifetime of ministry to help us discern God’s dream for us and learn to live it out, prayerfully and enthusiastically. Participants will learn how to develop a life mission statement that helps them fully commit to a God-directed lifestyle.

Chapters include:

- * Dreaming the Dream – Wake up to God’s dream inside you.
- * Discovering Your Birthright – You were created with a purpose.
- * Your Burning Bush – Be aware of those illuminating God moments in your life.
- * Lose Your Big Buts – Allow God’s strength to be displayed in your weakness.
- * What Is in Your Hand – Identify and utilize the ordinary gifts God has given you.
- * Perseverance – Discover a dream for your life far greater than your own.

Books for adult study are \$12.00 each.

Please let Amber know by September 9th if you would like a

Starting this fall the 4th Sunday offering will now be going to support the Heifer Project



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

July 11, 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, 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; Linn 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: Al TeSlaa

2nd: Randy Waagmeester

OLD BUSINESS

1. Visioning Team – instituted the CAT which will start this week, letters out by Pastor Kathy, survey out for 3 weeks, tentative date for results of survey is August 27, will want SPRC, Ad Council and Visioning & Discipleship teams from 6-9 at Patty’s home – will process the information and move on from there.
2. Discipleship Team – working through the book Stride, moves the church from membership to having members be disciples. Met twice, on hold now until results of the CAT.
3. Prayer team being put together

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Kim: no report

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: Campfire Sunday starting July 15 from 8:30-9:30/10:00 at the Heimensen home

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy: No report.

EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy: float great success

TREASURER/Shawn: Year to date -- -\$5,870.76.

Treasurer Report – Motion to Approve: Heather Heimensen; second by Al TeSlaa.

FINANCE SEC/Evelyn: Automatic transfer helping us keep afloat in the summer

FINANCE/Heather: No update.

LAY LEADER/ Patty: No update.

MEMORIAL/Judy: Music purchased from the Betty Vinson Memorial for adult and children's choirs. Remainder of video system cost paid for from memorial money.

MISSION/Kelli: No update

SPRC/Tom: No report.

TRUSTEES/Lainn: No report

PASTOR/Kathy/Amber: Vacation July 14 for a week, Terry VanBerkum leading worship on July 15, Pastor Kathy will be gone August 12, Earl willing to fill the pulpit that Sunday.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya: Heritage Days photos on Facebook

UMW: Salad Luncheon successful

NEW BUSINESS

One Way Up has asked to do a Christmas Concert in our sanctuary on December 9, Ad Council has given the okay to go forward with this, Sonya will contact and get this organized

Invite Vicki Slack to September meeting to discuss fellowship time

D.A.R.E to DREAM Sermon Series start on September 16 – Adult, HS, and MS classes

Ryan Christenson: Speaking to CAT person - key indicator if a church is growing or not is flexibility, if a church is flexible it will help with growth

Next Meeting – August 27, 6-9 at Patty Halse's home

Motion to Adjourn: Al TeSlaa motioned, Sonya Peterson second