
The Joyful Noise

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As I write this I am just a couple of days away from heading to Colorado to spend time with two of my best friends from seminary. Kathy and Melanie both live in Michigan, so we don't get to see each other very often. But, they are the kind of friends that no matter how long it has been since we have seen each other, as soon as we are together again it feels like no time at all has passed since we graduated 25 years ago! There is such comfort in those friendships that stand the test of time and those friends that you can share your deepest or silliest thoughts with and know they'll accept you just as you are. That kind of friendship is surely a blessing and a gift.

The three of us are meeting in Denver, and then renting a car and going to Estes Park for a few days. If the weather is good we will do some hiking, and I don't know what else. The three of us used to spend every Friday night during seminary going out for pizza, renting a movie or movies and staying up till all hours of the night talking and laughing. So, I would imagine pizza and movies will be on the agenda, as well as plenty of talking and laughter.

The Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park area is one of my very favorite places, partly because of the beauty of the mountains. When surrounded by such beauty and majesty all around, one can't help but feel a deep sense of awe at the wonder of creation and the mightiness of the God who created it. When I'm in the mountains, it never takes long before the first 2 verses of "How Great Thou Art" begin running through my head:

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Thy sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

The other reason the area is special to me is because I have been there so many times that it holds a lot of memories, both of vacations with my family growing up and vacations with my family now. It will be fun to share all my favorite places with my friends. Melanie has only made one brief trip to Estes Park, and Kathy has never been there at all, so I have a long list in my mind of all of my favorite places they have to see and favorite things they have to do.

So, I am ready for an adventure! I'm ready to spend time laughing over everything and nothing. I am ready to be astounded again by the wonder and beauty God has created. As I've been anticipating this time to be in Colorado with my friends, I've found myself thinking about Jesus, and his life on earth. We know he sometimes felt the need to get away, sometimes on a mountain, where I imagine like me, he felt especially close to God.

But, we only get a glimpse in the Gospels of his relationship with his disciples. I'd like to think there was a special friendship between them; that in between the teaching and healing and walking long and dusty roads, there were times when they were away from the crowds, gathered around a fire, sharing the events of the day. Times of deep conversation *and* times of throwing back their heads and laughing together: "Remember when Matthew said" Or, "Did you see the look on Phillip's face when he figured out Jesus planned on feeding all those people with that boy's lunch??"

Sometimes Jesus is depicted as a rather solemn person, and I would imagine that at times he was. But, I'd like to think that he cherished the time with those friends who had left their lives behind to follow him. I'd like to think that he felt blessed to spend this time with those who knew him best and allowed him to just be himself; to just be with them without expectations or demands. I'd like to think that sometimes when he looked around the circle as they gathered around the fire, it was with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. I'd like to think that sometimes, in moments of easy laughter, he lifted his eyes heavenward and said, "Thank you!"

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~

- ✚ Dave Warren
- ✚ Mary Peterson
- ✚ Denise Roscam- emergency surgery
- ✚ Phyllis Rydell- leg problems
- ✚ Continued prayers for Dave & Barb Fegan.
Dave's address at Mayo is:
Rochester Methodist Hospital
201 West Center Street
Station Ei 72
ATTN: David Fegan, Rm. #72-221
Rochester, MN 55905
- ✚ Continued prayers for Phyllis TeSlaa.
- ✚ Hurricane Florence- family & friends.
- ✚ Prayers for the family of Barb Raddle.
- ✚ Prayers for the family of Steve Kwikkel.
- ✚ Gary Taylor- eye surgery
- ✚ Grandson of Mike & Jackie Austin- serious health issues
- ✚ Prayers for the family of Karen Sprock.
- ✚ Prayers for the family of Pat Waters.



Praise God~

- ☺ A new year- a new Spirit. A great Savior!
- ☺ Thank you to all the youth and children who participated in singing~Mrs. Maxwell.
- ☺ Praise everybody who sang with the Praise Choir!
- ☺ Answered prayers.
- ☺ Mary Peterson's birthday.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

03~ Bart Brown	13~ Sheila Maxwell	22~ Vicki Slack
03~ Carol Ver Hoef	13~ Lynn Selken	24~ Dale Slack
04~ Dave Ackerman	14~ Ben & Kelli Docker	25~ Kaylee Dandurand
04~ Jeff Brown	15~ Kylee Kelly	25~ Phyllis TeSlaa
04~ Grace Heimensen	16~ Kelli Docker	25~ Cole Schelusner
04~ Hayden Heimensen	17~ Jessie Lorenzen	25~ Taysom Engleman
04~ Larry & Shawn Wibben	19~ Shirley Roach	27~ Cindy Dean
07~ Madelyn Broesder	20~ Joel DeJongh	29~ Darren Dandurand
11~ Sean & Cassie Van Berkum	20~ Sonya Peterson	30~ Ross Ackerman
12~ Dorothy Dykhouse	21~ Sandy Kumba	30~ Pastor Kathy Sides
12~ Amy Menage	21~ Tori Selken	31~ Chris Vander Zee

*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.

• You're invited to **Peace Lutheran Church** on **Sunday, October 7th**, for a **Fish Boil Dinner**-serving from **11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** It's **free will offering** with funds going to Orphan Grain Train. Everyone Welcome!



Dave & Barb Fegan were very surprised and humbled by the card with all the signatures and the gift card we received. We appreciate it immensely. We also appreciate all the thoughts and prayers being sent our way daily. Medicine is great. Prayers are even better.
Love & Blessings,
Dave & Barb Fegan



FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! The Foster Grandparent Program & Senior Companion Programs of Greater Siouxland provide volunteer opportunities that impact our communities, the volunteers & those they serve. Join the program today to

see what a win-win opportunity this is for the volunteers and those they serve. For more information, please call or stop by one of our offices:

Rock Valley Office
1510 14th Street
Rock Valley, IA

Sioux City Office
4200 War Eagle Drive
Sioux City, IA

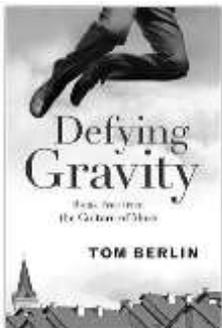


Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement and thinking of us on our 125th. We cherish the relationship we have with UMC.

~ILC
125th Planning Committee

Defying Gravity 4-Week Sermon Series Beginning October 28th

(Based on the book "Defying Gravity" by Tom Berlin)



Stuff. And more stuff. And even more stuff. The next thing you know, we're pulled into the orbit of materialism! In *Defying Gravity*, Tom Berlin takes a look at the difference between "want" and "need" and illustrates how possessions can create an unbearable weight on our lives. He shows us how too much stuff affects our ability to serve and thrive, and then he helps us explore what is required to sustain a vibrant life.

October's Focus item: Peanut Butter & Jelly



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.