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# *The Joyful Noise*

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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*Volume 41, Issue 11*

*November, 2018*

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My subject for this month is the service so many of you provide to the church by volunteering in various ways. There are countless ways people are serving, and the church could not function as it does without so many who are willing to give their time and talents in this way. Whether it is something as simple as greeting folks as they come to worship on Sunday morning or something as time-consuming as chairing a committee, serving as the Lay Member to Annual Conference or heading up a ministry within the church, every task is important. And, everyone who serves in any way deserves a big “thank you” for your faithfulness and willingness to serve.

We are in the process of trying to change and streamline the organizational structure of the church. We are hoping to move away from having so many people serving on committees, where sometimes it can feel like lots of people are attending meetings but not always accomplishing very much; to a system where there might be less people involved in the planning committees do, and more people serving on short-term action teams that would take on carrying out a particular project or ministry.

However, this will not be an overnight process, so the lists of committees and volunteers for this year’s Charge Conference will look very much the same as it has. There may be places where we will not fill all of the slots that we normally have, as we have given ourselves permission during this transition time to let some slots stay empty as we decide what our future structure will look like.

There are still some committees that are required in the United Methodist Church, such as Trustees, Finance, SPRC and Nominations and Leadership Development, but the Book of Discipline has changed a great deal through the years, from dictating a “required” structure, to now giving the local church much more freedom to organize their structure in a way that best meets their local ministry needs.

As a result of the visioning process we began last April, we now have a Discipleship Process Team, under the leadership of Patty Halse, who is working to better clarify our mission as a church and to identify pathways for people to connect to our church, grow in their faith, and live out their faith in the community and world as disciples of Jesus Christ. Their work will help us to better look at our structure and decide on changes that need to be made to support the church’s mission and ministry.

In the meantime, thanks to everyone who has responded to the phone calls made by members of the Nominations and Leadership Development committee this fall about serving in particular ways. **We do still have two very important positions to fill: Lay Leader, and the Chair of the Finance Committee.** Please prayerfully consider whether or not YOU would be willing to serve in either of these capacities, and feel free to visit with me if you would like to know more about what the duties of these positions would be.

Also, an update on the work we are doing with the help of Ryan Christensen. Ryan formally had the position of Field Outreach Minister in the Northwest District. Due to some structural changes at the Annual Conference level, the eight positions of District Field Outreach Minister have been eliminated. Four of the former Field Outreach Ministers have transitioned into positions with the title of "Interim Associate for Congregational Excellence." Ryan is one of them. Instead of working with lots of churches in the Northwest District in a number of ways, Ryan is now focused on working more intently with fewer congregations, both in and beyond the Northwest District. These are congregations that have expressed an interest in intentionally visioning about the future and what we can do to better serve Christ in this time and place. We are one of the congregations for whom Ryan has chosen to serve as coach as we look toward the future.

Part of our process was the participate in the CAT (Church Assessment Tool) survey to gather information about where we are and what some areas might be that we think are important to focus on. In addition, several new teams have been formed such as the Discipleship Process Team, Visioning Team, and Worship Team. Ryan is serving as a resource for those teams as well as other committees. He is also coaching the clergy from each of the churches he is working with, so I am in contact with him on a regular basis, including being a part of a Clergy Peer Mentoring Group that meets for study, ideas and support on a monthly basis.

The world has changed a great deal and things are not the same as they used to be. How many people think about church and the part it plays in their lives has changed. Sometimes that is both daunting and discouraging. But, there are two things that have not changed: one is the good news of Jesus Christ that the church has to share, and the other is the need people have for Christ in their lives. We are looking at how best to live out our mission as the church in this time and place: how to be disciples of Jesus Christ who live our faith, share our faith with others, and love and serve one another in the name of Jesus Christ. Please be in prayer for our church and its mission as we continue to see where God might lead us and what God might have in store for us as we seek to serve him.

*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](mailto:rockrapidssumc@premieronline.net) or Pastor Kathy at [kathysides@hotmail.com](mailto:kathysides@hotmail.com) and they will be sent out.



#### **Prayers~**

- ✂ Continued prayers for Dave & Barb Fegan.
- ✂ Delores Berg- stroke and complication
- ✂ Phyllis TeSlaa
- ✂ Continued prayers for good blood test results
- ✂ Roxanne Ackerman after her surgery
- ✂ The Jewish Community in Pittsburg and for kindness & civility & healing in our national discourse.



### Praise God~

- ☺ The birth of Jade Lynn Moser, 8 lbs. 8 oz., 21.5 inches long (grandparents: Lainn & Rhonda Menning)
- ☺ All the volunteers working at Dorothy McCormack's funeral
- ☺ Thanks to all the volunteers who moved things out of Fegan's storage shed
- ☺ Grandchildren
- ☺ Cast of Grease
- ☺ Healing for Greyson Austin and thanks for prayers



## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

02~ Tom Vinson  
 03~ Connie Boeve  
 03~ Bobbie Kracht  
 04~ Carl DeJongh  
 15~ Hazel Berg  
 16~ Dennis Patton  
 17~ Claire Vander Zee  
 18~ Al TeSlaa

18~ Kyra Van Berkum  
 20~ Jenessa Herman  
 20~ Toby Lorenzen  
 20~ Lance Schlumbohm  
 23~ Mary Maxwell  
 23~ Melinda Waagmeester  
 25~ Viktorija Stubbe  
 26~ Dave & Mary Fields

26~ Matt Schar  
 28~ Ethan Selken  
 28~ Preston Selken  
 29~ Lisa Rockhill  
 29~ Kaycie Docker  
 29~ Larry Holland  
 30~ Jennifer Miller

\*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.



**Quilters and Crafters will have quilts on display for sale (free will offering) on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. When you find what you like, mark them "sold" and leave in place until the 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you from the Quilters. Free will donations for quilts will go to our church general fund.**



**Come help us ring in the Advent season with our Rhythm of Bethlehem celebration on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Come check out the wonderful performers. Apple cider will be served!**

ATLAS is hosting a Christmas Spirit Store for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year to offer a more affordable gift shopping experience for families under a financial hardship. Financial donations and new gifts must be delivered to ATLAS at 112 First Avenue, Rock Rapids no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Beth @ 472-9016 with questions. Recipients of food assistance or free/reduced lunches are eligible to shop. Appointments are needed to shop this year. Contact Beth to set up an appointment. Documentation verifying income and cash or check is needed to shop. Priority is given to parents and guardians of children 0-18 as inventory is catered to the needs and preferences within that age range; however, anyone who qualifies may request an appointment to shop. Spirit Store gift ideas are as follows:

- Baby dolls, barbie dolls, trucks, tractors and cars
- Educational/family oriented activities for all ages
- Family friendly movies and video games
- Sports balls and handheld ball pumps
- Fun, kid friendly towels and bedding
- Nail polish, makeup, face paint, balloons, bubbles
- Emoji and sports socks for both boys and girls
- Outdoor lawn games (croquet, bocce ball, ring toss)
- Body care baskets (Dove, Bath & Body Works, Axe) and children's bath toys
- Winter apparel in all sizes (infant, toddler, kids, youth and adult)
- Youth devotionals, Bibles and inspirational journals; squishy toys
- Simple bedroom décor or cooking/baking sets for teens
- Car detailing kits and tool sets for teens as well as board games
- Scrapbooking materials for grades K-12 and play-doh sets
- Diapers/pull-ups size 5 and 6; swimmers diapers of any size
- Kid friendly fishing supplies, tents, sleeping bags, cowboy hats nerf guns
- Football gloves, knee pads, elbow pads, bicycles, skateboards, scooters
- Stocking stuffers (fidget spinners, candy) and remote control cars, Beyblades
- Wrapping paper, tissue paper, gift bags and scotch tape
- Monetary donations to restock inventory that sells quickly



We are sincerely grateful for your commitment to collaborating with the ministry of ATLAS of Lyon County in order to touch lives for Christ, loving and serving others in His name. Working alongside those of you who so freely share of your time, energy, smiles, kind words and

prayers at Bread of Life is such a joy!. Your monthly meal ministry is a pure gift. We continue to look forward to opportunities to minister with you. Blessings~ your friends at ATLAS



**One way Up will be performing a Christmas Concert on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**



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

**September 12, 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 called the meeting to order. Opening prayer by Pastor Kathy.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

No minutes were available.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Motion to pay accompanist for the Chancel Choir temporarily \$75 per month through October 15 until SPRC comes with a recommendation to the Ad Council. Randy made motion; Tom seconded.

**REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION/Kim:** 41 youth in Sunday School. Scavenger/Treasure Hunt kick off event.

**THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather:**

- Had 32 kids at youth group last week, successful evening
- Permission to have Annual Pumpkin Auction on October 21
- College care packages in October

**THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy:**

Opening event last week.

**EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy:**

Meeting Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. to discuss fall and winter events.

Volunteers are taking DVDs to Immanuel Lutheran on Sundays to broadcast.

Communion delivered by Evangelism Committee and other church volunteers to shut-ins after it has been served during Care Center worship services.

UMC Monthly Meal Ministry – 25 bags will be taken to George to distribute there. 75 bags will be passed out in Rock Rapids.

Worship Planning Team is being organized – Heather Heimensen and Kim Waagmeester along with some youth.

**TREASURER/Shawn:** Deficit of -\$11,000.

**FINANCE SEC/Evelyn & Heather:**

\*Fall Stewardship: "Defying Gravity" a 4-week sermon series beginning Oct 28.

\*Update on funds received for first "Your Buck Starts Here." Buck Starts Here Blessing will be given to David and Barb Fagen for the month of September. This blessing will be done every 8 weeks.

**LAY LEADER/ Patty:** Discipleship Process Team has initiated a new Prayer ministry starting Wednesday Sept. 19th. The prayer team will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month 6:30-7 a.m. All are invited to attend.

**MEMORIAL/Judy:** Giving \$50 to Third Avenue Youth.

**MISSION/Kelli:** No report.

**SPRC/Tom:** Flower arrangement sent from the UMC to Immanuel Lutheran Church in honor of their anniversary celebration.

**TRUSTEES/Lainn:** Meeting on Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

**PASTOR/Kathy/Amber:**

Received a request to participate in Rosewood Heights' Second Tuesday potlucks.

Possibility of discussing the idea at the Worship and Evangelism meeting.

National Newspaper Week Distribution – received letter asking if we wanted to purchase ad for \*Special Coverage\*- edition the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>. General consensus was no.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya:** Sound system training to be offered in the next month or two.

**UMW:** Meeting September 23.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Survey Top Three objectives: Worship Team (Heather and Kim), Discipleship Team, Expectations defined.
2. Charge Conference – Sunday, November 11, at 7 p.m.

**Next Meeting** – October 17 at 7 p.m.