
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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welcome, january

Here we are, in a brand new year. So often when we think of starting a new year, we think of the things that we need to change. We say things like "I need to lose weight." "I need to start exercising more." "I need more patience." (But enough about me!) Or, we think about all the mistakes and shortcomings of the past year, and how we wish we had done some things differently. Those can be helpful things to think about, if it encourages us toward better health and being a better person. However, sometimes we focus so much on the negative, on the things we didn't get right, that we fail to acknowledge the good things and to be thankful for the opportunities and successes along the way.

It is the same way in the church. So often we focus so much on the things we need to do better, that we don't acknowledge and celebrate all the good things going on. And, we forget to say thank you for all those who have been faithful and have given so much of themselves to the work of the church. So, I want to begin this year by acknowledging some of those folks who have given much time and effort in their service to the church this past year. (And for most of them, not just this year, but for numerous years before.) Now, I know that the danger of doing that is that I will surely forget someone, so I apologize in advance if that happens.

In no particular order, when I think of those who deserve a special thank you for all they do, these are the folks that come to mind and the ministries that would not happen without their faithfulness:

Shawn Wibben for all her work as Church Treasurer for many years. Shawn not only pays the bills and keeps all the financial records that go along with it, she also keeps us up to date on our finances. Being the Church Treasurer is a stressful job; paying bills faithfully, while often not knowing for sure whether or not the contributions that come in will be enough to cover all the expenses.

Heather Heimensen for her work with 3rd Avenue Youth (along with Corey) and for also chairing the Finance Committee this year. Our church and the youth involved in youth group are so blessed by the time, energy and creativity Heather gives year after year. We have an exceptional high school youth program, not only in the number of youth involved, but the focus on giving to others through mission and service projects. Thanks also to Jill Schlumbohm and Kathy Van Berkum for the work they do with the middle school youth group, 3rd Ave. Squared.

Rhonda Menning and Kathy Van Berkum for their commitment to getting the Meal Ministry program off the ground this year, and the volunteers that have been faithful in helping plan and prepare the meals each month. So often we talk about ways we could put our faith into action, but we get bogged down with the talking and never get around to the doing. A special thanks to Rhonda and Kathy for having the faith, courage and determination to "just do it" and the commitment to keep on doing it month after month; and to Rhonda for the extra effort of seeking out funding to support the ministry.

Phyllis TeSlaa and Julie Taylor for playing the organ and piano week after week. I don't think many people know how many hours of practice goes into what we enjoy on Sunday mornings. And, a special thanks to Marilee Schleusner for faithfully filling in on piano and organ this fall and winter. I hope members of this congregation realize how blessed we are to have such able musicians to play for worship each week. And, while on the subject of music, thanks to Earl Sides for his work with the Chancel Choir, and to Sheila Maxwell for not only directing the Cherub Choir (add adding bells, as

well!), but also the Praise Team. Sheila also has organized “Rhythm of Bethlehem” the past few years. Thank you, Sheila for all you do to instill a love of music in the kids and to bless our worship with special music.

Kelli Docker, not only for all her work as chair of Missions, but also for her work with the kids in Sunday School, especially the creative Sunday School Christmas Programs we have all enjoyed so much. Of course, all those who teach Sunday School also deserve a special thank you for your commitment to the children of our church.

Lainn Menning, for all his work as chair of the Trustees. I don’t think very many people realize how much time and effort Lainn puts in on a regular basis, let alone the special projects like the new video system installed last summer that take additional time and effort above and beyond the usual.

Ken Barker, who not only delivers many of the monthly newsletters to our care center residents and other shut-ins, but also has volunteered for a number of years to lead Bible studies at Lyon Manor, Premier Estates and the Health Centre. Also, all those who have helped with communion, not only during our worship, but assisting me at worship services at the care centers, taking communion to Premier Estates and to others who are homebound. These include at least Jim DeGooyer, Kathy and Terry Van Berkum, Mary Fields, and Elaine Birkey. (There may be others.)

Patty Halse for all her work with the Discipleship Pathways Team this past year. Patty has done much work in guiding us to develop new mission and vision statements for the church and to identify pathways within the church for people to become and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Look for more information soon!

Randy Waagmeester for not only serving as chair of the Administrative Council, but also scheduling the ushers for worship each week; and Kim Waagmeester for continuing to serve as Sunday School Superintendent year after year.

The youth (and occasionally others) who faithfully run the sound and PowerPoint each Sunday, including recording the service each week. And, those faithful few (Sheila, Sonya, Kathy, others?) who go to Immanuel Lutheran church every Sunday evening to make sure the worship service gets broadcast on the Local Access Channel.

Sonya Peterson for her work with the Communications Committee, especially making sure that the things going on at church are publicized to the community and helping to maintain our Facebook page and web site.

Scott Maxwell and Mark Peterson for faithfully making coffee and setting up and cleaning up the before-church fellowship time each week.

Evelyn Baldwin, Mary Peterson and Mary Holland for their work as financial secretaries; counting, recording and depositing contributions each week. Evelyn also keeps track of our Endowment Fund. In addition to her work as a financial secretary, Mary Peterson serves as Church Historian and is also the one that changes the church banners and paraments on the altar and pulpit with the changing of each season in the church.

Mary and Dave Fields for organizing the Annual Tractor Ride and coordinating volunteers for Meals on Wheels delivery. Also for all the hours Dave gives in mowing and snow removal, and Mary for serving as our Lay Member to Annual Conference in 2018.

All of the Quilters/Crafters for the way they financially support the church through the sale of their quilts and crafts. In addition, for the way they bless others through giving away such things as blankets and dolls to babies being baptized, Christmas gifts made for our shut-ins, and prayer shawls to wrap those who are going through health challenges in warmth and prayer. All of the pink and blue fish hats and gray shark hats that the kids wore in this year’s Christmas program, “Finding Christmas” were also made by the quilters and crafters!

To the women of the United Methodist Women and UMW Circles for all the ways they support the church such as serving funeral dinners, financial donations, and organizing the Heritage Days Salad Luncheon.

Considering the many people that I have mentioned, our church has much to be thankful for when it comes to the faithfulness and energy with which so many serve. I know there are many others I’ve not named who also serve faithfully in many ways. To all of you, named and unnamed, thank you for your faithfulness, your commitment to the church, and all the ways that you live out your faith in the church and community! May you be blessed by being a blessing to others! And may this new year bring you peace, love and joy!

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~

- ✂ Continued prayers for Dave & Barb Fegan.
- ✂ Families in crisis needing God's strength and grace
- ✂ Gayle Wagenaar-leukemia
- ✂ Barb Middle
- ✂ Mary Peterson
- ✂ Roger Van Roekel
- ✂ Jade Moser
- ✂ Family member having tests.
- ✂ Thank you for all the prayers for Grayson Austin who underwent a 10.5 hour bowel reconstruction surgery at Mayo. Please continue to pray for him and his family
- ✂ Continued prayers for Terry & Kathy Van Berkum's grandson Daxton & Terry's brother Earl.



Praise God~

- ☺ Krista Sprock, Jaime Kelly, Jami Vander Zee, Jamie Schar for helping Rhonda decorate
- ☺ Answered prayers for all who prayed for Greyson. He is home with second surgery scheduled for February 6th.
- ☺ Flowers on alter in memory of Betty Vinson who died a year ago
- ☺ Congratulations to Jerry Birkey on retirement and beginning his new role as County Supervisor.



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 02~ Doug Rockhill | 15~ Luke Rice | 26~ James Rydell |
| 03~ David Fields | 16~ Dave Halse | 26~ Jill Schlumbohm |
| 07~ Emmet Schar | 18~ Bailey Herman | 27~ Thomas Dandurand |
| 07~ Steve & Jackie Wells | 21~ Judi Sieperda | 29~ John McDonald |
| 09~ Dave & Barb Fegan | 22~ Steve Wells | 30~ Corey & Heather Heimensen |
| | 25~ Dennis & Pat Patton | |

*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.

2018 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 17, 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 and Finance/Stewardship; Lainn Menning – Trustees; Kathy Van_Berkum – Worship; Kathy Sides – pastor; Sonya Peterson- Communications. Ryan Christenson, NW District Field Outreach Minister.

CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER

Randy called the meeting to order. Patty shared the Discipleship Process Vision and opened with prayer.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Lainn Menning. Second: Heather Heimensen

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion about reducing and restructuring the number of committees and move to finishing projects with volunteers and team members. Four committees are required by the Book of Discipline – SPRC, Finance, Trustees and Nominations.

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Kim: Sunday School attendance has been averaging 35-40 children. Sunday School program is December 9 during worship.

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: Youth will be doing All I Want For Christmas Bible Study during Advent. Volunteers raked lawn at Bonnie Wilson. Pumpkin Auction is October 21. Youth will participate in Trunk and Treat on October 31 at First Reformed Church with other community youth groups. High school is also participating in Operation Christmas Child.

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy: Operation Christmas Child has started.

EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy: Information regarding Meal Ministry menu will be added to morning PowerPoint.

October 24 – Bread of Life – 150 sacks of food will be prepared. Postcard contains church events. Discussion of how to go the next step and invite them to worship with us.

November 18 – Christmas decorating of the sanctuary.

December 2 – Rhythm of Bethlehem at 6:30 p.m. Soup supper will be served from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. Proceeds will go to UMC Meal Ministry.

December 9 – One Way Up – 6:30 p.m. – Ice Cream Sundae bar to follow.

TREASURER/Shawn: Deficit of \$8327.30.

FINANCE SEC/Evelyn:

FINANCE/Heather: Defying Gravity Sermon series starts October 28. A letter will be sent to the congregation and two weeks later mailing of the 2019 Giving Cards.

November 4 – Your Buck Starts Here Offering.

Budget for 2019 was presented to Ad Board. Finance is concerned about adding music directors to salaries to be fiscally responsible to the church. We are thankful for the members who donate their time and talents.

LAY LEADER/ Patty: The Discipleship Process Team continues to meet monthly. In the next 1-2 months, the team's next goal is to present a draft for Ad Council approval. This will include a new

vision/mission statement and 4 core values in which we can base all discipleship growth/ministries/service opportunities from.

MEMORIAL/Judy: No report. All Saints Sunday November 4.

MISSION/Kelli: UMCOR is accepting donations for hurricane relief.

SPRC/Tom: Phyllis has been made aware that she is welcome to return to playing organ and accompanying the choir when she is ready to return following her recovery.

Recommended 2% increase in salaries for pastor, administrative assistant, and custodians. Motion to approve: Lainn Menning. Second: Evelyn Baldwin.

SPRC will meet October 28.

Choir accompanist salary was approved through February, 2019, at the rate originally set (\$75 per month). Motion: Rhonda Menning. Second: Tom Vinson.

TRUSTEES/Lainn: Request to help Dave and Barb Fegan move items from storage shed. Trustees will meet with the Beautification committee to talk about updating the sanctuary.

PASTOR/Kathy/Amber:

Charge Conference November 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Action Plan prepared by Pastor Kathy was presented. Plan is based on the Visioning Day and CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) findings, and lists teams formed and areas of focus, including what has been done so far, and what future expectations are. Permission was asked to use this six-item Action Plan as the goals listed on the "Mission and Ministry Plan" form to be completed for Charge Conference. The Ad Council was agreeable to this.

In response to questions about how the pastor spends her time, Pastor Kathy presented a detailed report of a 7-day period, along with general information on how long some typical pastoral tasks take, and other duties she has beyond the local church. Summary of the 7-day period: In addition to regular day-to-day duties such as attending meetings, planning worship and preparing bulletin information, 6 care center or home visits, sermon preparation and writing, and creating sermon slides; during the 7-day period Pastor Kathy also had a funeral, met in Sheldon with the licensed local pastor for whom she is a mentor, wrote an article for the newspaper, read the book "Canoeing The Mountains" and attended a 6-hour Peer Mentoring Group meeting. Time spent on work during the 7-day period was 67 hours, with days ending as late as 1:15 and 1:45 AM. (Full report available from Pastor Kathy)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya: Projector system is under warranty and the part that needs to be replaced will be installed.

UMW: Election of officers was completed during the October meeting. Pinning will be Sunday, October 21.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Ryan – Peer Mentoring Group meets monthly.

Next Meeting: November 14 at 7 p.m.

2019 MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP Schedule for Rock Rapids United Methodist Church

Our fellowship time is held nearly every Sunday immediately following Sunday Worship. It is hosted by members and friends of our congregation. The names are chosen & paired at random. **Please save this list for your reference. If you are unable to serve on your appointed Sunday, please arrange for someone to trade with you. After you have found a replacement, please contact the church office (472-2324 or rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net) with the change.** You will receive a reminder email or call, and you'll need to contact the other party to coordinate your efforts.

1. Each host should bring 4 dozen (summer) to 6 dozen (school year) unless a special activity is going on. These may be purchased or homemade.
2. Arrange cookies/bars on plastic trays. Set trays and napkins on table near counter.
3. Coffee will be made ahead of time. Make 3-4 pitchers of Kool-Aid drink (drink mix is provided and is in the kitchen). Fill 2 pitchers with water. Water used from the sink in the room next to the kitchen is hard. Water in the kitchen is soft. Serve drinks on the counter. Use the hot/cold paper cups provided in the kitchen. **NO STYROFOAM PLEASE!** You may use glass cups/glasses if you desire.
4. Wash cups/glasses and utensils. The directions for the dishwasher are posted on the bulletin board. Wipe the tables and counters when finished. Clean coffee urn. Instructions are posted inside the cupboard door by the urn.

Our entire congregation thanks each of you for helping in this ministry! Thanks to the United Methodist Women for furnishing the supplies (drink mix, napkins, etc) for this ministry of Fellowship!

Jan. 6	June Waagmeester Family	May 5	Brian & Stacey McIntire & Corey & Carmen Stratton	Sep 1	Gary & Julie Taylor
Jan 13	Dave & Roxanne Ackerman	May 12	Mother's Day- No Fellowship	Sep 8	Hannah Circle
Jan 20	Youth Group Soup & Pie Auction	May 19	Brent & Brenda Vande Weerd	Sep 15	Dale & Vicki Slack
Jan 27	Corey & Heather Heimensen	May 26	Mike & Jackie Austin	Sep 22	Scott & Sheila Maxwell
Feb 3	Tom & Sue Vinson	Jun 2	Larry & Bobbie Kracht & Cindi Steenblock	Sep 29	Ron & Rita Rice & Dave & Barb Fegan
Feb 10	John & Chris VanderZee	Jun 9	George & Margaret Shurr	Oct 6	Randy & Kim Waagmeester
Feb 17	Donna Inderwisch & John & Polly McDonald	Jun 16	Father's Day & Heritage Days- No Fellowship	Oct 13	Ben & Kelli Docker & Jason & Kayla Engleman
Feb 24	Evelyn Baldwin & Bonnie Wilson	Jun 23	Marceia Techen & Judi Sieperda	Oct 20	ElDon & Mary Maxwell
Mar 3	Ed & Marlys Brown	Jun 30	Terry & Kathy VanBerkum	Oct 27	Dave & Mary Fields
Mar 10	Doug & Michele Baade & Marv & Mary Peterson	Jul 7	Steve & Laurie Herman	Nov 3	Dean & Tammi Schweitzer
Mar 17	3 rd Ave. Youth French Toast Breakfast	Jul 14	Lainn & Rhonda Menning	Nov 10	Rick & Pam Attig & Dennis & Pat Patton
Mar 24	Jud Griesse & Renee Hasche	Jul 21	Jim & Char DeGooyer	Nov 17	Jerry & Elaine Birkey
Mar 31	Jeremy & Krista Sprock & Jay & Jamie Kelly	Jul 28	Lance & Jill Schlumbohm	Nov 24	Dave & Marilee Schleusner
Apr 7	Camp Sunday	Aug 4	Matt & Jamie Schar & Dan & Jami Vander Zee	Dec 1	Ms Fits
Apr 14	Mark & Sonya Peterson	Aug 11	Larry & Mary Holland	Dec 8	Steve & Jackie Wells
Apr 21	Easter- No fellowship	Aug 18	Dave & Kae Warren	Dec 15	Dave & Patty Halse
Apr 28	Tom & Amy Menage	Aug 25	Larry & Shawn Wibben	Dec 22	Carl & Nancy DeJongh
				Dec 29	EVERYONE BRING GOODIES TO SHARE

***Please take home used dishcloths & towels to launder & return promptly.**
***Please empty kitchen trash cans & replace new bags. Bags are in drawer under north oven in kitchen.**

Below please find the greeter schedule for 2019. Please save this list for your reference. If you are unable to greet on your appointed Sunday, please arrange for someone to trade with you and then notify the church office (472-2324).

January 6	Matt & Jamie Schar & family	July 7	Mark & Sonya Peterson
January 13	Dave & Marilee Schleusner	July 14	Dale & Vicki Slack
January 20	Jason & Kayla Engleman & family	July 21	Ed & Marlys Brown
January 27	Steve & Laurie Herman & family	July 28	Lance & Jill Schlumbohm & family
February 3	John & Chris Vander Zee	August 4	Ron & Rita Rice
February 10	Youth Sunday	August 11	Randy & Kim Waagmeester & family
February 17	Gary & Judy Borman	August 18	Jay & Jamie Kelly & family
February 24	Lainn & Rhonda Menning	August 25	Dan & Jami Vander Zee & Family
March 3	John & Polly McDonald	September 1	Marv & Mary Peterson
March 10	Tom & Sue Vinson	September 8	Eldon & Mary Maxwell
March 17	Brian & Stacy McIntire	September 15	Ben & Kelli Docker & family
March 24	Brent & Brenda Vande Weerd & family	September 22	John Yeakel & family
March 31	Dave & Kae Warren	September 29	Dennis & Pat Patton
April 7	George & Margaret Shurr	October 6	Rick & Pam Attig
April 14	Dean & Tami Schweitzer	October 13	Doug & Michele Baade
April 21	Steve & Jackie Wells & family	October 20	Larry & Bobbie Kracht & family
April 28	Dave & Roxanne Ackerman	October 27	Larry & Shawn Wibben
May 5	Marceia Techen & family	November 3	Larry & Mary Holland
May 12	Scott & Sheila Maxwell & family	November 10	Dave & Patty Halse
May 19	Tom & Amy Menage	November 17	Josh & Shiri Borman & family
May 26	Dave & Mary Fields	November 24	Jim & Char DeGooyer
June 2	Jay & Mimi Drenth	December 1	Cindy Steenblock & family
June 9	Terry & Kathy VanBerkum	December 8	Corey & Carmen Stratton
June 16	Heritage Days	December 15	Mike & Jackie Austin
June 23	Jerry & Elaine Birkey	December 22	Jeremy & Krista Sprock & family
June 30	Carl & Nancy DeJongh	December 29	Corey & Heather Heimensen & family