
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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I'm having a hard time getting my head around the fact that it is September already. I often feel like I've experienced some kind of time warp or something; it seems like I go to sleep in June and wake up in September. It not only happens with months; it happens with years. I feel like I should have graduated from high school 20 years ago at the very most, and then reality hits me and I realize that it has in fact been 43 years already. Or, it seems like Ben and Sam should be about 12 and 10, when in fact it is Maggie that is 12 already, while Ben and Sam are inexplicably 25 and 23! I'm sure many of you know what I mean. At least I hope you do. I hope I'm not alone in this!

I suppose by now it shouldn't surprise me, this crazy passage-of-time phenomenon. After all, it's been going on for a while now. But it is still unsettling at times. I've heard some people say it's a sign of aging, that the older you get the more it seems like time is just flying by. While that doesn't really make me feel better about it, at least it does make sense. I can remember back with I was a kid, hearing my grandparents, great aunts and great uncles having conversations that just seemed absurd to me at the time: "Wasn't that back in 1935 or so?" "Oh no, it had to be longer ago than that, because I was still living on the home place." "Well, was Uncle Roy still alive then?" "I can't remember. When did he die?" "Well, I know he was still living when....." And so it went. And I could not understand how someone could remember so long ago, and at the same time, seem NOT to remember so much. And I wondered why all those silly details mattered enough to have endless conversations about them. Now I understand. Because I have become them!

I guess it is all a matter of perspective. When you're 10, 5 years ago is half a lifetime ago, and it seems to take forever for Christmas to come. But when you're 60, 5 years ago doesn't seem like that long ago, and you say to yourself, "Christmas again already? Didn't we just *have* Christmas??" It makes me wonder sometimes what it must be like to be God; to have been around since the beginning of time. Does God ever say to himself or to the nearest angel, "Why it seems like only yesterday that Moses was a boy!" Does God ever shake his head and laugh to himself when we mortals think 50 years is a long time?

Certainly, God has a much different perspective than we as humans do. And that could make for some interesting conversations between God and humans. Maybe one like this one:

A man was praying to God. He said, "God, can I ask a question?"

"Go right ahead," God said; "God, what is a million years to you?"

God answered, "A million years to me is only a second."

Hmm," the man wondered. Then he asked,

"God, what is a million dollars worth to you?"

God said, "A million dollars to me is as a penny."

So, the man said, "God, can I have a penny?"

And God said, "Sure.....Just a second."

Surely if God has put up with human beings since Adam and Eve, he must have a sense of humor! Knowing that God has put up with humanity generation after generation can help us to be able to keep things in perspective. Maybe it helps keep us humble when we realize that the 20 years, we can't believe has flown by is just a blink of an eye to God. But more than that, knowing that God is eternal; that God has always been there, helps me to know that God will always be there. It helps me know, when sometimes it seems like the world is changing at a crazy speed, that God will stay constant. Unfailing. Always.

This assurance of an eternal, unchanging God is expressed in the hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past." by Isaac Watts. Its words serve to remind us not only of how short our existence really is in the grand scheme of eternity, but also how constant and dependable God is. I love that it starts and ends with that assurance that God always has been, and always will be, and because of that, God is our hope, our shelter and our home.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the storm blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the storm blast, and our eternal home!

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.



Praise God~

- ☺ Barb Middle- good news, doesn't have to go back to the Oncologist for 6 months
- ☺ Char doing well after stent placement surgery
- ☺ Engleman family and their newest addition- Thaddeus Jay born on August 16th
- ☺ Randy Vinson coming for a visit



Prayers~

- ✚ Continued prayers for Dave Fegan.
- ✚ Daxton, Abbey & Derek DeGroot



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

*We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information. Please contact the office with the correct/missing information. Thank you!

Reminders and Announcements

September Greeter & Fellowship Schedule

GREETERS



Sunday, September 1
Marv & Mary Peterson
Sunday, September 8
EIDon & Mary Maxwell
Sunday, September 15
Dan & Jami Vander Zee
Sunday, September 22
John Yeakel & family
Sunday, September 29
Dennis & Pat Patton

FELLOWSHIP



Sunday, September 1
Gary & Julie Taylor
Sunday, September 8
Hannah Circle
Sunday, September 15
Dale & Vicki Slack
Sunday, September 22
Scott & Sheila Maxwell
Sunday, September 29
Ron & Rita Rice; Dave & Barb Fegan

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 29, 2019



YEAR TO DATE INCOME	\$ 96,161.97
EXPENSES	<u>\$112,272.23</u>
NET INCOME	-\$ 16,110.26



Confirmation Mentors Wanted

Confirmation classes will be offered this school year for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. This year we will be needing Confirmation Mentors to not only help out occasionally with classes, but also to meet one-on-one with confirmands. The present count of confirmation students this year is 13. So far, I have had 3 people

volunteer to be mentors, so we are in need of 10 more! There isn't a long list of requirements, just be someone who is a member of our church who is willing to be a friend in the faith with a young person and willing to explore faith questions together. (You don't have to have all the answers, just be willing to talk together honestly about the questions!) Meetings between mentors and confirmands are scheduled at your convenience, and materials will be provided to guide your time together. Please contact Pastor Kathy if you would be willing to serve as a mentor for a student or two.



The Administrative Council has discussed the three old historic pianos in the basement (not the good one used for Sunday services this summer). There is an idea to upcycle them to become serving bar countertops for the morning coffee at the coffee bar upstairs, and a serving bar for the fellowship treats in the fellowship hall. We understand the pianos are so old they cannot be tuned and can no longer be used for any useful musical purposes, so rather than dispose of them, there is a plan to make them into useful, historic pieces for the church.

If you or your family donated these pianos, and have any objections to this plan, or have an alternate idea, please contact a trustee or Dave Ackerman in the near future. The plan is to begin the upcycle this fall. Thanks!



© Can Stock Photo

The Administrative Council has discussed the donation of furniture and electronics such as TVs to the church. During the remodel effort, a number of items were removed or disposed of. Some of these items had been donated by families, particularly in honor of a loved one, or as donations from estates. While the church appreciates such gestures, please check with the head of trustees prior to dropping off a furniture donation to be sure the church can use that furniture. If the furniture or electronic device is not usable it becomes a burden on the church to dispose of it later. Thank you.



Sunday September 8 is Dedication Sunday. In addition to a number of other celebrations, we will be honoring those who took part in the remodel project in a variety of ways. We will be dedicating the remodel work to the Glory of God for his guidance and help in seeing the project to the end! We will also be taking a second offering for the remodel project as it is now complete and bills currently exceed donations. Please prayerfully consider a donation, or an additional donation to the project so that we may conclude this chapter in our church. Thank you!
 Dave Ackerman



If you shop at Sunshine Foods you can help students at Central Lyon School by saving your receipts!

Sunshine Foods in Rock Rapids is Central Lyon’s participating store in the “Apples For The Students” program. The school can earn Apple computers and iPads, and many other supply and equipment items just by collecting as many Sunshine Foods register receipts as possible from September 1, 2019 through March 2, 2020. They would like the receipts turned in as often as possible, so as you collect them you can get them to any of our Central Lyon students (and probably teachers, too) to be taken to the school. Such a simple way to help our school, so save those receipts!

**2019 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
 ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

July 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of Ad. Council: (Names of Absentees underlined)
 Randy Waagmeester – chairperson; Sonya Peterson – Recording Secretary/Communications; Shawn Wibben- Treasurer; Rhonda Menning- Evangelism; Evelyn Baldwin- Financial Secretary & Stewardship/Financial; Jackie Austin- Lay Leader to Annual Conference; Judy Griesse- Memorial Committee; Dave Ackerman- SPRC; Kelli Docker – Missions & Christian Education & SS Superintendent; Lainn Menning- Trustees; Heather Heimensen- Youth; Kathy Van Berkum – Worship; Vicki Slack – UMW President; Kathy Sides – Pastor. Patty Halse - Discipleship Process Team; Roxanne Ackerman- Facilities Team; Julie Taylor – Member at Large.

CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER/

Randy called the meeting to order.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Sonya Peterson
 2nd: Lainn Menning.

OLD BUSINESS

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Kelli: Kelli reported she and Sheila Maxwell will be Education Directors. She reported the Sunday School offering is approximately \$750 for the entire year. The Sunday School students like a specific mission throughout the year. Ideas are Heifer Project or United Methodist Church Camp Projects for the 3- to 4-year-olds to 5th grade. The Middle School and High School offering can go to the General Fund. Randy made a motion to earmark a portion of the weekly Sunday School offering to the project of choice; seconded by Vicki Slack.

The Sunday School expenses for 2018-19 school year was \$997.31 due to selecting an online curriculum compared to \$1140.08 for 2017-18 and \$1897.16 for 2016-17.

No Sunday School classes on: Christmas Program Sunday, December 22, December 29, French Toast Breakfast, Camp Sunday, Easter Sunday.
 All classes combined on: Rally Sunday, Jesus’ Birthday Party; Celebration Sunday.

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: Tori Stubbe, Grace Heimensen, and Sutton Schlumbohm reported on their Mission Trip to Tennessee during the July 14 Worship Service.

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy: No report.

EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy:

On August 19 the Evangelism Committee will meet with Worship Committee members. Banners were purchased with grant money. In the process of applying for Karma Mohler grant for Meal Ministry funding. Volunteers are needed each month for Meal Ministry food preparation and meal distribution.

TREASURER/Shawn: Deficit of -\$11,530.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Kelli Docker; 2nd by Evelyn Baldwin.

FINANCE SEC/Evelyn: Finance Committee is in search of a finance chairperson. Automatic withdrawal has been communicated in newsletters and bulletins.

MEMORIAL/Judy: Balance of \$7783.00 of undesignated funds. Vicki Slack and Julie Taylor proposed to have the Madonna print frame cleaned from (the company in Minneapolis). Cost to clean the frame approximately \$780 to \$1040. Painting cleaning/restoration – \$650 - \$780. \$400 to pick up and \$400 to return. Concern about varying temperatures in sanctuary and burning candles can cause damage to the painting and frame. Would like to have the art re-appraised. Date of last cleaning was July of 1997 for \$2900. At that time, the family of Ken Miller donated \$5,000 for care of the artwork.

UMW/Judy & Vicki: Salad luncheon during Heritage Days: 165 people attended the Heritage Days luncheon. Admission was \$9.00 per meal. Judy & Vicki thanked all those who donated and volunteered.

MISSION/Kelli: Kelli Docker reported she would coordinate a Silent Auction for a General Fund fundraiser.

SPRC/Dave: Amber will be able to check email and send emails from home on days that she is not in the office. Dave met with Julie and Marilee regarding pianists and organists. Julie and Marilee will take care of the worship service schedule. Holly Moeller will be asked to be a part of the organist schedule in the future.

TRUSTEES/Lainn & Dave:

Volunteers have been outstanding for the renovation projects. Carpet was torn out and came out easily. Painting has been completed. Electricians will be replacing lights this month. Bathrooms will be upgraded to be more handicap accessible. Donations received for renovations project

PASTOR KATHY/AMBER:

Bible Studies at the Care Centers. Plan to offer membership classes in August. Confirmation classes will begin in the fall. Pastor Kathy is on vacation on August 4.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya: Premier Communications are changing the process of airing the worship services on Sunday night. The worship service will be uploaded to a specific website. A letter of agreement was given to Pastor Kathy to complete and return to Premier Communications.

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY/Patty: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Randy discussed a membership directory.

Randy closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting – August 19 at 7:00 p.m.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Marv & Mary Peterson Head Usher: Jason Engleman Acolyte: Maggie Sides Fellowship: Gary & Julie Taylor Powerpoint: Emily Sides 3:15 p.m.- Worship @ Health Center 4:00 p.m.- Worship @ Lyon Specialty	2	3 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	4 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team meeting 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice	5	6	7
8 Rally Sunday! 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:00 a.m.- Choir practice 9:30 a.m.- Worship-Chancel Choir 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Eldon & Mary Maxwell Head Usher: Jason Engleman Acolyte: Rylan Maxwell Sound: Hayden Fellowship: Hannah Circle Powerpoint: Emily Sides Receive new members	9	10 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	11 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship 10:30 a.m.- UMW during Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Dan & Jami Vander Zee Head Usher: Jason Engleman Acolyte: Kyra Van Berkum Sound: Ashlynn Fellowship: Dale & Vicki Slack Powerpoint: Emily Sides	16	17 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	18 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team meeting 6:30 p.m.- Finance Meeting 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice	19 1:30 p.m.- Naomi Circle	20	21
22 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:00 a.m.- Choir practice 9:30 a.m.- Worship-Chancel Choir 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship 10:30 a.m.- Worship/Evangelism meeting Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: John Yeakel & family Head Usher: Jason Engleman Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Sound: Grace Fellowship: Scott & Sheila Maxwell Powerpoint: Emily Sides	23	24 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	25 6:00 p.m.- Ad Council 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth	26 7:00 p.m.- Ms Fits	27	28
29 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Dennis & Pat Patton Head Usher: Jason Engleman Acolyte: Ellie Docker Sound: Sutton Fellowship: Ron & Rita Rice; Dave & Barb Fegan Powerpoint: Emily Sides	30					