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# The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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I just received a text message from my seminary friend Kathy. She reminded me that exactly one year ago she and I, along with Melanie, another friend from seminary, were in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Oh to be there right now, surrounded by the mountains with their grandeur and their peace. There is something soul-renewing about the majesty of the mountains. I somehow feel closer to God there, and it brings to mind the Psalmist's words:

I lift up my eyes to the hills –  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)



Often when shopping in Estes Park I have come across a t-shirt or a poster with the John Muir quote "The Mountains are Calling and I Must Go." I've made many trips throughout my life to the Colorado Rockies, and I always feel when I arrive there, that I have somehow arrived *home*. I often feel, especially when I am down or weary, that the mountains are calling to my soul. Only instead of replying to the mountains' call "I must go," most often life intervenes and I must sadly reply "I cannot go."

Right now, I would love to be where I was a year ago; surrounded by the mountains, in the company of good friends. What a gift to have good friends who accept us as we are, never judging us as "not enough." The world can be a harsh place. It can leave you questioning your worth. It can make you say to yourself "If only I were \_\_\_\_\_." The blank could be filled in with any number of things, depending on the day or the circumstance. For me they are most often things like "If only I were more outgoing." "If only I were more energetic." "If only I were bolder." "If only I cared less about what others think." "If only I were less hurt by the opinions of others."

I said the world can be a harsh place. Sadly, the church can also be a harsh place. And while you would think that those inside the church would be more forgiving and less judgmental than those outside the church, that's not always the case. Because whether inside or outside the church, we're all human, and we all fall short of what we *ought* to be. Now, I've experienced some wonderful, caring, generous, Christ-like behavior in every church I've ever been associated with. Lots of it. But I would say that pretty much without exception, I've also experienced the opposite in those same churches.

Our son left teaching after two years. While he enjoyed most of the kids and the music they made, he didn't enjoy those few parents who were critical and even unkind. When he was looking for jobs a couple of months ago, I suggested he might want to check into a couple of choir director/church musician jobs I had seen advertised by churches in his area. I thought it would allow him to continue using his musical gifts in a different setting than teaching. His reply was something close to "Right now I'm not really interested in putting myself into a position where people find fault and criticize what I do." And then he added something I found rather sad coming from a young man who has spent his entire life in the church "And church people are the most judgmental people there are." What I found sadder still was that I *wanted* to be able to say "Oh, that's not true at all!" But after spending my entire life in the church, especially after spending the past 26 years as a pastor, I couldn't say it.

We need to be more gracious and generous with one another, especially in the church. We need to be more lovingly honest. We ought **never** to treat anyone in such a way that they are left questioning their worth and feeling that they have been judged as "not enough." I know the hurt experienced in churches is often unintentional; when people feel strongly about something sometimes, they hurt others with whom they disagree without even thinking. But intentional or not, it still hurts. Like being in

the mountains, or like spending time with good friends who embrace us exactly as we are, spending time with “church people” ought to renew our soul. May God forgive us when we wound one another and help us to be who and what we are called to be as the people of his Church.

I don't know if the song “You Raise Me Up” was written with God or with a person in mind. I first heard it at the funeral of my aunt, Minnie, who was certainly someone who spent her life loving me and raising me up, so I often think of Minnie when I hear it. But when I hear it, I also think of God, who above anyone has the power to strengthen me and help me stand. Right now, I am feeling down and my soul is weary. The mountains are calling and I cannot go. Thankfully I can still go to God, the maker of the mountains, who raises me up and soothes my soul.

You Raise Me Up  
words by Brendan Graham

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then I am still and wait here in the silence  
Until you come and sit awhile with me

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be

*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.



*Praise God~*

- ☺ A new start to our church ministries for the year and for a bright, newly refurbished sanctuary
- ☺ Many thanks to the 18 people who provided food for the tractor ride. Special thanks to Rhonda, Vicki, Nancy, Marilee, Patty, Mary and Sonya. ~Kathy
- ☺ The birth of Nathan & Jessica Herman's baby girl- Aurora Lea



### Prayers~

- ✚ Continued prayers for Dave Fegan.
- ✚ Daxton, Abbey & Derek DeGroot
- ✚ Patty Halse recovering from hip surgery
- ✚ Eric Selken recovering from an apedectomy
- ✚ Abbey DeGroot also recovering from apedectomy
- ✚ Nathan & Jessica Herman's baby girl in NICU due to prematurity
- ✚ Anna Cole, Debra Selken's Mom having a hard time with radiation & chemo



## October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |                              |                        |                      |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 03~ Bart Brown               | 13~ Lynn Selken        | 23~ Jayce VanBerkum  |
| Carol VerHoef                | 14~ Ben & Kelli Docker | 24~ Dale Slack       |
| 04~ Dave Ackerman            | 15~ Katelynn Kelly     | 25~ Kaylee Dandurand |
| Jeff Brown                   | 15~ Karlie Hamilton    | Phyllis TeSlaa       |
| Grace Heimensen              | 16~ Kelli Docker       | Cole Schleusner      |
| Hayden Heimensen             | 17~ Jessie Lorenzen    | Taysom Engleman      |
| Larry & Shawn Wibben         | 19~ Shirley Roach      | 27~ Cindy Dean       |
| 07~ Madelyn Broesder         | 20~ Joel DeJong        | 29~ Darren Dandurand |
| 11~ Sean & Cassie Van Berkum | Sonya Peterson         | 29~ Shiri Borman     |
| 12~ Dorothy Dykhous          | 21~ Sandy Kumba        | 30~ Ross Ackerman    |
| Amy Menage                   | Tori Selken            | Kathy Slides         |
| 13~ Sheila Maxwell           | 22~ Vicki Slack        | 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

## FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2019



<b>YEAR TO DATE INCOME</b>	<b>\$108,604.47</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$123,213.54</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$ 14,609.07</b>

# October Volunteer Schedule

## GREETERS



Sunday, October 6  
Rick & Pam Attig

Sunday, October 13  
Doug & Michele Baade

Sunday, October 20  
Larry & Bobbie Kracht & family

Sunday, October 27  
Larry & Shawn Wibben

## FELLOWSHIP



Sunday, October 6  
Ben & Kelli Docker; Jason & Kayla Engleman

Sunday, October 13  
Randy & Kim Waagmeester

Sunday, October 20  
Eldon & Mary Maxwell

Sunday, October 27  
Dave & Mary Fields

## NURSERY



Sunday, October 6  
Rylan & Kyra

Sunday, October 13  
Maggie

Sunday, October 20  
Avery & Kyra

Sunday, October 27  
Daemian



### 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!

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### Confirmation Mentors Still Needed!

I am still in need of several additional mentors for this year's confirmation students. If you are willing to be a friend in the faith and explore faith questions with a confirmand or two, please contact Pastor Kathy. Mentor and Student books will be provided that will guide your time together.

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Due to Sunday School being in session, we have a GOOD problem of having to provide a few more goodies for Fellowship time. Please bring 2-3 dozen additional goodies when it is your turn to serve Fellowship- preferably Oreo type cookies or "kid-friendly" items that are not messy and easy to pick up. The elementary Sunday School teachers will make up trays of these goodies and take to the classes to distribute.

### NEW COFFEE URN PROCEDURES:

We are now turning our coffee urn OFF after each use to prevent unnecessary electricity use. PLEASE NOTE THE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TURN THE URN ON AND OFF THAT ARE LOCATED ON THE CUPBOARD ABOVE IT. Also remember it does take up to 2 HOURS now to heat up when you want to use it, so plan accordingly. If you have any questions, contact Dale Slack.

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**Third Avenue Youth's Annual Pumpkin Auction and Bake Sale will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds go towards Third Avenue Youth's mission projects and youth events.**

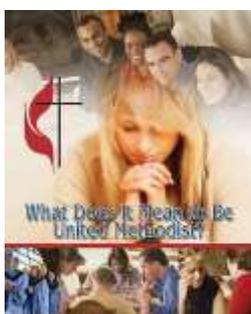


## HARVEST MEAL

A Harvest Meal will be held October 13<sup>th</sup> at RRUMC following the Pumpkin Auction. Traditional chicken casserole, tea rolls/butter & dessert will be served. Free will offering



**If there is anyone that is in need of a ride to church on Sunday mornings, Evangelism is starting a new ministry with volunteers to give you a ride to church. Our volunteers for the month of October are Larry & Mary Holland. If you would like a ride, please call the Hollands at 712-472-0057 or 605-254-5155.**



### What Does It Mean to Be United Methodist?

Pastor Kathy is offering a 4-week study on what it means to be United Methodist. Whether you are new to our denomination or would just like a refresher, you're welcome to come and learn a thing or two about who we are and what we believe as United Methodists.

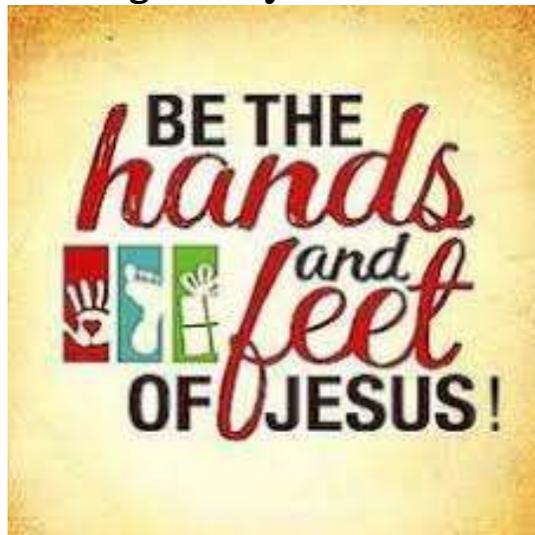
**Study will be Sundays at 6:00 p.m. in the church library from October 13<sup>th</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



Charge Conferences in the Northwest District this year are going to be "cluster conferences" where a number of churches meet to worship together, celebrate ministries happening in the various churches, and vote on necessary business. While anyone is welcome to go to Charge Conference, members of the Church Council are especially encouraged to attend.

**Our Charge Conference is on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Sheldon United Methodist Church.**

### Greetings from your UMC Meal Ministry!



We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support we have received from our amazing church friends. As you know, support is realized in a variety of ways. Our "packing" evenings on Tuesday night are filled with conversation, prayer and praise! Thanks to all of you who have carved time out of your busy schedules to help. If you have not had the chance yet, we guarantee it will be worth your while. Many of you are donating supplies as each month there is an opportunity to donate specific items. Thank you so much for that. Just visit our clipboard for details. Then of course, we have those of you who have helped distribute our sack suppers at the George site or the Community building. It is a real blessing to see the smiles on the faces of those receiving our sack suppers. A BIG shout out to the UMC Tractor Ride and Dave and

Mary Fields. It was a huge success and those monies were donated to your UMC Meal Ministry. Many of you worked, donated and prayed for the ride. Thank you all. If you have not yet had a chance to support in some way, visit our clipboards on the table near the bathrooms at church. We can't wait to hear from you!

Love, Rhonda & Kathy

**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."**

## October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	<b>2</b> 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team Meeting  6:30 p.m.- Nominating Committee meeting  7:00 p.m.- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Squared	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Rick & Pam Attig Head Usher: Corey Heimensen Acolyte: Daemian Hamilton Nursery: Rylan & Kyra Fellowship: Ben & Kelli Docker; Jason & Kayla Engleman Powerpoint: Emily Sides	<b>7</b> 6:30 p.m.- Finance meeting	<b>8</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	<b>9</b> 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice  7:00 p.m.- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Youth	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 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 10:45 a.m.- Pumpkin Auction 11:30 a.m.- Harvest meal Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Doug & Michele Baade Head Usher: Corey Heimensen Acolyte: Tori Selken Nursery: Maggie Fellowship: Randy & Kim Waagmeester Powerpoint: Emily Sides	<b>14</b> 6:00 p.m.- Worship meeting	<b>15</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	<b>16</b> 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team Meeting  7:00 p.m.- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Squared	<b>17</b> 1:30 p.m.- Naomi Circle	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship- Cherub Choir 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Confirmation 10:30 a.m.- UMW during Fellowship 3:00 p.m.- Charge Conference Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Larry & Bobbie Kracht & family Head Usher: Corey Heimensen Acolyte: Jessa Vande Weerd Nursery: Avery & Krya Fellowship: EIDon & Mary Maxwell Powerpoint: Emily Sides	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters  6:30 p.m.- Meal Ministry- prepare food	<b>23</b> 6:00 p.m.- Bread of Life  7:00 p.m.- Choir practice  7:00 p.m.- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Youth	<b>24</b> 7:00 p.m.- Ms Fits	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 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 3:15 p.m.- Worship at Health Centre 4:00 p.m.- Worship at Lyon Specialty Care Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Larry & Shawn Wibben Head Usher: Corey Heimensen Acolyte: Alixandria Hamilton Nursery: Daemian Fellowship: Dave & Mary Fields Powerpoint: Emily Sides	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		