
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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I thought I'd share one of my favorite Bible passages this month. This one is from the book of Revelation. I confess that Revelation is not one of my favorite books of the Bible. So much of it is very difficult to interpret or understand. And, so much of it has been badly misused by people who have lifted portions of it out of context and twisted it into something it was never meant to say or be. Part of the reason it is difficult for us to understand properly is because we are far removed from the time period in which it was written, and the meaning of some of the symbolic language which is used has been lost to us.

Another part of it is that the author of Revelation did not want everyone to understand it. It was written when being a follower of Christ was a dangerous business, and the message of Revelation would have been considered by the authorities as subversive stuff. So its message of the power of God to sustain and to eventually triumph in the face of persecution and hardship was veiled in terms that believers would have understood, but others would not.

However, even though I do not pretend to understand it all, I still find that portions of Revelation really speak to me, especially near the end where John is sharing the vision of a new heaven and a new earth. I especially like this passage from chapter 21, verses 1-5a.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

I don't know for sure exactly what Heaven will be like. None of us do. The idea of streets of gold and sitting on clouds strumming harps doesn't really appeal to me all that much. I remember a number of years ago when a Facebook friend of mine posted the news of folk singer great Pete Seeger's death. One of the comments to his post was one that I loved. The person wrote "There's going to be a hootenanny in Heaven tonight!" Now I like that idea! I hope heaven is a great celebration that includes lots of singing!

But, one's person's idea of what they want heaven to be like might not appeal to the next person at all. Although I can't quite understand it, I have actually met a person or two who really didn't care for music all that much. So the idea of singing for hours on end wouldn't appeal to them at all. They'd rather spend eternity playing golf, or reading a good book, or having long conversations. I hope that Heaven is, for each person, a place where they are surrounded by the things that make them happiest. Reality is, we can't know till we get there what Heaven will be like. But more important than what it looks like or what goes on there, is this image of it being a place where we dwell with God; where God himself with wipe every tear from our eyes; where death and mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

That image of God wiping away our tears is such a powerful one for me. That God will be close enough to reach out and tenderly wipe each tear away is such an amazing idea to me. And I take such comfort in the idea that in the presence of God all that hurts us and causes us sorrow will simply pass away, they will be no more.

I might not understand some of the rest of Revelation, and I certainly do not know all that Heaven holds for us. But this promise I understand: there will come a day when we will stand in the very presence of God. And, all that has puzzled or disappointed or hurt us; every heartache and every sorrow, will be wiped away with our tears. In such a place as that, I might not even care whether or not there's a hootenanny!

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.



Praise God~

- ☺ Thanks for the prayers for Megan- she's going to be fine.
~Ron & Rita Rice
- ☺ Thank you for your prayers for Dale Slack after his hospitalization and illness.
- ☺ Congratulations to Austin & Holly Behrens on the birth of their baby girl, Amelia Grace born on January 14th weighing 7 lbs 13 oz and 21 ½ inches long
- ☺ Jim & Debbie Haberkorn are home
- ☺ Volunteers for Meal Ministry
- ☺ Thank you to all who have been praying for Daxton. We are in a good time right now between episodes (this lasts 2 weeks or so). So we are thankful for that and all of you.
~Terry & Kathy
- ☺ District Speech Contest- everyone received a 1 rating and will advance to State competition



Prayers~

- ✂ Bonnie Postma- Vicki Slack's Mom
- ✂ Glenda DeBoer
- ✂ Daxton DeGroot- now has a Caringbridge site



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

01~ Dan Dean

02~ Pam Attig

03~ Renee Hasche

04~ Greg Stubbe

05~ Mitchell Broesder

06~ DaMarkus Borman

08~ Kora Schar

10~ Sarah Devries

Brenda Vande Weerd

11~ Quintin Sprock

16~ Judy Griesse

Martina Peterson

17~ Polly McDonald

Margaret Shurr

18~ Dean Schweitzer

19~ Ashley Schweitzer

Dan & Cindy Dean

22~ Marvin Peterson

23~ Sean Van Berkum

25~ Colleen Wall

26~ Nathan Herman

27~ Emily Sides

28~ June Waagmeester

29~ Dave & Kae Warren

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

Reminders and Announcements

January Volunteer Schedule

GREETERS



Sunday, February 2

John & Chris Vander Zee

Sunday, February 9

Youth Sunday

Sunday, February 16

Gary & Judy Borman

Sunday, February 23

Ron & Rita Rice

FELLOWSHIP



Sunday, February 2

Tom & Sue Vinson

Sunday, February 9

Donna Inderwisch;

John & Polly McDonald

Sunday, February 16

Corey & Heather Heimensen

Sunday, February 23

Doug & Michele Baade

SOUND

Sunday, February 2

Sonya

Sunday, February 9

Sonya

Sunday, February 16

Hayden

Sunday, February 23

Ashlynn



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!



Our volunteer driver for the month of February is Dale Slack. If you would like a ride, please call Dale at 472-3874.

Jim Haberkorn has been discharged and is now at home.

Jim’s address is:

**15109 215th Ave., #1
Spirit Lake, IA 51360**

Quilters Giving for 2019

1 quilt donated to Kids Fall Auction \$120.00

Sanford Childrens

64 Rag dolls @ \$5.00 each \$320.00

86 Pillowcases @ \$2.50 each \$215.00

Prayer Shawls

3 prayer shawls @ \$25.00 each \$ 75.00

Baptism

2 dolls & quilts \$50.00

Stocking caps

76 caps @ \$5.00 each \$380.00

(Central Lyon Atlas cap & mitten party)

Fall Auction basket kitchen items

\$33.00

Donated to Baby Alexander, Atlas Client

Receiving blanket, quilt, taggie, big, ragdoll \$51.50

Quilt donation to church budget

44 quilts

15 ragdolls

3 baby quilts \$1,096.00

Donated quilts

6 to each: Premier Estates, Lyon Specialty Care, \$630.00

Rock Rapids Health Centre 18 @ \$35.00 each

125 shut-ins at Christmas:

**Decorated paper bag, mason jar lid wreath,
2 beaded ornaments @ \$10.00 each \$120.00**

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship 10:30 a.m.- Evangelism/Missions meeting Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: John & Chris Vander Zee Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Daemian Hamilton Fellowship: Tom & Sue Vinson Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Sonya	3	4 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	5 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team Meeting 6:00 p.m.- Ad Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice	6	7	8
9 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:00 a.m.- Choir practice 9:30 a.m.- Worship-Youth Sunday 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship 10:30 a.m.- Confirmation 10:30 a.m.- UMW- plan World Day of Prayer Organist: Holly Moeller Greeters-Youth Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Brody De Groot Fellowship: Donna Inderwisch & John & Polly McDonald Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Sonya	10	11 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Gary & Judy Borman Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Jessa Vande Weerd Fellowship: Corey & Heather Heimensen Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Hayden	17	18 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	19 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team Meeting 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice	20	21	22
23 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.- Confirmation Organist: Holly Moeller Greeters: Ron & Rita Rice Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Alixandria Hamilton Fellowship: Doug & Michele Baade Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Ashlynn	24	25 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	26	27 7:00 p.m.- Ms Fits	28	29