
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Well, it happened once again, here we are in another new year. Does it seem to anyone else that we just started 2019? Or 2000? Or 1960?? How is it that 2020 has arrived already?

There's something about a new year that is both exciting and disconcerting. On the one hand, there is the feeling that we are getting a fresh start. We might think, "Why, this is a new year, maybe it will be wonderful. Maybe this year I'll have the energy or courage or time to do some exciting, new thing that I've never done in all my previous years!" The possibilities are endless!

But, then maybe we start to remember back to all the times we had that little glimmer of hope or excitement at the beginning of a new year and found that at the end of the year it had been pretty much like every other year: some joys, some sorrows, and lots of things that we intended to do that we never quite got around to.

Somehow the prospect of a new year often has us looking forward and backward at the same time. And if we're not careful, we can get so caught up in recalling all the mistakes and sorrows and disappointments of the past, that we are unable to see the hope and promise that this new year might hold.

I do think that the opportunity to review our lives is good. It's good that each year we have a little reminder to pause, to remember and reflect on the past. While perusing the past, hopefully we won't be too hard on ourselves for the mistakes and missed opportunities we find there. And hopefully we will remember to give ourselves a pat on the back for all the times we did something right, and to thank God for all the tough times God walked us through.

But hopefully we don't get stuck just remembering the past. Hopefully this new year also makes us want to evaluate the present. And, maybe inspire us to resolve to change some of the things that are not to our liking. (Like maybe I'll resolve to lose the weight that that I've resolved to lose at the start of each of the previous umpteen years!)

Most of all, I hope that the coming of this new year will remind us to dream. And, that it will encourage us to hope; to believe that the possibilities are endless. After all, we have a God that can do more than we can imagine.

During Advent we were reminded again by the angel Gabriel that "Nothing will be impossible with God." May we have the faith to believe those words as this new year gets underway. I'm hoping that for myself, as well as for all of you. For me, looking ahead to this year in some ways seems pretty terrifying. What will retirement bring? Will we find a house to live in that we can afford? Will we be able to pay our bills on the lower income retirement will bring? There are a lot of changes and a lot of unknowns, and like most people, I'm not terribly fond of either. I often prefer safe and predictable. And yet, there is a certain amount of excitement about doing something new; about not being so bound by the expectations and obligations of serving a church, both in terms of time, and the emotionally exhausting "trying to be all things to all people."

So, I start this year with both excitement and fear. And the fear would far outweigh the excitement if it weren't for faith; faith that the same God that has walked with me through each and every year of my past will continue to walk with me into this year, too. And I know that God will walk with each of you, too. God will be there for each and every one of us, each and every day.

Whether this year brings with it the ordinary ups and downs and joys and sorrows we've come to expect from life, or whether it brings extraordinary changes, challenges and losses that might scar us

and scare us, the same God that has been there through all of our yesterdays will be there through all our tomorrows. We can count on that, for God is faithful.

Here's hoping it is a year of blessing and promise, and most of all, a year when we feel God's presence. I leave you with this prayer:

God of the past, present and future, our times are in your hands.
As we enter this new year we pray that you would give us
peace for the past,
joy for the present,
and hope for the future.

Fill our hearts with gratitude for all you have been to us.
Give us faith to believe in all you will continue to do and be.
All our days are yours God,
we place them in your care.
Fill them with your love.
Amen.

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~

- ☺ Krista Sprock, Alayna Sprock, Jamie Kelly, Jami Vander Zee for helping Rhonda decorate
- ☺ Sue Vinson altar flowers
- ☺ Thanksgiving
- ☺ River Valley Players-dinner theatre production
- ☺ Thank you to Sheila for the hard work and dedication she puts forth for a beautiful Rhythm of Bethlehem
- ☺ CL/GLR Wrestling-scoring 1st place as a team in Emmetsburg
- ☺ Children's Christmas Program and all those who helped make it a success
- ☺ Sonya Peterson for all her work in getting the new video recording system in place.



Prayers~

- ✧ Jim Haberkorn
- ✧ Daxton DeGroot
- ✧ Hazel Berg
- ✧ Judy Griesse
- ✧ Mary Peterson
- ✧ Sue Vinson
- ✧ Char De Gooyer
- ✧ Barb Middle
- ✧ Waagmeester family



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

02~ Doug Rockhill
 03~ Dave Fields
 07~ Emmet Schar
 Steve & Jackie Wells
 10~ Amber Kooiker

15~ Luke Rice
 16~ Dave Halse
 18~ Bailey Herman
 21~ Judi Sieperda
 22~ Steve Wells

25~ Dennis & Pat Patton
 26~ James Rydell
 27~ Thomas Dandurand
 29~ John McDonald
 30~ Corey & Heather
 Heimensen

*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, January 5
 Dave & Roxanne Ackerman
Sunday, January 12
 Brent & Brenda Vande
 Weerd
Sunday, January 19
 Scott & Sheila Maxwell

Sunday, January 26
 Steve & Laurie Herman

FELLOWSHIP



Sunday, January 5
 June Waagmeester Family
Sunday, January 12
 Dave & Roxanne Ackerman;
 Austin & Holly Behrens
Sunday, January 19
 Youth Group Soup & Pie
 Auction
Sunday, January 26
 Corey & Heather Heimensen

SOUND

Sunday, January 5
 Grace
Sunday, January 12
 Ashlynn

Sunday, January 19
 Sheila

Sunday, January 26
 Hayden



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 January is Eric Selken. If you would like a ride, please call Eric at 605-951-4902.



RRUMC MEAL MINISTRY “SACK SUPPERS”
The year of 2019 was a great year in our Meal Ministry. We filled many sack suppers with the start of 2019, averaging 175 a month. As the summer started, we continued to serve Rock Rapids, George and added Little Rock Meal Ministry. Little Rock found interest in serving locally, which is awesome. We had grills going all summer.

September, the annual TRACTOR RIDE was a highlight, great people with big tractors and great big hearts, great food and donations of \$2,220.0. Many blessings from this Ministry.

October, we received another blessing through experience. Baby Alexander! Those that served at Bread of Life experienced HANDS ON prayer and no doubt, God’s message was loud and clear. Better to give than receive.

November was a month of being thankful and a lot of conversation with community on just what is the “Sack Supper Ministry”.

December was a BIG month of hospitality in the RRUMC. We served 101 at Rhythm of Bethlehem soup supper, with donations of \$780.00. A great experience to get yourself in the spirit of Christmas. Back to back events, served up ice cream to the community that enjoyed the “One Way Up” concert. A beautiful experience we recommend to all.

We are so glad that 2 years ago, the tugging of our hearts by the Lord made us reach deep and feel the strength to say yes to this Sack Supper Ministry. You have made and served 1945 sack suppers this year and since YOU started, 3445 suppers have been served. THANK YOU for all your donations, time, and prayers. Goals will be made and with God’s guidance we will reach them.

Much Love,

Rhonda and Kathy

BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS!!!!

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 measure you use, it will be measured to you.”



Praise God! Our Church Treasury ended the year “in the black!” “Ignite the Flame” effort raised \$2,835. The Renovation project is completely funded. Conference Apportionments are paid. Thank you to everyone for your extra giving!

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Dave & Roxanne Ackerman Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Kyra Van Berkum Fellowship: June Waagmeester Family Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Grace	6 Meals on Wheels	7 Meals on Wheels 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	8 Meals on Wheels 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth	9 Meals on Wheels	10 Meals on Wheels	11
12 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 3:15 p.m.- Worship @ Health Centre 4:0 p.m.- Worship @ Lyon Specialty Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Brent & Brenda Vande Weerd & family Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Fellowship: Dave & Roxanne Ackerman; Austin & Holly Behrens Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Ashlynn UMW during Fellowship-Pledge Service	13 Meals on Wheels	14 Meals on Wheels 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	15 Meals on Wheels 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team meeting	16 Meals on Wheels	17 Meals on Wheels	18
19 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship -Cherub Choir 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Scott & Sheila Maxwell & family Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Ellie Docker Fellowship: Youth Group Soup & Pie Auction Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Sheila	20	21 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	22 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth	23 7:00 p.m.- Ms Fits	24	25
26 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: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Steve & Laurie Herman Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Rylan Maxwell Fellowship: Corey & Heather Heimensen Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Hayden	27	28 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	29	30	31	

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

November 13, 2019 at 6:00 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; Kelli Docker- Missions; Dave Ackerman- SPRC; Kim Waagmeester – Christian Education 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; Ryan Christenson

CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER/

Lainn called the meeting to order. Pastor Kathy opened with prayer.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve: Sonya Peterson

2nd: Evelyn Baldwin

OLD BUSINESS

Silent Auction brought in approximately \$1800 for the general fund.

REPORTS:

EDUCATION/Kelli & Sheila: Christmas program practice has started. Program is December 15 at 9:30 a.m.

THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather: November 20 Youth Group will be attending All Area Youth Worship at Dorcht. Successful evening serving at Kids Against Hunger last week.

THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Kathy:

EVANGELISM & WORSHIP/Rhonda & Kathy:

December 8 – Rhythm of Bethlehem

December 15 – One Way Up

Matthew 25 Grant from district - \$100 per month for 2020. Recommend to apply for funds from United Fund.

TREASURER/Shawn: Time is being spent with Marceia to help transition with treasurer. Deficit of \$10,500.

FINANCE SEC/Evelyn: Stewardship forms have been emailed.

Quilters/Evelyn: Donations from the sale of quilts will go to General budget.

MEMORIAL/Judy: No report.

MISSION/Kelli: Rainbow covenant has been eliminated. Mission committee responsibilities will be transitioned to Evangelism & Worship.

SPRC/Dave: Met with Ron Carlson, district superintendent.

TRUSTEES/Lainn: Bell tower needs repair. Cost will be around \$5,000 to repair. Inside repairs of the entrance would be \$1,000 if the trustees do the work.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya: Video camera equipment will be ordered and installed from South Central AV.

UMW: Gave donation to Atlas, general budget, Women at the Well.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Sue Vinson agreed to be lay leader to Annual Conference.

The Ad Council had previously discussed whether or not the business of the Finance Committee could be handled during Ad Council meetings rather than requiring separate Finance Committee meetings. Pastor Kathy reported that there appears to be no reason this could not be done, given that the members of the finance committee are also on Ad Council, and much of the financial business is already being discussed at Council meetings. It was decided that the majority of financial decisions will be made by the Ad Council, which should eliminate the need for the Finance Committee to meet on a regular basis. The Finance Committee will continue

to exist as a committee to handle details like the stewardship campaign or other matters that might need preliminary discussion before Ad Council acts on them.

Sonya Peterson nominated Dave Ackerman volunteered to be lay leader and discipleship committee chairperson; second by Kelli Docker.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Meeting – December 30 at 6 p.m.