
The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
302 SOUTH CARROLL STREET ~ ROCK RAPIDS, IOWA 51246

PASTOR KATHY SIDES

kathysides@hotmail.com

H: 712-472-2770

C: 515-201-3634

Administrative Assistant, Amber Kooiker

rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net

712-472-2324

www.rockrapidsumc.org

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I thought about making a New Year's resolution to lose weight this year, but then didn't do it. Probably because I know that I have made that resolution a number of times, and the times I've failed at keeping it have far outweighed the times I've been successful. That's because it's hard to lose weight. At least it is for me. It takes discipline and perseverance. Last time I tried, I diligently kept a chart of my weight every day, tracking how much I lost. A couple of months into it I totaled the number of pounds lost, and discovered I had lost 25 pounds! The discouraging thing was, I only weighed 10 pounds less than when I started.

I discovered that when you "lose" a pound sometimes it is just temporarily lost, and it finds its way back home in a few days. Kind of like a wayward dog. And so it seems I kept having to lose the same pound over and over and over again.

It can get rather discouraging when it seems like you're not making much progress with a given project, effort or personal struggle. But isn't that how so much of life often seems? The proverbial "one step forward, two steps back" sometimes feels like a pretty accurate assessment of how life goes. Sometimes it's with rather trivial things, which gets annoying, and sometimes it's with very significant things, which can be heartbreaking.

I can't help but wonder if Jesus ever got discouraged; if he ever felt like it was one step forward, two steps back in trying to reveal God's power and love to people. One minute people would be hanging on his every word, the next they would be trying to throw him off a cliff. Or one minute the disciples seemed to grasp his message, and the next they were arguing over who was the greatest. Or, proclaiming their undying devotion and a few hours later denying they knew him.

The human side of Jesus must often have felt like he was never going to make people understand who God was, how deeply God loved them, or how God wanted them to live. And talk about discouraging; how about hearing shouts of "Hosanna!" one day, and a few days later, shouts of "Crucify him!" Even if Jesus knew this is how it was going to go, that had to hurt.

It is hard for us to imagine how Jesus must have felt during the ups and downs of his ministry. But, I think it is good for us to try. And, now is a good time, because we have arrived again at another Lenten season. It is time for us to once again journey to the cross with Jesus. While I can't say that I really enjoy Lent, I do find it a meaningful time. I think it does us good to seriously consider what it must have taken for Jesus to willingly suffer all that he suffered.

When we look at the events of those days as Jesus moved closer and closer to the cross, I cannot imagine how it must have felt to go through all he went through. The betrayal, the humiliation, and the physical torment must have been almost more than he could bear.

I imagine the only way he was able to endure it all was by holding firmly to the conviction that he was doing his father's will. Even then, I'm sure that there were times that he questioned, times that he wished everything could be different, times he longed for the love he lived to be received with love instead of anger, fear and hate.

I think during this season of Lent it is important to realize the depth of love Jesus had to have had for us to be willing to suffer all that he suffered. Not only love, but trust in God, and unwavering commitment to carry out his Father's will. But, if we look at his life and death and do nothing but marvel at his commitment and leave it at that, we've missed something important. Because I don't think Jesus did all that he did to impress us; but rather to change us. Experiencing Lent and Easter

and fully realizing all that Jesus went through ought to result in a response from us. We ought to be grateful enough for what Jesus did for us, to want to live for him.

Jesus wants a commitment from us. A commitment to not only appreciate him, but to live and love like him. That is a pretty tall order, and we'll probably need some help. But the same strength and grace of God that helped Jesus to remain faithful to his mission is still available to us. May it be our prayer in this Lenten season to put our love into action; to draw closer to Jesus and farther away from all that gets between us and him. May the words to this hymn be the prayer of our hearts:

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

by Claudia F. Hernaman

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins
And close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
In thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live
By thy most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence,
And through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

Pastor Kathy

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

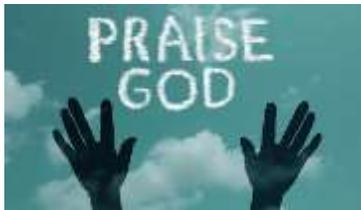
If you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your **email address**, phone number, **or are only using cell phones**, please contact the church office with the current information. **Thank you!**



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~

- ☺ Church Family
- ☺ Serving others
- ☺ 5 CL Wrestlers that qualified for State
- ☺ Youth leading worship and for the youth leaders
- ☺ The chirping of birds in the morning
- ☺ The State tournament-Luverne Cardinals Hockey Team with Shelby Kracht
- ☺ Many thank yous to all from the DeGroot and VanBerkum families for your prayers during this time. God is Good!
- ☺ Mennings for working hard on the bathroom and those who Contributed
- ☺ Char's tests have come back negative so far
- ☺ 6th grade VB going to state on March 28th
- ☺ Thank You to our beautiful Hannah Circle friends for the Amazing love gift for Daxton and his family



Prayers~

- ✂ Daxton DeGroot
- ✂ Alice Moeller
- ✂ Char DeGooyer
- ✂ Caden Wright-surgery
- ✂ Kelli & Amylie Hamilton dealing with Influenza
- ✂ Todd DeGooyer-surgery
- ✂ Charlene DeGooyer
- ✂ Emily Sides upcoming interview with Augie Access
- ✂ Mary Peterson



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

01~ Chris Attig
 Jeff Parkinson
 Tami Schweitzer
 Dylann Van Berkum
 02~ Brody Docker
 Ashlynn Yeakel
 04~ Steve Herman
 05~ Jamie Schar
 08~ Roscoe Pettengill
 09~ Ed & Marlys Brown

10~ Luetta Braun
 Maddix Broesder
 Brendin Sprock
 12~ Heather Heimensen
 13~ Brian McIntire
 Brent Vande Weerd
 14~ Patty Halse
 17~ Shawn Wibben
 18~ Scott Maxwell
 Mike Selken
 John Yeakel

19~ Evelyn Baldwin
 20~ Rick & Pam Attig
 22~ Bonnie Wilson
 23~ Dave Warren
 26~ Freda Kammarmeyer
 29~ Russ Kiel
 30~ Krista Sprock
 Sharon Steenblock
 31~ Jim DeGooyer

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

Reminders and Announcements

March Volunteer Schedule

GREETERS



Sunday, March 1

Randy & Kim Waagmeester
& family

Sunday, March 8

Jay & Jamie Kelly & family

Sunday, March 15

Brian & Stacy McIntire

Sunday, March 22

Ryan & Marceia Techen

Sunday, March 29

Dave & Kae Warren

FELLOWSHIP



Sunday, March 1

3rd Ave. Youth French Toast
Breakfast

Sunday, March 8

Judy Griesse & Bobbie
Boekhout

Sunday, March 15

Jeremy & Krista Sprock

Sunday, March 22

Jay & Jamie Kelly

Sunday, March 29

Mark & Sonya Peterson

SOUND



Sunday, March 1

Lainn

Sunday, March 8

Ashlynn

Sunday, March 15

Hayden

Sunday, March 22

Grace

Sunday, March 29

Grace



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 March is Jim DeGooyer. If you would like a ride, please call Jim at 472-3698.



I just want to start off saying, thank you to everyone who has helped with the upkeep on this church. I think most of you know that I'm the trustee chairman, so this is my job and the rest of the trustee's job to do this work, but sometimes we need help. This is an historic church; I think it says 1895 on the corner stone. This church needs a lot of TLC. We as the trustees want to keep encouraging everyone to volunteer to help keep this church in good repair. It saves the church so much money, if we, as a church, can do the work instead

of hiring it done. As an example, the remodel, hiring a painter to do all of this would have been thousands. The pipe organ was acting up awhile back as most of you know. So, I called the organ people and they said if we were willing to do some things to figure out what was causing the noise, it could save us 300.00 or more on a service trip. I asked Mark Peterson to help. We figured out what was causing the noise from their instructions. I call the organ people back and they said "well, I think we could talk you through over the phone how to fix it". And it worked. Now neither of us are schooled in organ repair but with direction and a willingness to try, it saved hundreds of dollars for the church. I know we have people that are able to do electrical wiring, carpet laying, painting, computer and audio skills and those kind of obvious jobs, but there are so many other things we can all do if we just want to, and are willing to try. I'm not asking you to just volunteer for maintenance projects, there are many jobs in the church (running sound system, usher, sing, teach, clean, serve food etc). We have a couple projects in the church that will need volunteers. Repair of the old entryway that we need to get finished. Some upkeep on the outside of the building that needs to get done this summer. So please, if you feel moved to want to help, in anything in church there is a list of committees by the back door. Contact anyone involved in those areas to volunteer. It has all our numbers and email, or just put a note in any of our mailboxes in the front entry.

Thanks.

~Lainn Menning



Thank you for the generous donation to the Central Lyon Backpack Program. The money will be used to buy nutritious meals and snacks. Thank you.

~CL Student Council

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Randy & Kim Waagmeester & family Head Usher: Lainn Menning Acolyte: Avery Littlefield Fellowship: 3 rd Ave. Youth French Toast Breakfast Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Lainn	2	3 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	4 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team meeting 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice	5	6 1:30 p.m.- World Day of Prayer @ First Reformed Church	7
8 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: Jay & Jamie Kelly & family Head Usher: Lainn Menning Acolyte: Kyra Van Berkum Fellowship: Judy Griesse & Bobbie Boekhout Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Ashlynn 3:15 p.m.- Worship @ Health Center 4:00 p.m.- Worship at Lyon Specialty Care	9	10 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	11 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice	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: Brian & Stacey McIntire Head Usher: Lainn Menning Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Fellowship: Jeremy & Krista Sprock Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Hayden	16	17 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	18 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team meeting 6:00 p.m.- Ad Board meeting	19	20	21
22 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship 10:30 a.m.- Confirmation Organist: Holly Moeller Greeters: Ryan & Marceia Techen & family Head Usher: Lainn Menning Acolyte: Ellie Docker Fellowship: Jay & Jamie Kelly Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Grace	23 Amber is out March 23-31	24 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m.- Meal Ministry- prepare food	25 6:00 p.m.- Bread of Life- distribute sack suppers 7:00 p.m.- Choir practice	26 7:00 p.m.- Ms Fits- clean the kitchen	27	28
29 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship-Baptism 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Dave & Kae Warren Head Usher: Lainn Menning Acolyte: Rylan Maxwell Fellowship: Mark & Sonya Peterson Powerpoint: Emily Sides Sound: Grace	30	31 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters				