



The Joyful Noise

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Well, Thanksgiving is approaching and tis' the season to think of what we are thankful for. Hmm, that may seem like a tougher task this year than most? That being said, you hopefully don't need me to remind you of all there truly is to be thankful for.

Is it possible that 2020 ending and 2021 beginning in just 50 short days will really make a difference? Only in our minds maybe. What the calendar says really doesn't matter. Reminder; God is not bound by time and is not waiting to unleash a year or awesomeness at 12:00 a.m on 1/1/2021. That, is up to us. God has extended the invitation; it is up to us if we are going to choose to keep our focus on Him.

We get to make the choice to focus; above the noise, above the cancellations, above the election, above the news, above the COVID graph, above the anxiety, above the fear and doom the world is selling. It is our choice to say I am going to step forth in faith. (Faith is the focus of the mind's eye, and things that are unseen as we know).

I am going to choose to accept my circumstances and choose to persevere even though I am tired, I am sad, I am lonely, I am scared, I am weak. Remember, God wants us to complain (lament) to Him. He wants to hear our laments. Even though we would rather complain on our news feeds, to our gossip partners, to our friends. God wants us to cry out to Him. Psalm 6:3-4 says: "My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long? Turn, Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love".

““The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”” -Numbers 6:24-26

God is the source of all blessings. He gives us inner peace, well-being that can only come from Him and the midst of the chaos. Let us rejoice and be thankful that the circumstances of the world and that the world show us are not the end of the story. It will be a while before we are back completely. The truth is, we will never be back fully and completely. But, remember as God set the exiles free from bondage in Egypt, He will not have us go back to the way things were, rather we are to move forward in bold faith to a new normal. Even though the new normal may be scary. Remember, it was scary to the exiles being led put of slavery by Moses too:

They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"
-Exodus 14:11-12

The new normal I am referring to is one elevated above our circumstances and fixed on the perseverance of the past and current situation. "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" -Colossians 3:2

This is what I am thankful for this Thanksgiving. I am thankful for my family, my church family, the ability to worship even if I have to have a mask on. Knowing God is there and doesn't want me watching a clock waiting on a blessing. Jesus has extended the invitation to all who are feeling the pressure of their circumstances. "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden."

-Pastor T



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 Travis Remme 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 to Travis Remme at tremme2@gmail.com and they will be sent out.



Our College Students have received their care packages! Thank you everyone for your donations! Continue to keep these kids in your prayers as they wrap up their fall semester.



Quilts on display in the sanctuary are for sale for a free will offering. These are great for Christmas, birthday and anytime gifts as well as keeping yourself warm this Winter. Choose your quilts, then leave your check (to United Methodist Quilters) or cash in the container by the display. All income from this sale will be donated to our church general fund. Thanks for your support of this project.



Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy when our Mom, Grandmother and Great Grandmother passed away. Thank you to the Heavenly Joys Mission for the memorial money and card. All of it means so much to each of us.

Blessings,
~Marilyn & Greg Brommer
Heather, Wyatt, Viktorija, Veronika & Jaylynn Stubbe



Many thanks for the cards, flowers, food, calls and visits after my surgery and for my 90th birthday. Also, thanks to Pastor Travis for his calls and for all your prayers. All are very much appreciated.

~Mae Smid



November 22 is Stewardship Sunday. Bring your 2021 Commitment forms to worship that day or mail to the church office, 302 S Carroll, Rock Rapids IA 51246. Thank you for your generous support of our church's ministries.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner! There will be a FREE Community Thanksgiving Dinner served for anyone who would like a traditional meal, but has nowhere to go or no one to share it with. Please join the First Reformed Church on **Thursday, November 26th, Thanksgiving Day at 12:00 Noon at the First Reformed Church.** Please call for reservations at the

Chamber, 472-3456 or First Reformed Church, 472-3729 by Friday, November 20th. Rides will be available as well as take out or delivery.





Good things are happening.....
Broasted chicken dinners and smiling faces.

We Methodists at Premier Estates were treated to both of the above Sunday noon.

What a surprise to see a group of young Methodists and their leader at our doorway laden with three piping hot Ranch chicken dinners for us. Oh the mouth watering aroma! The smiling faces made it all

a very special delivery on a sunny Sunday.

Needless to say, the three of us enjoyed every morsel of our dinners as we gave thanks for our delicious food and for the High School Sunday School Class, their leader and the God who provided this treat for us. We can see that these young people have wonderful leadership and are being guided in God's way. They are blessed and we are blessed. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Thank you, Holly Spittler...Lou Braun....Shirley Roach



Praise God~

- ☺ Breast Cancer Survivors!
- ☺ Continued good health
- ☺ Confirmands that were Confirmed on October 11th
- ☺ Grace Heimensen for sharing her message
- ☺ Madonna picture that is hanging back in the sanctuary after restoration
- ☺ Students in the High School musical and their talent
- ☺ Tom Vinson & Marv Peterson for the Madonna of the Chair art restoration, pew cushions and baptismal banner made by Sue Vinson and Maggie Sides
- ☺ Central Lyon Football team
- ☺ Larry & Mary Holland
- ☺ United Methodist Women
- ☺ Dave & Mary Fields

Prayers~

- ☺ Family of Alan Eben
- ☺ Family of George Meyer
- ☺ Joyce Vermeer Family
- ☺ Dana Lutmer- cancer treatment
- ☺ Melissa Olivier- cancer treatment
- ☺ Faith Kruse- cancer treatment
- ☺ Family of Priscilla Spykerboer (Heather Stubbe's Grandma, Marilyn Brommer's Mother)
- ☺ Our shut-ins, especially during COVID
- ☺ Frank Zech-suffering COVID
- ☺ Hayes Gacke fighting 3 viruses at the Sanford Castle
- ☺ Northwestern College Student- Auggie Hubbard who passed away unexpectedly



November Birthdays And Anniversaries

02~ Tom Vinson

03~ Connie Boeve

Bobbie Kracht

04~ Carl DeJongh

10~ Jami Vander Zee

15~ Hazel Berg

16~ Dennis Patton

17~ Claire Vander Zee

18~ Kyra Van Berkum

20~ Jenessa Herman

Toby Lorenzen

Lance Schlumbohm

23~ Mary Maxwell

Melinda Waagmeester

25~ Viktorija Stubbe

26~ Dave & Mary Fields

26~ Matt Schar

28~ Ethan Selken

Preston Selken

29~ Lisa Rockhill

Kaycie Docker

30~ Jennifer Miller

Alixandria Hamilton

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

Dear Lord,

So far today, am I doing all right.



I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.



November 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 Head Usher: Dave Schleusner Acolyte: Chase Puterbaugh Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson Volunteer driver: Dale Slack	2	3 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	4 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team Meeting 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School 10:30 a.m.- UMW 6:30 p.m.- Charge Conference Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Dave Schleusner Acolyte: Brody De Groot Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson Volunteer driver: Dale Slack	9	10 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	11	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Dave Schleusner Acolyte: Jessa Vande Weerd Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson Volunteer driver: Dale Slack	16	17 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m.- Meal Ministry- prepare food	18 6:30 a.m.- Prayer Team Meeting 6:00 p.m.- Bread of Life- distribute sack suppers 6:00 p.m.- Ad Council meeting 6:30 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth- Thanksgiving	19 2:00 p.m.- Ms Fits	20	21
22 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Dave Schleusner Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson Volunteer driver: Dale Slack	23	24 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Dave Schleusner Acolyte: Ellie Docker Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson Volunteer driver: Dale Slack	30					