

The word "JANUARY" is spelled out using seven light-colored wooden blocks with black letters, arranged in a slightly curved line against a light blue background.

The Joyful Noise

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I can't tell you how excited I am about 2021. I hope you share some of my excitement.

As we usher in a new year and look back at what was in 2020 we know a few things moving forward, like at least the 5 things mentioned below.

First our reminder:

What was will not be what is again. Time passes no matter what is happening. Our God is not bound by time. The next time won't be the same.

We are all shaped by our experiences. 2020 certainly gave us all new experiences. Therefore, even if 'it' is again it will not be the same because we have now experienced the unexpected to which we have either grown in our faith or turned back in our faith. There is no going back. My prayer is that we can all move forward in faith in 2021.

2020 was definitely one of those years that caused both growth and regression in faith in believers. We were given so much without warning. The mistake that can be so easily made is when we assume the calendar will change things, or "eventually the storm has to relent". "It has to get better we say" yeah, and maybe it even will. But of course, we know that 2021 will likely meet with another storm of some kind at some time. Our faith and obedience will be tested again.

If nothing else, 2020 reminded us that we need a savior. From masks, to paranoia, to quarantine. New challenges to being shut out of worship we know we can't handle life on our own strength. Set back after set back will leave us discouraged. Like the Israelites being led out of slavery that have been referenced so much this year we will say "take me back". "Where I at least know".

God has set forth a higher calling for us. We aren't simply to accept the hand we have been dealt and move forward with the "Eeyore" mentality that "bad things always happen to me". We know the gospel still thrived when Paul was in prison and Job's trials and loss didn't cause him to lose faith. God will find a way. He needs us to be obedient in the storm.

Circumstances don't win. Hope and Joy prevail. We just celebrated the season of joy and hope. After all of this. After all we have lost and grieved in 2020, hope and joy still remain. The world can't take that from us. God knew we, humanity needed a savior and the entire Old Testament points towards the coming Messiah. He is here and He will return. We will be OK. But that doesn't mean it will always be easy.

With the celebration of his birth and eventual return, we can through faith, and faith alone know that we have been given a gift. That perseverance through what was, into what is, through He, who is the word and has taken on flesh. This changes everything. 2020 may have changed everything for many of us. But He who is coming

remains the same. Maybe our calling is now more clear. Difficult times often reveal a calling from God.

If 2020 has done anything, hopefully it has reminded us that we need a savior. We can't know what is coming, but we can have faith who is coming. Unfortunately, the world will keep the chaos and darkness up as long as time goes on.

Now that I have your attention. Here's the list I was mentioning of 5 things we now know heading into 2021.

1. We have been reminded that church is more than four walls. Yes, being connected to a church is important, that hasn't and won't change. 2020 taught us that the work we do outside the church is more important sometimes, than the work we do in the church. I am excited as a church how we look for new and creative ways to reach people we haven't been able to reach before. Furthering the gospel as called regardless of perfect or imperfect circumstances.
2. Furthermore, worship can be done in places other than the sanctuary of our local church. I am excited for the believers of RRUMC and Rock Rapids alike to show the community what it means to not be limited by the four walls of church.
3. The "way we have always done it" isn't the way we should keep doing it. 2020 taught us that we have to be flexible. We have to allow for what is available to help, not hinder our ability to connect with each other. To be there spiritually and be there for each other meeting others where they are knowing we all have our unique walks and callings and are at different places respectively. There are no rules on how to be in fellowship we are just to do it. So, we can't let what are our circumstances hinder us, and our progression towards furthering the gospel.
4. The devil is going to do whatever he can to keep us out of church. For many weeks of 2020 people were not going to church but were going to the store, meeting friends, eating in restaurants, etc. None of it made complete sense but the devil loved that we were out of church. We now know that being out of church doesn't mean we have to be away from God.
5. Technology is not a bad thing! Through our (and many churches) other online worship options through YouTube and Facebook we are reaching people. While in person trumps everything (of course) the people that have been reached, the connections we can keep up through technology are most certainly praise worthy. God can use all things even what society says is bad to further the gospel. I am looking forward to continuing online services and staying active on social media into the new normal as we navigate 2021.

Most important I am excited to work through and alongside all of you!

Grace and peace,
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.

Joys & Concerns



Praise God~

- ☺ Rhythm of Bethlehem
- ☺ The beautiful Christmas season with its lights, music, promise and hope
- ☺ Jim Kille-improving
- ☺ Chloe-Dave & Mary's Granddaughter is home
- ☺ Joy for visitors

Prayers~

- ✂ Family of Bob Orr
- ✂ Jim Kille
- ✂ Kathy Van Berkums aunt
- ✂ Those battling COVID
- ✂ Frontline workers
- ✂ Vicki Kiel undergoing cancer treatment
- ✂ Daxton DeGroot (episode)
- ✂ Bonnie Netjes
- ✂ Jeff Eben recovering from COVID



Sunday School Teacher and students,
 You did an excellent job with the Christmas Program. The program was fantastic!
 ~Mae Smid



The Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) offered through **Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.** may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications through April 30, 2021. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past month (30 days), the past twelve (12) months, or the most recent calendar year (tax return). Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for an award will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

Due to COVID-19 we will only be taking applications by phone, mail, or online. Please call 712-472-3746 or 712-722-3611 on Wednesdays 9:00-4:00 to schedule an appointment.

MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$22,330
2	\$30,170
3	\$38,010
4	\$45,850
5	\$53,690

For families with more than five members, add \$7,840 for each additional member.



The Church is excited to announce that we are starting a new communication service called Text In Church. This service will give us the ability to text and/or email members important information that is happening within the church. To join this service, please text the word Connect to (712) 472-2324.

Joy and Blessings,
Communication Team



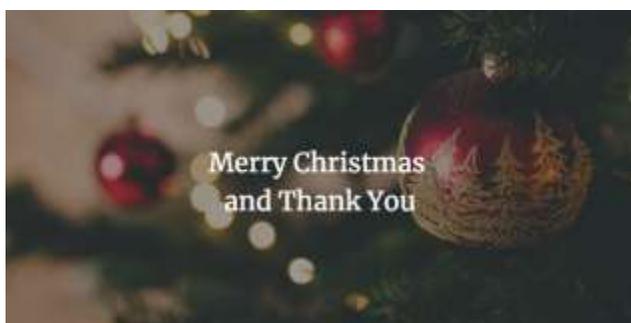
We would like to thank Heavenly Joys (Elaine, Shawn & Sonya) for the goodie bag they gave us. It did brighten our day.

Jim & Char DeGooyer



Dear UMC Congregation,

Thank you for the card & chamber bucks that you gave me. It was a generous gift & is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
~Heather Stubbe



RRUMC Congregation,
Thank you very much for the Christmas gift of Chamber bucks. I am extremely appreciative for the generous gift. Thank you for thinking of me. Wishing you all a Happy New Year!
~Amber Kooiker



Thank you to the anonymous friend who sent me a gift card for Sunshine Foods. I wish I could thank you personally, but don't have enough clues to know who you are. Your gift is appreciated!
Happy New Year!
Evelyn Baldwin



Dear United Methodist Church,
Thank you for the wonderful Christmas Eve celebration gift. The direction sheet about the contents of the box was so special. The second page of the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus made the box feel complete. A beautiful, wonderful and very special, thoughtful gift. Thank you and God Bless you,
~Carol Ver Hoef



The World Day of Prayer scheduled for March 6, 2021 will be cancelled in Rock Rapids due to COVID. The schedule for next year will start with United Methodist Church hosting in 2022

Quilters projects for 2020!

Baptism Quilt & Ragdoll

- ~Amelia Grace Brhens August 23, 2020
- ~Thaddeus Jay Engleman August 30, 2020
- ~Elliot Ann Bullerman October 18, 2020

Norfolk NE Gospel Train

- ~33 Ragdolls
- ~10 pillowcases
- ~14 school bags
- ~25 stocking caps

Stocking caps

- ~70 (local)

Quilts at Church

- ~26 quilts sold
- Giving total of:
 - \$820 to budget
 - \$720 in checks
 - \$100 in Venmo
- ~15 quilts to Atlas

Shut-in Gifts (fabric candycanes hanging)

- ~13 people (shut-in)

Masks given:

- ~Sanford
- ~Avera
- ~Central Lyon School
- ~family and friends
- ~Church
- ~Premier Assisted Living
- 1342 masks





January Birthdays And Anniversaries

02~ Doug Rockhill	21~ Judi Sieperda
03~ Dave Fields	22~ Steve Wells
Chase Thedens	25~ Braxton Remme
07~ Emmet Schar	Dennis & Pat Patton
Steve & Jackie Wells	Holly Behrens
10~ Amber Kooiker	26~ James Rydell
14~ Amelia Behrens	Jill Schlumbohm
15~ Luke Rice	27~ Thomas Dandurand
16~ Dave Halse	29~ John McDonald
18~ Bailey Herman	30~ Corey & Heather Heimensen
19~ Elliot Bullerman	

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

Rock Rapids UMC Meal Ministry



Hello UMC

Friends! Greetings from your UMC Meal Ministry! With over three years under our belt, our Meal Ministry has become such a blessing. The relationships we have formed within each other and outside the walls of our church has left us beyond blessed! We have experienced laughter, tears, prayers and experiences that we never would've known without this wonderful ministry. The start of 2020 began with things as normal, delivering our sack suppers once a month to Rock Rapids and George Bread of Life. We averaged 175 to 200 meals a month. Reassured lots of volunteers and many people to share our message with. During the month of March, the Covid pandemic hit our country and things began to change slowly. We had more restrictions, food had to be more of the pre-packaged, less contact with those that receive the suppers and those that prepare the meals. We move forward every month with the faith God has this ministry and its future.

We are in our 34th month of this mission and we average 150 meals a month (5,100 suppers). We continue working with the Rock Rapids Atlas ministry and in George at Emmanuel Lutheran. We received funds through Sioux River Regional County Covid, Rock Rapids United Fund, RRUMC Tractor Ride, Matthew 25, NW Hunger Grant, UMW and many private donations. We are so very thankful for all of you and we continue to ask for prayers in this mission that serves all of the tri-state area. We welcome all of you to join us in this mission.

We are blessed, let us continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Please continue to pray for us as we move forward in 2021!

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.

Luke 6 vs. 38

Much Love,
Kathy and Rhonda



January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Chase Puterbaugh Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Brody De Groot Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson	11	12	13 6:00 p.m.- SPRC meeting 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth	14	15	16
17 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- UMW meeting Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Jessa Vande Weerd Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson	18	19	20 6:00 p.m.- Ad Council	21	22	23
24 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson	25	26 6:30 p.m.- Meal Ministry- prepare food	27 6:00 p.m.- Bread of Life 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth	28 2:00 p.m.- Ms Fits	29	30
31 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Usher: Tom Menage Acolyte: Ellie Docker Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Sonya Peterson						