



# **The Joyful Noise**

Rock Rapids United Methodist Church  
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Welcome back to church everyone!

Summer is in the books and as we reflect on the memories we made and time we spent together may we prepare ourselves for the year ahead.

I am excited for many things in the coming year!

2021-2022 is shaping up to be an awesome year as we serve our awesome God.

This weekend Sunday School starts with our kickoff celebration. We have 44 kids enrolled in Sunday School this year which is so awesome. We have new families and kids this year, praise God!

That means there are 44 chances to make a positive impact in a child's life each week!

Thank you so much to everyone who has and will make this year a success with our kids. Thank you, Sunday School teachers and volunteers, and everyone else who is stepping up to help. We couldn't do this without you.

\*\*I urge you if you feel you are being pulled in a direction, follow. We want you, we need you! We need everyone working together in motion. We will do great things with God at the center.

We also are excited about our annual tractor ride to the middle of nowhere happening on the 18th. I for one will remember to dress 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the temperature, so I don't freeze like I did last year.

Also, coming up are many other exciting traditions in the UMC that we haven't done in a couple years due to COVID. So, praise God as we return to the things we love. Stay tuned!

OK, so now that all that is out there and we truly are so excited.

Here's the real stuff:

I have a question for you:

Are you willing to embrace change?

To get where we are going there is only one way.

Here is what it is not: doing the same thing we've always done.

The world is changing faster than ever in the history of our universe. If we want to reach people as we are called by God to do, we MUST embrace change.

The devil loves that so many churches are more worried about traditions than bringing people to church. The devil loves when we fight over minor unimportant details.

It is time to ask what we want our identity to be as a church.

I want to be known as the church that invites and accepts all. Just as Jesus did. My hope is that you do too.

This is the opposite of what I feel most church cultures today says. Ex: if you're not this, this, and this, we don't want you here. Or, if you have these views, we don't want you here.

That type of thinking is not the Wesleyan way.

How can we do all the good we can, by all the ways we can, to all the people we can, if we are nitpicking silly details about say, a fundraiser or something.

God's grace is enough. God's grace has carried us this far, over 125 years. Continuing to do things the same way, there will not be another 125 years for this church. The time for change is now.

As Jesus says, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

This is a call to everyone:

Ask yourself, is there more I can do? What can I do to help God's local church reach more people?

Eternity matters, each day and interaction matter. There are many unchurched right here in Rock Rapids.

Action item: Invite someone to church this month!

Be the light you wish you had or the light you've had, pass that on as it was from God. And gifts from God are meant to be shared.

This is up to us. We are already fully equipped.

Do we want to be or not to be?

There is not another 125 years to just exist. Events have been set in motion. The time is now.

We have a chance to be something special. A place for the lost, the hurt, the broken, to call home. But it is going to take bold faith. It's going to take ditching the checklist.

The fear of rejection cannot rule.

The fear of not fitting in cannot take hold.

Father, release from the prison of being worried what others think.

In bold faith Jesus invites us to go where we have never gone before to get results for him, we have never gotten before 🙏.

Pastor Travis

**HAPPY  
SEPTEMBER**



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](mailto:rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net) or to Travis Remme at [tremme2@gmail.com](mailto:tremme2@gmail.com) and they will be sent out.

# Joys & Concerns



Praise God~

- ☺ Safe Vacations
- ☺ Rocky Mt. High Youth
- ☺ Grandchildren
- ☺ Rain
- ☺ Family time
- ☺ Taylor and Emily Kruse as they begin their life together
- ☺ Lucas Larsen-home from deployment
- ☺ Weather



## Prayers~

- ✧ Good test results
- ✧ Teachers
- ✧ Mental Health
- ✧ Alice Sylliasson
- ✧ Hoeffler family
- ✧ Ryan Baade, nephew of Doug & Michele
- ✧ Glenda DeBoer
- ✧ Dana Lutmer
- ✧ Judi Sieperda
- ✧ Jim Kaat
- ✧ Wayne Grooters
- ✧ Bonnie Wilson
- ✧ Haiti
- ✧ Afganistan

# September Birthdays And Anniversaries



03~ Kylee Kelly

04~ Michele Baade

06~ Lainn & Rhonda Menning

07~ Mimi Drenth

Estyiella Hamilton

Barb Fegan

09~ Mikayla Miller

11~ Eldon Maxwell

12~ Phil & Carole Priest

17~ Carrie Wall

18~ Jerry Stratton

Jaylynn Stubbe

20~ Susan Hasche

Stacey McIntire

22~ Doug Baade

Hannah Sieperda

26~ Josh Rockhill

Mae Smid

27~ Mary Fields

28~ Ron Rice

Diane Sieperda

Eldon & Mary Maxwell

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





**Soul Strong Marriage Retreat**  
**Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021**  
**Time: 9am-7pm**  
**Location: Faith Reformed Church, Rock Valley, IA**  
**Cost: \$150/Couple**

Soul Strong Marriage Retreats are intended to empower couples through encouraging messages of Grace, Truth and Love. A Christ-centered union radiates a healthy emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing. It is our prayer to celebrate these blessings as we encourage God's sacred design for marriage.

You are invited to grow in unity as we lead a safe space to reflect, worship, and spend intentional time with your spouse. In this space, we pray for conversations that help you foster a deeper understanding and respect for one another. You can expect a fulfilling day of community and connection in Christ.

The deadline to sign up for the retreat is October 8. Please register online at [www.soulstrongspiritualdirection.com](http://www.soulstrongspiritualdirection.com) (click on "retreats" tab). You will receive a confirmation email upon registering. Payment (via PayPal, Venmo or check) must be received by October 13 to participate in the retreat. We pray that this opportunity to create space will radiate God's deep love for you and your marriage!

Meredith Vander Zee  
[www.soulstrongspiritualdirection.com](http://www.soulstrongspiritualdirection.com)  
Certified Spiritual Director  
712-400-9559



Justice for All is having their Annual Meeting and Fall Auction on **Thursday, October 28** at 530p in the Parkview Event Center – Rock Valley, IA. There will be an update about the ministry, short business

meeting, and a live auction with Mark Zomer and Doug Kooima. Enjoy a meal and fellowship while supporting Justice for All ministry. Thursday October, 28 530p Parkview Event Center, don't miss out!



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD! Notice the display! You can help by picking up a box and packing it yourself OR donating from the list of items listed below. The Middle School Youth with have a packing party!**

Crayons (Boxes of 24)

Small notebooks

Pencils (Boxes of 12)

Erasers

Colored pencils (Boxes of 12)

Pencil sharpeners

Bars of soap

Washcloths

Combs

Toothbrushes

Hair items for girls

Girls' T-shirts (Youth Lg)

Boys' & Girls Socks (Youth Lg)

Small stuffed animals

Flashlights & extra batteries

Yo-Yo's

Small Frisbees (smaller than 6")

Sunglasses

Hacky Sacks

Jump Ropes



**YOUR MIND  
IS A POWERFUL  
THING. WHEN  
YOU FILL IT  
WITH POSITIVE  
THOUGHTS,  
YOUR LIFE WILL  
START  
TO CHANGE.**