



The Joyful Noise

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One The Brink:

Well Easter is over, now what? I know what you're thinking, actually it is not over Pastor T! And, you're right!

What if we take the time after Easter to focus on the message of the resurrection, that Jesus has gone but He is never far. The return to the Father means our access to God is at hand. Whenever and wherever, that might be. Jesus knows what we need, all we have to do is ask for it in prayer.

This makes me think of the times we are in. Culture says if we can't see something with our eyes, and it isn't on social media, then it can't be real.

We are very good at overcomplicating everything. You know what I mean; denominations, Covid, politics, etc. All is good except if someone's beliefs don't line up with ours, right?

Key reminder #1: Social media is highlight reels. No one is putting their 'dirt' on social media.

Key reminder #2: Our brains know our dirt. Therefore, naturally we compare our mess if you will, with everyone else's best!

Well, that doesn't end well when we do that.

Instead of making ourselves look better if we remember the post resurrection narrative that the disciples 'saw' and were told to tell the others and apply it to our own walks.

Who are you telling about Jesus? How are we at modeling the Christian life? We don't have to be perfect at it! Thank God for his grace!

If Easter and the meaning feels different this year that is because it is.

According to an article I read recently that was written just before the COVID-19 pandemic. There are many things that are cause for concern in today's church.

#1. The only one I have time to address in this 'short' article. Reaching a younger audience- This is more important than ever for many reasons as it would seem. For one, the access to social media and everything that the world is telling us is right at our fingertips 24 hours a day 7 days a week. And for the most part the world isn't telling people about Jesus. Much more is the access to learn about self, self-made, selfish, etc.

Younger audiences are more susceptible to falling into what the world says is right. What the world says life should look like. We must be aware of the call to examine the fruit. Our young people need the church whether they know it, or not!

So how do we share the message of Christ without appearing judgmental, over the top, or show off how much scripture we know? Well, maybe people need to hear more about how God picked you up when you fell, messed up, lost, etc. I know it isn't easy being vulnerable. People need your testimony! How have you been able to lean on God in difficult times?

How did you get where you are in life? No one's track/path is easy. Why do we just show off the best stuff?

Growing up I don't remember a lot of people being vulnerable with me. Unfortunately, because of that I experienced many hardships and some could have been avoided. On the other side of the coin, so much was learned through each difficulty, would I really want anything different? God uses all things, even our messes.

No matter how many times I talk about hardships in life, I always get back to God's plan. He knows, and His ways are not our ways.

We must not forget that so many in this generation think their ways are The Ways. We have gotten lost. Spiritual growth is like the tree that is overtaken by dead branches. The dead branches must be removed, or pruned for new growth to take place.

Why go to church if I feel judged, or I see/hear of people bickering back and forth at church about little things?

Again two-sides to examine here.

1). Church people are broken humans too and therefore personality conflicts exist. #suprise

2). We are not following the call to discipleship if we are wrapped up in needing attention, or to be in the loop on everything.

Jesus says the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. There is so much to be gained from obedience but few are willing.

Observations:

Few are willing to put aside petty differences because of potential embarrassment, inability to hear others opinions, and so on.

Few are willing to stand up for what's right.

How long will we sit back and watch? How long will we sit back and watch the church fall apart?

The Methodist denomination is on the brink of a split. The brink of breaking us, the once "United" Methodist church.

Is this just the beginning? Or, will there be a revival? I think all of this hinges on what we are teaching and how we are leading our younger generation. Now is not the time to lose faith. Now is not the time to give in. The devil is winning, but God is still alive and like David defeating Goliath, we only have our book, but no weapon forged against those who acknowledge Jesus as Lord and savior shall prosper.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the world is a mess, our country is a mess, our denomination is a mess. Doing nothing, and saying nothing is making a big statement. By doing nothing we are saying we are OK with what is happening in this country, world, and the UMC. I guess we need to ask ourselves if we are OK with this? Is our faith, place of worship, future generation worth fighting for?

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~

- ☺ Katie Geerdes is improving
- ☺ Inspiring Holy week service on Thursday and Friday. Thank you to Pastor Travis and to all who participated in the services and for Terry and Dave's beautiful solos.
- ☺ Blessings of family and friends
- ☺ Vaccines
- ☺ Beautiful weather
- ☺ Nursing homes are opening
- ☺ Char DeGooyer & Mary Holland's birthdays
- ☺ Phyllis Rydell's 95th birthday
- ☺ Joyce Fields 95th birthday
- ☺ Judy's daughter, Lori visiting from California
- ☺ Altar flowers in memory of Jack Spitler who passed away 3 years ago.
- ☺ Visitors in church (Mary's cousins and sister and nieces)
- ☺ Altar flowers in memory of Mary Peterson
- ☺ Jim & Char DeGooyer's 55th Anniversary
- ☺ Praise for our youth and leaders



Prayers~

- ✚ Glenda DeBoer dealing with painful bout of shingles
- ✚ Safe travels
- ✚ Les Hanson family
- ✚ Daniel DeBeer family
- ✚ Bev Doorenbos-surgery
- ✚ Donna Marcus
- ✚ Wayne Grooters
- ✚ Dana Lutmer
- ✚ Judi Sieperda
- ✚ Prayers for Daxton DeGroot's family as they share Dax's story with NWIA



RRUMC,
 Thank you so much for the flowers that were given to me for Administrative Day. I really appreciate you thinking of me.
 ~Amber Kooiker



Thank you all so much for your support of our youth in the church! We are so excited to announce that your generous donations from our Camp Sunday Breakfast are going to be able to cover 50% of the camp tuition for 20 campers this year! This is one of the largest group we have sent and will be the largest amount we have been able to help with! That is amazing! Thank you all!!

May Birthdays And Anniversaries



02~ Lila Kennedy

04~ Jessa Vande Weerd

06~ Gavin Remme

07~ Marlys Brown

08~ Blake Miller

Afton Schlumbohm

09~ Matt & Jamie Schar

Chase Puterbaugh

11~ Zed Heimensen

Sutton Schlumbohm

Elizabeth Stubbe

12~ Spencer Kracht

12~ Krista Bullerman

13~ Julie Taylor

Peter Menage

14~ Terry & Kathy Van Berkum

18~ Carole Priest

19~ Callie Yeakel

22~ Earl & Kathy Sides

23~ Cassie Van Berkum

24~ Roxanne Ackerman

25~ Dale and Vicki Slack

26~ Dean & Tami Schweitzer

28~ Eric & Deb Selken

30~ Pat Patton

31~ Phil Priest

Daemian Hamilton

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

May Powerpoint Volunteers

May 9th

Chase Thedens

May 16th

Tate Vande Weerd

May 23rd

Ashlynn Yeakel

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School Celebration 1:30 p.m.- Youth- Ropes Course @ UM Lake Okoboji Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Ellie Docker Sound: Sonya Peterson Powerpoint: Whitney Waagmeester	3	4 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters 7:00 p.m.- Safety Team meeting	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship-Senior Sunday 10:30 a.m.- Prayer Ministry Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Sound: Sonya Peterson Powerpoint: Chase Thedens	10	11 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	12 7:00 p.m.- Safety Team Meeting	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Jessa Vande Weerd Sound: Sonya Peterson Powerpoint: Tate Vande Weerd	17	18 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters 6:00 p.m.- Ad Board	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Prayer Ministry Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Chase Puterbaugh Sound: Sonya Peterson Powerpoint: Ashlynn Yeakel	24	25 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m.- Meal Ministry-prepare food	26 6:00 p.m.- Bread of Life	27 2:00 p.m.- Ms Fits	28	29
30 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Brody De Groot Sound: Sonya Peterson Powerpoint:	31					