



**RAPID CITY FIRST**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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[www.rapidcityfirst.org](http://www.rapidcityfirst.org)

# Messenger

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## Greg's Greeting

Do you ever feel disoriented at the pace of change within our lives and culture? As I stop and reflect on the thirty years that have passed since I became an ordained pastor, I realize the setting and practices of ministry are very, very different when compared to the early days of my vocation. It's not unusual to hear clergy lament that they received training and education that are no longer relevant to the requirements and expectations of today. I'm grateful I've been able to have growth and development opportunities along the way. Still, the trend lines of cultural change seem to be accelerating in their movement and it's becoming more and more challenging to keep up. My observation is that pastors are not in a unique position. Most careers, most vocations have evolved such that the contrast between today and years past is becoming more and more striking. Projecting into the future, the gap widens further and faster.

One of the biggest areas of change regarding the Church is illustrated by the increasing disconnect between the Church and the culture. We've been hearing reports for several years now that the biggest group on the increase is those who express no religious affiliation. The rise of the "nones" is having an increasingly significant impact on how the Church is viewed. Worship attendance in most churches is on the decline (there are some notable exceptions). I vividly recall spending a summer in Germany during my high school years. In Germany and throughout Europe, then as now, the landscape included many church buildings and a scant number of church participants. The United States is now heading in the same direction. What are we to do in response?

During September, we're launching a 4-part sermon series that deals with our faith, culture and change. I'm excited to offer with Pastor Michele these weekly messages that will focus on the following questions/topics.

September 9 – "What is culture and how does culture-change work?"

September 16 – "How God and Christ have changed culture as shown in the Bible"

September 23 – "Whose job is it to change culture today?"

September 30 – "As culture-makers who want to see the Christian faith thrive into the next generation, how do we do our part?"

Please be with us in worship this month. Invite a neighbor without a church home to join you. Along with these weekly themes, Pastor Michele will be offering a Wednesday night class on "Following Jesus." Starting in October, Steve Minder will be leading "Cold-Case Christianity." All of these will help us find our footing and our bearing, as we face the winds of change which are ceaseless.

Pastor Greg

## Michele's Minute

Greetings from Pastor Michele!

It has been a busy month my friends! There's been a lot to learn (and more to come, of course), as I've made the transition to full-time pastor, effective August 1. Thank you to everyone who has provided words of encouragement, spoken and written. I am happy to be here, too!

There are two opportunities I want to extend to you in writing that you will be hearing more about soon, if not prior to receiving this newsletter.

**Following Jesus** – Small Group Bible Study – Why? If you're new to faith and want to know more about Jesus and who you are because of him; if you haven't joined in a Bible study for a long time and would appreciate an overview; if you're a long-time member but never taken part in a Bible study; if you would enjoy being in community for 10ish weeks, PLEASE SIGN UP by calling 342-4498 or emailing me, [michele@rapidcityfirst.org](mailto:michele@rapidcityfirst.org). We will be meeting Wednesdays at 6:15 in the Parlor from September 12 through November, and will work around holidays.

**Love INC** (In The Name of Christ) – We have been asked to consider being a Campus for **Life INC** classes during the winter quarter, which is January through mid-March. These gatherings would take place Tuesday evenings for nine weeks and address issues such as finances, parenting, life and more. We would love to say yes, to this ministry opportunity and know that there is high interest from members of our congregation in this area based on survey feedback a few weeks ago. Thank you for your heart for people who struggle in these areas of home and food insecurity!

**We would need people to help** as greeters; kitchen, serving and cleanup crew; nursery care; teachers for kids and youth (curriculum will be provided)... And we need someone who feels called to be the point person to coordinate the volunteers. Please contact the church office at 342-4498 or me [michele@rapidcityfirst.org](mailto:michele@rapidcityfirst.org) if you find yourself drawn to this short-term commitment. We would want to know your **area of interest** and if you can help with **one week or multiple weeks**, and which ones.

Thank you so much for allowing the Holy Spirit to move you to grow and/or help others in our community to grow as well! We are truly blessed to be a blessing.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Mich

### Volunteer Spotlight

We extend our thanks to **Brandy Alexander and Kathy Rose** for painting room 116 and the hallway downstairs! Thank you for taking time to care for our church!



# Children's and Youth Ministry

## A Note from Children's Ministry:

WELCOME to the 2018-2019 School year! As we embark on this next year, we will be focusing on the theme "Family". When we really dive into this word, it really embraces and encompasses so much. Family can be those who live with you. It can be the people in your core group of friends. Family is the comfort you feel when you are in a familiar place. We hope each one of our children and congregation members feel like they are part of a family when they are at church.

We will enter the new school year with a new Sunday School time. Sunday School will now be held during the 9:30 service, which was formerly our Children's Church time. We welcome children to come to church with their families to enjoy the praise and worship music, join us for our children's message, and then go up to our children's wing as we begin learning about Jesus' family.

### Our needs for the school year:

- school supplies: crayons, markers, tape, pencils, colored pencils, glue sticks, liquid glue
- volunteers: these children are the future of our church, but it takes a village and a Christ family to give them the foundation they need. Please come visit Jessica Makoutz if you feel called to help in this area.



YOUTH ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 12 AT 6 PM! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

### Youth Group Bullet Points:

- Parents, your help on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings is needed. Please consider teaching and investing in the lives of our youth.
- This year we will be partnering with Rapid City High School and helping support the teaching and administrative staff.
- We had a great summer and did amazing work for God.
- Please pray with us, and for us, that God will move in a mighty way this school year.
- Our next big event is DakYouth, 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> of November. Please register online at <https://www.dakotasumc.org/dakyouth>.

# Leadership Council

**Hello from the Leadership Council!** Summer is quickly ending and school has finally started! Speaking on behalf of all parents with school-aged children, I know that there is both relief and joy when the school year begins again. I am fairly certain that the feeling is not the same with the kids!

The Leadership Council held a retreat in early August to discuss a vision for the church. Working with Jeff Pospisil, the Executive Director of Finance and Administration from the Dakotas Annual Conference, the Council was asked to reflect on our greatest memory in the church, a recent event in the church that made us so excited that we shared the experience with someone outside of the church, and the person that best represents the church. Although our responses for each question were slightly different, it was amazing how the responses fell into four themes that described First UMC: (1) a welcoming place, (2) a family-like feel, (3) a place for spiritual growth, and (4) a place to serve others. Given these responses, along with the feedback of a vision gained from the last Town Hall Meeting, the Council is working on drafting a vision statement that we will share very soon with the congregation. In the end, we really have so many great things happening here at Rapid City First and so many things for which to thank God. From Psalm 106:1, "Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting."

The guiding principles (i.e.: bylaws) developed by the Leadership Council include a provision for rotation of the members on a three-year basis. Since the Leadership Council was established in 2015, we are nearing the end of that three-year term. To incorporate some overlap between new and existing members, only three members will be rotating off the Council this fall. We will continue to stagger the rotation over the next three years to ensure this overlap and continuity. To that end, we are calling on any interested member or regular attender to **consider joining the Leadership Council!** There is neither an age limit nor any other restriction to serve on the Council. For those that are interested, there is a short application followed by an informal interview with a Nominating Committee that is completely independent of the Leadership Council. In closing, I simply ask you to please consider serving on the Leadership Council. From Acts 20:35, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Lance Roberts, Chair

## Feeding the Hungry

### ***Cornerstone Rescue Mission Meal***

Thank you those who served the mission meal: Kent Reimann, Kim and Bruce Nearhood, John and Judy Hey, Calvin Luke, James DeGeest and Penny Robitaille, Perry Kudrna, Chuck Reuwsaat, Brandy Alexander and Delane Rains. *If you're interested in helping with this (we serve dinner on the third Sunday of every month). Call the office at 605-342-4498 and we'll help make it happen!*

### ***Church Response***

Please consider bringing hot or cold cereal for our church response. Our church donated 95 cans of tomatoes.



UMCOR distributes relief supply kits, assembled in the US to places in the US and its territories, where those items are most needed. They need hygiene or cleaning kits or donations to purchase them.

**UMCOR**

## Financial News

### Monthly Contribution Update:

<u>July 2017 Actual</u>	<u>July 2018 Actual</u>	<u>July 2018 Budget</u>
\$58,718	\$55,379	\$54,841

- July contributions were below last year's but above budget due mainly to having 5 Sundays in the month.
- In July, we made no payments to Apportionments and we are behind \$29,796 year to date.
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is a very quick and safe method of donating to the church. If you are interested in using EFT please contact us and we'll give you a form to fill out.
- *If you have moved, changed phone number/address, or email please notify the church office so we can update the church records.*

**--Bill Waugh/Jerry Laird  
Business Administrator(s)**

**Keep The Receipts Coming**— Once we reach \$150,000, the church receives \$1,000 from Nash Finch to help with church expenses. Please turn in your entire receipts in the metal basket on the red wall by the Welcome Center

*Thanks, Jon and Nila Boone, for totaling the receipts each Sunday.*

**"We Care" food certificates** are a great way to give to your church and your community! Simply write a check to First UMC and get a food gift certificate (Safeway, Walmart or Family Fare) for the amount of your check. You are given the full amount, but Church Response and First UMC both get a percentage! It is a win-win proposition!!

## Special Sundays

- *The Questers will be here at 11:00 on September 16th.*
- *Bible Sunday for third graders will be September 23rd.*

# UMW Notes.

## *UMW Crafter's Exchange:*

CLEVER CLEO: Come with me to the Crafter's Exchange!

CRAFTY CATHY: What's that?

CLEVER CLEO: A chance for those who like crafting to find something they need or share something they don't need with others.

CATHY: Like what?

CLEO: Anything that can be painted, glued, folded, sewn, stuffed, tied, adorned, etc.

CATHY: Aha! I get it! When and where and, I'll be there!

CLEO: September 27th, 4:00-6:00 pm, Room 116, FUMC.

CATHY: You make coffee, I'll bring cookies.

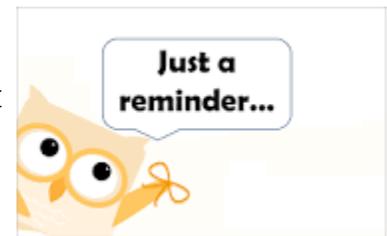
CLEO: Tell everybody to come to our first-ever "Crafter's Exchange!"

## *Lydia Project Help*

FUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry Team decided to create 40 scarves for the Lydia Project. Want to help? Talk to a Prayer Shawl Ministry Team member or go to [dakotasumc.org](http://dakotasumc.org) to learn about the project. The Lydia Project information is found at that website under the heading "Annual Conference."

## *Reminders*

- This is the time to submit recommendations for a 2018 Mission Recognition Award to either your Circle president or a member of the Leadership Team.
- Any Love Ribbon Grant request forms must be turned in to the Leadership Team before the September 5th meeting.



## *Dates to Remember*

September 5	Leadership Team, 9:00, LaRee's home, 223 Jasper Ln.*
September 7-8	UMW Southwest Dist. Retreat & Meeting, Southeast Pierre UMC
September 12	Esther Circle, 1:30, parlor
September 15	Wesleyanite Circle, 10:00, 223 Jasper Ln.*
September 27	Crafter's Exchange, 4:00-6:00 pm, Rm. 116, FUMC
October 3	Leadership Team, 9:00 TBA

\*from the 5th Street and Minnesota Street intersection go west on Minnesota, then left on Shaker Drive, and left on Jasper.



# Reflections

School time is here! Consider adding to items on your prayer list: 1) prayers for our children and grandchildren and 2) remember that our children's teachers, directors, and coaches are not their only instructors. We Believers, as parents and grandparents have a sacred assignment from the Lord Himself. Which is?

Consider Abraham, who began life as Abram (Genesis 11-25). Before Abram was born, God knew he could be trusted for the task ahead. How so? God knows everything and He's not bound by time. He created it. Besides, He knows us (Psalm 139). God doesn't gloss over missing of the mark, not even when Abraham did, but He patiently taught, and Abraham learned—and he grew into the great patriarch of our faith (Romans 4:16b and Hebrews 10). Notice God's comments in Genesis:

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken to him." (Genesis 18:19 KJV) NIV reads: "...direct his children..." The Living Bible: "...to have godly descendants and a godly household..." The Stone Edition of the Torah: "...commands his children and his household...keep the way of Hashem [the NAME]..." with a footnote that reads in part, "One reveals his values by what he teaches his children."

Referring to God's commands, Deuteronomy 6:7 reminds us: "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Proverbs 22:6 encourages: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Years ago, a young gospel singer spoke of his growing up years. Lovingly nurtured by parents whose love of God and devotion to His Word became his own, the little fellow grew so accustomed to walking with the Lord that anything less held no appeal. At a tender age, he gave his life to Jesus, receiving Him as Lord and Savior. The singer considered his life to be a testimony to God's keeping power. We are reminded of "...suffer the little children to come unto me..." (Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:10).

Father in Heaven, in Jesus' name, we consecrate our children and grandchildren to you. Please place your hand of protection upon each of them. Send angels to guard them and help them. Remember their teachers, directors, coaches, and others into whose charge we send these loved ones. Move their hearts and the hearts of our children and grandchildren to righteous decisions. May we, our children, and our grandchildren attend to your Word always. Grant that each of our lives will become a testimony to your keeping power. We ask this, Father, in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen.

Love, prayers, and hugs all around!  
Kathleen Moose



## Musical Gifts .

Stephen Branch will lead our choirs. If you would like to join a choir, come to the church on Wednesday nights for practice. Come at 6:30 pm for gospel choir and 7:30 for chancel choir. The choir will begin on September 5th.

See the [rapidcityfirst.org](http://rapidcityfirst.org) calendar on the website (click the lines at the top right of the home page for the menu) for up-to-date events and more information. Or call the office at 342-4498 if you need more information.

### September 2018 Calendar of Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location
Sunday	7:15 AM	Communion Service	Chapel
(except first Sunday of the month)			
Sunday	8:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	9:30 AM	Contemporary Worship	Sanctuary
		with Sunday School	
Sunday	11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
1st Monday	6:00 PM	Pastoral Assistants Meeting	Parlor
3rd Tuesday	5:30 PM	Leadership Council Meeting	Parlor
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Praise Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary