

629 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone 605-342-4498

www.rapidcityfirst.org

Messenger



www.facebook.com/rapidcityfirst



[RapidCityFirstUMC](#) on Instagram

Greg's Greeting

We've heard it said, and probably said it ourselves, "Everyday should be Thanksgiving." No matter the aspirations and expectations for any given day, there are always reasons for giving thanks. I'm thankful for November. Not because there is the availability of all things pumpkin spice flavored, but because November is focused on the theme of gratitude.

Herman Melville, writing in *Moby Dick*, took issue with the eleventh month, equating depression and anti-social thoughts with "a damp drizzly November in my soul." I'm thankful I have no such association in my soul. There is so much for which to be thankful.

- I'm thankful for the saints of our congregation now illuminated by the perpetual light of the Lord. We will remember and be grateful for their eternal lives through "The Ritual of Naming" as we observe All Saints Sunday on November 4th.
- I'm thankful for the commitment and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. We will honor the men and women of our congregation who answered the call to military service on our behalf. Sunday, November 11th is not only a day for this special recognition during worship, the day marks the 100th anniversary of when the guns fell silent at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.
- I'm thankful for God's goodness and provision for all that is needed in life, and in life beyond this life. Joining together in a unity worship service at 10 am on November 18th, we have the blessed opportunity to express our thanksgiving while consecrating our 2019 commitments to God for the support of this congregation's ministries. I'm doubly thankful for the time we'll have as a church family to share brunch in Fellowship Hall following our time of worship.
- I'm thankful for the gathering of our downtown congregations on Tuesday, November 20th at 7:00 pm. With Faith Temple Church as our host, we'll worship with an outpouring of community thanksgiving unto the Lord.

During these times marked by fear and division in our land, expressing our gratitude has never been more vital. As author Diana Butler-Bass explains, "In recent years, neuroscientists have discovered that fear and gratitude don't exist in the same parts of our brains... Indeed, researchers now believe that gratitude and fear cannot exist at the same time – that gratitude actually processes fear, effectively driving fear out, taming it, giving us human beings the possibility of acting with courage, hope, joy, compassion." With thanksgiving, may it be so for each of us.

Inside this issue:

Volume 21, Issue 11

November 2018

Michele's Minute	2
Children's Ministry,	3
Leadership Council	4
Financial News	5
UMW	6
Reflections	7
Calendar of Weekly Events	8
Consecration Sunday	9



Michele's Minute

As we get into November, we are preparing to prepare! We are preparing for Advent, for a change-up in our Sunday morning schedule and for God to surprise us again, with God's goodness!

Beginning December 2nd, the first Sunday in Advent, we will have a 9 a.m. contemporary worship, followed by a 10 a.m. time of fellowship and Christian education for all ages! Then, at 11 a.m., we will have a traditional worship service. Our hope is that as many people as possible will join this new Sunday morning opportunity to learn and grow in faith as a community, from 10:00 to 10:50 am!

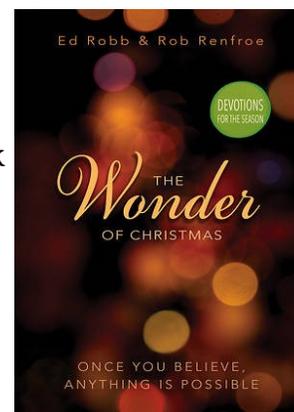
We are kicking-off with an all-church (all ages will be following similar curriculum), four-week Advent study called, *The Wonder of Christmas*. Sign-up for adults will be starting soon so that we can order books in advance. We hope one or two people would be interested in **hosting a small group study in their home** or at church as well, perhaps on Saturday mornings, or Sunday evenings, or Mondays at noon. There is a DVD that is used to start each class. We realize that people who sing in the choir or teach Sunday morning classes will not be able to be a student during Sunday mornings, so alternatives would be helpful to them, especially. Please contact the church office if hosting or facilitating an advent study sounds like something you would like to do!

After the first of the year, we will be offering a number of adult classes, including one that will focus on 1) current events, referring to scripture and theology for perspective; 2) a deep dive into scripture, looking at a single book of the Bible or section of scripture at a time; and, 3) special seasonal studies (Advent or Lent) or more narrow-focus, themed studies.

Additionally, we plan that every fifth Sunday, we will close down the classrooms for "normal" study, and instead share in an inter-generational, mission-based activity. Kids, youth and adults will be encouraged to come together to harness our group energy to pack meals for Kids Against Hunger, pick up trash around the neighborhood, pack hygiene kits for the HOPE Center, etc.

There is so much life for us to enjoy in Christ, together! I am looking forward to the future with you all!

-Pastor Michele



Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers Needed

Starting Dec 2, the church bus will run for the 11 a.m. worship service. If you need a ride to/from church any week, please call Amber in the office at 342-4498 by Thursday, and she will add you to the list of bus riders.

Also, anyone new who is interested in **driving the church bus, being an usher, greeter, or reader** please let the office know or sign up in the Parlor. These are great opportunities to serve God and meet some wonderful people. A commercial driver's license is not needed to drive the church bus, , just a willing heart, a clean driving record and valid license! Please prayerfully consider one or multiple of these ministries!

Children's and Youth Ministry

A Note from Children's Ministry:

As we enter this time of change, thank you all in advance for your patience. Good things are on the way! During the upcoming dates, we have inconsistencies in the months of November and December. Service times will move on the 2nd of December. This change will now offer the opportunity for adult fellowship and education time. So, we felt it most important to offer a children's program during that adult education time. Starting Dec. 2nd, we invite your whole family to attend either the 9:00am or 11:00am church service. The children are welcome to grab a busy bag for entertainment. We will also continue to welcome the children forward to learn from the children's message offered during the church service. First UMC Children's Ministry will offer Sunday School for Preschool through 4th grade from 10:00am-10:50am. We are looking forward to coming together and worshipping, as a family of all ages

- **Nov. 18th** Consecration Sunday; No Sunday School.
Please join us for brunch at 11:00am.
- **Nov. 25th** No Sunday School
- **Dec. 2nd** New Sunday School Time; 10:00am-10:50am
- **Dec. 9th** Christmas Program
- **Dec. 16th** Continue with the new Sunday School Time
- **Dec. 19th** Last WNL
- **Dec.30th** No Sunday School

Also, we are in need of nursery help. Please visit with Ms. Jessica if you are interested. As of Dec. 2nd, the Nursery will be available from 9am-12pm for children 5 and under.

You can help with our Christmas program! We will have a bulletin board on the wall of the parlor with items that we need for our program. Some of the donations will be used for "The Christmas Tree" production set and decorations. Other donation items are to bless our Hope Center, Corner Stone Mission, Food Bank, and other programs that can use a little extra love during the holiday season. Please be watching the parlor bulletin board. All donations are needed by Dec. 2nd. Thank you for your help and donations!



Leadership Council

Hello from the Leadership Council! We are calling on any interested member 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. Thank you to **Lori Walker**, who just joined our council!

Lance Roberts, Chair



Please bring your donation of new or gently used winter clothing and warm blankets or sleeping bags to the Hope Center donation bin in the Parlor by November 11th. We will be providing these to the Hope Center for their Comfort and Cocoa event where they give out coats and blankets to the homeless. Please contact Jerry Simmons, Jessica Makoutz, or Jennifer Hill with any questions!

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 **Thank you to 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!!

Cornerstone Rescue Mission Meal

Thank you those who served the mission meal: Tom Bowman, Laree Mayes, Terri Georgas, Brad and Teresa Dighton, Pete Ottoson, 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 one pound pasta for our church response. In the last two months, we've collected 51 boxes of crackers, 14 containers of hot cereal and 18 boxes of cold cereal.

Financial News

Monthly Contribution Update:

<u>Sept 2017 Actual</u>	<u>Sept 2018 Actual</u>	<u>Sept 2018 Budget</u>
\$50,351	\$50,352	\$56,710

- September contributions were below budget.
- *The church did not pay apportionments this month and we are behind \$43,978 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 will give you a simple form to fill out.
- We will be distributing the new envelopes for 2018 the first or second Sunday in December. Look for them in the Parlor. Please pick yours up and save the church about \$3 in mailing costs!
- If you have any questions or concerns about our finances, please contact us at the church office at 605-342-4498.

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



Welcome to our new members Amy Gilpin and Isaac Allen!

Happy October Birthday to these Primetimers!



UMW Notes

UMW Annual General Business Meeting:

Important business items at the November 14 Annual Meeting will include:

- voting on changes to local Standing Rules
- the 2019 budget
- memorial service

Members, including any newly joined, please come! The leadership team will host.

Thank you to all who donated, worked, shopped and dined at the **2018 Fall Bazaar!**

Special Christmas Project:

Again this year, UMW has a Christmas wish list for the therapeutic foster homes that [Abbott House](#) opened in Rapid City. Established in 1939 in Mitchell SD, Abbott House is the only all girl facility in the State of South Dakota that strives to provide premier services for girls who have suffered abuse and neglect and their families.

The Methodist church has a decades long connection with Abbott House. The wish list is available at the welcome center in the parlor. Donations need to be brought to the church office by December 9 or before. The homes in Rapid City serve children middle school and high school age, girls and boys. We are told that the girls especially like art supplies.

Reminder:

Your Thank Bank offering is due to treasurer, Shirley Huisman.

Dates to Remember: (No Circle meetings this November)

- November 7 Leadership Team, 9:00 am, parlor
- November 14 Annual General Meeting, 1:30 pm, parlor
- December 5 Leadership Team, 9:00 am, parlor

For those of you collecting Family Fare UPCs: Thank you!

- Make sure you save only Family Fare UPCs. The barcode includes "70253."
- UPCs from other brands sold at Family Fare do not qualify for the Labels for Education program. Thank you for helping support UMW missions.
- 0 70253 16109 (Sample UPC number)



Reflections

Here is encouragement: “This is the message which we have heard of Him and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all” [I John 1:5]. This is comforting information. Because God is light and there is no darkness in Him, we can count on Him. We can go to Him for wisdom, mercy, assurance, guidance, and whatever else we need. He loves us and wants to help us. We can trust Him to always have our best interests in mind.

As we seek Him and His way of doing, Psalm 119:130 reminds us, “The entrance of Thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto thy path.” A good place to start seeking Him is in His Word, the Bible. His light and His word are inextricably connected. How? Scripture interprets scripture. Let’s go back to Genesis.

In Genesis 1:3, “... God said ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” Another translation is simply “God said, ‘Light, be!’” He has yet to mention sun, moon, or stars. For now, God is creating day and night (vss. 4-5), firmament in the midst of water, Heaven, and dry land (vss. 6-10). He is speaking grasses, fruit trees, and other vegetation into being (vss. 11-12). When days two and three have ended, He then deals with sun, moon, and stars (vss. 14-18). He has specific purposes for each, e.g., sun and moon to rule the day and night, respectively, and to serve as indicators for signs and seasons, days, and years. The fourth day has passed, and we’ve been given a clinic on how the entrance of His word does indeed give light.

In the fullness of time, our Lord Jesus, the Incarnation of God Himself, came down to live among us, teach us, and shed His precious blood for us. The apostle John wrote of Him “... that light is come into the world...” [John 3:19]. And Jesus said “...I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” [John 8:12]. Again, “...believe in the light, that ye may be children of the light” [John 12:36]. When Philip asked Jesus to show him the Father, Jesus replied “...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father...” [John 14:9] While the threefold nature of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit has long been conceded to be beyond our ability to comprehend, that He is light with no darkness in Him remains intrinsic to Him in His entirety.

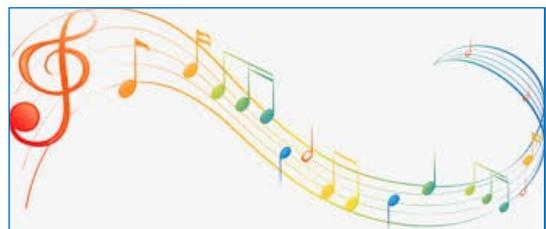
In chapter 22:5 of the Book of Revelation, John gives us one last mention of God’s light “...there will be no night there; and they shall need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever.”

From God’s own light in Genesis to God’s own light in Revelation, we’ve come full circle. May we, with His help, walk in His light this day and in the days yet to come. Blessed be the His name forever. We are thankful, right?

Love, prayers, and hugs all around!
Kathleen Moose

Musical and Drama Gifts

Starting January 2nd, a drama team ministry will begin meeting on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Choir rehearsal will follow at 7:30 pm.



See the 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. Please call the office at 605-342-4498 if you need more information.

November 2018 Calendar of Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location
Sunday (except first Sunday of the month)	7:15 AM	Communion Service	Chapel
Sunday	8:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	9:30 AM	Contemporary Worship with Sunday School	Sanctuary
Sunday	11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
3rd Tuesday	5:30 PM	Leadership Council Meeting	Parlor
Wednesday	6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Live	
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Wednesday	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Thursday	6:30 PM	Contemporary Worship Team Practice	Sanctuary
Thursday	6:30 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Days to Mark on Your Calendar

- November 18 Consecration Sunday; 10 am service and brunch to follow
- November 26 and 27 Christmas decorating; 5 pm; light supper for helping hands
- December 9 Christmas Program at 9 am

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Leadership Council has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, November 18th, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

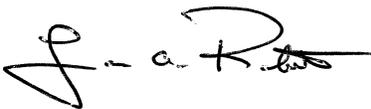
Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, Jeff Pospisil, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Leadership Council Chairperson,



Lance Roberts