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# Messenger



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## Greg's Greeting

I'm the first one to recognize that I'm not handy with a hammer. Oh, I can place a nail to hang a picture and take on the simplest of repairs, but when I hear friends and colleagues describe their home improvement projects... hanging sheetrock, laying new floors, connecting pipes, and running new wires... there's only a slight degree of envy within when I say, "better you than me." Even though I'm no master craftsman, that doesn't mean I'm unable to participate in other types of renovation efforts, especially those involving the spiritual house of our lives. God is always at the ready to start the renovation. I believe that's true for me. I believe that's true for each one of us.

Over the coming weeks of Lent, we'll participate with one another in this invitation to renovate. The point of all this is to build our relationship with God and with each other. We'll compare the before and after, and I pray be amazed at the change. We'll love it and any desire to list will be a listing of what God has done and is doing within and among us. All this is an essential foundation for other renovations God has in store for us in the spiritual house that is our church.

A big area for renovation in our congregation involves the way we organize ourselves for ministry. Back in mid-2015 we created the Leadership Council as part of our adoption of the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI) prescriptions. While intended to streamline and align our work in achieving the mission of making new disciples, an unintended consequence was the increased difficulty of keeping our faithful members and friends meaningfully involved in our ministries. A renovation is needed to affirm and engage the creativity, energy, and Holy Spirit gifts of all our people. We can be a renovated and renewed church!

Specifically, here's what this means. We currently need additional persons to serve on the Leadership Council which will continue to have oversight and governance responsibility for the congregation. Supporting our church's administrative functions will be newly created teams for Trustees, Finance, and Staff-Parish Relations. These each will have 5-7 members, with the chair from each serving as a member of the Leadership Council. To provide overall planning and coordination for our program ministries there will be a Program Team of 5-7 persons. As with the administrative teams, the chair will be a member of the Leadership Council. To cover specific age-level ministries or focused ministries such as the Hope Center, there may be any number of additional sub-teams that will form and meet on a regular or "as needed" basis.

From previous time and talent surveys and other requests for ministry volunteers, we have a baseline of information to begin work in forming these teams. I want to emphasize; the Leadership Council is committed to broadening the level of participation. Anyone feeling called to serve in any of these or other areas is encouraged to share that with me or any member of the church staff or Leadership Council. In the month ahead there will be more details to come, and opportunities to enlist your gifts, talents, interests, and passions in this exciting and sizeable renovation process.

Along the Journey Together,

Pastor Greg

## Michele's Minute

When the Sunday Morning worship schedule was changed to offer Christian education for adults between services, Greg and I discussed what should be made available. What was raised up as important and developed was:

- 1) A solid **study of scripture** itself (*How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* is the introductory phase of that class);
- 2) A study **related to a sermon series/theme or season of the church** (*Unafraid* and *Renovate* both fall in that category), helping people internalize Christian thinking, scriptural teachings, church traditions and more;
- 3) A group that would **reflect the "practical theology"** that John Wesley honored, bringing together awareness of current local community needs, scripture and our denominational heritage (*Christians in Today's World*).

Besides an opportunity to **gain knowledge**, these classes (and those offered at other times during the week) are an opportunity to **engage in the tender work** of growing and strengthening the body of Christ. We come together, build friendships, and as we learn, often find ourselves simultaneously loving God and neighbor.

Additionally, a desire that was voiced a few years ago from parents of young children was the opportunity for **multi-generational ministry activities** together. This would be where kids, parents and grandparents (or non-related people of multiple generations) can all do something in service through Christ's love, together. We decided to try to incorporate that on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays to see how popular they would be. All are welcome!

Our first 5<sup>th</sup> **Sunday Micro-Mission** event will be March 31 at 10:10 a.m. and works with the theme of our *Renovate* Lenten study, inviting in the **Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity** as a missional partner. Come downstairs to the Fellowship Hall at that time for a short presentation from **Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity** in regard to their **#3500homes** campaign. Then we will have a "blitz build," cutting out, folding and taping together small paper houses Habitat has designed as part of that campaign. These paper houses will be used to provide a visual reminder to the community about the real shortfall of 3500 affordable housing units in the Rapid City area.

A Lenten "thank bank" type calendar benefiting BH Habitat is also available for all who would like one. It is on a separate page of this newsletter and if you choose to participate, we ask that you **bring your donation to the church** on Easter Sunday or shortly thereafter so that we may get a sense of how much participation we have had in this Micro-Mission event. We will forward donations to BH Area Habitat for Humanity in a single check.

Please prayerfully consider participating in these efforts during Lent.

In Peace,  
Michele

# Children's and Youth Ministry

## A Note from Children's Ministry:

Summer camp registration is open for kids of all ages. Please go to <https://www.dakotasumc.org/camping> to sign up and use code 580201CA.

A few reminders:

- Nursery is available Sunday mornings from 9:00-12:00
- Sunday School meets from 10:10am-10:50
- WNL meets Wednesday nights. from 6:00-7:30
- There will be no WNL on March 6th. We would love for families to attend Ash Wednesday services, instead. Nursery will be available.
- If you are interested in being a Sunday School or WNL teacher, please contact Ms. Jessica.



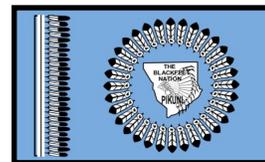
Here are two delicious opportunities to help our youth and leaders go to Montana again!

### Fat Tuesday Pancake Feed—March 5th, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Join the youth for a delicious pancake feed the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Donations will go toward the 2019 Mission Trip to the Blackfoot Nation. If you would like to help, please come to the church at 4 pm on March 5th.

The mission trip to the Black Feet Nation is open for young adults and families! If you are interested, please contact Jerry Simmons.

### Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser—Coming in April! Please look for order forms soon.



**Primetimers** are a group of retired and semi-retired people who join together for food, fun, and fellowship. They meet each first Friday of the month to celebrate birthdays and go on trips and have other fun activities. If you have any questions about this group or are interested in any of these events, please call the church at 605-342-4498.

# Financial News

## Monthly Contribution Update:

Jan 2018 Actual

\$57,149

Jan 2019 Actual

\$39,865

Jan 2019 Budget

\$45,602

- January contributions were below budget and last year’s amount.
- The church did not pay any apportionments in January because of a lack of funds.
- Remember, you can now use **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** when giving to the church. If you would like to sign up for EFT, call me and I will send you the form to fill out.
- As postage costs continue to rise the church would like to send church updates, and donation statements via email. If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or changed your e-mail address the **church needs to be informed of these changes**. If you do not use e-mail we will continue to send information via the post office.
- If you have any questions or concerns about our finances, please contact me at the church office at 605-342-4498.

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

We’re going to host discussions on March 12th at 10 am, 3 and 7 pm about supplemental giving to First UMC in 2019. Please plan to attend one of these sessions.

**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 To date, we have collected \$40,384.

***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: Roger and Ruby Iszler, Randy and Robynn Welch, Bobbi Tracy 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 macaroni and cheese or ramen noodles for our church response food drive.

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

### **March 2019 Calendar of Weekly Events**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sunday	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	10:10 AM	Sunday School	Upper Room or Parlor
Sunday	11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
1st/3rd Tuesdays	Noon	Men’s Upper Room Bible Study	Parlor
3rd Tuesday	5:30 PM	Leadership Council Meeting	Parlor
Wednesday	6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Live	
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

### **Important Dates to Remember**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday   Mar 4	2 pm, 7 pm	UMC Vote Presentation	Sanctuary
Tuesday   Mar 5	5 pm	Youth Pancake Feed	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday   Mar 6	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
Tuesday   Mar 12	10 am, 3 pm or 7 pm	Supplemental Giving Discussion	Sanctuary or Parlor
Sunday   Mar 31	10:10 am	Micro-Mission Event	Fellowship Hall

# UMW Notes

Happy Birthday to United Methodist Women!

This month UMW celebrates 150 years in mission work. Join us in the parlor Sunday, March 3, to enjoy birthday cake and learn about the organization.

## The UMW Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## Rummage Sale Donations Welcome.

Be sure all items are placed in room 115, downstairs. The key is available in the church office. Plan to help setup, April 11 and 12 at 9:00 am Fellowship Hall. Haven't helped before? No worry, come. The sale is April 13, 8:00-noon.

## Dates to Remember

March 3	UMW Sunday birthday celebration
March 6	Leadership Team, 9:00 am, parlor
March 7	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30 pm, parlor
March 13	Esther Circle, 1:30 pm, parlor
March 30	UMW Focus Day, Belle Fourche
April 3	Leadership Team, 9:00 am, parlor
April 11,12	9:00 am setup for rummage sale
April 13	Spring Rummage Sale, 8:00-noon

## 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

Taken on its own, ‘lent’ is simply a word which comes down to us from Middle English [lente, lenten, leynte] that indicates spring and the lengthening of days. However, when speaking of Lent and the Lenten season, we speak of the days occurring between Ash Wednesday and the Feast of The Resurrection, commonly referred to as Easter Sunday. Arriving—as we will on March 6—at our own observance of the Lenten tradition provides us a good opportunity for exploring yet another facet of the wonderful roots we share with other members of the Body of Christ.

Jesus’ resurrection from the dead occurred on the first day of the week as noted in Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1. Accordingly, and in His honor, early Christians moved their Sabbath—a day for worshipping, resting, and reflecting—to coincide with that day. Each year, as the anniversary of the resurrection drew nigh, many would engage in spiritual preparation through fasting, examining their own thoughts and repenting of any behavior unbecoming followers of Christ. Post-Pentecost, Acts 2:47b records, “...the Lord added to the church daily such as those should be saved.” Then, as now, new Christians were hungry to learn more about the faith and were determined to follow Christ’s precepts as closely as they possibly could. Teachers worked hard to prepare the new Christians to celebrate Christ’s resurrection and be baptized.

Within customs and procedures that take hold gradually over a period of time, we often catch glimpses of shadows of former things. So it is with the Lent. In the season’s 40 days (not counting Sundays), we may recall Exodus 34:28 and Moses’ 40 days and nights fasting and meeting with the Lord from whom he received the Ten Commandments. Of a certainty, we remember Jesus’ 40 days of fasting and praying in preparation for His earthly ministry—for us. (Matthew 4)

Speaking of us, what about us? Fasting? Praying? Coming apart for quiet, private times with Him? Extra time in His Word? Perhaps remembering things we once knew were important and repenting of having neglected them. Perhaps remembering what our precious Lord endured, on account of us, on the cross. Perhaps He has protected us from fully comprehending, but in His Word we have bits and pieces, as in Isaiah’s 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter—“...borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:” and “...wounded for our transgressions...bruised for our iniquities...” And “...thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...he hath poured out his soul unto death...” And Paul, “... he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (II Corinthians 5:21) These revelations come as letters on a page, but God’s Holy Spirit gives deeper insight to any who seek.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23,24.

Those who came before us understood the need to come apart from time to time, to seek His face, to heed His counsel, and to sometimes just be with Him. Can we do less?

Love and prayers,  
Kathy Moose

# Lent Devotional Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 3</b> Join us as we give back to our community during this season by reflecting on the blessings we have in our homes. These funds will go toward building homes, communities, and hope.	<b>4</b> For each living room deposit \$1	<b>5</b> For each year you've lived in your home deposit 25¢	<b>6: Ash Wednesday</b> For each year you've lived in your home deposit 25¢	<b>7</b> If your roof leaks add \$1, if it doesn't add \$2	<b>8</b> If you have rain gutters, deposit 50¢, plus 25¢ for each downspout	<b>9</b> For each room in your house deposit 25¢
<b>10</b> 1st Sunday of Lent	<b>11</b> For your living room deposit \$1	<b>12</b> For each bathroom deposit 75¢	<b>13</b> For each bedroom deposit 50¢	<b>14</b> For a dining room deposit \$1	<b>15</b> For each closet in your house, deposit 25¢	<b>16</b> For each heat register deposit 25¢
<b>17</b> 2nd Sunday of Lent	<b>18</b> No trips to the well! Deposit 25¢ for each water faucet	<b>19</b> If you have a pantry deposit 75¢	<b>20</b> For each refrigerator deposit 75¢	<b>21</b> If you have a freezer deposit 75¢	<b>22</b> For the convenience of a microwave oven deposit 75¢	<b>23</b> Enjoy a dishwasher & deposit 75¢
<b>24</b> 3rd Sunday of Lent	<b>25</b> For each electrical outlet in your house deposit 25¢	<b>26</b> For each light fixture or lamp, deposit 25¢	<b>27</b> For each TV deposit \$1. Add 25¢ for each VCR or DVD player	<b>28</b> For each garage door opener deposit 75¢	<b>29</b> Add \$1 if you have a washing machine	<b>30</b> Deposit \$1 if you have a clothes dryer
<b>31</b> 4th Sunday of Lent	<b>April 1</b> Add 25¢ per window in your house	<b>2</b> Add 25¢ for each room that is carpeted	<b>3</b> Add \$1 for a one-car garage, \$2 for a two-car garage	<b>4</b> Do you recycle? Yes - \$1, No - \$2	<b>5</b> If you have a fence around your yard deposit \$1	<b>6</b> Add 50¢ for each smoke detector
<b>7</b> 5th Sunday of Lent	<b>8</b> If your home has a security system deposit \$2	<b>9</b> Deposit 75¢ if you have a water heater	<b>10</b> If you have a front yard add \$1	<b>11</b> For each tree in your yard deposit 25¢	<b>12</b> For each telephone deposit 50¢	<b>13</b> For each computer in your house deposit \$1
<b>14</b> 6th Sunday of Lent	<b>15</b> Add 5¢ for each video game or DVD	<b>16</b> For each book in the house add 5¢	<b>17</b> If you have internet access add \$1	<b>18</b> For each cell phone deposit \$1	<b>19</b> If you have a backyard add \$1	<b>20</b> What will you contribute to give others a more abundant life?
<b>21</b> Easter Sunday!						
<p style="text-align: right;">Please send funds collected to help build homes for those in need to 610 E. Omaha St., Rapid City, SD 57701 Questions? Contact Krystal Hammer, Resource Development Associate at 605-348-9196   <a href="mailto:krystal@blackhillshabitat.org">krystal@blackhillshabitat.org</a></p>						