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

# Messenger



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April 2019

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## Greg's Greeting

In the coming weeks our journey through Lent brings us to the climactic occasions of Jesus' death and resurrection. The more we participate in the remembrance of these history changing events, the more meaningful and significant they become to us as we follow Jesus today. Our church has a rich tradition of creating worship experiences for Holy Week and Easter Sunday that touch the heart and the senses. This year will be no exception. Here's what is planned:

**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**—Morning Worship Services will feature songs of praise and palm branches, recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. A Palm Parade will gather and grow as participants from downtown Rapid City churches make their way to a brief ecumenical service at Trinity Lutheran's Eco Park. Our congregation joins the procession at 12:10 pm.

**Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Each day from 12:05 pm – 12:30 pm we'll host worship in the sanctuary highlighted this year by special music, drama, and message, with a light lunch following in Fellowship Hall. A special offering received will support Habitat for Humanity's 2019 Faith Build. The dramas from Monday through Thursday are authored by one of First UMC's own, Millie Samuelson, and are presented from her work, *Women of the Last Supper*.

- Monday:            Special Music – Karen Kierstad,  
                          Drama – La Ree Mayes,  
                          Message – Pastor Karl Kroger
- Tuesday:           Special Music – Gina Plooster, Drama – Kathy Moose,  
                          Message – Pastor Michele Slott
- Wednesday:       Special Music – Joelle Simpson, Drama – Holly Lindsay,  
                          Message – Pastor Greg Kroger
- Thursday:          Special Music – Ali Kennedy, Drama – Anne Torgerson,  
                          Message – Pastor Holly Sortland
- Friday:             Special Music and Drama/Message – Stephen Branch

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**—Maundy Thursday Communion in the Chapel at 1:15 pm. Our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, including Holy Communion and featuring choir and instrumentalists will be at 7:00 pm.

**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**—First UMC's *B-45 Ministry Team* is assisting in the Easter Egg Hunt and Eggstravaganza Event in downtown Rapid City. To participate or simply receive more information, contact Randy or Robyn Welch at 605-391-4628 or 605-430-6878.

**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**—The Rapid City Community Sunrise Service will be held at 6:00 am at Main Street Square. Easter Sunday Worship Celebrations continue at First UMC at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Invite friends and family, join in and let's make this a Holy Week and Easter experience like none before.

Pastor Greg

## Michele's Minute

*"Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people. You know that you will receive an inheritance as a reward. You serve the Lord Christ."* Colossians 3:23-24

As you may recall, in worship we have been working our way through the liturgical calendar (church language for the Christian calendar, beginning with Advent) on a journey through a number of sermon series. Here's the path we have travelled:

First, we explored, **The Wonder of Christmas**.

Then we discussed how that wonder, Jesus, can help us be **Unafraid**.

With fears addressed, we examined different ways we can have **Hope for the Long Haul** for ourselves and for our church.

Currently, during Lent, we are in the midst of inspecting our lives as individuals and as a community of faith. We work to **Renovate**, allowing God to restructure and refine us to more whole-heartedly love and serve God and neighbor.

Part of that means knowing what materials we have to work with for renovating this particular faith community. That would be all of us. **We are the raw materials** with which God builds the church. It takes all of us, of all ages, with our varied abilities, gifts and—perhaps most importantly in this hyper-busy day and age—time, to participate in God's kingdom.

Our spiritual renovation project at First UMC is big. We are taking inventory of materials (again, that's us). We need to know what we have to work with. You are important to God and to this family of faith! Please fill out our [online survey](#) or ask for a paper copy from the office. We would like all surveys to be completed and submitted by April 10<sup>th</sup> so the next phase of our renovation may continue.

Thank you so much. If you have any questions, please call me at church 605-342-4498 or email me at [michele@rapidcityfirst.org](mailto:michele@rapidcityfirst.org).



# 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:

- If you are interested in teaching Sunday School or WNL or helping in the nursery, please contact Ms. Jessica.
- Save the date for VBS! It begins June 9!



*"The most important piece of clothing you must wear is love." Col. 3:14*

**We would like to be a part of the Clothe-A-Kid campaign!**



### Clothe-a-Kid

*Helping Parents make their back-to-school dollar stretch!*

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>** are sign up days, we need church volunteers to help with this.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>**—our Third Sunday Offering received in worship will be for this campaign.

**On August 10<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>**, we need church volunteers willing to shop with the children and their families at Kohl's.

**Sign Up Today:**

- > Shop and purchase clothes for a child
- > Sponsor a child
- > Volunteer as a Middle School Shopper
- > Volunteer with Clothe-A-Kid



**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:

<u>Feb 2018 Actual</u>	<u>Feb 2019 Actual</u>	<u>Feb 2019 Budget</u>
\$43,962	\$52,065	\$45,702

- February contributions were above last year and budget.
- In February, we shorted apportionments \$8000 but paid all church expenses.
- 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.
- **Snowbirds**, please let us know when you're back from the sun and warm temperatures.
- 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)**

**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 \$43,968.

***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: Kent Reiman, John and Judy Hey, Mike Johnson, 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 canned vegetables 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.

### April 2019 Calendar of Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location
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

Day	Time	Event	Location
Saturday   April 13	8 AM	UMW Rummage Sale	Fellowship Hall
Sunday   April 14	9 and 11 AM	Palm Sunday	
Sunday   April 21	9 and 11 AM	Easter	

# UMW Notes

## Spring Rummage Sale Time!

Saturday, April 13, 8:00 am-12:00 noon  
 Set-up, Thursday & Friday, April 11 & 12, 9:00 am  
 Come help!

Bring donations to room 115 (downstairs, key available from the church office)  
 Please do not leave donations elsewhere in church.

### Busy Bags

Many thanks to all who help each week with Busy Bags. We would not be able to do this for the children without you! If you're interested in learning how you can become a Busy Bag helper, please call Sharon Hansen at 342-2320 or email her at [shar3526@msn.com](mailto:shar3526@msn.com). Volunteers are usually called on to sign up for one week every other month or so. You can get them ready any day of the week before your scheduled Sunday, remembering that the church office is closed on Fridays.

### Dates to Remember

March 30 UMW Focus Day, Belle Fourche UMC, 9:00 am  
 April 3 Leadership Team, 9:00 am, parlor  
 April 10 Esther Circle, 1:30 pm, parlor  
 April 11,12 Rummage sale setup, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall  
 April 13 Spring Rummage Sale, 8:00 am-noon  
 April 15-19 Holy Week Lunches  
 April 21 EASTER!

### 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

April has arrived, and Lent 2019 continues to continue. Forty days (not counting Sundays) are forty days, after all, and cannot be hurried, which is really rather nice. How so?

In this small span of history we call ours, hustling to get this or that done; racing to meet some arbitrary deadline; and scurrying from Point A to Point B in whatever short time happens to have been allotted according to somebody or other, is *de rigueur* in so many lives that sufficiently managing the pace in order to avoid collapse becomes a goal in itself. Slow down? Forget that.

However, when days of a new year grow longer and calendars confirm the nearness of spring, Lent comes along and invites us to shift gears just a bit. Lenten observances like abstaining from certain foods, giving up some meals altogether, engaging in extra Bible study, etc., are up to the individual. Extra prayer times may help us recognize a need for repentance or for action to be taken. Here at First United Methodist Church, because tending the flock is taken very seriously, Lenten offerings began on Ash Wednesday.

At the brief, quiet Ash Wednesday service on the evening of March 6, ashes placed on our foreheads in the shape of the cross were reminiscent of Jesus' sacrifice for us so long ago and spoke of our need to look to Him, not the world, to gain wisdom for living. The service, reverent and unhurried, called to mind the fact that time belongs to God. He created it as a benefit to us, not a burden.

The lines moved slowly as we went forward to receive our crosses of ash. There was plenty of time to just think. To meditate. What a luxury to know that moments like those could be carried through and treasured in the 40 days to come—moments in which to seek Him in His Word. Moments to actually be still and quiet, closing our eyes and turning our thoughts to Him. He knows full well that our tasks must be accomplished honorably and effectively, and He is more than able to help us bring them to completion. Are we not glad that His help is always there for the asking?

The week following Palm Sunday will be Holy Week, of course, with special services, special scriptures to be pondered and read, plus a host of activities the times and dates that are listed in Pastor Greg's welcome. Usually, some we've not met will join us from time to time. We welcome them. The Lord knows who they will be, and we can lift them up to Him in the interim between now and then. We can pray for those conducting the services and for those who will be serving meals. We can pray...but enough already. The list of people and things for whom and for which to pray has no end. But, that's okay. Keeps us from feeling sorry for ourselves.

As each of the remaining 40 days eases into the next, let us study His way of doing and take it so to heart that a trail that may have grown dim will once again become the shining path which He has already prepared specifically and lovingly for thee and me. "... the path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18. Praise God!

Love and prayers,

Kathy Moose

## LETTER FROM BISHOP OUGH



### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#### Dakotas-Minnesota Area

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March, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Dakotas United Methodist Churches

Grace and peace to you in this Lenten Season of prayer and preparation as we turn our eyes to the cross and the Easter celebration.

On June 6-8, 2019 we will meet in Bismarck for the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Dakotas Annual Conference. Our theme for this conference session is Dare to Reach: Love Boldly. Dr. Mark Teasdale, the author of *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists: Sharing the Gospel Authentically*, will be our conference teacher as we explore more fully Jesus' missional imperative to reach new people.

Again this year we will receive a Miracle Offering as an expression of our gratitude for God's boundless blessings and to advance our mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The offering will be received on Friday morning, June 7, during our morning worship. I encourage each of our 250 congregations to begin praying and preparing to participate in yet another miraculous expression of God's extravagant love and generosity.

The Woman at the Well (John 4:1-34) serves as the principle scriptural inspiration for our conference's theme. Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman prompts her to ask our question: "Where do you get that living water?" The 2019 Miracle Offering: Lead Boldly #fillthegap provides an opportunity to come alongside and support persons who are asking this essential faith question. Our offering will do this in two ways.

First, we will be receiving a monetary offering that will be equally divided between the Endowment Fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences and a Dakotas Conference Foundation Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students planning to prepare for pastoral ministry and individuals training to be licensed local pastors in the Dakotas. There are significant gaps in financial assistance for pastors being trained in our Central Conferences (annual conferences outside the United States) and for those undergraduate and licensed local pastor students preparing for ministry in the Dakotas.

In the Central Conferences, which include seven areas of Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, obtaining a theological education can be challenging. Seminaries are too far away or too expensive. Our existing seminaries in the Central Conferences struggle to find and retain well-trained professors and to provide library resources in native

languages. Courses of Study for initial and continuing education need to be developed, and scholarships are needed for initial and post-graduate studies. The \$25,000,000 Endowment Fund is designed to close these gaps.

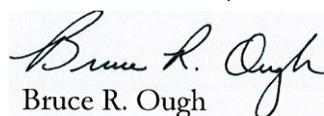
In the Dakotas Conference, we are blessed with significant scholarship resources for individuals enrolled in seminary. However, we do not have sufficient resources to assist individuals who are preparing to be licensed local pastors or undergraduates beginning their journey toward pastoral ministry. As the number of Elisha and Samuel interns deciding to pursue God's call to pastoral ministry increases, we have an unprecedented opportunity to assist them. A scholarship fund, administered by the Dakotas Conference Foundation, will enable us to begin closing these gaps.

The second part of the 2019 Miracle Offering: Lead Boldly #fillthegap will be an opportunity to offer our prayers, witness, and relationships to God in service to the Great Commission. Each clergy and lay member of conference will be blessed to offer to God the name of at least one acquaintance, who does not know Christ, for whom we are committed to "dare to reach" through our prayers and our witness of compassion, love and hope. I invite you to begin, even now, to ask the Holy Spirit to give you the name of the individual(s) you would like to lift up. Perhaps it will be a child, work colleague, neighbor, or the person who serves you coffee each day

Additional information about the 2019 Miracle Offering: Lead Boldly is available on the conference website at [www.dakotasumc.org](http://www.dakotasumc.org). Please invite the members and families of your congregation to experience the joy of participating in this miraculous outpouring of the Living Water.

Thank you for your extravagant generosity, your passion to reach others for Christ, and your courage to love boldly.

Yours in Christ,



Bruce R. Ough