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Messenger



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Greg's Greeting

Joyceann and I have been blessed to live among you and serve with you over these past five years. We're grateful to God and to you for your expressions of kindness and support through seasons of personal trial and uncertainty. When we arrived back in 2014, I was in the early years of post-treatment monitoring and re-occurrence prevention for esophageal cancer. Thanks be to God that all subsequent tests and procedures reveal no evidence of remaining or returning cancer. Your voiced concerns for my health and offerings of prayer have been a great source of strength to me. Then in 2015 Joyceann learned she had breast cancer. Life took a detour along the path of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. There was another major surgery when diagnostic procedures for the breast cancer revealed an additional type of cancer in her lung. Joyceann's road to recovery has been far more complicated, but again thanks be to God there is no evidence of remaining or returning cancer. The compassion, encouragement, prayers, and offering of meals that you provided to her and to me through all of this was wonderful.

We prepare to leave Rapid City and First UMC with gratitude and the sense of holy privilege to have been here. Though I will no longer be your pastor, we look forward to seeing many of you when our paths cross. With Karl and family

continuing to make their home in Piedmont, we'll be in the area from time to time. Other personal and work-related activities will have us occasionally on the road to Rapid City and the Black Hills. That said, I can't overstate how important it will be for you to receive and become well-acquainted with Pastor Barry Whipkey and his wife, Deb. I know that you have welcomed and shown much love to Joyceann and me. I know that you will welcome and express love to Pastor Barry and Deb. Since they will be new to the Rapid City area without the benefit of having lived here previously or having close family in the immediate area, I really encourage you to offer them the best of what we have experienced, and even more, in extending hospitality. I'm confident that the connections you make will be strong and lasting. As for Barry and Deb, they come with the highest of recommendations possible. Barry is my mom's pastor in his current appointment at the Madison UMC. Her opinion is very high. And mom is not happy about their leaving.

I treasure the highlights of ministry that will remain in my memories. Worshipping together, learning with one another in various studies, experiencing this congregation of gifted and talented persons serving Christ with these gifts, seeing your hearts filled with compassion for the poor, the privilege of walking alongside one another in times of death and loss, and seeking together our purpose of being, making, and growing disciples of Jesus Christ... these things will endure.

May God's Abundant Blessings Be With You All,

Pastor Greg

Michele's Minute

As I watch the big wet clumps of snow falling outside on the green grass, I am reminded again of how little we control. Change is always upon us, and the best way for us to deal with change is to go to God in prayer! Please be in prayer for all these people affiliated with our faith community and the milestones we and they experience this coming month:

- All college students and faculty dealing with finals week, the stress of moving, new jobs, etc.
- Area K-12 students and faculty as they approach the end of the school year, which will also bring the end of the Sunday School (May 19) and Youth Group/WNL (May 8) seasons. Please include prayers of thanksgiving for our many volunteers and staff who make those programs work!
- High School Seniors preparing to graduate and the upcoming Baccalaureate service, open to all RCAS seniors and their families scheduled to be held here on May 16.
- New members being received on May 19th following the final session of the class, "Following Jesus." If you've been contemplating officially joining the church, please call the office at 605-5-342-4498 by May 9th.
- New members of the Leadership Council who will be consecrated during worship services on May 19th. The fully-staffed council will meet for the first time on May 21st.
- Leadership Teams, to include Trustees, Finance, SPR (Staff Parish Relations) and Programs which are slowly coming together and should be launched by the end of summer if not before. *Please let us know if you'd like to be part of one of those groups and haven't notified the office yet.*
- Miss Jessica and her VBS team as they get things ready to go To Mars and Beyond!
- Pastor Greg as he plans his last few weeks of leading ministry here at First United Methodist Church, with his last Sunday being May 19th. Please be present that day to wish both him and Joyceann well!
- Pastor Barry Whipkey and his wife Deb as they plan their move out here. They will be here at the end of June or early July...that date is still to be determined, and we should know more within the month.
- Our congregation at large as summer approaches. I know that with vacation plans, home projects, work trips, etc. there are many things that can take you away on Sunday mornings, but please remember we will still be worshipping every Sunday at 9 and 11 am. Please continue to join us as often as possible! I encourage you to watch online if that's an option, when you cannot be present physically. We need to be together, building relationships to remain a vital congregation serving the risen Christ!

See you in worship, and hopefully in-between, too! It is a joy to be with you all!

~ Michele



Children's and Youth Ministry

A Note from Children's Ministry:

Save the date for VBS! It begins June 9! Please contact Ms. Jessica if you can help!



"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 3rd, 4th, and 5th are sign up days, we need church volunteers to help with this.

June 16th—our Third Sunday Offering received in worship will be for this campaign.

On August 10th and the 17th, 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>Mar 2018 Actual</u>	<u>Mar 2019 Actual</u>	<u>Mar 2019 Budget</u>
\$49,276	\$45,943	\$45,626

- March contributions were below last year and slightly above budget.
- In March we shorted apportionments in the amount of **\$6,695 and \$20,970 YTD.**
- *If you have moved or changed phone number/address please notify the church office so we can update the church records. Also we need updated **email addresses** as the church will start sending church information via emails!*
- If you are interested in giving through electronic funds transfer (EFT) call the office.
- If you have any questions on finances, please call us at the church office.

--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 \$45,634.

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: Delane Rains and family. *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, diced tomatoes for our church response food drive.

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. In May, some practice times may change days. Please note that in May, some practice times may change. Please call the office at 605-342-4498 if you need more information.

May 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

Special Sundays in May

May 5—Communion

May 8th—Last day of WNL

May 12th—Mother’s Day

May 19th—Last day of Sunday School



UMW Notes

Ladies' Spring Social!

“Cruisin’ into Summer!”
Sail off for fellowship with UMW gals!

All ladies invited because we want to thank you for all you do for FUMC!

Wednesday, May 15, 2019; 1:30 pm; First UMC Parlor



Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated, helped, and shopped making the 2019 UMW Spring Rummage Sale successful.

Keeping It Together

The metal holder for the monthly UMW News and other UMW information was moved to be more accessible to just right of the UMW bookcase in the parlor.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team members as they will soon complete the 40 purple scarves pledged to the Lydia Project. They will be delivered to the Dakotas Annual Conference meeting in June, 2019. From there the scarves will go to General Conference in Minneapolis MN in 2020, where they will be some of the 10,000 scarves provided attendees, as tangible reminders of God’s love and the prayers of the host conferences. Also, they will provide warmth in often overly air conditioned conference meeting rooms. Anyone is invited to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry team that meets in the church parlor at 1:30 pm, the first Thursday each month.

Dates to Remember

May 1	Leadership Team, 9:00 am, parlor
May 2	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30 pm, parlor
May 15	Ladies' Spring Social, 1:30 pm, parlor
June 2	Prayer Vigil II, see article in UMW News
June/July	Circle or group outings or fellowships, check with each contact person



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

Prior to 1889 (Dakota was yet a territory), distances and conditions posed considerable hardship for folks needing to travel from the outlying reaches of Lawrence County in order to conduct business at the county seat of Deadwood. In 1889, Eastern Lawrence County became Meade County. Tilford, a booming little town at the time, was favored for county seat by its inhabitants, but Sturgis won the day for many reasons not the least of which was accessibility. The road to Tilford, greatly afflicted with rocks—yea, even boulders—appears to have influenced the deciders at least somewhat.

Centuries earlier, the Apostle Paul knew something about navigating rocky places, yet he exhorted the Believers at Corinth: “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that you might obtain...now, they do it to it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.” I Corinthians 9:24-26.

In comparing the Christian walk to a race to be run, Paul is unlikely to have envisioned our modern, user-friendly track facilities. Shipwrecks, being beaten and cast out—these he knew well. He also knew about being unflinchingly honest with oneself, of speaking the truth in love, and of remaining steadfast in the faith no matter the trial. His paths were often ones of sharp rocks and thrown stones. Boulders of resistance often met anyone proclaiming the message of redemption through Christ.

Having been a sinner horribly responsible for inflicting suffering upon the Believers of the day, how could Paul have written such letters? He could and did because on his way to Damascus, he met Christ and spent many years learning from the Savior Himself. II Corinthians 5:17 explains: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” And, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3: 13, 14.

Again, “...let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who...endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest you be weary and fainting in your minds: you have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. Hebrews 12:1-4.

Believers encounter difficulties and hindrances (rocks?) on a daily basis. The world can be a rough place in which to forge ahead. Heartaches do manage to come along. But here is something Lord Jesus said to the disciple shortly before He was arrested: “...In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 17:33b.

Thanks be to God, we can say with Paul: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13. What Jesus had promised, Paul had received and woven into his life. So can we.

Love and prayers,

Kathy Moose

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS



Given by	In Memory of	In Honor of
Shirley and Brett Huisman	Mark Huisman	
Michele Knock	Craig Knock (husband)	
Michele Knock	Merle Page (mother)	
Jill Vanthul	Merlin & Peggy Heinzerling	
Jill Vanthul		Terry, Jacob, Ryan
Mardeena Bentz	Harold Bentz	
Tom and Rhonda Hook		our parents and grandparents
Jill Jones	Linda & John Jones	
Jill Jones	Tanya Kowelchuk & Larry	
Jill Jones	Peggi & Mike Stroud	
Jill Jones	Jackie Crisafulli	
Terry and LaRee Mayes	Vernon & Ione Roeber	
Terry and LaRee Mayes	Marion & Lawrence Mayes	
Joyce Anderson	James Anderson	
Kristi & Terry Larson	Brett Larson (son)	
Kristi & Terry Larson		Don & Jesse Larson (parents)
Kristi & Terry Larson		Keith & Joan Brown (parents)
Tom & Deb Bowman	our parents	
Jill	Jim Thorson	

Thank you to everyone that donated flowers either in memory or in honor of your loved ones!

What the “TECH” is happening in our church?

I thought it might be nice to let everyone know what is going on tech-wise at First. Technology has become an integral part of our overall ministry, now enhancing our music, visuals, announcements, and internet “presence.”

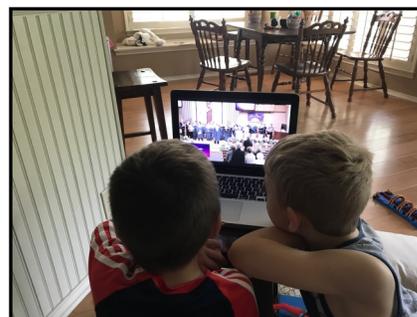
We have a solid group of volunteers who help with projecting slides and managing the livestream going to our website. But those volunteers are being asked to sit at their position (working rather than being allowed to worship) about every other week now. That is to say, we could certainly use more volunteers to help out. The task is not difficult (and our church is amazingly forgiving) and could be done by almost anyone. If that is something you think you could help with, please let the office know and we can set up some training for you. There is a need for individuals to help out for weddings and funerals, too! (And you get paid for those gigs!)

There is a need for operators at the soundboard as well. That is somewhat more intense on the scale of difficulty, but, with a little training, many of you could certainly handle it.

We periodically see some difficulties that interrupt our livestream. We apologize for any inconvenience with that. We recently replaced one “link” in the network that improved speed, and things have been better, although not yet foolproof. Still working on it!

-Alan Buhler

TECH NEWS



Dick and Susan Dittman’s grandsons watching church!