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July 2019

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Barry's Blessings

Greetings from Pastor Barry and Deb Whipkey!! As we unpack our belongings and begin to settle into this new adventure with you we are excited, anxious and ready to begin a new journey with you. As I enter my 16th year of ministry I look forward to what God will do through us, together, for the Kingdom of God in the Rapid City area.

Deb and I have served in 3 parishes during our 15 years of ministry. We began in North Dakota at the Yoke Parish of Larimore, Arvilla and Emerado, we were ½ Presbyterian and ½ Methodist and they loved us as we learned what it is to be in pastoral ministry. Our second appointment was to the churches of Huron, Riverview and Virgil. We grew in our love for ministry and outreach. After 6 years we were asked to move to Madison and serve the Madison UMC. Again we fell in love with the people and the community.

And we now come to Rapid City First UMC, we come with open hearts and a deep love to share Christ with you and with the community.

We have 3 grown children who are married and have given us 8 grandchildren, which keep us active as we enjoy all their activities. Deb and I love being outdoors, hiking, biking, running and spending quiet time in God's creation. As we enter this new chapter in our lives we pray that God will use us, as we become partners with you in ministry.

In Christ, Pastor Barry and Deb



**Welcome to
First United Methodist
Church**

**Join us July 7th for Barry's official
first Sunday!**

Hellos and Goodbyes

First UMC Family,

Thank you for your kindness and the expressions of support and best wishes we have received in our preparations for the move to Pierre. We hold you in our hearts and pray for God's blessings to flow unceasingly to you. We're grateful for the time we've had together and look forward to discovering the numerous connections between people at Pierre First with people here at Rapid City First. And to the members of the choir, thank you for your gracious send-off.

We'll keep on singing!

Greg and Joyceann Kroger



Thank
You

Children's Ministry and Youth

Youth Notes

- ◆ Montana Mission Trip was cancelled due to low number of youth able to sign up.
- ◆ Opportunity to go to Youth 2019 Love Well in Kansas City resulted in one of our youth heading that way!
- ◆ Stay tuned for upcoming events!



Don't forget **Back to School**
Sunday is August 25th!!



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



Clothe-a-Kid

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

Sign Up Today:

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

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

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

Please contact the office ASAP if you would like to help.

PRIMETIMERS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Come join us on the Friday's listed below. Sign up for each event in the parlor!

July 19th, 1:00 pm

Ft. Meade Museum

Meet at 12:15 in the parking lot across from the Boy's Club

August 2nd, 11:30am-3pm

Birthday Party/Picnic

Meet at Old Storybook Island

September 6th, 2:00pm

Birthday Party Celebration

Church parlor

September 20th, 11:00am

Storm Mountain for lunch

Meet at 10:30 in the parking lot across from the Boy's Club



Financial News

CHURCH FINANCIALS NEWS

Monthly Contribution Update:

May 2018	May 2019	May 2019
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
\$51,619	\$45,602	\$45,702

- May Contributions were below last year and budget.
- In May we did not make any payments towards apportionments and are behind \$35,500 year to date.
- *If you have moved, changed phone number/address, or email please notify the church office so we can update the church records.*

If you have any questions on finances, please call the church office.

- Thanks to all the folks who have donated to Capital Debt and please continue to donate to this fund as we will be incurring more debt to do some much needed repairs to the church building.

--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 \$47,461
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

A big thank you to Kent Reiman, Robyn Welch, Rodger & Ruby Iszler for serving in June. 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 14oz to 16oz canned fruit 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.

July 2019 Calendar of Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location
Sunday	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship	Sanctuary
Sunday	11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
3rd Tuesday	5:30 PM	Leadership Council Meeting	Parlor
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Contemporary Worship Team Practice	Sanctuary

Sandal Session: “Pursuing Potential” – July 24th 5:30 pm

When: Wednesday, July 24th at 5:30 p.m. will last approximately 90 minutes.

Where: Church Parlor in July.

Who: Pastor Michele will lead, all interested congregants are invited to participate. Please call the church office at 605-342-4498 by July 22 to RSVP so we may plan accordingly or sign up in parlor.

July Session Content:

Having a “Kingdom focus” doesn’t mean we are in pursuit of a static destination, but instead constantly pursuing the heart of God. We’ll look at parts of the George Bullard book, *Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation*, as well as thoughts from the Georgia Harkness book, *Understanding the Kingdom of God*. You do not need to purchase the books. Just come, listen, take notes (if you like) and join in conversation!

BONUS: Potluck. You are invited to bring a dish to pass. Pastor Michele will bring pulled pork, barbecue sauce and buns.

UMW Notes

Mission u 2019

Southern Site--July 11-14, Mitchell SD

Northern Site--July 18-21, Jamestown, ND

Attendees pick two of the following mission studies:

Spiritual Growth: Practicing Resurrection:
The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship

History Study: Women United for Change:
150 Years in Mission

Issue Study: What About Our Money?

A Faith Response



**Find registration blanks with more information
in the UMW drawer in the church office workroom
or next to the UMW parlor bookcase.
Scholarships provided for first-time attendees!**

Prayer Shawl Ministry Team News

The group will not meet in July due to 4th of July.

Regular meeting time in August is Thursday, August 1st, 1:30 pm, church parlor.

Anyone welcome and members have supplies and like to teach knitting or crocheting.

Reminder

Summer is UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Kit time. Items are needed for hygiene kits and school kits. Lists of materials for the kits are available in the UMW drawer in the church office workroom.

Dates to Remember

NOTE: No Prayer Shawl Ministry Team until August

July 11-14--Mission u, Southern Site, DWU, Mitchell, SD

July 18-21--Mission u, Northern Site, Jamestown U, Jamestown, ND.

August 1--Prayer Shawl Ministry Team, 1:30 pm, church 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

The Lord won't interfere with anyone's free will, but He has plans for us and even for countries. His has given us His written Word as the plumb line for measuring what is true and what isn't. Useful truth, here: He is eager to help us do things if we will do them His way.

In the events leading up to the establishing of the United States of America, there were groups of settlers-to-be who were deeply devoted to Jesus and eager to do His bidding—Puritans, Pilgrims endured hardship to bring God's Word and freedom to follow it to the new land. Eventually, on July 4, 1776, The Continental Congress issued a declaration on behalf of the thirteen colonies: "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another..." followed by the reasons for the planned departure.

How dared a handful of colonists resign from the mother nation, the Mistress of the Seas? While King George was a wretch, he was the royal wretch with no intention of doing without their loyalty and tribute.

However, the One who is never taken by surprise, won't forsake His followers, and is higher than all, had other ideas, such as "... Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness..." Not only for these inhabitants, but as an inspiration and help to others. There needed to be a big country devoted to Christ, with plenty of natural resources and citizens who would gratefully and fearlessly declare, "In God We Trust."

Prior to the Declaration, Lexington green had witnessed "the shot that was heard round the world." God had already moved pastors to preach repentance and the new life available through receiving Jesus, our Savior. Before long, the Great Awakening (1740-1760) swept into New England. The faith of the Believers became joyously renewed and strengthened. Newcomers gladly joined the fold.

In the uplifting atmosphere of spiritual renewal, folks flourished and were prepared for the days ahead. Plans were laid; decisions were made. William Penn strongly advocated for godly government leaders, for "When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan." Proverbs 29:2. When George Washington was a boy, his mother counseled: "Son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer." One of his prayers was "...daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ." Others of the Founders—John Hancock, Sam Adams, John Adams, and more—appear to have been raised in the faith. Being well-steeped in the atmosphere of George Whitefield's open field preaching (no building could hold the crowds) would likely have strengthened their faith.

The Continental Congress had no authority to raise funds for the war. Haym Salomon (from the Hebrew: chaim—life; shalom—peace), an extremely successful financial broker, pretty much financed the war from his own pocket and whatever he could raise from his associates. The British, thinking him a spy, threw him into prison where he contracted an illness that plagued him even long after his release. On his deathbed, he received a plea for help from General Washington for an army brought low in supplies. Salomon would deny neither his friend nor his adopted country. Gathering himself as best he could, he was able to raise means from the associates before going back to die, penniless but in peace.

We've quite a heritage. Lord, speak to us. Help us do all that you assign and do it your way.

Love and Prayers,

Kathy Moose

Michele's Minute

Hello Friends! We are starting a multi-tiered program at Rapid City First UMC, calling one another to rethink our day-to-day faith walk with one book (plus the Bible), a quarterly series of learning sessions, and an openness to being in a small group of people who want to grow with one another!

A particularly important concept from Methodist studies is the importance of keeping a "Kingdom focus" as we go about our daily lives. Theologian Georgia Harkness has written about the divisions within church and society seen in the 1970s, and we see similar divisions today. People seem to find protecting the battle lines—drawn by divergent opinions—an attractive distraction over the more difficult work of seeking to serve and build the Kingdom of God across those boundaries.

UM History class challenged me to look at our particular church's history, plus UM history as a whole, to develop a program to try and expand our understanding of living for the Kingdom of God to help us live and communicate in a God-honoring way. Here are the nuts and bolts!

FIRST, all interested folks are invited to use *A Disciple's Journal 2019* by Steven Manskar as a **devotional guide** for reading the Bible and examining how we go through our week. It's very flexible. You can do as much or as little as you make time for each day. You are invited to order it online. Please contact me if you'd like to see a book and get a "walk-through" of it. You can begin this at any time.

SECOND, people are invited to start meeting regularly in **small groups** (if they don't already), preferably with folks who are of the same gender, marital status and stage of life. *A Disciple's Journal 2019* helps folks connect, offers a page for facilitating group discussions and another section for devotional time with your kids. **We just need to know who is interested so we can get people connected, or you may create your own group.** Please call 342-4498 or email Michele@RapidCityFirst.org for more info.

THIRD, we are offering a quarterly learning series called *Sandal Sessions*. All four sessions are **stand-alone events, but they also work together** to help us to live as more intentional followers of Jesus today. The point of these is to help us come together in broader groups to see and discuss examples of how living with a Kingdom Focus in different ways will change our lives and our faith community for the good!!

Sandal Sessions Schedule – Please sign up at least 2 days in advance! Food will usually be part.

- Wed., July 24th at 5:30-7 p.m. (Potluck, main dish provided) – *Pursuing Potential* – What it means to constantly pursue the heart of God. Please bring a "side" food item to share!
- ◆ Tentative – Sun., Oct. 20 – 4-7 p.m. – *Character Development* – Biblical teachings on character and systems theory for working with anxious people.
- ◆ • TBD – January 2020 – *The Way to the Kingdom* – 2 hours – Learning from John Wesley's sermon, "The Way to the Kingdom" – Also will provide a spiritual gifts inventory!
- ◆ Tentatively April 9 or 10, 2020 – *Many Tribes of God's Kingdom* – Being in Christian relationship with folks who are different from ourselves.

Please participate! Call or email me with questions!

~ Michele