

Inside this issue:

Contact/Church Information	2
Financial News	3
Education Ministries	4
Christian Ed Summer Survey	5
Youth Connections	6-7
Mission Possible	8-9
Youth News	10
Mom's Morning Out	11
United Women in Faith	12
Third Sunday Offering	13
Primitimers	14
Subsplash	15
Upcoming Sermons	16



Pastor's Corner

We have journeyed through the 40 days of Lent, the mountaintops and valleys of Holy Week, and Easter morning and the empty tomb. Now what? What comes after Easter in our understanding of the faith journey that we have chosen to take?

In John 20:19-31, we read of the fear and lack of hope that consumed the thinking of the disciples after the crucifixion and the experience at the empty tomb. Then Jesus came. He came and stood among them saying, "I'm here just like I said I would be. Put aside your fear. Replace it with my peace." And then Jesus breathed his divine breath upon them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit and get ready to be sent out into the world, just as I have been sent, I send you."

However, in the next chapter of the Gospel of John, we find the disciples going back to work, doing what they knew how to do best, and doing what they did before meeting Jesus. They went fishing. They went back to the familiar routine of everyday living as if the previous three years with Jesus were just a fading memory. Maybe the disciples began to think, "This Jesus movement was a good thing while it lasted, but all good things must come to an end. So, let us just go back to work and forget all this Kingdom talk and especially this resurrection idea. The story is ended."

Then early one morning the risen Christ finds these disciples turned back to fishermen and says to them, "It's not over. It is just getting started. Do you

love me? Then get out of those boats and feed my sheep. Go find my people and teach them the things I have taught you. Go and be my church."

For the disciples and for us the story is not finished, so Jesus comes to us and says once again, "Follow me." It is a temptation to let down spiritually after Easter when the events and the excitement are over. We are drawn back into the routine and commonplace repetition of our jobs and responsibilities.

So, what is next for those who believe in Easter? I believe that Easter is present tense. It is about following Jesus now. It is about living as if God is victorious, unstoppable, triumphant, now. As "Easter" people, we must believe that God will get God's way in the end, no matter what. If Jesus' death on the cross has been defeated by the empty tomb at Easter, what other victories is God working on? How is God working in your life and in mine to give us victory? Where does God show up in our daily walk?

If we allow it, Easter can move us quickly from the affirmation, "He is risen," to an assignment, "Go into your family, community, and the world and do something about it." By carrying out that assignment, Easter continues within the lives of each one for the rest of our lives and beyond.

God is not finished with his story or us. The story is alive. So, what is next? The rest of the story.

Pastor Rich

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday to Thursday
8am to 1pm**



RAPID CITY FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
629 Kansas City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

You may call the
church at:
605-342-4498

Leave a message any
time and we will get
back to you as soon as
we can during office
hours. You can also
email the staff using the
following email
addresses.

*If you would like to be part
of the mass church email
or
prayer chain please email:
admin@rapidcityfirst.org.*

Church calendar of events
can be found on the wall
of the church office, on
the website and on our new
app!! If you are needing
church space for an event
or meeting let us know and
we will get it
added to the calendar.

Pastor Rich: pastorrich@rapidcityfirst.org

Anne Torgerson: rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com

Hannah O'Donnell: hannahrcfirst@gmail.com

Lauren Holderfield: lauren@rapidcityfirst.org

Kotti Wickard: finance@rapidcityfirst.org

Diane Ketel: dkketel@live.com

Karen Baumbach: admin@rapidcityfirst.org

Margot Burton: 343-1832

Kay Rypinski: k_rypinski@hotmail.com

General inquiries or prayer requests: admin@rapidcityfirst.org

STAY CONNECTED!!

Web site: www.rapidcityfirst.org

Live Stream: www.rapidcityfirst.org

(usually opens 5-10 minutes before the service)

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/rapidcityfirst/

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/

First Church Studies Facebook\Page:

www.facebook.com/RapidCityFirstUMC/

Church App: Go to app store on any iPhone or An-
droid and download FUMC (Rapid City) app onto
your phone/device.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Good news.

In March Rapid City FUMC met its projected budget for donations for the first time in 2024. This is wonderful news.

Finance and leadership met and are looking for ways to reduce our expenses, as well as grow our church.

We had a great Lenten Season and are grateful to all the volunteers who helped throughout. As we enter our spring here in the Dakotas, we are looking forward to all the blessings we receive.

Thank you for all your generous support and we are grateful for the faithfulness of each one of our members and friends in your giving to God through Rapid City First!

We celebrate the ways we can share the wonderful leadership, ministry, and programs of our church in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Education Ministries at Rapid City First UMC

Spring is here! I know this because the Easter snow is melting *fast!* The urge to plant seeds is upon me, even though my children will tell me it is a misguided urge because I truly do not have a green thumb. So I have been thinking about other harvests, specifically the Fruits of the Spirit. Remember the children's song?

The fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace

Patience, kindness, goodness

Gentleness, faithfulness and self-control . . . Shh!

What does it take to grow a crop like this? It begins by planting the seeds of faith. Those seeds must then be nurtured. In nature, seeds need water, sunshine, fertilization and a vigilant hand to pull weeds. Our faith seeds are nurtured through prayer, gratitude, Christian fellowship and studying God's word. Summer is an optimal time for seeds in nature, yet it seems to be the time when we take a break from our Christian disciplines.

Now, I am not suggesting that life in summer should go on as it does during the school year. I love the break in routine. Personally, I think it is necessary for growth. Yet I am suggesting that it is possible to continue cultivating our faith in new and unexpected ways. It now becomes a matter of intention.

We would love to hear your ideas for continuing Christian education throughout the summer in ways that honor God, but also honor the season of rest and family vacations. Please take a moment and complete the following survey about Christian Education at Rapid City First United Methodist Church. The surveys can be placed in the offering or returned to the church office.

Thank you for your thoughtful responses! Working together, we have the ability to produce a bountiful harvest!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUMMER SURVEY

Help us make plans for the summer months by answering the following questions.

I am interested in attending an adult bible study during the summer ____ yes ____ no

The class time and day that would work best for me in the summer is _____

I am interested in doing a group service project in summer ____ yes ____ no

I have the following ideas for service projects to do with members of our church and/or community:

I am interested in participating in Family Ministry projects in the summer ____ yes ____ no

I have the following ideas for Family Ministry projects:

I am interested in continuing Children's Church during the summer months ____ yes ____ no

If I had the materials and the training, I am willing to lead an adult bible study
____ yes ____ no

If I had the materials and the training, I am willing to lead an adult service or mission project
____ yes ____ no

If I had the materials and the training, I am willing lead Children's Church
____ yes ____ no

Name _____

Best Contact Number or Email _____

April Connections

For where two or three gather in my name, I am with them. – Matthew 18:20

C.I.A. CAFÉ

Wednesday, April 10 will be our final night for C.I.A. Café and Mission Possible. We will close the year with a potluck supper. Everyone is encouraged to bring something to the table to share with our church family.

We have so many things to celebrate on this Wednesday! During this year we have reimagined Wednesday nights.

The Wednesday night Children's Ministry, led by Lauren Holderfield, has transformed into a mission-oriented group. Through a variety of projects, they have served so many in our community – Children's Home Society, WAVI, residents of Echo Ridge, community members connected to the children and their own church family. Our Mission Possible Kids have been the hands and feet of Christ!

The nursery and preschool ministry led by Kharley Newman, Brittany McCammon and Erica Bult has been open every Wednesday to welcome the youngest members of our church community, giving them right-sized bible learning and creative social play. Our nursery has been firmly focused on teaching the love of Jesus Christ!

The Youth Ministry, led by Hannah O'Donnell, has forged a lively Wednesday night community that has focused on studying God's word and applying it through service projects, fellowship, and community building. Several new faces have been welcomed into Christian community, following the example of Christ.

The Adult Education ministry has been revitalized through four different studies offered and attended on Wednesday nights as well as studies branching out for men and women on Tuesdays. God's Word is alive on Wednesday nights!

And finally, we have reopened the tremendous resource of our church kitchen. We have had a team of volunteers who have been working together to plan, create and teach one another how to cook dinner for a crowd. We have opened long closed recipe binders and rediscovered the magic of Jello (among other well-love dishes). The kitchen has been reorganized, cleared for inspection and the foundation has once again been laid to imagine multiple events held in our church as we continue to grow our vision of ministry at Rapid City First United Methodist Church.

It has been a year of tremendous team building and growth!

So . . . if you haven't yet made it to the C.I.A. Café for a Wednesday dinner, circle your calendar for April 10. Join the potluck celebration and check out a group!

Wednesday, April 10

5:30 – 6:00 C.I.A. Café Potluck Celebration

6:00 – 7:00 Nursery Open

Mission Possible Kids – Bingo Party

Youth Group

Adults – Round Table Discussion Envisioning the Future

7:00 – 8:00 Traditional Choir Practice

NEEDS LIST:

Love, INC Children's Ministry: This spring we have an opportunity to partner with Love, Inc and serve in the Children's Ministry at LIFE, INC. While parents attend classes that help them move forward, the children are invited to engage in children's ministry lessons. This is an excellent opportunity to serve as a member of the church in our community. No teaching experience is necessary.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers: This year, we are reimagining the way we offer Vacation Bible School. Our schedule will be designed to reach more children with less volunteer hours and more targeted learning experiences. Fun individuals needed for decorating, planning, prepping crafts and mission projects, teaching, playing games, making snacks.

Dates for VBS:

Tuesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 25 morning VBS for preschool

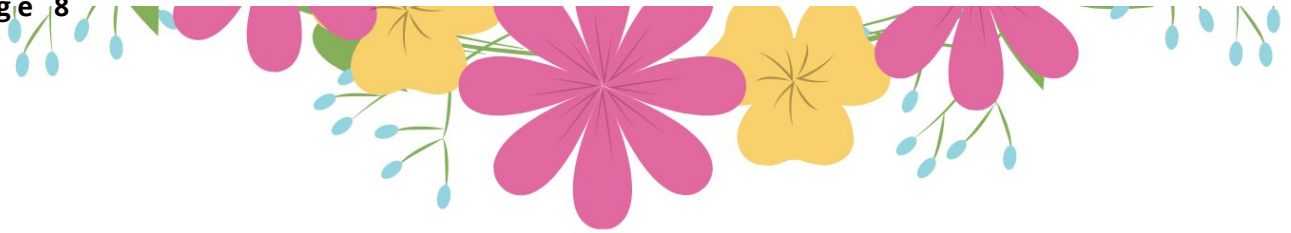
Saturday, July 27 VBS for Elementary/Youth

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Anne Torgerson at rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!

I am overwhelmed and so thankful for all of the cards and letters from church members during my recovery! Thank you so much! Anne

Great things are happening at Rapid City First United Methodist Church!



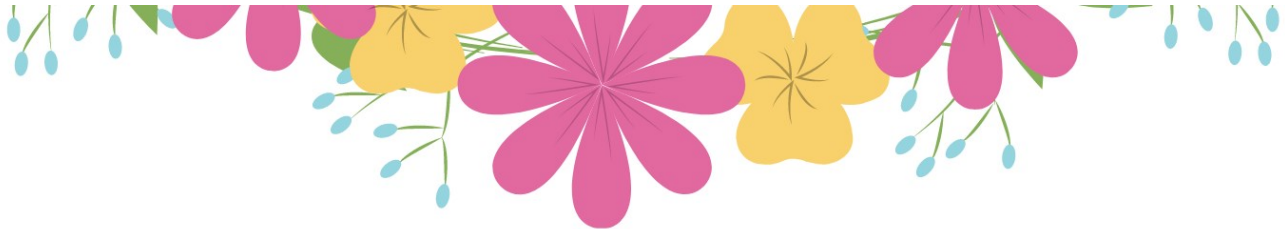
MISSION COMPLETE

NOW CELEBRATE!

**APRIL 3RD MOVIE VIEWING AND
POPCORN**

**APRIL 10TH
BINGO NIGHT**





MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS RECAP

70 PAIRS OF SOCK FOR THE
CHILDREN'S HOME
60 LBS OF FOOD FOR FEEDING SOUTH
DAKOTA
CAROLING AT ECHO RIDGE
CLOTHING/BLANKET DONATION TO WAVI
OVER 100 VALENTINES CREATED FOR
SENIORS
BREAD AND SOUP MINISTRY
OPERATION LOVE YOUR CHURCH



Rapid City First Youth

April Happenings



We spent the month of March discussing what Grace truly means. We had an Egg Hunt and painted rocks to share with the congregation throughout Holy Week. The rocks were cleaned, as Christ cleanses us, and turned into beautiful masterpieces, just as we are made beautiful through Christ's redeeming Grace. We also had a fun Game Night on Saint Patrick's Day.

Mission Possible:

April 3- The youth will help clean up after dinner. We will talk about obedience and sacrifice.

Mission Possible concludes April 10. We will have an End of the Year Party. More Details for that will be coming soon.

May 5, 2024

Confirmation Sunday

Graduation Party For those Youth who are graduating Highschool and transitioning out of Middleschool!

**Summer
Activities
planning is in the works!**





MOM'S MORNING OUT

We had an Egg-cellent month of March!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Soul Care Saturday

April 20, 2024

9:00 am - 1:00 pm (or so)

Fellowship Hall, FUMC, Rapid City, SD

For all Women!

Expect:

Opening and closing worship time

Fascinating study of the Lord's Prayer

Fellowship with women from our hills area

Delicious lunch - \$10

Join us!

New to Leadership Team

Beth Hunter, Trudy Wells and Rebecca Musegrave have joined leadership for RCF UWF.

Beth is Membership Nurture and Outreach Committee Chair. She will visit or call cherished members, and she has begun a project of making baby blankets to give new babies born to church attendees. Note: The MNO Committee can be more than a committee of just Beth. Want to join?

Trudy is Education & Interpretation/Social Action Mission Coordinator bringing the team great insight and new ideas.

Rebecca, Pastor Rich's wife, is Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator. She will open meetings with devotions and keep us mindful of the Importance of prayer.

Greatly important, these women will help with Leadership Team decisions and ongoing projects.

Dates to Remember

April 3—Leadership Team, 9:00 am, church parlor

April 4—Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30 pm, church parlor

April 20—Soul Care Saturday, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
(See invite)

May 1—Leadership Team, 9:00 am, church parlor

May 2—Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30 pm, church parlor

May 3—May Friendship Day, check in with a friend!

3rd Sunday Offering for April



Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward our vision by building strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.



PRIMETIMERS MONTHLY LUNCH MEETING



Lunch at Long Horn Steakhouse, Eglin St.
Friday, April 26th at 11:30

SIGN UP IN THE PARLOR OR CONTACT MARGOT WITH ANY QUESTIONS:
342-4498 OR 343-1832.

Schedule through September

May 31- Perkins, Mt. Rushmore Rd. 11:30

June/July off, no luncheons

August 23- Picnic in the park, 11:30

September 27- Old Chicago, 11:30



NEED HELP WITH SUBSPASH

Want to learn more about our APP?
Do you need help setting up or changing your giving
information on Subsplash?

You can visit Hannah during these office hours with your
log in information and she can help you!

Mondays 10:30am-noon
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm

Need to meet at a different time? hannahrcfirst@gmail.com

April Worship Themes and Scripture

Apr 7:	He is Risen! Now What?	Acts 4:32-35
Apr 14:	We Are Witnesses	Luke 24:36-48
Apr 21:	Love - Actions Not Words	1 John 3:16-24
Apr 28:	We Are the Guides	Acts 8:26-40

How You Can Give!

Give Online

Link to give online: <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/>

Give one time or sign up for recurring giving

Text to Give

RCFIRSTGIVE to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483) in order to receive a reply with the link to give with

Scan the QR code

Using your phone's QR app or hover over using your phone's camera (find in bulletin, on card in pews, and on offering boxes)

Send a Check

629 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

please make sure to leave a memo when giving to specify where your funds should go