

August 2023

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Pastor Bob's Equip The Saints August 2023

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1: 9

I have served one month as your Interim Pastor here at Rapid City First and it sure has been quite an adventure. The most wonderful thing for me has been spending time meeting and visiting people about our church. The conversations have centered around events of this past year as well as looking towards the future. One thing I have discovered over many years of being a pastor is that the church moves slowly, but it is very resilient. The church is the Body of Christ

filled with imperfect human beings who seek ways to grow and strengthen our witness together.. I must say it has been a wonderful pleasure and joy to be your interim pastor.

One of my favorite biblical characters is Joshua. Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land. It wasn't a very easy task. However, in the first chapter of Joshua, God tells Joshua to "Be strong and courageous" three times. God reminds Joshua that God will always be with him. I think that is a good word for us as followers of Jesus. God is faithful to us! God calls each one of us to be strong and courageous in all that we face in our journeys of life. I'm walking the path of faith with you.

Blessings
Pastor Bob Ruedebusch

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday to Thursday
8 AM to 2 PM**



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 Bob: pastorbob@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

Margot Burton: 343-1832

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.

CONGREGATIONAL AND PASTORAL CARE MEMO

WE NEED YOUR HELP! HOSPITAL CALLS

If you or someone you love, or a fellow member goes into the hospital, please call us at the church office so Pastor Bob can go visit. Our congregational care team would love to reach out as well. Don't hesitate to let us know.



WE NEED YOUR HELP! NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

We are building a list of all our members and friends who reside in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. If you know of someone who falls into this category, please call the church office to help us update our lists. Our pastor and congregational care team would love to come visit and pray with you!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERMON

July 30-August 27



We just completed a sermon series entitled **Three Simple Questions: Knowing the God of Love, Hope and Purpose** by Bishop Rueben Job. It has been a wonderful spiritual exploration around Who is God?, Who Am I?, and Who are We Together?. Worship is an important catalyst to spiritual growth. Continuing to grow in discovering God, ourselves and what it means to be the church will guide us into the future.

Our next sermon series is based on the membership vows taken when a person joins the United Methodist Church. **A Disciples Path** is When we become a part of the United Methodist Church we enter **A Disciple's Path** as we vow to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These five elements are very important to our individual spiritual growth in our relationship with Jesus and in bearing witness to the Kingdom of God. We will explore each as we worship together in the coming weeks. Please invite a friend to come join you in worship in August.

July 30 A Disciple's Path: Prayer Scripture: Luke 11:1-13, James 5:13-18

**August 6 A Disciple's Path: Worship Scripture: Romans 12:1-3,
Colossians 3:16-17**

August 13 A Disciple's Path: Gifts Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

August 20 A Disciple's Path: Service Scripture: Micah 6:6-8

August 27 A Disciple's Path: Witness Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

FINANCIAL PICTURE UPDATE

We are pleased to report that as of the end of June our income/spending over against our expenses is about even. All our bills are paid, and we are presently paying 8% of our apportionments, which is below the requested amount of 14% of our monthly income received.



One of the contributing factors to this good news is that the Dakotas Annual Conference has committed to support our church by paying Pastor Bob's salary. This support helps the overall budget during this interim time. There are three other positive items to share. First, we do have emergency funds of approximately \$109,000 which can assist us over the next six months and beyond. In addition, we have restricted funds which can help us meet some of our program costs over that same period of time. Lastly, we have been able to save on some expenses in some other areas, which has been helpful.

This summer our church program ministry has continued. We had a wonderful experience at Vacation Bible School in June! Our youth and children ministries have held a variety of summer events to enhance spiritual growth and just plain having fun. You're giving to God through the church makes a huge difference!

My friends, our God is a generous and faithful God! We seek to be generous as God is generous with us. Know our thanks and gratitude for your faithful giving to God through our church! Thank you.



LAY LEADERSHIP AND NOMINATIONS

We are in the process of seeking members and friends of our church to serve on the Leadership Council, as well as creating teams in all of our program areas in the church. Watch your mail for an invitation during August. I would ask you to prayerfully examine these invitations as God's call to service in and through the life of the church.

Thank you.

FAITH FORWARD

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 Talk to God about someone you have a hard time being nice to.	7 Everyone go around the table tonight and name one person who needs prayer.	1 Tell God who you like playing with and why.	2 Call a friend and ask how you could be praying for them.	3 Pray on the top of a mountain or a hill.	4 Pray by the window.	5 Pray in a restaurant.
13 Pray while sitting on a tree branch.	14 Let everyone share one thing they're afraid of failing at. Pray for each other.	15 Pray while lying on the grass.	16 Pray underneath the stars.	10 Usually when we pray, we close our eyes. Today pray with your eyes wide open.	11 What do you think God thinks of you?	12 Look out of your window and tell God what you see.
20 What one prayer request does each person have for the week ahead?	21 Pray at a car wash.	22 When you think about Jesus, describe what comes to your mind.	23 Pray in a tent.	17 Pray in a parking lot.	18 What is one thing you need from God right now?	19 Pray for someone whose name starts with the letter L.
27 Pray while riding your bike.	28 Stop to just watch the sky or clouds for ten minutes today.	29 Pray in the rain.	30 Watch the sunrise & pray.	24 Ask God for a strong desire to love what is good and hate what is evil. - Romans 12:9	25 Pray in your bed.	26 Find a tree and pray to God while you lay on the ground and look up through the leaves.
31 Thank God for being your HELPER!						

CONNECTIONS!

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

August is a great month to connect!

Connect with Back to School Rituals!

A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17



Friendship Farm is a fun mini-VBS designed just for preschoolers ages 2-rising kindergarten. It's a great way for families to help their little ones get ready for school while having fun learning about God's world. The program is free of charge and open to all members of the community. Registration begins July 15 at the church website.

CONNECT WITH FAMILY . . .



What's for Dinner is a brand new magazine designed specifically for families with children aged 4-11. It is packed with Bible lessons, life lessons, games, riddles and fun activities that make it easy for busy parents to transform ordinary moments into faith nurturing connections. Many families received a copy at the end of VBS but we have a limited quantity remaining. If you would like a copy for your family, your grandchildren or a neighbor, please contact Anne Torgerson.

CONNECT WITH FRIENDS



End of Summer Splash family swim and potluck party will be at Horace Mann on **Saturday, August 12, 6:30-8:30 pm.** Guests are welcome!

Horace Mann provides safe water activity for every age and ability so bring your whole family, a friend or neighbor and a potluck dish to share! RSVP by August 10 on the Children's page at www.rapidcityfirst.org to ensure we have enough lifeguards for our party!

CONNECT WITH FAMILY WORSHIP . . .

The Nursery is open for infants and toddlers every Sunday during the 9 am service. Children's Church is provided for ages 3 through rising 5th grade each Sunday Immediately following the Children's Sermon at the 9 am service.

CONNECT WITH WHAT'S TO COME . . .

If you are interested in serving as part of a planning team for Children, Youth or Adult Education

ministries, please contact Anne Torgerson at rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com.

We are eager to start our Mom's Morning Out Program in September. One of our teachers, **Ms. Kharley** shared her thoughts on our program:

"As a new school year approaches, I cannot begin to express how beneficial MMO has been throughout the past 3 years. It's incredibly fulfilling to partake in a child's most formative years, to guide them through their early experiences with education, and help them flourish into bright, curious individuals. From the moment I began working at MMO, I knew I had entered into a nurturing and refreshing environment where your littles will experience that learning is fun at an early age.

Watching the children grasp new things with excitement is the most rewarding aspect of my job.

At MMO, all the teachers share a common passion for supporting children and their well-being. Together, we create a warm, safe, and loving atmosphere where every child and their family feels valued and cherished."



There are currently **67 kids registered for this fall**. We will begin setting up classrooms and conducting our annual teacher training in August. Meet the teacher will be August 31.

There are several ways you can support this outreach ministry for our church!

If you would like to support us by donating a monetary gift: you can write a check made out to First UMC and designate it for MMO.

If you would like to donate snacks, we will be taking donations at the start of September.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Hannah!

Thank you for all your prayers and support!

In July the youth had a water balloon fight and a nerf dart war!



As summer is coming to a close, I want to remind you of some upcoming activities the youth are invited to participate in:

Preschool Vacation Bible School: Friendship Farm

August 8: 9:00-10:30 am

August 10: 9:00-10:30 am

End of Summer Splash

August 12: 6:30-8:30pm

I have been able to meet with several different youth throughout the summer. As we enter into this new school year, I encourage the youth to invite their friends! This group is meant to be a fun and safe environment. Several ideas have been shared with me, and I will begin sharing dates and plans in our next newsletter!

Blessings,
Hannah O'Donnell
Youth Coordinator



Our Third Sunday Offering this month will go to Love, Inc. The following is a story that illustrates how Love, Inc is helping individuals in our community create new beginnings in their lives. The story comes from JJ Dusing, Life Inc. and Kid Ministry Coordinator at Love, Inc.

Bobbi Jo has been an active volunteer at Love INC for the past several weeks. She spends time volunteering mostly in Thrive, the Warehouse, and helping with furniture pickups. Bobbi is cheerful, energetic, and always willing to help someone in need.

Bobbi is excited to start a new chapter in her life and is preparing to move into an apartment of her own.

When asked what she appreciated about Love INC:

“I love being here because the energy is great!”

“I appreciate you guys so much and you have helped me more than you know.

Volunteering here has helped me realize that there are still good people in the world.”

Please give generously on Sunday August 20 to help the support the mission and ministry of LOVE, INC here in Rapid City. If you are interested in being a volunteer in ministry we have more information in the church office for those opportunities

Sermons and Scriptures for August

July 30 A Disciple's Path: Prayer Scripture: Luke 11:1-13, James 5:13-18

Aug 6 A Disciple's Path: Worship
Scripture: Romans 12:1-3, Colossians 3: 16-17

Aug 13 A Disciple's Path: Gifts Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Aug 20 A Disciple's Path: Service Scripture: Micah 6:6-8

Aug 27 A Disciple's Path: Witness Scripture: Acts 8:26-40
Covenant of Growing Disciples:
Our Prayers, Our Presence, Our Gifts, Our Service, and Our Witness

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*

UWF NEWS

Everyone, young and old! Come to church and "Tie One On!"

Well that is, help tie the knots for the blankets
going to Children's Home Society kids

Wednesday, August 16

6:00 pm

(or when you can get here)

Fellowship Hall

Ice Cream and Toppings served when we finish
(or at 7:45 pm, whichever comes first)

What else?

Potluck Picnic in the Parlor

Wednesday, August 23rd

(note the change of date from our 2023 yearbook)

11:00 am setup

11:30 am eat

All women invited!

Bring a dish and fellowship to share.

Church Staff--our guests.

Leadership Team hosting

Hey Crafters!

Are you interested in not waiting for a church rummage sale to shop for craft supplies that have been donated? Contact LaRee Mayes for an opportunity, 605 341 1568.

Dates to Remember:

August 2--Leadership Team, 9:00 am, church parlor

August 15--Reading Reports due (see article in August UWF News found in the metal rack next to the bookcase in the church parlor)

August 16--Tie Blanket Event, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

August 23--Potluck Picnic in the Parlor, 11:00 set up, 11:30 eat