

December 2023

Inside this issue:

Contact Information	2
Church Info/Hope Center	3
Youth Connections	4-5
Mission Possible	6-7
Mom's Morning Out	8
Third Sunday Offering—MMO	9
Primetimers/80th Birthday	10
UWF News	11
Subsplash	12
Upcoming Sermons	13



Pastor Bob's Equip The Saints December 2023

When I was a little boy I couldn't wait for Christmas to arrive! In fact, I hated waiting. Isn't that our human response? We don't like to wait. However, Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus/God into our world.

Benjamin Franklin is quoted in saying "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." When John the Baptist called the people to repent and seek forgiveness, he was asking the people to get ready. Get ready to clean our lives so we can receive Jesus into our world and into our hearts. So the ways we are getting ready and preparing for Jesus is through our daily Devotional materials, our group gatherings and our worship together.

On December 10th we will have one worship service at 10:00am for

the Annual All Church Christmas Program Worship. Note the change of worship hours. There will be an all church brunch following the service. Come and join in worship and food and fellowship.

Our District Superintendent Dan Bader will lead worship on Sunday Dec. 17th, 24th as well as lead our **5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**, and our services at 9:00am and 11:00am on Sunday December 31st.

Sunday January 7th our new pastor Rich Bensinger will be leading worship and we will celebrate his arrival with a welcome in worship and in our fellowship!

God is Good! God is very good! All we need to do to get ready is being offered. Now we just need each of us to come meet Jesus.

**Blessings,
Pastor Bob**

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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

When I arrived as your interim pastor one of the main concerns was going to be our future finances following our disaffiliation vote. Our Leadership Team/Finance team is pleased to report that we have come to December with a solid cash flow and even with anticipating a significant shortfall we have been able to meet all our financial obligations. We still need a strong giving in December to meet our final goals. Traditionally, December is a strong month of giving to God through the church and we are so grateful for the faithfulness of God's people. Many have given above and beyond during this time frame. Thank you for your faithful giving to God!

As we move into 2024 we approved a \$507,000 budget at our Annual Charge Conference. We will still need to use some reserve funds to fully meet this budget thus we need your help. Last week we mailed out an estimate for the card for 2024. Please prayerfully consider your giving to God through our church for next year. Then, we thank you in advance, for returning your card back will help us in finalizing our income needs for 2024. Thank you for making the effort to help us achieve our ministry goals for 2024. We give God thanks for all God's love and joy in our giving back to God!

HOPE CENTER TO CEASE OPERATIONS

Rapid City First UMC has been in conversation with the Hope Center Board over the last few months concerning the present lease and renewal of the lease. Presently, the ministry of the Hope Center Building is facing overwhelming numbers and inadequate space. We had been glad for their progress to find a new location and have given them a one year timeline to find a new location. We are disappointed they were not able to move to their new location. With limited options for a new location the Hope Center Board decided to cease operations as of the end of the year. We celebrate the 12 years of the ministry of the Hope Center. At the present time, we are not selling the building. Our goal is to explore and shift to a different ministry/mission for our Ministry Center building. We hope for a mission and ministry that is more manageable and continues to support our outreach into the community. We invite your prayers as we seek God's guidance for this new ministry.

December Connections

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

Dinner at the C.I.A. Café!



THANK YOU to Mardeena Bentz, Delane Rains, Kotti Wickard and the Mission Possible Kids who have been cooking delicious dinners for us throughout the fall!

The C.I.A. Café is closed for the Christmas season, but will reopen on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 when we resume Mission Possible classes! If you are interested in helping plan or cook part – or all – meal, we will have a planning meeting

on Wednesday, January 17 at 5:30 pm. All levels of experience are welcome to help. It's a great opportunity to practice Christian hospitality and get to know your RCFUMC family!

Church Christmas Production

Join us on Sunday, December 10 at 10am for the church-wide production of Casting Call. Drama! Music! Surprises! As we worship God and honor the gift of Christ's birth. Brunch will be served in Fellowship Hall after the service.



Mission Possible classes and programs will begin again on Wednesday, January 24th. Watch the January newsletter and church website and listen to the announcements in church for more information on the classes and mission opportunities that will be available for all ages as we enter a brand new year!



MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS In November, MPK kids were busy collecting pasta and canned pasta sauce for Feeding SD. As part of their “pasta immersion”, Ms. Lauren taught them to make homemade pasta noodles and sauces. They served their church a delicious pasta dinner on Wednesday, November 15 at the C.I.A. Café!



Fa la la la la, la la la la!

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud for all to hear!” – Elf

On Wednesday, December 6, Mission Possible Kids and the Youth went to Echo Ridge to sing Christmas Carols and spread the good news of Christ’s birth!

Great Things are Happening at Rapid City First United Methodist Church!

Looking for a way to connect with your RCFUMC Family? Have a mission or education idea that you would like to implement at RCFUMC? Contact Anne Torgerson at rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com.



MISSION POSSIBLE SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

12/6: CHRISTMAS CAROLING

5:30 PM ECHO RIDGE

FINISH WITH SNACKS AND HOT CHOCOLATE AT CHURCH

12/10 CHURCH CHRISTMAS PLAY

10AM

MEET AT 9:30AM TO GET INTO COSTUMES

12/13 CHRISTMAS PARTY

5:30 PM





WE WILL ENJOY FOOD, GAMES, AND A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE!

GRAB SOMETHING LAYING AROUND YOUR HOUSE AND WRAP IT! OR GO GET SOMETHING FROM A THRIFT STORE! (MINIMUM OF \$10)

WEDNESDAY

13

5:30-7PM

DECEMBER

PLEASE LET HANNAH KNOW IF YOU CAN COME!

Dress in your best ugly sweater!!

Mom's Morning Out

Coffee and Conversations happening after drop off on December 5.

We hope you can stop by!

We will be planning a play date at the church during break. Keep an eye out for a survey on what day and time works best for you!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

More Information on these events will be coming soon!

*Parents Night Out
Mother's Day Brunch*

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas!

Last MMO session is December 14.

Tuition costs remain the same each month! This allows us to afford snacks, cleaning supplies, etc.

Resume January 9.

3rd Sunday Offering

Moms Morning Out

We have grown significantly this school year. We added on another two-year-old class, and hired on second teacher. We are in the process of renovating one of our classrooms into a Music and Movement room. We are offering Coffee and Conversation time for our moms. We will be having breakfast and music with Santa, and have a few more fun events planned for next year.



We will be ending this year in a deficit due to a much needed, but in hindsight, poorly timed, salary increase for our teachers back in January.

We did try to make up for this by increasing our tuition by five dollars. The Conference Breakthrough Ministry Grant blessed us by helping cover some of the salaries starting out the school year. We received wonderful snack and item donations from our families and church members. We have financial support from a few of our volunteers, which has helped us greatly!

We will continue to build connections with the community and be a safe place for children to socialize.

If you feel encouraged to support our program we are always accepting snack donations. If you want to volunteer in our classrooms you can get with Hannah to make sure you have Safe Sanctuary training and a background check.

If you would like to support us financially you can make checks out to Rapid City First UMC and designate it towards MMO. You can also give online through our online giving platform Subsplash.



PRIMETIMERS MONTHLY LUNCH MEETING

Lunch at APPLEBEES

Friday, December 15

11:30 am

SIGN UP IN PARLOR

CONTACT MARGOT WITH ANY QUESTIONS: 342-4498

Happy 80th Birthday Kathy and Judy!



UWF Notes**Rapid City First United Women in Faith****Christmas "Party"**

Featuring the Well Done Players
of Black Hills Community Theatre

December 13, 2023

1:30 pm

Church Parlor

All ladies invited!

It's a "thank you" for all you do for our church!

Christmas Shopping

Rapid City First UWF again requests gifts for children at Abbott House Therapeutic Foster Homes in Rapid City. The updated wishlist is available on the bookcase and in the metal rack next to the bookcase in the church parlor. Gift cards to Target or Walmart are always on the list. But, see what other fun shopping you could do! Please have items to the church by December 11, 2023.

Dates to Remember

December 2--Christmas Celebration Brunch, CLUMC 10:00 am
(No cost, and all invited; let LaRee know if going, 605 341 1568)

December 6--Leadership Team, 9:00 am, church parlor
(Interested? Come to any Leadership Team Meeting
the first Wednesday of the month.)

December 7--Prayer Shawl Ministry Team, 1:30 pm, church parlor

December 11--deadline for Abbott House Foster Home
children's gifts to be brought to the church

December 13--UWF Christmas "party" 1:30 pm, church parlor

January 3--Leadership Team, 9:00 am, church parlor



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

December Worship Themes

December 3 Bishop Lanette Plambeck will lead worship and preach
“Holy Longing” Mark 13:24-37 Holy Communion

December 10 ONE SERVICE 10:00a.m. “All Church Christmas
Pageant,” Brunch Following

December 17 “Light” John 1: 6-8; 19-28 D.S. Dan Bader
Third Sunday Offering: Mom’s Morning Out

December 24 “Lessons & Carols” Assorted Scriptures D.S. Dan Bader

December 24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
D.S. Dan Bader

December 31 9:00a, and 11:00a ”Our Spirt Wait” Luke 2:22-40

January 7th, Our new pastor, Pastor Rich Bensinger will lead worship

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*