

# February 2024

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### Pastor's Corner

THANK YOU!

Rebecca and I want to thank you so much for the warm welcome we have received here at Rapid City First. When we walked into the parsonage and saw the gift baskets with food and other gifts, we were overwhelmed. The outpouring of love and welcome continued from there into the church and sanctuary and into the activities we've been participating in. I want to get to know each of you better. Please find the time to make an appointment to stop by my office and share your story, and your hopes and dreams for Rapid City First. We are coming out of a season that had its dark moments into the bright light of Christ's love and open arms. We want our church to reflect the love in our hearts and the joy we are ready to share with everyone.

Here's one of my favorite verses: Isaiah 40:31 (NRSVUE) *but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

When we are young, we are at our peak of energy. We feel confident and invincible. Unfortunately with time, everything changes.

We tire more easily and experience more physical and mental limits. Despite their confidence, even young people can be faint and weary. But the Bible promises something radical. When we wait on the Lord, He actually can renew us with His strength. This is a promise for anyone, regardless of age. In fact, He promises that we will "mount up with wings like eagles." We still may have physical limits, but the Spirit can give us the energy and strength we need. In fact, we will be able to soar above the turmoil of life. In your life, you may feel tired and weary. You may be burdened by problems. You may feel like you are running out of energy and strength. But God can revitalize you and grant you renewed strength. Through His Spirit, God can give you His power and ability. Interested? Just wait for Him. Today, spend time with God. Wait for His presence. Listen to God's voice. Read God's Word. Be filled with God's peace. You still may experience the limits of the flesh, but as you seek the Holy Spirit, God can renew your soul. Cast your cares on our Creator and allow God to give you the strength and energy you need.

**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](mailto:pastorrich@rapidcityfirst.org)

Anne Torgerson: [rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com](mailto:rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com)

Hannah O'Donnell: [hannahrcfirst@gmail.com](mailto:hannahrcfirst@gmail.com)

Lauren Holderfield: [lauren@rapidcityfirst.org](mailto:lauren@rapidcityfirst.org)

Kotti Wickard: [finance@rapidcityfirst.org](mailto:finance@rapidcityfirst.org)

Diane Ketel: [dkketel@live.com](mailto:dkketel@live.com)

Karen Baumbach: [admin@rapidcityfirst.org](mailto:admin@rapidcityfirst.org)

Margot Burton: 343-1832

Kay Rypinski: [k\\_rypinski@hotmail.com](mailto:k_rypinski@hotmail.com)

General inquiries or prayer requests: [admin@rapidcityfirst.org](mailto:admin@rapidcityfirst.org)

**STAY CONNECTED!!**

Web site: [www.rapidcityfirst.org](http://www.rapidcityfirst.org)

Live Stream: [www.rapidcityfirst.org](http://www.rapidcityfirst.org)

(usually opens 5-10 minutes before the service)

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/rapidcityfirst/](http://www.facebook.com/rapidcityfirst/)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/](http://www.youtube.com/channel/)

First Church Studies Facebook\Page:

[www.facebook.com/RapidCityFirstUMC/](http://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

Happy February everyone. As reported, in January we did end the year with a beginning balance of \$15,000, which was great news. But as in previous years, the winter months bring with it some hefty expenditures with increased cost in utilities and the additional cost of such items as snow removal. For the month of January, Rapid City FUMC was \$10,000 short of meeting all our financial obligations through the donations received. In January, the Dakota's Conference sent RC FUMC a check in the amount of \$21,135 to cover the 2024 Health Insurance and Pension obligations for Pastor Richard, for 2024. Health insurance and pension obligations are normally paid by each church, but the conference has agreed to help RC FUMC with this obligation for this year. Because of the receipt of these funds RC FUMC have yet had to transfer from the emergency funds on deposit. The 2024 budget was very conservative, and we are hopeful that going forward we can meet the expected donation rate that were in this budget. 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 are able to share the wonderful leadership, ministry and programs of our church in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

## February Connections

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

### C.I.A. CAFÉ

Join your friends and family in the C.I.A. Café for Wednesday evening dinner and stay for Mission Possible! There are study and activity groups for every age from birth to 100 and beyond! A big thank you to our cooks in the month of January: Mardeena Bentz, Diane Ketel, Delane Rains and Mary Ann Riker. If you would like to help cook, please contact Anne Torgerson at the church office or at [rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com](mailto:rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com).



*Alan Buehler and Paul Riker – cheerfully doing the dishes after a Wednesday night meal.*

Mission Possible/C.I.A. Café Schedule:

February 7

February 21

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20

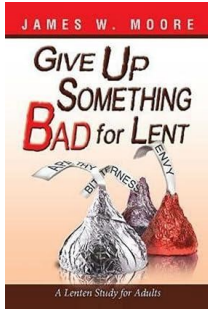
April 3

April 10

### Outreach for Young Families

Parent's Night Out – RCFUMC families are invited to register their children (infant through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) for Parent's Night Out on Friday, February 9 from 5-8pm. Enjoy a Valentine Date while your children have fun! Registration can be done on the church website by using the link on the first page. If you would like to volunteer to watch kids, serve dinner or make snacks, contact Hannah or Anne!

## Adult Bible Studies at Rapid City First United Methodist Church



### Give Up Something Bad for Lent

This seven week study will be offered at three different times:

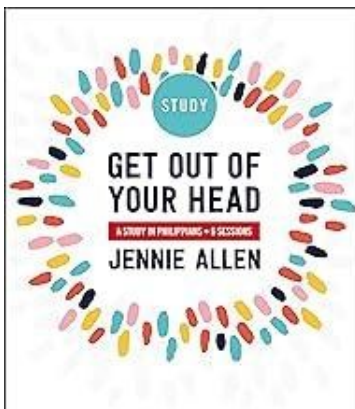
Tuesdays 10:30 am – 11:30 am Feb 13, 20, 27; Mar 5, 12, 19, 26

Sundays 10:00 am – 10:45 am Feb 11, 18, 25; Mar 3, 10, 17, 24; Apr 7

Wednesdays 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm Feb 7, 21, 28; Mar 6, 13, 20; Apr 3, 10

Description: During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. James Moore challenges readers to take it further—to give up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing. He invites all to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be.

### Get Out of Your Head – CHRISTIAN BOOK AWRD FINALIST



This six week study will be offered on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm  
on Feb 13, 20, 27; Mar 5, 12, 19.

Description: Are your thoughts holding you captive? *I'll never be good enough. Other people have better lives than I do. God couldn't really love me. Jennie Allen knows what it's like to swirl in a spiral of destructive thoughts, but she also knows we don't have to stay stuck in toxic thinking patterns. In Get Out of Your Head, Jennie inspires and equips us to transform our emotions, our outlook and even our circumstances by taking control of our thoughts. It starts in your head. And from there, the possibilities are endless.*

**Great Things are Happening at RCFUMC!**

# Mighty Men of Prayer

## Men’s Prayer Study Beginning February 13

A new men’s bible study will be held on Tuesdays at noon beginning February 13 from 12pm-1pm. We will have a light lunch, a video, and discussion. The study will be available to attend via Zoom and in person. Contact Pastor Rich for the Zoom link.

### Experience the Power of Transforming Prayer

Do you want to enjoy a deeper prayer life and experience greater intimacy with God?

In this series men will learn how to pray the Scriptures using the 3D-model of prayer (*Upward, Inward, Outward*), and discover how prayer can transform seven key areas of their lives.

Session 1: Introduction – *What is Transforming Prayer?*

Session 2: Men of Pursuit – *Pursuing intimacy with God*

Session 3: Men of Confidence – *Pursuing our identity as God’s sons*

Session 4: Men of Purity – *Pursuing a life of holiness*

Session 5: Men of Brotherhood – *Pursuing friendships with other men*

Session 6: Men of Faithfulness – *Pursuing intimacy with our spouse*

Session 7: Men of War – *Pursuing the defeat of our enemy*

Session 8: Men of the Cross – *Pursuing the good news of the gospel*

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR ALL CLASSES ARE LOCATED IN THE PARLOR



## Youth Group

We will continue with youth on Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 7:00pm through the month of February!

We will have a youth game night at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 18th. More information will be coming.

It is wonderful to see our group growing closer together each week!

I am Blessed to be your youth leader. Hannah

# JOIN US IN OUR SOUP AND BREAD MINISTRY 2/28-3/20



Kids will be bagging bread and making dry soup mixes that will be distributed to our local community

## 3rd Sunday Offering



### About Love INC

Started in 2001, Love In the Name of Christ **mobilizes local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ (OUR MISSION).**

**OUR PURPOSE is to walk alongside people on their journey to wholeness through mutual service, education, friendship, and prayer.**

**OUR VISION is to see people thriving in healthy relationships where they know their value, purpose and place in Christ and our community.**

**Because of God's love, our organization, our activities and our relationships will demonstrate (OUR VALUES):**

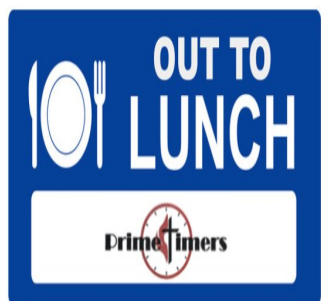
- ◇ You are loved
- ◇ You belong
- ◇ You have choices
- ◇ You have something to offer
- ◇

Love INC of the Black Hills is part of a national movement, you can learn more about that at [www.loveinc.org](http://www.loveinc.org).





PRIMETIMERS MONTHLY LUNCH MEETING



Lunch at On the Border  
Friday, February 23rd, 11:30 am

SIGN UP IN PARLOR

CONTACT MARGOT WITH ANY QUESTIONS: 342-4498

**Schedule through September**

*February 9th- **Valentine Party** 1:30pm in parlor  
Please bring Valentines to share.*

February 23- On The Boarder, 11:30

March 29th- Millstone (north) 11:30

April 26th- Long Horn Steakhouse, 11:30

May 31- Perkins, Rushmore Rd. 11:30

June/July off, no luncheons

August 23- Picnic in the park, 11:30

September 27- Old Chicago, 11:30

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF Sunday  
February 25, 2024

and

“Presence in the Parlor”

Bake sale following 9:00 and 11:00 am services  
Items to sell can be brought any time that morning.  
Please have them priced.  
Proceeds from the sale will go toward a local need announced  
that day.

Mission Recognition pins will be presented during services.

Learn about UWF. Pick up a copy of *UWF News* from the metal  
rack next to the bookcase in the church parlor. Please know,  
any woman is invited to attend a meeting.

**Dates to Remember:**

February 1—Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30 pm, church parlor

February 7—Leadership Team, 9:00 am, church parlor

February 25—UWF Sunday

March 6—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](mailto:hannahrcfirst@gmail.com)

## February Worship Themes and Scripture

February 4: “Renew Your Strength” Isaiah 40: 21-31

February 11: “Transformed” Mark 9:2-9

February 14: (Ash Wednesday) Give Up Something Bad For Lent  
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

February 25: “Grow Strong in Your Faith” Romans 4:13-25

### February: 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\*