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Pastor's Corner

Sometimes grief can be overwhelming. One of the most important things I've learned from grief is that God never wastes our pain. He can always use it for your good and his glory. But we have to let him. We were created to glorify and live for him, and his light shines the brightest through our brokenness.

David knew grief and brokenness well. In the Scriptures, we see him mourn his close friend Jonathan, his son that came from his adultery with Bathsheba, and the death of his son Amnon, just to name a few. From his experiences, David wrote many beautiful psalms. In Psalm 34:18, David writes, "*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*" Psalm 147:3 promises us that God "*heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*"

God will not leave us to heal on our own. Understanding God's heart toward us helps us understand how he can work through our grief. Paul's letter to the church in Corinth gives us a view of God's healing and the joy we can experience. It reads:

"May the God and Father of our Lord Je-

sus Christ be blessed! He is the compassionate Father and God of all comfort. He's the one who comforts us in all our trouble so that we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble. We offer the same comfort that we ourselves received from God. That is because we receive so much comfort through Christ in the same way that we share so many of Christ's sufferings. So if we have trouble, it is to bring you comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is to bring you comfort from the experience of endurance while you go through the same sufferings that we also suffer. Our hope for you is certain, because we know that as you are partners in suffering, so also you are partners in comfort." 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (CEB)

When you begin to feel the waves of grief rise around you again, I encourage you to talk to the Creator immediately—ask him for his peace and presence, and to help you work through your pain. I also encourage further study into the Psalms (particularly chapters 30, 23, and 3) when you need some comfort—there is no shortage of it in the Precious Word of God.

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

Happy March. Spring is in the air.

As reported, in February Rapid City FUMC was \$10,000 short of meeting all our financial obligations through the donations received.

February's donations were better but still short of meeting the current budget. Quarterly the church pays the insurance on all the property owned which currently is \$5,302.00. This accounts for most of the shortfall this month between giving and expenses.

In February it was necessary to transfer \$15,000 of our emergency funds into our Operating account. That is why we have those emergency funds set aside for use. With that being said, Finance and leadership are working through the current budget and looking for ways to reduce our expenses.

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

We are growing in our walk with Jesus at every age level! Classes are offered on a variety of days and times. There is always room for new people! For more information please contact Anne Torgerson at rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com.

Nursery Curriculum – The nursery is staffed and opened Sunday mornings during the 9 am service and Wednesday evenings during Mission Possible. If you need nursery to attend an event or class at another time, please contact Anne. Our Nursery Curriculum in the month of March is Jesus Loves Me and is centered on the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-6. Parent Pages full of ideas for extending the curriculum at home are available on the nursery counter.

Pre School and Elementary – Children meet upstairs following the Children's Sermon at the 9 am Sunday Service. This month we are completing our study of Jesus' parables and then moving into our study of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. On Wednesdays, the children meet for Mission Possible Kids. This month's mission is feeding hearts and tummies with our soup and bread mission.

Youth – Our youth meet for confirmation class on Sunday mornings at 10 am. On Wednesday evenings the youth gather for bible study and fellowship from 6-7 pm. We are studying the Be Bold! Curriculum and Called – How Jesus Transformed Ordinary People into Disciples.

Adults – We currently have four opportunities for adults to engage in small group bible study.

Give Up Something Bad for Lent – is a short-term study that meets on either Wednesday evenings at 6 pm in the parlor or Sunday mornings at 10 am in the Chapel.

Get Out of Your Head – A Study in Philippians – is a women's study that meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 in the parlor.

Mighty Men of Prayer – is a men's study that meets at noon in the parlor on Tuesdays for lunch and learning.

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law!

Psalm 119:18

March Connections

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

C.I.A. CAFÉ

The C.I.A. Café will be open for dinner on March 6, 13 and 20 th at 5:30 pm. You can sign up each week in the parlor, calling the church office or sending an email to rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com. Come for dinner – stay for classes or conversation!

A big thank you to Delane Rains, Mary Ann Riker, Mardeena Bentz, Kotti Wickard, LaRee Mays and Erica Bult for cooking for us! We are truly blessed by your culinary talents!

SAVE THE DATE!

As we approach the end of the school year, spring and summer sports begin, the days get longer and the calendar gets full! Keep in mind the following dates as you plan your spring and summer calendar.

Wednesday, April 10 Last Night for the C.I.A. Café/ Mission Possible

Sunday, May 5 Confirmation Sunday

Thursday, May 9 MMO Mother's Day Lunch

Tues/Thurs July 23 and 25 Pre School Vacation Bible School

Saturday July 27 Elementary/Youth VBS

NEEDS LIST:

Painters – We need individuals who are skilled and willing to help paint and upstairs room during Spring Break (March 25-29) as we design a Children's Worship Space to use in MMO and Children's Ministry.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers – Fun individuals needed for decorating, planning, prepping crafts and mission projects, teaching, playing games, making snacks.

Birthday Card Ministry – We are seeking an organized individual who is willing to maintain the children and youth birthday calendar, prepare cards for mailing and fill birthday bags.

Summer Children's Church and Nursery Volunteers – Leaders are needed during the 9 am Sunday Service in order to keep our nursery and children's church program running all summer.

If you are interested in any of the above needs, please contact Anne Torgerson at rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT



**MARCH
17**

**5:00-
8:00PM**



**AGES
5TH-12TH**

Rapid City First UMC

PLEASE RSVP!
WE WILL HAVE FOOD



MOM'S MORNING OUT HOMESCHOOL CLASS

AGES 6-10 YEARS OLD
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS 9:00AM-NOON
REGISTRATION FEE \$25
MONTHLY TUITION :\$45 ONCE A WEEK
\$85 TWICE A WEEK

- ARTS & CRAFTS
- SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS
- GAMES & SOCIALIZATION
- SNACK INCLUDED

OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS IN MAY FOR FALL 2024

EMAIL: HANNAHRCFIRST@GMAIL.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

WWW.RAPIDCITYFIRST.ORG/MOM-S-MORNING-OUT

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

UMCOR



UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those

left most vulnerable. We provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a



community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Thank you!

Thank you **to all**, those who donated, work and shopped at "Presence in the Parlor" for UWF Sunday February, 25, 2024.

Thank you **to the Prayer Shawl Ministry** for the 22 beautiful shawls dedicated during UWF Sunday. Prayer shawls are available in the church office for anyone to present to someone needing to feel God's care.

Congratulations to Mission Recognition Awardees!

United Women in Faith at FUMC presented two women with Mission Recognition Award pins for 2023.

Church staff member **Anne Torgerson** is seen by all as going beyond what's expected in her affection for our church and in her ability to extend its outreach.



Laure Polenz stepped in to be an excellent unit treasurer when someone for the position was so needed. She has raised our groups awareness of Passages, a Rapid City ministry to women leaving prison.

God bless these two wonderful women.

Dates to Remember:

March 6—Leadership Team, 9:00 am, church parlor.

March 21—UWF Dakotas Conference Prayer Vigil I, 8:45 to 9:30 am.

March 31—Easter!

Prayers are asked for missing and murdered indigenous people.



PRIMETIMERS MONTHLY LUNCH MEETING



**Lunch at Millstone, on LaCrosse St.
Friday, March 22nd at 11:30**

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

Schedule through September

March 22nd- Millstone (LaCrosse St.) 11:30

April 26th- Long Horn Steakhouse, 11:30

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

abbott House

Abbott House does foster parenting differently. We are trying to recruit foster parents who understand this difference and the amount of support we give them. We are looking for foster parents in Rapid City, Mitchell and Sioux Falls, SD. Please help us spread the word by sharing the attached flyer with your congregation members or other families. If you prefer a hard copy, you can print this document or wait for it to arrive in your mailbox because we have mailed these out as well.

For those of you in eastern South Dakota, we will be holding Foster Parent Informational Meetings in Sioux Falls on March 12 at noon at The Barrel House restaurant, 4701 E 54th St., and at Embrace Church 57th Street Campus on March 14 at 5:30 pm.

Any assistance you can provide to us is greatly appreciated!

Very truly yours,

Virginia

Virginia Wishard Lambert, CFRE

Abbott House

Development Director

o) 605.996.2486 ext. 120

m) 605.940.1311

Furniture for Sale

Contact Church Office for more information.





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

March Worship Themes and Scripture

March 10:	Grace for Everyone	Ephesians 2: 1-10, John 3: 14-21
March 17:	New Covenant	Jeremiah 31: 31-34
March 24:	Hosanna! <i>Psalm Sunday</i>	Mark 11: 1-11
March 28:	Love One Another <i>Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service</i>	John 13: 31-34
March 31:	He is Risen <i>Easter Sunday</i>	John 20: 1-18

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