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## *Pastor Bob's Equip The Saints*

November 2023

**Good News!! Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Dakotas Conference Cabinet have announced the appointment of Richard Bensinger to Rapid City First UMC sometime in early January!** Richard and his wife Rebecca met with the Leadership Team and the staff last week. There is information about our new pastoral family in another place in the newsletter and I encourage you to read the bio.

It has been my deep joy and pleasure to serve as you Interim Pastor these past 5 months. My last Sunday here at Rapid City First will be Sunday November 19th. As we all know these past 5 months have been a time of adjustment and transitions. Following our Disaffiliation Vote on Sunday May 5th we have experienced grief, bewilderment and times of adaptation. However, our goal as a staff team was to continue moving forward with our mission "To Make Disciples for Jesus Christ!" in our ministry and programming. We are still in a time of processing the transitions and we invite you to continue to pray for our church and the ministries as we offer to assist people in their spiritual growth.

As I leave and as we wait for Pastor Richard's arrival in January we have a plan for pastoral leadership. On December 3rd Bishop Lanette Plambeck will be with us to preach and lead worship. **On December 10th we will have one worship service at 10:00 for the annual All Church Christmas Program Worship. Note the change of worship hours. There will be an all church meal following the service.** Our District Superintendent Dan Bader will lead worship on Sunday Dec 17th and 24th as well as lead our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. We will have guest preachers on November 26th and Dec 31st.

As I have stated it has been a joy being your interim pastor. Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives and into the wonderful community of faith. I am so excited for the future gifts Rapid City First has to offer to our community in sharing God's good news. As I end my time with you I leave you with this quote of John Wesley's, **"Best of all is, God is with us."**

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](mailto:pastorbob@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)

Margot Burton: 343-1832

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/](https://www.facebook.com/rapidcityfirst/)

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

First Church Studies Facebook\Page:

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

## **ALL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE SUNDAY NOV 19 AT NOON**

Sunday November 19 following our 11:00 service we will hold our annual All Church Charge Conference in the parlor. We will be serving bread and soup and other goodies. Rev Dan Bader, our District Superintendent will be leading our annual meeting where we will review the ministry of the past year as well as approve the 2024 Finance Budget and Lay Ministry/Nominations list. Please come and join us as we look to the future here at Rapid City First UMC!

### **FINANCIAL NEWS**

So for the **GOOD NEWS** we have not had to use our emergency or interest funds we have available! **HOWEVER**, after looking ahead through the end of the year we will be about \$15,000 short of reaching all our obligations and meeting our end of the year financial goals. We do have the emergency and our interest funds but we would like to keep our use of these funds at a minimum. Our reason is that as we look to 2024's budget we have quite a short fall. The Leadership Council is working on the 2024 Financial Budget to meet all our ministry opportunities. Our Third Sunday Offering for December is Second Mile giving to God through our church ministry. We cannot express our deepest thanks for everyone's continued support of giving to God through our church. **Thank you so much for your continued faithful giving to God through the church.**

### **TRADITIONAL IRA**

Did you know if you have a Traditional IRA you must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your Traditional IRA when you turn 72 or if you are 73 as of Jan 1, 2023? If this is your situation we would invite you to consider making a gift to God through our church. See Kotti Wickard for more information.

## November Connections

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

*Matthew 18:20*



### Dinner at the C.I.A. Café!

We will be serving dinner at the C.I.A. Café on Wednesday November 1, 8 and 15. There is no charge for dinner but please RSVP at the display in the narthex or by sending an email to [rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com](mailto:rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com). If you or your group are interested in helping to prepare meals in January or February, please contact Anne Torgerson.

**THANK YOU to Mardeena Bentz, Delane Rains and Kotti Wickard** who have been cooking delicious dinners for us in the month of October!

### Church Christmas Production

Join us on Sunday, December 10 at 10am for the church-wide production of *Casting Call*. Drama! Music! Fun for all ages as we contemplate the magnificent gift of Christ's birth.



### Advent Readers

We need families or groups to light the Advent candles and share a short liturgy at the beginning of each worship service in December.

If you would like to celebrate the season in this special way, please contact Anne Torgerson at [rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com](mailto:rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com) for available services.

**If you signed up at the Ministry Fair to read the liturgy, please confirm your sign-up date and time with Anne Torgerson. Thank you!**



**MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS** Mission Possible Kids collected over 70 pairs of socks to donate to the Children's Home! They decorated "Sock Pals" to insert in the socks as a message of love to the children who will be receiving the socks. In November, their message will be to collect pasta and canned pasta sauce for Feeding SD and to prepare a pasta dinner for the C.I.A. Café. They will serve their dinner on Wednesday, November 15.



**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***

We are looking for adult singers who would like to join Mission Possible Kids on December 6 for their Christmas Caroling Mission. E-mail [rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com](mailto:rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com) for information.

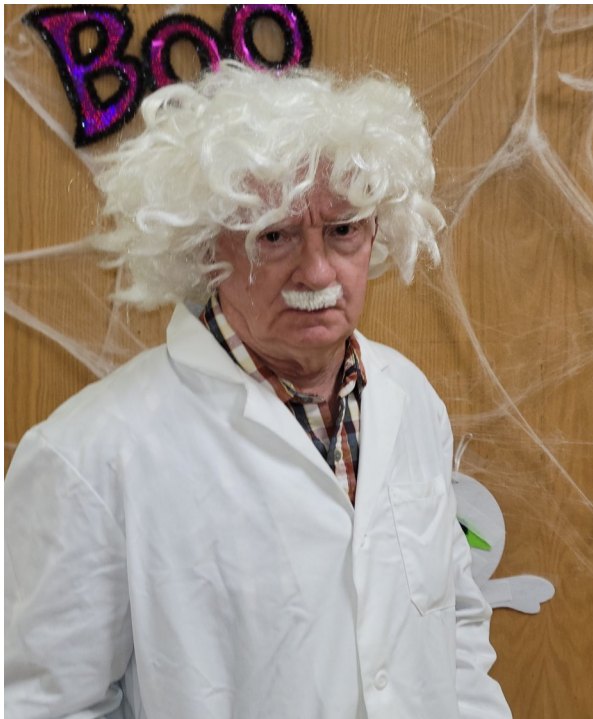
### **Third Grade Bibles**



On Sunday, October 22, our third grade students received their bibles and then celebrated at a special breakfast where we learned to use our bibles and cooked some fabulous "Fishers of Men" pumpkin pancakes. Our third grade bible scholars are **Kennedee Affeldt, Olivia Bult, Avery Crawford and Alice DeBoer.**

# FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

## OCTOBER 25, 2023







*THANK YOU to Amy Zeller and Brittany McMahon for help decorating; Trudy Wells, Kelsey Jones, Cami Jones, Margot Burton, Kay Rypinski, Peder Torgerson, Hans Torgerson, Kai Torgerson, Kharley Newman, LaRee Mayes, Deb Hildebrandt, Rod Hildebrandt, Paul Riker, Mary Ann Riker for leading games, science and crafts at the event; Delane Rains, Mardeena Bentz, Teresa Dighton for serving and cooking food for the festival and a BIG THANK YOU to the many members of the congregation for their donations of candy for prizes and Trick or Treating!*

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



MOM'S  
MORNING  
OUT

We Are Grateful For You

THE LITTLE ONES ARE  
BECOMING USED TO THE  
ROUTINES AT MMO! WE  
ARE LOVING EVERY MINUTE  
OF IT!



mmo Not in Session Nov. 21 & 23



Mission Possible November

# OPERATION FOOD DRIVE NEEDED ITEMS

Dry Pasta  
And Sauce  
NO GLASS



# YOUTH

## STORM MOUNTAIN RETREAT

FRIDAY NOV. 17@ 5:00PM- SATURDAY NOV. 18 @  
5:00PM

**5TH-12TH GRADERS**

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUN! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! THIS  
WEEKEND IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!  
WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON CONNECTION WITH ONE ANOTHER AND  
GOD!**

**WE WILL STAY THE NIGHT IN A CABIN WITH A KITCHEN. WE ARE  
ASKING IF EACH STUDENT CAN PITCH IN \$20 FOR MEALS.**

**BRING CLOTHES, BEDDING, YOUR BIBLE, WATER BOTTLE, &  
EXCITEMENT!**

**PLEASE RSVP TO HANNAH BY NOVEMBER 5, SO WE HAVE TIME TO  
PREPARE!**





# UWF NEWS

## **Annual General Business Meeting**

Does that sound exciting? Well, yes! Find out how much the bazaar earned. Learn about the proposed 2024 budget and end-of-the year giving. (United Women in Faith only retains funds needed to carry on activities into the next year.) The program is a brief memorial for members who have passed away in the previous year. And of course included, treats and fellowship with other mission-minded ladies.

**All Ladies are invited.**

**November 15, 1:30pm in Church Parlor!**

A big **Thank You to all who worked, furnished, lunched and shopped** for making the Fall Bazaar a success.

## **Christmas Shopping**

Rapid City First **UWF (United Women in Faith)** again requests Gifts for children at Abbott House Therapeutic Foster Homes in Rapid City. The updated wish list is available in the metal rack next to the bookcase in the church parlor. Children are ages 7 to 17. 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 Dec. 11, 2023.**

## **Dates to Remember**

**November 1st -Leadership Team, 9:00am, church parlor**

**November 2nd -Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30pm, parlor**

**November 15th -Annual Business meeting, 1:30pm, parlor**

**December 6th -Leadership team, 9:00am, church parlor**

**December 7th -Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30pm, parlor**

**December 11th -Deadline for Abbott House Foster Home children's gifts to be brought to the Church.**

## 3rd Sunday Offering



Our *mission* is to end hunger in South Dakota.

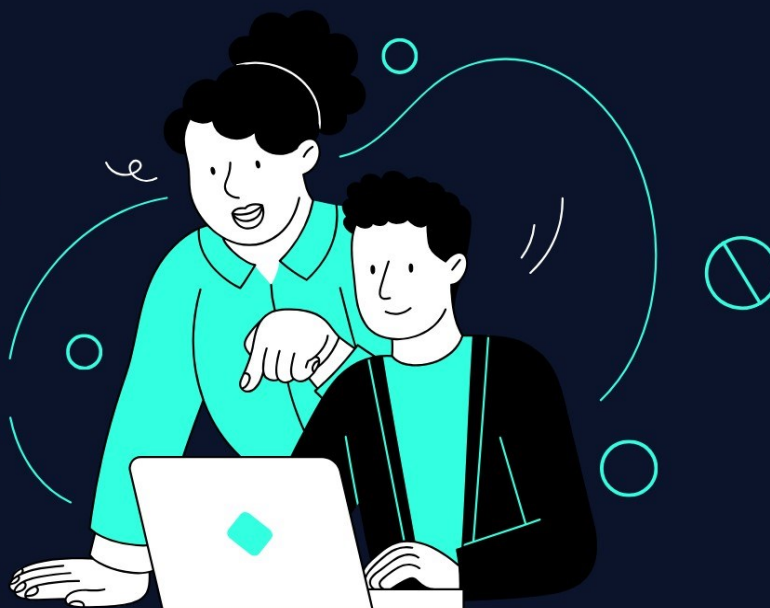
**Our vision** is a hunger-free South Dakota where everyone in need has access to nutritious food because freedom from hunger and good nutrition are critical to the future economic, social, and emotional health of our communities.

**Our values** at Feeding South Dakota:

- **Collaboration and leadership** with the nonprofit community, corporate, government and private partners working together to meet the needs of those who are hungry;
- **Human dignity** and respect for ALL;
- The **public trust and responsibility** placed in our care to meet our mission with urgency and action;
- A commitment to delivering **nutritious foods** to meet the needs of hungry people;
- The **diversity** of communities and community-driven action to meet needs in creative ways;
- We value **families** and in all actions will support sustainability of families while addressing hunger needs; and

**Accountability** to the public trust in advocating for and building sustainable, responsible, effective, fiscally efficient, and smart actions to meet hunger needs.





# 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)

## **BISHOP LANETTE PLAMBECK HERE AT RAPID CITY FIRST ON DEC 3**

Bishop Plambeck currently serves as director of clergy leadership excellence and assistant to the bishop in the Iowa Annual Conference. Prior to that, she pastored four churches in four very different contexts in Iowa—including urban, county seat, town, and country—and served as the chaplain at Morningside University.

Bishop Plambeck grew up in western Iowa and spent her first decade unchurched and living in poverty. When her dad married her mom and adopted her, she was introduced to faith and baptized. But it was when she spent two months in the hospital with a severe illness that God showed up and shared God's plan for her life; the very next day, at age 10, she declared that she was going to be a pastor.

Bishop Plambeck describes herself as “unapologetically Wesleyan,” empathetic, compassionate, and loyal, and said she clings to her integrity. “I am compelled to see others who are often overlooked,” she said. “I can speak the truth in love and see ways to move through log jams of personal preference toward missional priorities. I can build diverse teams that lead well together.”

The bishop's resume includes two most interesting, non-ministry roles: She is a veteran of the U.S. Army and was deployed to Desert Storm/Desert Shield as a military intelligence analyst from 1989 to 1992. In the Army, she studied Russian language and culture and spent almost a full year at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. She also served as a licensed counselor in family systems and chemical and substance abuse from 1992 to 1997.

When asked about leadership Bishop Plambeck stated, “I beg permission to assert one inviolate truth: Our deep longing for God and for the vital witness of The United Methodist Church will be fulfilled as by God's grace we stand firm and cling to our deeply rooted spiritual and missional integrity.”

We are thrilled to have Bishop Plambeck with us on Sunday December 3rd!

## **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.



## November and December Worship Themes

- November 5 “Enough: Defined By Generosity” Matthew 6:19-34  
Consecration Sunday
- November 12 “Who Touched Me?” Mark 5: 21-34  
Holy Communion
- November 19 “We Are God’s People” Psalm 100; Luke 17; 11-19  
Annual Church Conference (Annual Meeting Noon)
- November 26 “Christ the King” Matthew 25:31-43
- 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: End of Year Second Mile Giving
- 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

### 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\*

## 2024 Appointment Rapid City First United Methodist Church Introducing Rev. Richard “Rich” Bensinger



### Family

I am married to the amazing Rebecca Valerie Musgrave. Her email address is [trustandobeygod@icloud.com](mailto:trustandobeygod@icloud.com), so you know where her priorities are. She hails from the Caribbean Island of Dominica, the *Nature Island of the Caribbean*. Her mother Olive is one of ten children, and her dad Ruffe is also one of ten children, so 50% of the people on the island are related to her, I think. I have one adult daughter Alison who is single and is an ER nurse in Boston at Tufts University Hospital. She is an amazing young woman. My parents are now with Christ. I have two younger sisters, Beverly in San Antonio, TX, and Laura Lee in Fishers, IN.

### Education

- Bachelor's degree in 1978 in Meteorology/Mathematics from Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.
- Master of Science in 1988 in Meteorology/Computer Science from Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
- Master of Divinity degree in 2022 from Kairos University at Sioux Falls Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD.
- Certificate in Spiritual Direction in 2023 from Sioux Falls Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD.

### UMC Appointments and Church Service History

- Church of the Servant UMC in Oklahoma City, OK, Pastoral Care Chaplain, (2018-2019)
- Londonderry UMC, Londonderry NH, Director Missions and Outreach (2019-2020)
- Arlington Street UMC, Nashua, NH, Senior Pastor (2020-2022)
- Howellsville UMC, Front Royal, VA, Senior Pastor (2022-2023)
- Cool Spring UMC, Delaplane, VA, Senior Pastor, (2022-2023)
- Linden UMC, Linden, VA, Senior Pastor, (2023)

### Call to Ministry

I am a third-generation United Methodist minister, following my grandfather and father into ministry. My father entered the US Air Force as a chaplain when I was six years old, so I grew up mainly in military chapels with a few local Methodist Churches when we were able. I heard the call to ministry when I was a teenager but chalked it up to hero worship of my dad, and deferred it for many years. I served in lay leadership positions in a variety of churches and was the Church Council Chair, Director of Religious Education, Lay Minister, Church Treasurer, and many more. Finally, in 2020, my pastor kicked me out to the UMC Ministry Exploration Summit for the New England Conference and immediately following that, I started my Seminary studies.



## **Gifts for the Ministry**

I bring a unique set of gifts to the ministry. My 25 years in the Air Force as both enlisted and officer have given me a broad spectrum of leadership skills, especially in areas of leading through challenges and difficulty. My years as a senior executive in industry smoothed my rough edges and gave me the ability to negotiate and build consensus and create strategic visions with the plans to follow through on them. The Holy Spirit has gifted me with specific gifts of pastoring and teaching, and I love to preach and teach. I'm distinctly Wesleyan in my theology, so the Means of Grace and the importance of the Sacraments are close to my heart. As a Spiritual Director, I'm empathetic and a good listener. I'm an Enneagram 2 if you follow such things.

## **Outside the Church**

I believe in a good work/life balance. I work hard and play hard. I'm a private pilot, a SCUBA Instructor, and ride an Indian Vintage Chief motorcycle. I'm a skier, sailor, and love to go exploring. I've raced motorcycles, climbed mountains, jumped out of perfectly good airplanes, and almost always have a smile on my face. Rebecca and I love to travel. I've been to all 50 states and a lot of foreign countries.

## **Vision of the Church**

I believe that pastors are appointed to a community, not to a brick-and-mortar facility. The community includes the family of believers that are part of Rapid City First, but also the larger body of believers, seekers, and unreached who live in our surroundings. My vision for our church is broad and inclusive. We have plenty of room to attract others with the powerful message of love that we are charged to share by our risen Savior. It's important to say that the vision of the church isn't Rich Bensinger's but will be developed with prayer and input from all of you who know this church and the community we serve.

## **Leadership Style**

People who know me would say my leadership style is transformational. It's built on communication and transparency, working with people to create a shared vision. Building unity, developing bonds, creating energy, and instilling passion. My focus is on the future, building from a strong past and present. I'll work to inspire the church to achieve more than we ever imagined possible by bringing out everyone's gifts and abilities. I delegate and trust people and don't micromanage. I work hard to develop strong lay leadership and encourage people to discern their calling to service and ministry.

## **Service and Community Involvement**

I love being an active part of the local community. I am active in local service organizations and advocate for faith-based positions with local, state, and Federal Government agencies. You will find me walking in hunger walks, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, and riding my motorcycle on charity rides with local veteran's groups to name a few. I believe in a strong interfaith connection in the community and will help build one if one doesn't already exist. I'm retired Air Force, so I expect to be engaged with activities at Ellsworth AFB.