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Pastor Bob's Equip The Saints

September 2023

"Who Am I to Hinder God?"

In the scripture passage in Acts chapter 11 Peter has a vision. It had to do with appropriate dietary concerns. In this vision, which is first described in Acts 10, Peter is on the roof praying. It's near lunchtime. He's probably hungry. A sheet is lowered from the heavens. It's filled with food items that he is prohibited from partaking. He hears the command to "kill and eat." Peter responds, with deep piety, "no, I can't eat these things. They're unclean. Nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." The response from heaven is clear and concise, though it is repeated three times (just to make sure Peter gets the point): "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." Then there was a knock at the door.

That vision and the knock on the door led to Peter going to the home of Cornelius, a Roman soldier, and a Gentile. He had connected the dots between the vision and the knock on the door and went with the three representatives of Cornelius while taking along with

him six of his own companions. When he arrives at the home of Cornelius, Peter preaches. As he is preaching, the Holy Spirit falls on Cornelius and his household, as demonstrated by the sign of speaking in tongues, just as occurred on the day of Pentecost. Since this enduement of the Spirit occurs while Peter is preaching, what is Peter going to do? He does the only thing he can do; he baptizes them and welcomes them into the church. You can read the full story in Acts 10.

So, Peter recounts the story of his vision and the encounter with Cornelius. After recounting the story Peter's response was simple: "who was I that I could hinder God?"

Friends, I must admit often we sell God short. We think we know better. But God creates light from darkness. God bring life from death. God works miracles each day! God Spirit works mysteriously in doing wonderful things. So maybe each of us needs to seek and recognize the work of God around us and get out of the way. Because how can we hinder God?

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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Last month I shared that my salary as your pastor is being paid from a support gift of \$32,000 from the Dakotas Annual Conference. This represents the very best of being a connectional church in the United Methodist community. I am happy to share that through July and now through August we have been able to meet all our expenses without using the emergency or interest funds we have available! **Thank you so much for your continued faithful giving to God through the church.**

As we move into the fall our expenses will increase so we invite each member and friend to continue to give your very best to God!

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 your situation we would invite you to consider making a gift to God through our church. See Pastor Bob or Kotti Wickard for more information.

CONFIRMATION 2023-2024

We are planning to have a Confirmation Class for Youth who haven't been confirmed yet. We will have a meeting on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00pm. We are inviting anyone 8-12 grades and a parent to this meeting to discuss our plan for this year.

WORSHIP DECORATING COMMITTEE

September 19 at 6:30 will be our worship decorating committee meeting. All interested in joining our team are welcome to come.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY! HELP US BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH GROUNDS

Who: All who love to garden!

What: Clean up/plant flowerbeds around the church

When: Thursday, September 21 and possibly Saturday, September 23
9:00am—Noon

Where: Meet front of church courtyard

Bring: Hand Tools, gloves etc.

Coffee/Doughnuts provided!!

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE

October 17, 2023 2:30—6:00pm

April 9, 2024—2:30—6:00pm



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BUILD?



The mission of the United Methodist Church is to partner with God to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Ministry Fair, September 10

9:45 am – 12:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

MISSION POSSIBLE

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to partner with God to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

5:30pm Dinner at the CIA* Café

6 – 7pm Programming for All Ages

Nursery

GLOW (Go Light Our World) Preschool

Mission Possible Kids

Youth Group

Parenting SOS

Women's Study - *Find Your People* by Jennie Allen

Scripture Circle

September 20

September 27

October 18

October 4

October 11

November 15

November 1

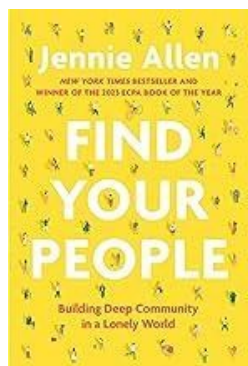
November 8

*Reservations for the CIA (Church in Action) Café can be made each week by going to the church website, sending an email to rcfumcchildschurch@gmail.com or calling the church office.

ADULT STUDIES BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Wednesday Discipleship Opportunities abound this fall at Mission Possible! Adults wishing to connect with their church family and grow in the faith mission have a variety of experiences to choose from.

Enjoy **Dinner at the CIA Café from 5:30 – 6:00 pm** then select a class to attend or join one of the youth, children, preschool or nursery classes as a volunteer! Visit with leaders from each group at the **Ministry Fair on September 10** to find the option that is right for you!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Begins Wednesday, September 20
6-7pm
Downstairs Conference Room

Do you have a longing for deep community with others? Jennie Allen draw on biblical truth as well as fascinating insights from science and history to explore five life patterns that will help us discover how to experience the full wonder of community.

SCRIPTURE CIRCLE
Begins Wednesday, September 20
6-7pm
Church Parlor

Scripture Circle is a space where each member of the group connects and grows through a guided exploration of the scripture and life's questions.



PARENTING SOS
Begins Wednesday, September 20
6-7pm
Room 102

Parenting SOS is a Fun, interactive discussion that will help parents connect, commiserate, and celebrate raising kids!

DATES and TOPICS

September 20—The Power of Play at EVERY Age

October 11—Raising Resilient Kids in Turbulent Times

November 8—Raising Them Ready

December 13—Creating Fulfilling Traditions



CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS

Children's Church meets every Sunday during the 9 am Service. We meet upstairs immediately following the Children's Sermon. PreK and Kindergarten meet in Room 308 (Noah's Art Gallery) and Elementary 1st – 5th meet in Room 304 (Creation Station). Parents are asked to come to the classrooms to pick up their children at the end of the service.

This year's curriculum is **Grow! Proclaim! Serve!** Children will explore families in the Bible, learn how today's faith families care for children as they grow, build loving relationships and find out what it means to be a part of God's family!

In September we will be digging into the book of Exodus and applying the stories of Moses and Pharaoh (September 3), Crossing the Sea (September 10), Miriam Celebrates (September 17), and In the Wilderness (September 24).

Curious about what we are teaching? Come visit a class and participate with us! **Are you a Youth who would like to assist with Children's Church?** Contact Anne Torgerson for information. We would love to welcome you into our classes!





YOU'RE INVITED TO DINNER!

You and your family are invited to dinner at the C.I.A. Café!

What is C.I.A.? C.I.A. stands for Church in Action and our congregation is gearing up for lots of action as we launch **MISSION POSSIBLE** on Wednesday evenings.

Who can eat at the C.I.A. Café? Everyone in your family can come eat at the café! The dinner is for every age in our congregation.

Is this a mission meal? The meals that are served on Wednesday night are intended to fuel the members of our congregation as they prepare to join their Wednesday night groups. There are groups for every age and interest and each group is focused on growing as a disciple of Christ.

Is there a cost for the meal? There is not a set cost for the meal. If your family would like to make a donation for your dinner, you are welcome to do so.

How do I sign up for the meal? You can sign up on the church website, by sending an email to rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 605-342-4498.

Can I invite a friend? Yes! Invitations are encouraged! Invite a friend to join you for the meal and to attend a group with you!

Is there a meal EVERY Wednesday? Nope! The dates for the meals this fall are as follows: September 20 and 27, October 4, 11 and 18 and November 1 and 18th.

See you at the C.I.A. Café!



Children's Offering in the Funnel of Faith

The Funnel of Faith is located at the top of the stairs by the Upper Room on the second floor. It has long been a tradition that the children of RCFUMC would bring their coins to put into the Funnel of Faith and have the fun of listening to those coins travel through the tubes all the way to the basement. But what happens to those coins once they reach the basement??? This year our children's mission giving will be taken to the Giving Meters that have been installed throughout downtown Rapid City. The meters are a way for the citizens of our community to donate to those in our community who need assistance.

This year, we are encouraging children to not only donate to the Giving Meters mission, but to also sign up for a week or two during the school year to collect the money from the basement, count it with their family and take it to a giving meter and insert the coins into the meter.

If you would like to sign up to collect the money, there will be a sign-up sheet at the Ministry Fair on September 10. After that, the sign-up sheet will be located on the bulletin board by the Funnel of Faith.

So families, choose a week to participate. Grandparents, choose a week to collect the money and take your grandchildren with you to deliver it to a Giving Meter.

And EVERYONE collect your spare change and travel upstairs to pour it into the Funnel of Faith! (Or should we call it the FUNnel of Faith, because it's fun to put the money in!)

Together, we will be the hands and feet of Christ helping those who need it most in our own Rapid City community!



If you're in Grades K-5 and you want to make a difference in the world...
If you want to become an "agent of change"...

***YOU can become a Secret Agent with
MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS (MPK)***

IMPACT: MPK "agents" do **TOP SECRET** missions such as making gifts for kids in hospitals, providing supplies to kids in shelters, feeding the hungry, helping animals at adoption centers, and MUCH more!

TIMING: New Agent Training begins
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 FROM 6-7 PM

WHERE: **MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS** Headquarters, UPPER ROOM, RCFUMC

SHOULD YOU ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE, YOU WILL:

- ⇒ Learn how **YOU** can change the world.
- ⇒ Complete a mission every month and even participate in **TOP SECRET** off-site missions.
- ⇒ Work toward Secret Agent promotions.
- ⇒ Track the number of lives you touch on each and every mission.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT: Lauren Holderfield laurenholderfield@hotmail.com

We had Meet the Teacher on August 31!!



Our Mom's Morning Out Program will begin on September 5. We run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to noon.

There are many ways you can support our program. If you would like to donate any snacks we typically have goldfish, pretzels, and veggie straws! You can always drop off snacks to the church office.

If you would like to volunteer we are going to especially need volunteers these first few months. The little ones take a while to get used to the schedule. We have added on a second two year old class this year!

We are excited to announce we received a Breakthrough Ministry Grant for Mom's Morning Out. MMO is a way our church reaches out into the community. We also received a \$1,000 donation from an MMO volunteer and we are extremely grateful!

If you would like to learn more about our program, you can check out Mom's Morning Out on the church website or ask Hannah in the church office.

Youth Schedule

This year we have decided to go back to Wednesday evenings for our main meet time. We will Kick Off on September 20!

Dinner for the whole family is at 5:30pm, and youth group will be from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. We will be using the Be Bold curriculum.

Sep. 20, 27

Oct. 4, 11, 18

There will be special events scheduled for Sunday evenings throughout the school year!

Confirmation Retreat and DAKYouth are two events you won't want to miss this Fall. Please let me know if your youth is interested in either of these.

We will be gathering a group of youth who are interested in a Confirmation class in January, but we want to attend this retreat this fall. 😊 There will be a meeting at the church for Confirmation students on September 13.

For DAKYouth we will be traveling with other Methodist churches from the Rapid City Area

622 - SMC CONFIRMATION RETREAT



/ [Calendar](#) / [622 - SMC Confirmation Retreat](#)

Location: Storm Mountain Center

Date: October 20 - Oct 21, 2023

Experience connections with other United Methodist churches and confirmands. Learn more about our Christian and United Methodist heritage and develop your faith while playing and studying during this retreat. Bring your own leaders.

Note: Each camper must register individually.

Camp Information

- Camp: #622
- Welcome Letter [!\[\]\(039cd6b2e7148ba5690aa619b922c426_img.jpg\)](#)
- Cost: \$80 (*No Early Bird Discount*)
- Grades: 6-12
- Deans: Pastor Peggy Hanson and Pastor John Britt

EVENT INFORMATION

- **Event:** DAKYOUTH 2023 (Camp #810)
- **Location:** Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center 225 3rd Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401
- **Dates:** November 10-12, 2023
- **Cost:** \$65 includes event shirt, (\$75 after 10/19/2023, but no shirt)
- **Grades:** 6-12 and adult chaperones
- **Schedule:** Click here for the complete schedule **(Coming soon!)**

*IMPORTANT: **Early Bird Deadline** for registration fee of \$65, to receive a T-shirt, AND to get the group rate at the lodging listed below is **OCTOBER 19!!***

3rd Sunday Offering

Cornerstone Rescue Mission— Women & Children Home

The Women and Children's Home open March of 2005. The home provides a safe place for homeless women and children. Families are the fastest growing segment of homelessness. The shortage of affordable housing and an increase in poverty are two reasons we are seeing such a demand for room in the home.

Many of these single mothers have three (3) or four (4) children under the age of 5. According to Claretian Publication, in no state does a full-time minimum wage job cover the cost of a one-bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent. Considering the increase in foreclosures, even lower end rental units become harder to find.

The Mission provides shelter and assistance to an average of 350-400 women and children annually, and provides a yearly average of 9,500 overnight stays to our guests.

The home allows these women and children a chance for stability and healing while becoming self-sufficient and independent.

For more information, contact Amanda Pioche.

Learn more at
<http://cornerstonemission.org/home.html>

September and October Worship Themes

9:00 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 Traditional

September 3 Hymn Sing Sunday	Colossians 3: 12-17
September 10 "Marks of a True Christian"	Romans 12:9-21
September 17 "Cornerstone"	Romans 14:1-12
September 24 "We Are Chosen"	John 15:11-12, 16-27
October 1 World Communion Sunday Celebrate Communion with Christians all around the world	

"Questions Jesus Asked"

October Sermon Series

October 1 "Do You Want to Get Well?"	John 5: 1-5
October 8 "Why are You Afraid?"	Mark 4: 36-41
October 15 "Do You Want to Get Well?"	John 5:1-8
October 22 "Who Do You Say That I Am?"	Matthew 16:13-20
October 29 "Do You Love Me?"	John 21: 15-17

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*