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Messenger Newsletter



www.facebook.com/rapidcityfirst

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Barry's Thoughts

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

A new year is upon us; I wonder what 2022 will hold for the Rapid City First UMC and for each of us on our journey of faith? In Paul's letter to the church in Corinth he shares the vision of becoming a **NEW PERSON**. As we enter this new year, I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead each of us on a journey of renewal that we might grow in our faith.

We will begin the new year with 4 messages focused on this journey,

"EXPERIENCE LIFE"

"LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS IN A ME-CENTERED WORLD."

The pandemic has brought change, things may never be as they once were, *"The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"*

I look forward to this new journey as we work together to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our community.

In Christ,

Pastor Barry



EPHESIANS

Blessed to be a Blessing

DO YOU FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING MORE TO LIFE?

*Are you struggling to find joy and peace in your life?
Has life become a challenge?
Do you have a desire to touch others with the love of Christ?*

Join us for our January Sermon Series:

EXPERIENCE LIFE

“Learning to follow Jesus in a me-centered world”

Sunday January 2

Experience Life
Line Up Behind Jesus
Ephesians 2:1-10

Sunday January 9

Life in Christ
Discipleship Requires Discipline
Ephesians 3:14-21

Sunday January 16

Life with Others
Move Beyond the Christian Bubble
Ephesians 4:29-5:1-2

Sunday January 23

Life Expressed
Step into Action
Ephesians 3:1-13

Pastor Michele's Moment

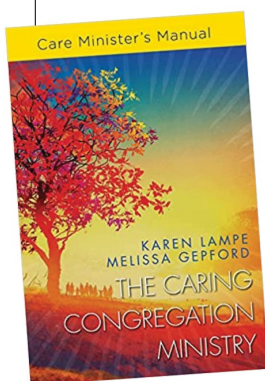
OUTREACH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

OUTREACH

- In December we were able to forward more than **\$550 to UMCOR** for Tornado Disaster Relief (total as of Dec. 21, will accept donations through Dec. 31), and **\$185** for our ministry to young families, **Mom's Morning Out**. Thank you for your generosity!
- For 2022, our **3rd Sunday Mission Offering schedule** has been set. You may plan your gifts, January-November in this order: Love, INC; Dakotas UMC Camp Scholarships; UMCOR; Cornerstone Rescue Mission - Men; Habitat for Humanity; Love, INC. Clothe-A-Kid; The HOPE Center; Love, INC.; Cornerstone Rescue Mission - Women & Children's Home; The HOPE Center; Feeding South Dakota. December is left open so it can be assigned to a timely ministry.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

- **YOUTH & CHILDREN** and **CONFIRMATION** programming pick up again in January after the school break. Please see Anne and Hannah's sections of this newsletter and watch for texts through Remind for more information.
- **NEW! CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM:** As part of Family Ministries, knowing that families come through tough times, on **Saturday, January 29 at 9 a.m.**, we plan a **Congregational Care Team training**. If you would like to be part of a small group of people who are each willing to make themselves available to visit others in person or on the phone, to listen to them and pray with them, please let me know. Especially if you have experienced some of life's struggles and traumas (*aging parents, cancer treatment, divorce, depression or anxiety, death of loved ones, especially suicide of a close family member or friend, etc.*) and found your faith strengthened as you came through that, **we would love your help.**



Congregational Care training will be based on resources by Karen Lampe from Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City (*Adam Hamilton's church*) and we will discuss the following topics.

- Importance of Prayer • Theology of Care
- Different types of Support Ministry we will provide • Boundaries
- Structure and Roles of a new system to help Congregational Care be sustainable, practical and share information appropriately with pastor(s) while also maintaining confidence.

Please let me/the church office know by **January 17th** if you would like to participate so we have sufficient training materials, if you would like to be part of this new team.

Michele

Michele@RapidCityFirst.org | Office: 605.342.4498
PastorMich.SD@gmail.com | Cell: 605.390.8757

Report from A Night In Bethlehem – A Shepherd's Story

On December 15, twenty young recruits from Rapid City First United Methodist children's program gathered to attend the Bethlehem Academy of Shepherd Training. After completing classes in subjects such as Know Your Sheep, Basic Sheep Rescue, Sling Shot 101 and Music for Shepherds, the recruits were ready for field training.

As they settled their sheep around the campfire, they were witness to a sudden bright light and the presence of a celestial being. That being reported that a baby had been born in a stable in Bethlehem. Furthermore, the angel assured them that this baby was the long-awaited Messiah. The shepherds-in-training left camp, took their candles and went in search of the baby. They found the baby in a rough stable, lying in a manger under a bright star. After visiting the baby and his parents, the shepherds returned to camp to reflect on this gift from God and receive their diplomas for successfully completing training.

And now these brave young shepherds know that they can stand with the angels in proclaiming, "Do not fear, for unto you a child has been born who is Christ the Lord!" And they can now go into their field of work and know that God is with them. As they face each new event in the coming year they can face it with the absolute certainty that they are not alone. Jesus is here. The world is forever changed.

Do Not be Afraid! A Child is Born Who is Christ the Lord! God is With You!



Christmas Brunch

On December 12 our church family gathered in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the Advent season with a beautiful brunch. Thank you to Kent Reiman and Delane Rains for coordinating the event and to all of the volunteers who helped set up and serve: Lila Mettler, LaRee Mayes, Stacey Moser, Jeff Moser, Kevin Ott, Bobbi Tracy and Calvin Luke.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



 **RAPID CITY FIRST**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





The Heart of Christmas

When the last carol has been sung,
When the final gift has been unwrapped,
When the relatives have returned home,
When the lights and decorations have
been put away . . .

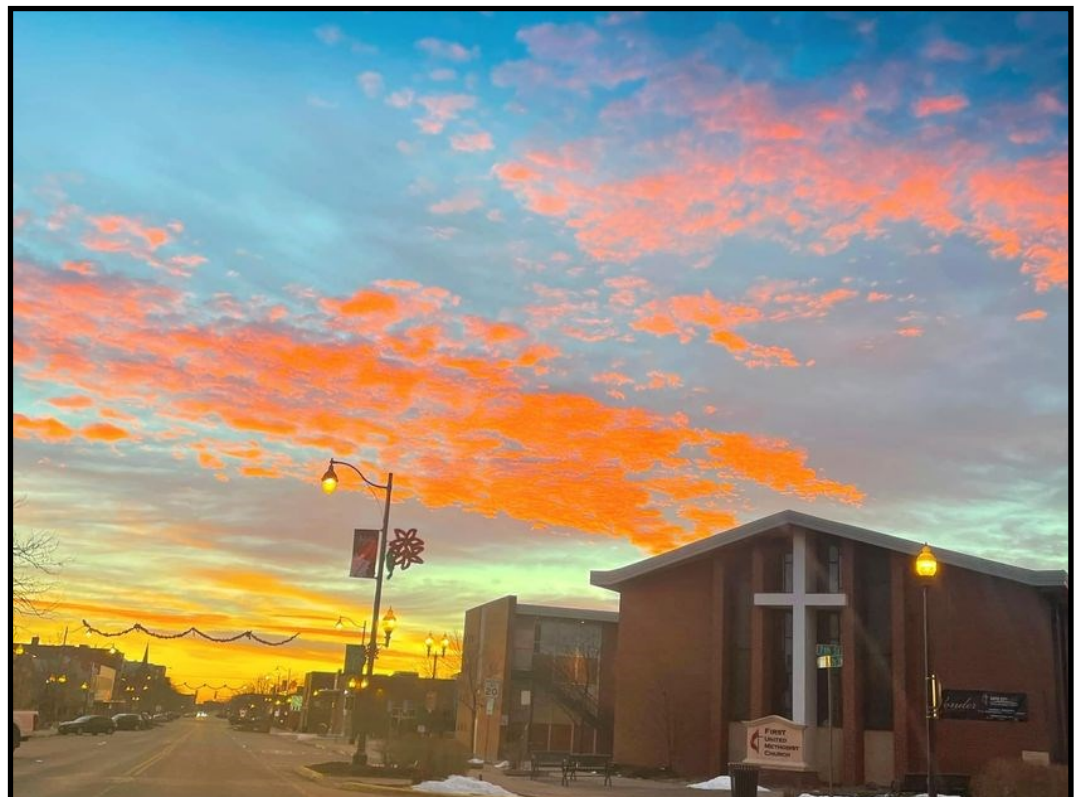
Then the real work of Christmas begins.

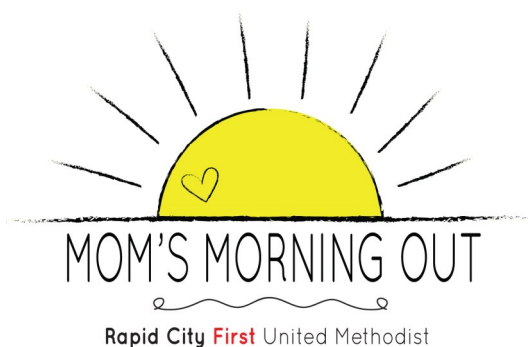
To find the lost,
To heal the brokenhearted,
To feed the hungry,
To bring peace among enemies,
To rebuild what has been torn down,
To see the beauty all around,
To keep the holiday magic alive all year . . .

That is the true heart of Christmas.

Author unknown

“If you want to
be reminded of
the love of the
Lord, just watch
the sunrise. “

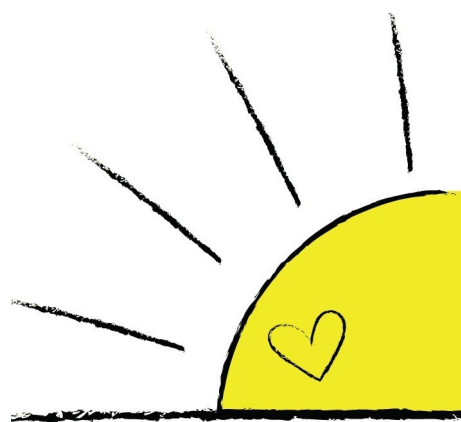
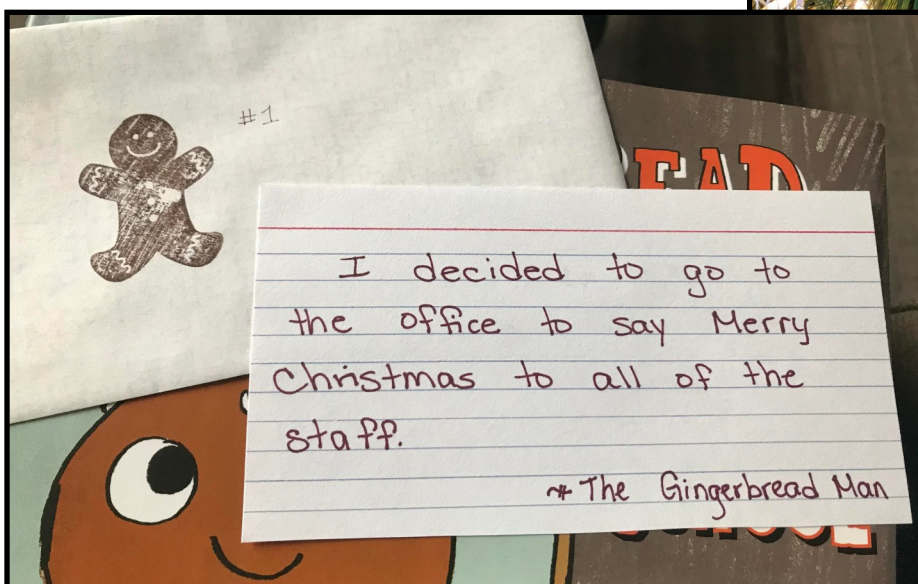
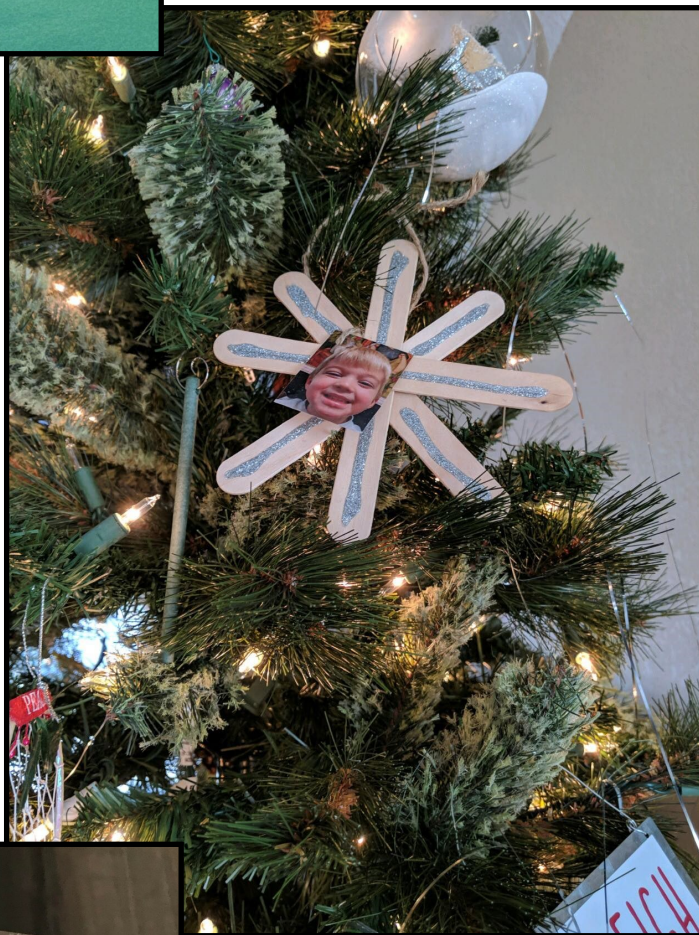




Mom's Morning Out finished out 2021 with a pajama week, and Christmas crafts. The four and five year old class went on a gingerbread hunt around the church, and the nursery kids made "mistletoes".

MMO will resume on January 4th and continue until mid-May.

Third Sunday offering in the month of December was dedicated to Mom's Morning out. We received donations up to \$185. We would like to thank all of those who supported our ministry. We still have openings in our program, and donations are always welcome. Please continue to spread the word to people you think may be interested in joining!



DECEMBER RECAP

Our group has continued to grow closer together, and we have been discussing how we can share love and acceptance to those outside of youth. The youth were encouraged to invite their friends, and many of them came to our Christmas party. We had 22 youth attend our Christmas party and we have had between 10 to 12 youth each week at Wednesday Night Live. One night we created “Recipes for YOU”, with “taste testers” to make sure any ingredients, gifts or qualities were not missing. The atmosphere in the room was uplifting and bright. Who wouldn’t want to be in that kind of environment every week?

As we enter into the new year my prayer is for our youth to continue to grow closer to God, closer to one another, and to remember how church is a safe place. ALL are welcome. ALL are loved.

UPCOMING

Doughnuts and Dialogue will be on Sundays January 9 asking the question, “Is It Ever Okay To Lie?” and 23 asking the question, “What Does The Bible Say About Suicide?”. We will not meet on January 30, that weekend will be **Winter Connection**.

On January 28 and 29, youth from different United Methodist churches in the area will meet at Storm Mountain for an overnight stay. Hannah will be attending as a chaperone. This is for youth **grades 6th-12th**, and costs **\$40**.

For important forms and more information, please contact Hannah or Pastor Michele.

Wednesday Night Live resumes on January 12.

We will continue the series “I AM” by Groove.

January 12- I Am A Servant, January 19- I Am Called, and January 26- TBD.

The youth have shared interest and excitement about having a **Lock-In** at the church in the spring or summer. If any parents or members of the church are interested in chaperoning for a few hours, reach out to Hannah. More information will be coming soon.







THANK YOU Delane Rains and Kent Reimann for making our wonderful brunch for our One Service Sunday. Also thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it happen.



Prime Timer Events 2021/2022

Jan. 7th-Birthday Party

Jan. 21st-Bingo and Pizza

Feb. 4th-Birthday Party (Valentine's)

Feb. 25th-Potluck in the parlor

March 4th-Birthday Party

March 18th-Bingo and Pizza

April 1st-Birthday Party

April 15th-Alpine Inn and CC Camp

May 6th-Birthday Party

May 20th-Badlands and Wall for lunch

June 3rd-Birthday Party

June 17th-Badger Clark and lunch at Blue Bell Lodge



Thank you for all those who donated food/money for our WAVI Thanksgiving boxes. Also those who donated cards for our Christmas sacks for the WAVI house at Christmas time.

We were able to give 36 sacks.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Important giving information, please read!!

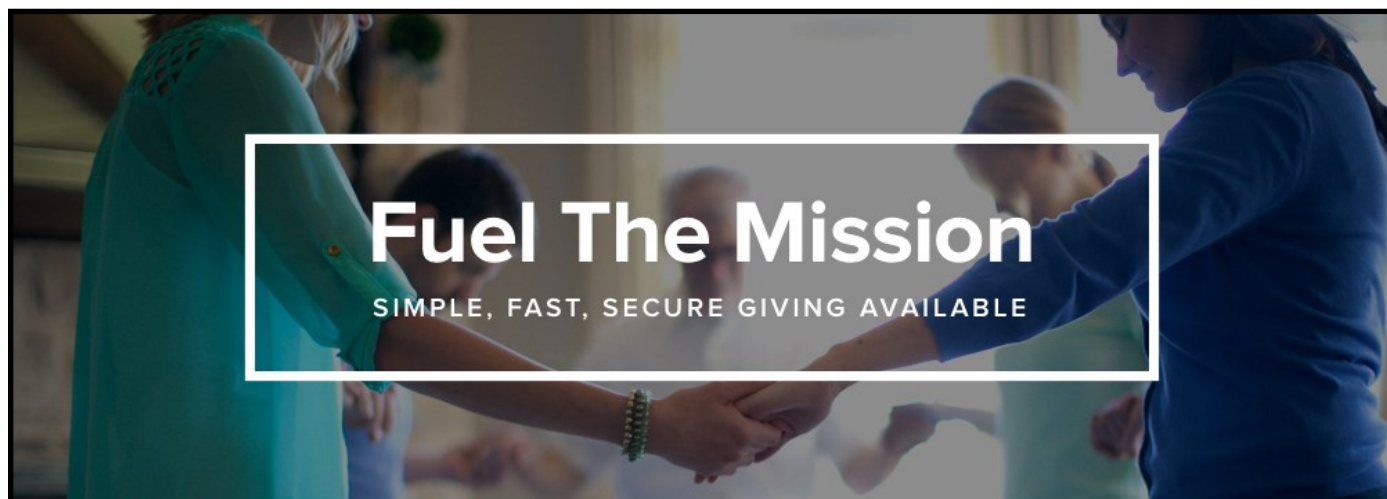
Exciting news: We've moved from *Vanco* to Subsplash Giving! Giving will be easier than ever and the church will save a significant amount of money.

We are turning off *Vanco* in 30 days on 01/30/22. If you have selected recurring (EFT) giving, I will cancel your account with *Vanco* *at the end of January* and **you will need to sign up for Subsplash Giving to start in Feb. 2022.**

What you need to do:

- Sign up for Subsplash Giving and set up a recurring gift!! [Click here](#) to get your recurring giving started. For those who have already signed up for 2022, you will need to **sign up again** using this platform with information already given by the end of January to start in February. Those who do not do recurring (EFT) giving yet, you are welcome to sign up any time using the link provided. Once you have signed up, you will have your own account where you can update and change information when needed. After you set up your new account I will delete your account with our other provider. It is a very user friendly site once everything is set up. I am always here to help in the process!!!

We are so thankful for you and your continued participation and support of *First United Methodist*. Please let us know if you have any questions!



“Since adding Subsplash Giving to our mobile app, our church has seen a 30% increase in overall gifts.”

–Tim Gaydos, A Seattle Church

SUBSPASH®

November 2020

Actual

\$42,604

November 2021

Actual

\$43,006

November 2021

Budget

\$45,137

- November Contributions were below budget and last year.

The 2021 Contribution Statements will be mailed the first or second week of January 2021. Please Review your statement and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for supporting First United Methodist this past year and helping to continue the ministries at the church.

An email with important information about giving online and recurring giving will be going out soon. We have some exciting things coming in 2022. Thank you!!

If you have any questions or concerns about our finances, please contact me at the church office..... 342-4498.

Destri Fagerland,
Business Administrator



NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!!- SUBSPLASH PLATFORM

We are in the process of rebuilding our website, and creating an **APP** you can download on your cell-phone or other smart devices. This will allow us to communicate as a church on a new level, whether you are in a small group or participate in children's ministry or youth. We will also have new ways to give to keep our ministries going! We will have the potential to grow and engage with the outside community and show them what we are doing at Rapid City First UMC.

It is **IMPORTANT** that all members of the church **DOWNLOAD THE APP**. We will be having **TRAINING CLASSES** for those who would like assistance. Dates for those classes will be announced soon!

Our website should display our church by sharing it's ministries to those within its walls, as well as those outside of the church. If you are a ministry leader and have pictures or information you would like to share please email:

hannahrcfirst@gmail.com



3rd Sunday Offering in January



Love In the Name of Christ – Love INC of the Black Hills

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.



UMW NEWS

Critical Need

There is need for leadership in order to be a UMW organization at FUMC. Crucial positions open for 2022: treasurer and president or co-president. Information and mentoring for the positions are available from the current office holders. **There is no Rapid City First United Methodist Women continuing without the office of treasurer filled. Please consider asking anyone (woman or man) you know who might be willing to take on this vital job.**

UMW Sunday Project

HOW, Helping Orphans and Widows is the mission to women in Africa begun by Karen Lantz over 10 years ago after a visit to her missionary son. She learned that a woman widowed surrendered her rights to property to her husband's family if he died and she was left widowed, even with children. Karen began a program to supply a goat to the mother to feed her family. She works with a dedicated veterinarian on-site. The recipient is given opportunity to raise goats, and at some point when possible, pass on an offspring to help another widow gain a means of living.

This is a time when her 501c3 non-profit especially needs help. United Methodist Women at FUMC have chosen HOW to receive all monies from "Presence in the Parlor" during UMW Sunday, January 9, 2022, to go for this purpose.

Anyone can furnish items to sell at the bake sale following services that day. Bring them to the parlor between 8:30 am and 10:00 am that morning. Please price them so they are ready for sale.

Dates to Remember

January 6--Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30 pm, church parlor

January 9--UMW Sunday

January 12--Leadership Team, 9:30 am, church parlor



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**Office Hours are
8am to 2pm
Monday-Thursday**

You may call the church at
605-342-4498

(M-Th 8am-2pm) Leave a message any time and we will get back to you as soon as we can. You can also email the staff using the following email addresses:

Pastor Barry: barry@rapidcityfirst.org

Pastor Michele: michele@rapidcityfirst.org

Destri Fagerland: destri@rapidcityfirst.org

Anne Torgerson: rcfumcchildrensministry@gmail.com

Hannah O'Donnell: hannahrcfirst@gmail.com

Brady Wichmann: brady@rapidcityfirst.org

Stephen Branch: sfbranch@gmail.com

Diane Ketel: dkketel@live.com

Margot Burton: 343-1832

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/

Please let **Destri** know if you would like to be part of the main church email. You will receive **important information** and the Newsletter each month. Email Destri at [**destri@rapidcityfirst.org**](mailto:destri@rapidcityfirst.org) to get on the list.



Donations Needed

Rapid Ride Bus tickets
Travel size shampoos & conditioners
Laundry detergent (powder or pods)
Paper cups
Small food trays



Sanitizer
Deodorant
Toilet Paper
Blankets
Postage Stamps
Canned Food
Sack Lunches
Coffee
Frozen food items

For those of you collecting Family Fare UPCs: Thank you!

- Make sure you save only Family Fare UPCs. The barcode includes "70253."
- UPCs from other brands sold at Family Fare do not qualify for the Labels for Education program. Thank you for helping support UMW missions.
- 0 70253 16109 (Sample UPC number)

Keep The Family Fare Receipts

Coming— Once we reach \$150,000, the church receives \$1,000 from Nash Finch to help with church expenses. Please turn in your entire receipts in the metal basket on the red wall by the Welcome Center. To date, we have collected \$57,388. You can turn in at any time to the church office. Please keep portion of receipt that says, "Direct your Dollar" with number on each receipt.

- ♦ **"We Care" food certificates** are available. Please call the church for a time to pick them up.



Cornerstone Mission Meal

A big THANK YOU to Delane Rains for organizing food to be dropped off to donate in December. If you're interested in helping with this (we provide dinner on the third Sunday of every month), call the office at 605-342-4498 and we will let you know when we begin serving again!

Church Response

Please consider bringing any kind of pasta for our Church Response Food Drive. Please call the church if you would like to drop items off during the week.



Reflections

“Be still and know that I am God...” (Psalm 46:10a) Interestingly, these words are preceded by references to roaring waters, mountains falling into the sea, desolation, and shields of fire. Be still? How could anyone be still in the midst of such? On our own, we couldn’t. If, however, we’ve settled in both heart and mind that—as the rest of verse 10 tells us—He is God, then we have long since learned that what He says, is. Consequently, what He commands, we do. Why? Because in giving one’s life to Him and receiving Christ Jesus as one’s Savior, one has signed on to doing things His way.

Do we get it all just right on the first try? Most likely not. But with the Word as our textbook, Holy Spirit as our Professor, and the Lord’s hand of protection upon us, we begin to grow up. We learn, as Paul admonished the Philippians (2:5), that our “... attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” We discover that “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)

Something for which we can be utterly grateful is that even if we stumble or don’t get things just right, we admit it, and the Lord our God is right there to pick us up, dust us off, and get us back on track. How can He do that? Why would He do that? He’s just being Himself. He loves us.

Not only does He love us, God IS love. (See I John 4:16) He is the original Giver of good things. Look what He gave Adam and Eve—dominion over His planet and everything on it. True, they royally blew it. They now needed clothing. He saw to it. Beautifully. And Noah! Talk about God’s hand of protection. For faithful Abraham, too. God gave the Blessing to him and to his descendants, among whom would be Jesus’ followers. (Not to mention the huge land grant of Genesis 15:18!)

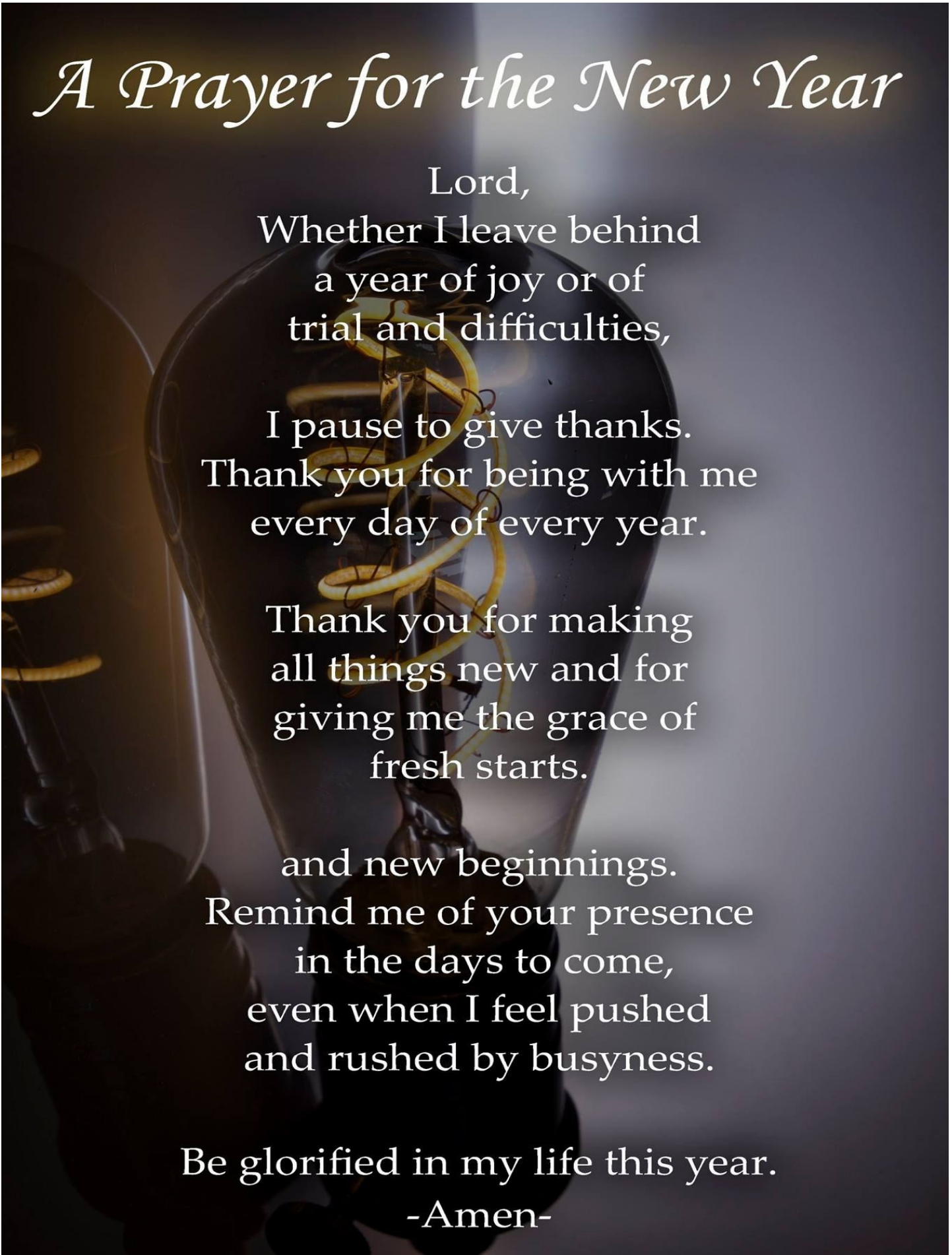
In the Lord our God there is safety. “Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations...from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” (See Psalm 90:1-2) “I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.’ “ (Psalm 91:2) Got troubles? Back to Psalm 46, verse 1: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.” And see here: “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer: My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.” (Psalm 18:2-3) Then: “The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe.” (Proverbs 18:13) Best we handle His name with care.

Isaiah 46:9b-10 reminds us to “Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”

As we step into the New Year of 2022, Lord, we quiet our hearts before you. We ask for safety in whatever lies ahead and for wisdom to know just how you would have us handle our part in it. It is in the name of Jesus we ask these things. We love you, Lord, and we thank you. We love you.

Love and prayers,
Kathy Moose

A Prayer for the New Year



Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of
trial and difficulties,
I pause to give thanks.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.

Thank you for making
all things new and for
giving me the grace of
fresh starts.

and new beginnings.
Remind me of your presence
in the days to come,
even when I feel pushed
and rushed by busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year.

-Amen-