

629 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone 605-342-4498

www.rapidcityfirst.org

Messenger Newsletter



www.facebook.com/rapidcityfirst

Inside this issue:

Volume 57, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2022

Church Announcements	2
Lenten Studies	3
Children's Ministry	4
Children's Ministry	5
Love Passage	6
MMO	7
Young Adult	8
Youth News	9
Pastor Michele's Moment	10
School of Mines Food Drive	11
Men's Retreat	12
3rd Sunday Offering	13
Prime Timers	14
Financial News	15
Financial News	16
UMW News	17
Contact Information	18
Giving to Others	19
Reflections	20

Feb. 6th

"Gone Fishing"

Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 13th

"Sermon on the Plain"

Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 20th

"Forgiveness &
Reconciliation"

Genesis 45:1-15

Feb. 27th

"Face to Face with God"

Exodus 34:29-35

Hello
february



Barry's Thoughts

Romans 14:17 NLT

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

November 8-13, 2021, Deb, and I went to the *"Happiest Place on Earth", Disneyworld!* We had a wonderful time, yet I don't believe Disneyworld is the happiest place on earth. We had a wonderful time, but it took an enormous amount of patience and a willingness to allow others to invade our space. Disney does an amazing job of moving people but sometimes the systems just can't handle all the people.

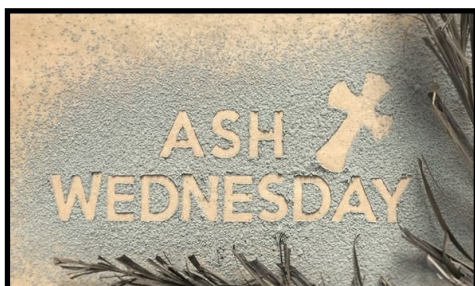
As I sat watching the masses of people all striving to find the perfect experience of joy and happiness, I saw a lot of people fatigued from the stress of trying to experience the "Happiest Place on Earth". Romans 14:17 came to mind, Paul said *'the most wonderful place is when we surrender to Jesus and live a life of goodness and peace and joy in the love of the Holy Spirit.'*

I find the greatest joy when I let go of the pull of the world and surrender my will so I might rest in God's presence. Before returning home Deb and I spent a day on Cocoa beach all alone with each other and with God. It was just as exciting as Disney World and we actually found a quiet rest. My prayer is that God will draw you to a place of rest that you might find God's peace and joy.

In Christ,

Pastor Barry

March 2nd at 6:00pm



Church Directory

Church directory forms are available at the **Welcome Center** or contact the church to get a form. Once the form is filled out, you can email us a picture you would like in the directory. New directories are printed once a year or can be viewed using the app. Instructions provided here. Thank you!!

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



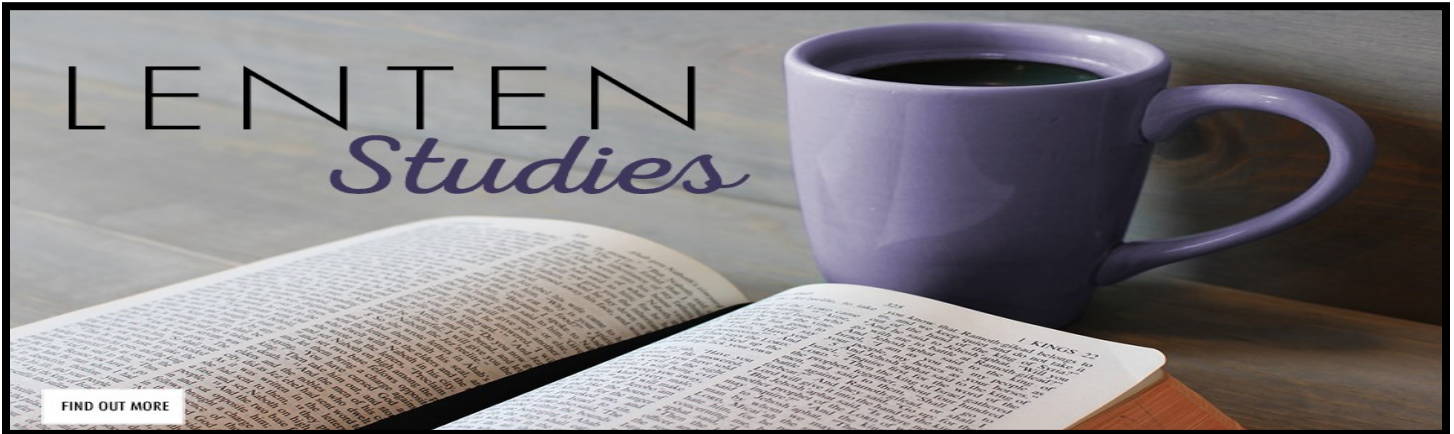
How can I serve?



That is a great question! We have so many **opportunities** to help at the church. Just talk to any of our staff, call the church or send us a message online. We can discuss the passions and **gifts** God has gifted you with and where you would fit in best in our ministries at First Church. We all have a unique opportunity to love the people of God at our church and community. It just starts with asking, "How can I serve?"

New Women's Study: "The Names of God: His Character Revealed"

This study will take us into the Lenten season ending with the name of Jesus! We will begin Wednesday, January 26th at 6:15pm at First United Methodist Church. You can purchase the participant workbook on your own (The Names of God - Women's Bible Study Participant Workbook: His Character Revealed by Melissa Spoelstra) or from the church for \$10.00.



"REFLECTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER"

Join Pastor Barry and Clark Corwin for a Lenten Study

Reflections On the Lord' Prayer

Beginning Wednesday March 2nd, at RC First UMC

Wednesday Nights at 6:00pm

March 2nd Introduction

March 9th "Our Father in Heaven."

March 16th "Your Kingdom Come. Your Will be Done."

March 23rd "On Earth as it is in Heaven."

March 30th "Give us this Day our Daily Bread."

April 6th "And Forgive us our Debts, as we also have Forgiven our Debtors."

April 13th "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."



Love is in the air this February in Children's Ministry!

In **Sunday School** we will visit the book of Genesis as we study the story of Joseph. It's an exciting account with sibling rivalry, a faked death, time in prison, a Pharaoh, a famine and a family reunion. Throughout it all, we discover that God never leaves us. **We are simply loved.** He has a plan for good in all circumstances!

Elementary and Preschool are invited to gather upstairs each Sunday following the 9:00 service.

Our lessons this month will be:

February 6 – Joseph Annoys His Brothers and we learn that God is good no matter what . . even when life is unfair!

February 13 – Joseph Goes to Jail and we discover that God is good no matter what . . . and can turn bad into good!

February 20 – God Helps Joseph Interpret Dreams and we find that God is good no matter what . . . and helps us!

February 27 – Joseph Forgives His Brothers and we know that God is good no matter what . . . and has a plan for us!

In **Wednesday Night Kids** we continue to find the answers to the question, Who Is Jesus? As we learn more about his life, we learn more about **God's great love for us** and how Jesus taught us to **love one another**.

This month we will be **showing our love to others** by creating valentines for the Rapid City Golden Valentine project and creating special gifts of love for our family members.

Each Wednesday we will meet upstairs from 6 pm to 7:30 pm for games, crafts, music, cooking and fellowship. All children PreK through 4th Grade are welcome to come and bring friends and family members!

Each lesson that the children learn is based on the truths we find in the bible. The bible that we use in our ministry (and the one we give to third grade students in the fall) is the Adventure Bible. We encourage families to keep this bible in a convenient place where they can easily reach it to find stories, activity ideas and answers to biblical questions.

Adventures in love await each of us as we move through our day with a focus of gratitude for all the ways God loves us and provides for us. The following is an adaptation of 1 Corinthians 13. It is written just for kids and appears in their Adventure Bible.



Love Passage for Kids

Based on 1 Corinthians 13
Reprinted from the Adventure Bible



If I can speak beautifully and sing like an angel, but don't love others, I sound like a child banging on a piano or a screeching radio. If I'm very smart – almost a genius – but don't love others, I am nothing.

Love will stand in line and wait its turn.

Love looks for the good in others.

Love doesn't always want what others have, and it doesn't brag about what it does have.

Love is polite, even when the other person is rude.

Love doesn't have to be first.

Love doesn't get angry over small things, and it doesn't remember one reason after another to be hurt.

Love isn't happy when someone else fails but is happy with the truth.

Love will always protect others, especially those who are often picked on or teased.

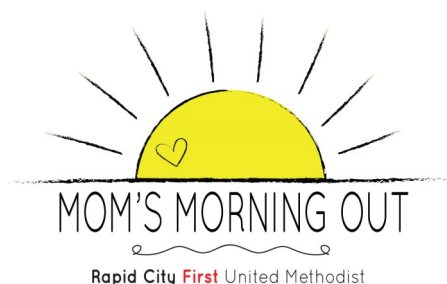
Love always believes the best about others and is steady and true.

Love never gives up.

The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

Mom's Morning Out



A special thank you to those families who have shared about MMO, helping our program continue to grow. We have some new faces with us! WELCOME!

Our hope is to be at full capacity for the start of the next school year, in September.

Registration for MMO 2022-2023

March- Early Enrollment to current MMO families (waived \$10 registration fee)

NO REGISTRATION FEE BEFORE APRIL

April- Enrollment to current MMO families (\$10 registration fee)

May- Open Enrollment to the public (\$15 registration fee)

Cancellation Fee: If you register for a spot and drop out you will need to pay \$10.



Wednesday Nights

On Wednesday nights our church comes ALIVE. There is something for every age group.

Children and Youth: 6:00-7:30 pm

Women's Study: 6:00-7:30 pm

The Names of God: His Character Revealed

By Melissa Spoelstra

Contact us if you need a book or access to the video on Amplify Media.

If you need to use our **Nursery** for your infants please
contact rfumchildrensministry@gmail.com.



“Lunch Break” and Bible Study. Join us at noon every other Tuesday for lunch and a discussion on the book *Epic* by: John Eldredge.

Contact Hannah or Pastor Michele if you would like a book!

Tentative Schedule:

Feb. 8- PROLOGUE

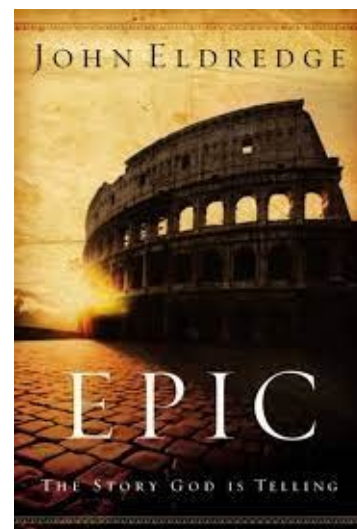
Feb. 22- ACT ONE: ETERNAL LOVE

Mar. 8- ACT TWO: THE ENTRANCE OF EVIL

Mar. 22- ACT THREE: THE BATTLE FOR THE HEART

Apr. 5- ACT FOUR: THE KINGDOM RESTORED

Apr. 19- EPILOGUE: THE ROAD BEFORE US



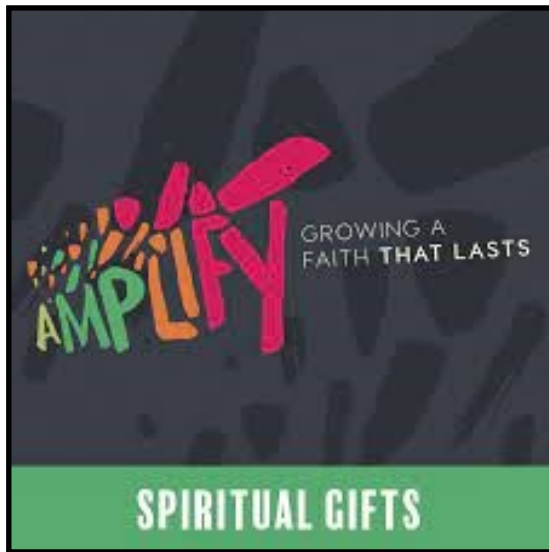
SO HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING...

YOUTH!

We are getting back into the groove of youth group. If you haven't been able to join us since the new year started, we hope to see you in February!

Wednesday Night Live Series: 6:00-7:30pm

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: GROWING A FAITH THAT LASTS



Lesson 1: The Gift Giver- January 26

Lesson 2: Equipped To Serve- February 2

Lesson 3: Putting Your Gifts To Good Use- February 9

Lesson 4: Series Recap and Activity- February 16

Out Of The Box- February 23

A night of service and fun!

Doughnuts and Dialogue (Sundays): 10:10-10:50am

We will not be meeting **February 20**.

Why Did God Make Different Races?- February 6

Does God Expect Me To Hang Out With Weird People?- February 13

What is Ash Wednesday?- February 27

Has your youth been talking about **Youth Sunday**?- tentatively **May 15**

Youth Sunday is in the works.

We have had discussions about the elements within a church service and are creating different ideas on how to share God with our church. This will not be like any ordinary Sunday. The youth will be collaborating to build a special service that the whole family will enjoy.



Pastor Michele's Moment OUTREACH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

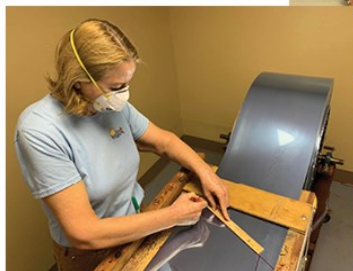
ALL ABOUT OUTREACH!!

In January, our congregation gave **\$648 to Love Inc.** Thank you for sharing from your resources with this community ministry partner! For **February's 3rd Sunday**, we will be collecting donations for our United Methodist Church **camp scholarship fund**, to help send youth to camp! Please consider how God calls you to be part of this very important ministry.

In addition, you may have read elsewhere in this newsletter that we are beginning a **Young Adults** group. It will meet at noon every other Tuesday, beginning Feb. 8th through the end of the college school year. At the first meeting, participants selected the John Eldredge book, "Epic" for study.

We are asking if anyone in the congregation would like to **provide a home-cooked meal** for the group on any of the six days between February and April we will be meeting? Currently we have four SDSM&T students, Hannah and myself who plan to attend, and we are hoping to add a few more. Please contact the church office to talk to Hannah or me if you'd like to help with that. We had some interesting opening conversation at the "get to know you" session about food service at Mines. They would love some REAL food!!! :-)

Also, if you would like to be part of building solar ovens to fight hunger and poverty in the Dominican Republic, Pastor Doug Diehl is training people the **2nd Saturday each month** in the **Solar Oven Partners Reflector Workshop**. Folks will be trained in a small group setting how to use the equipment at Open Heart UMC, 202 E. Indiana St, here in Rapid City from **8 a.m. to noon on February 12th**. If you'd like to participate, please let me know by contacting me through the information below, or find the Facebook page **@sopreflectors**



Michele

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

School of Mines



We will continue to collect food for the **School of Mines** food pantry till May. If you are able please bring “college” type food items and place in the bin in the Parlor.

Items include:

Granola Bars
Microwaveable Mac N’ Cheese
Microwaveable Soup
Crackers
Fruit Cups
Ramen
Fruit Snacks
Goldfish

THANK YOU!!!

Join us for the 2022 Men's Retreat at Storm Mountain Center!!



Join us as we seek to grow as men of God!

We will use "Play the Man" from Mark Batterson as our means to understand and lean into "becoming the man that God created you to be." During the retreat we will watch and discuss four DVD sessions as well as taking time to worship, to fellowship with one another, to relax and refresh, and to recreate in God's beautiful creation.

Dates: February 18-19, 2022

Times: Friday@6 pm to Saturday@4 pm

Lodging: Gist Lodge (*pictured at right*)

Cost: \$75 (*this includes 3 meals and a participants book*)

What you need: Sleeping bag/pillow, change of clothes, toiletries, overnight clothes, Bible, water bottle, and possibly hiking clothes.

Register at our Dakotas Camping Website!!

<https://www.dakotasumc.org/camping/calendar/2022-623-smc-mens-retreat?recur=2085>



If you have any questions, please contact one of the camp deans!!

- Pastor John Britt — pastorjohnbritt@gmail.com or 605-787-4858
- Pastor Scott McKirdy — scottmckirdy@spearfishumc.org or 605-642-3457
- Pastor Barry Whipkey — pastorbarry55@gmail.com or 605-342-4498



3rd Sunday Offering in February

Camp Scholarships

Inviting campers and guests to experience Christ, creation and community through camp and retreat ministries.

Our 3rd Sunday offering is for our campership program.

Every year we raise money to go towards the registration of our campers. Our church pays for 50% of registration for campers who signed up thru the church. If you are interested in helping out this amazing program, please specify with your giving on Feb. 20th.

If you want to sign up your camper check out the information below. Call or email admin@rapidcityfirst.org to get our church code for 50% off your registration. Summer 2022 is just around the corner, and we can't wait to see you again! Camp and events for 2022 will be listed here. [Camps and Events](#) | [Dakotas UMC Camping](#)

Please see our [FAQ section](#) for answers to common registration questions. If you need further assistance, contact the camping office at info@dakcamps.org, or give us a call toll-free at 855-622-1973.

See you soon at camp!



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

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

Feb. 4th at 1:30pm

Birthday Party for February Birthdays

Valentine's for shut-ins

Sign up in the Parlor

Feb. 25th at 12:00pm

Potluck in the Parlor

Sign up in the Parlor. Please indicate what you will be bringing when you sign up.

FINANCIAL NEWS

There are some new ways to support the ministries here at First Church! We want to thank you for your patience and love as First Church transfers to a new giving platform. We are excited to see how this new platform, Subsplash, saves the church money and makes communication easier.

Give Online

Link to give online: <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/TB2RPR>

Text to Give

RCFIRSTGIVE to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483) in order to receive a reply with the link to your give

Scan the QR code

Using your phone's QR app or hover over using your phone's camera (scan here, 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

Monthly Contribution Update:

December 2020	December 2021	December 2021
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
\$56,625.87	\$59,962.06	\$37,539.00

- December Contributions were above last year but above budget. Ending the year on a strong note. Thank you!!
- The church paid a full 8% of revenues in apportionments.
- This church gave **\$12,326** to 3rd & 5th Sunday Mission Offerings in 2021.
- We will no longer have numbered giving envelopes. Our financial system no longer requires numbers but rather uses last names.

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

Destri Fagerland
Business Administrator

Please read if you give online

I have been asked quite a bit about the fees associated with online giving. And I wanted to make sure everyone understood and was in the know about them. Because we are not a financial institution, we have to go thru a third-party business for online giving. We have been paying fees for over a decade with Vanco. We are so grateful to have found our new platform, Subsplash, who provides substantially lower fees. Recurring giving/online giving is an important and vital part of our budget. It allows us to budget, as we continue our ministries at First month to month. If you ever have questions about our budget or online giving give me a call any time!

UMW NEWS

Many thanks to all who helped with Busy Bags in the past. We're ready to put the bags out once again for the children to enjoy and are looking for volunteers to help prepare the bags each week. If you're interested in learning how you can become a Busy Bag helper, please call Sharon Hansen at 605-342-2320 or email shar3526@msn.com.

2022 Yearbooks

Copies of the 2022 UMW Yearbook (membership book) will be available in February. If you would like a copy of the yearbook, please call Sharon Hansen at 605-342-2320 or email shar3526@msn.com.

UMW Help-wanted Listings

There are openings on the UMW Leadership Team:

President, or Co-president

Program Chairperson (Vice President) (Helps plan the four general meetings each year.)

Social Action Mission Coordinator

Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator

Secretary of Program Resources

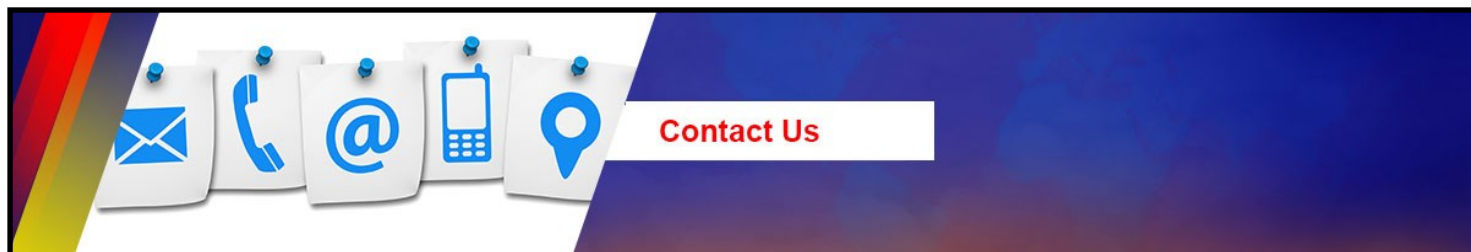
Any leader of a UMW group or committee is also part of the Leadership Team meetings. Each position has some traditional duties, but the need is mostly to have a bigger group of people discussing and making decisions for Rapid City First UMW.



Mission Recognition Award for 2021

A pin and certificate were presented to church custodian, Rick Gilson, at the church staff meeting Monday, January 10, 2022. Rick is appreciated for his never failing help for every UMW event. The whole church family recognizes his dedication to his quality work taking care of our church home. A donation in Rick's honor was made to UMW Mission Giving. Thank you Rick!





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

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 to get on the list.

Donations Needed

Rapid Ride Bus tickets
Travel size shampoos & conditioners
Laundry detergent (powder or pods)
Sanitizer
Deodorant
Toilet Paper
Blankets
Postage Stamps
Devotional Books



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

- Make sure you save only Family Fare UPCs. The bar-code 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 January. We will hopefully be able to serve again in the future.

Church Response

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

Reflections

Lawlessness. Destruction. Confusion. Many of God's precious created ones pawing over the world's debris to find...? To find...uh, well...oh, just keep digging. What is all that? It's what sprouted in the Garden. "Adam! Guess what I found out!" Adam fell for it, and we've yet to see the end of it. Lord, have mercy.

Bless the Lord, His mercy awaits all who will receive Him. He's never taken by surprise. And no matter how hard the turncoat angel tries to destroy what he touches, he'll not get the best of our Lord. Believers are determined to follow Lord Jesus, no matter the cost. Others—just as determined—pursue their worldly gods and often have little patience with beliefs that don't match theirs. Does that mean we should politely keep our faith to ourselves such that no one knows that we serve the Lord? No. We go as the Lord leads.

Some in the forget-about-God camp may be well-mannered, well-educated, and pleasant over coffee. Some inflict physical harm upon those whom they revile as lesser lights. Some fall somewhere in between. In any case, we are called to love them. Love them? No way around it. In Matthew 9:36b-38, Jesus noted the crowds were "...like sheep without a shepherd... The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Jesus leads. We follow. We pray. Lord, open the eyes of the people's understanding. Send harvest workers to whom they will listen.

"Okay," someone may say, "I'll pray, but I don't want to be a harvest worker." Oh? Someday, we might be surprised to discover we actually did help someone recognize their need to come to Christ in repentance and receive God's wonderful gifts of forgiveness and salvation. Paul explained (1 Corinthians 3:6, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." Interesting sort of partnership, isn't it?

One of my older brothers was a gifted fellow who worked hard, was well-read and devoted to his children. And, he loved Christmas. However, if he acknowledged God's existence at all, it was to give the reasons he despised and resented Him. Be around him for long, and conversation could soon turn to, you guessed it, God. Remember Mark 13:11? Jesus told His disciples: "...when you are...brought to trial, do not worry ...about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking but the Holy Spirit." Not all trials are in courtrooms. Some occur in conversations. Living in separate states limited our visits, but each would always include at least one civil, but lengthy, debate on The Main Topic.

Years passed. A terminal illness came along. He was not expected to live to Thanksgiving. But he did. Not expected to make Christmas. He did. January 1? Could go anytime. Didn't. Arguments about God faded. Phone visits saw none. February passed. Phone call early March: "How's it today?" "I'm trying to mend my bridges with God." "You know how, so I'll get out of the way. You two get it together." Next day? Gone. Home. Many had prayed for him over the years. He'd read the Bible through. The Word accomplishes that for which the Author sends it. (See Isaiah 55:11) Harvest workers? All told, I'd guess quite a few. When we get Home, we can ask. Meantime, God bless and keep each of you. We're in this thing together, right?

Love and Prayers,
Kathy Moose



Open our hearts,
O Lord,
to listen to the
words of your Son.