



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 2017

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Just Joshin'

"The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn--not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

John 1:4-5, 10-14

The Gospel of John doesn't really have Jesus' birth story like the rest of the gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke). Instead, John points to Jesus being both God and human. Jesus was a part of the creation of the world, and then came down into his creation. John portrays the beginning of Jesus' life ministry in a different way. Some say he gets right down to business.

Verses 5 and 10 of this chapter have always intrigued me. We go from verse 5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it," to verse 10 which says, "He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him." Isn't that interesting that the creator and the light wasn't recognized?

Do people enjoy being in the dark? Do they realize they're in the dark? The second question here may be the better one to start with. Maybe some people don't know. Maybe some people know of, but have never experienced the saving grace of God through Jesus. And yet, even those who may be searching for something new and different didn't recognize the light shining into the darkness.

I'm reminded of the walks I used to take with my Grandpa Pegram. He was a walking machine later in his life. He'd let us grandkids come along sometime, as long as we could keep up (we weren't yet 10 years old). It would be dark when we'd walk down his road and he'd have a flashlight. I was always wondering what was around in the dark spaces where I couldn't see. Grandpa would tell us to keep following the flashlight and moving forward (later on, I realized this was his way of keeping us focused and moving forward so he didn't have to stop and could keep his heart rate up).

With grandpa and his flashlight, I wasn't scared about the dark or what was there. I was with someone who knew the way, and what awaited us in the dark spaces (the neighbors' yards) if we ventured away from his flashlight. He kept us moving forward and brought us home safely.

Too many believe they can figure it out on their own. Sometimes, even those who've followed the light of Christ think they can handle it from here and venture off on their own. When this

Happens though, we miss out. We miss out on God's unfailing love and faithfulness. We miss out on God's guidance and strength. We miss out on knowing we're not in this world alone.

As we move well into the second half of 2017, do we need to refocus on the light in this dark world? Do we need to invite somebody in our lives who may be struggling into this light and show them God's unfailing love and faithfulness? As we continue through this year, let us remember the grace and love we have received from God, and the grace and love that is to come. Thanks be to God for sending his son so we, too, might know the blessing of the light.

Pastor Josh



Bethesda Thrift Shop:

September is clearance time and bringing in our fall/winter clothing. Our BAG SALE (all the clothing, shoes, and purses that fit into a grocery bag all for one low price) will continue through September 9. This is a great time to get a lot of clothing for very little money. On September 11, the store will be completely restocked with fall and winter clothing. We are changing over to bar code pricing and new cash registers. Please be patient with us. NEW furniture, mattresses, socks and winter accessories are also available. Thanks for your continued support.

You may have read that the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club are purchasing the Rapids Mall. That is not a rumor. All the stores will have to vacate the mall by the end of this year including the Bethesda Thrift Shop. Our corporate office is actively seeking a new place to relocate our store. Our intention is to get a larger area in the city and we will remain open in Wisconsin Rapids!

My first memory of the Wisconsin Rapids UMC was when Katie and I were trying to figure out where the front entrance might be. Later we learned that what we thought was a service entrance was the front entrance.

Another of my not-so-favorite comments about the front entrance came from a man who does business with the Lutheran Church across the street. He made the comment that he didn't realize the building was still in use. This comment stemmed from simply observing our front drive and front entrance.

As I was writing this note, a service man arrived trying to figure out which entrance to come in. Unfortunately, this happens too often. When people (funeral planning visits, mostly) come to meet with me, finding the front entrance has been confusing.

It's time for a new front entrance. A space where people will know this is the front. A space where people will feel comfortable entering. A space where people won't look at it and think this is an abandoned building. Also, we need a front entrance where people can easily get in and out of and not have to worry about tripping over the broken concrete.

We've had 9 people step forward to generously donate the monies needed for a new front entrance. Many may have already noticed the new fence around the electric junction box. The rest of the front entrance will be scheduled to be redone sometime mid-July to mid-August.

The second part of this project is something that had been discussed before I arrived, and that is the front drive. The trustees will be discussing bids and designs for the front drive. They will report to the congregation what they have decided when plans are finalized.

By completing both the front entrance and the front drive, we hope to present an attractive and welcoming space for those stopping by the church. We hope to have a space where folks can enter the building safely (no cracks, rough ground to traverse), where there can be a couple handicap spots close to the office door, and where there can be extra parking for midweek events.

To jumpstart this project, we've been given an anonymous matching gift of up to \$10,000. Every dollar we contribute up to \$10,000 will be matched by this generous gift. Leading up to the Trustees decision, would you prayerfully consider giving to this project that will help Wisconsin Rapids UMC update its front drive in order to be more welcoming and helpful to our guests and members?

Blessings,

Pastor Josh

United Methodist Women



The summer is winding down and the fall program is gearing up to be a busy and exciting time for us!

September 10th begins our fall program with our regular meeting. Our guest speaker will be from the United Way. Please join us for our regular meeting and learn more about our local United Way.

Keep the date open! September 16th will be our fall North Central District Annual Gathering at Black River Falls. If you haven't been to a Fall Gathering please consider attending. It is always interesting, educational and meeting other women of faith is inspiring.

September 24th is UMW Sunday. Please let Shirley or myself know if you are willing to be a part of the service. All are welcome and appreciated.

Looking forward, October 19-20 will be the UMW Annual Conference which will be held at Waukesha First. Consider joining women from all over the state for this inspiring meeting.

November 12th is our regularly scheduled meeting with World Thank Offering. Like we have seen with our noisy coin collection, saving a little often adds up to a lot of money to support a worthy cause.
Cindy Tyjeski



MEN'S GROUP



Meet
for
Breakfast

All men are invited
Sept 6, 2017 at 8:00
am

The St. Lawrence Council of Catholic Women
Will be holding their 14th
Annual Harvest Buffet on
Wednesday, September
27, 2017 from 11:00 am-
1:00 pm at the St.
Lawrence Church Hall -
530 10th Ave. No, Wis.
Rapids



Cost is \$9.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Children
ages 4-9

The menu this year will be Hot Dishes,
Vegetables, Pasta Salads, Fruit Salads, Desserts
and Beverages. Carry Outs are available!

**River Cities Clubhouse would like to send out
a great big Thank You to the United Methodist
Church For Everything that we do for them!**
(Jeffrey, Andy, Kristin, Matthew, Andrew,
Wynitta, Tony, Josh, Jim, Regina and Ryan)

To Our United Methodist Family
Thank you so much for your support of
Destiny Point. WOW! What a year it has been-
and its not even half over. The new facility is
coming along great and new students are
applying. Can't wait until we can have room
for all of them. We so appreciate your
generosity and making this program available
to all these ladies. Lives are being changed
because of you.
God Bless, Julie and Staff

Dear Pastor Josh and Congregation
We Thank You for opening your doors to us
for our Bible Study on the 1st and 3rd
Wednesday of each month. We have chosen
to go to an assisted living center where a
couple of our women live. It is easier for them
if we go there. We pray that God will bless
you abundantly and the church family. Thank
you again for being so kind to us!
Lois, Gloria, Linda, Elizabeth and Tina

Mark Your Calendars!
Bell Practice is Starting Again
On September 5, 2017 at 5:00 pm



Noisy Collection

**Sunday, September 10,
2017**

for Jennifer and Northcott
House

SWEPS

A big “thank you” to the following people who worked at the food pantry the week of August 14th: Ellen & Rick Cook, Helen Dillingham, Kathy Duerkop, Cindy Erickson, Judy Gitchel, Tami Drew-Huiras, Riley Huiras, Carol & Bob Liska, Judy Seegert, Audrey Wittenberg and Marcia Wright. God Bless all of you for volunteering to meet this important need in our community.



**SWEPS
September 17,
2017 is food
collection Sunday**

“Teach me, O LORD ... give me understanding ...” (Psalm 119:33-34).
With a new school year underway, may we grow not only in knowledge and skills but in faith toward God and love for others.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

September

2 - Bill Anderson
3 - Brent Fletcher
5 - Garold Lampman
6 - Fay Whitley
7 - Carol Metzger
7 - Joan Benner
7 - Jamie Wright
9 - Shirley Klapperich
10 - Rhonda Wittenberg
10 - Anton Rosenthal
11 - David Goetsch
13 - Judy Gitchel
13 - Judy Skinner
13 - Danielle Ironside
13 - Tyler Cowan
14 - Keith Hansen
14 - Monty Reinicke
17 - Levi Graf
18 - Katie Clark
19 - Dylan Bloyd
19 - Morgan Bloyd
20 - Eric Henke
21 - Carol Liska
21 - Ashley O'Keefe
21 - Carl Rosenthal
28 - Karlene Dillingham
29 - Mike Swanson
29 - Taisa Staven

*Happy
Anniversary*

17 - Hubert & Betty Johnson
26 - Richard & Kathryn Ritter
30 - Don & Sandy Saeger
30 - Ed & Jamie Barker

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary or have it listed on the wrong date, please let us know so we can make the necessary corrections to our records.

Prayer Calendar August

- 1—Tom & Sara Tyne
- 2—Frances Waite
- 3—Don & Fay Whitley
- 4—Scott & Deb Whitney
- 5—Bruce, Jenny, Jaylee, Kaylee, Tristan & Alexandria Williams
- 6—Janet Winn
- 7—Audrey Wittenberg
- 8—Mark, Rhonda & David Wittenberg
- 9—Bob & Marcia Wright
- 10—Jamie Wright
- 11—Bill & Pauline Anderson
- 12—Steven & Susan Andrews
- 13—Elizabeth Anhalt
- 14—Jeff & Cathy Anhalt
- 15—Paula Baeurle
- 16—Wendy Baierl
- 17—Ed & Jamie Barker
- 18—Cassandra Bartram & Wyatt Coates
- 19—Dan, Tina, Justin, Bradley & Jennifer Bartram
- 20—Joan Benner
- 21—Wayne & Wendy Boettcher
- 22—Harvey & Carol Calverley
- 23—Robert & Sandra Calverley
- 24—Scott & Evan Calverley
- 25—William & Shirley Carpenter
- 26—Albert & Janet Ciardelli
- 27—Katie Clark
- 28—Bill Clendenning
- 29—Kathy Cole
- 30—Rick & Ellen Cook

Have a prayer request? Call the prayer chain:

Daytime: (9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.)

Lynn Swanson — **715-423-4407**

Evenings: (6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)

Kathy Duerkop — **715-421-3396**



For encouragement,
call the prayer phone:
715-423-1323

Prayer Coordinator

Psalm 46:1

*God is our refuge and our strength, a
very present help in trouble.*

What is your refuge in times of trouble?
Do you automatically call on the Lord
and ask for his help and guidance? Or
do you panic and desperately try to
figure out what you can do by yourself?
You know this is the time to call on the
Lord, but we do not always remember
this and we also know it is the only way
to calm down so we can address
whatever the problem is.

Close your eyes, take a deep breath and
focus on God. Quietly relax and talk to
him. Tell the Lord your problems and
then listen for an answer. I don't mean
he will speak with a loud voice, but if
your mind is focused on him, he will
bring that peace that passes
understanding. Surrender yourself and
your fears to God. He does hear and he
loves you so much. He will be with you
as you deal with all that is in your life.
God truly is our refuge and our strength
if we just call on him.

*Let us Pray: Lord Jesus, we do surrender
ourselves and our fears and troubles to
you. May your will be done in our lives.
Thank you Lord! We pray in Jesus Name,
AMEN*



September 4--Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

September 5

10:00 am - Bible Study

6:00 pm - Bible Study

September 6

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast

9:00 am - CLF Bible Study

10:30 am - Disciplines

September 10

10:30 am - UMW Meeting

September 11

5:00 pm - Trustees

September 12

10:00 am - Bible Study

6:00 pm - Bible Study

September 13

10:30 am - Disciplines

5:00 pm - Choir Practice

September 18

6:00 pm - Finance

6:30 pm - Council

September 19

10:00 am - Bible Study

3:00 - 4:15 UW Extension

6:00 pm - Bible Study

September 20

10:30 am - Disciplines

5:00 pm Choir Practice

September 21

10:00 am - SWEPS Volunteers Meeting

September 24

UMW Sunday

September 26

10:00 am - Bible Study

6:00 pm - Bible Study

September 27

10:00 am - 5:00 pm - Mobil Food Pantry

10:30 am - Disciplines

5:00 pm - Choir Practice

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays.

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

E-mail Addresses

Church Office: umc@wctc.net

Pastor Joshua: Joshua.peggram3@gmail.com

Church Office Phone

715-423-8860

Pastor Joshua's Phone No.

Cell: 920-896-3976

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. — UMC Worship Service

10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship

The Neighborhood Table

The last two Tuesdays of the month: 4:30 p.m.
Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous

Meets each day of the week as follows:

Monday 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Nar-Anon

Every Thursday: 6:30 p.m.

Wisdom Seekers

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

Gamblers Anonymous

Every Thursday: 7:00 p.m.