



# THE MESSENGER

February 2019 · Vol. 19, Issue 1

## THE PASTOR SHARES

“In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be. Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see,” writes Natalie Sleethe, the author of “Hymn of Promise”. While the snow and cold are a present reality, our church is busy preparing for the spring that waits to be as new ministries are rolled out.

God is using us to reach out to young people and families with our present ministries, but our outreach will be enhanced with the addition of a new **Pizza/Bread Oven Ministry** that will be used to connect with our community. Marilyn Berry already has people approaching her and asking if they can be a part of the project! This fun and exciting endeavor has led many congregations in the Minnesota Annual Conference to make better and deeper connections with their community. I’m hoping we can use the pizza/bread oven to do a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels or the Hubbard County Food Shelf, and serve fresh baked bread along with a fish fry and call it “Loaves & Fishes!”

A second ministry we are launching is “**A Morning Out,**” a new program to offer a short respite for care-givers. One of the most challenging times in life is when circumstances make you a caregiver and you seldom get a break. The program runs from 9:30-11:30AM on Monday mornings at Riverside. If you’d like more information, you can talk to Pastor Lori.

In response to the needs of the Hubbard County Jail, we are collecting clothing and toiletries to benefit those being released from jail or those who need to leave for various appointments or work.

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When we learned the Jail Coordinator was purchasing needed supplies with her own money, we knew we could help! Marilyn Berry is coordinating this ministry. We recently delivered toiletries and clothing to the Hubbard County Jail.

Prayerfully consider how and where God is leading you in the cold of winter!

In Christ's love - *Pastor Chip*

## NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES



The Trustees have been busy taking care of our building and grounds. In the winter months, a big part of their job is making sure the parking lot is plowed and sanded and with our recent weather, this has been a challenge! The carpets have been cleaned in the entryway, lounge, fellowship hall, youth room, the hallway by the classrooms and the sanctuary. This is the very first time the carpets have been cleaned in some of these areas.

The next project the Trustees would like to tackle is converting our lighting to LED lights. This will be a major expense, but we will reap major savings for years to come. A priority is the parking lot lights which come on at sunset and stay on until sunrise.

**We have some big needs for our building and grounds coming up in the near future.** We know we will need to replace one or more furnaces soon as they are reaching the end of their expected life spans. The parking lot will need to be repaved and our roof will need attention (we have shingles blowing off the roof on windy days). This means we need to be investing in our building. Donations to help replenish our Building Improvement Fund would be most appreciated. Be sure you mark your donation "**Building Improvement Fund**" so we can get your donations to their intended purpose.

Trustees, we thank you for all you do to take care of our building and grounds!

## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

**Hospitality:** We need your help with our 9:30AM hospitality hour Sunday mornings. This is enjoyed and appreciated so much by those who come to worship. If you can bring cookies or other snacks or help with cleanup, please contact Mary Jo Zweerink, Sandy Drury or Pastor Lori.

**Wednesday Meals for Youth Group:** We are so blessed to have active youth groups in our church! Their Wednesday evening meals are important times of building relationships among one another and their leader. Our ministry teams have stepped up to the plate to help provide these meals. Now, we are hoping you can help provide a meal on a Wednesday evening for the youth. There are usually 10-15 Middle Schoolers or High Schoolers, plus 2 adult leaders and whoever is working in the kitchen. If this is too much for one person or family to handle, you are welcome to find a friend and share the cost and the work!



*But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. - Galatians 3:25-29 NSRV*



## **A Way Forward and the Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church**

A special session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of this meeting is to deal with the issue of same-sex marriage. Currently, our Discipline does not allow clergy to officiate at same-sex weddings, nor can churches host same-sex weddings.

There are three proposals coming before the General Conference:

The **One Church Plan** would allow each church to make the decision about whether they want to host same-sex marriages. Each clergy person would also be allowed to make his/her decision about officiating at same-sex marriages. The decisions made by churches and their pastors are independent of one another in this proposal. The language on homosexuality is removed from the *Book of Discipline* and is not replaced by other statements. This plan is recommended by the Council of Bishops because it allows diversity among pastors and churches.

The **Connectional Conference Plan** creates three connecting conferences under one umbrella of the United Methodist Church. Each conference would have its own perspective on same-sex marriage. The Traditional Conference would be made up of those churches and pastors who will not officiate or host same-sex marriages. The Unifying Conference would be made up of those pastors and churches who are willing to host and officiate at same-sex marriages. The Progressive Plan would include those churches and pastors who fully affirm married gay Christians.

The **Traditional Plan** continues to uphold the current position of not allowing clergy or churches to officiate at or host same-sex marriages, and tightens the language around these prohibitions.

Each one of these proposals hold consequences for the United Methodist Church. Regardless of which decision is made, there are people who will feel angry and hurt. This is such an important decision; please keep our General Conference delegates in prayer.

Once we know the decision of the Special Session, we will have follow-up conversations at Riverside. Those groups will most likely be scheduled for March and April, so watch your worship bulletins and March newsletter for more information.

### **DETAILED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON-LINE**

More information on the proposed plans and resources can be found online at the Minnesota Annual Conference website: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/wayforward>. You may also follow along as this event will be live-streamed during the Special Session. Log on at <http://www.umc.org/gc2019>.



## February Schedule

- 4 Executive Board, 9AM  
20 Circles meet

## BOOK NEWS

By: Gail Gruis



*One Well: The Story of Water on Earth*, by Rochelle Strauss

"One Well" is a richly illustrated and timely book about our water and its sources. Its call to action shows how every one of us has the power to conserve and protect the global well.

## MISSION WITNESS



Donna Baker, Global Missionary from Delaware serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo writes, "When we announced to the Medical Center staff that the solar power installation would begin soon, they literally danced with joy! Light brings hope. God said, 'Let there be light!' Everyone in Congo knows that God through God's people provided this light."

## SUPPORTING PARK RAPIDS AREA SCHOOLS "HELPING HANDS"

Friendship Circle is collecting supplies for the area schools through "Helping Hands." If you can help, shopping lists are available on the "fireplace" across from the office. Requested items must be returned to Riverside by February 20th and include: snow pants sizes 4-10; snow boots sizes 1-6; toiletries and personal care items such as combs/brushes; deodorant (men & women); toothbrush and toothpaste; floss; soap; shampoo and conditioner. No sample sizes please.



## DISCARD? DONATE? FINDING JOY IN LETTING GO

RUMW's Spring Rummage Sale will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. As you sort through your home (seeking "joy," of course!) and find items you no longer want or need, ask yourself, "Should this item be donated or discarded?" Not everything we want to get rid of makes a suitable rummage sale item. Please discard broken, dirty, torn items - donate those that will bring JOY to others!

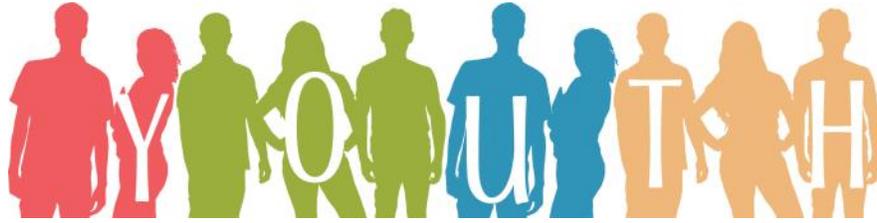
## Become Part of UMW

All women are invited to become part of the United Methodist Women. Join a Circle (meet the third Wednesday of each month), focus group, or be part of activities of the United Methodist Women as a whole. Men are also invited to special study programs. Call the church office (732-5205) for more information.

### Active Circle Groups:

Current Issues, Friendship Circle, Charity Circle

For more information on the United Methodist Women visit: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)



## EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS

### Education and Youth Programming at Riverside.

- **Wednesday Morning Release Time** - Children in elementary and middle school. Sign up through Century Elementary School Office (237-6200), or Middle School Office (237-6300)
- **Sunday School** - Sunday mornings from 9:45AM - 10:15AM, pre-school thru 5th grade.
- **Wednesday Evening Youth Group (6-7:30PM)** - Great fellowship time with Bible study, games and food! Dinner served 6PM. Sign up outside the youth room to serve a meal to the kids!
  - » **High School meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays**
  - » **Middle School meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays**

### GREAT ADVENTURES AWAIT AT CAMP!

The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church offers great camping opportunities for all ages. The 2019 brochures listing upcoming camps are available at the information kiosk outside the office, and online at [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org). Pick up a brochure and find your summer adventure! Camperships are available - talk to Pastor Chip for more information.



### FISHING CAMPS WITH PASTOR CHIP



If you like to fish, Pastor Chip Nielsen leads two popular camps offering faith, friendship and good fishing! Both camps fill up quickly, so if you'd like more information talk to Pastor Chip, pick up a camp brochure at the kiosk, or go online to [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org).

#### **May 13-16 Lake of the Woods Fishing Camp (12<sup>th</sup> Year)**

**Leaders:** Pastor Chip & Jim Van Duyn

This is an adult camp. Participants travel up to beautiful Lake of the Woods for three nights and four days at the premier Border View Lodge. The lodging in the Grand Lodge is very nice and comfortable, and the fishing has been excellent over the years.

#### **August 5-11 Canadian Fishing Camp II Lac Seul, Ontario (23<sup>rd</sup> Year)**

**Leaders:** Pastor Chip & Pastor Matt Sipe

This is an adult camp (youth older than 13 are welcome when accompanied by an adult). Lac Seul is a premier Canadian Fishing Destination. Mahkwa Lodge is a well-established destination that has been reputed for outstanding fishing. Our group functions as a fishing team making sure everyone is having fun and catching fish. Participants can bring their own boats, or fish with someone else.



## MONTHLY BOOK CLUB AND BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

**THE RIVERSIDE READERS** will meet on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 2PM to discuss the book, *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann. This book is available in the church office!

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY, 8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** Study meets year-round. New members always welcome.



### FROM THE HEALTH AND WHOLENESS MINISTRY TEAM...

#### *Do You Know Your Numbers?*

February is "Heart Awareness" month. Know your numbers: blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and body mass index (BMI). Prevention is the key to changing the outcome. Improve your heart health with tips from [#goredgetfit](#).

On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> you are encouraged to wear RED to highlight heart awareness. You can also wear red again on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> for photos during fellowship time.

#### **Blood Pressure Screenings Now Available**

Blood pressure screenings will be available the third Sunday of each month between services in Room 1 beginning Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> between worship services. Make sure your blood pressure is at a healthy level!

#### **CAN YOU HELP?**

We are missing the racks to the refrigerator in the lounge - they were removed so the vases of roses for All Saints' Sunday could be refrigerated, and they have since disappeared. Staff has searched the building and we cannot find the racks. If you can help us, please let us know!

#### **SUNDAY BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE**

Bus service is available Sunday mornings to the 10:30AM worship service. Riverside UMC has partnered with the Developmental Achievement Center (DAC) to use of their bus and drivers Sunday mornings to and from Riverside. Regular stops are Heritage Living Center and Summerfield apartments - more stops will be added to the route as ridership needs are determined. Additionally, if you live in the city limits and would like to be added to the route or need an occasional ride, call the office (218-732-5205) by 2PM Thursdays. A route schedule is available in the kiosk outside the office.



#### **GOT LOVE?**

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love? - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*  
(Reprinted from NewsletterNewsletter.com)

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Pray for those who are ill or recovering:** Don & Janis Eckhoff, Gannon Wilkins

**Prayers for those who are grieving:**

The family of Al Van Roekel. Al passed away December 24th.

**Prayers for our church & its ministries including:** Missions in Laos and safe travels for missionaries; McCurdy School in New Mexico; Ministries at Red Bird Mission; Rev.

Earl & June Harrison and the ministries in Jamaica; United Methodist Committee on Relief.

**Prayers for First Responders:** Prayers for SHIELD 616 recipient Officer Adam Williams, and local law enforcement officers and First Responders.

**The Intercessory Prayer Team and Prayer Chains are available to help support you.**

**Call the church office (732-5205) for more information, or if you are in need of pastoral support.**



## GREEN MINISTRY TEAM ENCOURAGES STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

### *What Can You Check Off Your List?*

In keeping with Biblical teachings about creation, and the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, the Green Ministry team encourages stewardship of our resources by adopting the following checklist, adapted from *“Green Church: Caretakers of God’s Creation,”* Abingdon Press.



I recycle: newspaper, office papers, glass, tin, plastics, aluminum & cardboard

I turn off the water when I brush my teeth

I turn off lights when I leave the room

I reuse paper bags and plastic containers

I shop with reusable tote bags

I use a refillable water bottle

I do not waste food

I do not use Styrofoam cups, plates or bowls

I take short showers

I use/will install a water-saving shower head

I carpool and combine errands to reduce trips

I treat animals with respect

## ON-LINE GIVING THROUGH VANCO



Online giving is available at Riverside through Vanco E-Giving. Tax deductible donations can be given through this secure site by using the QR code available at the left, in Sunday bulletins, or on the home page of Riverside’s website ([www.riversideumcchurch.com](http://www.riversideumcchurch.com)). You will need to download a QR app onto your device to read this code. There is a link on Riverside’s homepage (GIVE NOW) that links to the donation page for Riverside UMC. Set up regular donations or one-time gifts. Under “Online Giving” on Riverside’s homepage, click “FAQ” for a list of frequently asked questions. Call the office (218-732-5205) if you have questions or would like help navigating this process.

## SIGN UP FOR E-STATEMENTS!

Receive your quarterly statements from Riverside UMC through your email! If you have not signed up to receive your statement electronically but would like to, call the office at 218-732-5205, or email: [rumc@unitelc.com](mailto:rumc@unitelc.com).

## Enjoy *The Messenger* - your way!

Riverside's newsletter, *The Messenger*, is available in a format that fits your lifestyle. You may receive it on your e-mail, regular mail delivery or on our website at [www.riversideumcchurch.com](http://www.riversideumcchurch.com). **Articles must be submitted for publication by the 15th day of each month.** Space is limited, and we reserve the right to review for content and appropriateness.



### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

**Building Open: 8:00 AM**



## February Schedule

**14** Valentine's Day  
**18** President's Day



## CONTACT US:

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.riversideumcchurch.com](http://www.riversideumcchurch.com)

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### OFFICE HOURS

**Mon. -Thurs:** 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Building Open:** 8:00 AM

### Sunday Worship

8:30 AM Traditional Service

9:30 AM Education

10:30 AM Contemporary Service

*Fellowship follows each worship service*

### Minnesota Annual Conference:

[www.minnesotaumc.org](http://www.minnesotaumc.org)

### United Methodist Websites:

[www.rethinkchurch.org](http://www.rethinkchurch.org)

[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

*"Casting the net of Christ's love to all through Faith, Action and Compassion."*



**Riverside United Methodist Church**

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