



# The Messenger

**RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Where the Spirit runs deep...*

March 2019 · Vol. 19, Issue 2

## THE PASTOR SHARES

By the time you are reading this, the Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will have met in St. Louis, Missouri and made their decisions about same sex marriage and the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals in the United Methodist Church.

Chip and I will be attending an All Clergy Gathering in the Twin Cities on Monday, March 11th to learn in detail what was decided at the Special Session and how churches might best move forward following this decision.

We are going to move slowly and carefully through this process. We want to treat one another with grace and respect regardless of where any of you stand on this issue. We want to be sure everyone has full and complete information before we choose any course of action if we are given that option.

Please keep your pastors and the people of this church in your prayers as we navigate our way through these next few months. Watch Sunday bulletins and newsletters for more information about our next steps.

In Christ's love - *Pastor Lori*



### LENT BEGINS

#### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

March 6, 2019 - Calvary Lutheran Church, Highway 71, Park Rapids

Opportunities to worship: 4PM & 6PM. A meal will be served beginning at 5PM.

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**LENTEN SERMON SERIES AND STUDY**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6th. We will worship at Calvary Lutheran Church, Highway 71 in Park Rapids, along with Hubbard UMC and Trinity Episcopal Church.

This year, our Sunday morning Lenten sermon series and small group study will be based on the book, *Heaven on Earth: Realizing the Good Life Now*, by Chris Seidman and Joshua Graves. This book explores Jesus’ teachings known as the Beatitudes, the “Blessed be...” sayings. These often contradictory-sounding sayings of Jesus teach us about the good life God has in mind for us - not just after we die, but here and now.

You are invited to join us for worship and also to connect with a small group for further study and reflection! More information on small group opportunities will be available in Sunday bulletins.

**Lenten Sermon Series:**

- March 10th - “Heaven Happens”      Matthew 5:1-16
- March 17th - “For the Bankrupt”      Matthew 5:3
- March 24th - “Aching Visionaries”      Matthew 5:4
- March 31st - “Get Small”      Matthew 5:5
- April 7th - “Hearts Wide Open”      Matthew 5:7-8
- April 14th - “True Grit”      Matthew 5:9-12



*Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.*

- Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers



## JAIL OUTREACH MINISTRY

A big “thank you” to all who donated clothing and toiletries to help in our outreach to inmates at the Hubbard County Jail. These items will greatly help those who don’t have suitable clothing when released, or going for treatment or work.

At the present time, enough winter clothing has been received and delivered.

Still needed, however, are tennis shoes for both men and women and women’s socks. Shoes should be in good, wearable condition. We anticipate collecting appropriate clothing for the summer months in May and will let you know what is needed.

If you have shoes or socks to donate, please leave them on the table by the doors into the sanctuary.

Thanks also to Nathan Flann and Mike Boettcher for helping with this ministry. If anyone else is interested in helping, please let me know.

Marilyn Berry

Membership/Outreach Committee



## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

**Support Hubbard County Food Shelf:** During the month of March, Minnesota FoodShare highlights the needs of community food shelves. Support the Hubbard County Food Shelf with donations of non-perishable food items (look for the cart inside the front doors), empty your spare change in

the jar at the back of the Sanctuary, or make a monetary donation. Giving envelopes are available by the “spare change” jar, and at the kiosk outside the office.

**UMCOR Sunday:** In 2018, the world experienced a series of catastrophic disasters that included hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis, earthquakes, flooding, tornadoes and fires. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responded to every one of these, greatly stretching their resources. *You*, along with others around the world gave generously with donations for flood buckets, hygiene kits, and other much-needed supplies. UMCOR has always guaranteed that 100% of your donation goes to the relief project you designate; however on Sunday, March 31st, a special offering will be taken that will help fund their administrative costs of doing business. Please help UMCOR continue their relief work by donating to this fund.

### **Riverside Cleaning Kit & Hygiene Kit Update:**

This past November and December, Riverside members contributed \$2,187 to provide supplies for cleaning and hygiene kits. After contacting the UMCOR Distribution Center, it was learned the Center can purchase supplies for these kits at discounted prices, meaning Riverside’s contribution of \$2,187 would become \$18,983! Therefore, a check was forwarded to UMCOR that can provide supplies for nearly 1600 hygiene kits or 253 cleaning kits. Thank you for your generous response!



## March Schedule

- 1 World Day of Prayer
- 4 Executive Board, 9AM
- 20 Circles meet
- 25 Bingo at Heritage (Current Issues)
- 27 Serve MYF Meal (Charity Circle)

## BOOK NEWS

By: Gail Gruis



***Adventure of Ascent: Field Notes from a Lifelong Journey***, by Luci Shaw

For most of us, growing older is a reality we try to put off. Then we realize, shockingly and with a little panic, that it happens anyway. We look around to see how others on the path just ahead are dealing with it. Luci Shaw in her 80's using essays and poetry records her experiences with joy, sorrow, love and honesty. This book can help you on your own journey no matter what your age. This book is found with the UMW books in the Fellowship Hall.

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

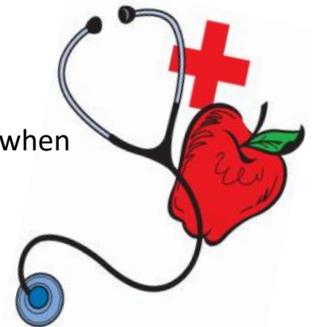
### Blood Pressure - *What Do the Numbers Mean?*

**Top Number:** Systolic Blood Pressure - measures the pressure in your blood vessels when your heart beats.

**Bottom Number:** Diastolic Blood Pressure - measures the pressure in your blood vessels when your heart rests between beats.

**Normal Range:** Less than 120/80 ([www.health.harvard.edu](http://www.health.harvard.edu))

Blood pressure screenings are available the third Sunday of each month between services in Room 1 of the Education wing. Questions or concerns about your blood pressure should be directed to your physician.



## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE:

### DISCARD? DONATE? FIND JOY IN LETTING GO

RUMW's Spring Rummage Sale is May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are sorting through your home this spring and find items you no longer want or need, ask yourself, "Should this item be donated or discarded?" Not everything is a suitable rummage sale item. Please discard broken, dirty and torn items - donate those that will bring JOY to others! Watch for more information.



## 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)



## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

This year, we are trying a new format for teaching Confirmation. Instead of weekly classes, we are holding a retreat for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Northern Pines Camp. The retreat will begin on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and finish on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Students will be confirmed this spring!

## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Each year the Trust Fund makes monies available to Riverside students for educational grants. Administered by the Education Committee, these scholarships are available to students graduating from High School and pursuing higher education at a university or technical college, or students currently enrolled in a university or technical college. Applications and requirements are available in the office. **All applications must be returned to the Education Committee by April 30, 2019.**

## 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 - SPACE IS LIMITED!



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). *Space is limited, and these camps are filling up quickly!*

### 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, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2PM to discuss the book, *Pomme de Terre: A Novel of the Minnesota Uprising*, by Candace Simar. 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.

## GREEN TEAM - CARING FOR CREATION

**What the Bible Says:** "To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life." Revelation 21:6

**What the United Methodist Church says:** "We believe water is a sacred gift from God. We further believe water is a basic human right and not a commodity to be traded for profit. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #1033, *Caring for Creation: Our Call to Stewardship and Justice*)

**Fact:** You can save money and protect creation using a reusable water bottle rather than one of the 200 billion disposable plastic bottles used each year.

**Take action for justice:** Fill a plastic water bottle ¼ of the way full with oil – this is how much oil is required to make the typical bottle of water (think materials and energy required). The numbers are staggering – adding up the plastic used, the energy required to collect and clean the water, and the fuel it takes to ship the bottles to stores, equates to millions of barrels of oil each year. Kick the bottled water habit, install a water filter on your faucet and purchase a BPA Free or stainless steel reusable water bottle.



## PARK RAPIDS LAKES AREA FISHING EXPO - *Free Admission!*

**RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Friday, April 12, 2019 - 6PM - 9PM**

If you enjoy fishing, join us at this educational and fun event! Meet regional guides including Jason Durham, Bryan "Bro" Brosdahl and Jason Freed! Learn new techniques and get answers to your most perplexing fishing questions! Learn about the latest equipment and how to protect our fishing resources.

Featured guest speaker is Chip Leer, a 2019 *Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame* inductee. He is the stage and TV host for the Cabela's National Walleye Tour, a fishing guide, outdoors communicator, product promoter and developer.

The Expo Team includes representatives from the MN Department of Natural Resources, Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes Associations (HC COLA), Riverside United Methodist Church, and Hubbard County Environmental Services.



GUEST SPEAKER CHIP LEER

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

**Prayers for those who are grieving:**

Family of Joan Synovec. Joan passed away December 30th in the State of Washington.

**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.**



## “What Do I Have?”

By: Thomas Butler

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

**Eyes**, he said, to see the beauty in all that I’ve made - and my children as they travel life’s highway.

**Hands**, he said, to reach out and touch hurting souls, to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

**Feet**, he said, to lead my children through this world of strife and to help them run from sin and follow me.

**Mouth**, he said, to lift up your voice and sing praises to me so others may hear the joy in your heart.

**Ears**, he said, to listen to my still, small voice of love and to hear my children when they cry for help.

**Heart**, he said, so you may know the full love of my Spirit and love my children as I have loved you.

*(Reprinted from NewsletterNewsletter.com)*

## 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.



## 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**

## CONTACT US:

### Riverside UMC

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e-mail: [rumc@unitelc.com](mailto:rumc@unitelc.com)

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)



## March Schedule

- 1** World Day of Prayer
- 6** Ash Wednesday - Service at 4P & 6P, Calvary Church
- 10** First Sunday Lent / Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17** St. Patrick's Day
- 29-30** Confirmation Retreat at Northern Pines Camp

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



Riverside United Methodist Church

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## Sunday, March 10th



SET YOUR CLOCKS

**Ahead!**