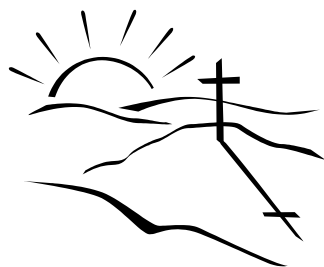




# Methodist Messages

*Newsletter ~ April 2011*



*From Believers  
to Disciples*

## STAFF

Senior Pastor:	Mark B. Miller
Associate Pastor:	Bill Reinhart
Secretary:	Becki Mizell
Administrator:	Cathi Weber
Youth:	Cullen & Jenni Tanner
Children:	Kayla Christensen
Music Director:	Jo Franta
Organist:	Pam Yenor
Pianist:	Deb Salonek
Outreach:	Lauren Hernandez
Council Chair:	Nancy Mahowald
Custodians:	Jerry & Joyce Bartlett
Day Care Directors:	Linda Fruland Kim Creasey



### Service Times:

Sundays at  
8:30 am & 10 am

*The Forum:*  
Saturdays at 6pm

## PASTOR'S LETTER

### Two Dollar Prayers

I picked up one of our blue prayer cards the other day that had a price tag stuck to it. \$2.00 it said. I don't have a clue how it got on the card, but it caused me to wonder. What if we had to pay for our prayers? What if it cost us something to bring our needs to God? What would we be willing to pay to know that God was listening to us? \$2.00? \$100? \$1,000,000? Fortunately we don't have to answer that question, because the price has already been paid for us.

On the cross Jesus paid the ultimate price. And rising again on Easter Sunday he confirmed that God is in control. We don't have to wonder if God is listening. We don't have to pay a fee to access God. God listens and answers. Jesus has done that for us. He is the Risen Lord.

This month we once again walk through that marvelous story of what the Lord has done for us to bring us to God. I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to remember and celebrate, from Palm Sunday with its marvelous choir cantata, through the special Holy Week services, and right up to the Easter Sunrise service in Joyce Chapel cemetery and Easter worship in the church. Come and celebrate! And no matter what the cards say, the prayers are free.

He is Risen!  
Pastor Mark

## Wednesday Dinners

JOB OPENING--Do you need something new in your life? Do You feel a calling to serve? Try Wednesday Night meals. It just happens once a week. The hours are short-4 pm-6:45pm . It is a great way to meet new people, try new food, and serve the Lord. Stop on in and check us out!!!

Meals for April: 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Spring Picnic, 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Italian night -white sauce, 20<sup>th</sup> ~ salads-n-subs, 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Breakfast. *Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...for I was hungry and you gave me food,....-Matthew 25:34-35.*

### Grief Support Group

What is grief? Grief is the normal process of reacting to a loss. Coping with grief has a large range of emotions. Grief doesn't just happen after someone dies, there is grief while someone you love is dying, you grieve the physical death and there is grief of illness. Any traumatic event, major life change or significant loss – a rape, a divorce, even major financial losses, job losses can cause grief.

We all experience grief throughout our lives and it is important to be able to seek support during these times. Grief does not necessarily have to be recent, many times grief is unresolved and we carry it through our lives for years. You have be support to others with prayers, thoughts and good fellowship.

Your grief support group meets every Monday at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. If you have questions please contact Cindi Foster at her home 763-434-9020 or the church office at 763-755-6990.



Come and see the Chancel choir's Easter cantata, "Until the Whole World Hears" on

Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at both services. Follow the last week of Jesus's human life starting with Palm Sunday through the Resurrection. Listen to the music of Casting Crowns. Join us as we go out into the world and preach the gospel, and keep singing until the whole world hears! It's going to be awesome!

### Women's Retreat

*Join us for a one-day exploration of all that God is... And wants to be...in our lives...*

Discover all that "GOD IS" with the Coon Rapids UMC Prayer Team, the Coon Rapids UMW, and 6:4devotion, the Energetic, Spirit-led, Spirit-filled music group from Champlin UMC.

**\*\*Mission Project to Benefit Alexandra House\*\***

*Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>*

9:00am - 3:00pm

Coon Rapids United Methodist Church

Sign up in the hallway beyond the Welcome Desk

Call to register at 763-755-6990 or email:

laurenhdz@comcast.net

**\*\*Early Registration before 4/15/11 - \$25.00 after \$30.00\*\***

**\*\*Registration and Light Breakfast begins at 8:30am\*\***



### Feed My Starving Children needs volunteers!

The need is as great as ever in Haiti and more than 60 other countries that receive FMSC's volunteer-packed meals. Recently volunteer numbers have dropped off significantly, and **FMSC needs your help** to prepare the meals God's starving children desperately need. Volunteer shifts are available Monday through Saturday throughout the day and evening; volunteers are especially needed for weekday daytime shifts. Please visit [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) today to reserve a time when you can come in to pack meals, and encourage other potential volunteers to help. *Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.* 1 John 3:18





United Methodist Women is collecting items for UMCOR layette kits. Many newborns do not have even the basics necessary for keeping them warm, clean, and dry. The kits will be sent to areas of the world with great need (this may include Japan). The kits will be taken by our delegates to Annual Conference the end of May. Please have all items to church by May 15. You may also donate money and we will buy needed items. All items should be new and in original packaging. Please do not prewash them. Thank you for helping God's youngest children. Each kit contains:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 6 cloth diapers                                     | 1 sweater or sweatshirt (open in the front)       |
| 2 diaper pins                                       | 2 infant size washcloths                          |
| 2 onesies or undershirts (size newborn to 3 months) | 2 receiving blankets (30 x 30 or 30 x 32 in size) |
| 2 gowns or sleepers (size newborn to 3 months)      |   |

#### April UMW events

April 2 - Craft day fundraiser for Shaly Moyal  
 April 16 - Needles and Thread sewing, knitting, crocheting group-9:00-11:30 a.m.



#### New or Changing Addresses

Are you moving, a winter snowbird, or attending another church? Let us know your new address and phone number so we can keep our records current and our postage costs down. Call the Church Office or email  
 Cathi@coonrapidsumc.org or  
 Becki@coonrapidsumc.org  
 Thanks for your help!



#### Recycling

- ◇ Recycle your dead batteries in the bucket under the table by the bulletin boards.
- ◇ Empty Ink Cartridges can be put in the box on the table.
- ◇ Eye Glasses will be donated to the Lion's Club.

#### Building Fund Update

It's been five years since we updated the kitchen, and added the Multipurpose room and restrooms. How has that turned out?

- *Youth Group*: One of the purposes of the multipurpose room was to allow the youth to have more "space." That worked well until they outgrew it and are again meeting in the Sanctuary.
- *Adult Fellowship* meets monthly for a potluck lunch and some months are absolutely filled to capacity.
- *The Forum* is our Saturday evening worship service in the Multipurpose Room at 6:00 pm. 4 new members joined the church at this service in March.
- *Wednesday Dinners*: Have you been coming to the Wednesday evening dinners? We average about 150 people each week. That wouldn't be possible without the upgraded the kitchen. For some people, this is their only "church experience." Talk about touching lives!
- We now offer activities for all ages on Wednesday evenings - from nursery to Pathfinders to Youth and Confirmation, Chime and Chancel Choir rehearsal and Bible Studies.

We still have a mortgage of \$1,242,849 with a monthly payment of \$11,451. Thank you for your continued support to the Building Fund to pay off this mortgage.

## Mission Prayer Corner

- \*Pray for Shaly Moyal and her ministry with the young people in Des Moines, Iowa. Pray that lives be brought to Christ and nurtured through her work.
- \*Pray for the completion of Living Stones School in Tanzania and that we can raise the funds to do this work in the next few weeks.
- \*Pray for Tom Swartz as he leads foreign students in Omaha to Christ. Pray that these students mature in their faith and take it back to their families and homelands.
- \*Pray for retired missionary Carolyn Eddans.
- \*Pray for the babies who will receive layette kits.
- \*Pray for those who prepare the meals and the guests who are served at Simpson Shelter.
- \*Pray for the safety of those who deliver the meals and the recipients of the Meals-on-Wheels services.
- \*Pray for the individuals and families who receive food from the ACBC food shelf.
- \*Pray for the women who are embarking on new lives at Emma Norton Services and at Alexandra House.
- \*Pray for the staff and children at Miracle Ranch in Mexico.
- \*Pray for the children who receive sustenance from Feed My Starving Children.



### April Mission Offering : Shaly Moyal, GCM Missionary

Greetings!

Coming off of the heels of our annual Spring Break Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic, there is no break in sight! College Ministry never stops (well we get a week off here and there). I'm excited to tell all of you about the mission trip and to see the results of it in the coming months and years. We look forward to more trips down there and many more people coming to know the love of Christ.

April brings many new and exciting ventures. We'll have a spring retreat the 1st and 2nd of April in West Des Moines, joining with the campus fellowships of a few other college campuses.

May welcomes graduation to our seniors, but we'll quickly transition into the summer programming. All of the outreach and sign-ups for our summer soccer league, Central City Soccer begin in May. We'll have the help of some volunteers from a local Hispanic church this year so that will be very helpful! We're planning for around 500 children this summer. Please pray for them and their families. Epicenter will start on May 31st and the following weekend we're planning a road trip for all of those in the college ministries to the Creation Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio. This summer will be busy, and fun. Please continue to pray for new students to be added to the student ministries and for spiritual growth and protection for the hundreds already involved.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Much love and gratitude.

### CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Program) Needs & Dental Service

*Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity:* Our Blaine office is still looking for a couple of dedicated volunteers to do a weekly 4 hour shift in the food shelf. Call Kathy Cotter at 763-783-4931 if you are interested. In Brooklyn Park we are gearing up for Spring Clean Up and Senior Chores mowing. If you would like to mow for a senior or a disabled person throughout the summer (clients pay \$15 hour) please call Diane K. at 763-450-3667.

*The Ronald McDonald Dentistry Bus* comes to CEAP 4 times a year. It is staffed with 2 hygienists and one dentist and provides dental care for uninsured children and pregnant women for a \$25 donation. There are 16 appointments available each time and they are made through CEAP. The next time it will be at our location is May 16th. There are still openings for that date. Call 763-566-9600.

### Wanted: Your Home!

Loving Christian hosts are needed to open their homes to Japanese University students this coming summer. Two Short term hosting choices are available: 7/24 - 8/20 or 8/2 - 8/23. Share your love and faith with your student, you'll plant a seed! Students take classes during the day through the St. Paul Intercultural Institute at Bethel University and spend the evenings with their hosts. Help with transportation to and from Bethel and a stipend are provided. Contact Deb Anderson for info or to sign up to host: 763-522-5051 or [djamwa@aol.com](mailto:djamwa@aol.com). More info at <http://spii3.com/> or talk with Eric Gossett.



See online Calendar  
[www.coonrapidsumc.org](http://www.coonrapidsumc.org)

Coon Rapids United Methodist Church  
10506 Hanson Blvd NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coon Rapids United Methodist Church  
(763)755-6990 [www.CoonRapidsUMC.org](http://www.CoonRapidsUMC.org)  
10506 Hanson Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids 55433

COMING SOON!

*Holy Week Schedule*



April 17 ~ Palm Sunday	Chancel Choir Cantata: Until the Whole World Hears	8:30 & 10am
April 21 ~ Maundy Thursday	Worship Service	7pm
April 22 ~ Good Friday	Worship Services	Noon & 7pm
April 23 ~ Holy Saturday	The Forum Service	6pm
April 24 ~ Happy Easter!	Sonrise Service at <i>Joyce Chapel Cemetery</i>	7am
	Worship Services	8:30 & 10am