



METHODIST MESSAGES

Coon Rapids United Methodist Church

December 2019



December Events:



December 7th 9-Noon FREE Holiday Respite for Parents!

Birth—5th Grade. We will keep your kids busy with crafts, games, music and more so you can have 3 hours of child free time to prepare for the holiday! To register your child/children, email your request to: Jenny@coonrapidsumc.org or Kayla@coonrapidsumc.org

December 7, 7:00 pm and December 8, 10:00 am, Christmas Cantata He Shall Reign. Come and enjoy the music of Christmas with our Chancel Choir.

December 9, 7:00 pm, Blue Christmas Service, Are you struggling with Christmas this year? This service is for you.

December 15, Sally Esmay will be sharing her **nativity collection.**

December 22, 9:00 am, Birthday Party for Jesus and Prayer Walk.

December 24, 8:00-Noon, Blood Drive, sign-up at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Sponsor Code: CRUMC

December 24, 4:00 and 11:00 pm, Christmas Eve Services,

December 25, Merry Christmas!

December 29, 9:00 am, All church service project and Prayer Walk

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It is such an honor to write a devotional for our church. Rose Marie and I create one each year for Advent (Christmas) and Lent (Easter). We are always amazed at how the devotionals come together. We pray about what the theme should be. One or the other of us is blessed to see the vision for that particular devotional. What do we title each page? What is the message that we want to portray? Then we divide it up. We find Scripture verses to guide our writing and then we take pen in hand. Sometimes we wake up in the middle of the night, can't go back to sleep, so we decide to be productive and continue writing – at 4:00 in the morning.

Then I type away and after that we proofread it. Oh, we have a good laugh at the typos! God becomes Dog or Go or Do. There are many others, believe me! I could write a book about the typos. I have even been known to miss a complete sentence! After I fix the errors, we arrange the pages to present the most cohesive message.

Rose Marie has the gift of poetry and we are blessed to be able to share that with you. Her daughter, Marie, has the gift of drawing. She creates the cover for us. We just give her the title and our vision and what she creates is so beautiful and encompasses the vision that we want to convey to you.

Then Cathi in the office uses her gifts and puts page numbers on, corrects layout issues and makes all the copies. The folding machine folds and we are ready to assemble. The pages are set out

Important Staff News – God’s Miracles at Work!

As most of you know, Cathi Weber has been faithfully serving Coon Rapids UMC in many ways for more than 30 years. As she and Dane have been considering her retirement for some time, the church leadership has been praying about how to even begin to fill her role. As God is faithful, just as we’ve seen in other ways, the right person literally walked right into the door this Fall. Here’s the best part...

As we met with Cathi to talk about this, not sure if she was ready to retire this soon, definitely not wanting to hurt her, Cathi shared that she’d been feeling ready *and was trying to figure out how to tell us!* In fact, as she thought and prayed about this, the person who will be taking over her role had come to her mind! We don’t know how this could be more clear... God is clearly moving in all of this, answering prayer after prayer, providing what we needed in the exact right time.



So, Cathi Weber will be officially retiring on January 31, 2020, and on Sunday, February 2nd we will hold a party to honor her many years of service to God through Coon Rapids UMC. You will hear more about this, but please mark your calendars now!

And, we are excited to announce that on February 1, 2020, Ann McMahon will be officially stepping into the role of Office Administrator, while also continuing as Special Needs Ministry Director!



We know that we will all miss Cathi... her involvement here is extensive and it will take Ann time to learn and all of us time to adjust. Please be in prayer for Cathi and Ann and all our staff during this time, but also, please join us in praising God for providing in such a beautiful way. Praise God!

Pastor Dianna, on behalf of Staff Parish Relations Committee

around my large dining room table and we take one page at a time and put them together. Then we staple and they’re done!

It’s gives us such a feeling of accomplishment when we bring them to the church and set them out for you. When you read The Presents of God, see how all of the themes interact with each other. Under “Law” you see “Grace” and “Sacrifice”; under “Holy Spirit” you see “The Word”; under “Grace” we find “Repentance” and under “Promises” you see “Peace”, “Eternal Life”, and “Faith”. We want you to know that we also make large print copies and bring them to Camilia Rose and Park River Estate care centers. We send them to relatives out of town and share them with our friends and neighbors. Please feel free to do the same. The devotional is also available on-line at coonrapidsumc.org. We hope you enjoy reading The Presents of God Advent devotional and that you will be blessed by it in some way.

Have a beautiful Christmas and a blessed New Year filled with God’s abundant blessings!

Nancy Mahowald
Lay Leader

Adult Fellowship Friends

Come join us on Friday, December 13 at 11:30 am—at the church for a potluck lunch. We would love to have you join us whether for your first time, second or fiftieth! Please sign up in the hallway by the church office so we know how many are joining us. Any questions contact Clarice 763-755-1514, AuraLee 763-421-7788 or Pam 763-784-3988. We look forward to seeing you.

Dorothy Zart Paintings

The church has 5 paintings that were painted by Dorothy Zart, wife of a former pastor. 4 of them are currently in Cathi’s office and one is in the library.

Is there an appropriate place to have them displayed in the church as part of our history or what should happen with these paintings? Please email Cathi@coonrapidsumc.org and let me know your thoughts. Thank you

Most of you know that I am a frequent Facebook-er. I use the social media site to connect with family members, friends, former classmates, coworkers, and my cohorts from my days working in radio and television broadcasting professional wrestling. I have maintained connections with all of these people, avidly following their lives, celebrating their successes, and joining them in mourning on their darkest days.

One day, I was able to "friend" a man on Facebook. His name is Jon Engen, and many of you may remember him from his days cohosting the morning show on Christian radio station KTIS with his cohost, Chuck Knapp. Their morning show, "The Knapper and the Pastor" was so much fun to listen to, and their faith and friendship transmitted right through the radio airwaves for all to hear.

Even now, the details of how it happened are a little bit fuzzy. I do remember messaging Jon back and forth on Facebook, mentioning how I used to work as a radio disc jockey at a little radio station in Anoka years ago. Jon commented that he worked at radio station Bob 106.1 FM in Ramsey and invited me to the station to take a tour. I'm not even sure Jon thought I would take him up on his offer. But I did.

The next Monday, I drove up to Bob 106.1 FM on a whim. I walked into the station, introduced myself to the receptionist, and told her that I was there to see Jon Engen. She had me wait in the waiting area, and a short time later, Jon came out to meet me. (Keep in mind that we had never met each other before this.) I told Jon who I was and that I was there to meet him and take him up on his invitation to tour the radio station.

Now, before I go any further with my story, I have to tell you that we are at a pivotal point in my story. I didn't know if Jon would call security and have this strange nutcase (me!) escorted from the premises, or if he would give me the quick 5 minute tour in order to get me out of his hair. My friends, Jon Engen did neither of those things.

Instead, Jon warmly and graciously welcomed me and showed me around the radio station. We spent an hour together that Monday, looking at the control rooms and on-air studios, visiting with other on-air staff including a man named Neil Freeman, who I had the pleasure of working with many years before at KANO AM1470 in Anoka, MN. Jon and I toured the station, sharing our thoughts and memories, and, after an hour or so, I thanked him for his time and left.

My friends, to say that I drove home that morning feeling as if I was on top of the world and walking on air was an understatement. But what Jon Engen and you, the reader, may not

realize is that this brief one hour radio station tour was a healing moment for me. Now, let me tell you the rest of my story.

You see, back in 1988-1989, I did work in radio at KANO AM1470 in Anoka. I started as a weekend control board operator and worked my way up to hosting the 7 pm to midnight airshift Mondays through Fridays. I did this in addition to working a fulltime job at Norwest Bank, now Wells Fargo, 5 days a week. Yet, the grind of 18 hour days eventually took its toll on me and I had to make a decision: Quit working the part time job that I loved, even though it didn't pay very much, or quit working the fulltime job that paid the bills. Cue my father's voice right now as it rang in my ears as I heard him say many times, "Son, sometimes you do things not because you want to but because you have to." So, I had to make the heartbreaking decision to quit my job in radio and continue working my fulltime job with benefits. I was emotionally shattered but believed I was making the right decision, yet there have been many, many times over the years that I wished I could have found a way to have stayed working in radio.

The thing that Jon Engen and you might not understand is that my visit to BOB 106.1 FM radio that Monday morning was therapeutic to me. It helped heal some of the wounds that I had from leaving radio. It allowed me to visit a radio station on my terms, and put to rest the pain that I had from leaving radio back in 1989. Jon may never know how his act of kindness that day helped heal a man with a broken heart: Me.

Fast forward to the present day, November of 2019. Jon is an ordained minister and he has recently been named interim pastor at Restoration Church in Anoka, MN. He hosts the morning show at KAXL 88.3 Life FM in Bakersfield, CA in addition to working the Saturday morning airshift at BOB 106.1 FM in Ramsey. Me? I'm still working fulltime at the Post Office in downtown Minneapolis, serving as the certified lay minister here at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church, and dreaming of the day where I can take my passions for ministry, speaking, and music, and use them to serve the Lord at a Christian radio station or perhaps even lead a church of my own. Maybe one day...

To Jon Engen, I give you my heartfelt thanks and appreciation. You showed a broken man like me what it means to be Jesus with skin on. You took the time to show me around, never knowing that, by doing so, you were helping me to heal. And to all of my church family at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church, keep on being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. You never know just how much your little acts of kindness can mean to someone else. You continue to help make a difference in the lives of others. Sometimes, your action can bring a smile to their face or tears to their eyes. Other times, you may just leave them walking on air.

Amen.

John Lloyd

Mission Opportunities



Christmas Blessings

Give a gift this Christmas to people in need at Miracle Ranch and in our community. We will be collecting Walmart, Target and Visa gift cards for Miracle Ranch and Target, Cub, and Kohl gift cards for families in our community. You can choose an ornament from the Giving Tree on the bulletin board or simply bring in a gift card. Please indicate if the card is for Miracle Ranch or our local friends. Place in the offering basket or give to someone in the church office by Sunday, December 15th. Thank you for making this a joyful holiday season for others.

Mississippi Elementary needs our help

Mississippi is in need of pants for both boys and girls in sizes 5 through 8. Please consider donating pants your children have outgrown and are free of holes. Used are definitely ok!!! Place them in the box in the hallway marked Mississippi Elementary.

Copy Person Needed! The teachers are requesting assistance with copying at least 1 morning a week for 2-3 hours on either Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Training will be provided! Please contact Wendi Jarson 612 701-6624 or call Jessica Roerick, Volunteer Coordinator at 763-506-3537.

Other volunteer opportunities... If you are interested in working with Mississippi Elementary in a volunteer capacity, there are many options listed regularly once you have signed up as a volunteer through their website. If you would like more information, please contact Wendi Jarson. Or go to <https://www.ahschools.us/mississippi>



Matthew 25

Food Distribution

Saturday, December 28

8:55 AM to 12 noon

Family Promise Needs & News:

- 1.) We have been matched with a Family Promise family for Christmas. We will be receiving a wish list within the next week.
- 2.) We need 2 dozen Christmas cookies by December 8 to give to a family at the Family Promise Christmas Party on December 10. Please put the cookies in a cookie tin or we can find one for you.
- 3.) The large family that was staying at Family Promise in September has a lead on a rental unit. They could be moving in as early as Friday!!
- 4.) Family Promise in Anoka County has logged 9,440.25 volunteer hours so far this year!
- 5.) Our church partners with Family Promise to offer food, shelter, hospitality, and love to families experiencing homelessness in Anoka County Our next host week is January 19-26, 2020.

Contact Tammy if you would like to help or have questions, Tammy CRUMC @[gmail.com](mailto:crumc@gmail.com) or 763-755-6990, ext. 14.

Meals on Wheels

Our next week to provide drivers is December 2 through December 6. We can always use more drivers. Delivering meals takes about 1 ½ hours over the lunch hour. We provide drivers 6 times a year, about every 8 weeks. Contact Myrna Kuehl at 763-784-2588 if you would like to participate in this important ministry.

Help us partner with the Spirit River Community to provide food to those in need.

Volunteer opportunities available to people of all abilities... from unloading the truck to handing out tickets.

People from age 12 to 92 have successfully volunteered, so don't count yourself out. God needs you!

Isanti Middle School; 201 Centennial Dr; Isanti, MN 55040

REACHING OUT BY GIVING FROM WITHIN

Hebrews 13:15-16 (TLB)

With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to him.

Financial Planning 2020
Come, Grow with Us! Coon Rapids UMC



The Coon Rapids United Methodist Church Stewardship Campaign for 2020 is a simple one: GENEROSITY. 2 Corinthians 9:11 says: “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God”. Our invitation to you as a member or friend of our congregation is this: Will you be a generous person, choose God’s generosity and make a PLEDGE, a prayerful promise, to give to Coon Rapids United Methodist Church in 2020?

Your pledge, combined with the pledges of many others, will enable us to create a realistic budget to care for our building and grounds, expand and enhance our program offerings, nurture our children in biblical education, encourage our youth and young adults, reach out to members of our community and stretch to parts of the world desperate for hope.

A pledge card is available at the church or online. We invite you to prayerfully discern how to complete it and we encourage families to discuss it together.

Please complete the card, place it in the envelope and leave it in the offering plate on or before Stewardship Sunday, December 15. If you prefer, you can submit your pledge online by going to our website: <https://www.coonrapidsumc.org/> and select “Estimate of Giving/Pledge” on the left side of the page. Also, the link to arrange for electronic giving is available for your convenience.

We give not just to raise funds. We give as a spiritual practice, together, to raise faith. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your pledge this year

May God bless you all!

Stewardship Team
Finance Committee
Coon Rapids United Methodist Church



Women's Retreat



WonderFull World Women's Retreat takes you on a journey packed with friendship, God, and spiritual growth. It's a retreat you won't want to miss! Join us for a whirlwind tour of the seven continents, where we'll experience meaningful Bible studies, explore the wonders of a woman's heart, and have time for both quiet reflection and laugh-out-loud fun! All while being pampered and cozy in a beautiful old mansion!

Location: Eagle Lodge at Clearwater Forest Retreat Center, Deerwood, MN

Date: January 10th-12th, 2020

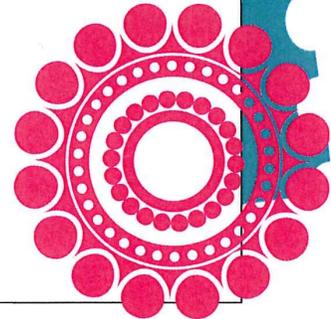
Cost: \$140.00

Pick up a **registration form** in the church hallway or print from our church website at www.coonrapidsumc.org.

Deadline: Registration deadline and payment deadline December 22nd, 2019

For more information you can contact:

Kayla Christensen kayla@coonrapidsumc.org 763-755-6990
or Sarah Frame sarahframe3@gmail.com



Sundays December 22nd and 29th at 9 am

Two All Church Events



Sunday, Dec. 22nd 9 am

Birthday Party for Jesus!

Come and celebrate Jesus' birth with a story time, craft and breakfast snack!

Prayer walk – Pastor Dianna will be leading all who want to pray in a prayer walk around the church building.

Everyone welcome!



Sunday, Dec. 29th 9 am

All Church Service Project

Everyone will be able to serve as we do a project to support Meals On Wheels. This project is kid friendly with parent supervision.

Prayer walk – Pastor Dianna will be leading all who want to pray in a prayer walk around the church building.

Everyone welcome!

BOTH Sundays, December 22 & 29 Blanket Drive and Essentials for the Homeless

Jodi, Ryan, Thomas and Samantha are young adults connected to our church who have been reaching out to the homeless. Samantha is collecting new or gently used blankets to take to the streets and hand out to the homeless. She recently participated in an activity where she slept outside in a box in the cold. This really moved her heart to make a difference. Jodi, Ryan and Thomas shared with me how they have seen people on the side of the road with basic needs, and in the winter it made it even harder to drive by without helping. They wished they were better prepared, so they began putting together care packages wrapped in blankets and putting them in the back seat of their cars, ready to hand out to the next person in need. They have handed out many of these care packages, thanks to generous donations!

To support these outreaches, on Sundays December 22nd and 29th please bring if you are able:

New or Gently used blankets or sleeping bags, cans of baked beans (pull top lid only), cans of green beans (pull top lid only), cans of chicken (pull top lid only), peanut butter to go cups, raisins, reusable cutlery sets, combs, ponytail binders, toothbrush with cover, toothpaste, packages of tissues, band aids, tampons, Vaseline, deodorant, hand warmers, gloves, hats, socks. ***All cans of food should be single serve, and all personal care items should be travel size to reduce size and weight of the care packages*** Thank you!

Please bring items to church on Dec. 22nd and 29th and bring to designated table area in the gym.

Questions, see Kayla Christensen or kayla@coonrapidsumc.org 763-755-6990

[Click here for online Calendar](#)

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #76
Anoka MN 55303

Coon Rapids UMC

(763) 755-6990

www.coonrapidsumc.org
prayerrequests@coonrapidsumc.org

Church Staff

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|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Pastor: | Dianna Dunham Foltz | PastorDianna@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| Ministry Support: | Tammy Gallagher | TammyCRUMC@gmail.com |
| Administrator: | Cathi Weber | Cathi@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| Treasurer: | Bob Foster | Bob@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| Youth: | Jenny Lindner | Jenny@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| Children & Education: | Kayla Christensen | Kayla@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| Special Needs Ministry | Ann McMahon | Ann@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| Music Director: | Jo Franta | JoFranta@aol.com |
| Custodians: | Jerry & Joyce Bartlett | 763-755-4155 |
| Day Care Directors: | Linda Fruland | Daycare@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| | Kim Creasey | Daycare@CoonRapidsUMC.org |
| Wedding Coordinator: | Kayla Christensen | Wedding@CoonRapidsUMC.org |

Missed Church?

Our services are recorded and posted on YouTube. This is your chance to be blessed with the pastor's inspirational messages at home.

www.CoonRapidsUMC.org
"Sunday Message"

