



Thank You  
Dear Church, Thank you for the hats and gloves. We all appreciate it. Thank you so much. Sincerely, Klie, Naomi, Levi, Javon & Jeffery.



The MCEA would like to thank the Rupert UMW for the donation to the MCEA. Your gift is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much. The MCEA Board of Directors



Santa was in the building - twice as far as I know. He is kind of sneaky. One pre-Christmas day, I found a wrapped box that said, To: Sharon, From: Santa. It contained a candle scented with my favorite flowers. Now, how do you suppose Santa knew that Lilacs are my favorites. Thank you Santa. My house smells like Lilacs in the deepest of winter. The second visit was to the office, as I found a Christmas bag on my desk, again To: Sharon From: Santa. So, thank you Santa, for the candy sleigh and the contents of the card. It was much appreciated.

To our Church family: I am at a loss for words as I try to express our appreciation to you all. Your many expressions of sympathy were comforting to us and helped give us the strength to carry on. I won't mention all the acts of kindness except for the many prayers on our behalf in the several years that we were dealing with Bob's health problems. Never underestimate the power of prayer. This time we had together, with the feeling that it was such a good time for us, I am sure was strengthened and made possible by so many prayers. In Christian Love, Margaret, Kathleen, Patricia and Roberta (Robi).

#### WFRTNARS

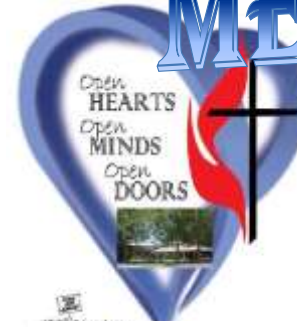
There are some interesting and pertinent webinars available in January, 2016 - such as:  
\*Church Council: Overview & Focus for Upcoming Year  
\*Stewardship & Finance: Getting it Right at the Starting Line  
\*Local Church Lay Leaders/Lay Members to Annual Conf. What's My Job?  
There are more - info through the office

# METHODIST DIMENSIONS

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Perhaps instead of New Year's Resolutions, we could practice getting back to the simple basics of life . . .

#### All I ever needed to know, I learned in Kindergarten

By Robert Fulghum

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand box at nursery school.

These are the things I learned. Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you are sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw some and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday.

Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out in the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why. We are like that.

And then remember that book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK! Everything you need to know is there somewhere: The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation, ecology, and politics and the sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all, the whole world, had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and clean up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.



This January of 2016, start the year with an empty jar. Each week add a note with a good thing that happened - something that made you smile - brought you joy - made your day more beautiful. On New Year's Eve, empty the jar and read about the amazing year you had

#### ADVICE FROM AN OLD FARMER



Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong. Keep skunks and bankers at a distance. Life is simpler when you plow around the stump. A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor. Words that soak into your ears are whispered . . not yelled. Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads. Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you. It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge. You cannot unsay a cruel word. Every path has a few puddles. When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty. The best sermons are lived, not preached. Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'. Don't judge folks by their relatives. Good judgement comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment. The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'. If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. Most times, it just gets down to common sense.



Access Sunday sermons and special music at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RUMC83350>

Radio Station KUMC LP 101.7 FM owned and operated by the Rupert UMC  
Listen to live broadcast of Sunday worship service at 11:00 a.m.  
Service re-broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays



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COUNCIL HOLDS

TOWN HALL MEETING

Your Governing Council held a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, November 22, following a delicious potluck dinner. During the meeting various Council members provided updates to the congregation on the business that the Council has been working on in this first year of Single Board Governance.

- Pastor David presented the new mission and vision for RUMC (see back of Sunday bulletin)
- Steve Gulbranson updated the congregation on how the budget needs for 2015 are being met. The good news is that 83% of the Conference Apportionments will be paid by year end.
- Cliff Hieb provided an update on the status of the facilities and parsonage including the major projects that were completed during the year.
- Tim Gregersen presented the three measurable goals that the Council defined. The goals are:
  1. Increase Church Attendance
  2. Spread the Good News
  3. Build Partnerships
- Jim Rodgers presented the 2016 budget.
- Brian Williams presented the Pastor's salary and benefit package for 2016. He also shared the plans to provide increases for the paid staff.
- Peggy Gulbranson shared with the congregation the steps involved in forming a Ministry Team. She also recognized the 15 Ministry Teams that were active during 2015.

The Council plans to hold a Town Hall meeting annually to keep the congregation informed. The council wants to provide meaningful information to the congregation so if you have feedback regarding the Town Hall meeting, please pass it along to the church office or one of the Council members. (Info pertaining to any of these items can be obtained through the office.)

Filling 100 Christmas Boxes for those in need



## December Activities Through Pictures

Hanging of the Greens - Advent Party



Sunday School Christmas Program "New Star"



RUMC Choir Christmas Cantata



Moravian Lovefeast  
Tori Bailes, soloist



Moravian Lovefeast



Am. Falls Choir - Christmas Concert



Moravian Lovefeast



Every program/event that was planned and carried out, did not happen on its own.

Thank you to every person, and that is all of you, who had a part in making this Advent Season a season to remember.

We were able to offer quality programs/events not only to this congregation, but to the community. You all made that possible.

## Open Hearts Food Pantry



Because of your generosity combined with our regular Idaho Food Bank purchases, the Open Hearts Food Pantry was able to fill 100 Christmas boxes for distribution to those who otherwise may not have had a special meal this holiday season. We had set aside two days to give these boxes out, but we gave all 100 out on the first day. Thank you to the large group of people who turned out to help fill those boxes.



Hey, we have left over ham bones from a recent activity, and Barbara Rodgers has offered to make soup to serve during Hospitality Time on January 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be a "Free Will Donation" event with proceeds going to the general budget. Invite One to join you for this event.

On the following Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, the youth will be collecting either cash or canned goods for the Open Hearts Food Pantry.



Put it on your calendar now. The annual MCEA Potato Bar is scheduled for January 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Praise Chapel First Christian Church. RUMC has been asked to provide 20 pounds of chopped ham and 8 dozen cookies and to have a couple of people help serve. Nick and Marcia Hallett would appreciate any support in this project, and can be reached at 436-3794.