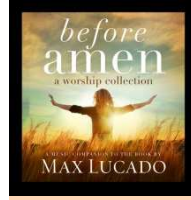


The usual groups that have taken on the Lenten Lunches in the past, have decided not to participate this year. Unless someone feels compelled by the Spirit to organize a team ministry for the purpose of holding Lenten Lunches, there will be none this year. If you are interested in forming a team, please see Pastor Pam as soon as possible, as time is getting short.



A Four-Week Lenten Study by Max Lucado

In *Before Amen*, Max Lucado - a self-professed "recovering prayer wimp" - reveals his personal struggles with prayer. He will show your church how he discovered that prayer is not a privilege for the pious or the art of a chosen few but a simple tool all believers have been given to have a conversation with God. Through the use of a simple, easy-to-remember, pocket-sized prayer that he distilled from the prayers in the Bible, he will lead your church members in building a prayer life that is stronger, better and deeper. Join Pastor Pam Meese on Thursdays, beginning February 26 at 5:30 p.m. to learn how to connect with God each day in prayer. God changes people through such moments!



How Much Is a Life Worth By Bishop Grant Hagiya

posted Jan. 6, 2015 on
Bishop's blog.

The start of a New Year always holds the possibility of a different future for the entire world, and I pray for some large-scale changes. I pray for a peaceful solution in the Middle East, for a global commitment to protect the earth, and for a better balance between the rich and poor. I am also praying that every human life be valued and cherished as much as any other. This relates especially to what seems to many of us as an imbalance of the lives of some based solely on race. In this regard, African American males are statistically more likely to die by violence and to be imprisoned at a higher percentage than anyone else in our U.S. society. It has led many to conclude that an African American life is not valued as highly as other American lives. The national statistics bear this out: Black Americans are four times more likely to be murdered than the national average. What's more, four out of five black homicide victims are killed with guns. It seems to me that if any fingers need to be pointed they should be directed to a system that statistically values the lives of some people less than others. African American males should not die more often than anyone else in a whole and healthy society. Something is terribly wrong with a society where some lives are valued more highly than others. The roots of this injustice run deep: poverty, lack of education, racism, and violence, just to name a few. But ultimately, we have to look inward at our own contributions to an unhealthy system. We allow for such injustices due to our apathy, lack of compassion, and inactivity. Unfortunately, I lack any comprehensive answers or solutions like the rest of our society. However, that should not keep me from caring about this problem, or looking to contribute something positive in response. As I start this New Year

(article continues inside, bottom center)



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Office
605 H Street
P. O. Box 804
Rupert, ID 83350
208.436.3354
208.436.3807 fax
umcluv@pmt.org
<http://rupertidumc.org>
Rev. Pamela Meese
208.434.2128 hm.
208.436.3354 office
Ruffteferm2@pmt.org
Sharon Crowe-Admin.
Mon., Tues., Wed.
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Cisd. @ lunch 12-1 p.m.
208.436.3354 office
208.430.4011 cell
Bryan Bruns-Custodian
208.436.3932 hm.
208.670.1244 cell
John Johnson-Manager
KUMC LP 101.7 FM
208.431.6451 cell
kumclp@pmt.org
gr.hagiya@pmt.org

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Volume II I - Issue 1 January 2015

110 Years of Methodists in Rupert: Celebrating Our Past Insures Our Future

The new church was dedicated on Sunday, February 14, 1915. Pastor Baker, reporting on this, wrote: "Sunday was a red letter day for the Methodist Church in Rupert, because of the dedication of the new \$12,000 Methodist church. . . the morning service at 11:15 was conducted by Dr. T. E. Liff of University Park, Denver Colorado. Dr. Liff preached a great sermon to a congregation that packed the entire church. His theme was, "He That Saveth His Life Shall Lose It."

"At the close of the address, the financial campaign was launched. The Church asked for approximately \$2,300 to meet all obligations against the church, except a portion of the load from the Church Extension Society. The congregation responded with a contribution of over \$2,800, thus meeting all the needs of the church and making an appeal in the evening unnecessary.

"The afternoon praise service was addressed by Rev. Hartley, the new pastor of the Baptist Church . . . At night a large congregation greeted the district superintendent, H. W. Parker, whose address was followed by some words by Dr. Liff and . . . the impressive Dedication Service. . ."



You are invited, and you will want to save the date of, Sunday, February 15, 2015, for a special Worship Service, taking place at our regular time, 11:00 a.m., at the Rupert United Methodist Church. Gary Schorzman will be presenting a program on, *110 years of Methodists in Rupert: Celebrating Our Past Insures Our Future*". After the service you are invited to stay for a potluck lunch and fellowship with each other. Gary has been working on updating the Centennial Book, adding new pictures and articles. He will have copies on sale during the pot-luck.

FEBRUARY



Sunday Feb. 1 - Souper Bowl of Caring - The Youth will be collecting donations as you leave the Sanctuary. The proceeds will go to our Food Pantry.



Tues. Feb. 3 - UMW Mission Work meeting from 4-7 p.m. They will be joined by the Soroptomists and the Girl Scouts. A substantial snack will be offered by the Wesleyan Circle. They need pinners, cutters & pressers, so if you do not have a sewing machine to bring, there will plenty of other tasks for you to participate in. The pattern and list of materials needed can be obtained in the office.



Friday, Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27 - Friday Night at the Movies. Free Movie, free popcorn, free fellowship! 6th - "The Pursuit of Happiness", 13th - "Lady and the Tramp", 20th - "Children of Heaven", 28th - "Tangled".



Monday, Feb. 9 - Autumn Haven Devotions, 6:30 p.m. led by UMW.



Saturday, Feb. 14 - The UMM invite the women to their breakfast at 8:00 p.m. in celebration of Valentine's Day. I hear they serve a really good breakfast! RSVP to the office, so they know how much food to prepare.



Sunday, Feb. 15 - Celebrating 110 years of Methodists in Rupert, during the regular Worship Service. Gary Schorzman will present the program - potluck lunch to follow. Gary will have for sale copies of his new book on the history of the Rupert UMC. Come and enjoy the day.



Sunday, Feb. 15 - Worship at Countryside Care, 4:00 p.m. Thank you Stan & Marion Weickum, Dan & Ann Ramsey and Dave Buetow for being there in Jan, when Pastor Pam could not attend.



Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 P.M.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your love, support, cards, phone calls and prayers following the loss of Carl. You all played such an important part in our lives, and continue to be a vital part of my life. I thank God for each one of you. In Christ's love, Joanne Clark

How many times do we take for granted the little things that make this church function smoothly? The other Sunday we just happened to notice the many little jobs Don and Juanita Wiedenheft were involved in, for example: ushering, attendance pads changed and refilled, etc., etc., - things we may take for granted, YES - greeting, reading Scriptures, taking papers and information to the proper people, and on and on. How many times do we remember to thank them for their efforts and participation? IF you haven't, make a reso-

lution to be more observant and to express your thanks. Thanks everyone!! Duane & Lucy Knos



On Sunday, Dec. 14, I admit I came to church not feeling well with a sinus cold, planning to print the bulletin and then go home. I mentioned this to a few people, and was promptly told that I might want to stay for at least the first half, perhaps to hear the bell choir and the singing group, Reflections. So I was sitting there wanting to go home, when Kris Somsen, begins to announce the UMW Service Award the UMW was presenting. Then I heard my name announced and looking around found three beautiful women standing behind and around me with a pin and certificate. Thank you so much, UMW, for this honor. I really do enjoy working at and serving this church and helping each of you as much as I can. You are so forgiving, for the times I misspell a name, or forget to put something requested in the bulletin or just plain make a boo-boo, OR, forget to open the door for Deborah Circle on their meeting day. With deep appreciation and joy, Sharon Crowe



The Minidoka Christian Education Association's annual Potato Bar with all the trimmings will be held on Sunday, February 8th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Christian Praise Chapel. This

is their main fund raiser to meet their expenses and is a worthwhile organization to support. A freewill offering will be taken at the door.



Congratulations to Peggy Gulbranson for being chosen the VFW Teacher of the Year Award. Peggy, we are so proud of you and this is an award well deserved.

Congratulations also to the following who have participated in the UMW Reading Program and have achieved the following:

- Peggy Gulbranson: Level 1
- Christine Kelley: Level 3
- Joyce H. Orem: Level 4

The Reading Program Library is located in the Conference Room and is available to all. Please read the checkout rules and return all books in a timely manner.

(continued from back page)

I plan to spend more time in prayer for guidance and action. I don't know where this will take me, but I believe all of us must do more in direct response. I believe God values each life on this earth as importantly as any other, and God laments when we allow something other than the sanctity of all life to be our norm. Will you join me in prayer and then some action to make our world better in this New Year, 2015?

(article paraphrased - read entire article at)
<http://greater-nw.org/how-much-is-a-life-worth/>



We have allotted a time period for announcements each Sunday at the end of the worship service. At times they can and have become, how can I say this diplomatically, let's just say

in our enthusiasm to let people know what is going on, what they need to know, etc. the announcements have taken too much time. Most announcements are already printed on the insert to the bulletin. All announcements could be printed in the bulletin, if received in the office by Sunday morning around 8:30 a.m., otherwise, we are requesting that if a late announcement needs to be made, please write it out and bring it to the office no later than 10:45 a.m. Along the same lines, if you would want something to be put in the monthly newsletter, please have it to the office no later than the last Monday of the month. The newsletter is usually printed on the last Tuesday of the month and folded, labeled and mailed on the last Wednesday of the month. Thank you for your cooperation in making our worship service more attractive to visitors.



The new church council had their first official meeting on Sat., Jan 24. Unlike the picture, there were people at the meeting and the chairs were not nearly as comfortable as those look in the

picture. Also, in January, Steve Ross, the director of the Conference Vital Church Program, spent several hours with the Council in a very informative training session. The Council is a work in process. At the first meeting they spent time discussing the mission statement, "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World" and the vision statement, "Feeding Mind, Body and Soul". You will be hearing more throughout the year about this from the pastor. The following is a list of those serving on the Council:

- Council Chair: Tim Gregersen (non-vote)
 - Pastor: Pamela Meese
 - Trustees: Steve Lebsack (1 year)
 - Kris Somsen (2 years)
 - Cliff Hieb (3 years)
 - Finance: Jim Rodgers (1 year)
 - Steve Gulbranson (2 years)
 - Terri Bruns (3 years)
 - SPRC: Chris Paulson (1 year)
 - Barbara Rodgers (2 years)
 - Brian Williams (3 years)
 - Lay Leader: Peggy Hess
 - Lay Member to Annual Conference: Peggy Gulbranson
 - Members at Large: Joyce Orem, Cheryl Juntunen
 - Church Adm/Finance Manager: Sharon Crowe (non-vote)
- Please keep the Council in your daily prayers.



Thank you to those who participated in the case lot sale. John & Chris Paulson and Roger & Cheryl Juntunen shopped, hauled and unloaded the cases they were able to purchase with your donations plus money from the

pantry account. We have completed nearly one month on the new schedule of distributing boxes on Mon. and Wed. using two volunteers each day. Thank you to Stan & Leanna Bruns, Cheryl Juntunen, Peggy Hess, Tim & Linda Gregersen, John & Barbara Joosten, Nanette Eilers and Ila Lloyd for volunteering on those days during January. Some changes to the schedule may be made in March, as we are learning what works and what doesn't. Grace Circle would like to involve more volunteers from other churches and even from the community, and are working on that. We continue to receive at date produce, dairy and sometimes bread from Ridley's and are receiving two Idaho Food Bank trucks a month, if we place an order. Thank you to the volunteers that have helped with those two activities. They are: Roger & Cheryl Juntunen, Charlie & Melle Lee Warren, Brian Williams, Peggy Hess, Stan & Leanna Bruns, Tim & Linda Gregersen and Don Wiedenheft.

FOOD PANTRY STATS FOR JANUARY (to date)

86 boxes given out, representing

289 individuals

770.2 of produce, dairy & bread received from Ridley's



RUMC STATS FOR JANUARY

	Attendance		Budget
	S.S	Worship	Donations
January 4	21	80	\$4,439
January 11	16	104	\$1,753
January 18	21	88	\$2,104
January 25	25	78	\$2,561

Your tithes and offerings are much appreciated. We thank you for your love and dedication to RUMC

