

The New Predators

According to a survey by True Link Financial, older Americans are criminally defrauded of \$12.76 billion annually. This includes identity theft and all those crazy scams you hear about but think will never work on you. The next scam victim could be you. Here's what to watch out for and, most important, how to protect yourself. (Because of space, this is an abbreviated version of an AARP article sent to Pastor Madden by his mother, Bonnie Madden. Thanks Bonnie.



Tech Support – This just might be the biggest consumer scam in the U.S. right now. Here's how this scam unfolds. You get an unsolicited call from someone claiming to be with Microsoft or Windows tech support, who says viruses have been detected on your computer. In order to protect your data, you are told to immediately call up a certain website and follow its instructions. It appears that viruses are being detected and eliminated, but in reality malware is being installed that allows the scammer to steal your usernames and passwords, and hold the information for ransom. **Your Plan:** Hang up the phone. Neither Microsoft nor any of their partners make unsolicited phone calls, nor do they do pop-up ads promising to speed up your computer.

IRS Imposter – This is the #1 reported fraud right now. Here's how it works. Someone claiming to be from the IRS either phones or leaves a voice message saying you owe back taxes and threatening that, unless funds are wired immediately, legal action will be taken or you will be arrested. They can become very aggressive and intimidating. **Your Plan:** Do not return a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS. The real IRS opens communications with a taxpayer only via the U.S. Postal Service.

Grieving Widow – The key to every scammer's success is being able to put you under "emotional ether." It is when you're not thinking cognitively, but emotionally. This is how it works. The scammer scans obituaries for prey, then pretend to be a bank official to trick them out of money. **Your Plan:** Ask a trusted family member to temporarily handle your financial responsibilities while you are grieving. Have them follow-up on any suspicious phone calls or emails.

Gift Voucher – This rip-off involves getting an unsolicited email from McDonald's, Subway or other popular restaurant or retailer offering a free gift card if you click a link to activate it. **Your Plan:** Repeat after us. **NEVER** click a link in an unsolicited email or divulge personal info, no matter how enticing the offer. **You can go to www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork to learn more about identity theft and avoiding scams. You may**

also call the church office, if you need help or have questions.

The day this newsletter was mailed (Wed. 2-25) Cliff Hieb presented a class on this subject. We will report on what we learned in our next newsletter.



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.
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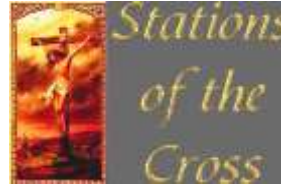
RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL

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The exact origin of the devotional use of The Stations of the Cross is not entirely clear, though it is associated with Christian pilgrimages to

Jerusalem in the early Christian centuries. Those who were able to walk on the way to his crucifixion were deeply moved by this experience. Yet, since the vast majority of Christians were not able to go to Jerusalem, The Way of the Cross enabled them to engage in a mini-pilgrimage of sorts, whereby they could focus on the key events of Jesus' last day.

The 14 Stations of the Cross represent events from Jesus' passion and death. At each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.



1. Jesus Is Condemned to Death
2. Jesus Takes Up His Cross
3. Jesus Falls the First Time
4. Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross
6. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
7. Jesus Falls a Second Time
8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus Falls the Third Time
10. Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments
11. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus Dies on the Cross
13. Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross
14. Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb.

On Good Friday, March 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. you are invited to reflect on the Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary of Rupert United Methodist Church. You can quietly walk through the Stations, sit or kneel to pray and meditate.



OUR PRAYERS MATTER

The United Methodist General Conference, our top legislative body, is gathering for its quadrennial meeting May 10-20, 2016 in Portland Oregon. Let's surround our delegates, bishops, and other church leaders with prayer as they prepare to listen to one another, discern God's will for the UMC, and to make decisions that will guide United Methodists around the world in fulfilling our purpose. Not all of us will be in Portland, but we all can engage in prayer for God's will to be done, in God's way, and in God's time. You are invited to join the General Conference Prayer Community at www.60daysofprayer.org. At this website, you will find 60 Days of Prayer, a prayer book of daily meditations prepared by The Upper Room and based on the themes of General Conference. You can download a free PDF or sign-up to receive a daily email or text prayer. The meditations start on March 31, and go through May 29. There's also an interactive prayer wall, resources for prayer vigils, and more. Prayer is essential to the life of our church, and we believe in the promise that our prayers matter.

Rev. Tom Albin, dean of The Upper Room Chapel and The General Conference Prayer Team

Lord, bless these days of study and understanding of the legislation and resolutions coming before the United Methodist Church. May we all experience "a powerful and impactful movement of the grace of God." Lord Jesus, bring light and harmony among United Methodists May 10th-20th. Amen.

Scholarship Opportunities

RUMC Foundation and United Methodist Men will be awarding Scholarships for the 2016-17 school year. The Foundation has two streams of gifts to be designated as scholarships. One, is a designated portion of the estate of Wayne & Margaret Ransom. The income from this designated sum is to be used for members of the Congregation pursuing higher education beyond high school. Two, is called the "Centennial Scholarship Fund". During the RUMC Centennial celebration in 2005, former recipients of the Hamby scholarships through the Church were asked to consider giving back to the scholarship fund to aid with future scholarships. Other members of the Congregation have given to the Foundation Scholarship Fund as well. Deadline must be returned to RUMC no later than 5:00 p.m. the first Monday in April: **Monday April 4, 2016** Each year during garden growing season, Jim Rodgers (our resident Master Gardener), brings only the best produce from his garden. For a free will donation, you can keep your household in fresh produce all season long. The income from these invested donations provide scholarships each year for continuing education. Deadline: Must be returned to RUMC no later than **Friday, April 29, 2016**. Scholarship applications are available through the office.

Open Hearts Food Pantry

WITH AN OPEN HEART

Your generosity from participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 6th, brought in \$368.71 for the food pantry, plus actual goods placed in the shopping cart. Thank you again for your continual support of this ministry. Thank you also to members of the Paul UMC for their continued support. There is a steady increase in the number of households we are assisting. We need you - thank you. We have a lot of volunteers helping us in this ministry. They are not only from our church but our good friends at the St. Matthews Episcopal church have also helped as well as a person from another community and some of the good people who receive boxes of food who want to give back. We are grateful for each person that has given their time. Grace Circle is making plans to officially acknowledge all of these volunteers.

For several reasons it has become necessary to replace the copier in the office. Application was made to the RUMC Foundation for funds and that board approved the purchase. Thank you Rupert UMC Foundation. RUMC is so fortunate to have this Foundation.

LENT ACTIVITIES

Friday, March 4 - World Day of Prayer

Sunday, March 6 - Communion

Sunday, March 13 - Camp appreciation luncheon and auction (bring those home canned and fresh homemade items - you know they do well in this auction. Proceeds will help provide camp scholarships)

Monday, March 14 - Autumn Haven Devotions led by UMM (if you have never participated, try it. You will be glad you did.)

Sunday, March 20 - Palm Sunday. It would be great to see all of the pews filled.

Thursday, March 24 - Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday
The Living Last Supper (a meaningful live performance with narration and music) 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 25 - Good Friday. You will be able to view the Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is a time of meditation and prayer.

Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday (Communion, Confirmation of three of our youth, Bunny Egg Hunt during hospitality)



INVITE
ONE TO
CHURCH

There are also Lenten Lunches being held at the Burley UMC, and The Trinity Lutheran Church. The St. Nicholas Mime Troupe does many performances of the Passion of Christ for the public this time of year - check the local newspapers for dates and times.



World Day of Prayer - A Worldwide Movement of Christian Women.

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration - the first Friday of March - to which all people are welcome.
- It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. The motto of the World Day of Prayer is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action."

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.



At the January Church Council meeting, the council came up with a list of core values for our church. The values are the core of what an organization is and what it cherishes. Core values provide a measuring device against which you evaluate the actions and behaviors of the organization, and gives meaning to the organization and the people involved with it. Every member can understand and can contribute to the organization (our church) and our core values impact every aspect of our church and the church family. Please notice the welcoming bulletin board in the narthex, where you will see a display of our core values. (Thank you Peggy Hess, and I apologize for not using a picture of your display. The picture taken did not show the words large enough to read). This is an interactive display. Checkmark the ones that are important to you, or if you feel some values are missing, there are sticky notes and pens available for you to write down your values and place them on the board. The Church Council appreciates and encourages your input in the process of developing our core values. Joyce Orem, Director at Large



We want to say thank you to all who helped us get past John's recent surgery. He's healing well and hopefully we'll be "back to normal" soon. Thanks again for your thoughts and prayers. John & Barbara Joosten and family.

Thank you for your support of the MCEA Potato Bar. This year we took in \$4,533.50. A special thank you to the ladies who donated cookies. They were so yummy. Thanks also to Wayne & Barbara Wilske and Roger & Cheryl Juntunen for a donation to pay for the chopped ham and to Cheryl for working in the kitchen.
Nick & Marcia Hallett, MCEA Board Members
(Minidoka Christian Education Association)

To Ruth Circle: Thank you so much for remembering me on Valentine's Day with a cookie plate. I think it's great you involve your children in your projects.
Love, Lois Morton

To Ruth Circle: Thank you for the beautiful carnation and the very delicious cookies. The cookies all looked so good it was hard to decide which one to try first.

Lots of Love, Clara Shelton
(Each year Ruth Circle delivers flowers and Valentine goodie plates to our elderly & shut-ins. We know that each person receiving these is very appreciative. Thank you Ruth Circle and your children & to those who supplied the goodies).



About two years ago the United Methodist Church introduced a shopping program whereby, when you do your shopping on line a percentage of your total spent goes to your local church. We signed RUMC up in the program. This month we received our first check - not huge, but the program is working. The whole program has been revamped and payments, such as the one we received will be coming more often.

"Whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow"
Proverbs 13:11

Thousands of top retailers are participating. All you need do is go to www.umcmarket.org, register for free, indicating Rupert United Methodist Church as your designated Ministry and begin shopping.

- Supporters (you) shop at thousands of top retailers
- Supporters take advantage of categorically organized discounts and deals including %-off discounts, \$-off discounts and/or free shipping.
- A listed percentage of every dollar spent is contributed to a designated ministry at no additional cost to you the supporter.

Even if you registered in the old program, you must re-register in this new edition, however, RUMC is still already listed as a ministry to receive a percentage of monies spent.