

Methodist Dimensions

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL

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Attitude of Gratitude

Rev. David Madden

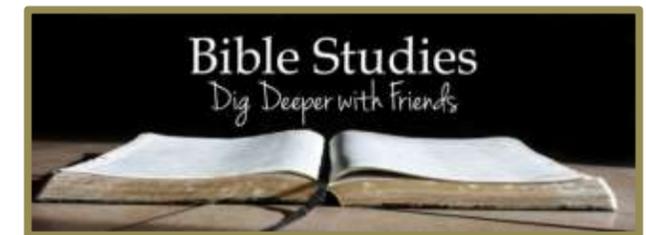
Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”. If we sought God, the way we seek after other things many of our problems would disappear. It is our relationship with God which is the source of contentment, and nothing else can take his place. The Bible says, in Ecclesiastes 5:10 “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income”. You could be the wealthiest person on the face of the earth and still not be content. On the other hand, you could be dirt poor and be quite content.



What is it that makes people grateful? It all depends on how you look at life. Gratitude comes when you learn that this world can never completely satisfy you, but that complete satisfaction can be found in a relationship with God. It is that relationship which provides us with meaning and security in this life, and an assurance of eternal life where all our deepest needs will be completely satisfied.

Having an attitude of gratitude is an act of faith. It means you are unafraid to live and be happy because you have faith in a God who cares for you and provides for you. God is faithful, and his promises are true. And because you have a relationship with this wonderful God you have contentment, joy, and a desire to pass on some of what God has blessed you with. To trust in God is to be thankful. And this is what creates an attitude of gratitude that you will want to pass onto others.

I have a challenge for you this week. Each day this week I would like you to write down 5 things you are grateful for and try not to repeat yourself. You will soon realize that what is truly important in life, is your family, your friends and your relationship with God.



Beginning Wednesday, November 7th @

6:30 pm, you are invited to join

Pastor David in taking an

objective view, from a

Wesleyan understanding,

of the major stories in the Bible.

No lecture, no right or wrong answers,

No reading homework – just an open

discussion among friends.

No commitment – a class you can just

drop into, or make every week.

Bring your friend(s).

Pastor David will be here each week.

You may know that the pantry uses two to three helpers on pantry days, depending on how busy we are. One person works up front registering each client. One to two people work the back giving out boxes and sometimes a myriad of extra items, depending on what we have. You may not know the rest of the story.

In addition, on pantry days, a person needs to pick up at-date items from Ridley's. This includes dairy, bakery, produce, and meat. All these items need to be weighed and recorded to be reported on line to Idaho Food Bank. In addition to the Ridley's pick-up, once a week, we pick up frozen food from Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Empty boxes need to be found, most always at Ridley's and the liquor store, and hauled to the pantry. We use anywhere from 20 to 50 boxes a week.

Two times a month the Idaho Food Bank truck delivers food. On these occasions we need anywhere from 4 to 8 people to help unload the truck. Each Saturday morning we need someone to be at the pantry to accept 70 to 100 loaves of free bread from Harper's. Twice a year we get a pallet of milk from Gossner's. This requires a trip to Gossner's with a pickup, or trailer, and 2 to 4 people to unload at the church.

In between these activities, someone is always picking up 50 lb. bags of rice, and sometime beans. Someone then breaks the bags down into two cup packages to put into food boxes. In addition to what we are able to buy, or get free from Idaho Food Bank, there are case lots to buy, load, and unload. Many of our partners, such as The Bishop's Storehouse, DOT Foods, & McCain's have large loads of foods for us which again need to be hauled to the pantry and unloaded.

When time allows, boxes need to be filled, shelves need to be restocked, both pantry rooms need to be swept and dusted, refrigerators and freezers need to be defrosted and cleaned.

We were wondering if any of you might be interested in helping with some of the easier, albeit time consuming tasks, such as picking up product at Kentucky Fried, or meeting the Harper's bread man on a Saturday morning, or cleaning the pantry occasionally, including defrosting and cleaning the refrigerators and freezers, or filling boxes. Please contact Cheryl Juntunen, Chris Paulson, Leanna Bruns, or the office, if you have questions.

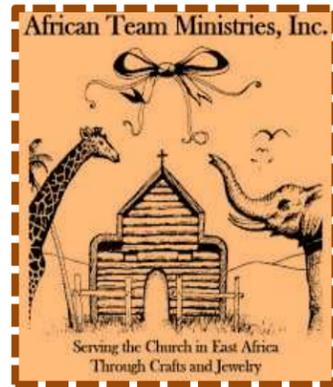


We, those who help in the work of the food pantry, which includes all of you who continue to support the pantry in any way, feel that we are engaged in the work of being disciples of Christ, and we are making a difference in the lives of several hundred people each month. These people who come to Open Hearts Food Pantry are more than faces we serve. We listen to their stories. We interact with their children. They interact with each other. Most are very appreciative for what we can give them, but more importantly for listening. This is an important ministry for our community.

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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

Color Me Calm will begin On Thursday, Oct. 18 @ 5:30 p.m. This is contingent upon if Peggy Hess is home from her Alaska adventure. This is a time to relax, fellowship and discuss events in a positive atmosphere.



Products from the African Team Ministries will be available at RUMC on the Sundays of Nov. 4 & 11 during Hospitality Time. These items make good gifts.

African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. With help from Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Anglican denominations, we provide funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. The support we receive is sent directly to our partnering Bishops to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms. This support ensures that the children receive an education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds. We currently have children registered for sponsorship in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Thru our support we are giving the gift of HOPE!

October is RUMC's month to Clean the Minidoka Christian Education Building.

Help Us Out, If You Are Able.



Recently an inventory was taken of the kitchen silverware – this is what the kitchen police found – 15 dozen forks missing – 2 dozen knives missing – 8 dozen teaspoons missing. What are you folks doing with all the silverware?! Next time you're standing over a trashcan scrapping a plate, just you watch what you do with the silverware. (All in good humor)



Open Hearts Food Pantry is asking for the following for the 100 Christmas Box Give-away in December.

- Christmas wrapping paper to wrap the boxes. Thanks for what you have already given – we need more.
- Bags of candy – we plan to put one whole bag of candy in each box
- Other items for the boxes for which we do not have sources: canned yams, boxed Jello, marshmallows, cream of mushroom soup, canned olives.

Ridley's Points: I talked with Ridley's main office in Twin Falls recently. They suggest that if you want to donate your accumulated points to the church, the request form should be filled out each quarter. You will find a form inserted in this newsletter for your convenience. You can mail it to Ridley's yourself (address is on the form), or return it to the office here.



Women doing the blessing prayer over a completed quilt. (The four women from the right are Cheryl Juntunen, Joyce Orem, Sherrie Maloney & Leanna Bruns, from Rupert.)

This picture of our team that visited the UMCOR West Depot a couple of months ago was published in the September issue of the Sage District Newsletter.

Sherrie Maloney is planning another trip to the Depot in Salt Lake City in the near future. If you are interested in spending a couple of days working on UMCOR projects, please contact Sherrie for more information.



At their breakfast meeting on Saturday, Oct. 13, the United Methodist Men have invited Cheryl Juntunen to speak to them on everything she knows about hunger in our area and how the food pantry provides an invaluable service. Be sure to attend.



2 Corinthians 9:6-15

October is Stewardship month – a time for each of us to reflect on how much God has given us and, showing our gracious gratitude by pledging what we will give back to God.

Here's the thing. Intellectually (I can't believe I'm using that word when talking about myself), this is what I know:

- Paul says, "more crops come from using more seed". This is simple and true. The more we 'grow and reap', the more we can give to God's work.
- Give generously with a cheerful heart. Give because you desire to give.
- Generous giving is confident giving. We know that God will supply our needs.
- Generous giving brings praise to God. We know that in our obedience, God is praised
- Generous giving is a validation of the work of Christ in our lives.

Even though I believe these points to be true, except for a period in my life as a member of another denomination where tithing was mandatory, I cannot seem to carry through on fulfilling an actual pledge of a certain amount a year.

I have excuses, which after last Sunday's sermon, "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire", I'm chagrined to say, I am a liar.

And so today, feeling the Spirit of God speaking to me in my heart, I am pledging publicly to not only making a pledge (the easy part), but more important spiritually, to actually fulfill that pledge in 2019. There it is done - written in the Book of Life forever. I pray I won't disappoint.

Pledging and giving is a very personal exercise between you and your God. Hopefully we will all be generous, and joyous when those pledge cards are received, filled out, and returned.