



Rapid Valley United Methodist Church

Valley Views

February 2021

5103 Long View Road
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Pastor's Corner

Hello Church Family,
Well, it's already February and the season of Lent is fast approaching! Of course, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and its date is dependent upon the timing of Easter. Although the date of Easter varies based on the lunar calendar, the date of Ash Wednesday is always 40 days before Easter, excluding Sundays. The reason Sundays were excluded was because they were considered weekly days of celebration, remembering the resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter Sunday.

Christianity Today notes that "the history and beginnings of Lent aren't clear but it has likely been observed: "since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE." Christian scholars note that Lent became more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. St. Irenaeus, Pope St. Victor I, and St. Athanasius all seem to have written about Lent during their ministries. Most agree that "by the end of the fourth century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed, and that prayer and

fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises."

The 40 days of Lent are meant to constitute a symbolic remembrance of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. Although Jesus was tempted by Satan during that time, he exited that period as a sinless man. But the same cannot be said of any other human being. When we are tempted by Satan we all succumb to those temptations in many ways, and our failures cause us to sin. That is why the 40 days of Lent have become a season for Christians to reflect upon their sins and repent of them. I've recently heard someone who claims to be a Christian actually negate their need for repentance by saying, "I think if I do something wrong... I just try and make it right. I don't bring God into that picture." The problem is that God has to be in the center of that picture. Of course we should try to make things right with other people we've wronged, but God is the only one whose forgiveness can make us clean and whole once again.

So I invite you to join me in a Lenten service of repentance on Feb. 17th at 5:30pm at the church, where we will begin this important period within the lives of all believers. Hope to

see you there in-person or that you are able to join on Facebook live.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

GriefShare Program Starting

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to

recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare will be held on Sunday afternoons starting 21 March with an introduction and meetings 28 March At Rapid Valley UMC . Cost: \$20 for the book. Any questions or to register , call or text George 605-431-9216 or call the church office 605-393-1526

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

In this time of Covid 19 worship we have provided other opportunities and ways for people to give to our church. We have a link on our website: rapidvalleyumc.com where you can click on “give” to enter a credit card number or checking account and routing number. You can set up a one time gift or a recurring gift, whatever works best for you. Of course you may still send a physical check to the church office at 5103 Longview Drive as well. Just creating more opportunities for you to take advantage of. Thanks to all who are demonstrating such faithfulness in remembering the church during this time!

Upcoming Fundraising Events

If you have an idea for a Fundraising event, send an email (rapidvalleyumc@gmail.com) or call the church office 393-1526.



FAMILY FARE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Please continue to collect your Family Fare Grocery Receipts. During this time of staying at home I think we are all cooking more, so please keep your receipts.

MONTHLY NEWS AND EVENTS

Each month a newsletter with events and announcements will be coming. If you have something you would like to place in the RVUMC News please email: rapidvalleyumc@gmail.com. If you are not receiving this via your email, please email or call the church office

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Ministers: Every Member