



Rapid Valley United Methodist Church

# Valley Views

January 2020

5103 Long View Road  
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## Pastor's Corner

Greetings church family!

I just want to begin by sharing something I saw on Netflix the other night. I was scrolling through the list of movies when I came across a movie called "Death to 2020." It is a comedy and I don't know if it is stupid or not, but I plan to watch it on New Years Eve. So by the time you read this I would be able to let you know whether it's worthwhile.

But the premise of the movie is one we would all subscribe to. For many people, this last year has been the worst one of their lives. On top of this pandemic, folks have also continued with the struggles of everyday life. For some it has been the death of a friend or loved one. For some it has been a serious illness. For others it may be the disappointment of broken relationships with family or friends or even other brothers and sisters of the faith. I have certainly felt the pain of loss and unfulfilled expectations this year as well. None of us are immune.

But as we enter this New Year, I want to put forth a message of hope to you all. While I was in

seminary, I took a class where we had to identify what type of person/future pastor we identified as. For me the category that most resonated was "agent of hope." Now I must admit that I am as much a frail and fallible human being as the rest of you. I have my moments of insecurity and frustration and even anger; when it's just easier to look at the glass of life as half empty rather than half full.

However, when I acknowledge that I'm having those feelings I seek to reorient myself toward the only source of hope that is true and solid and unchanging. Of course that source is our Father God who is our creator, and His only begotten Son Jesus who is our redeemer; and the Holy Spirit who is our sustainer. Through these three persons of God we can live in community and in hope. No matter what has happened to us in the past and no matter what lies ahead in our future, we may rest in the knowledge that, in the words of pastor Adam Hamilton, "the worst thing is never the last thing."

So even though 2020 may have been the worst year for

many of us, it is not the last thing. Make no mistake, we are entering into a new year with some of the same challenges we have had during this last year. But because of God we able to approach it in a new way, with a new hope; one that is not based on our circumstances, but on who God is. May it be so for each one of us!

May you indeed enter into a happy New Year!

Pastor Mark

## ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

In this time of Covid 19 worship we have been working on providing other opportunities and ways for people to give to our church. We have a link on our website: [rapidvalleyumc.com](http://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!



## 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](mailto:rapidvalleyumc@gmail.com). If you are not receiving this via your email, please email or call the church office

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

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

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Ministers: Every Member

