



Rapid Valley United Methodist Church

# Valley Views

May 2021

5103 Long View Road  
Rapid City, SD 57703  
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www.valley-umc.com



## Pastor's Corner

Hello church family,

Have you experienced walking or driving past something that you've gotten so used to seeing that you hardly notice it, until at some point you look at it more closely and really notice it again? I suspect we all have at various times and in various ways. Well, I had that experience recently while walking into my office. When I first started in my position as pastor of Rapid Valley UMC, Lisa wrote the verse of Micah 6:8 onto the erasable board of my office door. It says, "Seek Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly With Your God." I love that verse, which is the reason Lisa wrote it on my door. But over the last two years I have walked past it so many times that I don't really notice it any more. That is until the a few days ago.

As I entered my office last week I actually looked at the words on that sign, and I actually took a moment to reflect upon them. So as I pondered that verse intently for a moment it started me thinking about the meaning of the word justice. We have all

heard that word quite a bit throughout our culture recently; but what is the true essence of that word. The Hebrew word which is translated as "justice" in our Old Testament is "tzedek." It carries the connotation of doing the "right" thing or having the right thing happen. And it's interesting how our languages are connected because another form of that Hebrew word means "righteous person" and of course the word righteous is a form of the word right. Yet another form of the Hebrew word carries a meaning of "charity." So when you put all these meanings together it tells us as believers that to "Seek Justice" means we should be righteous people who seek to have the right thing happen in a charitable way.

As I was seriously discerned this verse on my office door, a number of contemporary issues within our society came to mind, and a newsletter is not the place to address them specifically. But I would simply ask you all to consider whether or not the position we hold regarding certain issues are "just" in the eyes of Jesus. When we reflect upon

the existing laws and proposed laws within our nation, do we focus more on a secular justice which is inspired by self centered and self serving talking heads, or do we focus on the kingdom minded type of justice which was at the core of Jesus' ministry.

There are many grey areas in our world today, but there are also clear examples of right and wrong; good and evil. May we who call ourselves believers, become a people who can step outside of ourselves and stop listening to the partisan voices we've become indoctrinated by, long enough to discern the Holy Spirit's voice in leading us toward the Christ like justice we are called to seek.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mark

## FOOD BANK

We host the Food Bank in loading cars with a box of food on the last Wednesday of each month. You do not have to qualify for receiving the food.

## **ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE**

RVUMC has provided 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!

## **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.

## **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

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Ministers: Every Member