

Wondering about meeting in the building?

This is so challenging! We are learning so much through online worship, connecting with people across the state and even country, and yet, many of us long to be back in our building again. However, as much as we may want to see each other, we still need to wait. Our Minnesota Annual Conference has provided clear guidance and we are still in phase "orange." Please see this article: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan>

A planning team has begun working on the many facets of safely reopening the building. Please know, it is complex. Also, be aware that early reports from churches across the country signify that in general, people are exercising great caution. We know that some will want to come on the first day, but others will choose to wait until a vaccine is available. This may be a long season, where we are a "both/and" church, in the building but mostly online. Be assured, we will persevere. We will continue to offer online worship, and also plan to meet in our building again at some point. It will take time.

We will surely need volunteers and support, but for now, prayers and patience. Please watch for further emails and updates.

Online Worship will Continue:

Sabbath Centering, Sundays at 9 AM
TouchPoint, Wednesdays at 7 AM & 7 PM

Join early for music & connection:

- On our public Facebook page: facebook.com/coonrapidsumc
- Pastor Dianna's Facebook page: facebook.com/dianna.dunham.5
- Or our YouTube page: youtube.com/c/coonrapidsumcminnesota
- Watch only from our website: CoonRapidsUMC.org

Watch and share anytime later on Facebook or YouTube.

Please remember to invite friends and sign in: bit.ly/2X71UCB

Coon Rapids UMC Important Financial News:

Coon Rapids UMC members and friends,

Thank you for your faithful generosity to our beloved church, an organization of God's people who have been helping people see and know the love of God and grow in their faith for many years. Your giving and serving has empowered so much, and we are thankful for a long legacy of meaningful ministry and great memories.

As your pastor, I want to encourage you to be generous during this time of crisis. With the recent turmoil in Minneapolis precipitated by the death of George Floyd, there is additional need beyond the needs that already rose through the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have sensed God's inspiration to give, then please give to the organizations that you believe will be helpful in healing our land, both short-term and long-term. As a church, we will continue our partnership with The Sheridan Story, and we will share other opportunities as they emerge.

However, as you may know, Coon Rapids UMC has been declining in membership and giving for 10 years. Recent difficulties have acted as an accelerator, understandably so as many are personally struggling. Many have continued faithful giving through this time, and some have even increased. But since January, our average monthly income (including our Day Care contribution) has been about \$8,000 lower per month than what we budgeted for 2020. To maintain staff for a short time, we secured an SBA PPP loan, which we anticipate being entirely forgivable. However, that funding runs out soon, and we need to budget to the lower income, which will require significant changes. Reopening the building will also incur costs for cleaning products, sanitizing and more.

So, if you believe that the direction that we are heading has the potential to help heal our land by offering the love of God in action and example, then I encourage you to give to our organization, Coon Rapids UMC. After all, God doesn't just teach generosity, God models it. To heal our land, Jesus came into our community, met us where we are and sacrificed his life that we might know God's love, and that we might be saved by grace.

JOHN 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

It is important though... God doesn't coerce generosity, and neither will we. Rather, God instructs us to give as we are inspired, cheerfully – and I would add, with a hopeful heart for the future and a readiness to invest in it.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-8 *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

If you feel that our organization – our church people together – has the potential to make a difference in the future, then support our church community with your generosity in giving. We will do our best with what we have. Thank you for taking time to read this letter, and for all you have done. Please join in prayer as we look forward, that God will provide what we need to accomplish the Kingdom work we are called to do.

With great love for all of you, and for the Lord,
Pastor Dianna

Please note: *Our church finances are an open book; if you have questions, contact Dan Lehrer, Finance Chair at Dangonegolfing@yahoo.com. If you would like to give online: <https://www.coonrapidsumc.org/online-giving>. If you need assistance with online giving or other ways to give, contact Bob Foster.*

Staff News: Two upcoming changes

Although Tammy Gallagher will stay with Coon Rapids UMC as a member, she will be leaving her staff role on June 16, 2020 for another job. We have deeply appreciated all that Tammy has brought to us, and we will miss her on staff.

Also, because of the many changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought, Ann McMahon needs to step away from her role as office administrator. Her last day will be June 19, 2020. She does hope to continue serving as we hope to develop more Special Needs Ministry at Coon Rapids UMC, and her family will remain at the church, but she needs to make this change. We will miss her.

Please express thanks to both Tammy and Ann and pray for them. Please pray also for our church as we navigate the season ahead.

(Please read the financial update just above this.)

Opportunities to Give and Serve in our Community:

Be generous! The Sheridan Story has been doing amazing work through this time, distributing much-needed food to many people in need throughout our area. Coon Rapids UMC has had a long relationship with The Sheridan Story, especially in their partnership with Mississippi Elementary School. Please visit their website ([The Sheridan Story](#)) for opportunities to give in many ways – as a volunteer with your time and with your donations.

UMCOR International Health Kits: The need is still great all over our world

United Methodist Committee on Relief is requesting the following:

- Homemade face masks
- International Health Kit supplies: hand towel, washcloth, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, and band-aids are in high demand
- View list of specific urgent needs for the various kits at [MMDC](#). Among other items, they include laundry soap (32-64 oz.), dish soap (16-34 oz.), household cleaner (16-40 Oz.) and toilet paper.
- They also are looking for NEW adult and children's sandals/tennis shoes, handmade diapers, foldable walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, and canes, new and used blankets, and new and used flashlights (with batteries).

Gail Chalbi will be in the church parking lot on Monday, June 22, 10 – 11:30 AM if you would like to drop off donations. If you have questions or need an alternative time, please contact Gail directly (gchalbi1146@gmail.com)

Family Promise Opportunity

Family Promise is sprucing up the Day Center while families are staying at hotels due to Covid-19. Spring Sprucing will include many projects available for individuals,

professionals and amateurs, or small groups - anyone committed to the Family Promise mission and willing to volunteer!

Contact Adam (763-568-7349) to schedule a visit to the day center or to adopt a specific project.

Note: We will be observing appropriate social distancing and sanitization/safety protocols at the day center during all these projects.

Cleaning & Organizing Projects

- Deep clean all rooms and spaces
- Reorganizing basement storage spaces
- Reorganizing closets and cabinets, and kitchen storage spaces
- Clean out the bike shed

Fix-it Projects

- Front door - fix front screen door latch
- Admin Office - fix the rattle in the windows
- Kitchen/Dining Room - patching holes in the ceiling
- Install/setup cabinets for all 3 bathrooms
- Install toilet paper & paper towel holder racks in all 3 bathrooms
- Repair glass in broken windows
- Replace fluorescent fixtures in basement
- Diagnose and repair boards on accessible ramp

A few other small and large improvement options are being considered including options for flooring

Donation Projects

- A few indoor plants
- A small simple fish tank setup
- Items for family hospitality (games, activities, devices, etc.)

On Mondays at 10 AM: Bible study on Mark, led by Tammy Gallagher
Join anytime by contacting Tammy at TammyCRUMC@gmail.com

Hope for Parents or Guardians of Special kids:

If you are a parent or guardian to a spirited child, a child with diagnosed or undiagnosed special needs, or even a parent that just needs some support, please join our group! The mission of this group is to eliminate the isolation parents with special kids experience by providing:

- Help through an extended network of resources,
- Open, non-judgmental conversation,
- Prayer for each other, and
- Encouragement.

Ann McMahon will be leading this group. Ann is certified nationally and with the State of Minnesota as a Parent and Family Support Provider. She has years of training experience and years of experience parenting children with special needs. Initially, this group will start off as a private Facebook group where we can interact with each other on an ongoing basis. Ann will post resources and facilitate conversation. This group will expand to an online face to face group via Zoom and eventually we will include in-person groups or get togethers.

HOPE for Grandparents & Extended Family Members:

If you are a grandparent or extended family member to a spirited child or child with a diagnosed or even undiagnosed special need, please join our group! Special kids bring unique joys, challenges, and concerns. You may have many questions about how to support your grandchild's parents, how to establish a relationship with your grandchild, how to tell friends and family about the diagnosis, and how to enjoy family get-togethers. Whether your grandchild is a baby or 30 years old, you are welcome to connect and learn together with other grandparents or extended family members. This group will start as a private Facebook group, facilitated by Ann McMahon, and will expand to a face to face Zoom online group. Eventually, we will include in-person groups or get togethers.

Please contact Ann@CoonRapidsUMC.org for more information or for a link to join either of these groups.

Want something included in this update?

Because of changing roles, please submit items for the weekly update to Pastor Dianna by Wednesday evening each week. You can email Pastor Dianna at any of the following: PastorDianna@CoonRapidsUMC.org, DiannaDFoltz@gmail.com; or DiannaDunham@gmail.com

If you know of someone who is not receiving this update via email and would like to receive it, please have them contact Ann@CoonRapidsUMC.org

Would you like to receive church prayer emails?

Prayer requests are sent daily via email to those on the prayer chain. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please email Ann@CoonRapidsUMC.org

CONTACT CHURCH STAFF:

(763) 755-6990 www.coonrapidsumc.org prayerrequests@coonrapidsumc.org

Pastor Dianna Foltz (x11) PastorDianna@coonrapidsumc.org

Until June 19, 2020: Ann McMahon (x19) Ann@CoonRapidsUMC.org

(Church Administrator & Special Needs Ministry Director)

Until June 16, 2020: Tammy Gallagher (x14): TammyCRUMC@gmail.com

(Community Connections and Ministry Support)

Michael Merriman: Media@CoonRapidsUMC.org (Social Media Manager)

Jenny Lindner (x13): Jenny@CoonRapidsUMC.org (Youth Director)

Jo Franta: JoFranta@aol.com (Music & Worship Coordinator)

Bob Foster: Bob@CoonRapidsUMC.org (Treasurer)

Linda Fruland & Kim Creasey: daycare@coonrapidsumc.org (Day Care Directors)

Jerry & Joyce Bartlett (Custodians)