In this issue

A letter from Pastor

Children's Ministry

Ministry Fair

Prayers

Dates to Note:

September 6th - 7 PM - SPR Meeting

September 13th - 7 PM - Ad Council Meeting

September 10th - Experience Ridgefield @ RACC 11am-4pm

September 11th & 25th - Church Photo Updates

September 18th - 12 PM Potluck with Iglesia Nueva Vision

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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WORSHIP

Sunday Morning 10:00am

Spiritual Gifts

In Acts 2:38, Peter responds to the people who ask what they must do to be followers of Jesus. He says, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

In this statement, we find a fantastic promise: When we give our lives to Jesus Christ, we receive more than forgiveness and eternal life. We also are filled with the Holy Spirit, whose role in our lives is to provide us with guidance and power for living this life. As a result, we are given spiritual gifts that allow us to find our place in God's community of faith. As we employ these gifts in daily living, we find fulfillment and purpose in our relationship with God and with others.

Spiritual gifts are attributes given to Christian believers for the building up of the whole body of Christ. Ephesians 4:II-I3 (NRSV) says, "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

This fall, we will spend some time discovering our own spiritual gifts as well as the spiritual gifts of others. We will be using Chrales V. Bryant's book Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts and the accompanying Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory. When we discover our spiritual gifts, we are given the power to live into God's call as the Holy Spirit shapes our understanding of ourselves.

Your spiritual gifts are not set in stone. We all have a mixture of gifts that work together and give each of us a unique way to contribute to ministry. Your primary gift is your strongest gift; oftentimes, it is the gift people will most easily confirm. Supporting gifts are attributes we can explore. In many instances, they become the most important ways we contribute to the work of the whole ministry.

God has created us to be unique and has called us in Christ to be part of one body, each with a purpose. Our hope is that in exploring the spiritual gifts that God has given to you, you will find a place in that body that blesses you and fills you with a sense of purpose and satisfaction.

https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/an-introduction-to-spiritual-gifts

A letter from the Pastor

A new school year has begun. Photographs of our beloved children and youth are being shared on social media and plenty of prayers will surround each of these students. Our prayers are also needed for the teachers and administrators as they negotiate contracts. I imagine we will have ample opportunity to support the learning process (the students and the teachers) as this new year unfolds.

I share a few thoughts as I come to the end of a three-week sabbatical. I did not want to completely disengage from the church, but I did need a break from my weekly routine and responsibilities. I am thankful for time in nature and with special people. I am equally thankful for our leaders who stepped up and allowed me this time.

As the first Sunday in September arrives, I will be excited to greet a new church year. Our leaders have planned and prayed throughout the summer. I sincerely hope we will find a way to nurture our long-term members as well as to incorporate our new friends into our life together. In the best of Methodist style, I hope there will be fellowship with food and I hope we remember that our journey of faith is renewed in the church but lived out in practical ways throughout the week.

The community of Ridgefield and the greater world is our parish. We will have a presence at Experience Ridgefield and we will continue to support our three ministries of food: the Backpack Program, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Outsiders Inn. These practical acts of service are a great start. Sharing our building with an independent preschool and the Nuevo Iglesia Community- as well as the Girl Scouts and Alcoholic Anonymous will help us to feel full and hopefully purposeful. Your gifts of money, service and witness benefit many more than the ones you see on Sunday morning.

My goal of this article is to grow your understanding of Church – again. A few years of restrictions helped us to realize the value of our time with one another. This is a remarkable congregation, filled with people of integrity and hospitality. I look forward to unpacking the many layers of giftedness in this place. In September, I will have a sermon series on spiritual gifts as well as small group opportunities to discuss the practicalities of these gifts. In October, the pastor's study will relate to the Book of Acts and how spiritual gifts and practices were evident in the early church.

The spiritual fizz will then happen as we interpret the many opportunities for next steps through the lenses of our best gifts. I am excited to see what God will be able to do with us.

I want to thank the many who responded to our survey concerning the adoption of a statement of inclusion. The Full Inclusion leaders will meet separately from me and carefully compile your responses. We will share these in worship and in writing when every comment has been noted – likely the middle to end of September.

Pastor Jo Ann



Hard to believe it is already September! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and fun summer. After the busyness of July, we had a lower key August and it felt good to have a bit of margin. It also gave me the time to think, dream, and plan for the upcoming months.

This time of year kicks off a season of busyness. Kids are back in school, after school sports and activities have resumed, and we kick off a new Sunday School year. Before you know it we will be starting rehearsals for our annual Christmas Pageant! But before I get carried away, let's focus on the fall activities coming up.

This fall in our Elementary Kids Sunday School our kids are going back to the beginning. We will work through the stories of Genesis and Exodus and round out the fall with stories of the Prophet's. Dale always has lots of fun teaching these lessons.

At the end of September, our youth will begin using a new curriculum. For the past several months, we have been using some topical book studies from Adam Hamilton. For the remainder of the school year, we will be using the re:form curriculum. The curriculum covers 6 broad topics that we will break down into more detail each week. Each re:form session follows a three-part sequence: Encounter – Gather your youth together to watch a hilarious animated video, Engage – Tap into their creativity for activities like doodling, constructing, and journaling that help them dig deeper into their faith, Respond – Share thoughts and ideas about the session's question. I can't wait to get started!

We will be bringing back some fall traditions again this year, including Family Game Nights and our Pumpkin Carving & Costume night. More info will be out soon for these fun events. We hope to see you there. As always, if there is anything I can do for your family, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Megan Schlegel Director of Children and Family Ministries



Spotlight on our Youth



Family Info: James is the son of Kelly and Megan Schlegel. He has an older sister, Lillian, and younger twin sister, Olivia.

Age/Grade: James is 6 years old and in 1st grade

Hobbies: Baseball, coloring, riding bikes, playing Uno Attack

Favorite part of worship: Ringing the bells

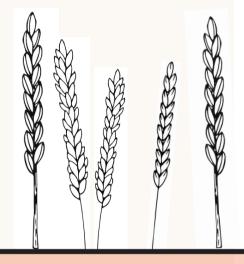
A favorite memory at RUMC is: VBS!



James Schlegel

September Birthdays

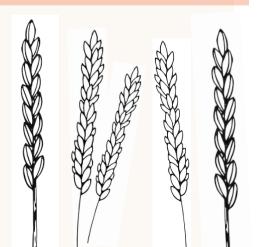
chloe mason 9/3mike loring 9/3kelly Schlegel 9/8 tim winn 9/IIsandy winn 9/16 ossie osmundson 9/17kristal mathis 9/2Ilillian schlegel 9/21



Prayers

MERLE & BARB PFEIFER
JEANNINE & RICK WHITE
THE GREEAR FAMILY
TIM & SANDI WINN
ANGELA PRICE
RSD TEACHERS &

STUDENTS



Supporting our Ridgefield Teachers and Students

As many of us know, the Ridgefield School District and the Ridgefield Education Association have been working to come to an agreement on a new contract. As the discussions continued, it looked as if there could be a possible strike.

The church was contacted at the beginning of the month asking if we could provide space for teachers and supporters to prepare and train for the the strike. This week REA teachers and community members gathered at our church to make signs, as well as hosted a community budget forum to help inform the community of the RSD budget and ongoing negotiations.

We will continue to pray for healing for relationships in the Ridgefield Community as we support the efforts of teachers to negotiate a new contract. We were remembered for our help in 2018 and were glad to

offer space and support in this time. What a blessing to have such a functional space and flexible members. A special thanks to Mike Loring and Bob Southard for their help in welcoming the REA into our building.



Ministry Fair

On Sunday, September 25, there will be a slight reconfiguration of our furniture and food for the Fellowship time. For those who have been looking for a small group connection, you will have the opportunity to sample from a variety of activities. There will be stations to inform you about work projects, small group studies, music programs, community outreach, mission and church fellowship.

In October, our nominations will fill in our leadership groups. First, we want to see where your interest lies. If we have several people who want to have more potlucks then we might want to plan accordingly. It's a good time to hear what the choir has planned as well as to give your input on areas of study or community service. The goal is to give you options for one-time or extended participation in the growing life of our church community.

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, began in the United States to highlight the history, culture and contributions of Hispanic-Americans—specifically those whose ancestors came from the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico and Spain. Communities honor the achievements of Hispanic and Latino Americans with festivals and educational activities.

Hispanic Heritage Week began in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. President Ronald Reagan later extended it to a 30-day celebration. It was enacted into law in August 1988.



The dates are significant because Sept. 15 is the independence anniversary for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The independence days of Mexico and Chile are Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans in The United Methodist Church and around the world who have inspired others to achieve success.

Please plan to join us for a potluck with Iglesia Nueva Visión on Sunday September 18th at 12pm. Bring a dish to share and get to know our brothers & sisters in Christ who have been meeting in our buliding for the past few months.

Feed My Sheep

School is back in session which means its time to resume our Backpack Ministries program. Each week Margie Stoner faithfully packs bags of food for kids in our school district who are food insecure. You can help support this vital ministry by bringing the following food items:

CANNED SOUP
CANNED SPAGHETTI/RAVIOLI
MAC & CHEESE
INDIVIDUAL PACKETS OF
INSTANT OATMEAL
PEANUT BUTTER

INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS:
JUICE BOXES
FRUIT OR APPLESAUCE CUPS
TUNA
GRANOLA BARS

Ridgefield United Methodist Church

JOURNEYS

Newsletter September 2022