

Rainbow Notes



H O P E U N I T E D M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

Battle Hymn of the Republic



Julia Ward Howe wrote these lyrics during the Civil War. She sent the words to *Atlantic Monthly* magazine and received an honorarium of five dollars. But the money wasn't her concern. Her purpose was to provide some wholesome lyrics for the tune of "John Brown's Body Lies A-Smoldering in The Grave." When President Abraham Lincoln first heard the hymn, he asked to have it snug again.

The text if filled with biblical allusions. The expression "grapes of wrath" refers to Revelation 14:19; the sounding trumpet is probably from Revela-

tions 8. For the Christian, the message of this song is that God's truth is eternal. Although circumstances



may appear overwhelmingly difficult, God will still accomplish His purposes, and His truth will endure.

It can be dangerous to identify political causes or even national patriotism with God's truth. "Nations may rise and fall, but

God's truth remains forever. "His truth is marching on."

After that the end will come when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies of every kind. For Christ will be King until he has defeated all his enemies, including death. This too must be defeated and ended. For the rule and authority over all things has been given to Christ by the Father. 1Corinthians 15:24-27.

Taken from One Year Book of Hymns

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Light Up A Life

Each Christmas, the tree at District One, is adorned with thousands of sparkling lights – each one shining in honor of someone special who is in your thoughts. It is a truly moving and spiritual experience.

Light up a Life has offered great solace and joy to so many people since it began in 1992. Last year, hundreds of people were lovingly remembered through lights sponsored in their name. It is the way, so many people

choose at Christmas time to remember their own heroes, the people, close to them, who have lit up countless lives while they were alive and so deserve to be remembered.

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FROM THE PASTOR

I ran into this article and thought it interesting.

The seats are empty as a voice echoes against the walls. There is nothing to stop the vibrations, no ear, no body, no mind. At one time there was excitement to hear the words. But now those words cannot compete with “a word from our sponsor”, “have it your way” or “in the face of tragedy go out and purchase a bauble and bead, the economy the strength of your country depends on it.” And too many go, without thinking, without hesitation without knowing why and support the view that all is well. And the voice in the sanctuary speaks to fewer of new possibility but there are fewer and fewer ears to hear the words. And even to those present the words are unabsorbed. Minds are busy considering “what is for lunch”, “I could be out fishing”, or I should be drinking coffee reading the paper or watching an old movie.” Thoughts of how to entertain themselves, where they would like to go on vacation or what can I do next weekend abound in this holy space.

The words get lost, as the empire wants them to be lost. Lost in a mire of things and ideals that have been taught since youth when the first school teacher said, this is how its done, the colors of the picture are set, the perception of authority is unquestionable. The nods and desire to please affirmed the beginning of servitude, the start of capitulation.

And the voice from the robed one speaks but there are now even less to absorb the sound. They are sleeping and tired from working for the empire, making more and more bricks, working overtime, pushing the papers, working the double shift to make sure that Pharaoh is pleased and that the empire stays strong in its ability to conceal. Conceal its treachery and the darkness that steals from the masses the freedom it pretends to give and the rights it parcels out as shackles.

And the voice with outstretched hands calls for courageous hearers but the words bounce back with little interference from the open spaces where souls once sat. The robed speak of an alternative to the empire, another way to live in the land of Pharaoh. Offered are options to the shackles of the market place, shared are keys to open the caged soul, hope is pass to the remnant of people who once toppled the very forms that now enslave.

Yet from some of those still seated, are shouted the words “blasphemy”, “traitor”, and “anarchist”. And by this the words of the robed and yoked are shouted down, or unfinanced to keep the dangerous ideas from spilling into the minds of the young or the spiritually hungry. Even some those who are robed as well are fearful of those words and so sooth the edges. It may mean peril to them if they continue, it may mean poverty or disgrace from those who are too busy, too tired or too unaware to support the now compromised speaker.

Yet there are those who speak the words of freedom, that offer an alternative to the status quo, that offer the soul a path upon which to travel. It is from the words spoken that bounce against the wall, against the table of sacrifice and across the rail of penance that lands on the ear of one who is awake. That word stirs within them and the pulse quickens, the eyes open, and feet begin to march to a beat others can’t hear. They march to a cadence set by those before who have heard the words and spoken them too, “I have a dream”, “I saw a new Jerusalem”, “Blessed are those who are persecuted”, “In the year that King Uzziah died...”, “In the beginning...”


And from those echoing words, from the conscious souls of those who dare to hear and arise from their seats is formed an alternative community that embraces freedom not given by the empire, who feel the explosive spirit of the Creator and who are on their way to become whole.

Only those who dare to listen to the echoing words understand what it means to be filled with soul and move from that place into the presence of the creating power free, free from the shackles and mind numbing ways of the empire.

Pastor Houck

H o p e ' s H a p p e n i n g s

The Charge Conference will be held as a cluster (with 5 other churches) in Owatonna at the United Methodist Church on Thursday November 7th from 7-8 pm.



*“We believe in God and each other.”
The people of The United Methodist Church.*

Get on Board for Family Game Night

The date is November 8th. We will be serving Pizza starting at 6:15. Games will begin at 7pm.

Bring your favorite game from home.



The Christian Women’s Connection will host a luncheon at noon on Nov. 12 at the Moose Lodge, 1810 Fourth St. NW in Faribault. All women are invited. Sara C. Forsberg will speak about her book, "Diamonds in the Garbage," share her life story and explain how to find balance in family relationships. She has 34 years of classroom experience and has taught effective communication surrounding difficult issues. For reservations call 507-334-7481 in Faribault, 507-645-5615 in Northfield or 507-789-6161 in Kenyon.

Advent begins December 1, 2013.

UMW will have a Chile and soup lunch following worship. There will also be cookies for sale. Watch your bulletin for more details.



Veterans Day is November 11th. If you have a family member/loved one who has or is serving our country would you please leave their name with me. You can also jot it on the pad that I have in my office by the mail boxes. I will have their names listed in the bulletin and the December newsletter. Please have them submitted by November 7th.

**“Rice County Food Shelf
“Food of the Month”**

November— Canned vegetables

December-Rice

“ E m b r a c i n g t h e P r o p h e t s i n C o n t e m p o r a r y C u l t u r e ”

“Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture: Confronting Today’s Pharaohs”, is a perfect tool for study and reflection. In this six week study Walter Bruggeman arguably America’s leading Old Testament

scholar and theologian, takes us on a wild ride through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel’s history and , most significantly -and at times challengingly- drawing connections between Is-

rael’ sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America Today.

Join Hope UMC and 4th Avenue UMC for six weeks beginning on Wednesday November 13th at 7 pm. The meetings will be held at Hope UMC.



Help Wanted: Bell Ringers

The Rice County Salvation Army Unit requests bell ringers for the coming holiday season. The unit has a current budget of \$45,000 based upon last year's collection.

Holiday bell ringing is the primary source of funds. 90% stays in Rice County. Remaining funds are sent to the regional Twin Cities office for broader needs, although they have covered over budget expenditures for special needs.

More than 440 individuals and 183 families were helped last year. Additionally Back to School needs, Shop with a Cop, Community Care Ministries and other programs are sponsored by the unit.

Bell ringers are asked to serve two hour blocks of time, Monday thru Friday at Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee and Fareway Foods. You may volunteer, using the internet website: faribaultbellringer@gmail.com or please talk to Mel Sanborn.

Thank you.



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Thank you.



Christian Thoughts of the Day

- If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. - *Meister Eckhart*
- Until you make peace with who you are, you'll never be content with what you have. - *Doris Mortman*
- Peace: It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. - *Author unknown*
- Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. - *Mother Teresa*
- Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. - *Albert Schweitzer*

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If you're missing someone this Christmas, remember them – in the most magical and moving way. Light up their life.

Faribault's Tree Lighting Ceremony will be at 7pm on December 2, 2013. You are invited to Light Up A Life in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. Your gift will support the hospice program and light up a bulb on the Light Up A Life tree .

Envelopes are available at Hope UMC. See Mary Sanborn. For additional information call the hospice office at 507-332-4835.

There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of even one small candle”

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus



When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Luke 19:5-6 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

1. Not tall

___A. fat B. short C. big D. loud

2. A large plant with a trunk, branches, and leaves

___A. tree B. weed C. flower D. bush

3. To move upward, especially by using the hands and feet

___A. climb B. run C. sit D. walk

4. A person who disobeys God's laws; one who does wrong

___A. poor B. banker C. climb D. sinner

5. A building in which people, usually a family, live

___A. tent B. house C. barn D. tree

6. To get something for yourself in a dishonest way

___A. save B. buy C. climb D. cheat

7. To have very little money

___A. rich B. cheat C. poor D. sinner

8. To search for something or someone

___A. cheat B. climb C. seek D. lost

9. To set free from sin; to rescue

___A. save B. lost C. poor D. cheat

10. To be unable to find your way

___A. poor B. climb C. lost D. cheat



Jesus and Zacchaeus

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." Luke 19:5 (NIV)

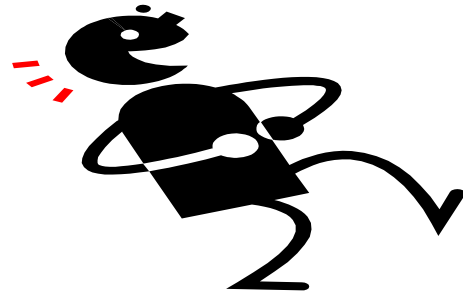
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Thanks to Pam Winn (See Matthew 4:6) 03-18-2005

THINGS EASED UP ON GUARDIAN ANGELS AFTER AIR BAGS WERE INVENTED



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10-19-2005

YOU'LL NEED TO PICK A PARTNER FOR THIS NEXT EXERCISE IN WHICH YOU FALL BACK AND TRUST EACH OTHER TO CATCH