



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 7, 2021

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVE

Saying Goodbye to Loved Ones

This has been a hard year when it comes to saying goodbye to loved ones. I know that a number of our RVC families lost loved ones this holiday season. Bonnie's dad passed away on January 1, 2021, just 15 days before his 93rd birthday. We stood vigil with him while the breath of life left him still and lifeless. But we knew that he wasn't dead as many think of death. He had simply

to glory”.

2 Corinthians 5:1-11 is very encouraging to me:

*For we know that if our earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For indeed, in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, 3 since in fact after putting it on, we will not be found naked. 4 **For indeed, we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.** 5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge.*

*6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and **knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord**— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 but **we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.** 9 **Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.** 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.*

It was my father-in-law's purpose to be pleasing to God. He worked with Youth for Christ for seventeen years, then became a mechanical engineer, but that was just his job. His purpose was to please God. He was an elder, taught Sunday school, mentored men, and constantly studied God's Word. He and his wife have adopted and poured their lives into four international families. One has been here 20 years, one for 14 years, one for 7 years, and one for 5 years. They have become like brothers and sisters to us always welcome in Paul and Carol's home. In his nineties, he began writing Bible Studies for Bangla Bible Ministry. His studies have been translated and now thousands of young people study them.

That's the formal stuff. I knew him as a deep man who knew God's Word well, but he offered his knowledge only when the door of the recipient's mind was open. I knew him as the man who granted me permission to marry his daughter. Then he asked permission to pay off her student loans. I said, "SURE!" He loved his church. Once I asked him why he didn't winter in Florida. He replied, "I have too many commitments to my church to take three months

So when he left his tent, our emotions were mixed. There was certainly joy and sadness all at the same time. What we knew for sure was that he was ready. We weren't ready to let Tim Rygh go, but he was ready. These are good days to be ready. Are you?

As a pastor, I do two kinds of end-of-life services: memorials and funerals. For me, a funeral is a ceremony connected with the final disposition of a corpse, such as a burial or cremation. A memorial service is a worship service where God is glorified for His grace clearly lived out by a follower. I actually love a good memorial service where the loved one has clearly lived for the glory of God. It is a sad service overflowing with joy, whereas a funeral is a sad service covered with questions, doubt, and dark shadows. The best I can do there is point people to the hope of all who seek Him, even if the deceased did not.

Yes, this has been a hard year, so let me help you focus on eternity. **2 Corinthians 5:8-9 says, “but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.** Whether you are anxious about the future, worked up about the hate and unrest in our world, sad because of a loss, or just not sure what to do, every believer can be confident that this is not our home. We live in a temporary body (tent) that wears out. The zipper breaks, it gets age spots, and it leaks a little. But our ambition, whether at home or absent is to be pleasing to Him.

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RVC | kids

RVC | kids and family,

I am not sure where I first heard this idea, but it has stuck with me since. When I see the letters N O W H E R E, I see what I want to see based on the lens I am viewing my life from. If I am focused on where God wants me and I am drawing close to Him, I see NOW HERE. If I am caught up in daily chaos and

see very clearly that He has you NOW HERE- to do His work and give Him glory.

-Tracy



RVC I kids is open for childcare for Sunday services. If you are making a decision to return and need childcare, please reach out to Tracy and let her know. This will help in scheduling volunteers. If you have already been attending, no need to reach out.

We are currently looking for second service volunteers for the 2's and 3's room. If you are feeling called to show the love of Christ to children, please reach out to Tracy, our RVC I kids & Family Director (tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com).

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RVC MEN

Our next RVC Men meeting will be on Saturday, February 13, at 7:00 a.m. My guess is you have noticed that we are living in a volatile age. One day we are getting stimulus checks and the next the Capital building is being breached. Most churches have one-third or less of their people back worshipping together. The current cultural trends are blaming Christians and the church for more and more of their problems. We don't know how long the church will look like it has for the last few centuries. But with that said, we are not afraid. The gates of hell shall not prevail against the church.

The Great Commission tells us to “go and make disciples”. We will begin in February to focus on making disciple-makers. That means we will be studying the Scriptures on how Jesus made disciples who made disciples. We will be

disciple-makers. We hope you'll plan to join us on Saturday, February 13, at 7:00 a.m.

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PRAYER AND PRAISE

At our January Prayer & Praise Night on Sunday, January 31, we are planning on doing baptisms. If you haven't been baptized as a believer and would like to publicly proclaim your faith, contact Pastor Wyatt or the church office. We hope to see you there. The service will go from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and, just a reminder, there is no child care.

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HELP WANTED

We are looking for people to fill a few volunteer positions.

Wedding Coordinator

Our wedding coordinator meets with couples getting married and helps them plan and organize what takes place here at RVC. The Wedding Coordinator works with Pastor Dave at the rehearsal and the wedding. If you have some organizational gifts and like helping couples navigate their wedding ceremony, contact Pastor Dave (dave.barber@rvcoshkosh.com) or Heather Patrick (heather.patrick@rvcoshkosh.com).

Compassion Team Members

In January we will be restarting the "Compassion team". Jeff Gorr will be heading up this ministry. If you are interested in helping RVC make an impact on our community, contact Pastor Dave or Jeff Gorr (info@allseasonspe.com).

To show God's love to our community for the purpose of God's glory.

Key Verse:

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Specifics:

1. To increase RVC's awareness and impact on the needs of our community
2. To plan 2-4 (one time) community impact projects annually

Building and Grounds

This team is headed by Colin Lee and handles maintenance of and improvements to the physical structure of the building and the surrounding grounds, including the parking lot and green spaces.

Miscellaneous

Greeters / Ushers - Contact Heather Patrick or Bill Gogolewski

Security Team – Contact Pastor Wyatt Fisher

Tech Team / Camera Team – Contact Danny Linse

Kids Ministry – Contact Tracy Fettner

Student Ministry – Contact Steven Blader

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SERMON NOTES AND SPACERS

Sermon notes are available on Sunday mornings. You can pick them up before you enter the Worship Center. They are located in a basket under the missions map.

As a reminder, we also have Spacers available for you under the missions map. (Spacers are 8.5" x 11" pieces of paper that you can use to let people know you want one or two spaces between you.) So, if you'd like to use a Spacer, please

families that need more seats.

Note: If you don't use a Spacer, then you can't give the "Stink Eye" when the ushers put people in the row next to you. I am actually teasing a little. I have noticed that people assume they are getting the stink eye sometimes when they aren't, but with masks it's hard to tell. Remember, lots of grace.

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2021 GIVING ENVELOPES AND STATEMENTS

Giving envelopes for 2021 are available for pickup in the Café. If you are new since last year and don't have giving envelopes but would like some, please let Kathi Miller know. Also, if you prefer to give online and no longer need envelopes, you can let her know that, too. Kathi can be reached at (920) 231-2265.

Also, Kathi will be handing out 2020 Giving Statements between Sunday services January 24th and January 31st. Please contact Kathi with questions or if you would prefer your statement be mailed to you.

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THIS WEEK AT RIVERVALLEY

(Best viewed in landscape orientation on mobile devices)

Sunday, 1/10

Sunday Service (Worship Center)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Service (Worship Center)	10:45 a.m.
High School Youth Group	6:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/12

Beth Moore Bible Study (Café)	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
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Thursday, 1/14

Ladies Bible Study

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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GIVING UPDATE:

YTD Giving 5/1/20 - 12/31/20

Actual: \$531,818.86

Budget: \$467,740

Weekly Giving 12/28 - 1/3/21

\$17,402.55

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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