



Rose City Park UMC October Newsletter 2020



Welcome Pastor Dan Benson!

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace to you, the people of Rose City Park UMC,

What a time we are in!

We have passed through fire and through smoke thick enough to block out the noonday sun. We are in the midst of a pandemic that we cannot seem to break free of. We are seeing more publicly the racial injustices inherent in our system. Our political life is highly divisive and flaring up into violence. Our denomination may break asunder. Personally, with all this going on, it is a bit surprising to me that I am not hearing more from the doomsday preachers.

However, it is in the face of all this, that I am thankful that I have been appointed to work with you for a time. For, while there are serious issues with parts of our Book of Discipline (the official book of rules for The United Methodist Church), it states in paragraph 201, the very beginning of the section entitled Organizing and Administration, Chapter One The Local Church, we find “The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.”

I am thankful to be working directly with you, as I believe that the local church is precisely the place where I, and each one of us, can make the most significant impact for good in the life of the world. I believe that Rose City Park UMC has already made many positive changes in our communities. And I believe that Rose City Park UMC is where many more positive changes can originate today. I believe that now, more than ever, it is vital to be connected to your congregation, to be a light of hope and love shining in a world that desperately needs it.

If you are feeling overwhelmed with the state of the world, I encourage you to reach out to me, reach out to one another.

Support one another. Pray for one another and the world. It is in community that we find hope. It is in community that we are the body of Christ.

Friends, I am not saying that I expect Rose City Park UMC is going to fix all the broken places of this world. But I am saying that I believe strongly that being part of a congregation, and in particular, being part of this congregation, is a vital part of bringing light and hope and peace to our world.

I am glad to be your pastor in a time such as this.

In peace and hope,

Rev. Dan Benson

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Rose City Park Assessment

The Single Board has been working very hard over the past few months meeting with Reverend Steven Sprecher in an effort to help us better assess our future direction. The Board spend 10 hours in discussions with him in five, two-hour meetings. Rev. Sprecher attended three of our worship services and spoke to several

individuals as well as reviewed numerous documents. We took an honest look at our past pastoral appointments to identify what lessons we could take moving forward. We discussed our ongoing relationship with our Conference as well as looked at ways we can work together to improve communication with the Conference. We also took a look at the Collective that was created under the leadership of Pastor Steve Ross, what led to that decision, and where it currently stands. Rev. Sprecher was extremely willing to hear our frustrations and concerns and we feel has appropriately and distinctly shared those with our current District Superintendent.

We, the Board, were asked to share what we saw as the current image of RCPUMC as well as what we thought our future possibilities looked like, taking into account all of the congregational suggestions that were provided a few months back. We identified our current challenges: financial, the building, our aging congregation, COVID, and communication (both with the conference and with the congregation).

One of the observations that Rev. Sprecher shared was that we need to have better communication on all fronts. Better communication with the conference. Better communication with members of the Collective. Better communication with Beloved if we are to move forward with that partnership. And, most importantly, better communication with the congregation. It was also suggested that we as a congregation participate in intercultural awareness training as our city becomes more diverse in its ethnicities.

We looked at different ways that our building could be used with many possibilities suggested: partner with smaller UMC churches in our area to provide larger event spaces for them (a multi-campus model); asking the Conference to consider RCPUMC as a site for the incubation of new missions in the community – an extension of the existing Collective with a more intentionally spiritual focus, to name just a few.

Our work is not finished, but we as a Board feel very positive about the work that has been done to date. We have come a long way in reestablishing a positive relationship with the Conference which we feel is paramount to future success. Our conversations will be continuing with the guidance and direction of Tim Overton-Harris, our current District Superintendent as well as Pastor Dan Benson. We look forward to these times as we look into the future and reimagine what church will look like for RCPUMC. We are going to bring along with us the best parts of who we are while leaving room for exploration for new and exciting ministries and adventures! If you have anything you would like to discuss with any board member, please feel free to contact us.

Sheryl Shake, Board Chair

Kay Pettygrove, Patricia Holman, Harriet Jackson, David Whitaker, Donna Mathews, Larry McDowell, David Ball, Chris Anderson, Kathy Green, Lucy Sagoo, Meara Espinosa



ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Greetings Congregation

The Church Board would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of a very important All Church Conference that will be held on November 15th at 3:00pm via Zoom. A link will be sent out closer to the date.

Sheryl Shake

BUILDING REOPENING TEAM

Who knew that reopening a building could be so complicated! Your Reopening Team has been hard at work doing the necessary groundwork required by the Conference and District offices of the United Methodist Church to be able to reopen our church on a limited capacity (no more than 10 people per "zone" at a time). Because of the size of our building, we proposed breaking it into three "zones" each of which has an independent air supply either by way of our internal air flow system or by external airflow through exterior windows. It appears that with a few small changes our plan will be approved and we will be able to start accommodating small groups very soon! We are so excited to be able to share our beautiful space again.

There are mandatory precautions that all users must abide by and we ask that IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN THE BUILDING FOR ANY REASON, you contact Elsa Johnson, our Building Manager at (224) 221-9159 to schedule that time PRIOR to your entering the building.

It is extremely important that we manage our numbers and the only way that can happen is if we all participate in some advance planning. A huge thank you to Elsa, who did an amazing job of putting together the preliminary plans for reopening. Keeping track of building users during a pandemic is much like herding cats and she has handled it all with grace and a sense of humor. This next step

is encouraging and exciting and we hope you feel the same way!
Your Building Reopening Team, Kathy Green, Larry McDowell and Kay Pettygrove and Elsa Johnson

What Is the Bible?

**How an Ancient Library
of Poems, Letters, and
Stories Can Transform
the Way You Think and
Feel About Everything**

BIBLE STUDY WITH TOM TATE THIS FALL

There may be Covid 19, but class will go on this fall just like NFL football!. With permission and encouragement from Pastor Dan...

Beginning Sunday night, October 11, at 5:00 PM on Zoom, those adventurous souls willing to join with me, “the Nutty Professor,” Tom Tate, for an exciting experience of transforming Bible study Are invited to gather virtually. The Zoom information will be included with the Sunday worship link. Here’s what we will be using so go ahead and order your book

As you can through Amazon, or whatever: “What is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything” by Rob Bell. Quite a Title, isn’t it! And, it is a New York Times Best Seller! (If you need help ordering, check with my live-in secretary, Corinne)

A close friend for over 30 years recently completed a study of this work and recommended Bell’s book highly. I have since discovered that Rob Bell is a well known, very innovative, creative, imaginative author known by many (I’ve just been “out of the loop.”) I am about half way through his book and enjoying it immensely.

Over the next weeks I will offer some “teasers” from his book that approaches the Bible is a way I have never experienced. In addition to great scholarship, some of which is new to me, his approach, style and humor make for a very entertaining experience.

Tom



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3. Select Rose City Park United Methodist Church to receive your percentage.
4. Start shopping.
5. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at Amazon Smile.

Happy Shopping!!



Just as a reminder, the prayer chain is available to those that would like to request prayers. Also, if someone would like to join the prayer chain all they need to do is send a request to be added to the email address below. rcpumcprayer@gmail.com

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