

Rupert United Methodist Church  
605 H St.  
PO Box 804  
Rupert, ID 83350



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Return Service Requested

# RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[rumc@pmt.org](mailto:rumc@pmt.org)

**SUNDAYS - 2:00 PM**  
Roca Firme Pentecostes

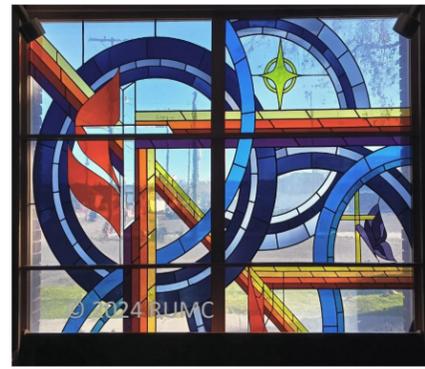
**STATE OF THE CHURCH - March 1, 12:00 p.m.**

**SUNDAYS**  
Sunday School - 9:45 AM  
**LENTEN STUDY - "The Grace of Les Miserables" March 8 - April 12**  
Worship Service - 11:00 AM

**CAMP SUNDAY - Luncheon and Auction - March 15, 12:00 PM**

**POTLUCK & BINGO NIGHT - March 21st - 6:00 p.m.**

Rupert United Methodist Church is ADA Accessible



# Glad Tidings

March 2026

The purpose of Rupert UMC is to share God's unconditional love through our words and actions. We reach up, reach out, and reach in.

Our Values: welcoming, thankfulness, love education, community.



## CAMP SUNDAY IS MARCH 15, 2026!

Our annual camp Sunday lunch and auction are will be March 15.

Please prepare your auction donations to help raise money for Camp Scholarships. The money is used for scholarships, and food for the Family Camp on Labor Day weekend, September 4th-7th.

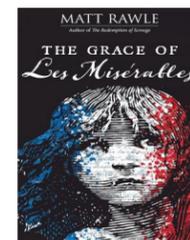
Camp scholarship forms in the church office.

## POTLUCK AND BINGO NIGHT

On Saturday, March 21st there will be potluck and bingo evening at 6:00 p.m. You can say farewell to Cheryl Juntunen at 5:00 at the Drift Inn and then please join us for a fun time with food and fellowship!

### BINGO

1	27	33	48	75
8	19	45	56	61
3	18	FREE SPACE	49	69
15	26	41	53	66
2	21	37	46	65



## LENTEN STUDY

From March 8 through April 12, the adult Sunday school class will be study Matt Rawle's, The Grace of Les Miserables. In this six-week study we will explore six themes - grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love and hope - each represented by a character in Hugo's story.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

We have had anonymous donation to the Altar Flowers budget. Many thanks to the grantor! This will allow us to have beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary even on days when no one has sponsored them for a particular Sunday.

Please continue to support the Altar Flowers as you normally would, and let us be grateful for this donation to keep the beauty of the flowers in our worship.



# OFFERINGS



I am pleasantly surprised that we already know the pastor who will be arriving in July to serve this congregation and community. I have heard very good things about the Rev. Dr. Desi Larson. It feels good to know that the church will be in very capable and loving hands.

There are boundaries when one minister leaves and another one arrives. I will do everything I possibly can to help make a smooth transition. I will remind you that you are not disloyal to me to fall in love with another pastor. Just as our hearts expand when a baby is born into our family, our hearts can expand and fully love other people while still loving the ones we already know.

Every pastor knows that when they leave a congregation, people celebrate for different reasons. Some celebrate the ministry that has happened, some just want a party, and some celebrate because the pastor is finally moving on! Whatever the reason, we will celebrate together.

It is important to recognize a pastor when they leave, but it is even more important to celebrate the new arrival. It is awkward to plan two celebrations so close together, but that is our system. Our Leadership Board will arrange time for each person to be able to greet pastor Desi, and to tell her how happy the church is that she has chosen to live her ministry in Rupert.

I will be full of emotions as June 14th approaches. I am excited to have the opportunity to travel, read books just for fun, choose where to volunteer my time, be near my family, attend worship and sit in a back pew, garden, ride my bike on the greenbelt, and clean a house that is not a parsonage. I look forward to retirement and just being with Richard. Some of you have reacted as if I am dying. Don't put me in the grave before my time runs out!

Our relationships will not be the same. I will be very clear that I will no longer be your pastor. I will not return to Rupert to be in a pastoral capacity. It is healthy for there to be space for you to get to know Pastor Desi without me lurking in the background. You will always be welcome to visit us in Boise, just as some of you have visited Jean Wise and Pastor Pam and Pastor Janice. I do hope you will drop the "pastor" when you refer to me!

We still have work to do before June 14th arrives, so let's get back to work!

Grace and Peace, ~Brenda

## OPEN HEARTS DONATION

The Open Hearts Food Pantry received a \$10,000 donation from the Burley United Methodist Church Future Vision Group.

This donation is an incredible contribution to help us serve our community.

Many thanks to the Burley UMC Future Vision group!



## Sage District

Oregon-Idaho Conference  
The United Methodist Church

The Reverend Karen Hernandez, District Superintendent  
Etha Carruthers, District Administrator

February 22, 2026

Rupert First United Methodist Church  
Brian Williams, Leadership Board Chair  
PO Box 804  
Rupert, ID 83350-0804

Friends of Rupert United Methodist Church,

I am writing to share that Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth intends to appoint Rev. Dr. Deborah "Desi" Larson to Rupert United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2026. She will serve full time and will reside in your parsonage.

Pastor Desi is an ordained elder in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. She is currently serving at Trinity UMC in Sequim, Washington. Pastor Desi has family ties and deep roots in Idaho, so this appointment will be a joyful homecoming of sorts for her. You will undoubtedly be blessed by her many gifts, including her passionate faith and her commitment Christian education and discipleship.

I know you will find ways to express your appreciation to Pastor Brenda as she prepares to retire. As of this reading, this is news only for your Rupert UMC family of faith. This information is not public and should not be shared beyond the congregation until it is announced in an Appointment Express email from the Bishop's Office. (That email will almost certainly be sent on Monday morning.) Please begin praying right away for Pastor Desi.

I pray for God's blessing on this congregation and your pastors, current and future. May this season of transition be filled with the undeniable presence of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and peace,

cc: Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth  
Rev. Dr. Deborah "Desi" Larson

P.O. Box 642, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0642 • 208-537-3683 • sage@umoi.org

## STATE OF THE CHURCH

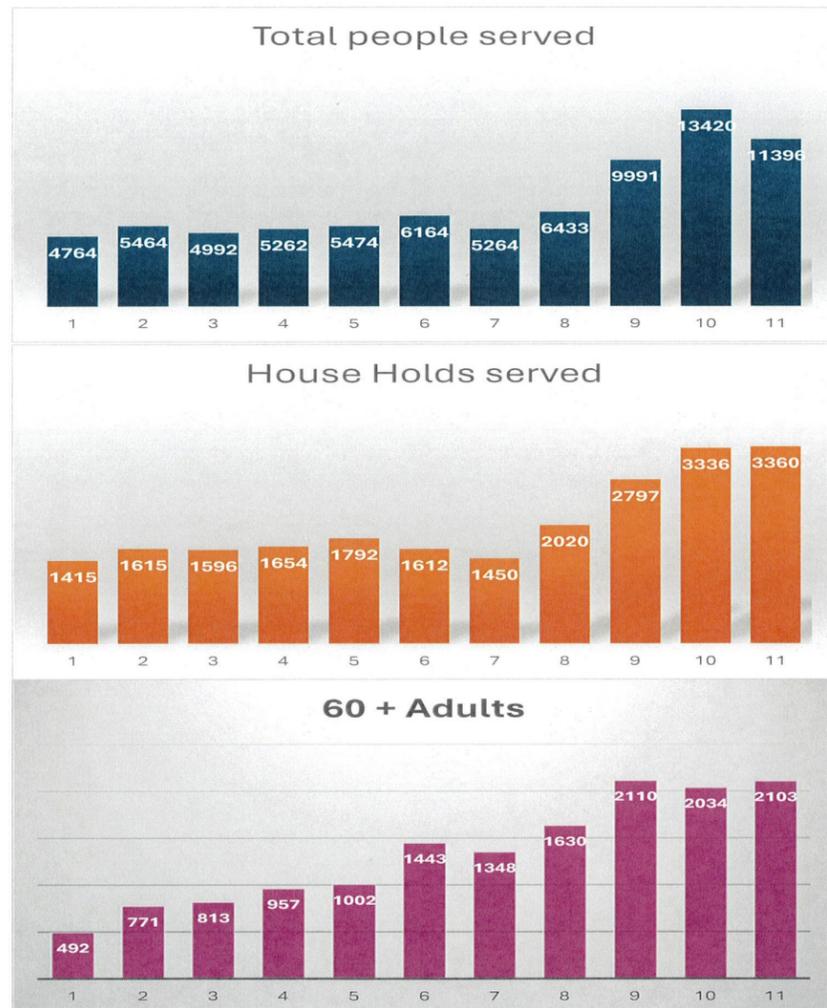
On Sunday, March 1st a short State of the Church meeting is scheduled immediately following the worship service.



# OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY



Open Hearts Food Pantry has come a long way in the last decade!!



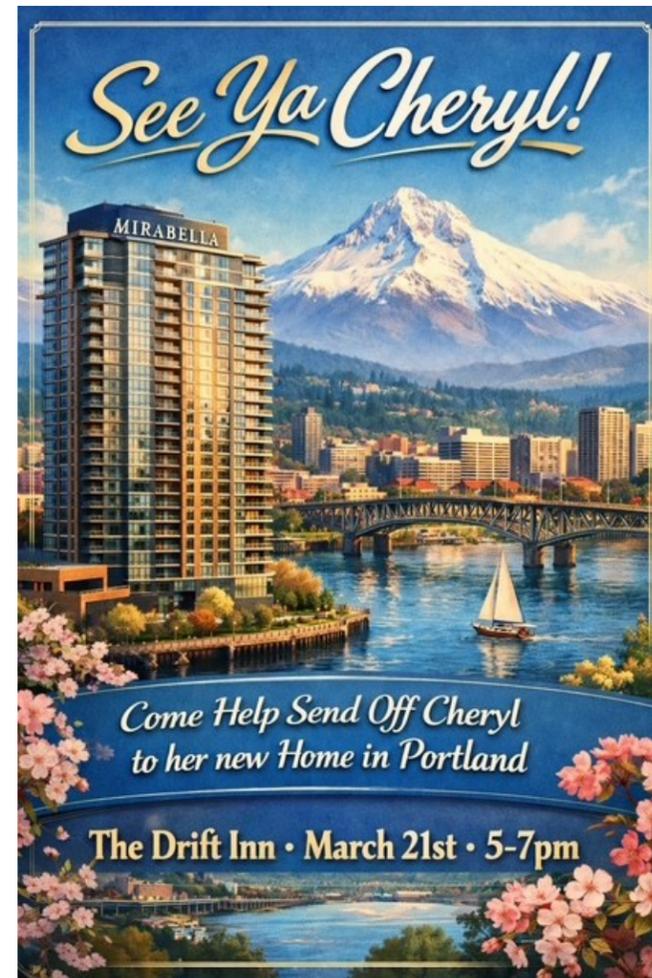
## 11 years of Open Hearts Food Pantry

- #1 = 2015
- #2 = 2016
- #3 = 2017
- #4 = 2018
- #5 = 2019
- #6 = 2020
- #7 = 2021
- #8 = 2022
- #9 = 2023
- #10 = 2024
- #11 = 2025

## FOOD PANTRY BOUNDARIES

The church food pantry is in partnership with the Idaho Food Bank. One of the rules we have to follow from the Idaho Food Bank is that we are not allowed to deliver food boxes to individuals. This is a difficult boundary for us to keep, yet it is important since we need to keep our partnership with the Idaho Food Bank.

If you are unable to pick up a box, please make arrangements for a friend or a neighbor to come to the food pantry to pick up a food box and take a proxy form for you to sign. The form will state who may pick up a box for you.



## DR. VINCENT KITUKU

We thank Dr. Kituku for preaching and telling us about the Caring Hearts and Hands of Hope ministry in Kenya on February 22nd. Our congregation gave him \$1,215 for this ministry.

We look forward to a continued relationship with Dr. Kituku.

If you would like to learn more, sponsor a student, donate to a medical clinic, or donate to help build a house, please contact Vincent at:

PO Box 7152, Boise, ID 83707  
[www.caringheartsandhandsofhope.org](http://www.caringheartsandhandsofhope.org)

## AUTUMN HAVEN DEVOTIONS

Pastor Brenda and Husband Richard were joined by Brian Williams and Joanne Clark for a monthly get together at Autumn Haven Care Center to pray and to sing songs that the seven residents and guests love to sing. Leo Ketterling was able to join us for a short time.

Pastor Brenda opened with prayer. Pastor Brenda's message was reminding all of the importance of physical contact with aging people. When we're young we hug, shake hands, and even give a kiss, but we forget and stop doing this as people get older. These are the ones that should not be forgotten.

Joanne offered the closing prayer and everyone received a hug and a kiss to say good-bye until we meet again in March.

It would be wonderful if some of our RUMC members would join us for half an hour the 2nd Monday of each month. Some of the residents would love to meet new Rupert UMC members.



## RUPERT VETERANS DONATION

The Rupert Veterans have donated \$500 to our Hooks and Kneedles ministry! Thank you!

## SCHOLARSHIP SEASON

There are four opportunities for scholarships through the church.

1. The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry has an online application for several scholarships at:  
<https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/scholarships/list-of-scholarships/>
2. The Oregon-Idaho Conference has an online application for scholarships at:  
<https://www.umoi.org/scholarships>
3. The Rupert United Methodist Church Foundation application is in the church office.
4. The Rupert United Methodist Men application is in the church office.

Contact Joyce in the church office if you need an application sent to you.



## RUPERT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2792

Annual German Sausage Supper  
Saturday, March 7th 2026, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
St. Nicholas Catholic Church Parish Hall  
806 F Street, Rupert  
\$18.00 Adults, \$8.00 ages 6-12  
Children Under 6 FREE  
Sausage Available for Sale: \$8.00/lb



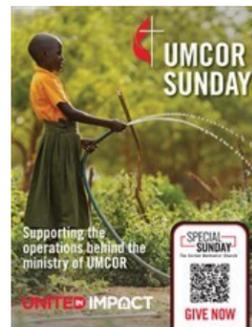
Menu includes German Sausage, Sauerkraut, baked potato, baked beans, green salad, roll and pie.  
Beer and other beverages served.

Proceeds used to support local and worldwide Christian charities.

## UMCOR SUNDAY

UMCOR Sunday, March 15, 2026, is more than just a special offering—it's a celebration of the incredible work we accomplish together as United Methodists to bring hope and healing to those in need.

This Special Sunday offers the Church a chance to connect with ministries that make a global impact through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Our support ensures the operational foundation that powers UMCOR's life-changing work. Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.



## INCOME AND EXPENSES 2026

The Finance team would like to share with you each month how the church is doing financially. We have

FINANCIAL REPORT - MONTHLY FINANCIALS 2026		
Item	January	Year to Date
Income	\$25,056	\$25,056
Expense	\$13856	\$13,856
Income/Expense	\$11,210	\$11,210

- January contributions to the operating budget are higher than normal.
- Total expenses were typical.



## VALENTINE COOKIE PLATES

Thank you to everyone who brought cookies, vases, or treats and all who helped fill and wrap plates or arrange flowers for the Valentine Outreach in February! As usual, we had an outpouring of cookies and help. So many of you took time to send love in the cards that we almost had to put extra postage on them. We delivered 50+ plates with flowers and sent over 20 cards to our out of town loved ones ...

Thanks again, UWF



## Valentine Dinner and Movie Night

On February 14th we had a delightful evening organized by Tully Irving. We ate salad, rolls, spaghetti and meatballs, and desserts of crème brule and angel food cake, while watching "Lady and the Tramp." The attendance of 56 far exceeded our expectations. Thank you, Tully! And thank you for everyone who attended and made the evening so fun!

