

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

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Glad Tidings

February 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.

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

rumc@pmt.org
www.rupertunitedmethodist.org

SUNDAYS - 2:00 PM
Roca Firme Pentecostes

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 am
Amy-Jill Levine "Sermon on the Mount"

UWF Valentine Outreach 12:00 pm Feb 8th

Valentine's Day Dinner and "Lady and the Tramp" Feb. 14, 6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday - Sanctuary 9am - 3pm Feb 18

Dr. Vincent Katuku Potluck and Presentation Feb 22, 11:00 am

Rupert United Methodist Church is ADA Accessible



Valentine's Day Spaghetti Dinner with "Lady and the Tramp"

February 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
All ages, kinds of relationships, and appetites are welcome!
There will be a free will offering to support future fellowship activities.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026
Personal reflection, prayer and ashes
In the Sanctuary from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



DR. VINCENT KATUKU TO SPEAK

On the First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 2026, Dr. Vincent Katuku will preach. Following the worship service, there will be a potluck and a presentation by Dr. Katuku.



VALENTINE GIFTS

On Sunday, February 8th the UWF will do their annual flower and cookie deliveries. Please help by bringing cookies and delivering to some of our congregation. The visits mean so much to our homebound friends and neighbors.

OFFERINGS

When Richard and I started dating, I heard him speak with reverence of Dr. Vincent Katuku. He told me that he considered Vincent Katuku to be a good friend, and that he supported two orphans in Vincent's school in Kenya. I read the letters the students sent to Richard, and I fell in love with these students. We were both eager to see them succeed. It felt like an honor to have Dr. Katuku and his wife attend our wedding. They are an amazing couple who have changed people's lives in Kenya and the United States. I know that they have changed our lives for the better. When Vincent told us of the need last year of houses after a major flood, we gladly helped to build a home. We were relieved this year to hear that both of the students we sponsor passed their exams and will now be able to attend the University. My dream is to one day visit the orphanage and school in Kenya.



When Richard and Vincent were talking a couple of weeks ago, Vincent offered to preach and to talk about his work in Kenya with our congregation. I didn't hesitate to agree that he needed to come. I am excited that he will be with us on the first Sunday in Lent, February 22. As we were talking about Scripture, he brought it alive for me. Much of what I have studied to understand, he has experienced in his life. He brought Old Testament stories to life for me. I look forward to him telling his stories to our congregation. We will have lunch together, where I look forward to sharing Rupert UMC's hospitality at its best. We know how to cook! After the potluck, Vincent will talk to us about his students, his school, his medical clinics, and opportunities we may have to be in partnership with him.

According to A.I., Dr. Vincent Muli Wa Kituku is a Kenyan-born motivational speaker, business trainer, author, and founder of the non-profit Caring Hearts and Hands of Hope. Based in Boise, Idaho, he uses his experiences overcoming childhood poverty and academic struggles in Kenya to inspire people, teaching individuals and organizations to reach their potential, with a focus on helping vulnerable children in Kenya get an education.

That's what A.I. says...but wait until you meet him! The words cannot capture his bigger than life personality. Invite your friends to church every Sunday, but especially on February 22!

Grace and Peace,
~Brenda



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR NEEDED

The VBS theme this year is "Find Your Strength in God; Snowball Mountain Challenge." The full starter kit and the adorable puppet have already been ordered. The church has a wonderful history of people stepping up and volunteering with VBS, but we need a leader to help get us organized! Please, if you are able, call Pastor Brenda to volunteer to be our Vacation Bible School director.

3. Advertisement – In 2026, Rupert UMC will increase its visibility to the community through signage.

4. Environmental Justice – In 2026, Rupert UMC will increase awareness to the congregation.

Action: Lay Ministry class

5. Administrative – Rupert UMC will consistently update policies starting with trustees in 2026, SPPR in 2027, and finance in 2028. The process will start over in 2029. The budget will reflect all our goals.

6. Intergenerational Fellowship – in 2026, Rupert UMC will provide intergenerational opportunities with a focus on younger generations.

Actions: nursery, monthly activities



A PRAYER FOR TODAY

The Epiphany prayer Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth wrote is appropriate for us after the recent shootings, political unrest, and upheavals in our country. Our prayers are needed. If you need someone to talk with, no matter what your view, the church should be a safe place for you. We may not always agree, but we are united through God's love.

God of new paths, teach us courage.

Lead us away from fear and toward faithful obedience.

Do not let us return to ways that harm our neighbors or deny their worth.

Take us home, not by the easiest way, not by the safest way,

but by the way that honors Christ

and protects the people you refuse to abandon.

This we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

AUTUMN HAVEN DEVOTIONS

The Autumn Haven program on January 12th was attended by Dan and Cathy Jarolimek, Barbara Rodgers, Joanne Clark, Barbara Noss, Sara Somsen-Fowler, Brian Williams, and Marion Weickum. Sara and Joanne shared a program about Epiphany, Joanne shared a story about an Epiphany word she had received previously, and we handed out Epiphany stars to the residents. We also left stars for those residents and staff who were unable to join us. We sang several Epiphany themed songs and took requests. There were also two birthdays in January, one of which is Leo Ketterling so please be thinking about him this month!



LEADERSHIP BOARD NEWS

The Leadership Board met on January 21, 2026. The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.. Every meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend, although an executive section may be called. Each meeting includes a time for Trustees, Finance, and Staff-Parish Relations.

There will be a "State of the Church" address after worship on Sunday, March 1, 2026. This meeting is to inform the congregation of the activities of the Board, and to answer questions. Each year, the Board writes and signs a covenant of behavior, which will also be shared with the congregation at the meeting.

As **Trustees**, the Board has had the floor in the upstairs boy's restroom replaced, and are working to make the parsonage more ADA accessible by installing rails to the front and back steps. To prepare the parsonage for the next pastor (and make it nicer for the current pastor), the floor in the main bathroom will be repaired, and toilets in two of the bathrooms will be replaced.

As **Finance**, the Board met with the church financial manager, Jennifer Hieb, to discuss the budget for 2026. The budget will be shared at the State of the Church meeting. The Board is in the process of considering other possible outreach uses for the donations that supported MCEA. The Board acknowledged that communication as to why the church no longer financially supports MCEA (Minidoka Christian Education Association) needs to be shared with the congregation at the State of the Church. Members of the church are welcome to donate directly to MCEA.

As **Staff-Parish Relations**, the Board discussed the process of a change in pastors. There will need to be an increase of money saved for moving costs for a new pastor. The Annual Conference and the local church share the costs. No names have yet been shared with the Board, and once a new pastor has been determined, no name may be shared with the congregation until the planned appointment has been announced by the conference.

If you have any comments or questions, please speak with a Leadership Board member. The members are Barbara Rodgers, Marion Weickum, Britton Bell, Andy Lehr, Marybeth Kraemer, Jackie Hiaring, Rap Howell, Joyce Orem, and Brian Williams. Stan Bruns (Lay Leader) and Pastor Brenda are part of the Board with voice only because of their church roles.

LEADERSHIP BOARD ADOPTS GOALS FOR 2026

The Leadership Board held their retreat on Saturday, January 10th at the Rupert United Methodist Church. The board reviewed the values of the church.

The board set new goals for 2026.

1. Developing Laity Leadership – In 2026, Rupert UMC will strengthen its laity by engaging at least one lay person per quarter in a leadership development opportunity from the conference or other source. Funding will be provided by the church.

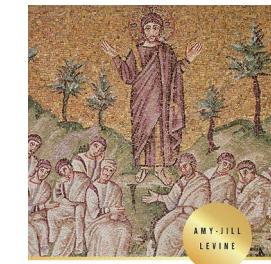
Action: quarterly class

2. Cultural Awareness – In 2026, Rupert UMC will increase cultural awareness of the congregation through the use of at least 4 resources or experiences.

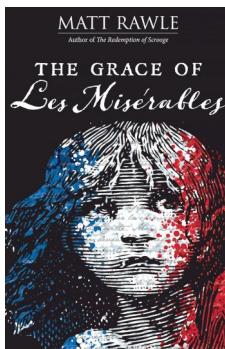
Actions: movies, quarterly speakers, visit to Fort Hall and invite Phillip Allen (Nez Perce) from Lapwai in August 2026

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL NEW CLASSES

From January 25 through March 1, the adult Sunday school class will be studying Amy-Jill Levine's Sermon on the Mount, a beginner's guide to the Kingdom of Heaven. According to Adam Hamilton, "Amy-Jill Levine's book is an essential guide to Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. Professor Levine invites us to hear the Jewishness of Jesus's words, understand them in the light of the world to which he spoke them, that we might better understand how these words speak to us today. This is a terrific book!" The class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30 in the conference room off the kitchen.



SERMON on
the MOUNT
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



From March 8 through April 12, the class will be studying Matt Rawle's, The Grace of Les Misérables. 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. *In preparation for this study, you are invited to the parsonage on February 28 at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and a viewing of "Les Misérables."*

HOW DO WE CONTINUE WITH ALTAR FLOWERS?

Each week's altar flowers cost the church \$30 (\$15/bouquet). That doesn't sound like much, but it adds up to \$1,560/year. That amount would more than cover the church's lawn mowing costs for the year!

To fund the altar flowers, people sign up to sponsor the flowers for a week. They may either sponsor one bouquet, or both bouquets. They are welcome to take the flowers home after the Sunday service or leave them for the administrative assistant to enjoy during the week. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to request bouquets. The next step is to write a check to the church with "altar flowers" listed in the memo.

In January, only January 25th flowers were sponsored. That means the church paid \$90 out of our general budget for the month to cover the cost of flowers. So far, only two bouquets have been sponsored for February, which means that the church may again need to spend \$90 of our budget.

If the beauty of flowers enhances your worship experience, or you want to honor someone, or remember someone, please consider signing up to sponsor a week, or two, or three in the fellowship hall.



EASTER EGG HUNT COORDINATOR NEEDED

Rupert UMC holds a great Easter Egg Hunt every year after worship on Easter Sunday. If you feel a call to lead this Easter Egg Hunt, please contact the church office to volunteer. Our children, and the children from Roca Firme Pentecostes Church, appreciate the love shown through this effort.

OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY



Open Hearts Food Pantry is located at Rupert United Methodist Church 605 H Street, Rupert Idaho. The pantry is open Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, closed on Federal Holidays. Clients can receive one food box a month along with fresh produce, dairy products, bread and choice of meat. Clients can return once a week during the month for additional fresh produce and bread if it is available. Open Hearts Food Pantry fed an average of 300 households per month which is an average of 950 people per month during 2025. We also distributed approximately 38 commodity food boxes to low income seniors each month. Our Food Pantry has multiple community partners including our congregation, Idaho Food Bank, Ridley's Market, LDS Bishop's Storehouse, Zarybinski Foundation, Lions Club, Humanitarian Center, Rupert Elks, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Crop Walk, Miller Research, DOT Foods, Amalgamated Sugar, Beet Growers Association and local Churches.

We have approximately 15 volunteers who help with food distribution, client registration, unloading trucks and paperwork. The pantry has been blessed since the pandemic with major corporate donations that have allowed for the purchase of a storage shed and new appliances. Our pantry started out many years ago giving food boxes to a few people who came into the church office needing food and has grown into a community service that can help those in our communities that are food insecure. We have not always been called Open Hearts Food Pantry but decided on that name a few years ago when we became partners with the Idaho Food Bank.

Final Report 2025	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.
Children up to 0-18	424	511	536	473	435	425	504	364
19-59 Adults	355	452	494	443	349	411	482	423
60 or older Adults	140	179	165	183	146	172	192	156
Households Served 1 time	251	291	292	282	214	268	304	303
Households served 2+ times	10	19	41	29	9	20	19	14
NEW Households	18	20	17	12	10	18	19	16
Total people helped	919	1142	1195	1099	934	1008	1178	943
Boxes Dispensed	251	290	292	282	241	268	304	303
Families of 5 or more	82	98	107	101	94	99	115	83
Commodity Boxes Distributed	43	45	34	45	35	34	51	43
2025 Cont.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total			
Children up to 0-18	357	386	471	418	5,304			
19-59 Adults	373	387	463	452	5,057			
60 or older Adults	185	162	220	203	2,103			
Households Served 1 time	258	303	294	300	3,360			
Households served 2+ times	24	17	26	8	230			
NEW Households	19	38	25	31	212			
Total people helped	915	935	1127	1073	11,396			
Boxes Dispensed	258	303	294	300	3,360			
Families of 5 or more	92	82	106	99	1,059			
Commodity Boxes Distributed	43	45	41	38	459			

INCOME AND EXPENSES 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT - MONTHLY FINANCIALS 2025

Item	December	Year to Date
Income	\$11,472	\$188,025
Expense	\$15,831	\$177,175
Income/Expense	-\$4,359	\$10,850

- December contributions by to the operating budget are typical.
- Even though the month of December was negative, the good news is that the total year ended up positive.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

For those wondering what it means to be a Lay Servant minister, this introductory course could be for you!

Starting February 9, The Foundation course for Lay Servant Ministries

Lay Servant Ministries: The Basic Course

**February 9 – March 9, Mondays 6:30 – 8:30 pm PT / 7:30 to 9:30 pm MT.
(Feb 9, 16, 23, Mar 2 & 9) On Zoom.**



COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is the foundational course for Lay Servant Ministries. It is designed to equip church leaders in the UMC. It explores: personal spiritual gifts, servant leadership, each leader's role in developing future leaders, the importance of consistent spiritual practices, "God's call to a life of servanthood as a disciple of Jesus Christ and the core ministries of Leading, Caring, and Communicating and much more."

LOCATION: On Line Zoom Course

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Sheila Miranda, PNW Annual Conference

COST: The cost of the book \$13 (If needed, the church can pay for this.)

BOOK: *Lay Servant Ministries: The Basic Course* By Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson.

Participant's Book • DR626 • 978-0-88177-626-3 • Participants' books available at Cokesbury and Upper Room

REGISTER by January 26, 2026. Go to pnwumc.org and use the "Events" pull down menu; Scroll down to the 1st session date & click on the title of the course. Contact Rev Sheila Miranda, smiranda@pnwumc.org, with questions or if assistance is needed.