Mission Statement

First United Methodist Church of Yankton:

*“To grow disciples of Jesus Christ and equip them for ministry in the world.”*

# From the Pastor’s Desk

 Christmas should remind us that as Christians, we are a people of profound hope. Hope that is not based on what is unseen, but hope that rests on that precious baby that entered into the world so long ago, who grew up to be the messiah, the chosen one, the savior. We have hope because of God’s faithfulness expressed in Jesus Christ. So do not forget, no matter how dark the nights get as winter comes - a light will always dawn.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Katie

# XYZ December 14th at 10am

 Join Pastor Katie for a time of fellowship, informal conversation and fun! You are invited to bring your favorite Christmas treat to share with the group. XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) is a fellowship time geared for those who are retired.

# Human Services Center Worship

 Pastor Katie will be leading worship at the Human Services Center on Sunday, December 4th at 4pm. If you are interested in coming along, please visit with Pastor Katie!

# Leadership Team Meeting

Leadership Team will be meeting on Monday, December 19th to finalize and approve the budget for 2023. If you haven’t turned in your Estimate of Giving for 2023, please do so before this date so we can take it into account in our discussion. There is still an opening on leadership team in Finance - please talk to Pastor Katie if you would be willing to fill that role!

# Blue Christmas - December 20th

Our annual Blue Christmas service will be held on Tuesday, December 20th at 7pm. This service is especially designed for those who are experiencing grief around the Christmas holiday for a variety of reasons. It is a reflective Christmas service incorporating elements of candles and naming our griefs to God. All are welcome!

# NO WORSHIP on December 21st

 There will be no Wednesday night worship on December 21st in anticipation for Christmas Eve services.

# Christmas Eve Worship

 All are welcome to attend our Christmas Eve worship services on Saturday, December 24th. We will offer two service times: 4:30pm and 7:00pm. These will be traditional holiday services with plenty of music, joy, and candle lighting. This is a great service to invite your family, friends and neighbors to experience the joy of Christmas.

# ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY on Christmas Day

 Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, but to give our staff time off to celebrate the holiday with their loved ones, we invite you to worship online that morning. We will not be worshiping in person in the sanctuary. The Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church will have a special worship service that morning. More information to follow.

# Wednesday Morning Prayer Time

 Join Pastor Katie on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 to pray for our church, our community, and our world. Each week we will talk over prayer requests, answers to prayers and more. Every member of the church has made a vow to pray - so this is one way to live out that vow! All are welcome.

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# United Methodist Women

 UMW will meet Monday December 5th at 1:30pm for our Christmas Party. We will meet in the Church Lounge by the sanctuary, 2nd floor. We will have a brief business meeting before our Christmas Party. We will be singing some songs, playing some games, and making greeting cards. If anyone has old cards (get well, thinking of you or cards with encouraging words) that we could recycle please bring them with you or drop them off in the church office before Dec 5th. Everyone is encourage to bring some treats to share. All interested women are invited and encouraged to attend.

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# FirstKids (PreSchool-5th Grade)

Childrens/Youth Christmas Program: Sunday, December 11th - 10:00am

     - stage practice: Wednesday, December 7th - 5:30pm

Wednesday, December 14th - Childrens Christmas Party - 5:30pm

There will be **NO** Wednesday activities for Children Dec 21st & Dec 28th

Wednesday evening activities will continue January 4th

# Youth Group

Childrens/Youth Christmas Program: Sunday, December 11th - 10:00am

     - stage practice: Wednesday, December 7th - 5:30pm

Wednesday, December 14th - Youth Christmas Party - 7:00pm

There will be **NO** Wednesday activities for Youth Dec 21st & Dec 28th

Wednesday evening activities will continue January 4th

# Hall of Trees

 Visit the Hall of Trees exhibit at the Mead Building this holiday season. A variety (50 or more) beautifully decorated trees including one from First UMC will be on display November 25th through December 30th from 12-4 each day. The theme of our tree is Mission and Memories. Admission is free for children to age 17. $8 for adults and $5 for seniors.

# Financial Updates

 As presented during the Charge Conference, our annual giving is significantly less than our 2022 budgeted amount.  Thankfully our expenditures are less than estimated, but we still project shortfall at year end.  At this time, we expect our 2022 deficit to be $34,000.  In reviewing this year’s trends along with received pledge cards it is apparent we are facing a significant deficit in 2023. We have been blessed by past generosity and through stewardship to have money in reserve to offset our projected 2022 deficit, however it is not prudent to continue this practice. Our membership needs to increase their giving or we need to give consideration to reducing our expenses. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to support our mission.  If you have specific questions, comments, or concerns, you can reach out to the church office, and they can connect you with a member of the Finance Team.

# Offering Envelopes

 If you would like to receive offering envelopes for your giving, please contact Lisa in the church office. Because so many envelopes go unused, we are only giving them to the people who want them.

**Angel Tree 2022**

 Please choose an angel from The Angel Tree in the downstairs lobby. Write your name and phone # next to the child's name that you chose from the tree on the clipboard.  We suggest buying one item of clothing (one size larger than their age) and a toy/game for each child.  Return WRAPPED gifts with the angel attached to the church by no later than **December 16th**. Gifts will be delivered to children living on the Rosebud, Sioux Tribe’s Milk Camp. Mark the "Gift Returned" box on the clipboard.

If you would like the FUMC youth group to shop for your gift, drop $25-$30 off at the church office by Friday, December 9th.

# Parish Care & Outreach

"Oh God when I have food help me to remember the hungry; when I have work, help me to remember the jobless; when I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless; when I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer; and remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion. Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted." - Samuel F. Pugh

As we wrap up Thanksgiving and look ahead to the season of Advent, the Parish Care & Outreach Team would like to recognize our congregation's generous giving that enabled us to demonstrate God's love to many.

* Some of the organizations that have received donations approved through Parish

(Parish Care & Outreach, continued on page 3)

(Parish Care & Outreach continued)

Care & Outreach in the last quarter are: Servants Heart Clinic, The Center (Meals on Wheels), DWU campus ministry, Haiti Alive for food and the Women's Village, and Tree of Life. FUMC's combined donations to these organizations was $4,400!!

* The October 26th/30th Bucket Sunday offering for Loads of Love totaled $408.77. In addition, the UMW donated $250 to our Loads of Love outreach. THANK YOU for making the mission happen for November and into the new year!
* FUMC sponsored Loads of Love on Tuesday, Nov. 15th and will again on Nov. 29th.  We spent $164.50 on the 15th and paid for doing laundry for 15 individuals. Thanks to our November volunteers - Jane Gilmore, Marilyn Holzwarth, Diane Kisch, Lydia Giziewski, Dan & Marilyn Elwood, Jane Walser, Marc Mooney, and Merle & Gena Brandt.  The 2023 volunteer sign up sheets are on the missions & outreach table in the lobby.
* We have SIX mentors matched with students from Beadle Elementary for our Kids Hope USA program!!
* Mark your calendars! FUMC will serve The Banquet on Thursday, December 29th. There will be signup sheets for food donations and volunteers in the lobby soon.

# The Season of Giving

*By Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

 At the beginning of each year, I start my collection of ideas for gifts from the heart for the Christmas season. Every year, I come up with gifts of giving our time and sharing our talents which don’t cause financial hardship. I think of small acts of kindness to show appreciation to impact individuals, families and the community. It’s a time to give thanks to people who serve us throughout the year to make a difference in their daily lives. Some of these “gifts” are ideas from each of you that have been shared this past year.

 Giving Your Time: Volunteer as a family for a good cause in the community. Organize your own toy or winter gear drive and donate these items to a local shelter. Help prepare a meal for a free community dinner. Run errands for those who are unable to drive any longer or who do not have

a vehicle. Help an elderly neighbor with some winter chores like shoveling snow or picking up their mail when it is too icy to go out. Help someone write a letter to a loved one.

 Share Your Talents: Organize a small musical recital with talented musicians from our church. Gather a few people of all ages to go Christmas caroling in the neighborhood. Offer your computer skills to help someone learn about their computer or iPad. Join together to create handmade Christmas cards and distribute the cards to your neighbors. Share your health by donating blood or registering to be an organ donor. Be a volunteer grandparent for a family whose grandparents live far away. Use your cooking and baking skills to make a special meal to share with a neighbor or family. Visit someone in the nursing home sharing news about our church to help them stay connected or just go to listen to what they have to say. Read to your children or read to an older member of our church. Praise people for a job well done!

 Give “gifts from the heart” to receive the blessings of Christmas. Merry Christmas!

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Gene & Esther Kisch

Barb Hirsch

Carolyn Teichrow for healing

Caitlin Jensen

# Thank You

 Thanks to everyone who supported the First UMC Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-off Team. Raising funds for Habitat for Humanity and winning the People's Choice award was an honor.

*Pastor Katie, Bob Thue, Susan Schavee*

# December Birthdays

1 - Emma Gobel

3 - Tyan Beste

 - Loy Gravholt

5 - Merle Brandt

 - Jordyn Cunningham

 - Jane Gilmore

 - Connie VanDeWalle

6 - Ardis Henderson

(Birthdays continued on page 4)

(Birthdays continued on page 4)

7 - Heather Craft

 - Mary Hladky

8 - Bruce Dutrow

11- Lindsay Flannery

12 - Mary Lepp

13 - Mike Miller

14 - Chris Jacobsen

16 - Suzanne Dahlberg

17 - Julie Dykstra

 - Steve King

19 - Jeff Skonhovd

20 - Mark Droppers

 - Jim Sawatzke

21 - Scott Nedved

 - Kristie Taylor

22 - Dan Guthmiller

26 - Sean Garcia

 - Dennis Kisch

 - Jeff May

 - Brook Thurman

 - Bailey Wieseler

27 - Elly Gall

 - Jace Guthmiller

 - Andrea Jaquith

 - Madisyn Jaquith

 - Gene Kisch

29 - Lance Palecek

 - Carolyn Teichroew

30 - Susan Becker

 - Linda Fox

# FUMC Financials

Poinsettia Order

 Advent and Christmas are fast approaching. This means it is time to order poinsettias for the Sanctuary and around the church. This year, the cost of the plants will be $14.00 (6 ½ inch pot).

You may mail this form to the church office (First UMC, 207 W. 11th St., Yankton, SD 57078), bring it to the church office, or you may place it in the offering plate on Sunday and mark your envelope “Poinsettia”.  **Please designate if your plant is “In Memory” or “In Honor” of someone on this form.  (Please check one so the office knows how to designate it for the bulletin insert.)**

            You may pick up your plant following the Christmas Eve Worship Service, or you may leave it here for the church family to enjoy.  Please indicate whether or not you plan to take your Poinsettia home with you.  Thank you.

**Please turn in your order by December 8th**

# Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(*Please check one*)\_\_\_\_\_In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_In Honor of**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I will take the poinsettia I ordered: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_No**

Please enclose your payment of ($14.00) with this order form.