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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

 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. - Hebrews 13:8*

 As August rolls around and with it all the signs that school will be starting again, I am struck by the reality that although Back to School happens around the same time every year, I am never ready for it. It takes me by surprise every time I walk into a store in the summer heat to be greeted by the display of pencils, notebooks and Elmer’s glue. It feels that just as I get into the summer mode, I am being forced out of it once again to return to a different rhythm and pattern for my life as school begins once again.

 This rhythm is so natural to us - and the transition can be difficult at times: to go from the freedom that summer promises with its nice weather, camping and vacations to the more structure of fall. But as we look ahead at making this yearly transition, we have an opportunity to structure our school year and the activities and commitments within it. It can feel like we don’t have much say in the schedules that we have because other people are in charge of so much of it: your boss schedules your work, the school district schedules the school days, the coaches schedule practices and games, and so on. But I hope one thing that you will make room for your schedule this year is time with the Lord.

 In the craziness of life, we need to be centered and grounded on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. We need to make sure that time with Jesus and with the community of the faithful becomes a priority in our schedules. Faith doesn’t just happen - it is learned in the practice of our spiritual disciplines: including worship, service and generosity. So, take time to nurture and grow your faith and your faith community this year - carve out time to participate in the life and ministry of the church.

 While it is true that elements of the church are constantly changing: staff, property, people in the pews - our calling remains constant: to grow disciples of Jesus Christ and equip them for ministry in the world. Come, grow your faith and let us help and support you along the journey!

See you at church!

Pastor Katie

# Human Services Center Worship

 Join Pastor Katie as she leads worship at the Human Services Center on August 6th at 4pm. This is an amazing time of worship and fellowship with some wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ! We would love to have you join us sometime! We lead worship every 1st Sunday of the month. If you are interested, please let Pastor Katie know!

Pastor Katie Out of the Office: Aug 1-6
 Pastor Katie will be out of the office the first week of August for a required 8-year assessment retreat for clergy. If you have any needs, please contact the church office.

# XYZ Fellowship on August 9th at 10am

 Join Pastor Katie for a time of fellowship for those retirement age and above! Have something interesting you’d like to reminisce about? Read something curious in the paper? Bring it along and share it! Coffee is provided.

# Worship @ the Park & Potluck with United Church of Christ

 We will be having a joint worship service at the Amphitheater in Riverside Park on Sunday, August 13th for our VBS worship. Come see the kids as they share what they learned at VBS and then stay for a potluck picnic! This will be a great time of fellowship for our church along with the United Church of Christ! Mark it on your calendar and see you there!

Special Session of Annual Conference - Tuesday, August 15th at 7pm

 There is a special called session of Annual Conference via Zoom on Tuesday, August 15th. The agenda for this session is exclusively to vote on the remaining churches who have a disaffiliation in progress in the Dakotas Conference. Please be in prayer for all the delegates as we gather virtually for this event. From our church, the delegates are Pastor Katie, Dan Johnson, Bob Thue and Craig Sherman.

# FirstKids, Confirmands and Parents Orientation Night

 Please join us Wednesday, August 23rd, 5:30-6:15pm. All kids PreSchool-8th grade and their parents are invited. Supper and Informational Meeting about Wednesday evening schedule, activities and confirmation. Confirmands/Parents will talk about what confirmation will look like this year, the schedule, memory work and the service projects. Students will be expected to name their mentors by that night (who will also be invited to attend.) Please do not drop your child off as this is an evening for the entire family!! We are so looking forward to the start of a new Christian Education year! Please contact Tiffany if you have any questions 1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com (605) 695-0178

# New Sermon Series: Jesus Revealed

 Pastor Katie will be starting a new sermons series on August 20th called Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John. Light. Bread. Shepherd. Life. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is. Through the I Am statements Jesus describes himself with rich images, showing us that he is both fully human and fully divine and calling us as his followers. In Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John, author Matt Rawle explores the "I Am" statements in John as works of art that resonate throughout the Gospel and all of Scripture. He shows how these words point beyond themselves to the deep mystery of Jesus Christ.

 First United Methodist Church is very excited to be launching a new discipleship program this fall called Disciples Developing Disciples. This program takes an individualized approach to discipleship to help each, and every person grow in their faith and help others to grow in their faith. The program begins by taking a simple assessment called a Soul Scan in order to get a snapshot of your faith life at this moment. And then you will develop goals for how you want to invest in your faith and join others with similar goals to achieve them. You will also have the support of the Pastor (who is the only one to see the soul scans) and the D3 Coordinator, Marilyn Elwood.

 But why is it called Disciples Developing Disciples and what’s with the apple logo?

 “Oh, the Lord is good to me, and so I thank the Lord, for giving me the things I need, the sun and the rain and the apple seed, the Lord is good to me.”

 What is the purpose of an apple tree? Initially, you might think that the purpose of an apple tree is to make apples. That is often the purpose for which we plant and grow apple trees - to produce the fruit that we so enjoy. Apples are so popular they have become part of the American identity - hot dogs and apple pie. But is that the real purpose of an apple tree? To bear fruit? Did apple trees have a purpose before we or any other animal discovered its delicious fruit?

 Prior to us deciding the purpose of an apple tree was to produce apples (for us) the apple tree had a purpose that it still has today: to produce more apple trees. The apple tree develops the fruit as a method to get the seeds of a new apple tree spread and planted in the ground. The purpose of fruit is to be a tool for the apple tree to replicate itself. The purpose of an apple tree is to create more apple trees.

**D3 Purpose**

 The same is true for disciples of Jesus Christ. Often in church we believe that the goal of a disciple is to bear good fruit. We read in Paul’s letter to the Galatians about the “fruit of the Spirit” - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are fruit that all Christians are to exhibit, and they are good fruit. But, just like the apple - this fruit is only a tool in the disciples’ real mission: to make more disciples.

 The Great Commission of Jesus begins with the command: Go and make disciples of all nations. In the United Methodist tradition, our mission is “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Our mission and purpose begins with making disciples.

 The church’s stated mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, but who is the church? Many understand the role of the pastor and leadership/staff to be the ones tasked with the work of discipleship. But the pastor/staff do not make up the church - at least not alone. The great commission was given to the disciples - all of the disciples. Every disciple of Jesus Christ - anyone who follows Jesus and claims the name “Christian” has within them the purpose of making disciples. Every disciple is expected to create more disciples.

 As United Methodists, we have a rich history of discipleship structures that help people to grow in their own discipleship as well as personally invest in the discipleship of others. John Wesley created a structure uses classes and bands to group new Christians into small groups for learning and accountability. As the person grew in their discipleship, they would progress through the structure to the point where they would become leaders for the next generation of disciples.
 So as you receive your Soul Scan, please fill it out and return it to Pastor Katie. You will also have the option to fill it out online, so be looking for that link that will be sent out a variety of ways. Once you fill out the Soul Scan, Pastor Katie will be in touch to begin this discipleship journey together!

# Opportunities for Employment at First UMC

 Employment opportunities were announced several weeks ago. With Sue May, Bell Choir Director, moving from this community and Julie Moderegger, Director of Kids Hope and Parish, Care, Outreach, and Missions Coordinator stepping back from those duties, we knew it would be a challenge to hire for these positions. Hiring in general is difficult these days. Our financial situation remains a concern as well.

 As a result, and in part due to lack of response to the available jobs, we in SPPRC with input from Pastor Katie and Finance are taking a different approach to filling the existing needs on behalf of FUMC. We are realigning some duties to make the positions more appealing to a potential applicant who has the option of a paid or volunteer position. If we cannot fill these positions, the activities they were to direct and support will likely no longer be available to the members or the community.

 The position Julie held has been split into three separate positions. Kids Hope, Member Care, and Missions. Member Care encompasses internal congregational activities. Mission Care encompasses external community activities. We, as a church, have been known for all our work internally and in the community. We really don't want that to change. However, it may, depending on who is willing to step into these roles.

 We want to give our sincere thanks to Sue and Julie for their service to FUMC. They both have had a positive impact on the congregation and the community.

 If you feel a calling to lend your time and talents to continue the good work we have started, please consider applying to direct the churches efforts or to volunteer to support a team, please contact a member of SPPRC: Karen Miller, Amber Reaney, or Susan Schavee.

# Youth Group Gathering Dates

(Sometime between 6-8pm)
\*mark your calendars with these dates to gather as a youth group

Fri & Sat, Aug 11th & 12th - Help at VBS!!

Sign up for Remind messages by texting
***@1fumcyouth*** *to* ***81010***

More information will be sent!

# Vacation Bible School 2023 - Monumental!!

*Your unfailing love will last forever*

*~ Psalm 89:2*

**Friday, August 11th:  5:30-8:30pm**

**Saturday, August 12th:  8:30-11:30am**

**Sunday, August 13th:  10:00am service in the park - kids sing!!**

**Register your kiddos today:**

[**https://tinyurl.com/monumental2023**](https://tinyurl.com/monumental2023)


# Leadership Team

 Leadership Team members rotate off after a three-year term or if circumstances cause a team member to not be able to complete their term. It is time to consider taking on this responsibility for leading FUMC in the future. Applications are available on the table outside of the church office or on the website. Prayerfully consider taking this step of using your time and talent for the good of FUMC.

 Applications should be made by November 1 to be approved during Charge Conference (date to be determined) but later this fall. Don't think you are too old, too young, or not qualified. You must be a member of FUMC to take this role. Diverse thought, experience, and input is encouraged.

# Looking ahead!

 It is that time of year again when we need to start lining up our volunteers for children and youth activities on Wednesday evenings.

 We are looking for about 16 volunteers to help with our Preschool - 6th grade program.

And for parents of middle school and high school age kids to help once a month with our youth group.

* We also need help serving and cleaning up after supper.
* If you are a parent of a preschool-high school age student in our church, please consider signing up in one of these areas.
* If you believe it's important to help support the faithful education of the children and youth of our church, please sign up to help.

 It takes approximately 15 volunteers every Wednesday night to make things run smoothly.

* The time commitment in any one area is no more than one hour.

 If you need to be gone a week, no

 problem! Just let me know.

It really does take an entire church to provide a solid foundation of faithful upbringing.

And it is the responsibility of all of us.

 Contact Tiffany to discuss which area might be the best fit for you.

1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com

Church office (605) 665-2991

Tiffany's Cell Phone (605) 695-0178

# Summer Camp Update

 We had a wonderful summer filled with church camps! We had 13 adults; 10 youth and 15 children attend camps this summer. We had campers visit all three church camps (Lake Poinsett, Storm Mountain and Wesley Acres.) Campers attended youth camps, kids, camps, grandparent camps and clergy camps. The support from our church to encourage and make happen the attendance for these campers, is so greatly appreciated! Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to more great camps next Summer!

KYNT Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed

 The signup folder is located on the table in the Church Lounge. **August 20th & 27th,** are available.  There are other dates still available. The cost to sponsor a Sunday broadcast is $45.00.

# Computer and Sound Volunteers

 We are always looking for additional volunteers to join our sound and visual team to help stream our worship services. Please contact Tiffany if you are looking for a place to volunteer your time and talents. She will train and mentor you through the process.

# Church Directory

 We will be working to update our church directory with accurate information and new family pictures! Please fill out the form with updated information at the link provided: https://forms.gle/KAvPnBw4E97N1vuVA

Or scan the QR code with your camera's phone to complete the form. You may email a family picture to Tiffany @ 1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com or upload it through the form or line up a time for her to take a picture at church.

 Join the annual AmeriKids Convention in progress as delegates Yacky Doodle (Convention Chairman), Miss Dorian (Historian), Pip Squeak (from Rhode Island) and others learn about the faith that made our country great. Hear seldom-heard words from such historical figures as Benjamin Franklin, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, and learn of the early 18th-century AmeriKids’ faith in the Bible, in prayer, in God’s protection and in salvation through Christ. Contact Allison at 660-6414 or Sara at 605-254-7070 with questions. Rehearsals start August 26th at 10:00am.

# Take the Time

 by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse

 It is early in the morning at my relative’s house which is full of beautiful clocks. I hear the ticking and the chiming of several clocks. My prayers begin with being thankful for a new sunrise, for family and for good health for all. It isn’t long before I realize a few hours have gone by while others are sleeping. In my mind, I am planning the day but also looking forward to the surprises and challenges God has for me. Even with planning we never know what’s going to happen. It could be simple things we experience with our senses– the smell of breakfast cooking, seeing the cardinal at the birdfeeder, or feeling the pleasure of a good night’s sleep.

 It isn’t long before the tasks of the day come before us– getting the children ready for the day, preparing for a presentation at work, caring for a loved one, paying bills, doing chores, and helping those who really need us. The list goes on and on but how I do I find the time to do everything and accomplish what really needs to be done. The clock is ticking, and time disappears to memories. But at times the clock seems to stop for us to listen, to care and to love ourselves. If we don’t just stop, we won’t see, hear, or feel the important things in life. Take this time and use it for what is important. God asks us to be present in all things. Show your love, open your heart, and give thanks to the one who gives us life.

 Lord, my prayer is to heal those who are ill, give strength to each of us to do your work and for peace for all of us as we begin our day. Help us to use the time you give us to make a difference From James 4:14 “Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” Blessings to you this summer

# Canning Items Needed

 FUMC needs canning jars and lids for our produce from the community garden. Pint and quart size. Donations can be left in the church

office.

# Care Casseroles

 Since this new ministry began on May 10th, 150 casseroles have been gifted. In the Care Casserole freezer are these offerings: goulash, shepherd's pie, and beef enchiladas. Casseroles have been gifted to those undergoing chemo or radiation treatment, new mom's, the lonely, recent widows, someone with a spouse with dementia and more. The responses have been humbling. We would love to hear what you are hearing and any feedback you may have about this effort to live out our mission to love one another-- with food. Please let any one of the Casserole cooks know your thoughts. Gena Brandt, Marilyn Elwood, Lydia Giziewski, Karen Miller, or Susan Schavee. And if you would like to join us, we would love to have your help.

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

River Brown, Doug Baily,

Brenda Asher, Vivian Van Essen’s niece

Caitlin Jensen for healing

Family of Harlan Tiechroew. Carolyn Teichroew passed away.

# August Birthdays

2 - Mikael Pietila

 - Ben Ricke

3 - Jill Sage

5 - Miya Noecker

6 - Huck Flannery

7 - Ruth Gravholt

 - Mary Alice Halverson

9 - Dan Swihart

 - Collins Den Herder

10 - Mary Johnson

 - Burklynn Novak

11 - Chris Hathaway

 - Dan Johnson

12 - Tyler Irwin

 - Kim Berndt

14 - Peggy Doering

 - Gary Johnson

16 - Liza Larson

18 - Hannah Irwin

 - Ron Kraft

20 - Kalyn Peterka

 - Laura Slowey

21 - Derek Moderegger

22 - Jody Brady

23 - Susan Thorson

24 - Rose Nedved

24 - Cole Sawatzke

26 - Dan Slowey

27 - Sue Frick

28 - Brett Sime

 - Rob Taylor

29 - Rhonda Arens

 - Micah James

