

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

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is the one who keeps the law. - Proverbs 29:18

Every year that I attend Leadership Institute at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS, I come away with a conviction in my heart and soul about the next steps for the church. And this year was no different. I truly believe that God's spirit works through that time away and through the speakers to cast new vision and hope for God's people.

I came away from the conference with two convictions. The first is that we are a church who is grieving. The people of our church are grieving the change and the loss of what was. And in that grief, we have lost our vision of who we are, who we are called to be and what God has in store for us. And that is understandable. If you have ever experienced grief in losing someone or something you loved dearly, it leaves a hole in your heart and in your lived experience. And it is very easy to focus on the hole and know that nothing will ever be able to fill that hole. But in doing so, we miss out on what is happening everywhere else.

There are so many things happening in our church, and in this month of November where we celebrate Thanksgiving - I am so grateful for all of it! I am so grateful for our incredible staff, so grateful for the new groups that are forming and meeting. I am so grateful for the dedication of our people in the areas and way that they serve one another. And others are noticing. Rev. Rebecca Trefz, our District Superintendent, was in our church recently when Bishop Lanette Plambeck came to visit us, and during that visit shared with me just how impressed she is with our church and what God is doing in and through us.

But it can be hard for us to see that when all we see is what has been. So, the second conviction that I came away from Leadership Institute with, was a need for us to mark a new beginning. To honor and carry forward that of us which is alive and well, but to find a way to embrace the future and what is yet to be. With that in mind, I have invited some members of the church to join me in a time of visioning and dreaming. We will

start gathering this month and you will be seeing the fruit of that time together in the new year.

God is already at work in us. God is already moving through his Holy Spirit in the people of First United Methodist Church. And it is my hope and prayer that when God stirs in you to love and support and invest in this church through your time, your talent and your gifts - you are ready to do so. I am already so grateful to serve this church and know that what is in store for us, if we are willing to embrace it, will honor and glorify God in ways we cannot even imagine.

Blessings! Pastor Katie

Estimate of Giving Cards

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your estimate of giving cards for 2024, you can still turn them into the office at any time. It is vitally important information for the Leadership Team as they look at the budget of the church to have a clear understanding of what is being pledged to give for the year. Please also consider increasing your giving to close the gap between the income and expenses of the church.

It is through our investment together that we fulfill the mission and ministry of this church. Our purpose in existing is to share the love of Christ, to grow disciples and to equip people to send them into the community and into the world to make a difference. It is a mission that we all serve together and work together to fulfill. So please consider your giving as an important part of how we participate in and extend God's kingdom in Yankton and beyond.

Charge Conference: November 5th, 2023



Mark your calendars to join us for worship and charge conference on Sunday, November 5th. We are blessed to have Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Southeast District Superintendent giving the message in worship as well as lead in our Charge Conference session following worship that day. The Leadership Team will be serving lunch for conference attendees as our thanks to the congregation for support during the 2023 year. If you are a member of the church,

this is your opportunity to have your voice heard as well as attend to the business of our church.

A reminder as well that we will be voting in our next slate for the Leadership Team (as well as Annual Conference delegates). If you are interested in serving the church in one of these ways, please get your application in if you haven't done so already!

Leadership Team Openings for 2024

We have some opportunities for you to serve on the Leadership Team and Annual Conference! If you are a member of First United Methodist Church, you are eligible to serve on our Leadership Team or as a delegate to Annual Conference (in Bismarck, ND). Our Leadership Team has openings in Trustees, Finance and SPPRC. We also open the position of Lay Leader and Annual Conference Delegate every year. We can have 3 lay delegates from the church. If you are interested, please pick up a paper copy of the application or find it on our website and submit your application by the end of October. This is a wonderful way to serve our church!

Playground Installed... Finally!



Photo: Workers installing the Playground on Wednesday, October 18th.

First UMC has a new addition to our property in the form of a playground on the southwest corner of the east parking lot. This project began months ago with members of the church having a dream to install a playground for the children of the church. This dream took a giant leap forward this past summer when an apartment building chose to remove their playground. We bought the equipment at a fraction of the cost to buy something new. Work began to install the playground this summer with the contractor who had removed the playground from the apartment complex. However, that contractor did not complete the job before leaving town.

The Leadership Team was able to secure new bids to install the playground and wisely chose to use money from the Richardson Fund, which is an endowment where the payouts are to

support children's ministries, to pay for its installation. The playground was installed the week prior to the Soup Kitchen and Trunk-or-Treat. This allowed many people to see the new playground and the investment that this church makes in its children.

Many thanks to the many people who have made this project possible: to the Trustees, Merle Brandt, Dan Swihart, and Scott Giziewski; to the Leadership Team and their diligence in finding the appropriate funds for this project; to Sherry Daugherty for helping to supplement funding for this project through the silent auction; and all of you for believing in the future of this church by investing in our children today.

Rev. Katie Ricke
Yankton First UMC

Missions Moments

There are some great things happening and some great things coming up!

Thank you to Pastor Katie for developing a prayer box for Loads of Love, including a Spanish version.

The next Bucket Sunday (October 29th) will be designated for Loads of Love. If anyone would like to submit a cause for the Bucket Sunday offering, please contact me (Carla Hummel).

Needs:

- Loads of Love – we are in need of volunteers for November 21st. 4-6pm. Sign up on the sheet in the lobby, on sign up genius or by contacting Carla.
- Angel Tree – The stores are already showing signs of Christmas and it won't be long before we are shopping for the Angel Tree!

We would love to make sure that every child receives an item of clothing and a toy. For those that don't want to shop, the suggested donation is \$25.

Watch for more information to come!

- Banquet – First United Methodist Church serves on December 28th. What a great time of the year to serve! We can share a holiday meal. This will be the only time we serve the banquet each year. And this year we are excited to hand out a gift of a FUMC mug with hot chocolate.

All of these great opportunities for missions in our community bring me back to my favorite saying:

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

Thanks for your continued support of missions!

Carla Hummel

605-660-7390

Wednesday evening Kids & Youth Schedule

5:00-5:30pm Kingdom Bells (1st-6th Grade)

5:30-6:30pm 605 (PreSchool-6th Grade)

***Supper will be served**

5:45-6:45pm Confirmation (7th-9th Grade)

7:00-8:00pm Youth Group (7th-12th Grade)

Important Dates

*Youth group will be filling Sack Packs at Calvary Baptist Church Wednesday, Nov 1st at 5:15pm.

We will eat at DQ afterward!!

*Registered Youth will travel to DakYouth Nov 10-12. Prayers are appreciated!

*** No 605 or Youth Group on Wednesday, Nov 22nd - Happy Thanksgiving!!**

Mark Your Calendars!!

Children's and Youth Christmas program is Sunday, Dec 17th at 10am!

We will prepare for the program on Wednesday evenings throughout the months of Nov and Dec.

United Methodist Soup Kitchen

Thanks to everyone who donated food, time, or money to make Yankton's Best Soup kitchen a huge success. We could not have done it without all of you. We can't begin to tell you how many positive comments were heard from those who enjoyed the food and the fellowship. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.



United Women of Faith (UMW)

Our November meeting will be Nov. 6th at 1:30 in the church lounge. Our program is our World Thank Offering and Memorial Service. Hope you can join us. Also, there is a tote in the lobby for any items to donate to the Swan Lake Ministry. Thanks for all you can give to help!

Lydia Giziewski

Welcoming

by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
Mathew 25:35 We walk among people each day, some we know and some we will never know. We sometimes have no connection or relationships with people who are different from ourselves. It seems it might be easier just to look the other way and show no concern. Many times, there is no eye contact and no words. We each just go about our tasks and move on not even thinking about it.

Long ago I had a South Dakota friend who traveled to New York City. She decided to use the subway to get to a specific museum she desired to visit. The subway was crowded with many people who were much different than she was. She wasn't sure who to ask for help from as she wasn't quite sure what stop the museum was at. She quickly looked around—there was someone speaking another language beside her, a woman from a different race with three small children working to keep them safe and then an unclean man carrying a small bag stuffed with old food. No one looked at her and she began to feel anxious not knowing who to ask about directions. Then all of a sudden, a young woman dressed all in black, wearing dark makeup and covered with tattoos made eye contact with her. There was a hesitant moment and then the young woman asked, "Can I help you?" My friend wasn't sure if this was the right person to ask but something nudged her to answer the question. "Is this where I get off to go to the Museum of Natural History?" The woman said, "No, get off at the next stop and go to the right and you will see the museum." She smiled looking into my friend's eyes and said, "Have a good day!" My friend responded, "Thank you." There was no connection between my friend and the young woman all dressed in black with tattoos whom she least expected would help her.

Just with her eye contact and a few words, my friend was shown some compassion by a stranger. When we are strangers— it is a different feeling. The young woman in black knew my friend wasn't from New York by the way she dressed and the way she talked but was willing to invest in helping another person in need. Today, I ask each of you to look into the eyes of someone different than you are. Say something pleasant, smile, open a door, and reach out by doing something needed by a stranger. Welcome new people to our church and our community. I am reminded

of a friend of mine who was asked by a homeless person for some money. My friend said, "What do you need the money for?" The man responded, "I just need the money." My friend asked a few more questions and finally the man said, "I'm hungry." My friend offered to walk with him to a cafe down the street for a good meal. He smiled and accepted the invitation. Not only did the man receive a much-needed good meal but also received compassion from another person. Remember relationships nurture compassion and help it thrive. Blessings to each of you as we offer compassion to strangers and to each other.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Ed Durst, Alicia Cornemann's dad passed away

For the family of Carole Hurley, Don passed away.

Marbeth Nyquist, Chrissie Wieseler's mother

Joyce Myers, friend of Katheryn Hickey

Prayers for Dawn Kabella, she was diagnosed with cancer.

River Brown, Doug Baily,

Brenda Asher, Vivian Van Essen's niece

Caitlin Jensen for healing

November Birthdays

2 - Monte Gulick

- Jo Watkins

3 - Sara Olson

5 - Alix Peterka

- Bailey Peterka

- Cassi Pietz

7 - Lisa Irwin

9 - Mary Olsen

10 - Suzanne Tessier

11 - Delores Moore

13 - Alexis Craft

- Barb Hirsch

- Andrea Tramp

15 - Sayla Nedved

- Jenae Norton

- Warren Peterson

18 - Lily Lawrence

- Mary Malchow

- Jason Ricke

19 - Lara Cunningham

- Beckett Kisch

21- Russell Peirce

22 - Craig Sherman

- Jane Walser
- 23 - Kenny Doering
- Shar Peterson
- 24 - Karen Miller
- 26 - Sharon Heisinger
- 28 - Julie Moderegger
- Jerry Wilson
- 30 - JoAnne Roach

FUMC Financials by Diane Kisch (Financial Assistant)

2023 Income	Cash Flow		
Month	Income	Expenses	Amount
January	\$70,623.95	\$45,095.94	\$25,528.01
February	\$33,283.73	\$31,574.79	\$1,708.94
March	\$24,117.27	\$34,263.61	(\$10,146.34)
April	\$29,432.81	\$34,010.70	(\$4,577.89)
May	\$25,581.96	\$30,606.20	(\$5,024.24)
June	\$24,021.33	\$34,274.20	(\$10,252.87)
July	\$30,771.07	\$30,744.61	\$26.46
August	\$25,851.88	\$39,837.54	(\$13,985.66)
Sept	\$22,066.18	\$32,518.23	(\$10,452.05)
Totals	\$285,750.18	\$312,925.82	(\$27,175.64)

Projected 2023 Expenses are \$447,961.00.00

* Income for January is generally higher than other months as we have some members that give their annual pledge in one month.