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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

**From the Pastor’s Desk:**

 *We know that all things work for the good of those who love God, who have been called according to God’s purpose. - Romans 8:28*

Last fall I attended the Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. While there I heard world-renown speakers like Carey Nieuwof and Olu Brown talk about the importance of leadership, vision and looking ahead at the mission and ministry of the church. I came back with a fire in my heart and a conviction in my soul that we needed to clarify our vision of the church moving forward and unite around the mission and purpose God has for us in this chapter of the church’s life.

While we recognize the challenges and obstacles that lay before us, especially as we work on things like the budget and the upkeep of our beloved building, we have a lot of opportunities before us as well. So, I gathered a group of invested leaders to meet this fall and winter to dream about who we are and who God is calling us to be. These conversations dug deep into our mission and vision - and in the process we crafted two statements to describe the church we aim to be.

First, our vision for First United Methodist Church moving forward is “A church of hope, healing, and belonging that loves and serves all through the power of Christ our Lord.” We recognize that there are many in need of healing, hope and a place to belong - not only in our church but in our community. We want to be a place where people can find all three through the power of Christ. Moving forward we will be evaluating what we choose to put our time and energy in based on whether or not it fits with this vision of the church.

Second, we created a mission statement to go along with this vision. I will be preaching a series in January that will dive into this mission statement in greater detail - so you won’t want to miss that!

Our mission is to inspire all people to seek God, grow in their faith, discover their purpose, and serve others to make a difference.

Does that sounds like a church you want to be a part of? Does that sound like a mission you will invest in with your time, your talent, your energy and your giving? Does this sound like something you can be excited about and tell your friends? I hope so! Because I believe that God has been working in and through this church to create these visions and missions for us. I believe that God is working good in our hearts and in our lives to make this possible.

We have a few more fun things up our sleeves moving forward. God is good! Happy New Year!

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.

# Pastor Katie Out of the Office:

Pastor Katie will be out of the office from Sunday evening (7th) through Tuesday (9th) for the Clergy Epiphany gathering with Bishop Plambeck.

 Pastor Katie will be out of the office January 29th-30th for a Board of Ordained Ministry meeting. Please pray for the candidates being interviewed for commissioning during that meeting.

# Leadership Team

 The First United Methodist Church Leadership Team will kick off the new year with a meeting following worship on Sunday, January 14th. During this meeting, we will be officially welcoming our new members: Laurie Baily (Trustees), Tammi Downs (SPPRC), and Laura Slowey (Finance). We will also be continuing our difficult discussion on the budget realities of the church and how we will move forward being faithful to the gifts that we steward along with being faithful to our Godly mission. We will also be working on funding for the roof project over the Education wing and the office/entryway area.

# Town Hall Meeting: January 28, @ 11:30 AM

 Join us for a church-wide town hall meeting at the end of January. This is your opportunity to share you thoughts and views on topics like the budget, the roof project, the vision and mission of the church, and more! We are the church together and it is vital that your voice is heard. The Leadership Team will be present to answer questions and hear your ideas! You won’t want to miss this!

# T-Shirt Design Opportunity!

 Are you creative? Are you an artist? Do you like graphic design? Are you just very opinionated about what you wear? We are inviting everyone in the church to submit designs for some new church shirts! Turn your design in to the church office by January 21st to have submitted for consideration. Church shirts will then be available to order with proceeds going toward the new roof fund!

# Christianity 101: Sunday Morning Small Group

 Join Pastor Katie for Christianity 101, a small group study that covers all topics related to Christianity. This fall we covered topics like baptism, communion, grace, sin, grief, divorce, the Bible, church history and more. You are welcome to come to any or all classes!

The schedule for topics in January are as follows:

January 7th: What is the Church?

January 14th: What is Prayer?

January 21st: The Imago Dei (Image of God)

January 28th: What is Salvation?

# Tuesday Lunch Study: Revelation for Normal People starting January 16th

 Join Pastor Katie at the church on Tuesdays at noon starting January 16th, for a lunch study on the book of Revelation. We will be using the book, *Revelation for Normal People: A Guide to the Strangest and Most Dangerous Book in the Bible* by Robyn J. Whitaker.

 Whether you love it, hate it, or avoid it like the plague, the last book of the Bible’s influence permeates our cultural, political, and religious landscapes. From the so-bad-they’re…still bad actually…*Left Behind* series, to conspiracy theories about microchips and barcodes, to all-too-real political discourse and actions, John’s visions in Revelation reach far beyond anything their ancient author could have imagined.

 But what *did* John imagine? Who was he writing for and why? And what’s the deal with all the hideous horned beasts?

 Join New Testament scholar Robyn Whitaker as she uncovers the real-world contexts behind this ancient apocalyptic text. A world occupied by an oppressive empire, a marginalized people, and a God committed to justice. Where a beast overthrown was a declaration of authority and a falling star was a statement of evil’s demise. Where symbols gave voice to resistance and visions provided a glimpse of hope. A world utterly and entirely ancient.

 Only when we understand Revelation’s ancient contexts can we begin to find meaning for our own. Let Pastor Katie know if you’d like her to order you a book, or you can find it on Amazon!

# Visioning Team

 Being part of the Visioning Team has been a very new and exciting experience for me. I have been able to share ideas and collaborate with other people on how to improve what the church has been doing. I'm very excited to see how this team can help change and improve the church through our ideas and action. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to help First United Methodist Church in Yankton.

- Kenzie Giziewski

 I am excited about the SMART goals we have because I believe that if we have more people helping do things for the community from our church, more people will come to our church to help out and have fun. The purpose of our church is to connect people to God through fun activities and helping our community. I am also excited that the visioning team is starting to include things that children and youth would like because I think that in order to bring more people to our church, it starts with the kids of our church being excited to be there. The future of our church is in the hands of our children and youth, and by accepting this, we can start to show people our dedication to the future of the kids, the families and our church.

- Sam Slowey

# United Women of Faith (UMW)

     I’m inviting all women to come to the United Women of Faith meeting Jan. 8th at 1:30 in the church lounge.  Our January meeting will be the Pledge Service by Diane Kisch, a light lunch served after.  The BEST way to invite someone to church is to ask them to go with you.   Ready to take off in 2024!       *Lydia Giziewski*

# 605 Update

 605: for kids Preschool-6th grade runs from 5:30-6:30 every Wednesday evening with supper served at 5:30!  It is an evening of lessons, crafts, songs and games to teach our children more about Jesus and the bible. For more information contact Tiffany at 1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com or sign up for Remind messages by sending the message ***@1stumckid*** to the number 81010

# Youth Update

 Youth group: for kids 7th grade-12th grade runs from 7:00-8:00 every Wednesday. We offer lessons, games and videos to help our youth further their knowledge of Christ and develop their faith. For more information contact Tiffany at 1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com or sign up for Remind messages by sending the message ***@1fumcyouth*** to the number 81010

# Mission Moments:

 Thank you to everyone that has been so supportive of missions from First United Methodist Church.  And also thank you very much for all of

the support that I have already received from many of you with kind words and lots of prayers.  It has been very helpful and reflects the heart that this church has for missions.

 December has been very busy with lots of wonderful outreach showing how we open our hearts, our minds, and our doors…..

* The Christmas tree at Mead can still be seen until December 31, 2023.  Grab a candy cane and vote for your favorite!
* The Angel Tree – Kudos everyone!  We had a record number of angels this year – 68 of them.  They were all taken from the tree and were all returned attached to beautiful gifts.  A huge thank you to Tom and Jane Gilmore for delivering them to the Milks camp.
* *Thank you to all that were involved with the Caroling with Care Casseroles!  Thank you to the Care Casserole team – amazing meal and treats to be able to hand out to those that were on the list.  The Carolers made about 15 stops with almost 20 care casseroles being distributed.  The recipients were very moved and even sang with the carolers at times.  Thank you to the Carolers for being a part of this first and hopefully now annual event!  It was a great way to connect with those that can’t always make it to church and show that we care and are thinking of them.*
* And the banquet will round out our December – on December 28th.  This is another great opportunity to help fulfill a basic need: Hunger.  The signup sheets are out.  Please consider being a part of this mission.

 The new year is so close and with-it new opportunities and challenges!

The mission budget is pretty small but hearing about our finances recently, it seemed like the right thing to do is make the missions budget more dependent on fundraising and direct donations.

 I will be planning about 3 fundraisers throughout the year that will help support the missions that we do.  Mind you that is only the dollars.  I will still be asking you to be a part of the projects and needs, by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

 In January, we have two opportunities to be a part of Loads of Love.  I invite you to come and be a part of this ministry.  The signup sheets are located on the mission table.

 Some great things to look forward to is that we hope to put together a multigenerational mission trip this spring/summer.  I have also had someone bring up an idea for a mission day, where we start at the church and go out to do missions then return to share our experiences.  If you have ideas and/or would like to see any specific missions supported, please let me know.

 Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do for Missions!

Carla Hummel

# Promise for the New Year

*By Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

 Faith Community Nurse Proverbs 16:9 “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” As we begin the New Year in 2024, many of us will try to make a change to improve our lives. We call it “making a New Year’s resolution” or a promise to ourselves to do something better or change something. Resolution is defined as a “ firm decision to do or not to do something.” It is an act of will on our part based on personal and moral beliefs. We will do something with intention or determination. Some of the resolutions or promises may involve our health both body and mind, but also with our spirit. Whatever the resolution, God will be there as we take each step. We may stumble along trying to do what we have set out to do. But in the process, we know it will take time and perseverance to reach what we promised to do. This year I would like you to suggest we look at our spiritual life and see what we can do to make a difference in ourselves and others. Be flexible and be open to what God will be doing in your life over the coming year. Here are a few suggestions to help you along the way: Stay connected to your faith community with your presence at church each Sunday. Love your neighbors whole-heartedly by doing something special for them regularly. Show stewardship by speaking of hope and the Gospel. Do a random act of kindness each day. Volunteer at church by being a part of missions on a regular basis. Start a grateful diary writing down one thing you are grateful for every day. Be more present with others by turning off all of your digital devices for a few hours. Read the Bible daily, meditate and pray. Make reading more on studying scripture than any other reading. Give generously of your time and gifts to help others. Prioritize your time with God in nature weekly. Remember as you are making your New Year’s resolution or promise, be intentional. “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all in the Glory of God. Blessings to you for the coming year

# Thank You

 Sincerest thanks to Pastor Katie and Susan Thorson for their visits during my hospitalization.  Important thank yous to John & Jackie Ambroz for their transportation to and care at the hospital and to Delores Kafka for the ride home. Thank you to everyone who offered prayers and support.  You are a special church family.

*Dee Carson*

 Dear Friends, thank you so very much for all you have done for us!! Every kindness has been so meaningful. Every friend so very important. What an amazing congregation you are!

*With Love, Merle & Virginia Larson*

 I would like to say Thank You to everyone at FUMC for all your many prayers, cards, calls and kind acts of gestures towards me and Jill during me recent surgery and illness. It is so very much appreciated.

 *Jerry & Jill Wilson*

# The Work Of Christmas (Dan Forrest)

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among brother,

To make music from the heart.

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Jack Stoddard, Naomi Somer

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

# January Birthdays

2 - Corinne Ditmar

4 - Ashley Craft

 - Kaleb Swihart

5 - Steve Pietila

6 - Gary Guthmiller

 - Tyler Kaiser

8 - Ken Bevers

 - Cooper Cornemann

 - Andy Gall

9 - Marlene Konopik

11 - Hudson Burgeson

13 - Mary King

 - Connie Sawatzke

15 - Ginger Guthmiller

16 - Scott Giziewski

 - Dena Heeney

17 - Paul Pietila

18 - John Wiechmann

20 - Sandy Dennis

21- Jean Droppers

 - Kristi Hunhoff

 - Rita Rolston

22- Angela Herrmann

 - Linda Herrmann

23 - Carol Skonhovd

24 - Hannah Honrath

 - Claire Mooney

25 - Tate Beste

 - Randy Hummel

 - Jaxx Olson

 - Abigail Ricke

27 - Rick Daugherty

 - Carol Wiechmann

31 - Matt Pietz

