.

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

*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!

**

**Ash Wednesday - Prayer Stations and Service**

This year we are doing something a little different to recognize Ash Wednesday in an effort to make it possible for as many people in the church to participate. We are also joining forces once again with the United Church of Christ (Congregational) here in Yankton for this day’s events.

Starting around 11am and going until 5pm, the church will be open for Lenten prayer stations. You may have heard of prayer stations before for Holy Week, where you go from location to location following the events in the final days of Jesus’ life. Advent prayer stations are similar in that there will be various stations set up around the church and you will go through them on your own. You will receive a guide as you enter the building on how to go through the stations. Each station will have its own theme, reflection and small activity. The hope is for you to take your time and to experience Ash Wednesday in a new and creative way. There will also be an option during the prayer stations to receive the imposition of ashes by one of the pastors. We hope that you will be able to take some time during the day (or even over your lunch hour) to go through this experience, especially if you are not able to make the evening service.

You are then invited at 5:30pm to eat a meal here at the church followed by an Ash Wednesday service at 6pm. This will be a traditional service with scripture, music, prayer, preaching and the imposition of ashes offered. All are strongly encouraged to attend this powerful service.

# Christianity 101: Sunday Mornings at 8:30am

Join Pastor Katie for Christianity 101 on Sunday mornings to continue growing in your faith. This class offers opportunities to refresh your knowledge on foundational Christian theology, ask questions, and grow in fellowship with other people in the church. All are welcome!

The topics for February are:

February 4th: What is Salvation?

February 11th: God & Relationships

February 18th: Life After Death

February 25th: Stewardship of Creation

# splatter_what_s_going_on-title-2-Wide 16x9.jpgWhat’s Going on Podcast

Check out Pastor Katie’s Weekly Podcast “What’s Going On” found on YouTube! Each week Pastor Katie digs deeper into what is happening in the life of First United Methodist by sharing more info about events that are happening, decisions that are being made, interviews with staff, members and community partners and more! You don’t want to miss it!

# United Women of Faith (UMW)

I’m inviting all women to come to the United Women of Faith meeting February 5th at 1:30pm in the church lounge. We will combine th Jan. and Feb. meeting.  Let this be our prayer, Dear Lord, lead us to a place, guide us with your grace, help us to be wise when we don’t know, watch us from above as we go into 2024. Hope you will join us!

*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](mailto:1stumckidsyanktin@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](mailto:1stumckidsyanktin@gmail.com) or sign up for Remind messages by sending the message ***@1fumcyouth*** to the number 81010

**Middle School Bowling**

Sun, Feb 4 - 2:30pm. All middle schoolers are invited to go bowling with other middle schoolers from Trinity Lutheran and United Church of Christ Congregational.

**Mom and Dad's Night Out**

Saturday, February 10th 5:00-8:00pm our youth group will be providing baby-sitting services at the church along with supper, games, crafts, and a movie for all children ages 0-5th grade.

Kids may be dropped off and picked up anytime between 5:00 and 8:00, but supper will only be available from 5:00-6:00.

This is a free-will donation opportunity with money raised going towards youth night snacks, drinks and activities.

# Mission Moments:

*For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me.  Matthew 25:35-40*

Loads of Love Report:

* January 30th – Thank you to the Leadership Team for covering the January Loads of Love times. We ended up having to cancel the January 16th night as the weather was not favorable. But we are back in action on January 30th.
* The signup sheet is on the Mission table.  All of the dates are there for reference. Your consideration

would be greatly appreciated. Especially if we can develop some groups or families that would be willing to serve once or twice a year. Loads of Love works best with about 4 people. There is a clip board to help track the number of loads. And the only other duty is to put the quarters/dollars in the machines. It’s easy! And it’s a great way to welcome strangers and help them be clothed with clean clothes!

* Dates: March 19th, April 30th, May 21st, July 16th, July 30th, September 17th, October 29th, and November 19th.  4:00-6:00pm.  At the EZ Duz It Laundromat located in the mall behind Walgreens.

River City Domestic Violence Center Drive:

* For the month of February, we will have a drive for items on their needs list.
* Items can be brought to church and put in the bin below the display also listing the needed items.
  + Cleaning wipes/Disinfecting wipes
  + Air Freshener spray
  + All-purpose cleaner
  + Window cleaner
  + Laundry detergent
  + Toilet paper
  + Paper towels
  + Kleenex
  + New Pillows
  + Pillowcases

Thank you in advance for your donations!

Fundraising to support Missions:

* March 10th – Spring Forward Baked Potato Feed and Dessert Auction!
  + It’s that wonderful time of the year that the clock springs forward and what better way to celebrate then to gather with food.  Come join us for a Baked Potato with various toppings to choose from and then buy or bid on some dessert!
    - Looking for volunteers to help with food, bake sale, and/or willing to donate food or desserts!

\*Upcoming Fundraiser for the Roof:

* In need of a TEAM!  We would like to have a rummage sale with all of the proceeds going to the roof fund.  It takes an army – WE NEED YOU!  Please consider being a part of this great project that helps our very own church as well as helps us to help others!  If interested in being a part of the team to plan and work the Rummage sale – please let me know.  No date has been set yet – that will be a part of what the team decides.

Thanks for your consideration of everything Missions!

Carla Hummel, Mission Coordinator

605-660-7390 (personal cell) Or contact through the church office.

# American Heart Month

*By Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

February is American Heart Month sponsored by the American Heart Association founded 100 years ago. Heart disease 100 years ago was considered a death sentence. Even though there has been strides in improving heart health, heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States. In 2021, there were 931,578 heart related deaths, an increase of less than 3000 over the previous year. According to a report by the American Heart Association, the death rate overall has decreased 60% from the 1950’s due to research, improved diagnosis, more and better treatment options, emergency care, preventive measures and a dramatic decrease in smokers from 40% of adults who smoked in in 1950 to 11% of adults who smoke today. We have a long way to go to improve heart health as it affects all age groups. Lifestyle choices are a major contributor to heart disease.

(Source: American Heart Association)

There are many ways to improve heart health by: Eating a healthy diet by eating more fruits and vegetables. Exercising more by just walking 30 minutes a day. Managing stress with positive self-talk, utilizing stress relievers, and doing something that makes you feel good. Stopping smoking and vaping. Maintaining a healthy weight. Controlling high blood pressure. Seeking medical attention immediately for heart attack and stroke symptoms. Visiting your doctor for regular checkups. Practicing gratitude lowers your blood pressure, improves immune function, sleep and mood. Relaxing in nature to help your overall wellbeing.

While growing up on a farm with a family of five children and two adults, times were busy and fun but sometimes stressful and overwhelming. I remember no matter what the weather was like our mother encouraged us to go outside to play. It was way back then I learned how nature improves health and wellbeing. It seemed to lower the stress and gave us an opportunity to marvel at what nature had to offer–wildlife with plenty of pheasants, beautiful skies, sunrises and sunsets, gentle rains and plenty of fresh air. Going fishing, riding bikes, creating outdoor playhouses and enjoying walks in the groves of trees on our farm gave us opportunities to relax but also gave us a chance for daily exercise. Think about your past life as to what you did to stay healthy or make some changes today to improve your overall health by taking the above suggestions. Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” Blessings to each of you as you make changes to improve your health one step at a time.

# Thank You

The Yankton County Historical Society Board of Directors, Mead Museum Staff and Volunteers, and I wish to extend to you our gratitude for taking the time to setup a tree for the 2023 Hall of Trees Event. Your sponsorship of this event allowed for 948 children to visit the Hall of Trees for free and provided supplies for holiday crafts. The total number of visitors to this event between November 24, 2023, and December 31,2023 was 3,074!!! It is amazing what can be done when a community comes together to offer a one-of-a-kind meeting place for friends and families for the holiday season. Crystal Mensch-Nelson

And thank you to Susan Schavee for donating our fee to enter.

Thank you for the prayer cards & good wishes from my family, friends & wonderful church family. I am happily able to be back in my apartment at Majestic Bluffs.

Naomi Somer

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

For the family of May Gall, May passed away. Services will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 11am.

Katheryn Hickey's friend Joyce had a stroke and is in surgery. Prayers for healing.

Prayers for Mary Johnson’s son Rodger Jr. Rodger’s wife Sarah passed away yesterday.

Katheryn Hickey’s brother, Yancy O’Brien has had his 3rd surgery on his right shoulder and fell and hurt his hip.

Jack Stoddard, Naomi Somer

Prayers for Dawn Kabella, she was diagnosed with cancer.

River Brown, Doug Baily,

Brenda Asher, Vivian Van Essen’s niece

Caitlin Jensen for healing

# February Birthdays

1 - Garrett Brandt, Amelia Herrmann

2 - Jacob Cunningham

3 - Cheryl Doby

4 - Megan Enfield

5 - Merle Larson

8 - Thea Sawatzke, Sherry Daugherty,

Sophia Tramp, Olivia Flannery,

Brody Burgeson

9 - Sandy Ronfeldt

10 - Ross Den Herder

14 - Alex Wieseler, Nancy Fargo

16 - Marsha Bertsch, Susan Schavee,

Jill Larson

17 - Diane Kisch

18 - Phil Jaquith, Erin Olson, Myles Tieszen,

Tiffany Beste, Will Enfield

20 - Lisa Daugherty, Carolyn DeRoos

22 - Gabriel Olson

23 - David DeRoos

24 - Jean Johnson, Kim Slemp

25 - Tracy Dutrow, Jay Gravholt

28 - Dick Fox, Jacksen Lawrence

