.

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

 Spring is the season of resurrection. Even though we don’t get much of a spring here in South Dakota, we can still catch glimpses of resurrection life all around us. Already flowers that have laid dormant underground have popped through the surface with their vibrant colors. Trees that have been bare all winter are starting to produce budding leaves. Brown grass that laid beneath the snow is turning green once again. If you have eyes to see, new life can be found. It is almost as though nature itself is celebrating Easter along with us.
 We will be celebrating Easter with a sermon series that takes a closer look at how the resurrection of Jesus impacted the lives of the people in the Easter story.  Oftentimes we think the resurrection is the end of the story but really it is just the beginning!  By looking at how the lives of some of the people present in the gospel story changed after the resurrection, we will begin to see what a new life really looks like.  And we will explore what a resurrection life for us can be.

 One of my favorite hymns, “The Hymn of Promise” says it well:

In the bulb there is a flower,

In the seed an apple tree,

In cocoons a hidden promise,

Butterflies will soon be free.

In the cold and snow of winter,

There’s a spring that waits to be,

Unrevealed until it’s season,

Something God alone can see.

 May we all have the new life made possible through Christ revealed to us this Easter season.

Pastor Katie

# Christianity 101

 April 7th: Church History Part 1: Pentecost to 313CE

April 14th: Church History Part 2: 313CE to Middle Ages

April 21st: Church History Part 3: Reformations

April 28th: Church History Part 4: History of Methodism

# Pastor Katie Out of Office

 April 15-17th to co-lead the Dakotas Conference Clergy Leadership Academy.

# UMC General Conference

 General Conference will be held April 23rd through May 3rd, 2024.  Please be in prayer for all the delegates as they gather and prayerfully make decisions for the United Methodist Church.

# United Women of Faith (UMW)

 Please come join us for the United Women of Faith meeting Monday, April 1st at 1:30pm. Our program will be a speaker from Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health. Our group meets in the lounge (behind the sanctuary). We have a short business meeting and some fellowship.  Everyone is welcome!

   *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

# Summer Camp Information

**Summer Camp – Time to start planning!** Camp brochures are here – if you did not get one in the mail, you can find them in the lobby downstairs. Deadline for the Early Bird price is April 30th.  The church will take care of ½ of the early bird cost of one camp per **youth**. If your youth is going to more than one camp, you are responsible for the cost of the other camps.  If you register after April 30th – the church & UMW will only pay for ½ of the early bird cost. You will be responsible for the difference between early bird and full price. To register, you will need to call the office to get the church code that you will enter on the registration form, this code will automatically subtract the church’s portion from your payment.

 You will be able to register more than one person at a time but if you are registering the same person for more than one camp you need to do a separate registration online for the second camp.

<https://www.dakotasumc.org/camping/camps-and-events>

If you have questions about this process, you can talk to Tiffany at church or call (605) 695-0178.

# Up to $210 covered for students coming out of 2nd grade!!

Check out the ***LPC Mini-Camps, Summer's Last Blast or Grandparents & Me camps***

    **Mini-Camp A & B**: Sun, June 16-Wed, June 19 ($315.00)

    **Mini-Camp C & D**: Mon, July 1-Wed, July 3 ($210.00)

    **Summer's Last Blast/Grandparents & Me**: Sun, July 28-Wed, Aug 31 ($315.00)

    **Grandparents & Me**: Wed, July 31-Fri, Aug 2 ($210.00)

All the fun of a weeklong camp packed into a fraction of the time! Get ready for waterfront fun, crafts, games, outdoor chapel, and more.

 While the mini-camps give first time campers a taste of the ultimate overnight camp experience, we have campers that return to mini-camp summer after summer!  Please let Tiffany know if you have any questions.

    For the K – 3rd graders we need to have 1 adult attend camp with every 5 campers. Remember the grade listed for each camp is the grade the camper is currently in.

# Camp Scholarship Funds with the Dakotas Foundation

            This fund was established to assist youth with camping registrations and/or expenses. The main sponsor of this scholarship came from Ethel Schenk who originally contributed $3,750. This amount, along with other memorial gifts from various people who designated the funds to be used towards camp scholarships, made up the balance. This money is invested with the Dakotas Foundation. This money is intended to assist families that have youth (1st grade through graduating seniors) attending camp that express the need for additional financial support to cover their share of the cost.

Any family that would like a little extra financial help needs to fill out a Camp Scholarship Card located in the church office and place it in the decorated box by Sunday, April 24th.  It is the hope of the Finance and Education Committees that people will contribute to this fund and the size of our investment will grow so that the amount of money we are able to distribute grows.

# Mark Your Calendars.....

# VBS: August 8th-11th

**'God's Love is EVERYWHERE!!**

**Register using the QR Code**



Fifth Sunday Bucket March 31st

 Bucket Sundays are held whenever we have 5 Sundays in one month. This month’s offering will help the Contact Center. Drop your loose change (bills accepted also) in the bucket.

WOW – you are all so giving and supportive of missions.  You are AMAZING! Thank you! The Spring Forward Fundraiser raised $2,488.  Thank you to our Dessert Auction bakers extraordinaire!  Their talents came through in some beautiful desserts, snacks, and breads to auction.  The bidders were so generous and had such fun bidding each other up. The environment was absolutely contagious.  Thank you also to the wonderful kitchen crew that made some wonderful baked potatoes with all of the fixings – the donations made for excellent toppings and for even more raised for missions.  The crew that cleaned up was phenomenal – quick and efficient!  I am so appreciative of all that made this fundraiser such a success and put some money in the account so that we can serve the missions of our community.

 With that said, our most consistently scheduled mission right now is Loads of Love.  Please consider signing up to serve this mission.  Sign-up sheets are on the Missions table.  We had a great crew on March 19th – check out the Facebook page for the picture!  The next one will be covered by the God Winks bible study – Thank you!  The following dates still are in need of people to sign up:  May 21st, July 16th, July 30th, and November 19th.  It’s great for a group, for a family, or for individuals to come together.  About 4 volunteers for 2 hours – from 4-6pm.  And it’s easy – put quarters in machines and talk to people.

 Also on the Missions table is a place to put boxes of cereal for the contact center.  The need is high!  If interested, just leave the boxes of cereal on the table there.  The 5th Sunday Bucket money will also be going to the Contact Center.

 The next thing on the list for missions is May Day.  On May 1st we have traditionally taken something to our neighbors and invited them to church.  If anyone is interested in helping us to design and assemble some may day baskets as well as distribute them, please let me know.  This is another great opportunity for mission work right within our neighborhood.

 If you have organizations that you are passionate about and would like to see us do drives, 5th Sunday donations, or support in some way – please submit to Pastor Katie, Lisa in the church office, or myself.

 Again – thank you for all of your wonderful support and I look forward to seeing you involved with some of the hands-on opportunities to come!

Carla Hummel

Missions Coordinator



 Bibles & Brews meets every other Tuesday at Ben’s Brewing (downtown) at 5:15pm. This is a bible study that eves and flows with the topics selected by those that attend. Each time we meet – we select the topic for the next time. To get in sync with every other, here are the next few dates:

April 2nd, April 16th, April 30th, May 14th, and May 28th.  We do meet year-round, so this continues on that every other pattern.

 Everyone is welcome!  This bible study is one that if you can’t make it – it’s easy to pick back up the next time you can come. Our topics are often based off of everyone’s everyday challenges and joys.  If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carla Hummel. Otherwise – we hope to see you at the next Bibles & Brews!

# Care Casseroles

 Forty-five new casseroles have been placed in the freezer in Wesley Hall. As of mid-March, over 400 casseroles have been distributed to the homebound, ill, stressed, grieving, or just because. New offerings include Cheesy Chicken Macaroni Casserole and more Meatloaf Dinners with mashed potatoes, gravy, and a vegetable.  Please note that the casseroles are in microwave safe containers. The contents can be transferred to oven safe containers if that is the preference of the preparer. Also note, casserole containers can be washed and are dishwasher safe. They can be returned to the church to be re-used.

 The Care Casserole Team hopes you will take a casserole for yourself or someone you know would benefit from a prepared meal. Show how much we care for one another by giving a casserole. Let one of us know if you have a favorite recipe that you would like us to use. Want to donate ingredients. Have feedback of any kind.  Or you would like to volunteer when we cook. Contact Gena Brandt, Lydia Giziewski, Karen Miller, Marilyn Elwood, or Susan Schavee.  We thank you for your support in this ministry.

# Celebrate and Help the Planet Earth - God’s Gift to Us

 The Green Team is excited to announce two fun events in April and each involve ice cream! Both are in celebration of Earth Day which will be on April 22nd, but our funfests will be the week before.

 At 3PM on Sunday April 14th, for your viewing pleasure, the Green Team will host the premier Yankton area showing of the inspirational movie, *Common Ground*, in the FUMC Sanctuary. Following the movie, we will have a make-your-own-sundae bar with SDSU ice cream (if we can get it) and all your favorite sauces and toppings.

 “*Common Ground* is a new film about how regenerating the world’s soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth’s climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be the key in rehabilitating the planet, while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers”- from Interfaith Power and light.

This is the link to the movie trailer:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-M4Hq0MKFA>

 We will host a brief discussion afterwards while enjoying our favorite sundaes.

 On Wednesday April 17th at 6PM we will meet at the church and then carpool to east Highway 50-mile marker 386 where we will commence to make beautiful the roadside ditches up to mile marker 388. Our church volunteered many years ago to annually clean this stretch of road, but it was forgotten and has been sorely neglected for many years. The SD DOT will provide litter collection bags and safety vests for us. They will come by later to dispose of all the bags of litter we collect. We will recycle aluminum cans.

 After we are finished, we will all enjoy a delicious ice cream treat back at the church. This Earth-friendly happening will be for all adults and youth, sixth grade and older. A waiver of liability is requested by the SD DOT and will be available at the event. Please dress appropriately, hydrate, and gloves are recommended.

 Please help us celebrate this amazing planet that God has entrusted to us. Let’s get together on April 14th and April 17th to pick up some litter, watch a great movie, and get some extra dietary calcium in one of the tastiest ways possible- ICE CREAM!



 Fellowship Coffee Time, Sundays after church 11am. Coffee fellowship is a time to relax, welcome guests, and get to know our church family while enjoying something to drink and have a treat. Would you furnish treats for Sunday? We are looking for persons to sign up for a Sunday in April, May, June or July. You will need approx. 6 doz. cookies, bars, muffins or donuts, etc. and make coffee. You’ll set up, serve if needed, do the dishes and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet in the Church Lounge, or you can call/email the church office.

 Thank you to those who have volunteered to provide treats and/or serve in the past.

# Church Rummage Sale

 May 2nd – 4th. Start saving your items to donate to our church rummage sale. Proceeds will go towards the new roof.

# Spring Gardens

*By Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

 “Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years” author unknown. Despite the return of cold weather and snow, I am thinking about spring. Just a few days ago, I walked all over our acreage looking for signs of spring. Yes, there are signs of spring appearing: daffodils shooting up from the ground, trees starting to bud and green grass beginning to show. I walked into my garden and saw winter onions sprouting up and a few flowers coming up from the rich soil. Thinking about planting a vegetable garden gets me excited! My garden gives me an opportunity to work with the soil, to plant seeds, and look forward to the seeds growing. I have to say that planting a garden pleases my soul and gives me hope for the future. Some say I don’t have a place to garden, and others say gardening is too much work. Yet others are so excited saying they have already ordered seeds and have plans as to what they are planting. Our church has a couple of garden plots at the Healthy Yankton Gardens off of West City Limits Road rented for the upcoming season.

 This garden has brought our church family together with planting seeds, hoeing weeds, watering the garden, harvesting the produce, sharing the produce, and canning salsa to raise funds for needs in our community. It is an amazing group of people who look forward to gardening each year led by Marilyn and Dan Elwood. Everyone is welcome to help with the garden, from the young to those of us who are older. Healthy Yankton has already rented over 200 gardens of the 305 garden plots for $30.00 per plot which includes initial tilling of the ground and water for your garden throughout the season. So, there are plenty of garden plots yet available. These garden plots are located at the Marne Creek West Park and off of Whiting Drive near the Ice Arena. The gardens will open on April 14, 2024 weather permitting. You can call 605-668-8357 to register for a garden plot and prepayment is required. Healthy Yankton also has four handicap accessible gardens available at the Marne Creek West Park.

 The Yankton Master Gardeners are available for advice on gardening and the Healthy Yankton volunteers can answer questions about the garden rules. Gardening provides nutritious food for the table and opens us to God’s miracles as we see God’s concept of time, growth, and development in nature. You learn patience waiting for the seeds to germinate and grow produce. Gardening boosts our mental health by releasing stress, decreasing anxiety, and improving our mood. Gardening provides each of us with time to exercise to burn excess calories and build up strength in our bodies. Plus, in gardening, we get exposure to the sun which boosts our vitamin D levels. It’s a great family activity for everyone to get involved with something that benefits the whole family.

 There is still time to think about gardening for this coming season, don’t miss a great opportunity. In summary, I want to leave you with some quotes: Audrey Hepburn: “To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow.” Amy Stewart, a writer on horticulture says “Hope is one of the essential tools of a farmer or gardener. “We are hopeful you will take part in gardening this spring.

# Thank You

 Thank you to everyone who sent cards and condolences when I lost my dad in February. To Tiffany and our awesome youth, thank you for the beautiful plant, and the special notes that each of you sent. Your prayers have lifted me up during a very difficult time.

Blessings, Julie Moderegger

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Dawn Kabella, Doug Baily, Caitlin Jensen for healing

# April Birthdays

1 - Megan Sage

3 - Margaret Bartels, Levi Kabella,

 Mary Pietila, Teresa Rentsch

6 - Mary Peirce, Chelsa Gall

7 - Ben Mooney, Megan Jacobs

8 - Ethan Ricke

10 - Derek Gravholt

11 - Chuck Nelson, Jace Hirsch

12 - Morgan Tessier, Dena Den Herder

13 - Steve Jacobsen, John Schaefer

14 - Jack Kyriss, Shirley Dangler, Kyle Kyriss

15 - Troy Hunhoff

16 - Makayla Palecek, Owen Wieseler

17 - Austin Gobel, Laurie Baily

18 - Cory Frahm

20 - Alicia Cornemann, Verne Hanson

21 - Eunice Northey, Cyver Pietz

23 - Shayce Platt, Marc Mooney

25 - Leslie Johnson, Laura Johnson,

 Darwin Koerner

27 - Carolyn Cappel

29 - Paul Rolston

30 - Darin Cunningham

# FUMC Financials

by Diane Kisch (Financial Assistant)