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Mission Statement

First United Methodist Church of Yankton:

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

# From the Pastor’s Desk

 *Our Vision is to be a church of hope, healing, and belonging that loves and serves all through Christ our Lord.*

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

 I have been thinking a lot about the mission and vision for our church that we adopted at the beginning of this year, with the faithful help and work of the visioning team. I believe that God is calling us into this incredible vision for this season - to be a beacon of hope and healing for all that we have lived through and survived. We are also always called not only to receive from the church, but to serve as the church through Christ. This is who we are. This is what we believe about who we are and what we are called to do here at First United Methodist Church in Yankton, South Dakota.

 I also believe that we will live into that vision as we follow our mission to inspire all to seek God, to grow in their faith, discover their purpose and serve others. All deserve to know the loving and incredible God that we serve. And we deserve to be a part of a church that keeps this vision and mission front and center of who we are and what we do. It can be easy to get distracted by other issues, other concerns, or projects. We can get bogged down by a building that keeps having needs or sign-up lists with empty spaces or budgets with bottom lines. But if we can keep our vision in focus - to be a place of hope, healing and belonging - we will find our way.

 In this newsletter you will see a summary of legislation that passed at our United Methodist General Conference. This document was compiled by the Dakotas Annual Conference team. Read through it and let me know if you have any questions. I have also recorded a podcast with my own summary of the General Conference and my thoughts about how it impacts our local church. It is the May 9th episode of What’s Going On, found on YouTube.

 This month I will be heading to Bismarck for our Dakotas Annual Conference (along with some of the lay delegates from our church). We will also bring back reports of what we learn there and any legislation that passes. I also invite you to attend the Town Hall meeting scheduled after worship on Sunday, June 23rd. There we will open the conversation to reflect, ask questions and more about the changes happening in the broader UMC.

 At the end of the day, however, we are a called to be a church of hope, healing, and belonging that loves and serves all through Christ our Lord. All that you love about this community and this church will continue to be as we move forward in God’s grace. And I am thankful for each one of you and all that you are and bring to First UMC.

Pastor Katie

# Pastor Katie Out of the Office

 Pastor Katie will be out of the office June 4-8, for Annual Conference in Bismarck, ND. The office will be open during regular working hours.

# Town Hall: Sunday June 23rd

 Please join us for a town hall meeting on Sunday, June 23rd following the worship service. Topics for this town hall include recaps of both General Conference and the Dakotas Annual Conference, a roof update and more. Come for a time to listen, to share and to fellowship.

# Coffee Fellowship

 During June and July, we will not be having fellowship coffee after church.  We will be celebrating June, July and August birthdays and Anniversaries in August. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dani Frahm 402-518-8312.  Thank You

# Summer Giving

 Just a friendly reminder to set up automatic giving during the summer months! Automatic giving helps to balance out the dip in giving over the summer months that is typically for all churches. Even if you aren’t in worship, you can continue to contribute to the mission and ministry of the church in this way. You can go to www.firstumcyankton.org to sign up via Vanco under the giving tab or you can contact the church office for instructions on how to set up direct deposit through your banking institution. Your faithfulness is what makes the church so effective in our ministry to the community and the world!

Tuesday Lunch Study: Books of the

Bible Writings

 There is still time to join Pastor Katie’s Tuesday Lunch Study as we read through the Books of the Bible: The Writings! Tuesdays at Noon! All are welcome!

# Immediate Openings

 We have positions which may be paid or volunteer: Coordinator of Children's Ministry, Kids Hope USA Director, and Technology Coordinator. Applications may be found on the First UMC website under forms or available in the Church office. Submit applications to any member of SPPR (Susan Schavee, Karen Miller, Tammi Downs) or submit them to the church office. Please consider being a part of the First United Methodist staff to further our mission to our children and to the church family. Job descriptions will be available. If a paid position, salary, and hours will depend upon qualifications and experience.

# Church Rummage Sale

# *by Diane Kisch*

 First of all, a huge thank you to Jane & Tom Gilmore for spearheading the rummage sale and all the before and after work they did and all those that helped them get ready for the sale. Thank you also to everyone that helped in any way with the rummage sale from working, to making meals for the workers, to donating items and cleaning up after it was over. The total profit made from the rummage sale was $12,495.41.

# Raise the Roof Fundraiser by Diane Kisch

 **We did it!** The total raised (including pledged funds yet to come in and memorials given earmarked for the roof) is $114,687.74.



**Please contact Tiffany if you can help shepherd Thursday, Friday or Saturday.**

**We also are in charge of the meal Friday night, so let Tiffany know if you can help serve that.**

**Youth Group Outing Dates**

(Mark Your Calendars)

Thursday, June 6th

Monday, June 17th

Tuesday, July 9th

Monday, July 22nd

Thu-Sat, Aug 8-10 - Vacation Bible School

#  Mission Moments by Carla Hummel

* Thank you to God Winks Bible Study that volunteered for Loads of Love. Great group! Next time is July 16th. All of the dates are on sign-up sheets at the missions table – check it out and sign up to be a part of the loads of love program.
* May Day – Thank you to some of the Sr. High Youth, Marilyn Elwood, Amber Reaney, and Jeannette Schaefer.  Deliveries were made to all of our surrounding neighbors with big smiles and welcoming spirits.  The last of the church mugs were used and filled like traditional may day baskets!
* Volunteer Appreciation – what a great day of celebration of all of you!  And yes we are “Popping with Appreciation” of our Volunteers!  We could not accomplish what we do without you!

The FUMC Garden is revving up.  A huge thank you to Elwood’s for getting the planting started.  We are in need of a few things to help the gardens be a success.  We could use a few cash donations to cover the cost of some of the seeds/plants, hoses, and equipment as well as the crosses located at the garden – marking our plots.  And the other very important part of all of this is the need for volunteers to help tend to the gardens – watering and weeding.  Its great exercise – it’s a great family activity – it’s a great way to get your garden fix if you like the growing process.  And by the way – the impact is HUGE!  It helps support food pantries in Yankton, goes into some of the care casseroles, and brings a pretty penny through salsa sales! There is a signup sheet on the Mission Table for helpers for June 10-15; June 16-22; July 7-13 and July 21-27.



# FUMC Financials

by Diane Kisch (Financial Assistant)

# Caregiving

# *by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

 “Caregiving is the highest expression of humanity.” Author unknown. Looking out my kitchen window this morning, I saw a cardinal pair. The female cardinal sits on a tree branch near the male cardinal. I hear the cardinals sing beautiful songs. It seems romantic as I listen carefully. They move from branch to branch watching over each other. Then, the male flew from the branch landing on the ground. He gathers a sunflower seed and then goes up to the female feeding her the seed from his beak to hers. I am thinking– this is caregiving. The male is feeding his mate and watching over her.. These amazing red birds mate for life helping each other raise a family, protecting each other, and caring for one another. They communicate with each other by chirping. The male sings to his mate to let her know when predators are near. The female chirps to let the male know there is food needed at the nest of the young birds.

 Oh, what we can learn from God’s creations. In caregiving, we care for our young, middle aged and elderly. There are many of us who have been caregivers, others who are current caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need a caregiver. In caregiving, we do what needs to be done and not expect anything in return. Being loved by someone in these times gives us strength but loving someone with our whole heart gives each of us courage to face the day. As caregivers we are constantly learning something new. We need patience and willingness to understand. By caring for one another, we can make a difference in their lives and bring happiness and fulfillment to our lives. As caregivers we need to take care of ourselves. We need respite time away from caregiving to replenish ourselves and to be good to ourselves. We need to seek out support from professionals, family and friends. We need to care for ourselves physically, emotionally and spiritually. Finding a support group of people who have had similar experiences gives a person a chance to open themselves up and share. It also provides a time to get new ideas about how to handle certain situations in caregiving. If you are interested in forming a caregiver support group, please contact Susan, the Faith Community Nurse by leaving a message at the church office at 605-665-2991 or calling me directly at 605-661-9302.

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

For the family of Bernita Geiman. Bernita passed away.

Connie Pruitt (Shirley Root's sister)

Prayers for Doug Baily, Caitlin Jensen,

Dawn Kabella

# June Birthdays

1 - Laura Gulick

2 - Anna Sawatzke

3 - Analis Dannen

4 - Kristi Peterka

6 - Jacko Noecker

10 - Becki Stoddard

11 - Reid Sawatzke

12 - Jill Huetig

13 - Norma Christensen

 - Virginia Larson

 - Mark Nickles

14 - Jeannette Schaefer

15 - Kathy Fiscus

 16 - Kami Guthmiller

 - Carol Hesla

17 - Gena Brandt

18 - Patsy James

19 - Stephanie Burgeson

 - Brooke Lancaster

20 - Ken Bertsch

 - Jimmie Cunningham

 - Anabelle Taylor

 - Nicholas Taylor

22 - Sandy Skinner

 - Bode Thurman

26 - Lesley Hale

 - Kristi Palecek

 - Birch Hilton

27 - Erica Garvey

28 - Lonnie Root

29 - Val Tieszen

30 - Tom Gilmore

 - Shana Platt

 - Greg Gusso



Grow. Reach. Heal.

The Dakotas Conference vision is for all congregations to live out Jesus’ call to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.

**POSTPONED 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

A lot happened at the postponed 2020 General Conference. Here is a summary of the key decisions: Delegates approved a series of petitions related to regionalization, which has become United Methodist shorthand for a package of legislation that would restructure the denomination. Under the legislation, the U.S. and each central conference—church regions in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines—would become regional conferences with the same authority to adapt the Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book, for more missional effectiveness. Currently, only central conferences have the authority to adapt the Discipline as missional needs and different legal contexts require. To be ratified, the regionalization plan will need at least a two-thirds total vote of annual conference lay and clergy voters, so this item will come to the Dakotas Annual Conference Session for a vote.

Delegates voted to grant sacramental authority to deacons. Deacons can now administer baptism and Holy Communion without having to obtain special permission to do so. Previously, a bishop could authorize a deacon to preside at a specific celebration of the sacraments and/or in a specific ministry context. But today’s vote changes the language in The Book of Discipline so that such authorization is no longer required. “For the sake of extending the mission and ministry of the church and offering the means of grace to the world, the deacon is authorized to preside at the celebration of the sacraments,” the sentence that was changed now reads.

Delegates voted to reduce the portion of church giving requested to fund the general-church budget. The bottom line is that U.S. annual conferences will be asked to pay lower apportionments to the general church compared to what delegates passed at the 2016 General Conference. Also, denomination-wide ministries that rely on those apportionments—including general agencies and episcopal leadership—will need to be budgeted with those cuts in mind.

Delegates voted to enter a full-communion partnership with The Episcopal Church after years of dialogue about this possibility. Full communion means each church acknowledges the other as a partner in the Christian faith, recognizes the validity of each other’s baptism and Eucharist, and commits to work together in ministry. Such an agreement also means Episcopalians and United Methodists can share clergy. The agreement still needs the approval of the Episcopalians—which might not happen until 2027.

Delegates overwhelmingly approved a new retirement plan for U.S. clergy. Called Compass, the plan was conceived and championed by Wespath, the denomination’s pension and benefits agency. The new Compass plan will mean benefit changes starting Jan. 1, 2026. Unlike previous clergy retirement plans that Wespath has offered, Compass does not include a lifetime benefit. Instead, Compass is entirely a defined-contribution plan similar to the 401(k) plans most U.S. corporate employees now have. The benefits of clergy who already have retired will not be affected by the plan. Wespath says the switch to the Compass plan is needed to continue providing reliable and sustainable retirement income.

The United Methodist Church’s longtime condemnation of homosexuality—which sparked a half century of conflict—is now no more. By a vote of 523 to 161 after about an hour and a half of debate, General Conference delegates eliminated the 52-year-old assertion in the denomination’s Social Principles that “the practice of homosexuality… is incompatible with Christian teaching.” In the same vote, delegates affirmed “marriage as a sacred, lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith [adult man and adult woman of consenting age or two adult persons of consenting age] into a union of one another and into deeper relationship with God and the religious community.”

The United Methodist Church removed a 40-year ban on the ordination of gay clergy. Delegates approved this decision by a 93 percent margin, without debate. As of the conclusion of General Conference, the denomination’s Book of Discipline will no longer include a statement saying: “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.” Delegates also voted to remove a ban on annual conferences and denominational agencies from giving United Methodist funds to any “gay caucus group” or using funds to “promote the acceptance of homosexuality.” Instead, the provision now says annual conferences and agencies should honor the denomination’s commitment not to reject lesbian or gay members.

 Delegates voted to eliminate parts of the Traditional Plan, which was approved at the 2019 General Conference and strengthened the denomination’s longtime restrictions on same-sex marriage and “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy. For example, delegates removed of a ban on annual conferences and denominational agencies from giving United Methodist funds to any “gay caucus group” or using funds to “promote the acceptance of homosexuality.” Instead, the provision now says annual conferences and agencies should honor the denomination’s commitment not to reject lesbian or gay members. Delegates also voted to lift a ban placed on boards of ordained ministry from considering candidates without evaluating whether they are “self-avowed practicing” gay people, and to strike the requirement that bishops rule gay candidate’s ineligible. Additionally, delegates lifted the mandatory penalty of at least a one-year suspension without pay for clergy found guilty of officiating at same-sex weddings.

Delegates approved a resolution condemning racial-ethnic discrimination and gender-based violence against Asian Americans. It condemns increasing discrimination against racial-ethnic minorities, especially Asian Americans, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. It also condemns the violations against religious minorities in India. The resolution calls on annual conferences to urge local churches to be informed and to work against discrimination and gender-based violence. Delegates passed a petition to welcome “with a spirit of grace” churches that have disaffiliated or withdrawn from The United Methodist Church and wish to return. The legislation stipulates that every annual conference shall have a policy of re-affiliation for the churches seeking to return to the connection, so Dakotas Conference leaders will work to create such a policy. 2 Delegates passed a resolution that asks everyone conference to identify a Creation Care Coordinator. Additionally, the Revised Social Principles include expanded content on the need for Christians to protect and care for all God’s creation. These changes enhance and inform the resolution passed by the Dakotas Conference in 2023, encouraging local congregations to form Green Teams.