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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:

 *I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. - 1 Corinthians 1:4*

 One of the absolute greatest blessings in coming to serve this incredible church here in Yankton has been the opportunity to work alongside Tiffany Beste these last few years. When I came to First UMC, Tiffany was on staff part-time as the Children’s Ministry Coordinator and in the midst of trying to figure out how to do children’s ministry in a pandemic while also teaching during a pandemic. In those early meetings we had talked about cutting down her hours even more to help her manage all that was on her plate. However, before the year was out Tiffany found herself taking on more at the church when she agreed to be the Youth Group leader. (It was her idea!)

 Soon followed her coming on staff full-time at the church taking on both children and youth and overseeing our much-needed technology upgrades. In the time that she has been here, Tiffany has been an incredible blessing to the church in countless ways. She has helped to develop our technology and our social media presence. She has recruited and trained volunteers throughout the church. She has grown our children’s and youth ministries. She has overseen our Kids Hope program. And she has taken on countless “other tasks as needed.” She has done all of this with a willing heart that is eager to serve God through the church.

 She came at a time when her skills were most needed and helped this church to get where it is today through the gifts, she was willing to give. And I am grateful that she is going to continue on in the youth ministry (an area I don’t think she ever thought she would do but has come to truly love). And I couldn’t be more proud and more grateful to have worked alongside her in ministry.

She has been a great partner, sounding board, problem-solver, travel buddy and friend. Her presence will be missed in the office day in and day out, but we are grateful that she will still be a vital part of our church community and staff.

 So, thank you, Tiffany. For your willingness to say yes when God was calling you to the church for a season. Thank you for stepping out of your comfort zone time and time again. For pivoting! Thank you for loving this community and these people (especially our children and youth). And thank you for allowing God to bless us through you in this unique way these last three years. I fully believe that God is not done with you yet as you continue to serve the youth. And I look forward to many more years of service and friendship.

 Tiffany will conclude her full-time employment at First UMC at the end of July. She will be returning to the Yankton School District full-time while maintaining a part-time position at the church. We look forward to the blessings that God has in store for us next!

Pastor Katie

# Pastor Katie Vacation

Pastor Katie will be out of the office July 1-6, 2024.

# Human Services Center Worship

 Join Pastor Katie as she leads worship at the Human Services Center on July 7th at 4pm. This is an amazing time of worship and fellowship with some wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ! We would love to have you join us sometime! We lead worship every 1st Sunday of the month. If you are interested, please let Pastor Katie know!

# Tuesday Lunch Study

 There will be no Tuesday Lunch Study on July 2nd.

# 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.

# Thank you!

 A big thank you goes out to everyone who lead with generosity this year by giving extra to fix the roof. This was a big project with a big price tag, but we were able to fully fund it sooner than anticipated!  So thank you for responding to the call and helping to keep our building safe to do the work of the ministry!  Thank you!



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

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

# VBS Food Donations

 We will be collecting donations for hot dogs, hot dog buns, individual chip bags, ice cream cups, small paper cups, plastic spoons, and paper plates. Please have to church by August 1st!

**Youth Group Outing Dates**

July 9 & 22

Aug 8-10: VBS (please be available to help!)

#  Mission Moments

*“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people” Ephesians 6:7*

 Serve is an action word – the action of helping or doing work – and in this scripture, most importantly for the Lord.

 The first step to action is signing up and the most important part of serving in action is showing up.

 Even though it’s summer and everyone is busy, the church has not slowed down. And I don’t think we would want it to…..serving wholeheartedly is a lot of who we are as a church.

 In May, we almost ran out of money at Loads of Love.  The need is high!  And the appreciation – overwhelming! We helped start 110 loads in just 2 hours’ time.  Amazing!

 **We are looking for 3 volunteers for our next date on July 16th, 4-6pm.  And 4 on July 30th.** Find the signup sheet on the Missions table or just let me know.

 Growing like a weed! Our Community Garden plots are going like crazy.  A huge thank you to Dan & Marilyn Elwood – they have the garden growing!  Sherry Daugherty has signed up for the last couple of weeks and has been a huge asset in watering and some replanting.  Thank you to Master Gardener Dan Johnson for helping work on our tomato issues.

 **June 30th – Blessing of the Garden – at the Garden!** Please come and check it out.  Bless the garden and consider helping water, weed, and harvest when it comes time.  If you feel so moved, donations are also accepted to help cover the costs of what has been planted, replacement of a hose and some tools, and the beautiful FUMC cross and flame markers to help designate our plots.

 **Some open dates to help with are the weeks of July 7-13 and July 21-27.**  Signup is on the eye-catching table put together by Pastor Katie, Ben, and Craig – in the lobby!

Thank you everyone for your wholehearted service!

Carla Hummel

Missions Coordinator

# The Care Casserole freezer is full!

 New offerings are Tuna Noodle Casserole and TexMex Rice Casserole (not spicy). Remember these are in microwaveable containers or contents may be transferred to an oven safe container for warming through. The dishes may be returned to be recycled. Please take one or more for yourself, a new mom, someone with an illness or death in the family, or just because you or someone else needs a break. Please give any feedback to the Care Casserole team: Gena Brandt, Marilyn Ellwood, Lydia Giziewski, Karen Miller, or Susan Schavee. Thanks, congregation, for your support.

# Calling all Walkers

 I know many of you like to get out and walk during the summer months. Some of you walk in your neighborhood, some do water walking at the pool, some go to various parks in town or out by the lake, many like to walk the Meridian Bridge. No matter your path I’d like to encourage you to make it a prayer time. I am asking for “walkers” to contact me and I would like to join you and pray with you for whatever God lays on our hearts. My hope is that once you experience prayer walking, you will be led to make it a regular part of your spiritual journey. I am no expert by any means but am eager to pass on a practice that can be a blessing to you and our community. And, by the way, it is as easy as it sounds: walking, being in the moment, and praying! Marilyn Elwood 402-992-4377

# FUMC Financials

by Diane Kisch (Financial Assistant)

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| --- | --- |
| 2024 Income | Cash Flow |
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| Month | Income | Expenses | Amount |  |
| Jan | $92,753.11  | $48,655.44  | $44,097.67  |  |
| Feb | $34,684.48  | $35,275.03  | ($590.55) |  |
| Mar | $25,409.24  | $34,311.20  | ($8,901.96) |  |
| Apr | $27,161.89  | $39,115.69  | ($11,953.80) |  |
| May | $26,021.68  | $28,232.40  | ($2,210.72) |  |
| Totals | $206,030.40  | $185,589.76  | $20,440.64  |  |
|  Projected 2024 Expenses are $438966.00\* Income for January is generally higher than other months as we have some members that give their annual pledge in one month.   |  |
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# God’s Creations

# *by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

 Early this morning I am awakened by some thunder and soon I can hear the rain gently coming down on the roof. I look out the window seeing a young deer just munching on something in the yard not bothered by the gentle rain. I hear the cardinal just starting to sing. Then, all of a sudden, I smell the rain. I am thinking of all the senses our God has given us to enjoy nature. I wonder what we would do without our senses.

 It is important to take notice of our senses of sight, sound, taste and smell and be appreciative of these blessings. We need to notice every aspect of God’s creation. From Genesis 1:29-31a: God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in is fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food. And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

 Spring is ending soon, and summer will begin this week. We need to be outside to enjoy the creations of God’s world to open our eyes so that we may see the goodness and bounty of God’s creation. When you are outside with your family, stop and intentionally take notice of the surroundings. Ask your children “What do you see in nature, what do you see that is beautiful?” It might be the beautiful clouds, the wildflowers or the sighting of a doe and a fawn. Have the children listen to the sounds of nature: the wind blowing through the pine needles, the bird singing, the cricket chirping, and water flowing over the rocks. When you are out for a picnic, ask them to describe the taste of the fresh fruit and vegetables that is being served or just the cool feeling of water being swallowed after a hike. Share with them the smell of a blooming flower, take notice of the smell of rain, and the smell of food cooking outside on an open grill.

 In prayer, we thank you Lord for the ability to see, hear, taste and smell your creation. Help us to celebrate your incredible world and see the goodness. Open our ears to the sounds of nature and help us to treasure these gifts. Nourish our bodies with the tasteful food you give us. Help us to notice the fragrances of your creations. In Your name we pray. Amen. Have a happy summer and take notice of God’s creations

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Diane Kisch’s niece Kate.

Congrats to Analis Dannen and Aaron Reed on their engagement.

Prayers for Monte & Susan Schavee’s daughter Teisha Hart, who is having complications from surgery.

Connie Pruitt (Shirley Root's sister)

Prayers for Doug Baily, Caitlin Jensen, Dawn Kabella, Katheryn Hickey

Church family serving in the military: all men & women serving in the military and their families.

# July Birthdays

1 - Cole Moderegger, Arica Nickles

4 - Jamee Bruegman, Julie Mooney

7 - Tony Beste

8 - Gracie Thurman

9 - Bill Bartels

10 - Ryan Golden

11 - Paul Aughenbaugh

12 - Trevor Giziewski, Tyler Guthmiller

14 - Aliza Doby, Pam Skinner

16 - Addie Lowe, Bailey Novak, Sam Gusso

19 - Todd Sage

20 - Sarah Brandt, Lane Sawatzke

23 - Rebecca Gravholt, Trevor Guthmiller,

 Karen Lambert

24 - Dave Cornemann, Brady Hale

25 - Jill Wilson

26 - Mindy Giziewski, Marlene Nebola

27 - Addison Frahm

29 - Dee Carson, Alexander Palecek,

 Alex Swihart

30 - Davis Walsh