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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

 *Jesus said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going and they had to leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. -Mark 6:31-32*

 In many ways the pastor of a church is called to lead by example. They are not only to preach God’s word, but to show what it looks like to live out discipleship in everyday life. This is a holy and difficult task for anyone to accomplish and I cannot think any pastor who has done this flawlessly, including me. One of the areas that I have failed over and over again to demonstrate in my own life is rest and Sabbath. In my mind, there is always more work to be done than time to do it and it feels difficult to be “off” when there is work to do. However, it is important to take time away for rest and renewal. We even see Jesus commanding his disciples to do just that in the midst of their ministry and work.

 So, with that in mind, I will be taking renewal leave this summer. I will be attending Annual Conference in Mitchell from June 5-8th and then will be off for leave until August 4th. This will be a paid leave, with all pastoral coverage funded through a grant from the Dakotas Annual Conference. Pastors are eligible to take long-term leave after 6 years of service. I am in my 10th year of service and am overdue. During this renewal leave I will take some much-needed time to rest, time with my family, and do some spiritual direction.

 During my renewal leave, I have lined up an incredible slate of preachers to come including Rev. Dr. Joel Allen from Dakota Wesleyan University, current Southeast District Superintendent Rev. Brandon Vetter, former Southwest District Superintendent, Rev. Rebecca Trefz, and more! Any pastoral emergencies will be handled by Rev. Karl and Rev. Jo Watkins.

Other duties that I normally cover will be handled by the staff. The two biggest changes you might notice is that there will be no podcast during the summer and no summer lunch study.

 Please let me know if you have any questions and I thank you for giving me the time and space to care for myself in this way.

Blessings,

Pastor Katie

# Pastor Katie Out of the Office

 Pastor Katie will be out of the office February 5-8 for vacation.

# Pastor Book Club - February 24th at 7pm

****Struggling with her return to the Christian church after many years away, Kathleen Norris found it was the language of Christianity that most distanced her from faith. Words like "judgment," "faith," "dogma," "salvation," "sinner"—even "Christ"—formed what she called her "scary vocabulary," words that had become so codified or abstract that their meanings were all but impenetrable. She found she had to wrestle with them and make them her own before they could confer their blessings and their grace. Blending history, theology, storytelling, etymology, and memoir, Norris uses these words as a starting point for reflection and offers a moving account of her own gradual conversion. She evokes a rich spirituality rooted firmly in the chaos of everyday life—and offers believers and doubters alike an illuminating perspective on how we can embrace ancient traditions and find faith in the contemporary world.

# What’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)

 The February meeting of the United Women in Faith will be Feb. 3rd at 1:30 in the church lounge. Carla Hummel is doing our program about Missions here at our church.  Diane Kisch will lead our devotions.  Delores Kafka and Rose Nedved are the hostesses this month.  All women are invited to be a part of this group, come share an afternoon of fellowship.  Hope to see you there

# Youth Group (7th-12th grade)

 Every Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:00

To sign up for Updates and Information, text **@1fumcyouth** to **81010**

Please let Tiffany know if you have any questions

1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com

# Missions in Motion!

 Ready, Set, Go!  Missions are in Motion!

Loads of Love, on January 21st Thank you to Alicia, Suzanne, and Emma! Way to get us started right in the new year with great service to those in need.  This program is a great way to be able to help people in our community with clean clothes. Please take some time to check out the sign-up sheet on the Missions table – the entire year is on the clipboard.  You can check your calendar and schedule when it works best for you.  This is also a great way to serve as a group – if you are a part of one of the bible studies or church groups – serve together!

 Cereal Drive – This one serves 2 agencies and so many people!  The cereal will be split between the Contact Center and Yankton Food for Thought. This one is also a quick turnaround – watch for the box marked for the donations.  Once the box is gone, the drive is done.

 Blanket Drive – this is our mission project for Valentine’s Day this year. The blankets will go to Pathways Shelter and be distributed to the Homeless. The blankets do not have to be new. So, if you are cleaning out and have blankets to spare – bring them in. There are some laundry baskets at the Missions table to put your donations in.  New are accepted too.

Wow – that’s a lot going on in Missions!

 ***1 Corinthians 15:33****: Jesus says to bear one another's burdens Come join us in bearing one another’s burdens by serving those in need through these drives and programs that provide the basic needs of clean clothes, food, and warm blankets.*

 Thank you! Carla Hummel

# Missions Report for 2024

**Loads of Love:**

 We did 733 loads of laundry in 2024.  That is both washers and dryers. The volunteer numbers were at 43 with 33 of those being non-repeating volunteers. Groups that stepped up to the challenge of service as a group:  Leadership team, God Winks Bible Study, Bibles & Brews, and Tuesdays Lunch Bible Study group. One night we did 110 loads – our high!  It was the only time that we actually ran out of money – at about 5:59pm

# Other drives that we were a part of in 2024

February – Supply drive for River City Domestic Violence.

March – Fundraiser to help boost funds needed for mission projects.

May – May Day Baskets to neighbors.  Sr. High Youth helped deliver.

December – Giving calendar, Mead Tree, Caroling with Care Casseroles and Angel Tree

# Youth Bell Choir

 All 3rd grade and up are invited to be a part of the Youth Bell Choir. We will meet in the Music Room, on Wednesday evenings from **5:00-5:30pm.** We will have a great time learning to read music and play in church. Contact Jill Wilson if you have any questions.

# Healthy Heart

*by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

 February is the American Heart Association’s heart month to emphasize the importance of heart health. Improving your cardiovascular health can help in decreasing your risk for stroke, heart disease, cancer, dementia, and other diseases. It’s a time we can look at our own health and try to improve some targeted areas. We all probably made some New Year’s resolutions and for many of us, the resolution has faded away. Perhaps, the resolution was to eat healthier, be more active, quit tobacco products, work on better sleep habits, control our cholesterol, manage diabetes, and keep our blood pressure in control. Whatever it was, reconnect with your resolution and start again.

 The American Heart Association has a new program called “Life’s Essential 8.” It covers many health concerns and gives “Tips for Success” to follow. Just log onto heart.org/Lifes8 to find the information. Each week in February there will be information on the tables in the church lobby to help you improve your health. Be heart healthy to live longer!

# Thank You

 The Mead Museum Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and I wish to extend to you our gratitude for taking the time to set up a tree for the 2024 Hall of Trees Event. Your sponsorship allowed 1,145 children to visit the Hall of Trees for free! The total number of visitors to see the Hall of Trees was 3,295!!! This surpassed our 2023 visitor count of 3,089. It is amazing when a community joins forces to offer a one-of-a-kind meeting place for friends and families to come together for the holidays. Congratulations to the 2024 Hal of Trees Fan favorite winners. 1st Place Yankton Fire Department Auxiliary, 2nd place WNAX Radio, 3rd place Ability Building Services.  Keep up the creative work and see you all back next year!

*Crystal Mensch*

 Thank you so much to Pastor Katie, Gena Brandt, Jill Wilson, Jane & Tom Gilmore, Jim & Connie Sawatzke, Delores Kafka, Lydia Giziewski, Craig Sherman, Jeanette Schaefer, Karen Miller & all those that assisted in serving the luncheon & in celebrating Mom’s life. Thanks also to all those that sent cards & memorials. We appreciate it more than words can express. She loved her church family & her response would have been… “good, good, good!”

 *God Bless, Shar & Mark Peterson, Milt White, Trina White & Michelle Jones.*

 Thank you for your prayers, your visits, your cards, your phone calls and your gifts. You are a blessing to us. We thank the Lord for you.

*Russell and Mary Peirce*

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Allison Spak’s granddaughter Mercy

Dan Swihart, Mary Peirce, Analis Dannen, Prayers for Alexandra Stowe, Sue Strasburg, Doug Baily, Caitlin Jensen, Dawn Kabella, Kate Patrick (Diane Kisch’s niece), Connie Pruitt (Shirley Root's sister)

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

# February Birthdays

1 - Amelia Herrmann

2 - Jacob Cunningham

3 - Cheryl Doby

4 - Megan Enfield

5 - Merle Larson

8 - Thea Sawatzke, Sherry Daugherty,

 Sophia Tramp

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

