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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**

*Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12*

The first Sunday in May has become a day that I look forward to each year as we celebrate some of our incredible youth through the act of confirmation. Confirmation, also called an affirmation of baptism, is the opportunity that we give young people who have been previously baptized as an infant or a young child to learn and grow in their faith and eventually take on the vows of baptism made on their behalf for themselves. Our confirmation program takes two years. It requires students to learn and memorize scripture, attend classes, participate in the life of the church, and to do a project based on the membership vows of the church. I have been so impressed over the years with the young people of our church and the many ways that have grown in their faith and lived it out. I would like to share with you the projects that this year’s confirmation students designed and completed in an effort to live out one of the membership vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Tyan Beste’s confirmation project centered on the theme of prayer. In an effort to facilitate prayer, especially for the youth of the church, she, along with her mentor Erica Garvey, designed two prayer boards for people to offer prayer requests. One prayer board is located in the confirmation room and the other in the youth room. Each board also has instructions posted to facilitate use.

Trevan Palecek’s confirmation project centered on encouraging presence through hospitality. He, along with his family and mentor Merle Brandt, worked to design and implement a new coffee bar for the lounge. Trevan has also been seen at the coffee bar, helping people get their drinks on a Sunday morning.

 Tyler Irwin’s confirmation project centered on the theme of service. Tyler, along with his mentor, Lisa Irwin, designed and implemented a food drive for Pathways Homeless Shelter in the month of March. In reflecting on the food drive Tyler was impressed that when given the opportunity, people are so generous.

William Klawonn’s confirmation project combined his gifts and interest with an opportunity to serve. William, along with his confirmation mentor Marilyn Elwood, created an instructional video to teach people how to freeze tomatoes. The video will be added to our church YouTube page and will be a great asset to those who will benefit from our community garden’s extra plots this year.

Anna Nickels’s confirmation project combined her love of organizing and her desire to serve. Early in the year, Anna asked if she could organize something in the church for her project and we had the perfect space: the 605-resource room. So, Anna, along with her mentor Rose Nedved, and other confirmation students from time to time, spent hours going through materials and sorting the room to support our 605 ministry.

I am so grateful to have spent the last two years with each of these students and look forward to the ways that God will continue to work in each one of them throughout their lives. When you get the chance, please thank each of these students not only for what they add to the community of our church, but for their faithfulness and example of how to live out the Christian faith.

# Community Garden Blessing

We will be blessing the Community Garden Plots on May 4th at 11:30am. This is a short , experiential service meant to give thanks to God for the abundant gifts that we have, including the gift of earth and sustenance. The plots are located at the Community Garden location on West City Limits Road, just north of the dog park. Sign-up sheets will be out soon to volunteer to care for the garden plots, one week at a time. The more people who can pitch in to help, the more abidance we can discover, not only in the harvest, but in the blessings of service. Also, we want to give a special thanks to the Elwood’s and the Schaefers for their work on getting the plots ready for planting.

# 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](http://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!

# A qr code with black squares  AI-generated content may be incorrect.VBS: May 29th, 30th & 31st

Live It Out!! Register using the QR Code

# 605 and Youth Group

Wednesday, May 7th will be the last evening of 605 activities and youth group!!

# Kids Ministry Upcoming Events

May 11th - Kids sing in Church

VBS - May 29th, 30th, 31st.

# Graduation Sunday - Sunday, May 11th (10:00am)

We would like to invite all seniors and their families to our Graduation Sunday service.

We will recognize our graduating seniors and have cupcakes and coffee afterward.

Please let Tiffany know if your senior and family plan to attend and send her both a senior pic and a kindergarten pic through Remind or to 605-695-0178 or to 1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 7th.

# Youth Group (7th-12th grade)

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

Please let Tiffany know if you have any questions

1stumckidsyankton@gmail.com

# United Women of Faith (UMW)

The United Women in Faith meeting will be May 5th, at 1:30 in the church lounge. Our speaker this month is Sarah Brandt sharing with us about the Cultural Connections Program. Ruby Goeden and Peggy Doering are the hostesses. We will be taking the summer months off, so the next one would be September 8, 2025 in the fall. Hope you can come for this time together to feel more connected to our faith and to each other as we work on our missions.   Lydia Giziewski

# Bob Cappel Memorial Litter Pickup

The Green Team/Youth Group litter pick up will be on Wednesday, May 7th from 5:30-7:00pm.  Everyone who would like to join and help out is welcome to meet at the church at 5:15pm, then we can carpool to the site!  Please bring gloves and/or safety vests if you have them.

# Mission Moments

Thank you to all that give to the **Restore Foster Closet**.  What a great way to make an impact on children in foster care.

**Loads of Love** – April 29th – we had some volunteers signed up and I’m excited to see some new names on the list!  Thank you!  Please keep checking your calendar to see if any of the other dates work for you.  It’s a great experience and so easy to do!  This last time we ran out of money – we were that busy!  We are increasing our amount for a couple months to help absorb what we believe is additional needs tied to the Cimpl’s closing.  All of the dates are on the clipboard at the Missions table, please join us in the Loads of Love ministry.  WE NEED YOU!

Also, if wanting to give to this ministry: Laundry detergent should be Pods and fabric softener should be dryer sheet form.

# Coming up!

                **FUMC Garden 2025** – This year we have 3 garden plots at the West (Dog Park) garden area:  Plots 20, 21 and 22.  We plan to do some vertical gardening for easier harvesting. The third plot was added in anticipation of a greater need in the community this year. Jeannette & John Schaefer are joining Dan & Marilyn in spearheading this project. Stay tuned for notices about planting dates and times. Volunteers will be needed and please watch for the sign-up sheet so you can sign up. WE NEED YOU!  Money will also help with the cost of seeds, plants, and materials.  Checks can be made out to FUMC – “garden” written in the memo.  Help us be a blessing to others!

                ***Note: May 4th there will be a Garden Blessing Service at the garden location.  What a beautiful way to celebrate God’s miracles of nature.  Come and join us!***

# In May

Volunteers will be celebrated – that’s YOU!  Thank you for volunteering and supporting so many things that the church does.  It’s because of you that we are able to help our community.  You are the HEART of our community and your support with our vision in mind, “To be a church of hope, healing, and belonging that loves and serves all through Christ our Lord “ -truly is the hands and feet of God!

In May, we will be doing a drive that will be turned in at Annual Conference.  Supporting United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is being emphasized with not only offerings to support this ongoing, life-giving ministry but also an opportunity to give through collected items too.  UMCOR partners with mission depots such as Midwest Mission quickly and effectively responding to disasters.  They use Home Care Kits and Personal Dignity Kits, along with other items listed below that act as visible signs of God’s love and the church’s presence for people in need.  Please join together with others in the conference as one church, one body, one heart to share through this act of generosity and love.

**Home Care Kit:**

* Liquid household cleaner 56-80 oz (no spray bottles)
* Dish soap (42-64oz)
* Liquid laundry soap (100-150oz)
* 1 scrub brush
* 1-5 gallon round bucket with resealable lid

**Personal Dignity Kit:**

* 1 Hand towel (no kitchen towels)
* 1 wash cloth (no dishcloths)
* 1 toothbrush (no multipacks)
* 1 bar soap (3-4 oz)
* 1 shampoo (12-19oz.)
* 1 deodorant (2-3 oz)
* 1 lotion (8-10 oz)
* 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag

**New Items:**

* Onesies and sleepers (0-6mth)
* Receiving blankets (28 or 32 squared)
* Flannel fabric (at least 1 yard)
* Contractor trash bags (2mil+)
* Girls’ underwear 10-14
* Women’s underwear  5-8
* Shampoo 12-19oz (no pumps)
* Lotion 8-10oz (no pumps)

**New or gently used items:**

* Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches
* Shovels, rakes, and brooms
* Hand tools
* Hand tillers

                                                                                   Bible study groups or families and/or friends – this is a great group activity to come together and assemble.  You will impact so many with just a few of these everyday items!

Thank you for your continued support of our mission in the community, in the region, in the state, in our district, nationally and internationally!  WE NEED YOU but we also APPRECIATE YOU!!!

# Summer Camp Information

Even though the Early Bird deadline is past you can still register for camp. The cost would be at full price. The church and UWM will still cover ½ of the early bird cost for one camp per youth (K-12th grade) you are responsible for the balance.

# May Is Better Sleep Month

*by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

Every May Better Sleep Month is observed to encourage everyone to get adequate sleep to receive all the benefits it offers. If we don’t get good sleep, it can raise havoc in our lives. Sleep is a very important part of being healthy physically, mentally, and emotionally. The National Sleep Foundation reports 45% of Americans say poor or insufficient sleep affected their daily lives at least once in the last seven days. Basic facts about sleep from the Better Sleep promotion are as follows: 15% of the population are sleepwalkers according to the National Sleep Foundation. Sleep deprivation kills faster than food deprivation. 50% of dreams are most often forgotten within five minutes after you awaken. Falling asleep usually takes approximately 15 minutes. As humans, we spend ⅓ of our time sleeping.

Many of us experience a lack of sleep at different times for various reasons. Most of us can probably name a specific reason we didn’t sleep well on a certain night. Maybe we were not feeling well, drank too much caffeine, or experienced a lot of stress on a particular day. If you are experiencing sleep problems on a consistent basis perhaps it is time to talk with your doctor to determine if a sleep study is necessary. First, try to keep a sleep diary for a week or more making notations about when you wake up, when you go to bed, information on sleep disturbances, and napping frequency so you can help identify any patterns or issues with your sleep. Be sure to think about specific health problems that might be affecting your sleep.

Every one of us needs a bedtime routine that is relaxing. Make sure you have a comfortable bed and pillow. Learn ways to relax yourself with deep breathing, listening to relaxing music, or doing progressive relaxation to help you unwind from the day's events. At least an hour or two before bedtime, turn the electronics off including the television, computers and cell phones that can disrupt sleep. By getting enough sleep we can improve our overall health and wellbeing. We can increase our productivity and concentration and have better interpersonal relationships by being well rested. From Peter 5:7 “Cast all your worries on Him because He cares for you.” Sleep well and blessings to each of you. Sources: National Sleep Foundation and Better Sleep Month.

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Russell & Mary Peirce, Sue Strasburg, 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.

# May Birthdays

2 - Mike Lawrence, Dominic Kabella

3 - Tanner Dykstra, Gerrit Dykstra

4 - Mary Milroy, Sam Irwin

9 - Cohan Pietz

11 - Warren Haas

12 - Samuel Hummel, Todd Rodig

13 - Nyxxen Garvey

14 - Kathy Lawrence, Allison Spak

15 - Doug Bailey, Philah & Porting Hathaway

16 - Tina Gobel

18 - Leyna Hoebelheinrich

19 - Nick Kisch, Madason Tessier

20 - Phyllis Dingman, Vivian Van Essen,

 Bexxley Garvey, Laiken Crisman

21 - Kevin Doby, Katheryn Hickey

23 - Bruce Fiscus, Esther Kisch

25 - Carolyn Golden, Dan Elwood,

 Scottie Sawatzke

27 - Tracy Kisch, Isabellah Daugherty,

 Page Frahm

29 - Lyla Gukeisen

31 - Donna Mraz

