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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**

 *For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. -1 Timothy 1:6-7*

In October, we are going to be starting a new sermon series based on the book *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Rev. Adam Hamilton. For many, the realities of our world are weighing heavy on our hearts and minds. From violent wars across the world to increasingly harmful and violent divisions in our own country, from the stresses of work, school and finances - we all could use a little hope.

Paul wrote to his protege in ministry, Timothy, and reminded Timothy that when we are facing challenges, it is the time to fan into flame our faith. In times when life might feel overwhelming, we need to remember that we have the Holy Spirit working in and through us. It is not our calling to live in fear of what could be but to be beacons of hope for the reality of the Kingdom of God that is present in our world. Now, more than ever, we must be bold in our message of Jesus Christ. We must be unashamed of our faith and hope and the counter-cultural message of love that we have been entrusted to share.

Our church has a mission and a purpose that our community, our country and our world needs us to live out. This series is meant to be a reminder and encouragement to us all as we turn our eyes to the author and perfecter of our faith, and trust in God, who gives us power, love and self-discipline. And I hope this is a mission that you believe in and are ready to support - not only with your estimates of giving for 2026, but with your time, talent and energy.

Let us be the church of hope, healing and belonging that loves and serves all through Christ our Lord. Let us be a place where people can come and know the love of God through each one of us. Let us go into the days, weeks, and months ahead unafraid to do what God has prepared for us to do.

Blessings,

Pastor Katie

# Pastor Book Club - October 27th

****Join Pastor Katie for Pastor Book Club, a monthly book club where we will explore various authors and viewpoints from a Christian perspective. The Pastor Book Club meets on the final Monday night of the month at 7pm (unless otherwise advertised.) This month’s selection is *Posting Peace: Why Social Media Divides Us and What We Can Do About It* by Douglas S. Bursch.

*The internet is changing not only how we communicate but also what we communicate. Pastor and former radio host Douglas Bursch provides a spiritual examination of why social media divides people and how Christians can address polarization through a ministry of peacemaking.*

# What’s Going On - Pastor Podcast

Tune into What’s Going on (found on Youtube or Spotify) in October! Episodes include:

* Interview with Rebecca Meier, director of the Yankton Contact Center, to talk about their 50 years of service to the community and their upcoming Fashion Show Fundraiser.
* Information on the church’s annual Soup Kitchen and Country Store
* Learn more about the Leadership Team, Trunk or Treat and more!

# Leadership Team Applications Due October 19th, 2025

Interested in having a greater voice and role in the church? All members are eligible and encouraged to prayerfully consider applying for a role on the Leadership Team of our church! Each year a position opens on Finance (budgeting and stewardship), Trustees (Care of the physical assets of the church), and SPRC (care for the pastor and staff of the church).

We are also taking applications if you’d like to be an Annual Conference delegate from our church in June 2026. One delegate (we can take 3 total) also serves on the Leadership Team.

If you have questions, please contact any current leadership team member or Pastor Katie. Applications can be found on our website at [www.firstumcyankton.org/leadership](http://www.firstumcyankton.org/leadership)

# Charge Conference: Tuesday October 28th at 7:30pm

Charge Conference will be held here at First UMC Yankton on Tuesday, October 28th at 7:30pm. We will also be joined by Gayville UMC. Rev. Brandon Vetter, the Southeast District Superintendent, will be here to lead the meeting. During this meeting we will have votes for Leadership Team members, delegates to Annual Conference and the Pastor’s Compensation Package. The 2026 church budget will not be ready for this meeting and approved by Leadership Team at a later date. All members of First UMC are eligible to vote.

2026 Estimate of Giving

At the beginning of October, you will receive the estimate of giving forms in the mail. (They will also be available on the website and at the church office). Please prayerfully consider what you can give to support the vital mission and ministry of your First United Methodist Church in 2026. Please consider increasing your gift as a step in your faith journey and blessing the ministry.

We ask that you return your Estimate of Giving form by Sunday, October 26th. The Leadership Team will use the information gained from these forms to set a faithful budget for the church for 2026.

# Pastor Katie Out of the Office

Pastor Katie will be out of the office October 1-3 for the Leadership Institute in Kansas City.

 Pastor Katie will be out of the office October 20-22 for Board of Ordained Ministry Fall Meeting.

# 605 Children's Ministry

We are off and running for the 25-26 calendar year! Many hands have been involved to get the program open for this year without a coordinator. It's been a busy summer getting ready, but our prayer is that the children will enjoy Wednesday nights and learn more and more about Jesus!

SO many people have agreed to help. I will list them because it's important to name them, and if you see one on the list, be sure and thank them personally. They have exhibited a true spirit of serving and teamwork.

Teachers and Helpers for their consistent presence with our kids.

Marilyn Elwood & Sara Klawonn

Lydia Giziewski & Carla Hummel

Tammi Downs & Rita Ralston

Gena Brandt & Brooklyn Glasser

Music/AV Tech Helper: Alison Spak

605 Meal: Laurie Bailey

                 Karen Miller

                  Many servers & helpers to serve & clean up **(*YOU COULD CHECK THE LOBBY CLIPBOARD FOR MORE NAMES)***

Safety Patrol: Mary Holzwarth, Paula Keehr, Michael Miller, Dan Elwood, Sherry Daugherty, Merle Brandt

3 yr old Helpers: Jason Ricke, Anna Nichols, Lillian Hoebelheinrich, Serenity Sangster.

Special Thanks to: Casandra Hathaway, for her creative decorating and organizing

Chris Jacobson, for serving as a Classroom sponsor

Mikael Pietila, for meal prayer preparations & leadership

Lisa Loecker for printing, creating, etc

Diane Kisch, for doing whatever was needed

Craig Sherman, for always being ready to help

Pastor Katie, for jumping right in to help after her leave

Karen Miller, for being a solid rock for the program

These folks understand what it means to serve. A HUGE thank you to each of you!

We would just ask our congregation to continually pray over the program!

 If you have any interest in the 605 children’s ministry program, please contact the office and find out how you can be involved. We encourage interested parties to attend on a Wednesday night to see how things work. The 605 Team encourages you to prayerfully consider what part you could play. We can’t envision what God may have planned. What can you do?

# United Women of Faith

 Please come join us for the United Women of Faith meeting Monday, October 6th at 1:30pm. Our group meets in the lounge (behind the sanctuary). We have a short business meeting and some fellowship. Our program this month is Gena Brandt talking about Care Casseroles & cooking with honey Hostess is Diane Kisch. All women are invited to come see what our group does!

   *Lydia Giziewski*

# Annual Soup Kitchen

Yankton’s “best” Soup Kitchen is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21st from 4:30 to 7pm. Once again, we need the congregation’s help and support to continue this tradition. Donations of 9-inch pies, one and half gallons each of vegetable beef soup (seasoned), chicken broth, and chicken (noodles to be added later) and chili are needed as well as cash donations to purchase supplies. Send your donation information to Delores Kafka at delkafka9@gmail.com no later than October 9th. Cash or check donations should be sent to the Church office with the notation “soup kitchen”. Country Store is returning for all the “crafters”. Features: The homemade bakery, a canning shelf, holiday items, maybe sewing, knitted items, etc. A donation form is included in this Reminder. If you get a call to work, please say yes! This project is a major source of funding for Untied Women of Faith budget which pays a portion of camping for youth and for mission projects. Pray for the project. Participate and be present. Donations of food can be dropped off at 7am on October 21st.

# Trunk or Treat

 Mark your calendars and put your creative caps on as Trunk or Treat returns to our First UMC Parking Lot October 29th 6:15-7:15pm. We will be joined once again by trunks from both UCC and Trinity Lutheran Church.  AND once again we will be competing for fan favorite trunk, so let's get as many amazing First UMC trunks in the lot as we can! Contact Tiffany Beste if you have any questions.

# God’s Creatures

*by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse*

 Early in the morning, I am outside watching for the hummingbirds who visit my hummingbird feeder. It is not long before I notice a couple of them swooping around me. They seem to hover, fly backwards and even sometimes fly upside down. I often hear the sound of their wings humming before I see them. I checked the feeder and noticed two hummingbirds at the feeder. I begin to hope for their presence each day but know the fall migration to Mexico and beyond will happen any September day. I am thankful they chose our area to nest and raise their young.

I read recently; the hummingbird is a creature that “opens the heart.” These tiny birds seem to live for the beauty of the world feeding on the nectar from beautiful flowers. Their wings move in a pattern of infinity which symbolizes eternity and continuity. The sighting of a hummingbird may be a sign of challenging times ending and healing to begin. They may be an inspiring sign of hope and good blessings. Others sense a spiritual significance meaning a loved one is near. Whatever the sighting of a hummingbird means to you, take notice. These tiny birds are amazing to watch and enjoy. Although hummingbirds are not mentioned in the Bible, as Christians we know these birds are just one of God’s creations. Every creature on this earth is a blessing which we are thankful to God.

 Take some respite time this week, noticing your surroundings in nature marveling at God’s creations. It will give you a good feeling. Blessings for your families and you!

# Thank You

I would like to thank all of my church friends for the many birthday cards I received. It was good to hear from you.   Mary Johnson

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Mark Frahm,  Dani Frahm’s husband, Rodger Jr. Johnson (Mary Johnson’ son) Dan Slowey, Ken & Judy Bevers, Mary Alice Halverson, Jan (Marilyn Elwood’s sister), Russell & Mary Peirce, Sue Strasburg, Caitlin Jensen, Dawn Kabella, Connie Pruitt (Shirley Root's sister)

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

# October Birthdays

2 - Jane Rodig

3 - Paula Keehr, Jack Stoddard

5 - Bob Thue, Kenzie Giziewski

8 - Don Lepp, Sherry Rabenberg

9 - Garner Brandt, Chuck Ditmar

11- Isabella Downs

12 - Marilyn Holzwarth, Mary Heubaum,

 Heather Hirsch, Trevan Palecek

15 - Judy Bevers, Bill Fargo

16 - Terry Norton

17 - Claudia Maska, Mike Erickson, Jack Olson

18 - Elle Guthmiller

19 - Heather Rabenberg, Amanda Gravholt

20 - Chad Herrmann, Kaitlin Guthmiller,

21 - Dave Becker

22 - Samuel Slowey, Loran Moore, Abbi Olson

23 - Marv Withrow

26 - Austin Nickles

27 - Evie Sime

29 - Alyssa Herrmann

31 - Tammi Downs

THE SOUP KITCHEN TUESDAY - OCTOBER 21, 2025

**From 4:30 PM to 7 PM**

This is a major source of funding for the United Methodist Women’s budget which pays a portion of camping fees for our youth and for missions. We need the assistance of the congregation in donations of food as well as workers for the day of soup kitchen.

If you have not already signed up for a donation of food and to help, **please complete this sheet and leave it in the box on the table in the lounge or in the church office or e-mail to Delores Kafka at** **delkafka9@gmail.com** **no later than Monday, October 6th.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I WILL FURNISH FOR THE KITCHEN: FOR THE COUNTRY STORE:

 9-inch pies #\_\_\_\_\_ Baked or home canned goods

 One & a half gallons of Vegetable Beef Soup Crafts

 One & a half gallons of Chicken Soup Other

 (broth & chicken only, **noodles will be added**) \_\_\_\_ Cash donation $ \_\_\_\_\_\_ One & a half gallon of Chili

I WILL WORK:

\_\_\_\_ IN THE KITCHEN, FROM\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ IN THE DINING ROOM, FROM\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ ON THE SERVING TABLE, FROM\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ DISHWASHING (MEN, especially) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_TO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ FOR CLEAN-UP (6:30 PM ON) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Accepting soup, pie, and Country Store donations starting at 7:30am Tuesday, October 21st.**