

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

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2:43-47

This is one of my favorite tid-bits of scripture because when I read it, I can really visualize the church, the body of Christ. Groups of people buzzing around from house to house sharing life with each other, breaking bread together, being in prayer with one another. In those early days when the church was still being created and birthed after Jesus' death and resurrection, this is what people were doing to share Jesus' teachings and God's love. They were giving their time, their resources, their space. They were sharing meals together and making sure everyone's needs were being met. And while they were busy sharing and experiencing God's love, God was busy too adding to their community.

I share this passage from Acts because I have experienced this type of service first-hand. Ever since moving back to the community I have been greeted warmly with meals and cards, prayers and care, support and resources. I have witnessed this church, this family of Christ, welcome me back into the fold seamlessly, and I am so grateful.

I also share this passage as a continued reminder of who we are as Christ's followers. We are a body of Christ invited to share of ourselves, our resources, our table in hopes of making sure everyone feels as though they are a part of God's family, too. This sharing of love doesn't just stop with those we know or those who are included in the church. We are also invited to be a blessing to a stranger in the grocery store, our neighbor down the street, the students at our Children's Ministry 605.

This message from Acts 2 reminds us that when we are faithful to God and faithful to one another in

sharing our love and gifts, God will share more with us. When we are faithful in our role as being the hands and feet of Christ in the world, God will continue to give us opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ as God does the work of placing people in our lives to share life and love with. We are entrusted by God to be a loving community for all people. I have witnessed this very thing in my short time of being here already and I know that, together, we can continue to share God's love and our love with the people of the Yankton Community.

Blessings,
Pastor Valerie

Backpack Blessing

"Let's send our students into the school year with a backpack blessing! All are welcome in worship on Sunday August 16th as we pray over our students and teachers, and bless them for the year to come. Don't forget to bring your backpacks!"

Bible Presentation

3rd graders will receive their Bibles on Sunday August 16th at the 10:00am worship service. If your son/daughter will be a 3rd grader this fall and you did not receive a letter, please let Brooklyn Glaser know.

Youth Group

Will be starting for this school year on Wednesday September 2nd @ 7:00pm in the youth room. If you are in 7th -12th grade, we are looking forward to seeing you!

605 Children's Ministry

Will start for this school year on Wednesday September 2nd. Supper will be served at 5:15 pm with 605 going till 6:45pm. To get your child(ren) registered for 605 please use the link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VgvbjfZIo_rvB8sdRAxPR9Nxd78_PgbQbtw-FUWV0LPdA/edit.

If interested in helping with 605 in anyway please talk to Brooklyn. We are looking for a teacher's helper in the 5-6 grade classroom and an assistant cook to help Laurie Baily. If interested talk to Brooklyn.

Methodism 101 (Membership Class)

"Pastor Valerie will be offering learning opportunities throughout the month of September for anyone wanting to learn more about being United Methodist. For those seeking membership at Yankton First United Methodist Church, please join us for one "Class One" and one "Class Two". Anyone else interested in a refresher regarding all things United Methodist can come and go within the classes as they'd like. Classes will last 45-60 minutes. Sundays @ 8:30am - Confirmation Classroom 203/205

September 6 - Class One: Who we are and how we are set up.

September 13 - Class One: Who we are and how we are set up.

September 20 - Class Two: What we believe and how we can connect.

September 27 - Class Two: What we believe and how we can connect.

Please reach out to Pastor Valerie with any questions."

Meet and Greet

We are planning to have several small "meet and greets" to help Pastor Valerie get to know people. We are looking for families who would volunteer to host one of these at their home or backyard, where 10 or 12 people would show up and supply dessert, and Pastor Valerie and her family could come and get to know people in small groups. If anyone is interested in hosting one of these meet and greets, there is a sign-up sheet on the mission table in the lobby or please talk with Tammi, Mikael, or Jeannette.

Looking for a new Youth Coordinator

The church is in need of and looking for a new youth coordinator, who would be in charge of the youth group. Youth group meets on Wednesday nights during the school year. This position could be filled as either a paid or volunteer position. We are hoping to fill this position before the end of summer. If you would like more information or would be interested in filling this position, please talk to someone in the church office, or the SPPRC team: Tammi, Mikael, or Jeannette. Thank you so much!

Riverboat Days Parade

We are thinking of having a float in the Riverboat Day Parade if you are willing to help with float/vehicle, etc. please contact the church office.

Canaries Baseball Game

We have an opportunity to get discounted tickets to a home game of the Sioux Falls Canaries. They are offering churches a special \$10 Upper Executive ticket. We would need a group of 8+ to get the discount. Dates of the remaining home games are 8/4-8/9; 8/18-8/23; and 9/1-9/7. Times of the games vary. If you are interested in attending a game contact Diane Kisch at 660-1242. If we get a group of 8 or more that are interested we will figure out a date that works.

Women's Night Out

The date for women's night out in August will be Thursday the 20th – time and location to be determined. For more information contact Tammi Downs.

Mission Moments

Thank you to the volunteers in July for Loads of Love: Jeanette, Jane and Paula. Our next Loads of Love will be in September. There will actually be 2 times in September. Please check your calendars. It's a great way to serve others. Do it as a group of friends, a bible study group, a family – or just sign up yourself! Your service is greatly appreciated!

Also in September is the Banquet! More information to come and a menu. 😊

Healthy Yankton Gardens – please consider stopping by. Pull some weeds, help water, and/or help us as the gardens begin to produce. The harvest is used to support so many things – care casseroles, contact center and/or Yankton food for thought, salsa sales for the Angel fund, etc. Your help – helps so many!

Thank you to Mikael Pietila for spearheading the drive for the Library community hygiene cart! Looks like the box has been filled up and emptied a few times – thank you for your contributions and support!

August 30th is a 5th Sunday, our Bucket Offering will go toward the 605 Children's Ministry Program.

Fundraiser for missions – Hopefully we can find a date in November – I don't know about anyone else but I think we need to bring back the Desert Auction! Watch for more information to come.....stay tuned!

Thanks again for being such great servants of Christ! YOU make a difference in the lives of others!

Carla Hummel
Missions Coordinator

Change an Opportunity by Susan Thorson, Faith Community Nurse

Today, I was thinking "What can I do to improve my life?" What changes can I make to live a healthier, happier and a more productive life? Being an early riser helps me collect my thoughts, review the previous day, and plan for my day. I like being intentional by setting a goal even if it is a small one. One of the first things I do is meditate, begin with prayers for others and myself and begin the day.. Being open to God's presence is the best thing we can do individually and as a group of people working together to be the hands and feet of Jesus each day.

We talk about "change" and how it can be good for all of us. Change can give us more opportunities and experiences in our lives. Sometimes change happens suddenly—like an immediate change in our health which requires us to act quickly and seek help. Then after things have settled, we re-evaluate how our health can be improved by setting an overall goal. We need to develop strategies to reach the goal which may be set together with our health providers and us. Each of these strategies can help build healthy habits that stay with us and will make a difference in our long term goal. Some changes take time to happen and longer to achieve. We need to have patience, stay with our plan, and move forward or in a different direction.

We know God never changes but God has given us the ability to "change." Over time we all

change— our ideas, our values, our bodies, our minds and our spirits. God has given us the ability to think, to reason, and to come to decisions that will help us and those around us. We experience different changes in our lives at different times. God gives us opportunities to end one chapter or our life and to begin another to renew and transform our lives. As I end today, I am reminded by the Bible verse: Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose." Remember the verse in Malachi 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I change not." Blessings to each of you!

IT Update Mid July

The hard drives for the video security system finally arrived and were installed in early July. This enables the recording of video history for all the cameras. Upgrades to Lisa's desk hardware are complete and now match the video security specs. A door security viewer for the pastor is the only hardware item not yet received for the video security system upgrade to be completed.

On June 25th the Leadership Team approved replacing the 18-year-old Inter-Tel 3000 telephone system with a Voice over IP system. The old telephone system was manufacture discontinued in 2017. It has been increasingly difficult to find parts and support and has literally been held together with baling wire and band-Aids for some time. The savings to the church will be approximately \$167 per month and the payback period for the conversion will be about 1 year. The transition is expected to be completed mid-August.

Thank You

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who consoled me with calls visits cards and personal feelings with my loss. I appreciate my church friends more than you can know.
Love Rose Nedved

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Ken Bever, Sharon Stowe, Bill Fargo, Tyan Beste, Laurie Baily's brother Charlie, Mary Alice Halverson, Mary Peirce, Sue Strasburg, Eric Nichols & family,

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

August Birthdays

- 2 - Mikael Pietila
- 3 - Jill Sage
- 5 - Miya Noecker
- 6 - Huck Flannery
 - Milt White
- 7 - Ruth Gravholt
 - Mary Alice Halverson
- 9 - Dan Swihart
 - Collins Den Herder
- 10 - Mary Johnson
 - Burklynn Novak
- 11 - Chris Hathaway
 - Dan Johnson
- 12 - Tyler Irwin
 - Kim Berndt
- 14 - Peggy Doering
- 16 - Liza Larson
- 18 - Hannah Irwin
- 20 - Kalyn (Peterka) Schafer
 - Laura Slowey
- 21 - Derek Moderegger
- 22 - Jody Brady
 - Junia LaBounty
- 23 - Susan Thorson
- 24 - Rose Nedved
- 24 - Cole Sawatzke
- 26 - Dan Slowey
- 28 - Brett Sime
 - Rob Taylor
- 29 - Rhonda Arens
 - Micah James

The teacher called Experience

The knowledge we gain from the teacher called Experience is hard to forget and the most valuable kind of learning. The trouble is that the teacher called Experience gives us the test first and the lesson we needed to learn after the test.

FUMC Financials by Diane Kisch (Financial Assistant)

2026	Cash Flow		
Month	Income	Expenses	Amount
January	\$81,361.33	\$41,833.98	\$39,527.35
February	\$28,748.45	\$24,012.23	\$4,736.22
March	\$35,047.54	\$35,993.94	(\$946.40)
April	\$27,947.49	\$26,155.19	\$1,792.30
May	\$26,986.39	\$27,690.40	(\$704.01)
June	\$27,373.99	\$39,340.14	(\$11,966.15)
July			\$0.00
August			\$0.00
Sept			\$0.00
October			\$0.00
November			\$0.00
December			\$0.00
Totals	\$227,465.19	\$195,025.88	\$32,439.31

Projected 2026 Expenses are \$441,843.00

* Income for January is generally higher than other months as we have some members that give their annual pledge in one month.

Yankton First UMC - Leadership Meeting Minutes **July 27, 2026**

Leadership Team Members Present: Pastor Valerie, Diane Kisch, Jeannette Schaefer, John Schaefer, Bob Thue, Marc Mooney, Scott Giziewski, Laura Slowey, Dan Johnson

Additional Church Members Present: Dan and Marilyn Elwood, Mary Holtzworth, Sherry Daugherty

Meeting Called to Order 6:10pm
Recited Mission and Vision statement.
Opening Prayer by Pastor Valerie.

Business

Elwoods:

- Wanting to shingle the shed before there is a leak.
- Scott is aware of the issue and there is a plan to reshingle soon.
- The trees on the north side of the building cause clogs on the gutters.

- Discussion about how to navigate making sure the gazebo space across the street is welcoming to all people. Encourage more use of that space.
- Wondering about making it distinguishable for the purpose of notifying authorities
- Discussion about signage
- Power washing and cleaning up the space
- Having a timer on the lights - dawn to dusk lighting (Scott will research)
- Diane will come up with wording for the sign and send it to the Leadership Team for approval. She will then contact Meyer Signs to create signs to attach to 6x6 posts in picnic shelter
- Wondering about crosswalk painted on the road between east and west lots. Scott will reach out to Robert Lindsey about painting that crosswalk

Mary:

- Requesting tree removal at the parsonage
Received a quote from Walsh Construction to remove 3 trees - \$1975 including stump removal
- Bob Thue makes a motion to move forward with the tree removal project with Walsh; Jeannette seconds. Motion passes

Mount Marty Choir

- Hosting their concert Thursday October 1st 7pm
Dan moved to allow them the use of our space; Bob seconded. Passes.

Canaries Baseball Games

- Discount applied to groups of 8+

Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Marc moves to approve; Bob seconds. Passes

Approval of June's Financial Report

- Dan moves to approve; Marc seconds. Passes

Trustee Report

- Just had elevator looked at and report was good
- Elevator company wanting to do multi-point inspection
- Asking benefits of having this additional inspection (\$3200 one time) and what is our contract with frequency of service checks
- Sewage backup issue (second floor bathrooms) taken care of Monday July 20

- More parsonage conversation in the future - flooring in laundry room may need to be replaced
- There are different hand towel dispensers throughout the church
- Looking to do all trifold dispensers throughout the church
- AED signs
- Desire to communicate with the congregation about their location and putting up additional signage

Finance

- Nothing new about Generosity Grove

Green Team

- Litter pick-up was the last organized event - spring
Putting out some more material in the fall

Children Ministry Report

- 605 on Wednesdays starting Sept 2 - May 12
- Will run from 5:15 to 6:45 with supper served at 5:15
- Children sing in church every other month starting in October.
- Need a teacher helper in 5-6th grade room.
- Need assistant cook.
- Valentine's Dinner again this year.

SPRC

- KYNT advertisement - free promotional stuff for the church (worship and youth coordinator)
- Bob moves to approve KYNT advertisements; John seconds. Approved
- Still looking for someone to fill Youth Coordinator position
- Meet and Greet with Pastor dates are forthcoming

Pastor Report

- Thankful for such a warm welcome.
- Working with Susan on pastoral care needs.
- Hosting Methodism 101 class in September. This is for anyone interested in learning the basics of Methodism and will count as a new member membership class.
- Planning to temporarily lead Youth Group.

- Seeking energy with riverboat day parade - someone willing to help with float/vehicle, etc.
- Signed up for Higher Ground this year - Conference led/supported year-long effort to support pastors in life and ministry.

Next meetings:

- Sunday August 16 after worship; September 20th after worship; October 18th after worship
- Third Sunday of the month after worship

Adjourned 7:32p