

The Trumpeter

Spearfish United Methodist Church

Pastor: Scott McKirdy

Youth Director: Brenda Swanson

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APRIL 2020



Pastor's Page

"Remembering George MacDonald"

I was in my second year of ministry when I was asked to go visit Alice MacDonald. She was delightful...a tall, thin, 95-year-old, retired school teacher who was deaf as a post. When I figured out how to utilize the hearing assistance tools she was using, the two of us sat in her living room and talked an afternoon away. Born in 1898, Alice had some truly amazing stories about growing up before WWI on the South Dakota prairies. After an hour of conversation, she got up and returned with a scrapbook. Opening it, she began to talk about her older brother, George MacDonald. His newspaper obituary was there on the scrapbook's first page. George had died in the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19. 75 years after his death, Alice loved telling me about him. George died when he was 28 years old; she was 20 at that moment in time.

George's obituary was eloquent. It was written in the beautiful, formal English of a century ago in the center of the newspaper's front page. It spoke of a beautiful young man who was loved by family and community. It spoke of all the ways that he made their community a better place to live. In its eloquence, I noticed something: it did not speak so much about what George did; it spoke of who he truly was. I learned some important lessons from that front-page obituary and that afternoon's conversation. Let me share with you a little of what I learned as we walk through this modern-day pandemic together.

***Who we ARE is far more important that what we DO.** Americans are a constantly-moving, constantly-doing people. Whenever we meet someone new, we will typically introduce ourselves by speaking our name followed by what we do. That is not how God sees us. In these days of isolation and change in our levels of activity, remember that who you are deep down inside is the real you. Treasure that version of you. Strengthen that version of you. It's not what you DO that counts.

It's who you ARE.

***Love is the builder. Fear is the destroyer.**

Fascinatingly, even though the 1918 flu pandemic struck literally the entire globe, which included every single state, county, and town in the US, never before and never after have I talked with people who survived it. Nobody that I knew wanted to remember that time and share about it. 11 million people died in WWI as the result of war. The next year 50 million died of the flu and pneumonia. It was a terrifying time, and many communities were not proud of their response. Many responded with fear, greed, violence, and self-centeredness. Modern epidemiology did not exist as a science then. They had no way to communicate the importance of "social distancing". There were no effective medicines...period. Fear... distrust... greed... despair... violence... these were the true victors in so many places around the globe. It took time and perseverance for love to take its place. In all of the ways that you respond to pandemic today, stop. Look in the mirror. Ask yourself what is truly ruling your heart, mind, and behavior. Love is the builder. Fear is the destroyer.

***Realize there is a tomorrow.** How we think...and pray...and behave...and love...today matters. As we reach out to love people, even when they themselves are caught in cycle of negative behavior, realize actions today have consequences tomorrow. However you respond to the pandemic today is what you will have to remember and own for the rest of your life. Are you responding with a lack of patience, hoarding, distrust, and fear? Then this is what you will own for the rest of your days. Are you responding with "Love your neighbor as yourself?" Are you responding by helping those in trouble, contributing of your very self to the community, praying and centering yourself in God? Then this is what you will take with you in the years ahead.

Today I remember the graciousness and joy that was George MacDonald, a man who faced pandemic as a true man of God and a man of his community. My prayer is that this will describe each of us and all of us as these days go by.

Pastor Scott

Participation Opportunities

Prayer Partner

To the Resurrected Christ. We celebrate Easter as we pray:

- E** Enter our hearts, O Lord
- A** Apply Christ's love for self and others
- S** Sustain us in our struggles and pain
- T** Teach us to study more and pray more
- E** Encourage us to take action in your name
- R** Remember, Jesus loves me, this I know...

We pray for Pastor Scott, his family, our church staff and our church families. Each day, reach out to someone to show Christ's love. Amen.

Church Office Hours

The church is open for regular hours each weekday: Monday through Friday 9:00 – 5:00. You are welcome to call, e-mail, or drop by any time. 642-3457

Caring!



As we live in physical isolation, remember that the church is working really hard to share CARE. We are building the bridge we are walking on, so things change every day. Thus far:

1. We have mailed out our church's directory so everyone can help with care in our congregation. We want YOU to be a part of our caring system, so be sure to be contacting your friends within the congregation to check up on them!
2. We have created online worship that is accessible on our website, Facebook, or on CD.
3. We are sending Children's Church lessons out to families every week.

4. We continue to provide Safeway cards for those in need each Tuesday and Thursday morning to help with groceries, gas, and medicine.
5. We are rapidly shifting to online meetings so that our committees and ministries can continue smoothly.
6. Our youth group and Confirmation class are now meeting online with Zoom meetings.
7. We are about to starting online prayer and Bible study groups.
8. All of our ministries are continuing, just in different ways as we work to keep everyone connected to God and to each other. Congregational Care Ministry and our Health Ministries Team are still functioning behind the scenes looking for ways to be the most help.
9. Yoga class continues to meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. (They meet within CDC guidelines, utilize a lot of common sense and hand sanitizer, and listen carefully for state and local government instructions.)
10. Many of our committees, teams, and organizations within the church are now beginning meet online. Simply contact the church office to find out more about this if you would like to try it!

Giving!

One of the questions that we have been receiving is about church giving. How can we continue our regular giving to the church? This is going to be incredibly important in the months to come. Here are the ways in which you can help your church financially:



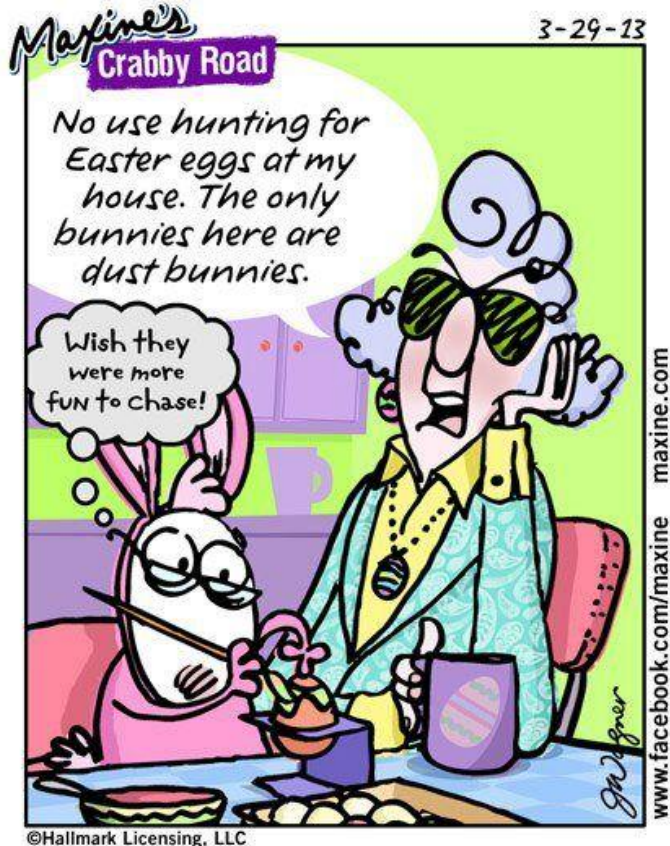
- **Go to our website** www.spearfishumc.org . Scroll down to the giving instructions on the homepage.
- **Call our church office** at 642-3457 and talk with Mary Tracy about using electronic giving with VANCO.
- **Download the "Give Plus" app.** Just follow the instructions!
- **Send a check in the US mail** to 845 N. 5th St, Spearfish made out to "Spearfish UMC".
- **Drop by the church office** during weekday regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00).

Thanks so much for all you are doing in Christ's name during these days of isolation! Be sure to contact us if there are ways that we can be caring in deeper and better ways!



Weekly worship is being pre-recorded and made available for everyone. There are three ways you can access it:

- 1) Video recording of the entire service will be available on the church website's homepage. Simply go to www.spearfishumc.org and look for the link that will take you directly to it. Each week's video will be available by 5:30 on Saturday.
- 2) Video recordings of the entire service are also available on the church's FACEBOOK page.
- 3) Audio recording of the entire service will be available on CD's through the church office. Each week's CD will be available Monday morning. Orvette can mail one to you each week if you wish.



Children First



Children First was open through Friday, March 13, 2020. Since that day, we have been closed to do our part in preventing the spread of COVID 19.

The Children First board of directors has been meeting weekly to make the decision about whether we will be open the following week. They are also working very hard to come up with ways to pay all CF staff members while we are closed because they are not eligible for unemployment since they are all employees of the church.

The teachers are all working on completing their staff development hours online and also sending lessons and video messages to all of our families. Everyone misses the children and can't wait for the time when we can get back into our regular routines!

Children First Needs

by Janelle Jones, Children First Board chairperson

The Children First Board has decided to continue to remain closed for the health and safety of families and staff. The staff of 20 is being paid reduced wages. Some Children First (CF) families may continue to pay tuition. Thank you for that help.

How can we in the church support our staff and families? Donations to support rent, wages, and other expenses would be very helpful. If anyone would like to purchase one or several Safeway cards (\$25 value), these can be given to staff or CF families. Please inform Orvette if you want to specify staff or a CF family. For example, one of the part time employees works three jobs to support a family. These are challenging times. Please give as generously as you are able.



- Be sure to note the youth calendar and the "pray for our youth" days. We would love to have you join us in prayer for our students in 6th-12th grades.
- A **murder mystery night for the youth** is on hold but still being planned. If you would be interested in helping with the dinner, costumes,

decorations, tech booth or props, please let Brenda know!

- **Youth groups are meeting on Zoom weekly** on Wednesdays at 4 pm. Contact Brenda for more information. So much fun! Love to have you join us! Our first meeting consisted of 7 youth and 2 dogs! A Bible study is also being planned during this time.
- Confirmation classes will continue online at this time.

Cancellations and Postponements

- **Rummage Sale Postponed!** – Thanks for your patience as we await a time to re-schedule the spring rummage sale. We are still hoping to have it so if you can, save your donations for us. Many thanks!
- **Children’s Church** – Will not be held until regular worship services are resumed.
- **Family Game Night** – Family game night will not be held in April. Watch for future notices.
- **United Methodist Women (UMW)** – United Methodist Women will not be meeting until further notice.
- **United Methodist Men (UMM)** – United Methodist Men will not be meeting until further notice.
- **Basket Auction on Hold** – The youth would like to hold another basket auction and baked potato lunch fundraiser when the time is right. Anyone can put together a basket to donate for the auction. So maybe while at home, it might be possible to think about basket themes and consider putting a basket together. Some ideas: sports theme, movie theme, baking theme, children’s basket, health kit, book-lovers basket, etc! Stay tuned for more details as they become available.
- **“Prepare to Care” Health Forum** – The April 26 Health Forum, "Prepare to Care," will be rescheduled at a later time. *Health Ministry Committee*



Council Highlights for March

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Church Council chose not to meet on Wednesday, March 18, out of respect for social distancing for everyone’s health. Later, Bishop Ough asked churches to not hold live worship until May 10; therefore, the likelihood of Church Council holding a meeting in April is slim, unless we would meet electronically. Please check Pastor Scott’s weekly email for updates.

Please find the Treasurer’s Report for February as well as a short report from Children First.

- ✓ **February 2020 Treasurer’s Report:** There were no major changes in the balance sheet. For the month of February, income for the **General Fund** was \$35,905.16, and expenses were \$31,128.63. The **General Fund** ended the month \$4,776.53 in the black with apportionments paid. The year to date balance is \$11,322.22 in the red due to a financially terrible January. Let’s hope the catch-up trend continues. For February, the income for **UMCOC** was \$3,710.00, and expenses were \$3,725.07 leaving the **UMCOC** Fund in the red \$15.07 for the month but in the black \$2,455.18 for the year to date balance. Income for February for **Children First** was \$44,338.95, and expenses were \$30,480.80. **Children First** ended the month in the black \$13,858.15. Year to date balance is \$20,026.09 in the black six months into the CF fiscal year. The **Debt Retirement/Capital Fund** income for February was \$3,548.74, and expenses were \$0.00. The year to date balance is \$50,443.08. **Mission-giving** for February was \$1,469.78. **Mission** expenses (distributions) were \$5,165.00. The Mission of the Month was Meals on Wheels for which the offering was \$450.00.
- ✓ **Children First Report:** They held Donuts with Dads on March 13. **Children First** will be closed starting March 16 due to COVID-19.

MISSIONS

Mission Options for April

“I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.” Psalm 121:1-2 (CEB)

Please prayerfully consider these options as God guides you in this time of the Corona Virus:

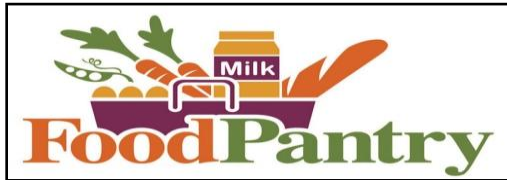
- **Pastor’s Discretionary Fund** to give Safeway cards to those in need

- **Spearfish Strong Community United**, the group running Studio 621 (being handled by National Mutual Benefit)
- **United Way of the Black Hills** who are helping folks with rent, food and bills
- **The Spearfish Food Pantry**
- **Native American Ministries** Sunday April 26 – This offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences, provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans, and strengthens, develops and equips Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities.

Your prayers and support shine Christ’s love and compassion.

Prayer: “Lord, in these times, when we fear we are losing hope or feel that our efforts are futile, let us see in our hearts and minds the image of your resurrection, and let that be our source of courage and strength. With that, and in your company, help us face challenges and all that is born of injustice.” Amen.

From the church in the Philippines, in Worship and Song: Worship Resources, # 183



Most Needed

- **2 lb. Flour**
- **Canned Fruit**
- **Syrup**
- **Mashed Potatoes**
- **2 lb. Sugar**
- **Tuna**
- **Pancake Mix**

Always Needed

- Oatmeal
- Ramen Noodles
- Canned Carrots
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Saltine Crackers
- Canned Beets
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Peas

The Spearfish Food Pantry is going to be in dire circumstances within 2-3 weeks as we are unable to purchase enough food to meet our ever increasing needs. We cannot order from either Wal-Mart or Safeway and Lueder’s is limited on what and how much they can order. Currently Lueder’s is our only retail source for ordering food. Belle Fourche & Sturgis have not been able to help due to their limited ordering restrictions.

We need donations of any food people can spare. We are getting new clients every day we are open and our supplies are disappearing quickly.

If you have or can purchase anything that would feed hungry people, please bring to the Spearfish Food Pantry between 9:00 to 12:00 noon on Monday, Wednesday or Fridays or drop off your items to the church office.

The hungry families of Spearfish and St. Onge need your help. **PLEASE help us feed the hungry!**



BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Voohis	04-01	Linda Lueders	04-17
Baylee Hazledine	04-01	Kay Chase	04-17
Fay Shields	04-02	Angel Jumping Bull	04-17
Elise Ligtenberg	04-02	Marie Hoffman	04-18
Lanny Swisher	04-03	Bob Perry	04-19
Roger Garrett	04-03	Keith Haiar	04-19
Clarence Moshier	04-03	Noell Brill	04-21
Steve Hanson	04-03	Marie Post	04-22
Mike Stracco	04-03	MayBelle Loux	04-22
Sidnee Short	04-03	Gordon Higgins	04-23
Jacky Easton	04-04	David Ayer	04-23
Nate Jensen	04-04	Sandra Asheim	04-26
Alan Haag	04-05	Charlie Hennessey	04-26
Kendra Beringer	04-05	Linda Stratton	04-28
Alyssa Warns-Louks	04-07	Peyton Linafelter	04-28
Jack Ammerman	04-07	Rylee Niesent	04-28
Jennifer Nelson	04-09	Bob Davis	04-29
Sonya Albers	04-10	Daryl Emery	04-29
Judy Wagner	04-10	Steve Peters	04-29
Russell Bauer	04-10	Mark Tracy	04-29
Shyla Crawford	04-11	Emma McKirdy-Wilsey	04-29
Paiten Gee	04-11	Ailis Fischer	04-29
Steven Ammerman	04-12	Jay Adrion	04-30
Shirley Doten	04-13	James Louks	04-30
Brynne Looney	04-13	Jordan West	04-30
Mary Ann Sheldon	04-14		

Now may be a good time to send a note to those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries this month since they won’t be able to celebrate with family and friends.

ANNIVERSARIES

Terry & Sheila Powell	04/01~53 yrs.
Eamon Forslund & Grace McKirdy	04/04~2 yrs.
Everett & Marilyn Burgeson	04/07~41 yrs.
Austin & Alexandra Kaddatz	04/07~2 yrs.
Jim & Bonnie Witt	04/19~51 yrs.
Roger & Beth Garrett	04/25~33 yrs.
Steven & Kimberly Ammerman	04/29~31 yrs.

Bishop's Thanksgiving Offering	100.00
Artemis House	100.00
UMCOR Sunday	345.00
Youth Missions	50.00
Youth Fund	115.00
*TOTAL	\$ 3,762.60

*Special Funds for March **

Benevolence Fund	\$ 700.00
Pastor's Discretionary	1,523.86
*TOTAL	\$ 2,223.86

FINANCES

Come, Share, Rejoice!

"Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and uphold it by your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness?"

GENERAL FUND 2020			
Month	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Difference
Jan.	30,160.16	46,258.91	-16,098.75
Feb.	35,905.16	31,128.63	4,776.53

DEBT RETIREMENT/CAPITAL FUND 2020			
Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	53,894.34	Feb.	3,548.74

CHILDREN FIRST FUND 2020			
Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	1,152.87	Feb.	3,548.74



*As of March 25, 2020

**Worship only held the first 3 Sundays in March in the church

**Worship Attendance for Mar.: 519 (Avg/Wk = 173)

**Sunday School Attendance for Mar.: 51 (Avg/Wk = 17)



*Special Gifts for March **

Camp Scholarships	\$ 100.00
Investment Fund	1,000.00
Food Pantry	160.00
Mug Ministry	12.00
Sprinkler System	100.00
NH S.O.S	100.00
Adult Education Fund	65.00
Yoga Charity Fund	415.00
Honduras Trip Fund	200.00
UMCOC Donations	100.00
Meals on Wheels	200.00
Tree of Life	100.00
Hope Center	100.00
Solar Ovens	200.00
Kits - Ingathering	100.00
Cornerstone Mission	100.00

THE TRUMPETER

United Methodist Church

845 N. 5th St.
Spearfish, SD 57783
(605) 642-3457

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Spearfish SD 57783
Permit #45

Return Service Requested

Sunday Worship:

“The Gathering” ~ 8:15 a.m.
“Children’s Church” – 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
“The Sanctuary” ~ 10:30 a.m.
Nursery care/Van rides to worship
CD’s of worship

Sunday School: 9:25 a.m.

Saturday “Blue Jean” Worship ~ 5:30 p.m.

E-mail Addresses:

Website: www.spearfishumc.org



Pastor: scott.mckirdy@spearfishumc.org

Administrative Assist.: office@spearfishumc.org

Youth Director: brenda.swanson@spearfishumc.org

Finance: finance@spearfishumc.org

Bell Choir Director: hcm.kerchel@yahoo.com

Nursery Supervisor: carriejoydaily@gmail.com

Call the church office for more information at 642-3457.



2020