

The Trumpeter

Spearfish United Methodist Church

Pastor: Scott McKirdy

Youth Director: Brenda Swanson

Administrative Assistant: Orvette Stepper

Editors: Jane Carlstrom & Doris Horner

MAY 2020



Pastor's Page

“Abundance in the Dust”

It was 1936. My grandmother sat on the front steps of my mother's home in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Most times of the year, they lived a hundred yards from the Red River of the North. Every year during the spring, before the dikes were built, they lived as an island in the Red as the river rose surrounding their house and filling their basement. But there was no water anywhere near the front steps that day as Grandma just sat and cried. It was July. There was no garden harvest yet. The canned goods down on the basement shelves was running low. The small paycheck my grandfather tried to bring home each week was gone. There was nothing.

And Grandma sat on the front steps surrounded by dust weeping.

But that's not the end of the story. I always marveled when she would tell this small piece of living history because she told it rarely, and she told it carefully. As she sat there with her head in her hands, a small



breeze blew down the street. Out of the corner of her eye, Grandma detected motion. Looking over, half buried in the dust, was a \$5 bill. The breeze caused it to wave at her.

As it caught her eye, it also caught her heart. \$5 was a huge amount of money in East Grand Forks, Minnesota in those days. Grandma always believed that God somehow always provides.

Joy. Gratitude. Abundance.

These are the words I call us to in our church, in our families, and in our communities. These are not easy times, especially for those who have lost their income and their independence. But these are not times of scarcity.

There is JOY in the midst of our days if we will only realize it.

There is GRATITUDE in the midst of our difficulties if we will only exercise it.

There is ABUNDANCE in the midst of our shortages if we will only recognize and then claim it. Joy. Gratitude. Abundance.

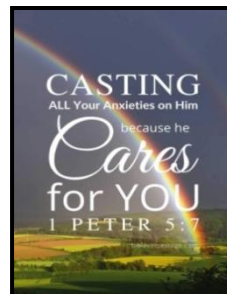
But these are gifts that are not just given to us. They are also gifts that we give to others. How is it today that you are seeing others in your daily living who are short on joy, stingy with gratitude, and short on an abundance mentality? It won't cost you a thing to share with them.

In July 1936, Grandma had to lift her head and see what the wind was moving right next to her. Today it is time to lift our heads and see what God's Spirit is moving in our lives.

Pastor Scott

Participation Opportunities

Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study

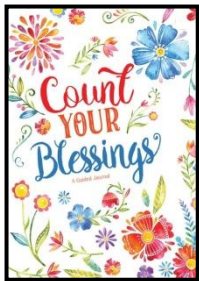


Each Tuesday at noon all the way through June 17, there is a Bible study that we are sharing on Zoom. We are walking step by step through 1 & 2 Peter. These two small letters in the New Testament are packed with the knowledge and passion of the Apostle Peter. You can jump in any time. Watch your e-mail for the Zoom invitation or contact Pastor Scott for an invitation to be sent directly to you.

Prayer Partners

Be with us, O God, individually and as a community of believers. Bless us as we worship in new ways, pray more than ever, study God's word, and serve others.

Thank you for our church staff and leaders and for Children First faithful employees who wait for safe recovery from this pandemic. Grant us patience and generosity.



Bless Pastor Scott as he leads in worship, Bible study, and compassion. Praise God for technology. Be with workers in all walks of life. Bless all God's children, unborn to those over age 100.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

COVID 19 Financial Task Force

During this time of COVID 19 restrictions and economic impact, a COVID Financial Task Force (CFTF) has been formed to support our finance department in making economic decisions for Spearfish United Methodist Church (SUMC), Children First (CF), and United Methodist Outreach Center (UMCOC). This ten person task force is comprised of representatives from our finance department, Children First, UMCOC, and members at large. Our purpose is to maintain financial solvency for each of these three entities between, at a minimum, April through August. We will review income and expenses and determine how to best pay expenses so that when we are able to reopen program doors, we are ready.

The CFTF appreciates the generosity that has been shown from the congregation and we ask for your continued financial support and prayers as we look forward and plan for the future.

Chris Davis, CFTF Chair

Children's Church

Hello Friends! I hope everyone is doing well with the New Normal of our lives right now. Children's Church has officially been put online!

As of right now, I have and will continue to send out Children's Church kits that allow parents to do the activities with their kids.

This coming Sunday, we will try something new. I have set up a zoom link so that together we can watch the bible story videos and get some face to face interaction. During this time, I will also start playing Vacation Bible



School music so that the kids can start familiarizing themselves with the music before Vacation Bible School Starts.

We have made the decision to push back Vacation Bible School to the end of summer during the potential week of August 17-21st. We are still working out how VBS will be run and if it'll be a week or a weekend gathering. Stay tuned to later messages on how we will go about VBS this summer. Stay safe and healthy!

Thanks,
Katie Clark

Reflections on Children First

by Janelle Jones, Chair, Children First Board

I am a cheerleader for Children First, the best early learning option in Spearfish, in my opinion. I am Janelle Jones, chairperson of CF Board. Spearfish UMC owns and operates CF. I am proud to say as a church "We are Children First."

Children First has a staff of 20 who have been off the job since March 16 when schools closed. Thank you to many who give to CF with pledges or special gifts. The donations of \$25 Safeway cards for the staff netted two for each CF employee. Thank you to all donors. These are still a welcome way to help.

As we experience this pandemic, some of us received \$1200 from the federal government but spend less. Currently I do not go to the coffee shop at 7 a.m. or dinner with friends, or shop as often, or drive as much or travel out of town. I will give that \$1200 to CF. Please consider an extra gift to the church or any charity if you can.

Expenses exceed income for CF. Examples include reimbursement to families for half of March tuition (some go to kindergarten and others may never return), uncertainty about when to reopen, summer income low or lacking, and rent to UMCOC. What about continued wages for a staff of 20? What might change in western SD with tourist season and Biker Rally?

Thank you to Mary Tracy, UMC financial assistant, and others who helped secure a forgivable loan from the CARES Act, primarily to pay 8 weeks of wages for CF and UMC.

CF Board makes decisions regarding school calendar, when to close, tuition rates, staff wages, etc. Normal pay has been granted to the 20 employees since mid March with the forgivable loan covering mid April until mid June. In the past, unprecedented closures happened when the new boiler/asbestos work was done and for one day due to influenza spreading at CF.

CF director Melissa Raad does an excellent job of managing income and expenses. Most of us don't tear paper napkins in half to save money. She and Sarah

Hazledine plan for staff hours to meet the requirements of being a state licensed facility. The funds are well-managed. The staff is well trained with mandated annual training. There is very low turnover. We value the staff of Children First.

I am asking for your prayers and your generosity so that Children First is strong and stable whenever it reopens. We recognize that if CF opens this summer, participation and income will probably be lower than normal. Thank you for your support of Children First.



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.

United Methodist Men

To update you on what is happening with the Methodist Men, we have lost our treasurer, Les Pribble who is moving to Utah. This means that at our first meeting in the church we need to select a new treasurer.

It has been recommended that we donate \$500 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We have enough money in our account to make that donation. I would like any and all input on this matter before proceeding with any action. Please call me at (308) 353-1721 or email me at stprante@gmail.com. You can also contact Everett Follette with any suggestions or thoughts on this matter. At our next meeting I will be requesting email and phone numbers from all present.

The UMM aluminum can collecting is going well and has created a bit of a problem. We no longer have the mechanical can smasher and without being able to

smash the cans, we have to make many more trips to Sturgis to cash in the cans. We are asking for any and all ideas on how we can smash several cans at a time before taking them to Sturgis. I would appreciate any and all ideas, suggestions, and creative ways to accomplish this task. When we smashed the cans, we would get about \$40 for a pickup load of cans. Without smashing the cans we get about \$18 for a pickup load.

I hope we can meet together for breakfast in the near future.

Terry Prante, UMM President



- 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!
- Graduates, we love you and are thinking of how we can honor you! What are your thoughts? Let's get creative!
- Confirmation classes are being held online and our class will be confirmed when we can be together for worship! Great job, students!

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! Stay tuned!

Caring Meal Ministry

We ask you to call the church office (642-3457) when there is a need for a meal to be delivered (during an illness, death, etc.).

We received a nice thank you note last month that said: "The meal was so much appreciated. It is great to know that people care about us!"

We have several volunteers who support this ministry by preparing food, delivering the meal, praying,

and donating money. Thank you to our volunteers who are always willing to help when called. The Caring Meal Ministry is a successful ministry because of our great volunteers!

The mission of our church is to “Know God, Love God, and SERVE others.” We are doing this as we reach out to people in need. We are thankful for your support for this worthwhile ministry! What a great way to serve others as we prepare food for the body and soul.

Health Ministry Committee



Council Highlights

April 15, 2020

- ✓ **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Foundation investments have been updated. Those investments are tied to the stock market so, of course, all went down. For the month of March, income for the **General Fund** was \$38,574.09, and expenses were \$35,909.00. The **General Fund** ended the month \$2,665.09 in the black with apportionments paid. The year to date balance is \$8,657.13 in the red due to a financially terrible January. So, the catch-up continued for March. For March the income for **UMCOC** was \$5,075.00, and expenses were \$4,207.48, leaving the **UMCOC** Fund in the black \$867.52 for the month and in the black \$3,322.70 for the year to date balance. Income for March for **Children First** was \$44,305.63, and expenses were \$33,208.43. **Children First** ended the month in the black \$11,097.20. Year to date balance is \$29,123.29 in the black seven months into the CF fiscal year. CF has not yet refunded any tuition to the parents for March. The **Debt Retirement/Capital Fund** income for March was \$3,809.06, and expenses were \$0.00. Year to date balance is \$54,252.14. **Mission-giving** for March was \$9,216.09, mostly due to a large contribution to Pastor's Discretionary. **Mission** expenses (distributions) were

\$7,461.09. The Mission of the Month was UMCOR for which the offering was \$505.00.

- ✓ **CHILDREN FIRST REPORT:** Children First closed on Friday, March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19. However, Children First is paying staff 100% of wages. The Children First Board requested a waiver of April rent to UMCOC. UMC and Children First applied for a small business loan from the CARES act. Safeway cards were donated to all 20 Children First staff. Several staff members delivered Easter baskets to all CF families, including a book for each CF child. The books were purchased from the Dakotas Conference breakthrough grant. This grant also funds Mac and Cheese at the church and Donuts with Dads, which was held March 13. Please pray for staff, families, and CF board.
- ✓ **CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT:** Katie Clark has been creating a home package that has activities that parents can lead with their kids. Katie is looking into maybe trying a face to face interaction with Children's Church via Zoom or Facebook live. Brainstorming ideas right now but will see what happens.
- ✓ **MISSIONS REPORT:** The Committee has decided to not publicize the April and May scheduled "Missions of the Month" and instead encourage people to give to local programs that are helping people during this crazy time. The following programs have been lifted up in the Trumpeter – Pastor's Discretionary Fund (Safeway cards), Spearfish Strong Community United (Studio 621), United Way of the Black Hills, and the Spearfish Food Pantry.
- ✓ **STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE REPORT:** The Stewardship and Finance Committee held their monthly meeting via Zoom in April. Committee reports were given, but there is not much activity going on. Under new business, it was voted on and approved to form a Church Task Force to look at the impact of COVID-19 on the church finances. The committee will consist of around 10 people to represent all sectors of the church (Trustees, UMCOC, Council, Children First, and Staff Parish). Chris Davis will be the chair of this committee. Peggy Bosch has created a 5-month projection of expenditures for each of the church units (SUMC, UMCOC, CF). There is a projected shortfall that the Task Force will need to address. Mary Tracy has applied for a CARES ACT loan/grant of \$101,530 to cover roughly 2.5 months of staff salaries. She is working with a local bank to complete the SBA paperwork.
- ✓ **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REPORT:** Connie Swander-Ericsson is group emailing members on a weekly basis. Many are responding with encouragement and fun ideas to help keep busy. Nothing comes close to seeing others in person but we're grateful for modern technology.
- ✓ **WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:** Many thanks to Scott McKirdy, Colleen McKirdy, Emma McKirdy-Wilsey, Connie Hubbard, Michelle Jennings, and Kevin Nakajima for preparing our online worship services these past three weekends. This has required planning and preparation and then the lengthy process of recording and uploading the video to the church website. Members of the Worship Committee have met online to discuss ways to support Pastor McKirdy as he leads us in worship each week. More online resources are being developed to draw us together during this time of physical distancing.

- ✓ **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:** The Youth continue to meet on Zoom on a weekly basis. Confirmation class met last month via Zoom. Brenda Swanson continues to work from home in keeping our youth connected. Note cards are being sent to encourage our youth. Text messages are also sent with notes of encouragement.
- ✓ **Discussion Items.** . . Connie Hubbard brought up that as we move back into discussion of the 5 Pillars that we be sure to assess any goal accomplishment that we have. Connie Hubbard then asked the Council if all committees had a current job description. Chris Davis felt it would be a good idea for committees to revamp what they do. Pastor Scott shared that the Trustees would be electing a new chair in the near future as their co-chairs need to step back from that for a bit. On Wednesday, April 22, a Task Force, headed by Chris Davis, will meet to look into ways to pay bills through August. The Spearfish UMC church staff and the Children First staff are currently being paid at 100%. Mary Tracy has applied for a Care Loan through Pioneer Bank in the amount of \$100,000. If this is used for salaries and utilities only, it can turn into a grant rather than a loan, according to Tom Dies at Pioneer Bank. It is currently looking favorable. Linda Hoxie felt that being able to get your church pledge changed to online was a positive thing. Pastor Scott asked for the Council to spread the news to give feedback on worship so that they can keep improving. Kevin Nakajima shared that there will be an extra license with CCLI in order to be able to stream music online.

Action Items. . . There were no Action Items.

Learning/Planning. . . Postponed until another meeting.

Next Meeting of the Council: May 20, 2020

Thank you!

Fay Shields would like to thank everyone for the Birthday Cards that were sent to her for her 92nd Birthday last month.

MISSIONS

Tree of Life



“But as obedient children, you must be holy in every aspect of your lives, just as the one who called you is holy. It is written, *“You will be holy, because I am holy.”* (1 Peter 1:14b-16, Common English Bible)

“Welcome, Warmth and

More are a part of the Tree of Life Ministry in Mission, SD on the Rosebud Reservation which serves several of the poorest counties in the United States. There are three areas of Ministry supported by the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church: Tree of Life Thrift Store,

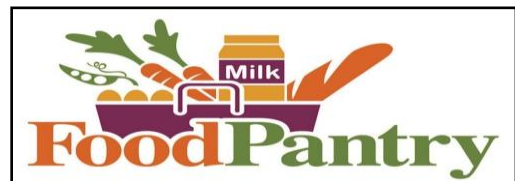
construction/home repair, and the Warm Welcome Center. Warm Welcome operates as a cooperative store. Each guest that enters pays \$1.06 which entitles the guest to a gift of whatever the co-op has for the day (crackers, fruit, vegetables, etc.) and a hot meal of breakfast or lunch in the dining area.

Tree of Life began to renovate the Warm Welcome Kitchen area to separate the kitchen and dining area thus making it secure for the kitchen staff. Even with the kitchen closed for renovation, they continue feeding from a house. During the Coronavirus, the school has been preparing 5,000 meals a day. In addition to the 5,000 meals, they also provide for their many senior citizens. Your generous offerings during May will encourage the community served by the Tree of Life ministry.

Please pray for the Ministries of Tree of Life and the people on the Reservations:

“Show us, good Lord,
 how to be frugal, till all are fed;
 how to weep, till all can laugh;
 how to be meek, till all stand in pride;
 how to mourn, till all are comforted;
 how to be restless, till all live in peace;
 how to claim less, till all find justice.” Amen.

(#200 by Peter W. Millar,
 from *Worship and Song: Worship Resources*)



For the safety of our volunteers, the Spearfish Community Pantry is requesting that donations be made monetarily rather than with food products if possible.

Donations can be mailed to the Spearfish Community Pantry, PO Box 65, Spearfish SD 57783 or you may write a check to Spearfish UMC and write “food pantry” on the notation line.

BIRTHDAYS

Olivia Smith	05-01	Deb Henriksen	05-16
Matthew Sumners	05-01	Ron Adcock	05-16
Olivia Grosz	05-01	Max Ellingsen	05-16
Kevin Nakajima	05-02	Bonnie Witt	05-17
Josie Tobin	05-03	Barry Lloyd	05-17
Griffin Brewer	05-03	Ron Hendricks	05-17
Owynn Meredith	05-03	Skyler Beringer	05-17
Ramona McFarland	05-04	Jacob Swick	05-17
Debbie Cline	05-04	Alyssa Jensen	05-18
Sarah Hill	05-04	Cami Lyons	05-18
Silvee McCoy	05-05	Petrika Peters	05-19
Arlys Smith	05-06	Taya Christensen	05-19

Doug Stratton	05-06	Kyle Tuttle	05-19
Emily Jennings	05-07	Alex Rettinghouse	05-19
Rebecca Hiermeier	05-08	Zachary Wilson	05-19
Lyle Harvey	05-08	Taylor Krogman	05-20
Riley Chrisman	05-09	Alek Crawford	05-20
Elise Derrek	05-09	James Crenshaw	05-20
John Ladson	05-10	Norma Landsberger	05-21
Gatlan Ayer	05-10	Michelle Jennings	05-21
Aysha Fancher	05-11	Eric Schmidt	05-21
Kaylynn Laub	05-11	Darrell Walking	05-22
Brian Kassel	05-12	Robert Boppe	05-24
Aeriell Jastorff	05-12	Jeremy Johnson	05-24
Kent Kennon	05-13	Joan Bockwoldt	05-26
Connie Pich	05-13	Jean Downing	05-26
Scott McKirdy	05-13	Saidee Short	05-27
Raymond Vaughn	05-13	Connie Seymour	05-29
Karlie Shaffer	05-13	Mary Tracy	05-29
Gladys McGarvin	05-14	Kayla Garvin	05-29
Ryleigh Ellingsen	05-14	Will Larsen	05-29
Orvette Stepper	05-15	Mary Kennon	05-31

CHILDREN FIRST FUND 2020			
Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	1,152.87	Feb.	3,548.74
Mar.	3,546.33		

Special Gifts for April

Camp Scholarships	\$ 750.00
Sounds from Home	2,500
Food Pantry	460.00
Caring Meals Income	30.00
Yoga Charity Fund	10.00
Solar Ovens	100.00
Cornerstone Mission	300.00
Native American Awareness	100.00
UMCOR Sunday	100.00
Youth Fund	105.00
*TOTAL	\$ 4,445.00

Special Funds for April

Benevolence Fund	\$ 200.00
Pastor's Discretionary	10,445.00
*TOTAL	\$ 10,645.00

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

Rod & Connie Eisma	05/02~45 yrs.
Mark & Melissa Nore	05/06~14 yrs.
James & Melissa Hansen	05/07~6 yrs.
Dylan & Amy Wilde	05/20~4 yrs.
John & Brenda Swanson	05/24~40 yrs.
Wade & Kendra Beringer	05/25~12 yrs.
Scott & Sherrie Dassinger	05/26~8 yrs.
Eric & Michelle Jennings	05/30~33 yrs.
Wade & Jenn Tobin	05/30~22 yrs.
Keith & Sherry Haiar	05/31~23 yrs.
Joe & Helen Royall-McKeown	05/31~17 yrs.

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
Mar.	38,574.09	35,909.00	2,665.09

DEBT RETIREMENT/CAPITAL FUND 2020			
Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	53,894.34	Feb.	3,548.74
Mar.	3,809.06		



IF ANYONE KNEW HOW TO GET OUT OF A CHORE IT WAS ALAN

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