

The Trumpeter

Spearfish United Methodist Church

Pastor: Scott McKirdy

Youth Director: Brenda Swanson

Administrative Assistant: Orvette Stepper

DECEMBER 2020



Pastor's Page

"Winter Worship"

Have you heard any of the stories from the last couple thousand years about how Christian worship has evolved? In the first two hundred years of Christianity, followers of Christ worshiped in homes, shops, and the open air. Why? Because that's what was available. There was no such thing as a church building. In the third century, many Christians worshiped in hidden places and catacombs. Why? Because some Christians were experiencing persecution and needed to meet in secret places. In the fourth century Rome declared Christianity to not only be legal but even declared it to be the official religion of the empire. Christian sanctuaries began to appear. Through the years they became bigger and more elaborate. Why? Because the Christian community was changing and the churches evolved with them.



All through the centuries, churches have learned to flow with the times and the needs of the people. Some churches grew bigger and developed facilities to meet their needs. Other churches stayed small but still figured out what kind of building and worship needs worked best for them. Today in the midst of pandemic, a huge amount of churches are figuring out new ways to meet, worship, and serve the needs of their communities. That includes us!

At our November Church Council meeting after a thorough discussion and a unanimous vote, two things were decided: 1) Effective November 28, SUMC will not be meeting with live, indoor worship. There has been no return date set. And 2) Our building will remain open and functional for small groups to continue meeting. What does this mean in the weeks ahead?

Winter Worship: Although we are discontinuing our indoor worship services, we are immediately offering an in-person option outdoors! Every Sunday we are meeting in our cars in the parking

lot for 10:30 a.m. Winter Worship. When you drive up, you tune your radio to FM 90.5, and the whole worship service comes to you in the warmth (and complete safety!) of your vehicle. We are really pleased to now be able to offer a worship service that is safe for our families and children. Oh, and there is also cocoa involved in this whole process! Of course, you can also access our worship each week online on our website, YouTube, or Facebook. You can also request for us to send you a CD of worship each week.

Small Groups: Our facilities will remain open for small groups to use: Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, yoga, youth groups, and more. All safety standards set by the groups have to be followed with our now normal masking, distancing, and sanitizing. All church study groups will be meeting online.

Our situation keeps changing, and the church is learning to change right along with it in order to meet the needs of our day. Two thousand years ago, we met in homes and open air. Today we meet online and in the parking lot. And in all of this the church continues to love, worship, and serve!

Pastor Scott

Participation Opportunities



Christmas Worship Services

Wed., December 23 – 7:00 p.m.

Thurs., December 24 – 5:00 p.m.

Meet in the west parking lot at the church. For both services dress warmly and plan to enjoy the service in your vehicle. Tune your car radio to FM 90.5 to listen to the service. We will come together to share Christmas carols, prayer and short message from Pastor Scott.



Investment Fund Distribution.

This year the distribution from the church Investment Fund is \$3,080.97. This money is available for any off-budget project initiated by any committee or other entity of the church.

Please submit your requests in writing to the Stewardship and Finance Committee through Mary Tracy in the Finance Office. You can bring your request to the church office or send to Mary finance@spearfishumc.org.

The committee will consider all requests and make the decision as to how this money is disbursed. **Please have all requests in by December 7, 2020.**

Year-End Bonuses for Staff

Year-End Bonuses for Staff are a tradition of Spearfish UMC. The funds are contributions from members and friends and are distributed to UMC staff and employees at Children First. There are now 31 employees this year. These funds will be distributed mid-December so all donations are requested by December 16.



Thank you, Staff-Parish Committee



Now more than ever, we are naming the importance of offering small group Bible studies to keep people connected and growing. We are offering multiple studies on multiple days and times online on Zoom. Any time that the church offers a Bible study online, all you have to do to join is contact the church office, Pastor Scott, or the Bible study leader and you will be sent an online invitation. Currently, we are offering:

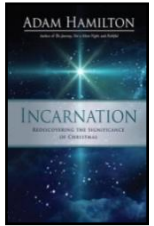
- Tuesday morning Gospel study: Online at 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday afternoon Men's study: Online at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday School with Everett Follette: Online Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.
- Children's Church for kids: Online Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Advent Study: "Incarnation" by Adam Hamilton

- Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for everyone

- Sunday afternoon high school study at 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday afternoon college study at 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for everyone

Incarnation study books are available in the church office for \$13.



Volunteer at the Food Pantry

It's December and time to sign up for that feel good experience of volunteering at the Spearfish Food Pantry in January!!!

The process of delivering food to the needy may have changed due to the pandemic, but the needy are still receiving food because of dedicated church volunteers like you!

Only working volunteers are allowed in the building now and pre-packed boxes of food are delivered to client vehicles in the parking lot. The pantry supplies masks, gloves and sanitizer to all volunteers who do not have their own. At the end of every day counters, freezer and refrigerator handles, phones, switches and tables etc. are sanitized. So health and safety precautions are being followed.

It is a great opportunity to share God's love by helping others. I can vouch for the fact that giving help to people in need benefits the giver as much as the receiver. We all need a reason for getting up in the morning and there's no better reason than this!

Please call or stop at the church office in December to sign up to help at the pantry any Monday, Wednesday or Friday the first 2 weeks of January. Volunteers always leave in a good mood so please come join us in outreach to our community.

Signup sheets will be at the church office throughout the month of December. Please call or stop in to sign up for this extraordinarily rewarding experience. And in this time of quarantining, it is a great chance to chat and socialize with a few other volunteers each day. We all need to see a smiling face!

Marilyn Halse – Food Pantry Board Member

Holiday "Sounds from Home"

During the month of December you can look forward to three special "Holiday Sounds from Home" online performances. These will feature musicians and photographers from our community and from our church family.

"Sounds from Home" has been presented by Spearfish United Methodist Church since April 2020 as a

way to support musicians and bring us all together around a wide variety of musical performers from South Dakota. Watch for the announcement in the weekly E-news, the UMC website and Facebook pages, and the Arts South Dakota events calendar.



Hello Friends! Children's Church continues to meet weekly via zoom. Last week we had five kids! I have been super excited to see some growth in the online format.

Now we are starting the advent season. With that, families have the opportunity to make their own family advent candles. Families who are not able to come and participate face to face with making their candles, will be mailed a candle kit to make at home. Children's Church will also begin to explore Adam Hamilton's book *Incarnation*. This book has a children's focused bible study that I will then use inside Children's Church on Sundays. I look forward to starting this Advent season!



Thanks, Katie Clark
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Prayer Partners



God of all life, bless each of us in the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Be with our pastor, our church staff and Children First staff as well as all families related to our church. We lift our support for Pastor Scott as we

experience this winter of pandemic. May each family experience God's grace and the love of Christ, even as we celebrate the birth of our Lord without our usual gatherings.

Grant us peace and patience each day. Amen

United Methodist Men

It was decided to cancel our breakfast meetings until after the first of January 2021. We will monitor the rate of COVID-19 infections in Lawrence County and make future decisions with respect to changes in infection rates. We hope to start regular meetings January 2, 2021.

Terry Prante

Dinah's Book Club

Dinah's Book Club will meet Monday, Dec. 14 at noon in the UMC parlor. The book they are reading is *The Quilter's Apprentice* by Jennifer Chiaverini. The books are available in the church office.

Children First Update

Thank you for prayers, meals, caring and support for my family during our time of illness due to this pandemic. Please wear a mask, protect yourself and others so you don't get sick. This virus is no joke. Meals were provided by the meal ministry of the church, members of the Children First Board and others. A huge thank you to Sarah Hazeldine for carrying an extra load during my absence. Meals were also donated to her family and were greatly appreciated.

Children First is in an ever-changing situation due to the pandemic. Recently, we had 5 employees with COVID-19 and 2 others quarantined due to close contact. Three of those started back to work on Nov 16. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of Children First. For the month of October, income was not sufficient to cover expenses. We are concerned about the future and doing our best to ensure that Children First is a safe and healthy place for the children to spend their days. Thank you to each family that has pledged specifically to Children First and all who periodically donate for that purpose.

Children First has continued to pay staff even when closed or ill or quarantined. There are currently 18 employees at Children First. It has been important to keep our staff, some of whom work limited hours and receive low hourly wages. Each one is well trained and valuable to this preschool and daycare that is owned and operated by Spearfish United Methodist Church.

When staff Christmas bonuses are distributed, all employees of the church and Children First share equally. Thank you, in advance, for donating to that special offering that is led by the Staff Parish Committee.

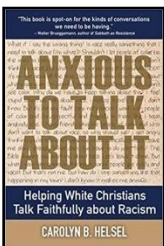
Melissa Raad – Children First Director



- **No Early Release activities** are scheduled for the month of December.
- Youth groups will meet together from **4-6:00 pm (note change of time)** on Wednesdays until further notice. Come when you can! Leave when you need to! Supper at 5:30 pm. Call or text if the door is locked, and enter at the preschool door.
- No Youth Groups will meet on Wednesday, December 23rd.
- Youth and adults are invited to a **Zoom Advent Bible study** using the “Incarnation” book beginning Sunday, November 29. We will meet for 4 weeks at 4:00 pm Sundays using Zoom. If there is interest in “live” meeting, we will offer both options. Let Brenda know.

UMW Reading Program Book of the Month

“ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT IT: HELPING WHITE CHRISTIANS TALK FAITHFULLY ABOUT RACISM” by Carolyn B. Helsel



Talking about race can make us anxious. Professor and pastor Carolyn Helsel draws on her experiences with white congregations to offer tools and practices to explore the anxious feelings that can come up when talking about racism. Learn how to join the hard conversations and move forward with less fear, more compassion and more knowledge of self, others and the important issues at stake.

Check it out in the library on the UMW bookshelves.

New Cards and Napkins!

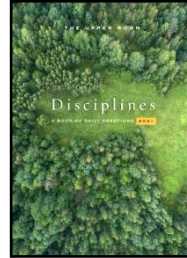
A new selection of cards and napkins is available! Check out the cart in the library as well as the poster board showing other available options. If you see something you’d like but it’s not there, just ask Brenda or Orvette and they will get it for you!



Christmas cards and napkins are also available and much more reasonably priced than you can find anywhere else!

All proceeds go to United Methodist Women.

Disciplines for 2021



How important is it to have a daily spiritual routine? The habit of reading and reflecting on God’s Word daily can bring a much-needed respite from the grind of everyday life. Daily devotional reading is essential to our spiritual growth, and it helps keep our faith alive.

Disciplines invites readers to spend unrushed time with God, reading a lectionary-based scripture passage, reflecting on the author’s insights, and thinking about how to apply the truths from the readings to their daily life. This devotional book features 53 authors from diverse backgrounds, including some of the leading Christian thinkers of our time.

These books are available in the church office for \$12.

New Church Van



Many thanks to the Brewer family for their generous donation of a 2019 Ford Transit Van to our church.

Council Highlights

November 18, 2020

Children First - Several staff members are ill with COVID or are out for quarantine. Family participation is lower and so is income. Children First continues to follow state health department guidelines as much as possible. Please pray for

physical and financial wellness for our school.

Children Youth and Family Ministries - Children's Ministry is working on an Advent candle event, needs volunteers, phone calls to families regarding the event for sign up. Youth Groups - are continuing to meet. Pillars - How to increase family involvement pillar - laying out a 3 year plan. Being able to invite developmentally challenged children into church and children's church. Continue with family involvement, community involvement, Trunk or Treat, and VBS. Programming for families: VBS since they connect with Children's First and other schools

Staff/Parish - It has been approved to accept adjustments to the 2021 wage rates from the Stewardship and Finance Committee with the increase no less than 1.5% and an option for a mid-year staff bonus as church finances allow. This will not affect wage/hour changes approved for the musicians and the tech coordinator. A discussion was held regarding an end of year bonus for all staff (UMC and CF). It was agreed to make the necessary arrangements including adding a way to make donations on the church website. We continue to work on updated job descriptions.

Worship an Music - Scott McKirdy hosts weekly planning meetings every Tuesday attended by four of the five Worship committee members. The six members of the committee communicate regularly but have not met since early 2020.

Action Items Completed: Budget planning, discussion of Middle School Band, 5 Pillars planning.

Action items in progress/pending: Budget planning for Worship and Tech, implementation of Middle School Band - budget, etc.

Pastor's Report - Worship attendance holds steady with $\frac{1}{3}$ present at in-person worship, $\frac{1}{3}$ in online worship and $\frac{1}{3}$ not connecting with worship at present. We continue to create new ideas and work to improve the quality of all worship services, especially online. We are actually seeing some new families participate in worship and children's ministries. Congregational Care Ministries is doing an amazing job as they seek to keep care connecting our congregation. We are thinking as far outside the box as possible as we create a safe Advent and Christmas Eve worship services.

Discussion Items: Summit Church has given notice that they will be moving out of UMCOC as of December 31, 2020. This means a rental loss of 3 rooms and an office. The Trustees will try to solve the leadership at UMCOC. Orvette and Pastor Scott will take care of the advertising for replacements for Summit Church for the present time.

Action Items: Pastor Scott has received a letter from Bishop Ough recommending, but not mandating, closing sanctuary worship until January 2021 to help reduce the spread of COVID since South Dakota is at a 59% positive rating. Several churches that Pastor Scott has discussed this with have decided to discontinue sanctuary worship until the first of the year. After discussion it was agreed to continue

to allow the outside groups that use the church for meetings to continue to do so as long as they follow the social distancing and sanitizing as required.



“Grandpa’s White Cane”



Two of our church members, Jim Hoxie and Joanna Jones, have co-authored a new book, *Grandpa's White Cane*. Visual impairment education became a driving focus for

Jim, when for the last seven years his eyesight greatly declined due to glaucoma. He now uses a white cane to see the world through which he travels.

Copies of *Grandpa's White Cane* are available in the church office. All donations for the book will be given to our church's General Fund.

Our Church Family

Congratulations to:

- Nathan & Jana Swanson on the birth of their daughter, *Linnea Louise Swanson* on November 11, 2020. John & Brenda Swanson of Spearfish and Ronny & Ute Luhmann of Germany are the grandparents.

Blessings on:

- *Daryl Hayes* who was baptized on November 18, 2020 by Pastor Scott McKirdy at the church.

Condolences to the families of:

- *Alfred Honadel*, who died November 4, 2020 and whose services were held November 12 at Fidler-Isburg with Pastor Scott McKirdy officiating.
- *Duane Bury*, who died November 8, 2020 and whose services were held November 27 at Fidler-Isburg with Pastor Scott McKirdy officiating.
- *Garnette Ainsworth*, who died November 11, 2020 and whose services will be held Fidler-Isburg on December 3 with Pastor Scott McKirdy officiating.
- *Peyton Linafelter*, who died November 24, 2020 in Colorado after a long fight with cancer at the age of 20. Service arrangements are unknown at this time.

MISSIONS

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Our church powerfully serves the community by helping with gas, grocery, and medicine assistance through the distribution of Safeway cards. This is done through a special fund known as the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund". Normally, this project is funded through our Christmas Eve offerings. This year that opportunity will be much smaller, even though the need is going to be much bigger. Please keep in mind this crucial ministry as we near the end of the year. Now is when the needs are greatest!



Northern Hills Sources of Support (NHSOS) offers a service that is unique and essential in our area. Their mission is creating poverty-aware communities that build strong and supportive relationships with those in need. This is done by working one-on-one with those living in poverty or struggling for other reasons.

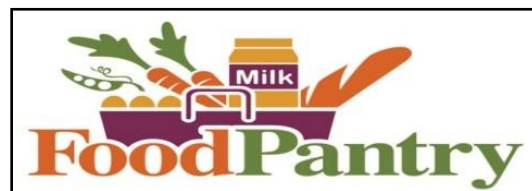
One of their main functions is to guide people in need to the correct resources and advocate and work with them during these difficult times. Since June 2019, when a director was hired, they have fielded 120 phone calls to assist people find resources for gas, housing, diapers,

food boxes, clothing, rent or utility assistance and medical care.

A major need is affordable housing. 50% of calls this year have been from people who are, or are at risk of becoming homeless. NHSOS has organized a Housing Initiative task force representing 5 non-profit partners to be discussion of possible solutions to this growing problem.

NHSOS is working to begin a mentoring/volunteer program in 2021. Volunteers would manage the day-to-day operations to enable the staff person to handle long term planning and leading community collaboration efforts. If you are interested in learning more or would like to participate in any or their outreach efforts, please contact Christine Pierson, Executive Director, at (605) 920-1975 or email: northernhillsSOS@gmail.com.

Let's show our support for the great work this organization is doing for our community!



NEEDED: Cereals

NEEDED MOST: Ramen, Peanut Butter, Beef Stew, Canned Spaghetti

BIRTHDAYS

Breanna Hawkins	12-01	Asher Foltz	12-13
Bob Baker	12-02	Emily English	12-13
Janet Ladson	12-02	Bernice Abraham	12-14
Kathy Bonnema	12-02	Sheri Perry	12-06
Marland Linafelter	12-03	Landree Ayer	12-16
Steve Bailey	12-03	Laura Lloyd-Smith	12-17
Isabell Jensen	12-03	Katie Clark	12-17
Helen Royall-McKeown	12-04	Lonnie TeBeest	12-18
Austin Kaddatz	12-04	Marty Davis	12-18
Kellan Alfstad	12-04	Floyd "Buzz" Stiles	12-19
Connie Eisma	12-05	Cal Hayenga	12-19
Jenn Tobin	12-05	Logan Burke	12-19
Victoria Brill	12-05	John Havemeier	12-19
Debra Richardson	12-06	Malaya Naescher	12-21
Carson Krogman	12-06	Vicky Bragg	12-22
Josephine Boyer	12-07	Cherry Hansen	12-24
Jesse Czaplowski	12-07	Wade Beringer	12-24
Jodi Johannesen	12-08	Penny Louks	12-27
Donald Keil	12-10	Harlan Horst	12-28
Bill Bosch	12-10	Barry Wood	12-29
Kaylee Johannesen	12-10	Margo Carnahan	12-31
Tara Niesent	12-11	Bev Hill	12-31

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Norma Perry	12/05~18 yrs.
Morie & Margo Carnahan	12/21~50 yrs.
John & Kim Tollison	12/21~35 yrs.
Terry & Jean Downing	12/22
Randy & Greta Stewart	12/28~45 yrs.
Mark & Mary Tracy	12/30~42 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
Apr.	32,135.02	42,990.73	-10,855.71
May	32,638.94	21,644.68	10,994.26
Jun.*	26,524.03	31,785.60	-5,261.57
July	32,637.49	34,182.54	-1,545.05
Aug.	31,981.62	33,809.39	-1,827.77
Sept.	27,088.85	32,230.69	-5,141.84
Oct.	32,820.19	40,149.96	-7,329.77

DEBT RETIREMENT/CAPITAL FUND 2020

Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	53,894.34	Feb.	3,548.74
Mar.	3,809.06	Apr.	3,061.66
May	2,772.50	Jun.	4,672.76
July	3,018.97	Aug.	3,127.64
Sept.	2,746.56	Oct.	3,246.56

CHILDREN FIRST FUND 2020

Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	1,152.87	Feb.	3,548.74
Mar.	3,546.33	Apr.	25,809.67
May	4,393.00	Jun.	3,261.00
July	2,041.33	Aug.	1,842.00
Sept.	3,170.33	Oct.	4,025.33

UMCOC 2020

Month	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Difference
Apr.	4,695.00	7,928.72	-3,233.72
May	3,125.00	2,818.11	307.00
Jun.	5,185.00	2,775.81	2,409.19
July	3,735.00	2,627.80	1,107.20
Aug.	5,080.00	4,461.46	618.54
Sept.	7,815.00	3,346.29	4,468.71
Oct.	3,730.00	4,521.33	-791.33

Special Gifts for November

Staff Christmas Fund	\$ 350.00
Food Pantry	330.00
Sprinkler System	100.00
Adult Education Fund	117.00
Yoga Charity Fund	176.00
Children First Grant Income	17,340.00
UMCOC Donation	380.00
Thelma Davis Memorial	155.00
Lou Allison Memorial	105.00
Bishop's Thanksgiving Offering	525.00
Solar Ovens	145.00
Dominican Republic Solar Oven Team	190.00
Cornerstone Mission	450.00
Youth Mission	20.00
Youth Fund	115.00
*TOTAL	\$ 20,548.00

* As of November 23

Special Funds for November

Benevolence Fund	\$ 100.00
Pastor's Discretionary	2,705.00
*TOTAL	\$ 2,805.00

* As of November 23

*Worship Attendance for Nov.: 338 (Avg./Wk = 85)

End-of-Year Giving

All contributions that you wish to count for 2020 must be in the church office or post marked by December 31.



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