

The Trumpeter

Spearfish United Methodist Church

Interim Pastor: John Madvig

Administrative Assistant: Orvette Stepper

Editor – Monica Ingalls

DECEMBER 2023



Pastor's Page

Beloved—

The New Year will soon be behind us. You're probably thinking January 1st, but I'm thinking December 3rd. Confused? Perhaps we're thinking of two different calendars. We're all familiar with calendars that begin in January and end in December. And yes, the start of that new year is coming soon. But are you also familiar with the Christian Calendar? That's the one that includes the major Christian holidays of Christmas and Easter. "Yes," you might be thinking, "I'm familiar with those days—because that's when someone else might be occupying my pew, and I have to find a new place to sit." While that may be true, there's more to the Christian Calendar than Christmas and Easter.

The Christian Calendar begins with Advent. Which leads, naturally, to the question, "What's the date of Advent?" I can tell you that the first *day* of Advent is always on a Sunday, but the *date* varies from one year to the next. Here's how to calculate the date: Find Christmas (always on December 25th) and count backward four Sundays. That's the first Sunday of Advent. This was a bit complicated last year, as Christmas was *on* a Sunday. Did Christmas count as one of the four Sundays? Good question, but the answer is No—it's the four Sundays *before* Christmas. This year is the opposite extreme: Sunday the 24th (Christmas Eve) is the first Sunday before Christmas and is, therefore, the 4th Sunday of Advent. Are you still confused? Perhaps some color is needed.

You've probably noticed, in some churches, that there are colored banners, tablecloths, and assorted decorations that follow patterns of color. Here's a brief, general description of the seasons of the Christian Calendar and their associated colors:

- Advent – blue or violet
- Christmas – white or gold
- Epiphany – green
- Lent – violet
- Good Friday – black

- Easter – white or gold
- Pentecost Sunday – red
- Pentecost – green

While Advent always comprises the four Sundays before Christmas, several of the other seasons can vary in length in order to accommodate the dates of Easter and Christmas.

The Christian Calendar and its associated colors are ways for the Church to mark the passing of time and, as is especially emphasized during Advent, the coming of Jesus Christ.

Here are a few questions to guide your Advent Season:

- How am I sensing the presence of Christ?
- Where (in my life, in my community, and in the world) is Christ needed most?
- What is a way I can embody Christ to someone (and who is that someone)?

Happy New Year, a Blessed Advent, and a Merry Christmas!

Interim Pastor John Madvig

Pastor John Madvig



Christmas Activities in December

Caroling at Edgewood Vista

Sunday, Dec. 3 – 3:00 PM

Meet at Edgewood Vista, 540 Falcon Crest Dr., carol to the residents there. Contact Michelle Jennings for more information at (605) 641-2250.

Taizé & Longest Night Services

Thursday, Dec. 7 & 21 – 7:00 PM

A service of prayer, healing, remembrance. Come experience the season thru silence, scripture, prayer and music.

UWF Christmas Lunch

Saturday, Dec. 9 – 11:30 AM

It's a time of FREE food, fun, fellowship and an opportunity to connect. Please RSVP by Dec. 6 by contacting Debra Richardson at (605) 580-6846 or the church office. Bring your donations for Artemis House.

UMC Christmas Program

Sunday Dec. 17 ~ 9:00 AM

Children's Christmas Program. Everyone is welcome. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.

Hayride, Caroling & Game Night

Sunday, Dec. 17 – 3:00 PM

We're getting ready for a fun afternoon of Christmas caroling (weather permitting). Meet at the church and dress appropriately for the outdoor weather. We will go to various rest homes and private homes. Everyone is welcome as we spread some Christmas cheer. Soup, Wassail and games await us from 5-7:00 PM afterwards.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, Dec. 24 at UMC

We invite you, your family, friends, neighbors and your co-workers to come worship on this amazing day and evening. All offerings on Christmas Eve will go to the UMC Help Fund unless otherwise designated.

12:00 Noon:

A joyous traditional service. There is a potluck soup lunch following. This service is perfect for those who don't like to go out at night and for families who love to come together with the youngest of children and the oldest of grandparents.

5:00 PM:

A traditional family candlelight Christmas Eve service with music shared on organ and with choir.

7:30 PM:

An acoustic guitar service led by our Blue Jean Worship team, this service is lit by candlelight and is very intimate as it is held in our Fellowship Hall.



UMC Staff Christmas Bonuses



Christmas Bonuses for UMC Staff are a tradition of Spearfish UMC. The funds are contributions from members and friends and are distributed to the staff. These funds will be distributed mid-December, so **all donations are requested by Sunday, December 10.**

Thank you, Staff-Parish Committee

Children First Christmas Bonuses

In years past the money given from the congregation for staff bonuses has been divided among all church staff. This year the Staff-Parish Relations committee has decided the money given to staff bonuses will go only to those who work in the church building.



Our church is very fortunate to own an excellent well-respected preschool/daycare center with hard-working dedicated staff who care so deeply for our children. Several church members have gotten together to make sure our teachers at Children First are remembered this Christmas.

If you would like to help, you can purchase Safeway Gift Cards for Children First staff directly from Orvette in the church office or put a check or cash in the offering. Please make checks out to UMC and label all gifts Safeway Children First and please **have all gifts at the church by December 14.** These are direct gifts from you to Children First staff members and therefore will not appear on your statement of giving. Thank you for remembering our teachers.

Honduras VIM Team Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser

The UMC Volunteer in Mission team will be working in rural Honduras again January 17-28, 2024. Team members pay their own way and raise money for medicine and supplies to care for hundreds of people we serve.

Therefore, team members will be baking those big yummy cinnamon rolls after all 3 services on **December 16 & 17** as well as serving various soups on Saturday the 16th. Free will donation, so please join us then. Thank you for your support.



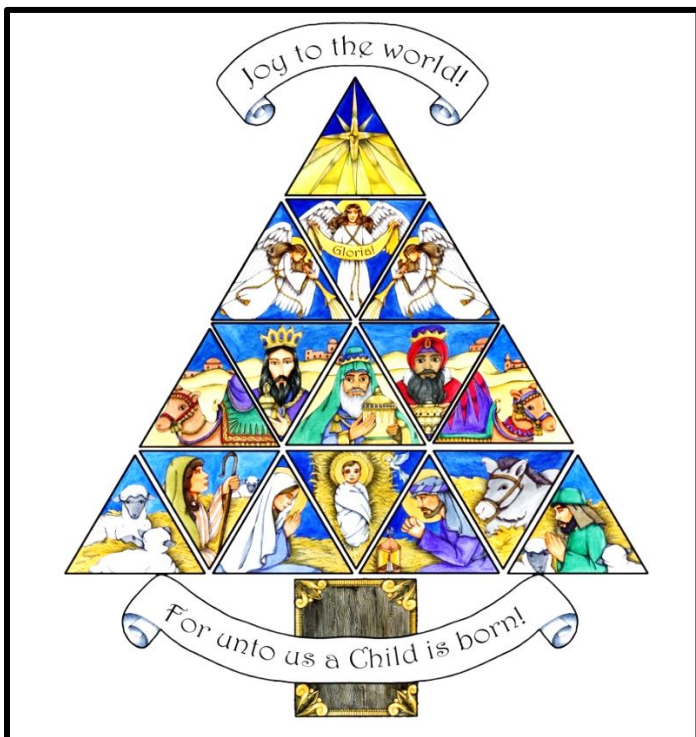
Ron, Gloria, Michelle, Glea, Cindy, Dianne and Scott

Stewardship/Finance Update

As we near the end of the year, the Stewardship committee would like to draw your attention to the General Fund. So far this year our expenses have exceeded income by **\$49,340.21**. Our insurance rates went up 20% this year. We have begun to start falling short of our obligation to the conference on our apportionments.

We are asking for help in closing the gap before we reach the end of the year. Please consider an extra donation before the year ends.

After reviewing the budget for next year, things look quite similar to this year. The church is accomplishing a lot of good work but falling just short of balancing the income to our expenses. We will need everyone's support to meet all our financial obligations next year.



United Methodist Men (UMM)



The Methodist Men (UMM) held their breakfast and devotions meeting on Nov. 11 & 18. Bill Lundgren gave devotions reading from the Upper Room and John 15:9-17. At our meeting on Nov. 18th Perry Hansen read from the Upper Room.

The Methodist Men will meet again on **Dec. 2** for breakfast and devotions at 8:00 AM.

Bill Lundgren, President

Dinah's Book Club

Dinah's Book Club is reading "Stella Bain" by Anita Shreve. The group will meet on **Monday, December 11** in the parlor at noon. Books are available in the church office. You are welcome to join them.

United Women in Faith (UWF)

Our group has two events and one business meeting in December.

On **Saturday, Dec. 2**, at 10 a.m. is our special event "**CANDY MAKING**" that will be in the church kitchen. Join us in making a few simple Christmas candies for everyone to take home!

On **Wednesday, Dec. 6** at 10:00 a.m. in the church library is our Business Meeting. We will be finalizing the details for our "**UWF CHRISTMAS LUNCH EVENT.**" All are welcome, encouraged to attend, and to volunteer to help with December 9th. We need help in preparing food that is planned, set-up and clean-up and serving. You don't have to be a UWF member to help us in this all church event. Call, talk or text Debra at 605-580-6846.

You are needed and wanted!

On **Saturday, December 9** at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall is our "**UWF Christmas Lunch Event.**" We will collect children's toys for the Salvation Army toy drive. All the toys are given to the Northern Hills area children. The toys need to be new and unwrapped for 0 to 14 years of age, puzzles, games, trucks, dolls, books are some ideas. **Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, Dec. 6**, to attend the Christmas Lunch, bringing your toys. Christmas Carols will be sung! Everyone is invited to attend.

Containers are ready in the Fellowship Hall through December 9 for toys if you are unable to attend the lunch.

We would love to have you consider becoming a member of United Women in Faith. It could be a New Year Resolution to join us, a community of women who connect and nurture to inspire, impact, and influence the world around each other.

Debra Richardson, Chair of Spearfish UWF

CYFM November Update

Here with CYFM, November came and went quickly with not much on the agenda beyond **weekly Children's Sunday School**, which happens at **9:20AM-10AM** during the 9AM church service! As was mentioned at the Charge Conference, our Sunday School numbers have grown since last year, and we are happy to

have about 10-15 children, ages three and up, each week join us for bible-related crafts, games, songs, and video story time! With growing numbers of children, means that our need for more **Sunday School teachers** is also needed, so if you are interested in helping out once a month or just sporadically throughout the year when you have time, please **contact Katelyn Smith at workksmith@gmail.com or 419-296-5723** for more information! Lesson plans are already prepared for you with our Orange Curriculum, and Katelyn Smith is there each week to provide support and take older kids into another room to lessen group size numbers to make things manageable for our Sunday School teachers!

We are looking for more **Children's Sermon volunteers** as well, and if you would like support in creating a 5 minute sermon Katelyn Smith is more than happy to help you out.



With the busy Christmas season now upon us, our children are now beginning to work hard with Colleen McKirdy in Sunday School to prepare for our upcoming **Children's Christmas Concert** on **December 17th**, which will take place **during Children's Sermon at the 9AM church service**. Children will sing a few songs for the congregation to help get everyone into

the Christmas spirit, and then children will go upstairs for a fun time in Sunday School! Songs will be practiced each week leading up to the concert in Sunday School, but if families would like to practice a bit more with their children, the songs and lyrics are also available via the emails that were sent out to families, as well as on our Facebook Spearfish United Methodist Church group page. If families have not received the songs and lyrics yet, and would like them, please contact Katelyn Smith at 419-296-5723 or workksmith@gmail.com to gain a copy!

To follow up and celebrate our Children's Christmas Concert, we will also be passing out **Christmas goodie bags for children** on **December 17th** after the 9AM church service as well, for children of any age, so keep a lookout and bring your family along for a great Sunday service full of Christmas cheer!

As with all these opportunities, these are all made possible through the love and support of our church, whether through attending our church events, praying for success for our events, spreading the word of the opportunities we have, or through volunteering. We appreciate all that you all do to make our church the special home it is to be closer with ourselves, others and

God through love and action. If you are looking for a way to further support our church through **volunteering, donating or through joining a committee**, such as CYFM for family-related activities, please keep a lookout for sign-up sheets in the church, or read the Trumpeter, Sunday bulletins, or Facebook posts for opportunities that arise throughout the year! If you are **interested in joining our CYFM Committee** to keep up and have a bigger say in upcoming family events, **please feel free to contact Katelyn Smith at workksmith@gmail.com or at 419-296-5723**. We thank you all so much for being a continued support and special part of our Spearfish UMC family!

It's a WIN-WIN...

Did you know that Safeway cards are available in the church office? These cards can be used to purchase gas or groceries and are very handy when only a small purchase needs to be made. No need to worry about cash, check or credit card for purchases. Safeway cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and can be purchased in any desired quantity.



The holiday seasons will soon be upon us. Do you need gift ideas for neighbors, the paper boy, hairstylist, or anyone else in your life? Consider purchasing Safeway gift cards.

It's a WIN-WIN...stop in the church office to purchase your cards!!!

Council Highlights November 21, 2023

Motions

- Christmas CD
 - Kevin asked the Council to approve the making of a Christmas CD. Several musicians in the church will be working on the CD to sell with the profits going to UMC. An anonymous donor will cover the original costs involved.
 - Beth made the motion to approve the CD, Keith seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion Items

- Fundraising / Online Presence / Attendance
 - Keith suggested that the church needs to look at fundraising in a different way. UMC must tap into un-pledged monies. Along with our fundraising drive in October, UMC should be thinking of ideas throughout the year to raise money for the general fund. He suggested that more than one committee needs to be involved in

this effort and would like the Administrative Council to help lead the way.

- The church is looking at a \$60,000 deficit for the 2024 calendar year so we will need to generate a lot of income throughout the year. We also need to close the gap on this year's budget.
- Attendance is down and this is a key factor as to why we are looking at a deficit. Keith suggested paying more attention to attendance and monitoring membership more closely.
- Another suggestion is to tap into the on-line audience. UMC averages 100 on-line participants each week. This makes up one-third of our congregation. Kevin will investigate ways to provide an on-line donation QR Code or link.
- Jeanette commented that this issue of fundraising needs to involve the whole congregation with Pastor John's leadership and each committee working together for solutions and a common goal.
- One idea was a brainstorming session on a Sunday afternoon.

Committee Reports:

Trustees Report (John Swanson)

Children First

- Children First board, and Sarah Hazledine presented request for a washer, dryer and signage removal at UMCOC. They left before the budget at UMCOC could be discussed.

UMC

- The company that installed skylight in the sanctuary examined it. They are sending their assessment of the damage to be presented to the insurance company.
- Motion to purchase pumps for boiler but postpone work since it currently isn't leaking. Approved

Parsonage

- John and Evie compiled a short list of things needing attention.
- Trim work completed.
- Heating, motion to put in sensor system and thermostat to control basement heating by Climate Control. Approved

UMCOC

- Motion to approve washer, dryer installation through Children First funding at their request. Approved
- Motion to remove all signage with UMCOC logo from building with Children First funding. Children First offered to fund this project. Approved
- Drainpipe installation on boiler blow by valve needs to be installed. Climate Control will be contacted.
- Motion to install security camera system for upstairs tenants. Approved
- Motion to have a paid property manager for UMCOC. Approved
- Motion to accept 5 percent rent increase budget

alternative presented in collaboration with church treasurer. Approved

Women in Faith (Debra Richardson)

- Current membership is low.
- It is difficult for our women to serve on funeral teams. Our current membership is aging with health issues preventing abilities to complete tasks for large gatherings.

Stewardship & Finance Committee Report (Keith Haiar)

S&F met on November 7th. Discussion highlights:

- Approved revised UMCOC budget from Trustees
- Reviewed Fall Pledge Drive
- Reviewed Draft General Fund budget
- Discussed online website, use, and donations
- Requested input from Staff/Parish on Young Life progress and recommendation for next year

October Treasurer's Report – Balance Sheet **General Fund**

For the month of October, total income was \$37,024. Total expenses were \$30,104 which resulted in the month ending \$6,919 in the black. However, the General Fund year to date is in the red \$40,386. Unpledged income was above the past several months.

UMCOC

The income for UMCOC was \$5,595 and expenses were \$2,842. The month ended in the black \$2,752. The year-to-date balance is in the black \$4,883.

Debt/Capital

We received \$12,561 in donations. The majority (\$9,800) of this was for parsonage repair and boiler repair. The quarterly loan payment of \$7000 was made bringing the YTD available balance for the fund to \$70,976. However approximately \$20,000 of this will be needed for the boiler repair.

Children First

Children First October income totaled \$44,141 and expenses were \$50,194. Children First ended October in the red \$6,052 and year to date in the red \$3,587.

Mission-Giving

Mission giving for October totaled \$1,787. We distributed \$2,445. Ingathering Kits received \$2,785. For the month, the UMC Help fund collected \$727 and distributed \$1,425.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting: December 19th @ 6:00 pm

Prayer Partners

Dear Lord,

Be with all people who celebrate the birth of Christ in this season. May we understand the importance of Jesus birth and death and resurrection. Guide us to



spend time each day to study scripture and to pray. Bless Pastor John and his family. Amen

May your Advent and Christmas be Holy.



Mission of the Month
Artemis House

Artemis House serves those affected by domestic violence in Butte, Harding, and Lawrence counties in South Dakota. Services include a 42-person emergency shelter for people made homeless due to recent domestic violence. Additionally, advocates man a 24-hour hotline, organize support groups, provide personal advocacy through filing protection orders and identifying affordable housing. Funding is used to assist with transportation costs, clothing, food, counseling, rent, and other expenses that can help the survivor get their lives on track.

In addition to cash donations, personal items are always needed. These include the following:

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wash
- Personal hygiene items
- Clorox wipes
- Refillable hand soaps
- Paper towels
- Laundry items
- Cleaning items
- Journals, planners, pens

A donation box will be made available for your

contributions. Checks for Artemis House can be placed in the Offering Plate or given to Orvette in the church office. Please **make your donations by December 20** so that delivery can be made. Thank you!



- Thanks to all who contributed to the United Women of Faith Bake Sale! And thanks also to the many buyers who purchased the bake goods! Your support is appreciated.
- The Quilt and Craft group would like to thank all of the shoppers that made our bazaar such a great success. It is much appreciated, and allows us to share funds toward areas of need.



Donations are needed of the following items:

- Ramen Noodles
- Pork & Beans
- Oatmeal
- Egg Noodles
- Canned Fruit
- Jam or Jellies
- Elbow Macaroni
- Spaghetti Pasta



Bob Baker	12-02	Asher Foltz	12-13
Kathy Bonnema	12-02	Emily English	12-13
Marland Linafelter	12-03	Sheri Perry	12-06
Steve Bailey	12-03	Landree Ayer	12-16
Isabell Jensen	12-03	Laura Lloyd-Smith	12-17
Austin Kaddatz	12-04	Marty Davis	12-18
Connie Eisma	12-05	Floyd Stiles	12-19
Debra Richardson	12-06	Cal Hayenga	12-19
Kaylene Rost	12-08	Nalaya Naescher	12-21
Jodi Johannesen	12-08	Vicky Bragg	12-22
Donald Keil	12-10	Cherry Hansen	12-24
Bill Bosch	12-10	Penny Louks	12-27
Kaylee Johannesen	12-10	Evie Madvig	12-27
Betty Allen	12-11	Karen McConnell	12-30
Tara Niesent	12-11	Margo Carnahan	12-31
Kelvin Lower	12-12	Bev Hill	12-31
Rita Hicks	12-13		



Bob & Norma Perry	12/05~21 yrs.
Lanny & Dnyee Swisher	12/09~51 yrs.
Morie & Margo Carnahan	12/21~53 yrs.
John & Kim Tollison	12/21~38 yrs.
Terry & Jean Downing	12/22
Gail & Clara Arnold	12/22~75 yrs.
Bill & Jeanette Keck	12/27~45 yrs.
Larry & Karen Miller	12/28
Bob & Barb Brady	12/28~49 yrs.
Randy & Greta Stewart	12/28~48 yrs.



You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

--2 Corinthians 9:11

Come, Share, Rejoice!

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

DEBT RETIREMENT/CAPITAL FUND

Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	69,029.31	Feb.	2,209.49
Mar.	1,965.29	Apr.	2,435.25
May	2,246.26	Jun.	2,187.73
July	2,368.49	Aug.	4,000.80
Sept.	11,175.55	Oct.	12,561.37

CHILDREN FIRST FUND

Month	Actual Income	Month	Actual Income
Jan.	47,592.24	Feb.	44,339.49
Mar.	47,676.36	Apr.	45,128.09
May	43,431.58	Jun.	39,600.96
July	33,652.01	Aug.	35,282.68
Sept.	45,372.40	Oct.	44,141.79

Special Gifts for November

Adult Studies	\$ 156.25
UMC Staff Christmas Fund	270.00
Health Ministry Income	84.60
Food Pantry	800.00
Sprinkler System	100.00
Yoga Charity Fund	610.00
UMCOC Donations	760.00
Parsonage Repair Fund	450.00
Meals on Wheels	1,245.00

Solar Ovens	100.00
UMCOR	100.00
Youth Fund	6.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,681.85

Special Funds for November

Benevolence Fund	\$ 110.00
UMC Help Fund	820.00
TOTAL	\$ 930.00

*Worship Attendance for Nov.: 687 (Avg./Wk = 172)

*On-Line Attendance for Nov.: 325(Avg./Wk=108) (3 wks)

End-of-Year Giving
 All contributions that you wish to count for 2023 must be in the church office or post marked by December 31.
Thank You



THE TRUMPETER



United Methodist Church
845 N. 5th St.
Spearfish, SD 57783
(605) 642-3457
Return Service Requested

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

Sunday Worship:

“The Gathering” ~ 9:00 a.m.

“Sunday School” – 9:20 a.m.

“The Sanctuary” ~ 10:30 a.m.

Nursery care/Van rides to worship

CD's of worship

Adult Sunday School: 9:20 a.m.

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

E-mail Addresses:



Website: www.spearfishumc.org

Pastor: john.madvig@spearfishumc.org

Administrative Assist.: office@spearfishumc.org

Finance: finance@spearfishumc.org

Technology Coordinator: kevinmasanaka@gmail.com

Bell Choir Director: hcm.kerchel@yahoo.com

Nursery Supervisor: carriejoydaily@gmail.com

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



2023