



# The Trumpeter

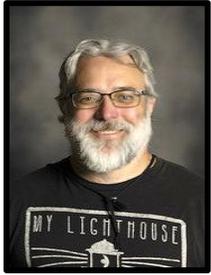
*Spearfish United Methodist Church*

*Pastor: Paul Lint*

*Administrative Assistant: Christine Pierson*

*Editor: Monica Ingalls*

March 2026



## **Prayerfully Pondering with Pastor Paul**

### **From Valentine to St. Patrick**

**February 14th 2026-March 17th 2026**

**515 miles and just under 10 hours by car  
(Valentine, NE to St. Patrick, MO)**

#### **Lovers – Engineers and Paralegals**

As we begin a season of self-reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Christ, the world around us changes from the pink bubble “hearts” of Valentines Day to the kelly-green shamrocks of St. Patrick’s Day. While I do find the fun and the joy in these holidays, I wonder what place they have in our understanding of what it means to be followers of Christ as both days started out as Holy Days in Christian traditions.

What can be gleaned from the history about the people “honored” by these days is not what current historians would call sound or empirical evidence, but the general stories are still enlightening to us today. Due to certain rules that I am not well versed in, which have something to do with how long ago these two(?) men lived, they are not official or formal or something. The general understanding of the 2 men lifted up as St. Valentine is that they both did go by the name Valentine and were martyred on the same day if there were 2 different men. One is said to have been a priest who was imprisoned for leading Christians and, while in prison, healed the jailer’s daughter from blindness and before his death wrote her a note from “Your Valentine.” The other was a bishop in Terni, Italy who was beheaded for defying the Emperor’s ban on marriages. (Men make better soldiers when they do not have family?)

St. Patrick has many more legends than there are clear data of what he did, but in his own words, he was

kidnapped from what is thought to have been Roman settlements in Britania by Irish pirates and taken back as a slave to tend livestock. After escaping back to his family, he became a cleric and eventually a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, finally returning to Ireland as a missionary and he is credited with converting the nation to Christianity.

Two huge questions come to mind when encountering these stories: 1) What do our ways of currently marking these days have to do with the stories? 2) What would a faithful recognition as a learning or guiding opportunity look like if we lifted up these stories in our celebrations?

I would like to say that the way most of us celebrate Valentines Day has nothing to do with either of the stories of who may have been the original Valentinus. A condemned priest writing a goodbye note to someone he had helped to see and then encouraged in finding faith in Christ has very little connection to “U Rock” candy hearts or hundreds of thousands of roses being delivered. The obligation to go out for dinner with that special someone sort of connects to the bishop performing illegal marriages. And I guess my mental picture of pirates does sort of connect to the chaotic “remembrance” of St. Patrick’s Day.

Maybe we as people of faith who are guided and encouraged by the cloud of witnesses that include Valentinus and Patrick could be intentional about caring for those in need even when we find ourselves in difficult circumstances. Maybe we could defy “the Empire” in our celebrations of love and liberty in the world. We could use our negative experiences and reach out in ways that do not treat those who have harmed us as worthless enemies, but as people worthy of God’s salvation.

Wear your green, eat your cabbage, and whatever else marks your holiday, but maybe this year we can find ways to convert nations to follow a Christ who loved those who treated him as an enemy.

*Pastor Paul*

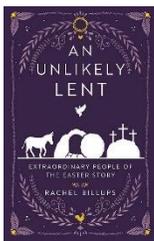


## Become a Hero

Please consider donating blood at the next Spearfish Community Blood Drive, being held at the Spearfish UMC on **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30am – 5:15pm**. Walk-ins are welcome or you can make an appointment by visiting [www.donors.vitalant.org](http://www.donors.vitalant.org) and entering the blood drive code: spearfish. You can also call Bill Keck for more information, 605-390-2721. New blood donors are welcome. Thank you for helping save lives!



## Lenten Bible Studies



Please see schedule below for available groups and times during which you can participate in our Lenten Bible Study. The book is titled “An Unlikely Lent” by Rachel Billups. Books are available in the office for \$18/ea.

- **Lenten Study** – Sundays, starting 2/22 – 10:00am – Parlor
- **Lenten Study** – Tuesdays, starting 2/24 – 10:30am on Zoom. Contact Rod Garnett at [garnett.rodney@gmail.com](mailto:garnett.rodney@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.
- **Lenten Study** – Tuesdays, starting 2/24 – 1:30pm – Parlor

## Lenten Lunches

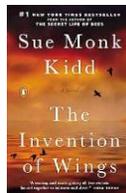
Spearfish UMC will host **two Lenten Lunches at 12:00pm on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**. Pastor Paul Lint will share a message and the United Women in Faith (UWF) will provide soup and sandwiches. UWF is requesting volunteers for serving, as well as bars and cookies for both dates. A free will offering of \$10 will help cover meal costs, with the balance going towards community needs. Sign-up sheets will be available in the church Fellowship Hall. Please contact the church office for questions or to volunteer, 605.642.3457. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Taizé Worship

A Taizé worship service will be held **Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** in the sanctuary at UMC. This is a prayer service in the style of Taizé. Enter into a time of prayer, quiet reflection and meditative singing. Center your spirit, heart, and mind. Enjoy the quiet. Refresh your soul.



## Dinah’s Book Club



Dinah's Book Club is reading “*The Invention of Wings*” by Sue Monk Kidd. The group will meet on **Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** in the Parlor at noon. Books are available in the church office. You are welcome to join them.

## Game Night

Dinner and Game night is a time for people of all ages to gather and enjoy some fellowship and great food together. Kevin Nakajima provides a main dish, and you are encouraged to bring sides, non-alcoholic drinks, or just yourselves. Stay for dinner, stay for games, just talk, or all of the above!



This month it will be **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**, and our shared meal will be Irish Stew. Please join us or contact Kevin Nakajima for more information. [kevinmasanaka@gmail.com](mailto:kevinmasanaka@gmail.com)

## A Fond Farewell, But Not a Goodbye



We take this moment to recognize and praise Orvette Stepper for her **27 years of dedicated and loving service to our church**. We will greatly miss having her in the office, but are thrilled that she will continue to serve our church in meaningful ways. Orvette has plans to volunteer with the Help Fund, as well as continue her participation with the Bell Choir. Please be sure to congratulate Orvette and wish her well in her retirement!

## Scouting America Annual Chili Feed



Spearfish Scouting America Troop 17 will be hosting a Chili Feed Fundraiser on **Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall from 5pm – 7pm.** They will be

serving all-you-can-eat Beef Chili, Chicken Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Cornbread Waffles and Desserts. Tickets are \$10 for all ages. The event is being hosted to raise funds for summer camps and other adventures. For more information, call or text Tad Brewer at 605.645.9687

## Office Hours Update

The Church Council and the Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to announce that starting **March 1, 2026, the church office will be open Monday through Thursday, 9am - 4pm.** Both our pastor and our administrative assistant are not in the office on Fridays, a day that has consistently been quiet for our church.



## United Methodist Men



United Methodist Men (UMM) February meetings were the 7th and 21st. At the time of this report

submission, we had only met on the 7th. Our February 7th devotion was presented by Kelvin Lower at our meeting at Perkins.

Our **March 7th and 21st meetings** will be at the church from 8am until about 9am. Come join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a short devotional.

*God Bless,  
Kelvin Lower, UMM President*

## An Update from Church Council

The Church Council, in an ongoing effort to protect private and sensitive information, advises that birthdays and anniversaries will no longer be included in the Announcements or the Trumpeter. This blanket policy is effective immediately. You may choose to opt in and have birthday or anniversary information listed by contacting the church office directly with a request and information.

## A Heartfelt Thank You from the Honduras Team



We would like to thank everyone at Spearfish UMC for the prayers and support while our team was in Honduras on a medical mission trip.

We were able to offer fluoride and parasite treatment and basic medical care to around 800 people. There are quite often challenges with travel and luggage - small planes, weight limits, vague schedules, onerous paperwork but looking back, it always seems like a positive experience. Our language is different, our living conditions are different, but a smile is the same no matter where you go. Thank you for your continuing, faithful support. We feel blessed being able to go and serve.

In His Love,  
*Michelle Jennings, Ron and Gloria Borgman*

## Investment Fund and Endowment Distributions

This year the distribution from the church Investment Fund is \$2,636.39. This money is available for any off-budget project. There is also a distribution of \$1,127.92 from the Grace Huck Endowment which is available for anything at all. In addition, there is a distribution of \$2,027.15 from the Bruce M Johnson Endowment which is available to be used only for the benefit of abused or underprivileged children.

Requests for any of this money can be 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 at [finance@spearfishumc.org](mailto: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 March 9, 2026.**

## Children First Update

This lovely month of February, our classrooms are focusing on caring for others, expressing emotions and practicing kindness through play and conversation. Simple moments – sharing a toy, offering a hug, or helping a friend – are powerful building blocks for social and emotional growth.

We are so grateful to be a part of a church community that supports children and families during these precious early years. The Children First Board showered love on over 125 attendees at their Breakfast Buddies event. Children and families were able to share fellowship and breakfast food for a Valentine's celebration. The Board encourages more helpers to rock babies, read books to children, and/or become a member of the Children First Board. Volunteers will be asked to complete a background check through the Church. Contact Nicole Martz, the Children First Director, to learn more or tour our busy but nurturing child care center  
 ~ Nicole Martz, Director [nicmartz@speartown.com](mailto:nicmartz@speartown.com)

## Curious About the Centerpieces in the Fellowship Hall?

Last year, Shirley Doten handed over the centerpiece creation to Bobbi Looney and Jayne Brenneisen, who have enjoyed refashioning Shirley's collected décor and adding some of their own. Several in our congregation have offered ideas or loaned items, which makes the monthly switch fun to anticipate.



In January, Kathy Block donated the blue and silver ornaments. In February, the Valentine-themed vases were those gifted to the church by Joan Follette, with roses from Debra Richardson. For March, our custodian, Jodi Penn, offered the idea of using church dessert trays, to which were added buttons loaned by Vicky Bragg and pocket-quilt prayer patches crafted by Patty Kruske. In April, crosses made by Emily Jennings will be displayed.

Bobbi and Jayne particularly enjoy involving others in gathering centerpiece content. If you have ideas, donations, or loans, just let us know. We would love to work with you and display items that might currently be underappreciated in storage. Thank you, Shirley, for all of your years of blessing the church with your beautiful creativity!  
 ~ Bobbi and Jayne

## An Update from the Spearfish Cooperative Preschool

We had a busy month full of LOVE!! Students brought their favorite BUDDY to school for a day and blew bubbles for our BEAUTIFUL B WEEK. During Valentine week, we made Valentines for our parents and

the LOVELY quilters and Church office staff! We finished the month by learning the letter O and having an Olympic competition!

### Now enrolling for the 2026-2027 school year:

- **3-year-olds:** Tues/Thurs, 8 – 11 AM
- **Young 4-year-olds:** Mon/Wed/Fri, 8 – 11 AM
- **Pre K:** Mon – Thurs,
  - 8 – 11 AM **OR**
  - 8 – 3 PM
- **Summer Program – June 3 - July 23<sup>rd</sup>:**
  - Tues/Wed/Thurs, 8 – 11 AM.

Thank you!

*Spearfish Cooperative Preschool*  
[spearfishcoopreschool@live.com](mailto:spearfishcoopreschool@live.com)

## CYFM – Growing in God's Love as We Look Ahead to Spring

As we step into March, Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (CYFM) reflects on a meaningful and love-filled February and we look ahead with excitement and hope for warmer days and the renewed energy that spring brings.

Throughout February in Sunday School, our focus had been centered on Jesus' powerful words: *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."* - John 13:34 (NIRV) Together, we explored the foundational truth that God loves each of us unconditionally. Through Bible stories, crafts, and cooperative games, we practiced recognizing how God's love strengthens us and helps guide the way we treat ourselves and others.

Our focus verse for March is: *"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."* - Philippians 2:3 (NIRV) We look forward to helping students continue growing in empathy, humility, and kindness as they practice valuing others and reflecting God's love in their daily lives!

CYFM welcomes additional volunteers to help during Sunday School from 10:00 – 11:00am each Sunday. All lessons and materials are prepared in advance, and we appreciate extra helping hands. We also invite volunteers to help with five-minute children's sermons during the 9:00am and 11:00am worship services. Support and scripts are available.

Please mark your calendars for our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th from 10:00–10:55 AM**, and our **Community & Family Spring Block Party on Friday, May 1st from 5:00–7:00 PM**, held inside the Fellowship Hall. The annual Spring Block Party will feature bouncy castles, free food, carnival games, crafts, and information about upcoming summer events.

Our monthly CYFM meetings are held online on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Katelyn Smith at 419-296-5723 or [workksmith@gmail.com](mailto:workksmith@gmail.com).

With gratitude and warmth,  
CYFM Committee

## Safe Sanctuary Policy

*The Administrative Council approved this policy regarding Safe Sanctuaries (below). This was proposed by Children, Youth & Family Ministries. Everyone is responsible for this church being a safe environment for children, youth, and vulnerable adults.*

In April 1996, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse with the church. To fully align with this resolution, Spearfish UMC has established a Safe Sanctuary Policy to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety in the growth of all our children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

1. All people who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults will go through an application and screening process that includes a reference check and background check prior to working. Information will be kept confidential. Background checks will be updated at least every 5 years.

2. Volunteers must be 18 yrs old or older and be members/attendees of the Spearfish United Methodist Church for at least 6 months.

3. Any person convicted of abuse and/or neglect in any form will not be allowed to work with our children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

4. There will be two unrelated adults within eyesight or earshot of children, youth, and vulnerable adults groups.

5. Workers will abide by safe sanctuary policies and training including methods of discipline.

6. No physical punishment or verbal abuse are to be used at any time. Staff and volunteers will use redirection, offering a break, or removing from activity

7. The following ratios will be kept to the best of the abilities of Spearfish UMC staff and volunteers:  
adults:children

- a. Nursery (0-5 yrs) 2:10
- b. School age (5-11) 2:14
- c. Vulnerable Adults 2:14
- d. Youth (12-17) 2:16

8. UMC Staff and volunteers will use a check-in/check-out system to ensure transitions and keep track of arrival/departures.

9. All workers will report immediately any suspicions of child abuse to the United Methodist Pastor or CYFM chair in the event the pastor is unattainable.

10. Parents/Guardians are responsible for children, both inside and outdoors, outside of designated ministry times.

11. Children fourth grade and younger shall be escorted to and from all church programs and activities by a parent/guardian, designated caregiver, or with written permission from parent/guardian.

12. All children, youth, and vulnerable adults participating in out-of-town and overnight outings must have written consent and a medical release form. There must be access to a phone when groups are away from the church property. If the outing involves water activities such as swimming, a certified lifeguard will be present.

13. All accidents during ministry times must be reported to the United Methodist staff and documented with an incident form in the office. *Updated 2/2026*



### March Food Needs:

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pork & Beans
- Apple Juice
- 2# Flour
- 2# Sugar

Monetary donations are appreciated to buy perishable items, such as meat, produce, and dairy products. Thank you for your continued support!



## Spearfish Cooperative Preschool

### March Mission of the Month

The Spearfish Cooperative Preschool has been operating in the basement of the UMC building for the past 60 years. It is a non-profit organization that provides a structured preschool education for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds. Currently there are 3 morning classes and 1 full day class. The preschool is a separate entity from our church and it is not officially funded by the church.

During the month of March, we will be collecting donations of Air Dry Clay, which is needed in the classrooms, as well as monetary donations. You can



place your monetary donation in the collection plate or donate through our Venmo and Vanco options. (Please specify “Spearfish Cooperative Preschool” on your donation.) These donations will be used to help three families with tuition, as well as to buy a new printer.

The Air Dry Clay for Kids can be purchased on Amazon or at Walmart. Both white and colored clay is needed. There will be a collection bin for the clay at the back of the church.

Lisa Keifert, Director of the Spearfish Cooperative Preschool, writes:

*Dear Methodist Church Members:*

*First of all, we wish to THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY towards our Preschool throughout the years! Last year, we used the Mission of the Month funds towards the purchase of a much-needed cordless vacuum, tuition assistance for families who are unable to afford the full monthly tuition, and supplies to finish out our school year.*

*We are excited to be the mission of the month for March!! Thank you for your continued support, we appreciate all you do for our school!*  
 ~ Spearfish Cooperative Preschool



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

--2 Corinthians 9:11

**Special Gifts for February 2026**

Yoga Charity Fund	\$ 429.00
Honduras VIM Fund	12,066.95
Church Fundraiser (Valentines Dinner)	826.23
Children First Scholarships	100.00
Solar Oven	25.00
Meals on Wheels	500.00
Storm Mtn Gloves	64.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,011.18</b>

**Special Funds for February 2026**

Benevolence Fund	\$ 10.00
UMC Help Fund	1,740.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,750.00</b>

**Worship Attendance for Feb.:** 567 (Avg./Wk=142) (4 wks)

**On-Line Attendance for Feb.:** 206 (Avg./Wk=103) (2 wks)

**E-Giving is EASY**

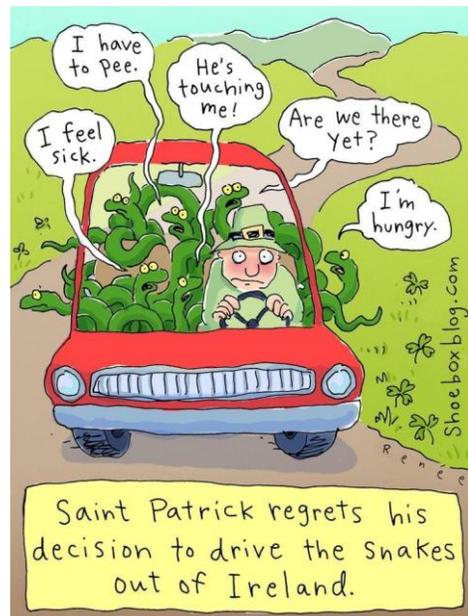
**VENMO** is convenient, you just need to Scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone and you can make your gift.



**venmo**



We have **VANCO** which allows you to set up sustained giving. If you have any questions about giving in this manner, contact Mary Tracy at the church (605) 642-3457 or at [finance@spearfishumc.org](mailto:finance@spearfishumc.org).



# THE TRUMPETER



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

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

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am – 4pm

## Sunday Worship:

The Gathering ~ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School ~ 10:00 a.m.

The Sanctuary ~ 11:00 a.m.

Nursery care/Van rides to worship

Saturday Blue Jeans Worship ~ 5:30 p.m.

## E-mail Addresses:

Website: [www.spearfishumc.org](http://www.spearfishumc.org)

Pastor: [paul.lint@spearfishumc.org](mailto:paul.lint@spearfishumc.org)

Administrative Assist.: [office@spearfishumc.org](mailto:office@spearfishumc.org)

Finance: [finance@spearfishumc.org](mailto:finance@spearfishumc.org)

Technology Coordinator: [kevinmasanaka@gmail.com](mailto:kevinmasanaka@gmail.com)

Nursery Supervisor: [carriejoydaily@gmail.com](mailto:carriejoydaily@gmail.com)

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



# MARCH 2026