

THE TRUMPETER

Monthly Newsletter from Spearfish United Methodist Church

Pastor Paul Lint



Prayerfully Pondering

WITH PASTOR PAUL

Pondering Justice

Daily prayer around Micah 6:8, annual conference (Matthew's separating the sheep and goats), and a visit to the courthouse have all woven deep into my head ideas and struggles with justice. Many may be tensing up right now, just as I have when preparing to sit down for a conversation about justice. Naming injustices in our world is almost always a challenge to a majority of the people. Political leanings and talking-points bubble to the surface and we become defensive.

While what I have been pondering may be uncomfortable, it is based in my understanding of the Gospel and not in conservative or liberal economic strategies. Nor does it come from traditional or progressive think tanks.

**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)**

And the word of the Lord came again to Zechariah:
"This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true

justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.' (Zechariah 7:8-10)

**22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,
23 for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life. (Proverbs 22:22-23)**

I sat in a South Dakota courtroom not knowing what to expect, next to two others who came to support a friend. We heard maybe 20 cases in various stages of their legal journey while sitting in what clearly were old church pews. Twenty people, whose lives were on display and being evaluated in order to bring them to justice, sat between me and the judge and all I could do was pray, so I did. Under the critical stare of a man in uniform, I silently prayed that God's requirements would be honored and that each of these people would be surrounded with the loving arms of Christ.

On that stiff wooden pew, in a cold and guarded atmosphere, I realized one important thing: I was not in the church and the Church was not speaking into that situation. The judgements, decisions, pleas, and sentences were not from God, but from a human judge hearing cases from the people of South Dakota.

That actually is a relief to me now that I can look back on it. This reality means that the Church still can speak to those beloved children of God. This means that the Body of Christ in this world can live out the words of the prophets and the wisdom of the proverbs. We can still honor the sacred worth of people in chains and carrying burdens of fines and fees that continue to oppress them.

Justice, responsibility, and restitution look different for each person, but the whole system (if it is a system of justice) is meant to restore people to community. The Church is better equipped to restore people to community and remind people that they are welcomed into that restoration and redemption than an overworked and overscheduled set of lawyers, clerks, bailiffs, and judges. May we find ways to pick up the pieces of broken lives and speak life to those who continue to experience hatred, distrust, and fear from a community that "just wants to feel safe."

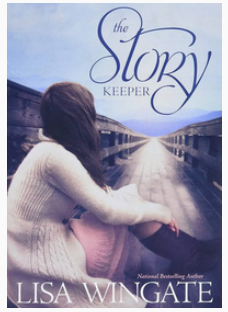
Pastor Paul



Join us for a prayerful and quiet service, including meditative singing and moments of silence for your own reflection. Join us and center your spirit, heart, and mind. **Thursday, July 2nd at 7:00pm.**

Dinah's Book Club

The group is reading **"The Story Keeper"** by **Lisa Wingate**, a dual-timeline historical and contemporary novel. It follows a successful New York editor who discovers a mysterious manuscript that pulls her back into the Appalachian mountains she fled. She is forced to reconcile with her own painful past and cult upbringing. Pick up your copy of the book from the office and join them on **Monday, July 13th at 12:00pm in the Parlor** for discussion on this exciting read! (Books will be due back on this day.)



Family Game Night

Join us for Dinner and Game Night on **Sunday, July 19th at 5:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Kevin Nakajima will provide the main dish: Kubba Mosul. Bring a side dish to share or your favorite dessert. Contact Kevin Nakajima for more information, 605.210.3984. See you there!

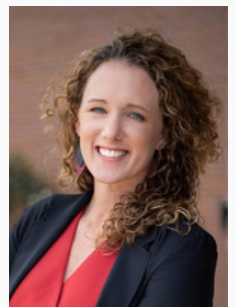
Connect to Why - Cultivating Generosity

On **Monday, July 27th, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall**, Dr. Alisha Vincent of the Dakotas/Minnesota Methodist Foundations will be at Spearfish UMC to present *Connect to Why*, a workshop designed to help churches cultivate a culture of generosity.

Alisha will explore how connecting people to a deeper sense of purpose can transform giving from a transaction into an act of discipleship. Topics will include:

- Transactional vs. transformational giving
- Connecting to someone else's "why"
- Vision, purpose, and values in action

All are welcome to attend and learn more!





Celebrating an Impactful Group

Fifteen years ago, Colleen McKirdy taught her first yoga class at Spearfish UMC. From its beginnings in the church library, the class has grown and now meets in the Sanctuary three times per week.

The class continues to be free and open to the community. Through Colleen's generous donation of time and expertise, participants have donated more than a staggering \$60,000 over the past 15 years to local and global causes, including Artemis House, Special Olympics, CASA, Northern Hills Sources of Support, UMCOR Ukraine, Solar Oven Partners, and the Help Fund at the church.

Recently, Colleen's yoga buddies honored her with a luncheon and gift card in appreciation of her generosity and service (see picture below). Her dedication has touched countless lives and made a lasting impact on the community.



United Methodist Men Update

Our June meetings were held on June 6th in the Fellowship Hall and June 20th at Millstone Restaurant. We will not meet in July or August. Have a great summer and we'll look forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 5th.

God Bless,

Kelvin Lower, UMM President

Dakotas Annual Conference Updates

The Dakotas Annual Conference was recently held in Bismarck, North Dakota, bringing together 365 clergy and lay members for worship, learning, fellowship, and church business. The conference also included recognition of clergy and lay leaders, retirements, commissioning and ordination milestones, and awards honoring ministries of evangelism, justice ministry, discipleship, and growth. Among those recognized were commissioned elder Rev. Jason Christensen from Lead Trinity UMC and Rev. Kip Roozen, formerly of Spearfish, who retired from Sioux Falls Asbury. We will celebrate Mary Ann Sheldon's ministry at next year's conference.

One of the great strengths of the United Methodist Church is our connectional ministry. Through our local churches and conference, we support one another in countless ways. Conference funds help support pastoral transitions, camping ministries, and leadership development. We also celebrate leaders such as Pastor Paul, who serves the wider church through the Dakotas Conference Council on Youth Ministry.

This spirit of connection was reflected in the Miracle Offering received during Annual Conference, which totaled \$51,300 to help support the education of pastors serving the Dakotas Conference, as well Europe, the Philippines, and several African nations.

Another highlight worth celebrating is that Spearfish United Methodist Church paid 100% of its apportionments, being part of the 20.2% of churches that reached this goal. Our congregation has a strong history of faithfully supporting the shared ministries of the church, sometimes through additional year-end giving to close the gap. While conference budgets have been reduced in recent years, churches continue to contribute 13% of general fund income to support connectional ministries and the work of the wider church. As is often the case, summer giving trends lower, and our current income is behind projections. If you're able, please consider an additional gift to help meet this year's goal.

Thank you for your faithful support of Spearfish UMC. Through your generosity, we are able to care for our facilities, support our staff, serve our community, and participate in ministries that make a difference both locally and around the world. It is so encouraging to see our congregation living out the teachings of John Wesley: **Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.**

- Janelle Jones, Lay Member of Annual Conference

Planning Ahead for a Rummage Sale

Spearfish UMC and Children First are planning a Rummage Sale for **September 11th/12th**. As you tackle your summer cleaning projects, please set aside your used treasures for this great cause. A friendly reminder, we do not accept tires, TVs, computers, large appliances, treadmills, furniture, or adult clothing. Children's clothing and items are accepted. Let's make this the biggest and best sale yet! Questions? Call Jeanette Keck - 605.390.3068.



A Big Thank You from the Spearfish Community Food Pantry

The folks at the Food Pantry would like to **sincerely thank everyone for their generous donations** to the Pantry as part of the "Sink the Canoe" May Mission of the Month. A total of **390 lbs. of food** was donated, as well as monetary donations in the amount of \$1,170. They are ever so grateful for the generosity of the church! Since other area food drives are typically held during the school year, they are especially appreciative to be well stocked as they head into summer. Thank you again!

A Fond Farewell to our Children's Ministries Director

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) shares that Katelyn Smith will be stepping away from her role, effective July 31st, to accept a full-time teaching position in Belle Fourche. We're grateful for the energy and passion that Katelyn brought to this role and we wish her well! SPRC plans to fill this position and invites anyone who may be interested in applying to please call the church office, 605-642-3457 for a job description.



Children's Corner

A Joyful Season at Children First

Recently, we celebrated **our Preschool Graduation**, honoring a wonderful group of 16 children as they completed an important chapter and prepared to begin kindergarten. It was a special evening filled with songs, smiles, proud families, and plenty of happy tears as we recognized how much these children have learned and grown throughout the years.

Adding to the excitement, several young adults from our community also graduated from Spearfish High School this spring — **and 14 of them once walked the halls of Children First**. Seeing these former students reach such an important milestone is a beautiful reminder of the lasting impact that early childhood education, loving families, and a supportive community can have on a child's journey.

From preschool caps and gowns to high school diplomas, **we are grateful to witness these moments of growth and achievement**. Congratulations to all of our graduates! We are proud of each one of you and look forward to seeing where your next adventures take you.
-Nicole Martz, Children First Director

Summer Update from the Spearfish Cooperative Preschool

We started our Summer Session on June 2nd and the students are loving it! They have been learning, but also enjoying lots of fun activities outside. They also attend the summer reading program at the Spearfish Library.

We would like to sincerely thank the congregation members for supporting our Preschool by allowing us to rent our space! We have been providing Spearfish and area communities a much-needed, affordable preschool for over 50 years and we're looking forward to many more years ahead!

We appreciate you all and we wish you all an amazing summer!

-Spearfish Cooperative Preschool

Thank You for Being a Hero

At our last blood drive, we collected 51 units of blood, thanks to members of our church and the Spearfish community.

Spearfish UMC hosts six blood drives each year and our goal for each drive is to collect 50 pints of blood. As coordinator of our blood drives, I'm especially thankful for the generous support of our church family. If you are able to donate, I encourage you to give blood at one of our church drives a minimum of three times a year. Whole blood donations can be made every eight weeks, and double red donations every sixteen weeks.

I very much appreciate those who choose to support the drives hosted here at Spearfish UMC. Our remaining drive dates this year are:

- August 17
- October 19
- December 21

You are encouraged to sign up for the next drive on **Monday, August 17th at 10:30am** by visiting donors.vitalant.org and entering the code: **Spearfish**. Thank you for helping us care for others in our community in a meaningful way.
-Bill Keck, 605.390.2721 bkeck4815@rap.midco.net

TLC Needed for our Prayer Garden

As we continue through the summer season, **the Prayer Garden needs continued care to keep it looking great. It is a near and dear space for our church.** Please call me if you would be willing to provide the TLC needed for our Prayer Garden.
-Bill Keck - 605.390.2721



July Mission of the Month: ~ Clothe-A-Kid ~

With a new school year right around the corner, students are preparing for that exciting first day with new clothes and school supplies. Remember the feeling of brand-new crayons, sharp pencils, scuff-free shoes, and clothes that fit just right? ***Every child deserves to start school with that same confidence and positivity.***

More than 20 years ago, Spearfish UMC launched Clothe-A-Kid to help students begin the school year with a positive self-image. Today, it is a city-wide effort supported by churches, businesses, and individuals. Each year, the program provides new clothing, school and hygiene supplies, backpacks, and Spearfish Spartan hoodies to 150 Spearfish students in need. Students receive their supplies and hoodie at the church, and then schedule a day to shop for their new clothing. ***They beam with pride and confidence*** with their new items!

The program's annual costs exceed \$25,000 and are funded through donations, grants, and fundraising efforts. As the need continues to grow, your support is so appreciated. ***Thank you for helping make a difference through your monetary gifts AND your prayers.***

For monetary donations, **please designate as "Spearfish UMC Clothe-A-Kid" in the memo line of your check.** Please reach out to Karen Hahn, (605) 631-0296 or karenhahn68@gmail.com with any questions.

Spearfish Community Food Pantry Needs for July

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Diced Tomatoes | • Saltine Crackers |
| • Chili | • Jelly |
| • Chunky Soups | • Mandarin Oranges |
| • Progresso Soups | |

Practicing John Wesley's Teachings

Three small groups have been studying Dr. Ashley Boggan's book "Wesleyan Vile-Tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity". The final chapter on reclaiming Vile-Tality led to conversations about **Spearfish UMC's strengths and challenges, as well as ways to strengthen relationships and ministry**. A potluck with discussion was held on Wednesday, June 24th to discern how God is leading the church.

Many strengths were noted, including: worship and music; mission and outreach; caring and connecting; inclusiveness; and faithful resilience. Weaknesses identified were: children/youth ministry; college outreach; and fellowship and connection. Building on these strengths while addressing areas for growth, the group discussed ways to help congregation members use their gifts and passions in ministry. Opportunities might include college outreach, youth activities, adult Sunday school groups, and other leadership roles.

Three opportunities emerged as priorities:

- Continue to be caring, welcoming, and inclusive as we build relationships.
- Engage in conversations and bring hard questions to the table to facilitate growth and a path forward.
- Seek opportunities to share God's love in the community.

Pastor Paul shares, "If something from our discussion stirred your heart or felt like a nudge from God, please come and visit with me."

-Submitted by Janelle Jones and Pastor Paul Lint

Take a Stroll Through the Kitchen

The new refrigerator/freezer unit has landed in the kitchen and is up and running nice and cold! Stop in and check it out. We're grateful to the congregation member who graciously donated the funds for this purchase.



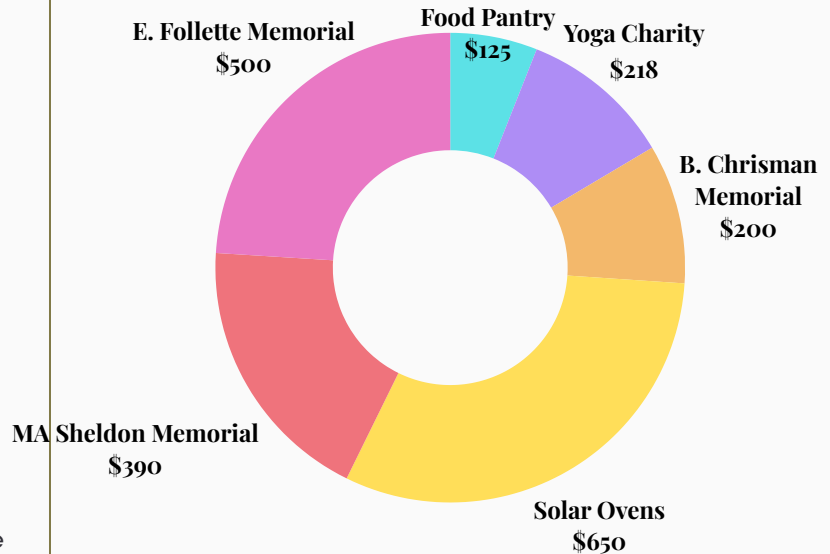
~ New Feature for Our Newsletter ~

Can you guess the location of the church featured on the first page? Be the first to call the office **after July 6th** with the correct answer and win a \$5 gift card to Common Grounds in Spearfish!

Each month, we will feature a church or cross from a different country or a location within the United States. Have a beautiful picture of a cross or church from your own travels? We would love to feature it here!

Gifts and Offerings

Special Gifts for June 1 - June 22, 2026



- Help Fund: \$170
- Worship Attend.(3 wk): 332, avg: 111
- Benevolence Fund: \$10
- Online Attend.(5 wk): 474, avg: 95



E-banking Options



venmo

For more information about our Venmo and Vanco options, contact Mary Tracy, 605.642.3457.