

THE TRUMPETER

Monthly Newsletter from Spearfish United Methodist Church

Pastor Paul Lint



Prayerfully Pondering

WITH PASTOR PAUL

A Week At Camp

1 Timothy 4:12-14

¹²Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

What would it look like if we “made space” for the young people in our lives to practice leadership, authentic community, and spiritual development? The Church would be once again turned upside down, but not really in the ways you may fear.

As we strive to have vital ministry with children, youth, and young adults, as well as intentionally walk with those on the margins, we do not have far to look for guidance on what that could look and feel like.

This past week, (yes the one that started at 106 F and cooled off to 89 F by the end of the week) there were eighteen high-school youth that gathered together at Storm Mountain Center. There were also five adult leaders, a separate middle-school camp, and an elementary camp during this same week. We started by claiming our spaces where the youth got to decide what kind of sleeping arrangements would work for them and for the group. While everyone was offered gender specific spaces for either guys or girls, everyone said they would be just as comfortable in a gender-doesn't-matter sleeping arrangement, which worked out amazingly as

we had great air-conditioning in our main meeting space but not in the designated bedrooms. While this meant we had to all change in bathroom stalls, the youth were so respectful of each other that it was never even a concern. You may be wondering why I would even mention such a non-issue, but it made it possible that if we had anyone that did not fit into a more binary understanding of gender, they would not be singled-out in any way by where they chose to sleep.

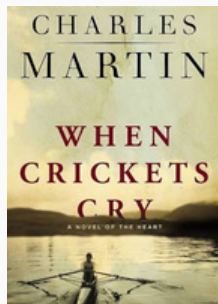
This group grew to trust each other and lean on each other as we moved through the scriptures and lessons that helped us into and through wilderness experiences. By God's grace and constant presence, we navigated heat, and shared space with other camps, and even engaged in several hours of service work. Meals were loud and joyful as well as delicious. Worship was beautifully imperfect with intentional opportunities to ask questions and walk together through the journey of understanding. All of this led to authentic community where all were welcome, growth was never forced but anticipated, wisdom was found in the silence, and God was glorified by the process.

If the Church, and more specifically Spearfish United Methodist Church, wants to have vital ministry with people of all ages, we can look to how the youth lead themselves and how they explore faith and discipleship already. We can remember that Camping and Retreat Ministries are a discipleship pathway already and currently have a community where hearing and answering God's call is the norm. We can empower and encourage, rather than feeling like we need to create or mandate how ministry is done. I look forward to what God is doing in and through those who have yet to earn a high-school diploma. We are already being blessed.

Pastor Paul

Dinah's Book Club

The group is reading "**When Crickets Cry**" by Charles Martin, a story that follows a guilt-ridden former heart surgeon and a spirited 7 yr-old selling lemonade to fund her own heart transplant. Pick up your copy of the book from the office and join them on **Monday, August 10th at 12:00pm in the Parlor** for discussion. (Books will be due back on this day.)



Join Us for Family Game Night

Join us for **Dinner and Game Night** on **Sunday, August 16th at 5:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Kevin Nakajima will provide the main dish: Beef Stroganoff. Bring a side dish to share or your favorite dessert. Contact Kevin Nakajima for more information, 605.210.3984. Join us for food, fun, and games!

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.

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



Join us for a prayerful and quiet service, including meditative singing and moments of silence for your own reflection on **Thursday, August 20th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary**. Join us and center your spirit, heart, and mind.

United Methodist Men Update

United Methodist Men (UMM) are on their summer break and did not meet in July and will not meet in August. **Our next meeting will be September 5th at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall**, so please plan to attend. God Bless,
Kelvin Lower, UMM President



A Message from the Stewardship & Finance Committee

Dear Congregation,

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, encouraged us to **"do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."** Spearfish UMC does so much good. We offer worship and programs for all ages, we welcome and serve the community in so many ways, and we participate in ministries that make the world a better place. But in order to continue our mission we have to be able to operate - to pay our staff and maintain our building.

We thank you very much for all you give to the church in time, talent, and treasure. We are inspired by your generosity toward special projects, mission-giving, and targeted ministries. Our operating account, however, is a bit short on treasure right now. If you are able to do so, please consider an extra gift to the General Fund.

With God's help and your help, we can continue our many missions and ministries and continue to **do all the good we can!**

Thank you,
Your Stewardship & Finance Committee

Surprised to Receive a Copy of the Trumpeter in the Mail?

In order to make our bulk mailing for the Trumpeter more economical (we're required by the USPS to send a minimum of 200), we have added some of you to the list to receive the Trumpeter in the mail. **If you would prefer to receive it only via email, please call the office, 605.642.3457.**

An Update Regarding Building Access and Security

The Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming church for everyone who enters our building. As part of that commitment, we are continuing to strengthen our building security and review our current access procedures.

One of the first improvements was the installation of the camera and secured entry system at the church office door. This allows staff to identify and communicate with visitors before access is granted to the building.

Our next step is a comprehensive review of the door code system used at each entrance to the church. Over the years, access to the building has expanded to include staff, ministry leaders, outside groups, and community and personal events. To ensure our security measures remain effective, we will be reviewing all existing door codes and evaluating ongoing building access based on current ministry and operational needs.

An important part of this review involves the East Sanctuary entrance and the West entrance near the kitchen. During regular office hours, entering through these doors can result in people being in the building without staff being aware of their presence. In addition to everyday safety concerns, this can create challenges during emergencies when first responders need accurate information about who may be inside the building.

As this review moves forward, some individuals who currently have door codes may see changes to their access. Many activities can take place during regular office hours when staff are available to assist with entry. For those whose responsibilities require access outside of office hours, we will continue to provide appropriate building access while maintaining the security of our church.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we implement these improvements. Our goal is not make our church less welcoming, but to ensure the safety of everyone and to be good stewards in taking care of our facilities. We will continue to keep the congregation informed as this process moves forward.

-The Trustees Committee

An Invitation to Apply



The Staff Parish Relations Committee shares that they are actively **seeking to hire for the Children's Ministry Director position at the church.** This is a part-time position, with responsibilities including, but not limited to: Sunday School curriculum development and implementation, volunteer coordination, and organizing our summer Vacation Bible School program. Compensation will be based on qualifications and experience. Please call the office, 605.642.3457, for more information.

Planning Ahead for a Rummage Sale

The Spearfish UMC and Children First Rummage Sale is coming up soon, on **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.

With Gratitude To Our Spearfish UMC Family

For more than sixty years, this church was a second home to Everett — a place where he served on nearly every committee, led the United Methodist Men, and lived out the quiet, steady faith that shaped everything he did. Your love surrounded him and Joan through every season, and it surrounds our family now.

On behalf of all four of us and our families, thank you — for the prayers, the cards, the kindnesses large and small, and for being the community that meant so much to our parents. Dad believed that a life is something you give away on purpose, and he gave so much of his to this congregation. We are grateful beyond words to share his memory with people who knew and loved him as you did.
With heartfelt thanks,
The family of Everett LeRoy Follette



Children's Corner

Summer News from the Spearfish Cooperative Preschool

Spearfish Cooperative Preschool has ended their AMAZING summer session and will be getting ready for another fantastic school year! We're looking forward to opening our doors again on September 8th to welcome in another exciting school year. ***Thank you for allowing us to continue giving families a great preschool experience!***

-Spearfish Cooperative Preschool

Gearing up for Back-to-School at Children First

Summer is flying by, but we are excited for the **start of our new school year on Thursday, August 27th!** We are looking forward to another year filled with learning, laughter, growth, and God's love.

As we prepare our classrooms, **we are currently seeking donations of coffee filters, paper plates, and Dawn dish soap,** three everyday items that are used regularly throughout the year in our classrooms. If you would like to support Children First as we begin this new school year, these donations may be dropped off at the childcare center anytime during business hours or at the church office.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and generosity. Your support helps us create a safe, loving, and enriching environment where children can learn and grow each day. We can't wait to see what this school year has in store!

An Update from United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith (UWF) has completed another successful year of programming! This year, we focused on Soul Care, a national UWF initiative that encourages us to nurture our spiritual well-being as we continue our work to better the lives of women and children around the world.

Each month, we gathered to explore themes such as joy, peace, hope, and gratitude through guest speakers, fellowship, and hands-on projects. We were especially grateful to welcome many new participants from both our church and the community.

In May, Colleen McKirdy and Emma McKirdy-Wilsey represented our congregation at the UWF Assembly in Indianapolis as part of the Dakotas Conference delegation. Along with nearly 3,000 attendees, they participated in inspiring worship, keynote speakers, workshops, and educational exhibits focused on Soul Care, leadership, and the mission of the United Methodist Church.

Thank you to everyone who supported UWF throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you at our fall events.

Mark Your Calendars for UWF

Our Southwest District Retreat will be held at **Storm Mountain on August 28 - 29**, beginning at 5:00pm on Friday and wrapping up at 3:00pm on Saturday. The cost will be \$92 for one night's lodging and three meals. Join us for Bible study, fellowship, and fun! Contact Colleen McKirdy if you would like to attend, colleen.mckirdy@icloud.com

Spearfish Community Food Pantry Needs for August

- Sliced White Bread
- Canned Chili
- Chunky Soups
- Canned Pears
- Saltine Crackers
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Progresso Soups
- Canned Peaches



August Mission of the Month: ~ UMCOR ~

Our August Mission of the Month supports **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**, which provides humanitarian assistance around the world through disaster relief and recovery, refugee and migrant support, environmental sustainability, agriculture, and food security. Throughout August, we will be collecting supplies in bulk for three types of UMCOR kits:

- Hygiene kits
- Menstrual hygiene kits
- Cleaning kits

Each kit requires certain items to be included. **Complete shopping lists will be available in the Fellowship Hall next to each collection box.** You can also call the office, 605.642.3457 and we will email you the lists. Labeled collection boxes will be available in the Fellowship Hall for donated items. **At the end of August, our Mission Team will assemble and ship the completed kits to UMCOR.**

Cash donations are also welcome. **Please note in the memo line of your check: UMCOR.** Monetary gifts will be used to purchase remaining supplies, help cover shipping costs, or be sent directly to UMCOR, at the Mission Team's discretion.

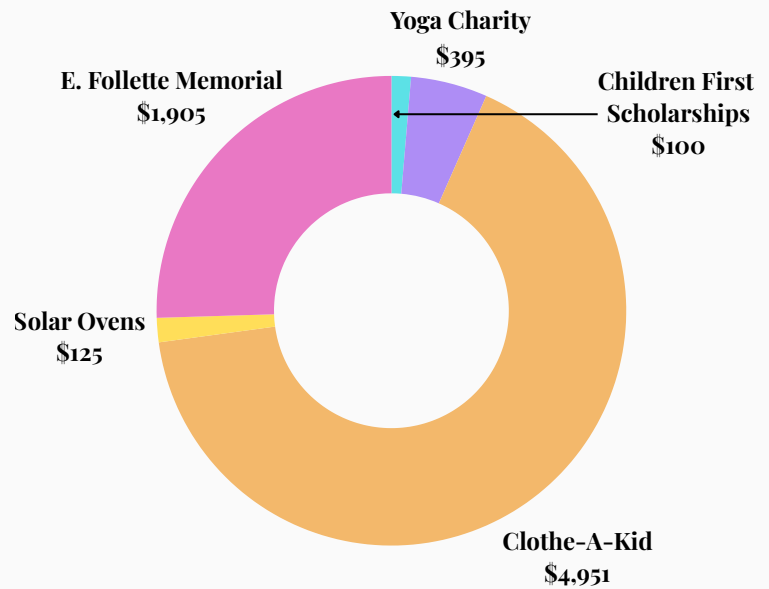
Whether you donate one item or an entire kit, every gift matters. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love with those facing difficult circumstances around the world. Your support is much appreciated! Please reach out to Sandy Garnett, wyoandy@gmail.com, for more information.





Gifts and Offerings

Special Gifts for July 1 - July 27, 2026



A Sincere Thank You from the Congregation

Our new commercial-grade refrigerator and freezer units are functioning wonderfully and have already been put to good use during several recent funerals and during Vacation Bible School. Having these new units ensures that the food we serve for various events and occasions is kept cold and safe to serve, to avoid contamination issues. ***We would like to sincerely thank Suzanne Phillips for her extreme generosity in making a donation to cover the cost of the units.***

- Help Fund: \$790
- Worship Attend.(4 wk): 441, avg: 110
- Benevolence Fund: \$360
- Online Attend.(3 wk): 157, avg: 52



E-banking Options



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

~ New Feature for Our Newsletter ~

Can you guess the location of the church and cross featured on the first page, submitted by a congregation member? Be the first to call the office **after August 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!

