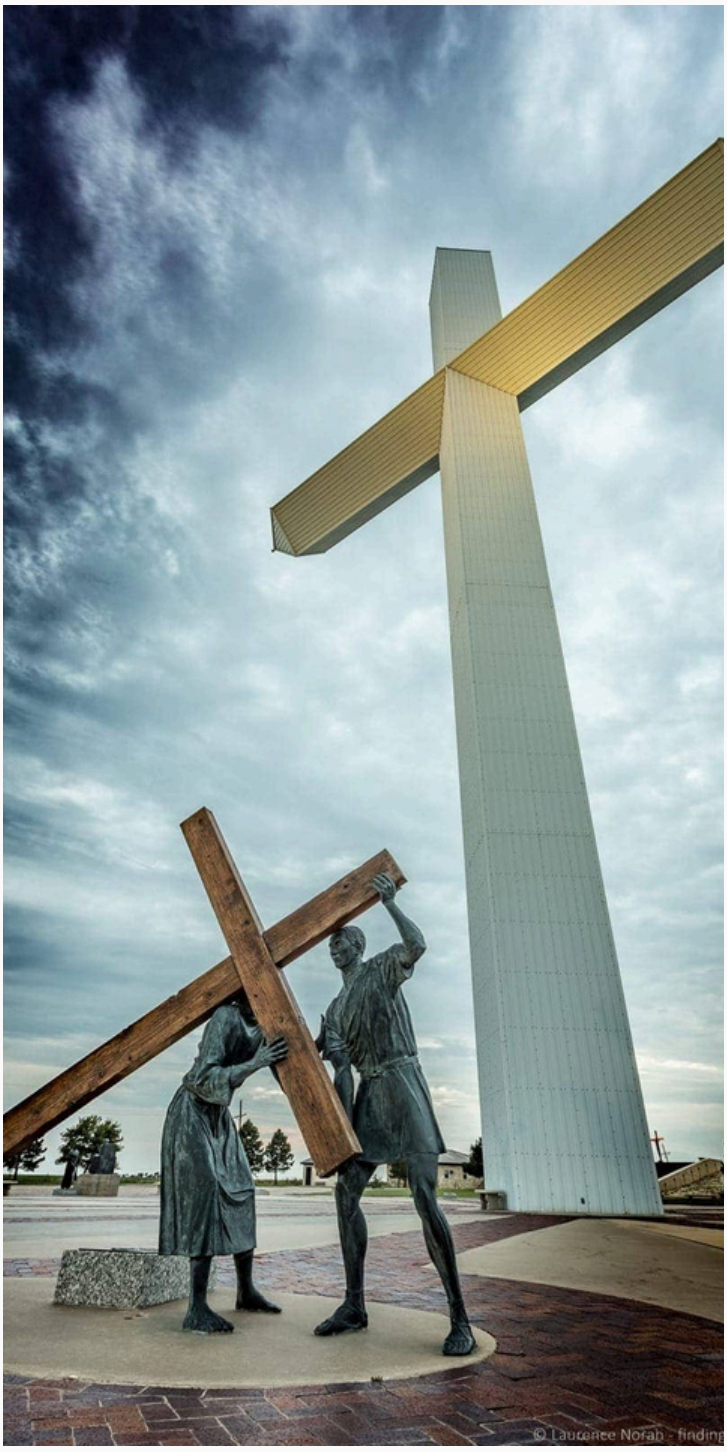
NOVEMBER 2026 | ISSUE 6

THE TRUMPETER

Monthly Newsletter from Spearfish United Methodist Church

Pastor Paul Lint



Prayerfully Pondering

WITH PASTOR PAUL

Beautiful in its Time!

Ecclesiastes 3:11
11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

I so much appreciate times that I can learn from nature and experience God's goodness and greatness in what has been created. The richness of color that has been hidden in the other seasons has finally been revealed. I do not remember when I learned that maple leaves are red, but due to the way the trees produce food using the gift of the sun, the color is covered up or hidden by the green of the chlorophyl. From this reality we can gain insight into our own lives and the gift of life and seasons from our God.

The author of Ecclesiastes is probably in the autumn of his life. In the text there are many hints to that idea and his tone reflects someone who has seen a lot and struggled with much of what he saw. If he is like most of us, what he is experiencing is that he cannot do what some of the things he has always done. This is seen in the life of trees. In autumn, the temperatures cool off and the hours of sunlight diminish, which makes it harder and harder for the trees to make their own food. The trees can no longer do what has always come naturally. For many of us, the seasonal change, and the longer life changes of our autumn years brings a level of depression. We remember when we could, but now we can't, and we grieve the many losses.

But let's learn from the trees. We may be less productive and struggle with things that we used to do so well, but there is beauty that is revealed in these seasons. We start to show the beauty of being God's created and God's beloved as the making of work and production go away. We celebrate the

changes and the opportunities that come with the seasons of rest. And we remind ourselves and the world, full of people that God so loves, of the beautiful contrast of the temporary in the midst of the evergreen that is God's constant and ever-present love and power. It is the eternity that we feel in our hearts.

These Black Hills remain dominated by the green of the Ponderosa Pines but in this season may we rejoice in the pops of color every time the beauty of God's creation and love is revealed in and through us. May our authentic God-loved selves show through as a blessing for those who witness what God is doing in and through us.

Pastor Paul

Seeking Donations for our Thanksgiving Altar Decorating

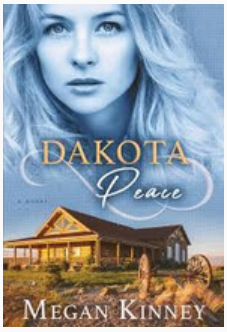
The altar will be festively decorated in early November with a beautiful display to carry us into the Thanksgiving season. You are invited to drop off donations of pumpkins, squash, and/or gourds to be used in the decorating this year. Please drop off items at the church office, Mon-Thurs, 9am - 4pm, **by Wednesday, November 4th**. Thank you for your donations!



United Methodist Men Update

United Methodist Men (UMM) met on October 3rd and 17th. Our first November meeting will be at **8:00am on November 7th** in the Fellowship area of the church. Our second meeting will take place on **November 21st at 8:00am at Perkins**. We hope you can join us for food and fellowship.
God Bless,
Kelvin Lower, UMM President

Dinah's Book Club



The group is reading **"Dakota Peace" by Megan Kinney**, a contemporary suspense novel about a burnt-out city dispatcher seeking escape in rural South Dakota. Pick up your copy of the book from the office and join them on **Monday, November 9th at 12:00pm** in the Parlor for discussion. (Books will be due back on this day.)

Taize Service



Join us for a prayerful and quiet service, including meditative singing and moments of silence for your own reflection on **Thursday, November 12th at 7:00pm** in the Sanctuary. Join us and center your spirit, heart, and mind.

United Women in Faith

This year, United Women in Faith focuses on action! How are we supporting our communities? What organizations help our community thrive? In October, we talked about the upcoming partnership between our church and Ground Works Connect, which enables education about agriculture in a hands-on approach. We hope to see our Children First students get their hands dirty in a garden that can provide education and become a food source!

This month, we welcome two representatives from The Northern Hills Area CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program, which seeks to promote and protect the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in court proceedings through the advocacy efforts of trained volunteers. Join us **Saturday, November 14th at 9:30am** in the Library to hear about this organization's mission and its role in our community and learn how we can be involved!

Remember to check out our Flocking Fundraiser! Donate $40 to our organization and send a flock of flamingos to a friend's yard! Want to avoid the flocking in your own yard? Buy flocking insurance for $30! **Contact Colleen McKirdy at 605-269-1054** to place your order!

Family Game Night



Dinner and Game Night is a time for **people of all ages to gather and enjoy some fellowship 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 are encouraged. This month it will be **Sunday, November 15th at 5:00pm**. Dinner will be Causa Rellena, a Peruvian layered potato dish. Join us! Contact Kevin Nakajima, 605.210.3984, for more information.

Quilt and Craft Bazaar

The Quilters Group will be hosting their Quilt & Craft Bazaar on **Saturday, November 21st, from 9:00am - 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall of the church, and after Saturday and Sunday services on that weekend.** There will be home and holiday decor, kitchen crafts, couch cuddler quilts, crocheted baskets, and new quilt patterns & supplies. Come join us and get your holiday shopping done early!

If you have a craft item that you would like to donate for the bazaar, please contact Janelle Jones: jlfjones7274@gmail.com





Deck the Halls - Together!



It's almost time to make our church festive, merry, and bright! As we prepare for Advent, let's also prepare our hearts and our space to welcome all who join us.

Join us on **Sunday, November 22nd at 12:00pm** as we deck the halls and get our church ready for the season! Michelle Jennings and Kevin Nakajima, members of the Worship Team, will be leading the effort, and a few extra helping hands would make all the difference. We know this is a busy time of year, so whether you can stay for the whole time or lend a hand for a little while, you are warmly invited! Let's work together and create a warm, inviting space where the spirit of Advent can shine.

A Letter from Stewardship & Finance

Dear Spearfish United Methodist Church Family,

We hope you have enjoyed our 2027 Missional Budget materials. If you haven't had a chance yet, please check out the bulletin board at the back of the Fellowship Hall. You will see a lot of your friends, and perhaps yourself, bringing SUMC's activities to life. **We are grateful for every gift of your time, talent, and treasure.**

A couple of weeks ago you should have received an Estimate of Giving Card in the mail. If you have returned your card, we thank you for your faithfulness. If you haven't yet, we ask that you consider doing so soon so that we can better plan our ministries for 2027. If your card was misplaced or never arrived, extra cards are available on the tables at the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.

We are looking forward to another great year of serving together to strengthen our church, support our community, and make our world a better place.

In Christ's Love,
Your Stewardship & Finance Committee



Children's Corner

Thanksgiving Blessings and Gratitude from our Friends at Children First

As Thanksgiving draws near, our hearts at Children First are overflowing with gratitude! We have so much to be thankful for, from the little giggles filling our classrooms to the dedicated teachers who pour their hearts into caring for our children each day.

One of our greatest blessings is YOU, our church family! Your continued prayers, generosity, and encouragement allow Children First an amazing place for children to learn and grow. With your help, we have a community built on love, compassion, and connection, where every child is cherished, every family is valued, and even the smallest acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, we ask that you continue to keep our teachers, children, and families in your prayers. The holiday season can bring both joy and challenges, and a little extra love and encouragement can go a long way.

Most importantly, thank you for believing in this ministry and the difference it makes in the lives of our youngest blessings. Again, we are so grateful to be part of such a loving and supportive church family.

From all of us at Children First, we wish you a blessed and beautiful Thanksgiving!🧡

-Nicole Martz, Children First Director

News from our Friends at the Spearfish Cooperative Preschool

We have had another very busy month! The Fire Department, Ambulance crew, and Police all visited and taught us about keeping safe in emergency situations. We also had a mom come in and talk to us about being healthy and Yanna Swanson came in and taught us about our feelings!

Our kids had a GREAT time enjoying a nature walk and feeling the inside of a pumpkin... "Eeeew!" was the most used word!

Thank you again for helping these students be able to learn in a fun, safe place.

Happy November!

-Spearfish Cooperative Preschool





An Update from the UMCOR August Mission of the Month

Sandy Garnett and Jess Gaebler headed up the August Mission of the Month, collecting items and funds to be used towards United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits. In early October, a team of volunteers assembled the kits and prepared them for distribution through the wider UMCOR system. Here is what Spearfish UMC donated:

- 40 Hygiene kits
- 30 Menstrual Hygiene kits
- 5 Cleaning kits

The team would like to sincerely thank everyone for their donations and support for this mission! Pictured below is Pastor Paul during Children's Time, blessing and praying over the items before they were sent out.

As Char Clark said in a recent article "God knows our hearts and our talents. May we keep sharing them along with our treasure!" Thank you again!



Spearfish Community Food Pantry Needs for November

- Oatmeal
- Beef Stew
- Cream of Chicken or Mushroom Soup
- Ramen Noodles
- Cookies



November Mission of the Month:



Winter Warm Up for the Help Fund



Our November Mission of the Month will support **Winter Warm Up for the Help Fund**. As winter approaches, we can feel the weather changing and it's getting COLD. Most of us don't think much about it. We may complain a little, but then we put on our warm coats, gloves, and hats and off we go. When working at the Help Fund on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we often see people that are without warm clothing. No warm coats or hats or gloves. Some are homeless and sleeping in a cold vehicle at night and could use a warm blanket or sleeping bag.

To support our November Mission of the Month, **please consider donating new, or used, clean adult-sized** warm coats, gloves, hats, scarves, blankets, and sleeping bags. (We can accept **adult warm coats in all sizes.**) Items may be brought to the church office.

The Help Fund team would like to take this opportunity to say **thank you** for all you do to keep our Help Fund active and available to those that need a little extra help. It "takes a village" and we couldn't do it without you!

If you would like to make a monetary donation, **please note "Help Fund" in the memo line of your check. All funds received will be used at the discretion of the Help Fund team for necessary items.** Please contact Bonnie Witt at wittslink@gmail.com for more information. Thank you for your continued support!





An Invitation from the Pastor

Fellow Disciples of Jesus Christ -

Thank you for your servant leadership in so many ways in our community. Spearfish is blessed by the ways you care for each other and work together to preach the Good News with your very lives. We will be celebrating the amazing ministries and missions of our church during our annual Charge Conference and I want to **invite you to come celebrate with us, on Sunday, November 8th at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall**.

I also want to take this moment to invite you to step into a gap with us. We have done such great outreach and nurturing, and inspiring discipleship within, and we will continue to make those things priorities. As the needs of our neighbors around the world and our neighbors nearby become greater, we want to authentically be the Church in this place. To do that takes significant resources and I am inviting you to help with that. **Supporting the General Fund of the church is the financial foundation that supports all of our ministry.** May God's blessings to you become blessings through you and through our congregation. God bless you all!

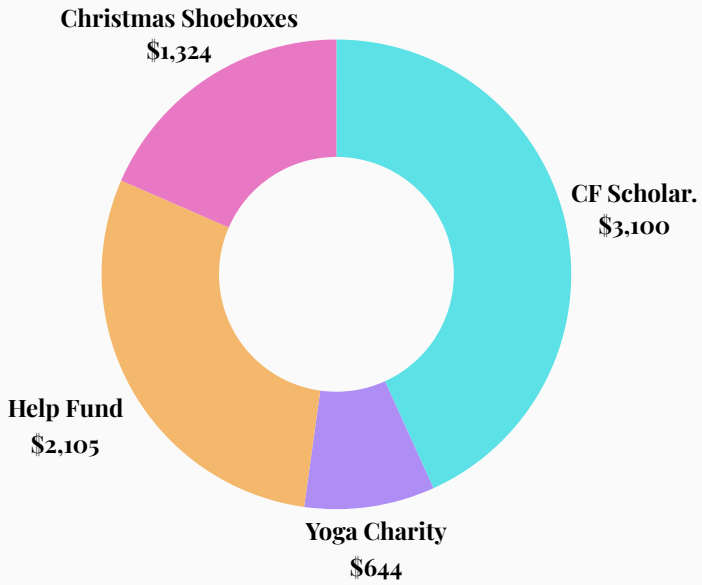
Pastor Paul



Our new combined worship service at 10:10am on Sundays is thriving! Join us and be sure to stay for fellowship immediately following the service.

Gifts and Offerings

Special Gifts for Oct 1 - Oct 26, 2026



- Solar Oven: $25
- Benevolence Fund: $10
- Worship Attend.(4 wk): 593, avg: 148
- Online Attend.(4 wk): 694, avg: 174

E-banking Options

venmo

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

~ Front Page Feature ~

Can you guess the location of the cross featured on the first page? Be the first to call the office **after November 3rd** with the correct answer and win a $5 gift card to Common Grounds!

Have a beautiful picture of a cross or church from your own travels? We would love to feature it here!