

# THE CALL TO WORSHIP

August  
2022

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
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**Seeking, practicing and sharing  
Christ's ministry of inclusive love,  
justice and compassion**

## Message from your Moderator

**by Chuck Rounds**

The church board met on June 19th and again on July 21st. The building and grounds department reported that the new boilers are installed but the vent system is still under construction. The original plan called for the vent to go through the floor in the kitchen and go clear through the roof at the fellowship hall elevation. After getting approval from the boiler manufacturer, it was decided that the vent will exit the building through the sidewall above the outside basement door and go through the eaves of the lower roof. That will save some money and also leave the kitchen undisturbed. As soon as the vent material arrives, that work can be finished. The next project for that department will be the fire suppression sprinkler system that is required in the basement, kitchen and classrooms.

The department of stewardship and budget reported that while income from pledges is a little under the forecast amount, our expenses are also down so the financial reports are still looking good for the year.

The department of ministries provided a meal at the cornerstone mission on July 29th. The ONA committee from that department had a booth at the pride festival on July 9th that was visited by many folks. Three other Rapid City churches each had a booth at the festival as well.

Vacation Bible School was held July 12th through the 14th. The Christian education department reported 27 to 30 children attended the 3 evenings and everyone had a great time. A big thank you to those volunteers! As fall is just around the corner, the department is now concentrating on Sunday morning activities for the children.

The pastoral search committee has advertised our open position in different web sites and one magazine hoping to draw some interest in a pastor coming to Rapid City. In conjunction with the search committee, the pastoral and personnel committee is working on hiring a person for a specified time period to fill the void of not having a settled pastor. This process involves the state conference so it will take a bit of time to complete all of the requirements that the UCC requires. We hope that, when completed, it will provide more continuity in our worship and include some pastor visits to those with needs. In the mean time, the pulpit supply committee has our Sunday services covered through September.

The attendance on Sunday morning is slowly increasing even though covid is still with us. The rate of infection is again increasing so masking is important even if it is not required. We hope to see more people in church as we come into fall. Remember to invite those folks you see during the week to come check us out and don't forget that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here".

### **Please, stay home if you are sick!**

With the increase of covid cases in our community and our church, we are reminding everyone to stay home if they are sick. Also, please feel free to wear a mask if that provides more comfort. Masks are provided in the entryway of the church and in the Nar-



# BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

## ONA Committee

by Sybil Rounds

First Congregational UCC had a booth at the Pride in the Park event held on July 9. Kelton Bendixen, Carol Boyles, Becky Fleming, Mark Ortega, Amy Richards, Chuck and Sybil Rounds, and Jodie Thuringer had the opportunity to talk with a lot of people and welcomed all to come and worship with us. Committee members Mike Crutcher and Kim Nearhood were out of town but provided supplies like candy, pet watering bowls, card display racks and small goodie bags.

Eileen Rossow purchased a new PRIDE flag for the church and it was displayed in front of our booth at the Pride event. We watched lots of people taking selfies by the flag, and it brought attention to our mission.

There are several books under the flag in Fellowship Hall that cover different topics relating to LGBTQ+ issues. Please take a look at them, check one or two out, and share what you have learned.

## Stewardship and

Budget by Pat Lebrun

The members and friends of First Congregational Church continue to provide impressive support for the financial needs of the church.

Pledges are coming in to First Congregational Church at good levels



although Year-To-Date (YTD) pledges received remain slightly under budget. In June, the YTD pledges received totaled \$97,247.09, \$3,774.91 below the budgeted amount. The pledge deficit was lower at the end of June than in May so the direction of pledge payments is positive. Thank you!

Expenses were under budget due to salary, building and grounds, and new pastor expenses being less than expected YTD.

The old boiler has been removed and two new boilers installed.

Stewardship & Budget is reviewing the budget for the Sprinkler System Project. This important project will develop fire suppression and escape plans for the classrooms and hallways. The need was determined a number of years ago and now needs action.

Again, thanks to all who are contributing to keep our church financially healthy.

## Dept of Ministries

by Sheila Long

The department of ministries collected the Strengthen the Church offering in June, and served a meal at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission in July. We continue to see grocery cards the first Sunday of every month.

The August Cornerstone donation request is **canned fruit**. Please bring whatever you can and place in the grocery cart in the Narthex.



## Music Notes by Alan Glover

I hope all of you have had a good summer. We have been blessed to have some very good special music this summer with several presentations yet to come this month. We will resume chancel choir practice at 7 pm





*We are ready for the COLD*

**The new boilers are in and will soon be ready to keep us warm this winter. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.**

on September 7, 2022. We look forward to welcoming some new or returning choir members this fall as we do need some additional members to maintain our musical presence as a choir. Please join us as we begin our fall schedule.

We also would like to thank Ingrid and Larry for their faithful participation and service to our Church as they leave us to move to Wisconsin. They will be greatly missed.

## Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee has made extensive inquiries into finding a transportation service for those indi-



viduals who would like to come to church, but have no transportation. We have not been able to find any transportation services that could accommodate our needs. However, your committee will not give up. If you would like to come to church on Sundays and have no transportation, please contact the church office. We will make every effort to find transportation for you.

**The Transportation Committee**

**Patti Arneson**

**Eileen Rossow**

## Dept of Hospitality

**By Cam Miller**

Join us after service on August 28th for an ice cream social to celebrate "Who we are and all that we do". Come one -Come All!





## NEWS FROM CHURCH

### Women's Fellowship

#### Rummage Sale

Work will start on the sale set up after worship on Sunday, August 14 and continue all week. Rummage will be accepted on the 14th and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. This is the biggest event that happens in our building and it takes a lot of

willing workers to make it work. Some of our seasoned workers will be unavailable for this sale, so please consider lending a hand that week!

Many hands do make light work, and there is a job available for every fitness level. If you can't stand for long, we'll provide a stool. If you can't bend or reach, no worries. There will be someone there to jump in and help.

There is a lot of joking and laughter

during the week, and we do have fun in the midst of the chaos. No one would work this hard if it weren't fun!

There is no bake sale at the August sale, but if you feel like baking you can bring things to the kitchen for the workers to enjoy dur-

ing their breaks or lunch. Treats are always appreciated!

If you have items that are too big for you to handle, please call Chuck or Sybil Rounds (home 605-343-4407; Chuck's cell 605-519-9368; Sybil's cell 605-484-4245) and arrange for a pickup the week of the sale.

#### Thank You!

This was the first time I volunteered for VBS and I'm so glad I did because it was an inspirational event.

It warmed my heart to see the entire church filled with happy children, creative teachers and many volunteers. What an inspiration to see a program come together so seamlessly. It took many hours of planning by the Dept. of Education headed by Patti Arneson. With her dedication, organizational skills and planning this program was a success!

Julie Burton



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

### Department of Education by Patti Arneson

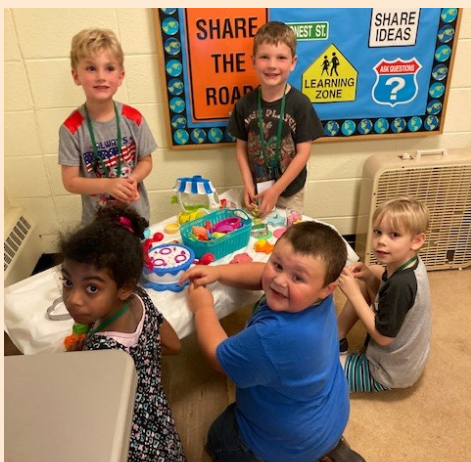
July marked a successful Vacation Bible School time for about 27 children of our church, their friends, and our grandchildren. A good time was had by all. All of the helpers who promoted this wonderful event were amazing and happy to add their time and talent for this summer fun. Our Theme was Shine Your Light, and shine we

did! We shared evening meals, inspirational Bible verses and stories, crafts, service projects, and games. Thank you to all the kids, parents, and helpers!

Sunday School will begin mid-September, and more information will be forthcoming, as concrete planning takes place. Watch for more information in the Bulletin, Weekly Update, and Website. Enjoy the VBS pictures!







# MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

## Prayer Concerns

- Prayers for **Laura Switzer**, following the death of her husband, **Ron Switzer**, on July 16, 2022. Family members who will miss him include son, **Kurtis (Sara) Switzer**, daughter, **Lynn (Kyle) Grauman**, and grandchildren **Elsa, Coen, Anders, Serena, Bae, Iris and Ronin**.
- Prayers for **Vicki Ireland Kearney** on the passing of her husband, **Patrick Kearney**

## Our prayers are with those who are dealing with health concerns

- **Mary Linda McBride** continues to have severe sciatica for the past four months. She greatly appreciates prayers to help alleviate her constant pain.
- **Michael Myers** as he continues his chemotherapy treatments.
- **Clair Maynard** as his therapy continues for his health concerns.
- **Pastor Dorotea Yucra's** daughter, **Sarvia**, who is battling cervical cancer. Pastor Dorothea is from our sister church in Costa Rica

- **Shirley Baumgartner**
- **Jodi Thuringer's** dad, **Larry Thuringer**
- **Deb Tomkins**
- **Lee Boyles**
- **Eunice Johnson**
- **Jill Kuntz**

We Pray with those in care centers and all who are isolated in their homes, including

- **Shirley Baumgartner**
- **Evelynn Bradshaw**
- **Dona Cheney**
- **Vivian Dittmer**
- **Wes Humke**
- **Bob Jonas**
- **Eunice Johnson**
- **Chuck Knowlton**
- **Merrie Miller**
- **Marrelyce Seamon**
- **Lorraine Slocum**
- **Helen Snyder**
- **Elaena Van Pelt**



August 2     **Clair Maynard**  
 August 3     **Robert Orvik**  
 August 4     **Jennifer Bartling**  
 August 6     **Lynnell Parrott**  
 August 7     **Michael Meyers**

August 9     **Scout Cruz**  
 August 11    **Darlene Orvik**  
 August 15    **Lucia Grigg**  
 August 17    **Althea Deyo**  
 August 19    **Kathy Oulman-Johnson**  
 August 24    **Jacob Schendzielos**  
 August 27    **Lorna Schnabel**  
 August 29    **Wesley Humke**  
 August 31    **Cam Miller**  
                  **Jodie Thuringer**



# MISSION AND OUTREACH

## Woodchuck Society

The Society has taken some time off during the heat of the summer but we hope to have cooler weather ahead. There has been a serious decline in workers that may impact the project in the near future.

The usual schedule involves splitting and/or sawing on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, from 9 - noon. Treats are provided at a midpoint break, and everyone can work at their own pace. If you have any interest in helping to provide firewood to our partners in Wanblee and Eagle Butte, please consider working with us.

## News from los Guido

After many months of ill health, Dorotea's eldest daughter,

Sarvia, has been diagnosed with cervical cancer and was supposed to start chemotherapy in mid-July. Because of the crowded conditions in hospitals there, she was to have night appointments for her treatments. The latest news, however, is that multiple appointments have been for more testing, and to determine the stage of the cancer, so she has yet to receive any chemotherapy. Sarvia is home, but has severe anemia. These many months with no treatment can have dire consequences for her, so please continue to pray for her physical and mental health. Sarvia's sister, Gady, has been going with her to her hospital appointments. Dorotea is very grateful for our prayers, and sends her love to us all

## CALENDAR

The calendar changes often, so check the weekly email or the website. [Rcfirstucc.com](http://Rcfirstucc.com)



### August 2

1:00pm: Craft Day

### August 5

10:00 am: Watercolor Painting

1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

### August 7

9:30am: Worship Service

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

10:30am: Church Response

Grocery Cards sale

10:45am: Dept of Ministries Meeting

### August 9

12:30pm: PEO/BF Meeting

1:00pm: Craft Day

3:30pm: Discernment Committee Meeting

### August 11

4:30pm: Dept of Worship

Meeting

6:30pm: Stewardship and

Budget Meeting

### August 12

10:00am: Watercolor Painting

1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

### August 14

9:30am: Worship Service

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

11:00am: Rummage Sale Set up

### August 15

9:00am: Rummage Sale Set up

### August 16

9:00am: Rummage Sale Set up

7:00pm: Church Board

Meeting

### August 17

9:00am: Rummage Sale Set up

### August 18

9:00am: Rummage Sale Set up

### August 19

8:00am: Rummage Sale

### August 20

8:00am: Rummage Sale

4:00pm: Ron Switzer's Funeral

### August 21

9:30am: Worship Service

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

10:45am: Dept of Education

### August 23

1:00pm: Craft Day

3:30pm: Discernment Committee Meeting

### August 25

1:30pm: Memoir Writing Group

### August 26

10:00am: Watercolor Painting

1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

### August 28

9:30am: Worship Service

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

### August 30

1:00pm: Craft Day



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## FROM THE OFFICE

The publication of **The Call** will be on hold until a new church secretary is hired to replace Sheila Long. If you have an announcement you need to share with the congregation, please let the office know and we will put into the bulletin and/or the weekly email.

Thank you for your support and patience during this time of transition.

