

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

February
2022

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1200 Clark Street,
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
605) 342-5787 uccoffice@rushmore.com rcfirstucc.com

**Seeking, practicing and sharing
Christ's ministry of inclusive love,
justice and compassion**

The Only Constant is Change!

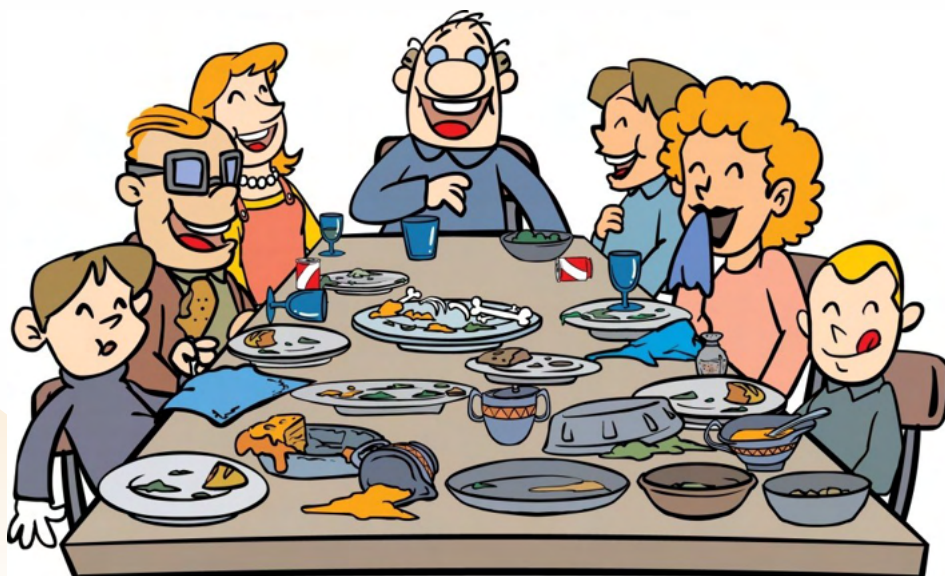
Rev. Dr. Mark Lee, Interim Minister

By now you have likely heard my announcement at the Annual Congregational Meeting that I have my next call lined up and have set an end date to my service at First Congregational. I will complete my ministry here at the end of April; my last Sunday will be April 24. I am excited that my next call will be back home in Fort Collins (long-distance relationships, while workable, are hard). I will be serving as the full time Director of Adult Formation at the First United Methodist Church (<https://fcfumc.net/>). It is large church with about 400 in Sunday worship, and a half dozen different adult classes and other programs I will be responsible for on Sunday and through the week. I'll be part of a large staff, with two clergy, a bunch of program staff for children, youth, young adults and adults, and a robust music program.

My overarching goal for these next three months here is to create as much as possible a smooth landing pad for your future minister. I have some checklists and procedures to attend to and will write more on that later, but I want to extend an invitation to you to have the same goal. What will you do to ensure a soft landing for the new minister (and their family if they have one)?

Connecting with a new community is a challenge, so things you can do to introduce them to the community will make things far easier. What is your favorite coffee shop? Favorite place to go for Sunday dinner? Best Mexican restaurant? A cool off-the-beaten-track visit to the Badlands? Your second favorite fishing hole? When was the last time you were at The Reptile Gardens? But don't just pelt them with a Chamber of Commerce list of cool places to go and things to do. Invite them to go with you. Tell them the story of why you picked this to do with them.

Sure, talk a bit about the church, but talk more about your life and hopes and fears and dreams and whatever it is you're doing together. This serves the dual purpose of getting things off the list of things "Oh, OK, I should check that out... after I figure out the best route to Safeway and go to this meeting" and gives you both the opportunity to get to know one another outside of church settings. You are more



REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Pastor Message..... | 1 |
| Board, Departments | 3 |
| Church News..... | 5 |
| Christian Education . | 6 |
| Kids Korner | 7 |
| Member News | 8 |
| Prayer Concerns | 9 |
| Mission News | 10 |
| Calendar | 11 |
| Ash Wednesday | 12 |

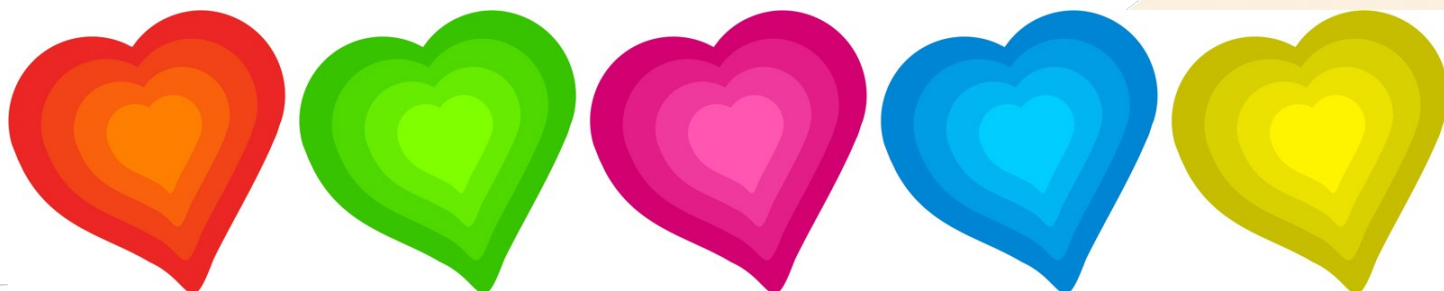
than one face in the mass of people at worship, or sitting around a meeting table – show them your world.

I'd suggest inviting them to join you for concerts, theater, community rallies, ball games or whatever else you like doing. They won't automatically know when the Performing Arts Center has a Christmas concert and it's a bummer to come to church and hear people raving about the show last night that you didn't even know was happening. They won't know the password to The Blind Lion (or that it exists). It's much more fun to go to a karaoke night with some other people than to be the new person or couple walking in the door and figuring out where to sit, "close but not too close." Get a few people together, take them to the Sturgis Rally and run in a pack. Or just wander around the mall on a cold day and eat a cheap lunch together.

Help them make important community relationships. Take them with you to introduce them to civic and community leaders, preferably in a context for conversation beyond a handshake and trading business cards. You can smooth the way and serve as a bridge to other clergy, the nuns at St Martin's, leaders of community non-profits, and so forth. Who

do you know that you can help them meet? You are well connected; use those connections to help your new minister build solid relationships. It takes a lot of time to build connections, and you can help a lot.

Covid has made doing those sorts of things really tough, but it should be easing up and providing new opportunities. Welcome them not just with coffee and cookies, but with non-church things to do together. Ministry is built up out of the informal conversations, the shared experiences of road trips and church camp and county fairs and picking out fabric at JoAnns and shouting at rodeos. Think of ways to give of yourself to your new minister. Start as soon as they arrive, and then pace yourself intentionally for their first year, then take stock of what you have done. That will help lay a solid foundation as you conspire with them to minister to the people of Rapid City, West River and beyond.



Moderator's Message

by Chuck Rounds

We have come to that time of the year when your church has elected new department members and a new church board. We have yet to have our first meetings but that will be happening this month.

All of the new board and department members want what is best for our church. They will make it a priority to attend the necessary meetings and participate in the decisions to keep our church running as smoothly as possible, just as the past departments and boards have done.

The past two years have been a challenge for all churches and our church has had the added challenge of the retirement of our long-serving pastor couple. Our interim pastor will be leaving us in a few months and we hope to have a new full-time pastor in a few months. The search committee is working towards that goal. It will take some time for the new pastor to get settled and familiar with our congregation, so our church life will continue to be unsettled for a while longer. We all look forward to the time that the current pandemic will quit coming at us in wave after wave, and at least settle into the background so we can get on with our lives. I am hopeful that by this time next year we all feel better about our life situation.



As our departments have their first meetings of the year, we need to remember that not all of the departments responsibilities must be accomplished only by the department members. Committees made up of a department member and others from the congregation may be formed for specific tasks such as lawn mowing, or mission meal preparation and serving. This helps to get the work done without the department folks having to do all of the work. So, please help out with the many many tasks if you are asked, or better yet, volunteer do help with items that you enjoy doing.

I am looking forward to the next two years in the life of our church. We can look forward to growing our church and becoming more important to our community by setting an example of being a very warm and welcoming place for everyone. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"!

Blessings,

Music Notes by Alan Glover

We are planning to restart choir practice starting February 16th at 7

pm. We will have new music to prepare that has been provided by memorial gifts and staff. I would encourage all those interested in preparing and providing choral music for our services to join us. We are also resuming our United Brass practices so we will have some selections ready in the not-too-distant future. We are also looking to find anyone interested in providing contemporary/praise music selections to include in our worship services. Preparations for this music would be separate from regular choir practice. We look forward to input and participation from all of our musical resources. Thanks for your support.

Dept of Worship by Susan Kelts

The Department of Worship met on January 20. After the January 31 Annual Meeting, the Department will have 3 new members to replace those who have completed their terms on the Department. Jane Glover, Justin Speck and Susan Kelts will be replaced by Bonnie Edwards, Laura Boyd and Kandee Snoozy.

One of the new goals for the Department will be to incorporate some contemporary style music into our services. The proposed plan would be to do some praise songs/hymns around the time of

BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS CONTINUED

prayer. We would introduce this change gradually by initially singing praise hymns 1 Sunday per month. Depending on the congregational reponse we may increase to 2 Sundays per month.

Due to the increase in Covid 19 infections, we will discontinue have greeters for now and re-evaluate in one month. We will continue to utilize readers for our services.

We are evaluating ways to keep our services to 1 hour. This may involve having only 1 scripture reading in the service or omitting the Reconciliation part of the service.

As always, we are extremely grateful to those who make our worship services meaningful: musicians, ushers, acolytes, Altar Guild, our technology crew, office staff and, of course our pastoral staff (Mark

Lee, Kathleen Batchelder and Becky Fleming).

Stewardship and

Budget by Harold Miller

Stewardship and Budget would like to thank everyone that pledged and contributed to our church for the 2021 year. Our 2021 budget year came out ahead of budget partly due to the reduced expenses vs budgeted items. A BIG thank you to all church members, committee members and board members.

As we start a new year of gathering, we look forward to having a full time Pastor, Sunday school and Vacation Bible School returning to normal. Your pledges and donations to our church make all of these possible. Hopefully our church can return to normal in the 2022 year. There is a lot of catching up to do.

Thanks to all of you that returned your pledge cards in Dec. This allowed Stewardship and Budget to start pre-

paring the 2022 budget a little bit earlier than in past years. We believe that we have a reasonable and achievable budget prepared for the 2022 year.

Sincerely, Thank You from Stewardship and Budget.

Dept. of Ministries by Sheila Long

First I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Jodie Thuringer for keeping the Ministries Department going during the past two years. This has not been easy with the changing rules of Covid, and decreased department members, but she diligently made sure the meals and grocery card sales continued.

As we look forward to this year, we hope to get back to a more "normal" ministry opportunities. We welcome our new members, Pat Sutliff, Cindy Ledford, Sybil Rounds and Kim Nearhood and look forward to serving our community.

CHURCH BOARD RETREAT

Saturday, February 26, 9:00am to noon.

This will be a chance for the newly elected Board to review department and officer job descriptions, to attend to some of the highlights learned during the interim period, and to note open ended issues for further discussion.

New Name Tag Option

You may have noticed that some church members have a new name tag that sports a rainbow UCC logo, their preferred name and preferred pronouns. This is a small way to show our willingness to welcome all into our church family. If you would like a new name tag, with or without pronouns, please fill out the form below and turn it in to Patti in the office, or email the same information to the church office at uccoffice@rushmore.com with this information. Or you may call the church office at 342-5787 during office hours.



Request for Open and Affirming Name Tag

Name: _____

Preferred Pronouns (Optional):

Altar Guild by Sharon Darrow

One of the duties of the Altar Guild is to solicit flower arrangements for the Communion Table. Members of the congregation volunteer to provide these arrangements—maybe to honor a family member or in remembrance of a loved one, or just because flowers are beautiful!

We have the following openings for placing flowers on the table for 2022:

May 29, 2022

Oct 30, 2022

Nov 27, 2022

If you would like to donate a flower arrangement, please call

Mike Crutcher: 390-9510 or

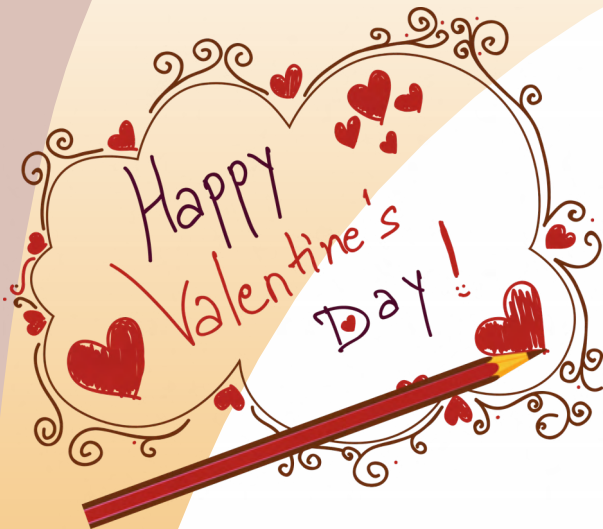
Sharon Darrow: 716-6687



Good Morning Circle by Sybil Rounds

At the time of the CALL publication, it is hard to guess if it will be safe to meet in February. There will be announcements in the weekly update that is emailed to members, and we will get the news to all GM members by email or phone. Hopefully the latest surge of the Omicron variant will be behind us, and we can return to business as usual.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Christian Education

By Patti Arneson

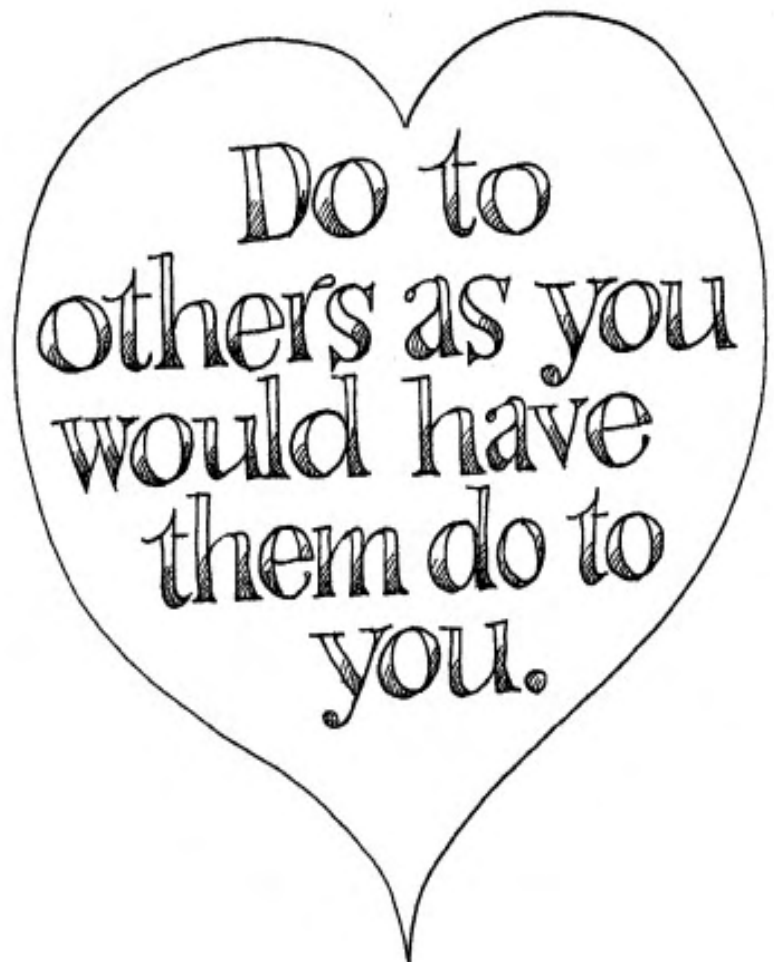
We are impatiently waiting for Covid to subside to enjoy our children's activities. Due to the recent rise in covid's infections, the Christian Ed. Department has cancelled our monthly Sunday Afternoon Activities, for February 6th. We will try to reconvene with our kiddos on March, 6th, at 3:00-5:00.

We would like to thank those folks who have served our department with their time and talents and now have completed their service. These folks are Jennifer Seals, Lisa Lyons, and Nick Strampe. We wish to thank the new members who have kindly stepped in to fulfill our openings. Our appreciation goes out to Lynn Grauman, Jane Glover, and Nick Strampe, who filled in for a year, but now has agreed to share in our department for another term. Blessings to all who have served and will serve, as we explore God's world with our young ones!

Our Sunday morning "LIGHT" program, facilitated by Becky Fleming, Sharon Darrow, and Sue Maynard is a highlight for those children who have participated in this fun Sunday school event. A very special thank you to these folks. As I sit in Sunday Worship Service, I thoroughly enjoy the moments when the children or anyone who is "Young at Heart" is lucky enough to hear an enlightened little lesson, which is expertly lead by Kathleen Batchelder and Becky Fleming.

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum's have been cancelled for February with plans to resume them in March.





The Golden Rule

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 (NIV)

The activity is based on words found in Luke 6:27-38

Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

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| B | Q | M | R | C | E | D | H | S | I | N | N | E | R | S |
| H | A | N | Y | I | U | I | B | S | A | R | X | I | M | F |
| G | H | D | C | T | L | O | V | E | C | E | I | M | I | A |
| B | B | U | J | S | A | T | O | Y | A | W | N | C | S | T |
| O | V | E | W | H | | | | | | A | S | I | T | H |
| S | G | U | W | T | | | | | | R | R | G | R | E |
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| C | E | O | K | C | | | | | | Z | A | P | T | C |
| N | M | F | E | X | O | Z | Q | C | B | E | S | C | D | E |
| V | I | A | D | V | W | M | J | U | L | H | A | T | E | Q |
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FATHER
ENEMIES
REWARD

BLESS
SINNERS
CURSE

WICKED
HATE
MISTREAT

GREAT
LOVE
MERCIFUL



MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

Thank you

Bruce and I would like to sincerely thank all the wonderful cooks and bakers for the delicious array of cookies and goodies. A special shout out to all who were so devoted to seeing we were not forgotten. We appreciate you and look forward to being able to return to worship. Love and peace,
Tish and Bruce Wilkinson.

We want to thank you for your continued support of Break Through Inc. Dee and I will be again con-

necting with churches with our disability program and media options. **THANK YOU.**

Ben and Dee Anderson



Thank you to all those who have served our church this past year on boards, departments and in so many other capacities.

One whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. Ecc 35:20

February 1 **Stephanie Nielsen-Medeck**

February 4 **Clara Crutcher**

February 5 **Emilee Nickel**

February 7 **Hayden Reiser**

February 8 **Sybil Rounds**

February 10 **Randy Daughenbaugh**

February 11 **Rob Burton**

Marrelyce Seaman

February 12 **Jay Davis**

Chuck Lindly

February 14 **Alicia Sutliff-Benusis**

February 15 **Marla Maynard**

James Webster

February 16 **Jay Benusis**

February 17 **Mary Nelson Keithahn**

February 18 **Laura Boyd**

David Ledford

February 19 **Rob Ward**

February 20 **Emily Eckholm**

February 21 **Frances Cox**

February 23 **Bruce Wilkinson**

February 24 **Kalsy Brinkman**

Alan Glover

February 27 **Isabel Bryant**



MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer Concerns

Prayers for **Vi Pietz** who was recently hospitalized after a heart attack, and is now recovering at home. Cards can be mailed to:

Vi Pietz
3430 Corral Dr. #313
Rapid City, SD 57702

Carol Boyles who had extensive back surgery on January 27, 2022. Cards would be welcome.

Carole Boyles
8701 Highland Hills Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702-8954

Prayers for the family of **Carol Donnenwirth** who passed away Jan 16, 2022 her funeral was held Friday, January 21, 2022.

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

- ♥ **Shirley Baumgartner**
- ♥ **Eunice Johnson**, is in the Westhill Healthcare unit, she would love to receive cards
- ♥ **Deb Tompkins** health is improving, yet still on oxygen
- ♥ **Lee Boyles** is dealing with health concerns
- ♥ **Jane Ireland's** son-in-law, **Pat Kearney**, continues treatment for cancer

♥ **Andy Knight** continues his recovery at home

♥ **Jill Kundtz**

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

- ♥ Shirley Baumgartner
- ♥ Dona Cheney
- ♥ Vivian Dittmer
- ♥ Wes Humke
- ♥ Eunice Johnson
- ♥ Chuck Knowlton
- ♥ Merrie Miller
- ♥ Marrelyce Seaman
- ♥ Lorraine Slocum
- ♥ Helen Snyder
- ♥ Elena Van Pelt



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Wood Chucks

The Society has been busy in January. We have delivered almost 16 cords of wood to people who need it, and still have a good supply available for delivery if this cold weather continues. Participants in January include Jim Books, Rob Burton, Ron Hill, Dave Ledford, Michael Myers, Chuck and Sybil Rounds, and Jim Webster.

There are no firm plans for deliveries in February, so we will contact Society members as the need arises. If you are not on the email list and want to help, please contact us at cwskrounds@gmail.com and we'll add you to the group.



Angels of los Guido Thank You

Pastor Dorotea Yucra recently sent her thanks for the generous donations to the Angels of los Guido. In 2021 4 students were assisted with transportation payments, study materials and uniforms; 3 of these students are in high school and one in elementary school. 2 of the high school students graduated on January 21, 2022.

In 2022 there are 2 students who will attend the state university. Both are boys without fathers, whose mothers are ill and very poor. Darian and Jafet are both 18 and will need a little help with their studies. They have participated in some activities at the church.

Dorotea also added thanks for the salary assistance we send for her. Lillian Solt, director at CEDCAS, echoed those thanks, saying "Thank you again for your love offerings as these are the only moneys which Dorotea gets."

We have no idea when it will be safe for us to return to Costa Rica and participate in activities there. Until then, please continue to hold this community and its leaders in your prayers. Your financial and prayer support means the world to the families in our sister church.

Transition of Executive Conference Minister

After significant discernment, Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Rev. Brigit Stevens shares with us that the tenure of her leadership as ECM will end on July 31st, 2022. As of January 25th, 2022, the Tri-Conference Board of Directors has accepted and unanimously approved a plan of transition for Rev. Stevens. This plan sets into place Rev. Stevens' responsibilities until her resignation date on or before July 31st, 2022. An acting/interim ECM is expected to be in place on August 1st, 2022.

Rev. Stevens shares, "Our time in ministry together has been the most rewarding and challenging of my career. We created something new together, the partnership between our conferences that we call the Tri-Conference UCC Ministries (TCM)!"

More information can be found at the Tri-conference website at ucctcm.org

The calendar changes often, so please check the weekly email and/or online calendar on our website.

rcfirstucc.com



February 1

11:30 am: Church Chat
1:00pm: Craft Day

February 4

10:00am: Water Color Painting
1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

February 6

9:30am: Worship Service

February 8

12:00pm: PEO/BF Meeting
1:00pm: Craft Day
4:30pm: Dept of Ed Meeting

February 9

10:00am: Women's Fellowship Meeting

February 10

10:00am: Altar Guild Meeting
4:30pm: Worship Committee
6:30pm: Stewardship and Budget Meeting

February 11

10:00am: Water Color Painting
1:00pm: Stained Glass Group
1:00pm: Current Events Club

February 13

9:30am: Worship Service
10:30am: Fellowship Hour

February 14

1:30pm: Interdenominational Bible Discussion
5:00pm: PEO/BR Meeting

February 15

1:00pm: Craft Day
4:15pm: Trust Committee Meeting
7:00pm: Church Board Meeting

February 16

9:30am: Good Morning Circle
7:00pm: Choir Practice

February 18

10:00am: Water Color Painting
1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

February 19

5:00pm: Black Hills Chamber Music Concert

February 20

9:30am: Worship Service
10:30am: Fellowship Hour

February 22

1:00pm: Craft Day

February 23

7:00pm: Choir Practice

February 24

1:30pm: Memoir Writing Group

February 25

10:00am: Water Color Group
1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

February 27

9:30am: Worship Service
10:30am: Fellowship Hour

February 28

1:30pm: Interdenominational Bible Discussion



First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1200 Clark Street
Rapid City SD 57701

Ash Wednesday Service

"Dust you are and to dust you shall return" Gen 3:19b

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.

A Solemn Service to begin Lent

