

The Call to Worship

1st Congregational United Church of Christ, Rapid City, South Dakota

June - July, 2014

Ministry in Motion



Summertime is a busy season for a busy congregation!

Summer Music

Summertime is a fun time for special music in our church. While the choir takes a well-earned vacation, members and friends of the congregation volunteer their talents to provide music. This summer's schedule features artists of all ages and many different styles of music. Check out the full summer schedule on page 2 of this issue!

Learn More about Worship

The Department of worship has a new column, starting with this issue of **The Call**. Each month there will be information and discussion about various elements of worship. This month's column discusses communion and different ways of serving and receiving communion. Check out the column with each issue of **The Call** for more information about the worship life of our congregation.

We Host the South Dakota Conference

June 6—8 will find our church building filled with activities and events as we host the 144th Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Meeting highlights include special worship services on Friday Evening and Sunday Morning, keynote speaker Rev. James Moos of Global Ministries, workshops featuring our congregation's grass roots ministries, a banquet, and much more!

Hosting the Conference Annual Meeting is an opportunity to showcase the mission and ministries of our congregation as well as find out more about the activities and ministries of other UCC congregations in our state.

Members of our congregation are invited and encouraged to participate in as many of the activities as they are able. Volunteers are still needed to help with some of the hosting chores. For more information on how you can be involved, email julieucc@rushmore.com or call the church office at (605) 342-5787.

2 Summer opens the door to new possibilities

Exciting Summer Music Plans

Volunteers have filled up our Summer music schedule with a lot of exciting and wonderful music. Here are some of the people who will be providing music this summer:

In June, we will hear special music from Jami Buttke, Mary Linda McBride, Alicia Sutliff-Benusis and Ingrid Anderson as well as our own adult choir and our bell choir.

In July, musicians include Bill Knight, Mary Linda McBride, Pat Lebrun, Merrick Fisher, and Trent Eddy.

In August we will hear music by Bonnie Edwards, Pat Lebrun, Emilee Nickel, Olivia Perli and Arjun and Aparna Ayyangar.

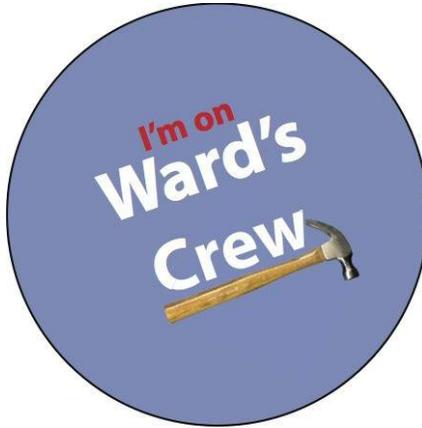
Behind the scenes we are set to begin the search for a new choir director. As in the past the search committee will be composed of two members of the choir and a member of the Department of Ministries. Job descriptions and application forms will be available from the church office by June 10.

Habitat Home is on Schedule

The Apostles' Build Habitat for Humanity home now has four walls, interior partitions and a roof! Crews have been hard at work keeping the build on schedule. So far the weather delays have all been made up by adding extra work days during the week. The ambitious build schedule is designed to get the homeowners into their new home by the start of the school year.

Our church has primary responsibility for providing construction crews on the following days:

Tuesday, June 10



Saturday, June 28

Tuesday, July 22

Tuesday, August 26

On each of those days we will provide 8—15 construction workers.

In addition, our church is responsible for providing sign-up hosts, morning snacks and lunch for three more days this summer. We have already provided hosting and meals for two work days. Our upcoming hosting days are:

Tuesday, July 15

Saturday, August 16

Saturday, September 6

A sign-up sheet for construction workers and for hosting and lunch is available in the church office.

There is still room for you on Ward's Crew. The buttons that you see around the church are a visible sign of the commitment of our congregation to seeing this home completed. A button can be obtained by signing up to volunteer or by making a donation of any size. We encourage individual family members to make their own donations. Any and all donations are welcome—the size doesn't matter. We believe that when everyone has had the opportunity to participate we will have raised the amount of money God intends us to raise.



A PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

One of the challenges of our life together is that there are moments when we cannot see the big picture of God's realm. Our feelings get hurt, our hearts are broken, we plunge into the depths of grief. Some of these events enable us to deepen our faith and to grow in understanding of God's word. But it is undeniably true that there are times when we need to endure pain as a part of our lives.

With tears and broken hearts we have come to the place of one kind of good bye for our choir director, Karen Ross. Her tenure in our midst was too short. Her diagnosis was too devastating. Her death was too soon.

Her passing has, however, demonstrated some of the incredible strength and compassion of our congregation. Meals have been delivered. Choir anthems have been rehearsed and presented in worship. Care has been extended to Michael.

As we walk this journey of grief together, our memories will become our friends. Be sure to tell the stories and share the good news as we move forward in faith.



Boards and Departments

Woodchuck Society News

Workers have been busy sawing and splitting wood in preparation for deliveries next fall. We have been working at the church lot on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 - noon, and have picked up wood from other locations as we have time. The weather has been lovely most days, and we'll keep up the pace to get as much done as possible before the summer heat takes over.

As hosts of the South Dakota UCC Conference, we are offering visitors and delegates a chance to Work Out With the Woodchucks! There is an afternoon session planned on Saturday, June 7 so on that day we will change our usual schedule and split in the afternoon.

Work days other than June 7 will continue at the usual times: Tuesdays and Saturdays 9 - noon. We welcome anyone who would like to help. No special skill is needed, just enthusiasm and a sense of humor. Our ranks have dwindled a bit and even an hour or two of your time will help us get the job done.

Department of Ministries

Each meal costs our department over \$250. Purchasing food coupons helps us assist with this

cost. Our coupon sales have declined in the last year. This is a reminder to please purchase food coupons after worship in fellowship hall. You can use them at Family Thrift, Safeway, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. The coupons are like money and your sales benefit our Rapid City local ministry.

Thank you to our cookie bakers, food preparers and servers that helped our Mission Meal on May 30. We served over 100 members of the Cornerstone Mission and they loved our ham, cheese and macaroni hot casserole!

Robin Franson, Co Chair, Dept. of Ministries

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

by Gerry Boehrs

News and Events

Summer remains a very busy time in the life of our congregation. Plan now to participate in these exciting events!



“Why do we do that?”

a discussion of Worship

Those who worship regularly with our congregation know that we serve communion in different ways on different Sundays. Often we serve and receive communion in the pews with small pieces of bread and individual cups. At other times, we come forward, take a piece of bread from a common loaf and dip it in the cup. Our church recognizes that there are many different ways of serving communion and the Department of Worship seeks to provide a variety of communion experiences for church members and friends.

One thing that you can count on—no matter how communion is served—**EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** Some congregations serve only members. Others serve only those who have undergone particular instruction or orientation. We practice open communion. That means that anyone who wishes to participate is welcomed. There are no barriers at Christ’s table and our services are designed to be inclusive of all who come to worship with us.

Bell Choir News



Library Book Reviews by Eleanore Moe

Costa Rica Brunch - Sunday, June 8

day, June 8

Sun-



MONTHLY BUDGET UPDATE

The Department of Stewardship and Budget had a bit of a surprise when they reviewed the April budget numbers. Income from pledges was substantially down from the amount pledged. Our pledges account for \$18,164 per month of our income, but in April we received only \$15,160.93. That \$3,000 makes a big difference. In April, we spent \$566.20 more than we received in income. We are still in the black for the year, but it raised concern to see that April pledge income had fallen. It isn't uncommon for pledge income to fall during the summer, so the Department is urging members to review their pledges and work to get them up to date as we enter the summer months.

Overall budget performance is very good, with total expenses running at about 88% of the amount budgeted and income running ahead of the amount projected in non-pledge donations.

The Department of Stewardship and Budget is committed to keeping the congregation informed of our church's financial situation. For more information ask any Department member.



Rummage Sale

August 22 and 23

day August 22, 8am-3pm

aturday August 23, 8am-noon.

Fri-
Sat-

August 1



We offer thanks and congratulations as the school year ends.



Bowl for Kids' Sake

United Church Youth bowled on May 9 in the Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraiser Bowl for Kids' Sake. The youth raised \$1,465 for Big Brothers Big Sisters and earned the prize for being the best youth group fundraisers in the community! This prize comes with an awesome purple bowling pin trophy and a party at Flags and Wheels. The party will be held in September to celebrate our fundraising success and to kick off the start of another great youth group year. The Flags and Wheels party is a motivation for fundraising, but along the way, the youth also learn about the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters and what it means to raise money for others. This is the thirteenth year that United Church Youth has participated in Bowl for Kids' Sake. The first year, youth raised \$619.90. With this year's successful fundraising efforts, the youth have raised a grand total of \$15,131.90. Way to go, UCY!

Congratulations, Grads!

Congratulations to **Leah Skovran Georges** who graduated May 9 with her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She will work as an Assistant Professor in Creighton University's Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Leadership. Leah is the daughter of Sue and Marty Skovran.

Layne Martin graduated from Central High School on Sunday, May 25. We celebrated Layne's graduation and received her into full membership at First Congregational Church. Layne is the daughter of Lindsey and Jay Martin and the granddaughter of Bob and Bertie Roberts. **Laura Bareis**, daughter of Steve and Eva Bareis, and **Casey Roskam**, son of Cat and Steve Roskam graduated from Rapid City Stevens High School on May 25. Congratulations to all!

Thank You Teachers

Deepest thanks go to our Sunday School teachers and leaders for 2013 - 2014. We honored this year's teachers with a plant, a small token of appreciation for a large gift of time. Thanks to:

Pandi Bollock, preschool
 Sharon Darrow, gr. 1-3
 Jenny Seals, gr. 4-5
 Lynn Grauman, gr. 6-8
 Holly Perli, gr. 6-8
 Laura Switzer, gr. 6-8
 Leslie Brookes, music
 Sue Maynard, substitute
 Willy Grigg, music sub

Nick Strampe, UCY

Ryan Webster, UCY

When you see these dedicated leaders around church, take a minute to say thanks for their commitment to help our young people learn and grow in faith.

Placerville Camps

Summer is here! It's time to register for summer camp at Placerville. Check out the Placerville schedule at placervillecamp.net. Remember, First Congregational Church pays half of the registration fee for all church members—children, youth and adults, too. Kathleen Batchelder will be the chaplain at Women's Camp. Ask her about the plans when women gather for relaxation, fellowship and worship. Hadlee Kronmiller will be a counselor for the primary kids that week. Rest assured, it will be fun! Becky Fleming is the dean for Grand Camp. Grandparents, recruit your grandchildren to spend time with you in the Hills. Or grandchildren, invite your grandparents to come and visit and go to Grand Camp with you. There are also camps for middle schoolers and high schoolers and a music/arts/dance/drama camp for grades 4-9. Take a look at the camp schedule and register for summer learning and fun at Placerville. For more information, please contact Susan Huffman or Becky Fleming.



July 14-18, 2014

Theme: Stories of Moses

Don't miss these dramatic stories:

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Translation:
Don't miss Vacation Bible School this year! And bring your friends, too!

MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

SD Conference Attendees from our church, be sure to vote for our “Bat House” entry pictured below and built by Scott Schuft.



PLACERVILLE BAT HOUSE

Thanks to **Scott Schuft**, our church now has an awesome contender for the “Best Bat House”. This project is in support of our Placerville Camp’s capital campaign kick-off.

For those of you attending to the SD Conference, you will have the opportunity to vote for our Bat House. The winning bat house will win a free weekend retreat at camp at Placerville for their church.

Remember to bring some extra cash, so we can buy tickets to vote on our architecturally correct and home to many future bats at Placerville. Plus, support a great cause at the same time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following members and friends have **June/July** Birthdays:

June 1: Bryce Smith
Evelyn Bradshaw

June 2: Michael Bartling

June 5: Patsy Parkin-Valandra
Julie LaCroix

June 7: Bill Dittmer

June 8: Pandi Bollock

June 9: Mike Crutcher

June 10: Jeff VanCuren
Elle Emerson

June 11: Bette Gellhaus
Lorita Deurmier

June 12: Pat Lebrun
Vera Mettler

June 15: Shirley Baumgartner
Willis Sutliff

Ted Huffman
June 16: Ed McLaughlin
Ben Anderson

June 20: Becky Fleming

June 21: Joan Dyrdahl
June 23: Jerry Snyder
Joyce Tripp

June 25: Kathleen Batchelder

June 27: Ward Cheney
Lee Putnam

June 28: Doris Marie Strom

June 30: Taylor Anne Thompson

July 1: Lavona Jonas
Marty Skovran

July 2: Brad Ensz

July 3: Jan Gustin
Susan Skovran
Hailey Wathen

July 4: Gene Lebrun
Michael Batchelder
Cayden Heinert
Daniel Lyons

July 5: Ted McBride

Casey Roskam

July 6: Neil Emerson

July 8: Chuck Rounds

July 10: Elena Van Pelt

July 13: Ted Erlewine

Marilyn Sprang Fransen

July 14: Karen Erlewine

July 15: Maralee Dennis

Dona Leavens

July 16: Michael Bossen

July 18: Sydney Wathen

July 21: Amanda Nielsen

July 24: Ed Dull

July 26: Michael Ross

July 29: Vi Pietz

John Nickel

George Bradstream

Shay Osmera

July 30: Jim Cooper

Molly Webster

July 31: Lorraine Slocum

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of **Karen Ross**. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, June 2 at our church.

Please hold in your thoughts and prayers **Maralee Dennis**, whose sister **Alta Thompson**, passed away in Billings, MT.

Our sympathy goes out the family of **Les Snyder** following his death.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of **Tom and Jeanne Berry** following death of Tom’s daughter, **Melissa Klein**.

IN OUR PRAYERS continued

At Canistota, SD: Bill Dittmer

At Bridgewater, SD: Marge Raabe

At Echo Ridge: Ed Dull,

At Golden Living Centers,

Bella Vista: Stan Halla, Kay Wolff

Black Hills: John Arneson

At Westhills South: Shirley Triggs

At Fountain Springs:

Orville Zimmerman

In Military Service: Kyle Kloeckl (Ed and Ginny Ensz's grandson), Melanie Moore, and all those serving our country.

Other Church Members at home are in our thoughts and prayers, including: Ida Muree St. Pierre, Ward Cheney, Marvin Bitterman, Harry Putnam, Marjorie Sagen, Bill Dittmer, Roberta Gallentine and Barney Nichols.

Family and friends of our church members include: Mike Lebrun, son of Pat & Gene Lebrun; John Meyers, son of Dorothy Davis; Cheryl Wathen, mother of Gwyn Wathen; Kathryn Kuhn; Steve Chapin; Sherre Christensen; Dan Williams, son-in-law of Ted and Mary Linda McBride; the mother of Ron Lawson,

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you very much for the sympathy and concern and above all for the prayers from the congregation when my mother died. *Nora Wosepka*

Alta and the entire Wade Family would like to say thank you for all your kindness, generosity and support we have received during this difficult time. We truly felt God's loving arms around us because of each of you.

Thank you Arjun and Aparna Ay-yangar for the wonderful Congo Initiative Benefit Concert and to those who attended. Because of your generosity, \$1,130 will be donated to this OGHS mission.

Women's Fellowship - Thank you so much for your kind gift to Placerville Camp! Thank you for your support of our Outdoor Ministry and for using our facility too. *Blessings, Kerry*

Thanks to all who helped clean the sanctuary and prepare our church for the SD Conference Annual Meeting. You are wonderful, appreciated and loved!

Thanks to Marilyn Fransen who served as the substitute choir director from Easter to the end of the choir season. Your help was very much appreciated by all.

CONGRATULATIONS

Blessings to **Wyatt Martin** on his baptism. His sister, **Layne Martin** renewed her baptismal vows and joined the church. Parents are **Lindsey and Jay Martin**, grandparents are **Bob and Bertie Roberts**.

Summer Nursery Care

The summer months provide an opportunity for families to worship together. Children's bulletins and activity sheets will be provided each week, but there are no Sunday School classes during the summer months. Nursery care is available for pre-schoolers, age 0-5. However, to maintain a safe nursery environment for our young children, we ask that older kids do not congregate in the nursery.

CHURCH EVENTS

Westhills Bible & Book Study, Spiritual Practices, Congregational Connections, Crafters and Stained Glass groups will continue through out the summer!



WOMEN'S RETREAT PEACEFUL PATHS

Save the dates!! Plan now to attend our UCC fall women's retreat at **Placerville Camp** on **Friday and Saturday, October 24-25**. Our theme is "Peaceful Paths," and we will have activities, programs, crafts, hikes, free time - something for ladies of all ages. For more information, contact Lynn Grauman or Kathleen Batchelder.

CHURCH CHAT

After our summer break, the Church Chat group will discuss The Social Animal: [The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement](#) by David Brooks. Kathleen will order paperback copies for \$9.25. Please let her know if you would like to order a copy. For more information about Church Chat, contact Bonnie Edwards, Barb Knight, or Georgia O'Connor.

WESTHILLS BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

If you are looking for a good Bible and book study group, join the Westhills Bible and Book Study Group. We meet **1:30-3:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month** in the Aspen Room at Westhills Village. We are just beginning our study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans and Jone's book [The Church's Seven Deadly Secrets: Identity Theft from Within](#). For more information, contact Kathleen Batchelder at 342-5787.

4th TUESDAY LADIES LUNCH

Mark your calendars now for the 4th Tuesday Ladies Lunch Group on **September 23**. We are on summer break, but it will be great to see good friends to share lunch and conversation at 11:30 a.m. at Minerva's. For more information, contact Maureen Dymock or Kathleen Batchelder.

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Our congregations fortunate to have the Congregational Connections team, fourteen faithful members who write, call, and visit our members who are unable to attend worship. As a

church community, we yearn to stay in touch with each other so we can share the joys, the sorrows, and the challenges of life. When you would like a visit or when you know someone who would like a visit, please contact the church office of Kathleen Batchelder (342-5787). Our connections can be maintained and strengthened by the attention and help of each member of First Congregational UCC. Thank you!!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE GROUP

As we seek to deepen our faith through spiritual practice, we gather **1:15-2:15 p.m. each Tuesday** in the church library. We practice the disciplines of prayer and Bible study (using *Lectio Divina* as our structure), and we explore spiritual writers through the centuries. For more information, contact Kathleen Batchelder at 342-5787.

CRAFTERS

Crafters will continue to meet **every Tuesday at 1 p.m.** throughout the summer, unless otherwise noted. Come and see what fun you can have creating cards, quilts and more. All proceeds go to out reach programs. Contact Carol Boyles (348-5697) or Sue Maynard (798-2140).

STAINED GLASS PROJECT

Learn how to make beautiful stained glass art every Friday, 1- 4 p.m. Broken glass from our church is being "rescued" to create stained glass pieces. For more information, contact Dave Ledford (341-68090). All proceeds to the Capital Improvement Fund.

June

July

Sun Jun 1, 2014

9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship
10:45am - Dept. of Education

Mon Jun 2, 2014

11am - Karen Ross Memorial

Tue Jun 3, 2014

1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices

Wed Jun 4, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study

Thu Jun 5, 2014

9am - SD Conference Setup
3pm - Deacon Meeting

Fri Jun 6, 2014

SD Conference Annual Meeting

Sat Jun 7, 2014

SD Conference Annual Meeting

Sun Jun 8, 2014

SD Conference Annual Meeting
9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship
11am - Costa Rica Brunch

Mon Jun 9, 2014

Office Closed
1:30pm - Westhills Bible & Book Study

Tue Jun 10, 2014

9am - Habitat Work Day
1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices
6:30pm - Dept. of Hospitality

Wed Jun 11, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study

Fri Jun 13, 2014

Dakota Assoc. Meeting
1pm - Stained Glass
1pm - BH Watercolor Group

Sat Jun 14, 2014

Dakota Assoc. Meeting

Sun Jun 15, 2014

Fathers' Day
8:30am - Dept. of Ministries
9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship
3:30pm - Jail Ministry

Tue Jun 17, 2014

1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices

Wed Jun 18, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study
6pm - Dept. of Stewardship & Budget

Fri Jun 20, 2014

1pm - Stained Glass
1pm - BH Watercolor Group

Sun Jun 22, 2014

9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship

Tue Jun 24, 2014

1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices

Wed Jun 25, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study

Fri Jun 27, 2014

1pm - Stained Glass
1pm - BH Watercolor Group

Sat Jun 28, 2014

9am - Habitat Work Day
10am - Front Porch

Sun Jun 29, 2014

9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship

Tue Jul 1, 2014

1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices

Wed Jul 2, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study

Fri Jul 4, 2014

Independence Day

Sat Jul 5, 2014

Medfield, MA - Overnight Group

Sun Jul 6, 2014

9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship

Tue Jul 8, 2014

1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices

Wed Jul 9, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study

Fri Jul 11, 2014

Rochester, MN - Overnight Group
1pm - Rescue Stained Glass
1pm - BH Watercolor Group

Sun Jul 13, 2014

9:30am - Worship
8:30am - Dept. of Ministries

10:30am - Fellowship

Mon Jul 14, 2014

1:30pm - Westhills Bible and Book Study
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

Tue Jul 15, 2014

9am - Habitat Host Day
1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

Wed Jul 16, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

6pm - Dept. of Stewardship & Budget

Thu Jul 17, 2014

5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

Fri Jul 18, 2014

1pm - Stained Glass
1pm - BH Watercolor Group
5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

Sun Jul 20, 2014

9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship
10:45am - Dept. of Ed
3:30pm - Jail Ministry

Tue Jul 22, 2014

9am - Habitat Work Day
1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices

Wed Jul 23, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study

Fri Jul 25, 2014

1pm - Rescue Stained Glass
1pm - BH Watercolor Group

Sat Jul 26, 2014

10am - Front Porch
Sun Jul 27, 2014

9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship

Tue Jul 29, 2014

1pm - Craft Day
1:15pm - Spiritual Practices

Wed Jul 30, 2014

5:30pm - RC Area Firefighters Bible Study

Fri Aug 1, 2014

1pm - Stained Glass
1pm - Watercolor Group

Sun Aug 3, 2014

9:30am - Worship
10:30am - Fellowship



1st Congregational
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STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

