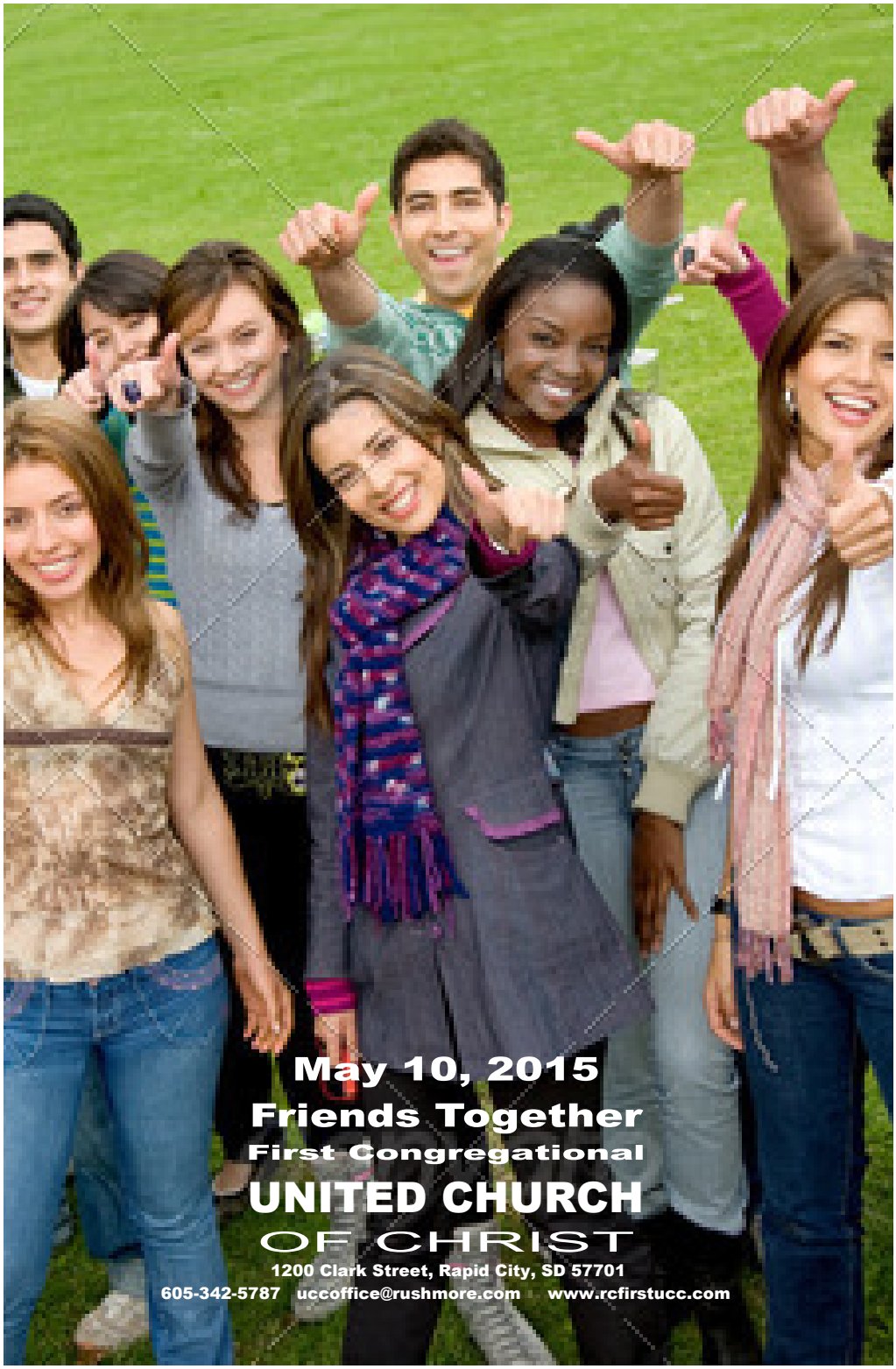

May 10, 2015
Friends Together
First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
1200 Clark Street, Rapid City, SD 57701
605-342-5787 uccoffice@rushmore.com www.rcfirstucc.com

Friends Together

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2015

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

✞ Invites worshipers to stand in spirit or body as they are able.

NCH - Indicates the New Century Hymnal

Welcome and Greetings

One: Today is a day to celebrate mothers and motherhood and to offer our gratitude to God for all of the different mothers of our world.

All: No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Organ Prelude *Air* W. A. Mozart

Call to Worship

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

All: Let our joy be complete!

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

All: Love one another!

One: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in a new song:

All: No longer servants but friends!

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

All: Rejoicing in the friendship of God.

Introit *Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling* Schmolk and Neander

Invocation

All: O beloved God, all the ends of the earth marvel at your deeds of power. We feel your presence as growth returning to the countryside. We rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love revealed in the risen Christ. Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love. Fill us with generosity and courage so that we may be called your friends and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

✞**Procession:** *O God, Whose Steadfast Love* **NCH 426**

✞Passing the Peace

The Celebration of Baptism:

Response:

All: **We, who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise our love, support and care to the one about to be baptized as she lives and grows in Christ.**

The Gospel: John 15:9-17 **Pew Bible, NT, p. 104**

A Time of Sharing with our Children *Rev. Susan Huffman*

Anthem *With a Voice of Singing* M. Shaw

Meditation: Friends Together *Rev. Ted Huffman*

Hymn: *A Mother Lined a Basket* Keithahn

The hymn is printed on the next page ⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨⇨

Prayers of the People

Church Concerns:

Strengthen the Church *Barb Knight*

Quiet Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior (We use "debts" and "debtors.")

Response *Hear Our Prayer, O God* Whelpton

Offerings:

Invitation

Offertory *Aria di Chiesa*

✞Doxology **NCH 780**

✞Prayer of Dedication

✞Recessional: *I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty* **NCH 50**

✞Benediction

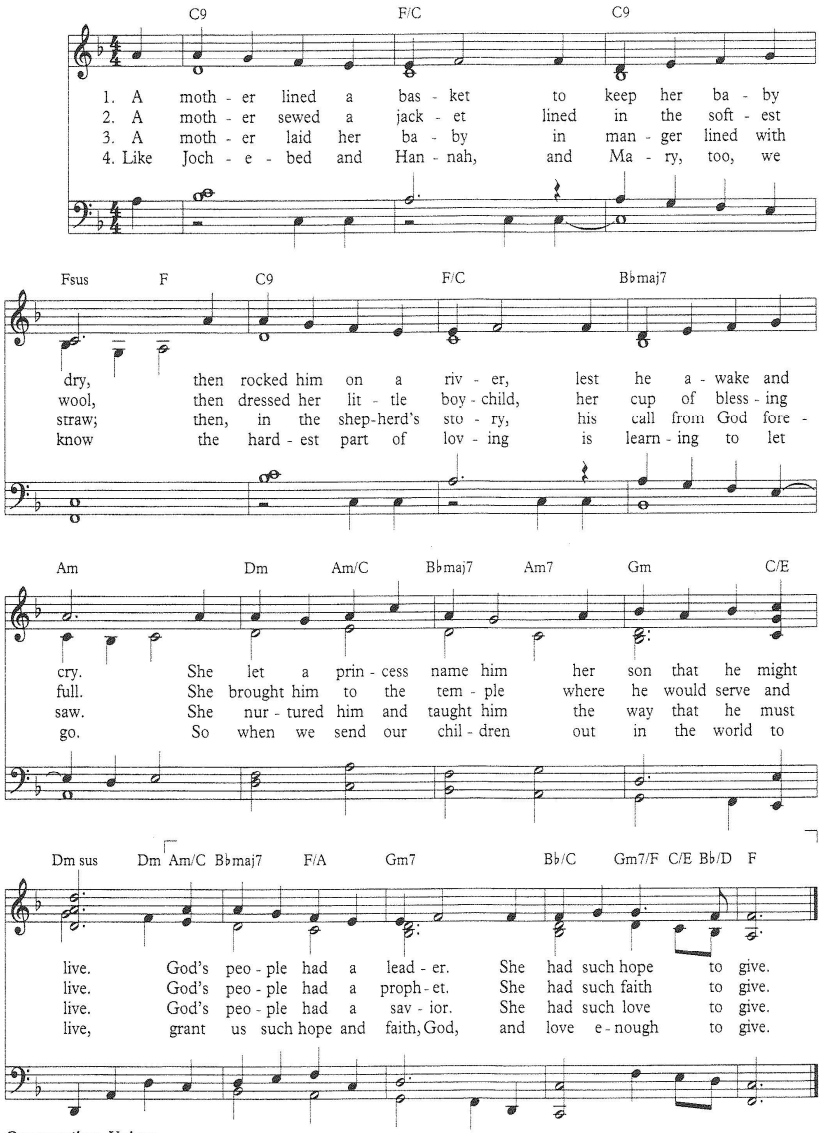
✞Response *Benediction* Karen Ross

Postlude *Finale-Sixth Symphony* C. M. Widor

Worshipers are invited to be seated for the postlude.

✞ Invites worshipers to stand in spirit or body as they are able.

2189 A Mother Lined a Basket



Congregation: Unison

WORDS: Mary Nelson Keithahn (Exod. 2:1-10; 6:20; 1 Sam. 1; Luke 2)
MUSIC: John D. Horman

WEST MAIN
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This Week's Events

Sunday, May 10--Mother's Day
8:30am: Adult Choir Practice
9:30am: Worship; Sunday School
10:30am: Muffins for Moms; Meet and Greet Choir Director
3:30pm: The Well Service

Tuesday, May 12
1:00pm: Craft Day
1:15pm: Spiritual Practices

Wednesday, May 13
6:00pm: Bell Choir Practice
7:00pm: Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, May 14
10:00am: Altar Guild Meeting
4:30pm: Dept. of Worship

Friday, May 15
1:00pm: BH Watercolor Group
1:00pm: Stained Glass Project
3:00pm: Piano Recital

Saturday, May 16
9:00am: Woodchuck Splitting

Sunday, May 17
8:00am: Bell Choir Practice
8:30am: Adult Choir Practice
8:30am: Dept. of Ministries
9:30am: Worship; Teacher Recognition; Sunday School Play Day
10:30am: Potluck and Fellowship
3:30pm: Jail Ministry
3:30pm: The Well Service

News and Events

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the Communion Table are given by **Marilyn Sprang Fransen,** in memory of her sister, **Carol Sprang Willey.** *"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*
I Corinthians 13:13

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please hold the following in your prayers as they battle cancer: **Jill Kundtz's** sister-in-law, **Mindy; Carol Boyles'** brother**, Terry Hammon; Sheila Long's** mother, **Debbie Torrey;** and **Laura Boyd's** brother**, John Winder.**
Our prayers are with the following members, families and friends: **Marvin Bitterman; Bill Dittmer; Mavis Iverson; Ida Muree St. Pierre; Carol Boyles'** brother, **Rex Hammon; Robin Franson's** sister, **Jo Mayber; Jane Seaton's** daughter, **Gail Johnson;** and **Gwyn Wathen's** mother**, Cheryl.**

BIRTHDAYS

May 10: Gerald Koch, Georgia O'Connor, Wyatt Trana
May 11: Sharon Darrow, Lily Hamann
May 12: Linnea Putnam
May 13: Mimi Comley, Lois Herndon
May 15: Lisa Lyons
May 16: Merrick Fisher

MUFFINS FOR MOMS

The Department of Hospitality invites everyone to come to the "*Muffins for Moms"* celebration **today.** Join us following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

News and Events

BAPTISM

Baptized this morning is **Olivia Lynn Diedtrich,** daughter of **Jenny and Jacob Diedtrich.** Olivia was born January 9, 2015. Today is her cousin **Wyatt Trana's** 2nd birthday.

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

Thank you for supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake. The youth will accept donations for one more week. If you would like to make a donation, please see **Susan Huffman.**

LOVE INC - CLOTHE-A-KID

Love INC's Clothe-a-Kid program helps parents make their dollars stretch so that their children, ages 5-14, can have new clothes for school next fall. Please sign-up following worship **today**.

LIBRARY NEWS

Receiving book awards today are **Elsa Grauman, Elyse Seals,** and **Carter Seals.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Come thank our Sunday School teachers and celebrate the end of the Sunday School year at the potluck next **Sunday, May 17** following worship. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Carol and Lee Boyles** on the birth of their new granddaughter, **Parker Nancy Boyles.**

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,
Thank you all so very much for the healing prayers and get well wishes. Thank you, too, for offering Clair good wishes when caring for an impatient patient. Thanks to you I am healing and ready to get back to "normal." It is wonderful to have so many caring people surrounding us.

Clair and Sue Maynard

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Three music scholarships are now available. Further details and application forms can be found online at www.rcfirstucc.com or at the church office. Applications must be received in the church office by **May 31, 2015.**

PLACERVILLE CAMPS

Summer will be here before we know it, so it's time to register for summer camp! Remember, First Congregational Church pays half of camp fees. Information is posted on the church bulletin board.
Find further details and register at placervillecamp.net.

4TH TUES. LADIES LUNCH

Please note, correction from the May Call: Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the 4th Tuesday Ladies Lunch group will **not** meet in May. Also, the group will not meet during the summer. Their next gathering will be on the fourth Tuesday in September. Thank you!

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2015
John 15: 9-17

Friends Together

When the International Gay Games came to Cleveland, Ohio, last August, athletes weren't the only ones gathering in support of full inclusion for the LGBTQ community. Six denominational leaders from various faith communities hosted the Queer Christians symposium at the Amistad Chapel in the United Church of Christ's national headquarters in Cleveland. The purpose of the symposium, according to moderator R.W. "Obie" Holman, was to "shout it from the rooftops, [that] we want [LGBT people] to know there are places that welcome them."

Holman, author of *Queer Clergy: A History of Gay and Lesbian Ministry in American Protestantism*, is considered an expert on the LGBT movement in Christianity. Two of the six panelists represented the UCC: Rev. J. Bennett Guess, a UCC national officer, and Andy Lang, executive director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC.

As long ago as 1969, there were those in the UCC who were professing that including LGBT people in the life of the church was overdue. "It was the church, albeit a small sliver of the church, that had foresight to proclaim the meaning of our existence together," Guess said. Not all of the symposium participants are members of denominations that fully support inclusion of the LGBT community. Kenneth W. Chalker, pastor of University Circle United Methodist Church (UMC) in Cleveland, talked about the United Methodists' reluctance to get on board.

"The UMC will not put in any money [to] increase the educational understanding of human sexuality that would lead to a different perspective," he said. "There are many clergy, myself included, who are in open rebellion about the denominational polity." His voice, and the voices of other UMC members, are raising important questions and challenging current church policies on the LGBT community. Holman added: "There are more than just one or two denominations welcoming LGBT people. I think this forum shows the richness of that journey and the wonderful nature of how it intersects."

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Thanks to:

Our Church Family and Friends
Cam Miller, guestbook and nametags
Sheila, Brent, Ryan, and Kevin Long, greeters
Usher Team 2
Hailey and Macey Wathen, acolytes
Pat Lebrun, liturgist
The Adult Choir, Stephen Branch, director
The Dept. of Hospitality, coffee hosts
Becky and Randy Fisher, dishwashers

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Ted E. Huffman
Pastor and Teacher
Rev. Susan R. Huffman
Pastor and Teacher
Rev. Kathleen Batchelder
Pastor and Teacher
Denise Webster
Treasurer
Julie Burton & Laura Switzer
Administrative Colleagues
Michael Bossen
Bell Choir Director

Michael Ross
Organist
Becky Umenthum
Interim Adult Choir Director
Gerry Boehrs
Moderator
Rev. Dr. Henry Bradshaw
Pastor Emeritus
Lynnell Parrott
Organist Emerita
Jack Humke,
Doris Marie Strom
Choir Directors Emeriti

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