

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

June-July
2023

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1200 Clark Street
Rapid City South Dakota 57701
605-342-5787 office@rcfirstucc.com www.rcfirstucc.com

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

Wandering Wonderings ...musings from Pastor Erin

"...not all who wander are lost" ~J.R.R. Tolkien

"Think and wonder, wonder and think." ~Dr. Seuss

Shifting Perspective

I recently have been thinking about what causes our perspectives to shift over time, and how we might gain a shift in perspective when we are feeling 'stuck in a rut' or in a particularly repetitive way of viewing our reality. I've heard it said that if you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change. Put another way, whatever you focus on—grows. And truth be told, our perspective can either become a prison...or a passport, if you will.

Foundational to our well-being is the recognition that our cognitive perceptions are not fixed, solid truths but are in fact viewed through an interpretive lens. We may not be able to always choose our split second, initial reactions and emotions, but when we practice bringing greater mindful awareness to those initial reactions, there is a space in which we have greater choice about how we proceed, what we tell ourselves going forward, and ultimately where we focus our attention.

"There once was a monk who would carry a mirror wherever he went. A priest noticed this, and thought, 'He must be so preoccupied with the way he looks that he has to carry that mirror all the time, he should not worry about the way he looks on the outside, it's what's on the inside that counts.' So he went up to the monk and asked, 'Why do you always carry that mirror?' Thinking for sure this would prove his guilt. The monk pulled out the mirror and pointed it at the priest and said, 'I use it in times of trouble, I look into it, and it shows me the source of problems, as well as the solution to my problems.'"

C.S. Lewis once said, "What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing. It also depends on what sort of person you are." May we be the sort of persons who LOVE BIG, with Spirit's help!

I wish you health and peace and healing. **CALLING ALL DREAMERS!**

I wish you freedom and joy.

I wish you grace and beauty and hope.

I wish you kindness and ease.

I wish you love and warm embrace.

Prayers and light,

What do we here at First Congregational UCC want our church to be known for? What dreams do we dare to dream together? How might we grow further into becoming a place and a space where healing, hope, authenticity, acceptance, light and life thrive?

How are we blessed...to BE a blessing?!

Perhaps these weeks following Pentecost Sunday are a wonderful opportunity for me to invite all of us to dream in the Spirit— please feel free to share anything that's been stirring inside you. Please call, text, email or stop by the office this summer to share the dreams you have for our community with me! With Spirit's help, the variety of dreams will begin to fashion themselves into a shared vision and the power, hope and creativity of the Spirit's work will be felt more widely.



Pastor Erin

BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

Message From Your Moderator by Chuck Rounds

The board meeting on May 16th was shorter than most. We did have a quorum present but many were absent so some items to discuss were postponed to a later meeting. The church is in sound condition financially with income steady and expenditures less than projected. We have had a couple of responses to our advertisements for a Christian Education Coordinator and will act on that in the coming months. The board will be meeting in June on our regular meeting schedule.

During the Summer months churches nationwide see attendance fall to only 60% - 80% of the normal Sunday attendance. We are hoping our attendance will stay at a higher level. Summer family vacations and no Sunday school will undoubtedly affect our numbers. If you are in town, an extra effort to attend in person will be appreciated. If the numbers are low, we'll know who's missing in church - U R!!

Stewardship and Budget by Harlan Stephens

The financial condition of the church continues to be sound thanks to your faithful giving. There have been and will be more, additional unplanned building maintenance expenses. The committee remains diligent regarding the finances of the church.

Department of Ministries by Sheila Long

Our Church Response grocery cart item for the summer is canned fruit, but of course we will take anything and everything, just place it in the grocery cart. We will continue to sell grocery cards the first Sunday of each month, except for July, we will sell on July 9th, as the first Sunday is a the July 4th weekend.



Also, the collection of toiletry items for The Hope Center will continue.

The next **Cornerstone Rescue Mission meal is Friday, June 30, 2023.** We would love cookie donations and help to prepare the meal. If you can help, the chefs will be at the church at **3:30pm on June 30th.**

People from the ONA group participated in the Color 5K Run/Walk that was sponsored by the BH Center for Equality on May 21 st . There are now rainbow pens in the friendship pads in the pews and rainbow hymnal markers will be seen soon. The next event is the PRIDE event on July 8, 2023. Watch for more information.

Thank you all for your continued support of our church ministries.

ONA Committee

by Susan Kelts

The ONA Committee met on May 11. These are items that we have completed or are currently in progress.

- We have purchased some rainbow pens. The design includes a fish and rainbow colors. One has been placed at the Guest Book, and one in each of the fellowship pads in the pews.
- The committee is in discussion about a possible ALL ARE WELCOME banner which would be displayed at the church entrance. This will have to be approved by the Board and would be done in collaboration with Buildings and Grounds.
- The new family bathroom sign was approved at the last Board meeting and has been ordered.
- Members of the committee have been making new hymnal markers with rainbow colored ribbons.
- We will have a booth at the Pride event on July 8 at Memorial Park.

We, as a committee, will continue our efforts for our church to be a place where everyone is welcome!



Women's Fellowship August Rummage Sale

It's hard to believe, but in just a few months we will be in the final days of set up for the August rummage sale! Sale dates are **Friday, August 18 and Saturday, August 19**, so start sorting your donations and clearing your calendar so you can be part of the **Biggest Sale in Town**.

A reminder that **NO** sale items are to be stored in the church this summer. If you have no way to get things to the church, our dedicated WF Auxiliary members will pick up items the week of the sale. Please sort and toss things that are not worthy of this sale, and mark any items that may be hard to identify.

Later this summer we will be asking for volunteers to help with the setup and organization as well as the sale take down on Saturday, August 19. **Dates and times for set up and daily work start after worship on Sunday, August 13.** This effort is absolutely amazing to witness and usually involves multiple generations of some of our church families. **Work continues with daily sorting and arranging Monday - Wednesday from 9:00am - 3:00pm each day.** We ask that **ALL sale items be at the church prior to 3:00pm on Wednesday**, because Thursday is dedicated to pricing.

Everything must be finished up on Thursday; **sale doors open Friday morning at 8:00pm.**

There is **no** bake sale at the August sale.

This is usually one of the biggest events in the life of the church and it takes a huge team to make it a reality. Thanks to the loyal workers of years past, and welcome to any new workers willing to give it a try.



Placerville Camp 2023

Women's Camp	June 4-8
Shining Stars	June 4-8
Family Getaway	June 8-11
Seekers	June 11-16
Faith Explorers	June 18-23
Grand Camp	June 23-25
Crossroads	June 25- July 1
Family Camp	July 23-29
Fall Youth Event	November 3-5

For more information or to sign up online go to:
placervillecamp.net/camps

We recently received information that if anyone is interested in going to any of the Camps, but hasn't signed up yet, due to cost, there is some monetary help available from Placerville Camp. See Patti in the office for more information.

Grand Camp by Sybil Rounds

If you love spending time with your grandkids away from it all, check out Grand Camp information on the Placerville Camp and Retreat Center website (placervillecamp.net). This camp is for grandparents and grandkids (or other age appropriate children who might not be relatives!) Parents, this is a great way to snag a child-free weekend for yourselves!

Camp starts Friday, June 23 and closes before noon on Sunday, June 25. Online reservation information is on the website as well as a form to print and return to camp via regular mail if you prefer.

I had the good fortune to participate with grandson Kelton at the first Grand Camp when he was 4, and we continued to attend until he "aged" out. I guess there is no aging out for grandparents, so I continue to attend as the crafty grandma and consider all of the kids as family.

If you have questions, please speak with Camp Dean **Becky Fleming** (phone number is in the church directory). I hope to see some of you at Placerville in June.

****Grand Camp** registration forms are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. They may be mailed to Placerville Camp c/o Kerry Steever, 13801 W Hwy 44, Rapid City SD or turned into the church office.

Registration may also be done online. The Dept. of Ed. will help with the cost of this camp if needed.

By Patti Arneson

Yippee for summertime! The year has flown by, and we have grown in the numbers of children who actively participate in our youth programs. If you look at the "Cradle Roll" wooden plaque in the hallway by the Family Bathroom, you will see twenty pictures of beautiful children who are a joyful part of our Sunday School activities. Some of these youngsters went through Confirmation and are now members of our congregation as well. It has been a true pleasure to be able to share time with each and every one of them this year. A heartfelt dose of thanks to all the folks who have stepped up and helped prepare and deliver messages each Sunday for Sunday School. Another round of applause for the patient and amazing volunteers who have helped in the nursery.

These folks include: **Sharon Darrow, Dawn Erk, Becky Fisher, Jane Glover, Lynn Grauman, Jenny Kozel, Lisa Lyons, Sue Maynard, Reva Ortega, Nick and Courtney Strampe and Laura Switzer.** An abundance of KUDOS to **Pastor Erin Erickson**, who exudes energy, enthusiasm and supports us in all ways.

Another thanks to Deb Tompkins, "cake maker extraordinaire," for providing an exceptionally yummy cake for the high school graduates who we honored on May 21st.

We are actively seeking a new Christian Ed. Coordinator and have had some interest. There is a job description in the office, should anyone know of a person who would be interested in this 24-hour-a-week position, who loves children and youth, and would be instrumental in sharing in the life of our UCC family. We hope to hire someone before VBS.



Speaking of VBS...VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, *The History and Mystery in the Life and Times of Jesus* is our theme. Plan to enjoy exploring the history of Jesus' day, foods, games and crafts of that time period as well as stories of Jesus' life. It will be a fun 3 days, on **August 1-3, 2023**, from **5:30-8:00pm**. Supper will be served each evening. A registration form for VBS can be found on the last page of this newsletter. There also will be registration forms in the bulletins in July and extra forms in the office or on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please fill these out and get them to the office so we have a head count for food, crafts, etc.



Deb Tompkins



End-of-the-year Sunday School party

Retirement Reception

Deb Tompkins is retiring after 35 years at SD Mines



Westhills Communion

Pastor Erin is serving Communion in the **Aspen Room at Westhills Village** on the **first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am**. The next Communion service will be on **Wednesday, June 7**. All are welcome to join.



Birth

Stephanie (Nielsen) Medeck, daughter of **Scott and Peggy Nielsen** delivered baby, **Amelia Eloise**, on May 22. Both mother and baby are doing well. Scott and Peggy wish to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

Directory Update

Mary Linda McBride

255 Texas St #320

Rapid City SD 57701

Women's Retreat

A Women's Retreat, *Coming Back to Center*, was held on **Saturday, May 13** for a day of connection, co-creation and re-centering. The retreat included women's circles. These circles are a safe and sacred space for women to come together and tune into the wisdom of self, 'other' and Spirit...to use our voices to be heard and be seen.



Craft creating circle!



MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer Concerns

John Bossen, son of **Jack Bossen** and the late **Betty Bossen**, passed away on May 18 from late stage cancer, which was found in December of 2022. Please keep the Bossen family in your prayers. Services will be held at a later date for family and friends.



Mary Mead passed away on November 17, 2022 in Buda, Texas. Her memorial service was held on **Saturday, May 27** at First Congregational Church.

Please hold the following members and friends in your prayers:

Becky Tilghman, our recent new member, (she is the daughter of Gerry and Karen Boehrs), will be having cancer treatment soon.

Sid Michaels has been diagnosed with cancer and will receive treatment soon, **Shirley Baumgartner** is back in the hospital again, and having breathing issues. **Lee Boyles** has ongoing health concerns and **Pastor Dorotea Yucra's** daughter, **Sarvia**, whose health struggles continue.

Harold Miller continues to receive cancer treatments, which are going well. Harold and Cam are having their mail forwarded from their home address as listed in the church directory.

Dona Cheney is at rehab at Fountain Springs, 2000 Wesleyan Blvd., RCSD 57702. Her room number is 105. Cards will be welcome!

We also pray for those members of our church family who are in care centers or isolated in their homes, including:

Evelyn Bradshaw, Vivian Dittmer, Wes Humke, Bob Jonas, Eunice Johnson, Chuck Knowlton, Merrie Miller, Vi, Pietz, Marrelyce Seaman, Helen Snyder, Elena Van Pelt.

Memoir Writing Group

The Memoir Writing Group will meet on **Thursday, June 22 and Thursday, July 27 at 1:30pm**. Anyone interested in sharing or hearing stories is welcome to join us. For more information, contact **Mary Keithahn**.

Birthday Celebration

Vi Pietz will celebrate her **94th** birthday on **Saturday, July 29**. Cards would be welcome. Vi's address can be found in the church directory.



Birthdays

The following members and friends have birthdays in **June and July**:

June 1: **Evelyn Bradshaw**
June 5: **Julie La Croix**
June 9: **Michael Crutcher**

June 10: **Elle Emerson**

June 12: **Pat Lebrun**

Vera Mettler

June 15: **Willis Sutliff**

June 16: **Ed McLaughlin**

June 20: **Becky Fleming**

June 21: **Joan Dyrdaahl**

June 23: **Joyce Tripp**

June 25: **Kathleen Batchelder**

July 1: **Marty Skovran**

July 3: **Savannah Golden**

Jan Gustin

Susan Skovran

Hailey Wathen

July 4: **Michael Batchelder**

Cayden Heinert

Gene Lebrun

Daniel Lyons

July 6: **Neil Emerson**

July 8: **Paige Hamann**

July 10: **Elena Van Pelt**

July 11: **Elliott Tipton**

July 13: **Marilyn Fransen**

July 16: **Michael Bossen**

July 18: **Sydney Wathen**

July 21: **Amanda Nielson**

July 22: **Jorgen Palm**

July 27: **Anders Grauman**

July 29: **John Nickel**

Vi Pietz

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

June

Friday, June 2

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

Sunday, June 4

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour
Grocery Card Sales

10:45am: Dept. of Hospitality

Tuesday, June 6

12:45pm: Spiritual Practices

1:00pm: Craft Day

Wednesday, June 7

10:00am: Communion at Westhills

Thursday, June 8

4:30pm: Dept. of Worship Meeting

6:30pm: Stewardship and Budget

Friday, June 9

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

Sunday, June 11

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

10:45am: Dept. of Education

Tuesday, June 13

12:30pm: PEO Meeting/BF

1:00pm: Craft Day

Friday, June 16

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

1:00pm: PEO Game Day/
Barb Knight

Sunday, June 18

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour/
Donuts for Dad

10:45am: Pastoral and Personnel
Committee

Tuesday, June 20

1:00pm: Craft Day

7:00pm: Church Board Meeting

Thursday, June 22

1:30pm: Memoir Writing Group

Friday, June 23

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

Saturday, June 24

2:00pm: Retirement Party for Deb
Tompkins

Sunday, June 25

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, June 27

1:00pm: Craft Day

Wednesday, June 28

2:00pm: Communion at Saint
Martin's Village

Friday, June 30

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

3:30pm: Mission Meal Preparation

5:00pm: Serve Mission Meal

July

Sunday, July 2

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

10:45am: Dept. of Hospitality

Tuesday, July 4

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Wednesday, July 5

10:00am: Communion at Westhills

Friday, July 7

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

Sunday, July 9

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour
Grocery Card Sales

10:45am: Dept. of Education

Tuesday, July 11

12:30pm: PEO Meeting/BF

1:00pm: Craft Day

Thursday, July 13

6:30pm: Stewardship and Budget

Friday, July 14

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

Sunday, July 16

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

10:45am: Pastoral and Personnel
Committee

Tuesday, July 18

12:45pm: Spiritual Practices

1:00pm: Craft Day

7:00pm: Church Board Meeting

Friday, July 21

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

1:00pm: PEO Game Day/
Barb Knight

Sunday, July 23

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, July 25

1:00pm: Craft Day

Wednesday, July 26

2:00pm: Communion at
Saint Martin's Village

Thursday, July 27

1:30pm: Memoir Writing Group

Friday, July 28

9:30am: Watercolor Painting

Sunday, July 30

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available

10:30am: Fellowship Hour



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

Vacation Bible School Registration Form

VBS Registration Form

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____ Completed Grade in School _____ Birth date: _____

Allergies: _____

Parents' Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____