

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

May
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**

Hello beloved church,

What a blessing it is to get to serve as your pastor. I have much gratitude for each and every one of you!

And as Spring seems to have more fully arrived here in the Black Hills, I am reminded of spending time with my grandparents (and my dad), so I'm going to share with you a piece of a beautiful blessing by Jan Richardson:

*I think today is a good day
for remembering
how all our history
comes down to our hands,
how we carry the lines
that our ancestors
pressed into our palms:
a geography of the generations
inscribed upon us like a map.*

We are actively looking for a (part-time) Christian Education Coordinator to join the team of those who serve this church. Please feel free to share the job description with anyone who comes to mind as a potential "good fit". Copies of the Christian Education Coordinator job description may be picked up in the office.

I feel hopeful for how Spirit is moving, comforting, and inviting us... deeper up and deeper in –to what it might mean to live life to its fullest.

Go now in peace.

Go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you,

Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Pastor Erin



Moderator's Moment by Chuck Rounds

April has been a hard month for our congregation. We experienced the loss of Maralee Dennis, Rod Seals, Bob Franson and Lorraine Slocum. We grieve with their families and are thankful for their lives and will miss them all.

At the monthly meeting of the church board, it was brought to our attention that it has become difficult to find people to volunteer to serve coffee after church. Instead of just using a sign-up sheet, we may have to have a committee who calls folks to help with serving. In discussions with people from other churches, we found that some have had to eliminate their coffee hour. We really hate to do that, but it could happen if we have no volunteers. So, please, step up to help with the coffee hour.

During our budget process at the end of last year and the first part of January there was a lot of discussion about Christian education and the need for a Christian Education Coordinator. A halftime position was included in the 2023 budget. Pastor Erin presented a proposed job description for the Christian Education Coordinator. The board approved it with minor revisions. Advertising for that position will begin with hopes of finding someone in time for the fall kickoff of Sunday school.

We are fast approaching the time for school to be over for summer break and graduation ceremonies to be held followed by summer activities. Please remember that your church will still have services every Sunday and "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here".

ONA Committee by Susan Kelts

Open and Affirming report for The Call

The ONA committee met on April 6. We discussed several issues, some of which are still pending.

- Rainbow Comma pins were ordered for the ONA committee. We will be able to order more if members of the congregation would like to have a pin. Contact one of the ONA committee members if you would like one: Jodie Thuringer, Sybil Rounds, Kim Nearhood, Carol Boyles or Susan Kelts. These pins can be worn in support of our Open and Affirming status and events.
- We will be ordering a new, inclusive bathroom sign for the former family bathroom.
- We approved rainbow hymnal ribbons. These will replace the white ribbons on some (not all) of our hymnals.
- There was discussion of a banner for the outside of our front entryway. The proposed wording on the banner would have the words ALL ARE (color to be determined) over an all caps rainbow WELCOME. More details will come as work progresses.
- We will continue to evaluate our effectiveness as a committee.

Upcoming events include:

- Black Hills Center for Equality is sponsoring their first Rainbow Run on May 21. This is a 5 K run/walk. During the event you will get to go through various color sprays! All ages welcome and the run will start at the Old Storybook Island Shelter.

Registration can be found at: <https://www.bhcfce.org/rainbooy-run-5K-registration/>. All ages are welcome!

- May 16: National Honor our LGBTQ+ Elders day
- May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- May 24: Pansexual and Panromantic Visibility Day

Women's Church Softball

Attention Women (16 & up):

If interested in participating in church softball on Monday nights, please let Pastor Erin know. First games are May 8th! Come cheer us on at Whitehead fields on Canyon Lake Drive.

Women's Retreat

Calling all women (aged 16 and up) of First Congregational Church:

A Women's Retreat, *Coming Back to Center*, will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Sat., May 13**. Please join us and bring your friends and relatives as we gather with other local women for a day of connection, co-creation and re-centering. The retreat will include 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.

A donation of \$20 per person is encouraged.

To get signed up, please email: pastorerin@rcfirstucc.com

Good Morning Circle

There will be one more meeting before our summer break, and we welcome all women of the church to join us. The meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on

Wednesday, May 17 in the church parlor. Refreshments and a short program will be presented before the business meeting. The Circles are under the umbrella of Women's Fellowship, and have been an important part of church organization for generations.

Prayer Shawls and Prayer Bears

A recent inventory of these items showed that the cabinet is quite full, so if you know of anyone who needs some extra TLC, please consider taking a prayer shawl to them (if they are adults) or a prayer bear (if they are children). The idea is simple: the creator simply offers prayers for the recipient as they knit or crochet, and the finished items are given to anyone who needs extra comfort and prayers. Please let Patti Arneson know if you are delivering a shawl or bear so we don't have duplications in deliveries. Thank you to all who continue to provide these lovely items.

Woodchuck Society

Splitting and sawing will commence sometime in May, depending on ground conditions at the church lot. Sources of logs are always appreciated, so if you know of anyone who is thinning property or has a source of downed trees, please let Chuck Rounds know. Workdays will be on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, with email notification of exact days and times.

Women's Retreat

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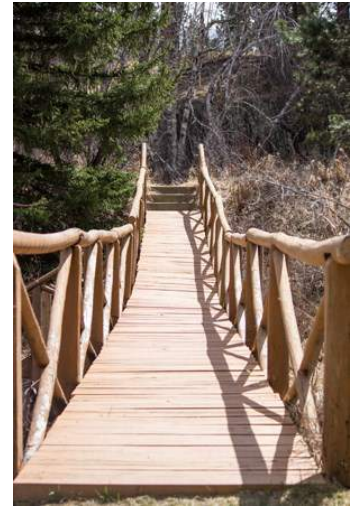
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Placerville Camp 2023

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

****Placerville Work Camp is May 29-June 2.** Come for some or all of this time. You are needed.

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. The Department of Education will help with the cost of this camp if needed. See Patti in the office for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

May is here, and here we are at the end of our Sunday School year. We will be celebrating the fun-filled year on **May 28th**. We are putting our order in for good weather so we can play outdoor games/activities during Sunday School. After the Sunday service, the Department of Christian Education will be sharing pizza and breadsticks for the church congregation and will ask the church members to bring salads or deserts. Potluck yummys for all people!

Our Teens and Tweens group have been making, and will continue to make, fleece blankets for the Children's Home Society through May. Their goal is to complete ten blankets by the end of May.



We are tentatively scheduling **Vacation Bible School** for **August 1-3, 2023**. This takes us past baseball season and will be held before the Rally. We are currently seeking a Christian Education Coordinator. By scheduling a later VBS date, this may allow extra time for the inclusion of a new Coordinator! Cross your fingers for a candidate that will love to share in the life of our church youth and activities.

The **Adult Forum** will end for this year in the **Fellowship Hall at 10:45**, after the Sunday service on **May 21**. The presentation will be **Melanie Timm from the Hope Center**, sharing news about their mission and how they strive to bring dignity and hope to others. Many thanks to **Rev. Kathleen Batchelder** and **Gene Lebrun** for locating such interesting and quality speakers for this monthly forum.

MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer Concerns

Our sympathy and prayers are with those who recently lost loved ones:



Rob and Julie

Burton and family following the death of Rob's mother, **Maralee Dennis** on March 31 in Rapid City. Services were held on **Friday, April 14** at First Congregational Church.

Robin Franson and family following the death of **Robert "Bob" Franson** on April 21 in Rapid City.

Services were held on April 26 at First Congregational Church.

The family of **Lorraine Slocum** following her death on April 22 in Rapid City. Her service will be held at Black Hills National Cemetery, on May 8, with Pastor Erin Erickson officiating.

Cards may be sent to the family of Loraine Slocum at 3512 Woodridge Road, Rapid City, SD 57702

Please hold the following members and friends in your prayers:

Julie Burton had shoulder surgery on April 20, **Stephanie (Nielsen) Medeck**, daughter of **Peggy and Scott Nielsen** is having serious pregnancy issues, **Shirley Baumgartner** and **Ruthie Schemmel** are back at their homes now, **Lee Boyles** has ongoing health concerns, **Michael Myers** now is cancer free and continues periodic checks. **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.

Birth

Jim, Denise and Ryan Webster share the great news of their new granddaughter and niece, **Lilah Marie Frederick**, born April 6, 2023 to daughter/sister **Molly** and her husband, **Jason**. Congratulations to all!



Birthdays

The following members and friends have birthdays in **May**:

May 2	Linda Parrott
May 3	Bruce Nearhood
May 6	Trent Eddy
May 10	Gerald Koch
	Georgia O'Connor
May 11	Kim Bell
	Sharon Darrow
	Lily Hamann
May 12	Linnea Putnam
May 15	Lisa Lyons
May 16	Merrick Fisher
May 18	Emerson Mortenson
May 19	Ruthie Schemmel
May 21	Lia Green
May 23	Steve Roskam
May 24	Benjamin Deyo
May 27	Jacob Schnabel
May 28	Adam Grigg
May 29	Nadine Zeller
May 30	Siri Palm

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

MAY

Friday, May 5

10:00am: Water Color Painting Group

Sunday, May 7

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School after Children's Moment
10:30am: Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, May 9

12:30pm: PEO Meeting
1:00pm: Craft Day
4:15pm: Trust Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 10

10:00am: Women's Fellowship Board Meeting
7:00pm: Choir Practice

Thursday, May 11

10:00am: Altar Guild Meeting
4:30pm: Dept. of Worship Meeting
6:30pm: Stewardship and Budget

Friday, May 12

10:00am: Water Color Painting Group

Saturday, May 13

8:30am: Women's Retreat

Sunday, May 14

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School after Children's Moment
10:30am: Fellowship Hour
10:45am: Dept. of Education Meeting

Tuesday, May 16

12:45pm: Spiritual Practices
1:00pm: Craft Day
7:00pm: Church Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 17

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

Friday, May 19

10:00am: Water Color Painting Group
1:00pm: PEO Game Day

Saturday, May 20

10:30am: Rapid City School of Music Concerts

Sunday, May 21

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School after Children's Moment
10:30am: Fellowship Hour
10:45am: Adult Forum

Tuesday, May 23

1:00pm: Craft Day
7:00pm: Pastoral and Personnel Committee

Wednesday, May 24

1:30pm: Communion at St. Martin's Village
2:00pm: Communion at St. Martin's Village

Thursday, May 25

1:30pm: Memoir Writing Group Meeting

Friday, May 26

10:00am: Water Color Painting Group

Saturday, May 27

1:30am: Services for Mary Mead

Sunday, May 28

9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School after Children's Moment
10:30am: Fellowship Hour/End of Sunday School Year Potluck



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Strengthen the Church Offering

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Our congregation will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, **May 28, 2023.**

