

145th Annual Report

of the Ministries of 2023

**Seeking, practicing and sharing
Christ's ministry**



First Congregational United Church of Christ

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CONTENTS

* Statistical Report.....	3
* Pastor— Erin Erickson.....	3
* Moderator—Chuck Rounds.....	4
* Department of Stewardship and Budget.....	4
* Care Minister—Becky Fleming.....	5
* Department of Buildings and Grounds.....	5
* Department of Worship.....	6
* Music Notes.....	6
* Department of Education.....	7
* Department of Ministries.....	8
* Department of Hospitality.....	8
* Women’s Fellowship.....	9
* Good Morning Circle.....	10
* Altar Guild.....	11
* Congregational Pilgrim Charitable Trust.....	12
* Treasurer Denise Webster.....	13-19
* Proposed Budget for 2024.....	20-21
* Nominating Committee.....	22
* Annual Meeting Agenda.....	23
* The Year in Photos.....	24

Membership beginning 2023	297	Confirmations	7
Deaths	14	Baptisms	3
Transfers out	0	Reaffirmations	0
Membership Withdrawal	0	Weddings celebrated	1
New Members	11	Funerals	10
Membership at end of 2023	294	Average Worship attendance	97

PASTOR—Erin Erickson

Two Blessings for 2024

These two blessings leapt from pages I've been reading the past few weeks and begged me to be shared with all of you. Our church family has endured an immense amount of loss together, and it's my prayer that these two blessings speak to each of your hearts in the most tender and true way possible. May Spirit breathe new breath back into all of us in 2024.

Blessing to Summon Rejoicing by Jan Richardson

When your weeping has watered the earth. When the storm has been long and the night and the season of your sorrowing. When you have seemed an exile from your life, lost in the far country, a long way from where your comfort lies. When the sound of splintering and fracture haunts you. When despair attends you. When lack. When trouble. When fear. When pain. When empty. When lonely. When too much of what depletes you and not enough of what restores and rests you. Then let there be rejoicing. Then let there be dreaming. Let there be laughter in your mouth and on your tongue shouts of joy. Let the seeds soaked by tears turn to grain, to bread, to feasting. Let there be coming home.

The Bravest Thing We Can Do by Rev. Sarah Speed

Trust your belovedness. Let it be a protest, an act of resistance, a song of celebration. Trust your belovedness in a world that is rarely satisfied. Wear it like a badge of honor. Speak it as confidently as your last name. Tattoo it to your heart. When outside forces chip away at your sense of self, when life asks you to hand over the keys, remember the water. Remember creation. Remember how it was good, so very good. Let that truth hum through your veins. Sing it so loud that it drowns out the weariness of the world, for the bravest thing we can ever do is trust that we belong here.

Much grace and peace to you!

 Pastor Erin

MODERATOR—Chuck Rounds

One year ago we were hoping for “new normal” in our church life. We were hoping to find a settled pastor and for COVID to go away, We were hoping that church attendance would attain pre-COVID levels. I feel that perhaps we have reached the “new normal”. The congregation selected a pastor; Pastor Erin agreed to a one year designated term contract that could be renewed annually. She is working toward ordination that may happen this spring. COVID is still with us and probably will be for a long time, but we have learned to deal with it better. The church attendance has increased with more children as well.

The congregation has talked about and planned for several years to have a designated Christian Education person on our staff. The decision was put off until we found a pastor. This fall, Mary Haan was added to the staff to handle the Christian Ed. responsibilities. That position had been included in the budget for 2023.

While the 2023 budget accepted by the congregation at the annual meeting showed a deficit for the year, we actually will be very close to being even for 2023. That happened because we had the CE director for only part of the year and some other costs were less than projected. Looking ahead, the 2024 budget looks a bit more difficult. It appears the we may have a considerable budget shortfall, even with cuts in in some of the benevolence items. While we have had an increase in attendance, that has not translated to increased pledging. Like all businesses and institutions, costs cannot be higher than income for the long term. If we continue on this path, dramatic cuts in programming will have to be made.

This is my last report as Moderator. As in last years report, I want to thank the board and departments for their work for the past year and also thank those who have volunteered for positions on the departments for the coming year. I especially want to thank those who will be elected by the congregation as church officers for the coming year. The church will be in good hands.

As I look ahead, I hope for continued growth in our church, both spiritually and in participating members, so we can continue to be a church that proclaims “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP AND BUDGET—Harlan Stephens

As I write this, our church will close out our 2023 financial year in a stable financial condition. You have no doubt noticed the increased attention this year to our pledge drive campaign. We have so many great things happening in our church, with the addition of Pastor Erin as full time minister and Mary Haan as Christian Education director. These are things we have been praying for and have now come to pass. We have made allowances for these salaries in previous budgets and now we are actually using those allocations as intended.

As you will see in our proposed budget, we will make every effort to ensure all of the wonderful programs we rely on here at the church continue at the level we desire. The role of our department is to advise how dollars are allocated, based on salary needs, departmental budgets and so on. The primary tool in our toolbox is the pledges we receive for the upcoming year. Thank you for your faithful giving in support of First Congregational United Church of Christ.

CARE MINISTER—Becky Fleming

5

2023 was a year of continued growth for me as a minister. The Committee on Ministry for the South Dakota Conference continues to meet and make adjustments to the needs of South Dakotan ministers, churches and associations. There have been opportunities for me to work alongside struggling and celebrating ministers.

In our space, I was honored to participate in a wedding ceremony, a baptism and many celebrations of life. Our church family has shown exceeding grace and love in caring for the families suffering loss of a beloved family member. I continue to visit with those who are needing calls, messages and in person visits as possible. Pastor Erin and I work together to see people as quickly as possible if we are made aware of hospitalizations, accidents, increased illness or other concerns. I led a forum to work to help make sure our congregants have documents and devices in place to be prepared for their future.

I continue to lead Grandcamp at Placerville Church Camp which has drawn children and adults from many different states. It has become a significant tradition for several families and gives grandparents the opportunity to share camp, Christ and the great outdoors all while pouring their love into some of their favorite people.

The past, present and future of this church is a significant part of my personal story and journey. I am so blessed to be here working alongside you all.



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—David Ledford, chair

Due to all the wonderful rain we received early this summer, our mowers were kept busy by the Building and Grounds department members with help from volunteers. I thank everyone who stepped in to help with the care of our beautiful facility this past year.

The church operates with two water heaters, one that circulates hot water through the pipes in the winter and a second on-demand one for our other hot water needs. Unfortunately, both had to be replaced in 2023. On a positive note, this means that all of our major mechanical appliances (boilers, air conditioners and water heaters) have been recently upgraded and should provide us good service going forward.

6 DEPARTMENT OF WORSHIP—Bonnie Edwards, chair

The Department of Worship remained busy obtaining readers and greeters each month. Thank you to all who were willing to serve.

The department assisted in handing out certificates for seven confirmands in March: Elle Emerson, Lucia Grigg, Gianna Grigg, Lily Hamann Brenden Lyons, Daniel Lyons and Benjamin Tipton.

Eleven new members were received in July: Jordan Barnes, Rick and Carol Bell, Craig Chapman, Dowell and Becky Caselli-Smith, Noah Deyo, Debbie Erickson, Mary Haan, Sid Michaels and Noelle Schendzielos.

Three baptisms: Cedar Erickson Deyo, Althea Deyo Erickson and Aniston Lee Miller.

In addition, one wedding was held in September.

Communion continued to be served the first Sunday of each month.

A praise music group was formed and during the Beatles sermon series Justin Speck, the Griggs, and Enya Wallace and Mike Lemay performed during worship.

In November the Saints who had passed during the year were honored during worship with a red rose and Christmas ornament for the family.

Copyright licenses were researched. Our current streaming license will be continued but a reproduction license was added so that lyrics, etc., can be reproduced into bulletins or on screens.

The Advent study materials Generation to Generation were purchased from a Sanctified Act.

Thank you to the ushers, Altar Guild and Technology Department for performing their duties so efficiently.

Thank you to the current department members: Alicia Sutliff-Benusis, Lisa Lyons, Bruce Nearhood, Robin Eddy, and Kandee Snoozy, Ryan Webster and Becky Caselli-Smith will be joining the department.

Robin and Bruce have completed their terms.

MUSIC NOTES—Alan Glover

We have been blessed this year with continued participation of our faithful Choir members, and the return in September of our Bell Choir. We have had several Chamber Music programs this past year and more coming up in 2024.

We are thankful for everyone who participates in our choirs and those who help provide special music and instrumental numbers. We always welcome new members who would like to join us in preparing music for our worship services. Practice for Bell Choir is at 6:00pm, with Michael Bossen and Choir is at 7:00pm, with Alan Glover and Audrey Fenner. We are looking forward to a productive year in 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION—Mary Haan and Patti Arneson, chair ⁷

The Department of Christian Education had a busy year! We have learned so much and feel wonderful about the events and education we have been able to offer to the community. We hired Mary Haan as our Christian Education Coordinator in August of 2023 and have been working steadily to bring opportunities to the congregation through education and fellowship.

Here are our highlights for 2023:

1. We had a fantastic Vacation Bible School based on the Life and Times of Jesus.
2. Our Sunday School kickoff was so much fun with face-painting and a bouncy castle. The whole congregation brought a potluck-style meal!
3. We made plans to launch our Young Adults Board Game Nights twice per month starting in January, 2024.
4. In January 2024, we will begin hosting a twice-per-month recovery group on 2nd and 4th Mondays at 11:30am for folks who have been impacted by addiction.
5. Thanks to Kathleen Batchelder, Becky Fisher and Pastor Erin, we have continued the Church Chat meetings and Spiritual Practices group. Beginning in January, 2024 Spiritual Practices will meet on Tuesday each week at 12:30pm. Beginning in February, 2024, Church Chat will be held at 11:30am on the first and third Tuesdays each month.
6. Our Department and the Department of Hospitality hosted a wonderful Appetizers and Art for Advent event with multiple craft opportunities for all ages.
7. We'll have our first Breakfast Club event - a potluck-inspired monthly breakfast – on January 27th at 9:00am in hopes of continuing the Breakfast Club on the last Saturday of the month!
8. We shared songs and gathered the offering with the children on Christmas Eve.
9. We made plans to launch in January, 2024, our Wellness Wheel Course under the direction of Jane Glover and Mary Haan.
10. Adult Forums have continued to see great success and will resume in the spring of 2024!
11. We bid farewell to Lynn Graumann and Patti Arneson on our department. We welcome Mark Ortega and Kaylee Kruse who have agreed to join the Department of Education as we share our love for learning with our UCC children. Thank you to all the folks who have worked so hard to make this department successful over the last year.



8 DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRIES—Sheila Long, chair

The Department of Ministries consists of members Sybil Rounds, Cindy Ledford, Kim Nearhood, Melanie Palm and me, Sheila Long. Becky Tilghman was on our committee until her passing and she is greatly missed.

We sold grocery cards to fund Church Response, and this has been discontinued by the department. We feel there is a better use of our time and energy and more money may be made by other means.

Tons of food was delivered to Church Response as well as toiletry items to the Hope Center this year.

We provided five meals to the Corner Stone Rescue Mission and spoke to the congregation about the four UCC special offerings. We thank the congregation for their continued support through donations and baking cookies.

Open and Affirming Sub-Committee of Ministries

RCFirstUCC.com now has a colorful All are Welcome greeting on the webpage, as well as the UCC rainbow comma, and the committee ordered an inclusive sign that has been posted by the family bathroom. There are rainbow ribbon markers in some of the hymnals, and rainbow pens are also available in some pews. The All Are Welcome banner over the front doors has been in place for months and can be removed from its location to take to off-site events.

Committee members participated in the Rainbow Walk/Run held on May 21, and hosted a booth at the local PRIDE event in July. The church celebrated the second anniversary of our Open and Affirming status in November. The committee is looking for additional members with fresh ideas to help increase our visibility in the community.

DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALITY—Robin Franson-Chair

The members of the Department of Hospitality were Melissa Emerson, Velma Speck, Jill Speck, Jordan Barnes, Jeanette Hill and Robin Franson. We had department meetings the first Sunday of each month where we discussed upcoming plans for our congregation.

We hosted Souper Bowl Sunday with a variety of hot soups and many people wearing their favorite team's jerseys.

In March, we served pulled pork on buns, baked beans and a variety of side dishes.

For Easter, we served decorated cookies and lots of jellybeans!

In May and June, we were happy to honor parents with "Muffins for Moms" and "Donuts for Dads."

In July, we had an Ice Cream Social to cool everyone off.

At the end of October, we ate spooky cookies and Halloween treats.

To enter into the Christmas season, we hosted Appetizers and Art for Advent, where our wonderful congregation brought amazing appetizers, finger foods and sweet delights that loaded down three tables?

Along the way, we made Welcome Bags for visitors and oversaw that we all had coffee or tea for our Fellowship Hour.

Hospitality is a very fun and rewarding department to be on and work with amazing people!

The Women's Fellowship organized the two church rummage sales during the year in March and August.

We continued to care for our shut-ins with cards and visits during the year. We collected and delivered cookies to them on December 8th.

We gathered to clean the kitchen and the sanctuary twice a year.

We served refreshments for several funerals during the year.

We continue to give to charities and the church as shown in our Treasurer's report.

Women's Fellowship 2023 Treasurer's Report Eileen Rossow, Treasurer

2023 Beginning Balance		\$ 13,501.49
Prior Period Adjustment	Income	\$ 494.02
Prior Period Adjustment	Expense	\$
(1,020.00)		
Income		
Rummage Sales	\$14,351.84	
Craft and Bake Sales	\$ 2,233.10	
Stained Glass	\$ 3,240.00	
Funerals and Receptions	\$ 950.00	
Total Income:		\$ 20,774.94
Expenses:		
Cornerstone	\$ 1,000.00	
Placerville	\$ 2,000.00	
Senior Meals	\$ 2,000.00	
Church Pledge	\$ 1,500.00	
Blanket Sunday	\$ 500.00	
Pantry	\$ 220.72	
Church Response	\$ 2,000.00	
Rummage Sale Sign	\$ 189.05	
Funerals and Receptions	\$ 307.12	
Telephone System	\$ 1,118.46	
Bank Statement	\$ 20.00	
Craft Expense	\$ 785.68	
WAVI	\$ 1000.00	
Miscellaneous	\$ 461.01	
Total Expenses		\$ (13,102.04)
2023 Ending Balance		\$ 20,648.41

GOOD MORNING CIRCLE—Jan Gustin, Secretary

The Ladies who met the second Wednesday of the month continued the long tradition of gathering for Good Morning Circle. “Loosely” structured, we participated in prayer, refreshments, various programs and devotions.

We learned about the castles, cathedrals and various historic buildings and sites found along the Rhine in Germany, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands as experienced by Mary Daughenbaugh and Laura Boyd on a recent river cruise. We heard about the origin of the Least Coin from Sybil Rounds, Bonnie Edwards shared from the book, LOVE WARRIOR, and Nadeen Zeller presented a program based on the book DISCIPLINES. Jan Gustin had a book published in 1930, a gift to Mimi Comley from Dr. Arthur Taylor, JUNIOR WORSHIP MATERIALS, and read the November program, “The Wasted Oak Leaf.” One month Bonnie Edwards led us all in the game, “Would You Rather.” Our final program of the year was based on the story of Antoinette Brown, the first ordained woman in our denomination. Kathleen Batchelder concluded her presentation with devotions from Matthew 22:34-40.

Members participated in programs and areas throughout the church including sanctuary and kitchen cleaning, the March and August rummage sales, packaging and delivering Christmas cookies to our shut-ins and serving coffee following church services on Sunday.

Throughout the year, monetary donations were given to the Hope Center, Front Porch Coalition, WAVI and Meals on Wheels.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone to join us in the church parlor on the third Wednesday of the month, excluding June - August and December!

Good Morning Circle Treasurer’s Report 2023 Sybil Rounds, Treasurer

Beginning Balance		\$809.49
Income		
Pledges	\$515.00	
Blessings	\$ 41.35	
Least Coin	<u>\$ 3.03</u>	
Total income	\$559.38	\$ 559.38
Expenses		
Hope Center	\$ 400.00	
Front Porch Coalition	\$ 200.00	
WAVI	\$ 500.00	
Meals on Wheels	\$ 100.00	
Least Coin	<u>\$ 20.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$1220.00	\$1220.00
Ending Balance		\$ 148.87

The Altar Guild had its inception when thirty interested women met at the home of Mrs. C.G. Osterhof in February, 1945. They drew up a constitution and by-laws for the Guild and the purpose of the group remains the same today. The Guild has the responsibility of providing decorations for the Altar each Sunday. Each week members arrange the flowers and candles and special seasonal decorations.

Through the years, candle holders, candles, urns, and permanent plants at the base of the cross have been purchased by the Guild. Members also care for the plants in the chancel. They receive no funds through the budget process. Their income comes from flower sales, weddings, and some donations and memorials. The Guild provides wedding assistance and sends cards to members who need encouragement or are celebrating a special occasion.

The Altar Guild is part of the Department of Worship. The ten guild members meet the second Thursday of each month from 10:00am to 11:00am except June, July, and December. Business is conducted followed by an informational program.

Anyone interested in joining this group please contact Kandy Snoozy, Sharon Darrow, Lois Moore, or any other member.

Altar Guild 2023 Year-End Report Lois Moore, Treasurer

Balance on Hand January 1, 2023		\$2,991.79
Income:		
C. McMacken	\$30.00	
Mead Family donation	\$250.00	
Lily sales and donations	\$410.00	
Poinsettia sales and donations	\$535.00	
Total Income		\$1,225.00
Expenditures:		
Jolly Lane for Easter lilies	\$345.86	
N. Wosepka to CM Almy for oil and cloth	\$220.05	
K. Snoozy-palms	\$11.99	
S. Darrow-artificial bouquets	\$46.92	
Total Expenditures		\$624.82
BALANCE ON December 31, 2023		\$3,591.97

12 CONGREGATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST

First Congregational Church Pilgrim Charitable Trust

Year ended December 31, 2023

By Pat Lebrun

The First Congregational Charitable Trust, Inc. is an independent corporation dedicated to the management of invested funds on behalf of the congregation. Its mission is to solicit and manage financial gifts provided for use in charitable and educational projects beyond the regular operation budget of the church. The funds of the Trust are invested with the United Church Foundation and Charles Schwab.

The Zona White Music Fund provides money to purchase music not in the church budget, unusual instrument maintenance and capital improvements that benefit the music program. The Music Committee determines when expenditures will be made from the fund. In 2023, \$244.25 was spent to purchase a new piano bench.

Contributions totaling \$190,517 were made for maintenance projects at First Congregational Church from 2015 through 2022. Contributions to the Capital Fund Drive from 2015 to 2019 were \$150,000. The Zona White Fund made contributions of \$20,000 in 2020 for the chair lift to the choir loft and \$20,517 for organ updates from 2018 to 2022. The trust has committed \$25,000 to the fire suppression fund.

No college scholarships were given in 2023 because there were no applications or eligible students.

The Power of One Estate Plan encourages members of the congregation to remember the Trust with a gift of 1% of their estates. Donations are welcome now or later as appropriate. To those who have provided for a gift, we extend our gratitude.

Members of the Trust Board are: Randy Daughenbaugh, Robin Eddy, Ron Hill, Pat Lebrun, Harold Miller, Eileen Rossow and Denise Webster.

Pilgrim Trust Fund Values

December 31, 2022	\$662,799.74		\$662,799.74	
December 31, 2023	\$720,384.80		\$720,384.80	
Contributions:	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Disbursements:				
Miscellaneous (SD Sec. of State)	(\$10.00)		(\$10.00)	
Alan Glover (piano bench)	(\$224.25)		(\$224.25)	
Total Disbursements:	<u>(\$254.25)</u>	0.04%	<u>(\$254.25)</u>	0.04%

Income:	Capital Gains from Cost		Capital Gains from 12/31/2022	
Dividend and Interest				
Income:	\$19,708.97		\$19,708.97	
Realized Capital Gains:	(\$23,577.23)		\$39,788.19	
Unrealized Capital Gains:	<u>\$75,646.03</u>		<u>\$2,185.06</u>	
Total Gains:	<u>\$71,777.77</u>	10.88%	<u>\$61,682.22</u>	9.35%

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2023
 (Disclosures, Statement of Net Assets, Statement of Functional Expenses, & Cash Flow Statements are Omitted)
 (Revenues, Expenses, & Net Assets are Shown as With or Without Donor Restrictions)

Account #	Account Name	Amount Diff November 2023- December 2023	December 2023 Balance	November 2023 Balance	December 2022 Balance	Amount Diff YTD	% Diff YTD
Assets							
1.10000	Checking Account	15,514.90	63,140.33	47,625.43	56,959.65	6,180.68	11
1.10300	Certificates of Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,349.45	(28,349.45)	100
1.10700	LPL Financial Services	249.73	165,733.54	165,483.81	130,763.27	34,970.27	27
1.10800	Food Certificates	(2,700.00)	725.00	3,425.00	2,200.00	(1,475.00)	67
	Total Cash & Investments	\$13,064.63	\$229,598.87	\$216,534.24	\$218,272.37	\$11,326.50	5
1.15100	Eagle Scout Structure	0.00	10,066.13	10,066.13	10,066.13	0.00	0
1.15200	Piano	0.00	34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.00	0.00	0
1.15300	Organ Addition	0.00	194,934.00	194,934.00	194,934.00	0.00	0
1.15400	Building	0.00	556,487.89	556,487.89	556,487.89	0.00	0
1.15500	Building Improvements	0.00	429,925.84	429,925.84	429,925.84	0.00	0
1.15600	Land	0.00	38,532.55	38,532.55	38,532.55	0.00	0
	Total Land, Building & Equip.	\$0.00	\$1,263,946.41	\$1,263,946.41	\$1,263,946.41	\$0.00	0
	Total Assets	\$12,020.34	\$1,492,500.99	\$1,480,480.65	\$1,482,218.78	\$10,282.21	1
Liabilities							
2.20000	Accounts Payable - General	0.00	0.00	0.00	162.54	(162.54)	100
2.22000	Prepaid Pledges	10,171.57	10,629.90	458.33	5,499.97	5,129.93	93
	Total Liabilities	\$10,171.57	\$10,629.90	\$458.33	\$5,662.51	\$4,967.39	88
Fund Balance							
3.39000	Unrestricted Fund Balance	964.02	62,369.92	61,405.90	82,206.77	(19,836.85)	24
3.39002	Building Fund Balance	0.00	1,263,946.41	1,263,946.41	1,263,946.41	0.00	0
3.39003	Contingency Fund	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	0
3.39004	Memorial Fund Balance	429.04	33,580.96	33,151.92	19,909.50	13,671.46	69
3.39006	Legacy Fund	0.00	16,869.46	16,869.46	21,410.71	(4,541.25)	21
3.39015	Special Offerings Restricted Fund	(600.00)	0.00	600.00	2,275.00	(2,275.00)	100
3.39016	Dept. of Ministries Fund Bal.	(200.00)	5,341.83	5,541.83	5,059.08	282.75	6
3.39018	Fire Suppression Fund Balance	2,300.00	50,806.80	48,506.80	31,748.80	19,058.00	60
	Total Fund Balance	\$2,893.06	\$1,482,915.38	\$1,480,022.32	\$1,476,556.27	\$6,359.11	0
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$13,064.63	\$1,493,545.28	\$1,480,480.65	\$1,482,218.78	\$11,326.50	1

FUND BALANCES—Denise Webster, treasurer

First Congregational Church	
2023 Annual Report	
Contingency Fund (03):	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	50,000.00
No transactions	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	50,000.00
Legacy Fund (06):	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	21,410.71
Replace Water Heater	(2,110.33)
Carpet Cleaning	(2,430.92)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	16,869.46
Department of Ministries Funds (16):	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	5,059.08
We Care Food Certificate Deposits	22,030.00
Disbursements:	
Mission Meals	-
We Care Food Certificate Purchases	(21,747.25)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	5,341.83
Special Offerings Fund (15):	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	2,275.00
Member donations for unbudgeted benevolences	10,946.73
Costa Rica Donations	2,075.00
Unbudgeted Benevolence Disbursements:	
Love, Inc.	(200.00)
One Great Hour of Sharing	(2,210.73)
Blanket Sunday	(2,005.00)
Strengthen the Church	(1,732.00)
Neighbors In Need	(1,635.00)
Christmas Fund	(1,684.00)
Church Response	(200.00)
Souper Bowl Fundraiser	(180.00)
Break Through, Inc.	(200.00)
Disbursement:	
Costa Rica Sister Church	(5,250.00)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	0.00

FUND BALANCES—Denise Webster, treasurer

Memorial Fund Balance (04):										
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023					409.90	1,827.39	962.58	248.81	11,589.06	4,675.00
Donations (Memorials):										
Various designated donations			1,055.00	1,055.00						
Mary Lou Ehrke Memorial			1,320.00							1,320.00
Mary Mead Memorial			6,034.04							6,034.04
Gene Lebrun Memorial			5,000.00							5,000.00
Bob Franson Memorial			315.00							315.00
Clair Maynard Memorial			240.00							240.00
Todd Eddy Memorial			545.00							545.00
Disbursements:										
Adult Choir Music			(837.58)	(837.58)						
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023			33,580.96	414.18	409.90	1,827.39	962.58	248.81	11,589.06	18,129.04
Fire Suppression Fund Balance (18):										
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023			31,748.80							
Donations			1,058.00							
Reclass from Unrestricted Funds, Per Board Direction			18,000.00							
Ending Balance, December 31, 2023			50,806.80							

First Congregational Church

2023 Annual Report

	BankWest - Certificates of Deposit	
	Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	28,349.45
	Cashed CD#50229	(28,349.45)
	Interest Earned	0.00
	Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	0.00
	LPL Financial US Treasury Bills	
	Beginning Balance, January 1, 2023	130,763.27
	Interest Earned	5,970.27
	Purchases	29,000.00
	Ending Balance, December 31, 2023	165,733.54

UNBUDGETED BENEVOLENCES—Denise Webster, treasurer 17

First Congregational Church

2023 Unbudgeted Benevolences

The following disbursements were donated to the church during the year. These disbursements are direct pass-through monies from the members' contributions (special offerings). These amounts are over and above budgeted expenses.

Disbursements in 2023:

Love, Inc.	200.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,210.73
Blanket Sunday	2,005.00
Strengthen the Church	1,732.00
Neighbors In Need	1,635.00
Christmas Fund	1,684.00
Church Response	200.00
Souper Bowl Fundraiser	180.00
Break Through, Inc.	200.00
Costa Rica Mission Work	5,250.00
	<u>15,296.73</u>

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2023 for General Fund
 (Disclosures, Statement of Net Assets, and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted)

Account #	Account	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget
Income												
4.40000	Pledges	17,132.05	198,205.03	16,823.00	201,660.12	102	201,843.00	100	(182.88)	201,843.00	182.88	100
4.40500	Non-Pledge Donations	2,775.00	33,565.10	2,500.00	27,749.02	111	30,000.00	92	(2,250.98)	30,000.00	2,250.98	92
4.41000	Loose Offerings	1,177.00	3,352.25	288.00	4,971.41	409	3,500.00	142	1,471.41	3,500.00	(1,471.41)	142
	Total Pledges & Gifts	\$20,084.05	\$235,122.38	\$19,611.00	\$233,380.55	108	\$235,343.00	100	(\$962.45)	\$235,343.00	\$962.45	100
4.42000	Rent Income	1,235.00	12,640.00	1,057.00	12,865.00	117	12,750.00	101	115.00	12,750.00	(115.00)	101
4.42200	Miscellaneous Income	100.00	10,877.92	1,109.00	13,491.01	9	13,286.00	102	205.01	13,286.00	(205.01)	102
	Total Other Income	\$1,335.00	\$23,517.92	\$2,166.00	\$26,356.01	62	\$26,036.00	101	\$320.01	\$26,036.00	(\$320.01)	101
4.43000	Interest/Dividend Income	250.34	3,090.70	250.00	6,429.45	100	3,000.00	214	3,429.45	3,000.00	(3,429.45)	214
	Total Investment Income	\$250.34	\$3,090.70	\$250.00	\$6,429.45	100	\$3,000.00	214	\$3,429.45	\$3,000.00	(\$3,429.45)	214
	Total Income	\$22,669.39	\$261,731.00	\$22,027.00	\$267,166.01	103	\$264,379.00	101	\$2,787.01	\$264,379.00	(\$2,787.01)	101
Expenses												
5.60100	Sr Pastor Salary/Hsg	5,475.58	43,746.44	5,127.00	63,839.22	107	61,535.00	104	2,304.22	61,535.00	(2,304.22)	104
5.60200	Senior Pastor Annuity	766.59	2,373.57	607.00	7,665.90	126	7,350.00	104	315.90	7,350.00	(315.90)	104
5.60300	Senior Pastor Dis. Ins.	821.14	254.31	60.00	821.40	137	665.00	124	156.40	665.00	(156.40)	124
5.60400	Sr Pastor Health Ins.	0.00	578.40	281.00	0.00	0	3,350.00	0	(3,350.00)	3,350.00	3,350.00	0
	Total Senior Minister Salary	\$6,324.31	\$46,952.72	\$6,075.00	\$72,326.52	104	\$72,900.00	99	(\$573.48)	\$72,900.00	\$573.48	99
5.61100	Christian Education Leader	2,083.33	0.00	2,087.00	10,678.20	100	25,000.00	43	(14,321.80)	25,000.00	14,321.80	43
5.61300	Secretary Salary	2,550.43	27,161.95	3,000.00	32,828.21	85	36,000.00	91	(3,171.79)	36,000.00	3,171.79	91
5.61400	Bookkeeping Services	642.51	10,496.17	724.00	8,049.81	89	8,732.00	92	(682.19)	8,732.00	682.19	92
5.61500	Choir Director Salary	940.00	9,852.00	940.00	11,280.00	100	11,280.00	100	0.00	11,280.00	0.00	100
5.61700	Bell Choir Dir. Salary	166.67	0.00	163.00	1,777.68	102	2,000.00	89	(222.32)	2,000.00	222.32	89
5.61800	Organist Salary	831.25	10,102.04	834.00	9,975.00	100	9,975.00	100	0.00	9,975.00	0.00	100
5.61900	Substitute Organist	150.00	450.00	57.00	1,050.00	263	750.00	140	300.00	750.00	(300.00)	140
5.62000	Nursery Supervisor	360.00	0.00	130.00	990.00	277	1,560.00	63	(570.00)	1,560.00	570.00	63
5.69400	Janitor	702.00	8,390.53	675.00	8,988.75	104	8,100.00	111	888.75	8,100.00	(888.75)	111
	Total Lay Staff Expense	\$8,426.19	\$66,452.69	\$8,610.00	\$85,617.65	98	\$103,397.00	83	(\$17,779.35)	\$103,397.00	\$17,779.35	83
5.62100	Christian Nurture Stipend	257.50	3,180.00	252.00	3,090.00	102	3,090.00	100	0.00	3,090.00	0.00	100
5.62300	IT Specialist Stipend	0.00	2,000.00	250.00	3,000.00	0	3,000.00	100	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	100
5.62500	Payroll Taxes	649.58	6,020.37	442.00	6,430.48	147	5,293.00	121	1,137.48	5,293.00	(1,137.48)	121
	Total Salaries Expense	\$15,657.58	\$124,605.78	\$15,629.00	\$170,464.65	100	\$187,680.00	91	(\$17,297.49)	\$187,680.00	\$17,297.49	91
5.62600	New Music: Adult Choir	0.00	0.00	13.00	200.00	0	200.00	100	0.00	200.00	0.00	100
5.63800	Communion Supplies	0.00	0.00	12.00	55.37	0	100.00	55	(44.63)	100.00	44.63	55
5.63900	Worship Expense	0.00	2,082.10	200.00	1,375.68	0	2,400.00	57	(1,024.32)	2,400.00	1,024.32	57
5.63950	Streaming License	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0	300.00	0	(300.00)	300.00	300.00	0
	Total Worship Expense	\$0.00	\$2,082.10	\$250.00	\$1,631.05	0	\$3,000.00	54	(\$1,368.95)	\$3,000.00	\$1,368.95	54
5.64000	CE Training	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0	100.00	0	(100.00)	100.00	100.00	0

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD

Treasurer's Report as of December 2023 for General Fund
(Disclosures, Statement of Net Assets, and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted)

Account #	Account	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget
5.64100	CE Curriculum Resources	0.00	783.10	63.00	375.97	0	800.00	47	(424.03)	800.00	424.03	47
5.64300	CE Library	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0	100.00	0	(100.00)	100.00	100.00	0
5.64400	CE Program Expenses	0.00	614.06	56.00	1,397.37	0	650.00	215	747.37	650.00	(747.37)	215
5.64800	Graduation	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0	100.00	0	(100.00)	100.00	100.00	0
5.64900	Retreats and Special Events	0.00	2,257.95	187.00	3,077.10	0	2,200.00	140	877.10	2,200.00	(877.10)	140
5.65000	Adult Education	(44.29)	571.25	44.00	370.60	-101	550.00	67	(179.40)	550.00	179.40	67
	Total Christian Ed. Expense	(\$44.29)	\$4,226.36	\$386.00	\$5,221.04	-11	\$4,500.00	116	\$721.04	\$4,500.00	(\$721.04)	116
5.65500	Black Hills Assoc. Dues	0.00	602.00	50.00	594.00	0	600.00	99	(6.00)	600.00	6.00	99
5.65510	Conference Registrations Exp	0.00	125.00	25.00	8.13	0	300.00	3	(291.87)	300.00	291.87	3
5.65850	Open & Affirming	0.00	160.00	13.00	392.74	0	200.00	196	192.74	200.00	(192.74)	196
5.65900	Minister Prof. Exp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	319.50	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0
5.65950	Mission Meals	300.00	0.00	163.00	1,900.00	184	2,000.00	95	(100.00)	2,000.00	100.00	95
5.67850	Dept. of Hospitality	0.00	400.44	38.00	280.55	0	500.00	56	(219.45)	500.00	219.45	56
	Total Ministry Expense	\$300.00	\$1,287.44	\$289.00	\$3,494.92	104	\$3,600.00	88	(\$424.58)	\$3,600.00	\$424.58	88
5.67900	Supplies	105.46	2,499.48	263.00	3,752.75	40	3,200.00	117	552.75	3,200.00	(552.75)	117
5.68000	Office Equip. Maint.	391.79	6,796.69	612.00	5,937.57	64	7,300.00	81	(1,362.43)	7,300.00	1,362.43	81
5.68200	Postage	0.00	1,325.17	125.00	1,704.62	0	1,500.00	114	204.62	1,500.00	(204.62)	114
	Total Office Expense	\$497.25	\$10,621.34	\$1,000.00	\$11,394.94	50	\$12,000.00	95	(\$605.06)	\$12,000.00	\$605.06	95
5.68300	BHPL - Electricity	657.51	9,118.00	819.00	8,927.01	80	9,850.00	91	(922.99)	9,850.00	922.99	91
5.68400	Water and Garbage	234.87	2,542.21	213.00	2,623.74	110	2,600.00	101	23.74	2,600.00	(23.74)	101
5.68500	Communications	0.00	2,184.59	188.00	2,938.70	0	2,300.00	128	638.70	2,300.00	(638.70)	128
5.68600	MDU - Heat	817.68	12,778.08	1,135.00	10,139.11	72	13,675.00	74	(3,535.89)	13,675.00	3,535.89	74
5.68700	Stormwater Drainage Assessment	0.00	575.47	47.00	575.47	0	575.00	100	0.47	575.00	(0.47)	100
	Total Utilities Expense	\$1,710.06	\$27,198.35	\$2,402.00	\$25,204.03	71	\$29,000.00	87	(\$3,795.97)	\$29,000.00	\$3,795.97	87
5.69000	Grounds Maintenance	0.00	2,436.30	513.00	6,471.59	0	6,200.00	104	271.59	6,200.00	(271.59)	104
5.69100	Building Maintenance	83.60	13,082.10	931.00	8,049.60	9	11,150.00	72	(3,100.40)	11,150.00	3,100.40	72
5.69200	Insurance	0.00	13,138.00	1,132.00	13,057.00	0	13,650.00	96	(593.00)	13,650.00	593.00	96
	Total Grounds/Build Expense	\$83.60	\$28,656.40	\$2,576.00	\$27,578.19	3	\$31,000.00	89	(\$3,421.81)	\$31,000.00	\$3,421.81	89
5.71000	OCWM Basic Support	1,151.17	13,814.04	1,153.00	13,814.04	100	13,814.00	100	0.04	13,814.00	(0.04)	100
5.71300	CUE Seminary Support	125.00	1,500.00	125.00	1,500.00	100	1,500.00	100	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	100
5.72100	Costa Rica Sister Church	600.00	7,200.00	600.00	7,200.00	100	7,200.00	100	0.00	7,200.00	0.00	100
5.72500	Placerville Camp Operations	125.00	1,500.00	125.00	1,500.00	100	1,500.00	100	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	100
	Total Benevolences	\$2,001.17	\$24,014.04	\$2,003.00	\$24,014.04	100	\$24,014.00	100	\$0.04	\$24,014.00	(\$0.04)	100
	Total Expenses	\$20,205.37	\$222,691.81	\$24,535.00	\$269,002.86	82	\$294,794.00	91	(\$26,110.64)	\$294,794.00	\$26,110.64	91
	Difference	\$2,464.02	\$39,039.19	(\$2,508.00)	(\$1,836.85)		(\$30,415.00)			(\$30,415.00)		

2024 BUDGET

First Congregational Church of Rapid City					
2024 Budget					
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Proposed
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pledges:					
Pledges	224,517	206,079	198,205	201,660	196,730
Non-Pledge Donations	25,742	24,009	33,565	27,749	27,000
Loose Offerings	981	1,464	3,352	4,971	4,500
Total Pledges/Giving Income	251,239	231,552	235,122	234,380	228,230
Other Income:					
Rent Income	11,565	11,975	12,640	12,865	12,000
Interest Income	3,408	2,927	3,091	6,430	5,000
Miscellaneous (wedding)	150		1,150		-
PPP Monies	31,600		-		-
Fundraising/Giving Tuesday	1,440		-		
Gain on Sale of Investment	1	53	-		-
Endowment Gift	9,082	19,588	10,878	13,491	14,000
Total Other Income	57,246	34,543	27,759	32,786	31,000
Total Income	308,485	266,095	262,881	267,166	259,230
Salaries:					
Senior Minister Salary & Benefits	87,236	88,792	46,953	72,326	83,000
CE Minister Salary & Benefits (Susan)	23,857	-	-	-	-
New Christian Education Leader	-	-	-	10,678	25,000
Youth Worker (Kylie)	-	2,656	-		-
Secretary Salaries	19,615	30,817	27,162	32,828	36,000
Bookkeeping Services	6,162	5,720	6,518	8,050	2,640
Add'l bookkeeping services		8,442	3,978	-	-
Choir Director Salary	8,400	11,758	9,852	11,280	11,280
Bell Choir Salary	667	-	-	1,778	2,000
Organist Salary	11,000	4,083	10,102	9,975	9,975
Substitute Organist	-	350	450	1,050	1,800
Nursery Supervisor	45	-	-	990	3,240
Janitor	7,858	9,536	8,391	8,989	9,000
Christian Nurture Stipend	2,640	3,000	3,180	3,090	3,090
IT Specialist			2,000	3,000	3,000
Payroll Taxes	3,906	4,762	6,020	6,430	7,985
Total Salaries Expense	171,386	169,916	124,606	170,464	198,010

First Congregational Church of Rapid City					
2024 Budget					
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Proposed
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Worship:					
New Music: Adult Choir	500		-	200	1,000
New Music: Bell Choir	250		-	-	-
Soloist/Special Music	-		-	-	-
Substitute Ministry	4,586		2,082	1,376	800
Worship Expense					250
Choir Director Professional Development					300
Organist Professional Development					300
Streaming License					500
Communion Supplies	-			55	125
Total Worship Expense	5,336	499	2,082	1,631	3,275
Christian Education	4,307	3,725	4,226	5,221	6,000
Ministry Expense:					
BH Association Dues	-		602	594	600
Conference Registrations	-		125	8	250
Minister/Staff Professional Expense	385			320	300
Open & Affirming			160	393	1,000
Mission Meals				1,900	-
Wedding/Funeral			598		
Hospitality	32		401	280	500
Shuttle Service	1,020				-
Total Ministry Expenses	1,437	1,883	1,886	3,495	2,650
Office Expense	9,538	11,472	10,621	11,395	13,000
Utilities	23,033	23,471	27,198	25,204	26,500
Grounds/Building Maintenance	26,680	28,886	28,656	27,578	29,000
New Pastor Moving Costs, One-Time	760	-	289		-
Benevolences:					
OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)	13,814	13,814	13,814	13,814	7,000
CUE Seminary Support	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	-
Undesignated Contingency	-				
Costa Rica Sister Church	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200	-
Placerville Camp Operations	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	3,000
Total Benevolences	24,014	24,014	24,014	24,014	10,000
Total Expenditures	266,491	263,866	223,578	269,002	288,435
Giving Greater Than (Less Than) Expenditures	41,994	2,229	39,303	(1,836)	(29,205)

22 **NOMINATIONS**

Moderator – Susan Kelts

Asst Moderator — Eileen Rossow

Clerk – Sheila Long

Church Board Congregational Representatives:

2025 – Becky Fisher

2026 – Jenny Kozel

2027 – Patti Arneson

Dept. of Worship:

2025 – Bonnie Edwards, Kande Snoozy

2026 – Lisa Lyons, Alicia Sutliff-Benusis

2027 – Becky Casselli-Smith, Ryan Webster

Dept. of Education:

2025 – Jane Glover, Nick Strampe

2026 – Dawn Erk, Reva Ortega

2027 – Kaylee Kruse and Mark Ortega

Dept. of Ministries:

2025 – Kim Nearhood, Sybil Rounds

2026 – Cindy Ledford, Melanie Palm

2027 – Debbie Erickson, Laura Switzer

Dept. of Hospitality:

2025 – Jill Speck, Velma Speck

2026 – Melissa Emerson, Cam Miller

2027 – Carol Boyles, Colleen Schuft

Dept. of Building, Equipment and Grounds:

2025 - Steve Bareis, Rick Bell

2026 – Randy Fisher, Dave Ledford

2027 – Jordan Barnes, Thom Palm

Dept. of Stewardship and Budget:

2025 – Kevin Sandmeier, Scott Schuft

2026 – Randy Daughenbaugh, Barb Knight

2027 – Kyle Grauman, Dowell Casselli-Smith

Thanks to those who have completed their service on the following departments for 2023:

Church Board Congregational Representatives

Carol Boyles

Dept. of Worship

Robin Eddy

Bruce Nearhood

Dept. of Education

Patti Arneson

Lynn Grauman

Dept. of Ministries

Sheila Long

Becky Tilghman

Dept. of Hospitality

Jordan Barnes

Jeanette Hill

Robin Franson

Dept. of Buildings and Grounds

Alan Glover

Mark Ortega

Jim Webster

Dept. of Stewardship and Budget

Pat Lebrun

Harlan Stephens

145th Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

Call to Order

Invocation

Receive Annual Reports

Report of the First Congregational Pilgrim Charitable Trust

Proposed Budget Discussion and Action

Election of Officers and Department Members

Other Business

Installation

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

