

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

April
2024

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 from Pastor Erin

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

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



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Spring is known for rejuvenation and rebirth, causing plants and animals alike to "come back to life". It is also a time of year where the sunshine and green growth around us lends itself towards cultivating a practice of gratitude and of prayer. I happen to think these are deeply beautiful and connected things—*coming back to life, prayer and gratitude.*

A few years back a friend introduced me to a way of prayer that had helped her pray more often and she shared that it had increased her sense of gratitude and thankfulness. You start with your outstretched hand, and each digit represents a particular prayer.

- Touch the thumb and pray: *I love you, God, because you are ...*
- Touch the index finger and pray: *I'm sorry for ...*
- Touch the middle finger and pray by name for a person or situation in need of God's healing ...
- Touch the fourth finger and pray: *Thank you, God, for ...*
- Touch the pinky and pray: *Please help me ...*



Such a simple practice, yet one that enlarges our mindfulness of God's presence, unconditional love, and abundant gifts. Always. Let's practice gratitude and *prayer and come back to life* this Spring, together!

I wish you health and peace and healing. 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,



Pastor Erin

BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

Moderator's Moment

by Susan Kelts

The Church Board met for its monthly meeting on March 19. We had a full agenda and discussed/voted on many issues. Every Department has been busy with various issues and activities. There has been some concern that our Church members are not kept apprised of what is discussed, approved or not approved at our Board meetings.

Here is how you can stay

informed: go to our website

www.rcfirstucc.com. Click on "Who We Are." Then select "Church Board Minutes."

You may also see the minutes posted in the church foyer each month.

Copies are available on the table in the Narthex with the church directories.

All of our Church Departments and Staff are working hard to make our Church run smoothly. I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You!

Department of

Ministries by Laura Switzer

We continue to support **Church Response** but are no longer offering grocery card sales. There will be a presentation by the new Church Response director, Tina Newman, during the Adult Forum at **10:45am** in the **Fellowship Hall** on **April 7**, with a special offering for Church Response taken during worship on **April 14**. The food request is **canned meats**.

Church Response continues to collect Styrofoam or paper egg cartons, which may be placed in the grocery cart along with food donations. Thank you!

Department of Hospitality by Carol Boyles

The Department of Hospitality and friends put together a green feast for St Patrick's Day. For Easter, we served treats after worship.

Coffee hour is an important time of gathering for many of us. Please sign up to help when you can. AND Don't forget to greet those who join us and are sitting alone.

Please help us be hospitable.



Department of Education by Mary Haan

The Department of Education has enjoyed a wonderful couple of months with our new members and our new Chair, **Dawn Erk!**

The Teens & Tweens are hosting **Coffee Hour** and a **Bake Sale** on **Sunday, April 14**, after worship! All proceeds go to support youth service projects and registration costs for Placerville Camp this summer! Other fundraising opportunities may happen soon!

Our **Board Game Night for Young Folks** will continue on **April 9** and **April 23** from **6:00pm to 8:00pm**. We meet in the Fireside Room.

We also look forward to celebrating Springtime with a **Family Day at Placerville** on **May 19th**. Watch the Sunday bulletin for reminders!

Our Department is dedicated to creatively teaching the children through scripture, discussion, crafts, and games. We are working hard to plan a wonderful Vacation Bible School. Our Department is currently discussing ideas for children's and adults' programming this summer. Send us your ideas anytime!

Placerville Camp

It's time to register for Placerville Camps. **May 1st** is the deadline for discounted rates, so make your plans soon!

Women's Camp	June 2-6
Shining Stars	June 2-6
Family Getaway	June 6-9
Seekers	June 9-14
Faith Explorers	June 16-21
Grand Camp	June 21-23
Crossroads	June 23-29
Family Camp	July 21-27

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



Department of Buildings and Grounds by Dave Ledford

Fire Suppression Project

Request for Proposal - March 26, 2024

The Department of Building and Grounds representing First Congregational Church is requesting cost proposals to provide design and construction services to install fire sprinklers at the First Congregational Church located at 1200 Clark Street, Rapid City, SD. Due to budget constraints, the fire suppression project will most likely need to be implemented in several phases (refer to attached plan). Our main priority is to secure a proposal to have fire sprinklers for Phase 1 installed in the classroom area before start-up of school this August. If our budget allows, we would like to include Phase 2 for the basement area. Due to the unknown timeline for installation of sprinklers for Phases 3, 4 and 5, only the anticipated cost is requested at this time to help with funding raising. If your company has interest or questions about this project, and would like to setup a time to visit the church, please send requests via emails to:

Dave Ledford cdledford@rap.midco.net

Tom Palm thompalm57@gmail.com

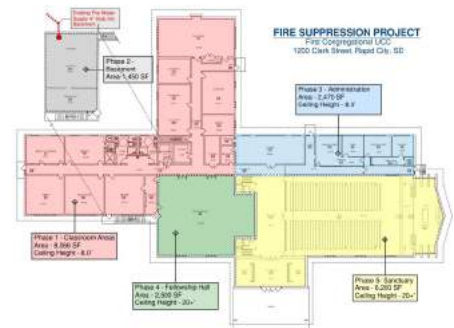
Fire Suppression Phasing:

Phase 1: Classroom Wings (8,066 SF) Fire protection of the classroom wings and kitchen area is our highest priority. If possible, fire sprinklers need to be installed in this area before school start-up this August, 2024.

Phase 2: Basement (1,450 SF) If the budget allows, our preference would be to include installation of sprinklers in the basement as part of the phase 1 work.

Phase 3: Administrative Office Area (2,470 SF) Installing sprinklers in the administrative office wing is a low priority, but would like to see work done in this area within the next two years.

Phases 4 and 5: Fellowship Hall (2,500 SF) and Church Sanctuary (6,200 SF). This section of the church is a low priority and hope to consider this work in the future. The anticipated cost for this work would be helpful for future fundraising.



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH

Coffee in the Parlor

Join us each Sunday at **8:45am** for **Coffee in the Parlor** before church! Have a latte or a fancy coffee, socialize with friends, and make your way into the sanctuary to enjoy the Gathering Music!

Easter Lilies

If you purchased an Easter lily, please take it with you following worship, if you have not already done so. Thank you!

New Member Class

A class for new members will be held following worship on **April 7**. Anyone wishing to join the church or who would like to learn more about our church are welcome to attend. Contact **Pastor Erin** for more information.

Church Chat

In **March through May**, Church Chat meet on **second and fourth Mondays**, at **9:45am**. The group is studying *The*

Most Human Human by Brian Christian. For more information, contact **Becky Fisher or Kathleen Batchelder**. Please join us!

Midday Meditation

Calling all contemplatives! Each **Monday-Thursday** at **11:00am**, a midday meditation (20-minute-sit) is offered in the hallway near the Sacristy. Please feel free to pop-in any time you'd like. For more information, contact **Pastor Erin**.

Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Practices is a small group of church members and friends who meet to read scriptures together and to engage in practices of prayer and meditation. Spiritual Practices will be held on **Tuesday each week at 12:30pm**. Please consider joining the group in the church library. For more information, contact **Pastor Erin**.

Altar Guild

Have you ever wondered what the Altar Guild is all about? Please come and find out! Altar Guild meets on the **second Thursday** of every month at **10:00am**. The next meeting will be held on **April 11**.

Stained Glass Group

Come learn how to create beautiful stained glass works of art. The group meets on **Saturdays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm** in the kitchen. For more information, contact **Dave Ledford**.

New Horizons Concert

A New Horizons Band concert will be held on **April 14 at 1:45pm** in the Viking Hall at the Senior Center, 2900 Canyon Lake Drive. All are welcome, free admission.

Ordination and Installation

Pastor Erin's Ordination and Installation will be held at **First Congregational Church** on **April 28 at 2:30pm**. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



Spring Rummage and Bake Sale

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on **Friday, April 19 from 8:00am to 3:00pm and Saturday, April 20 from 8:00am to noon**. The bake sale is on **Friday only**.

Please remember these important times for rummage sale drop offs:

Sunday, April 14 after worship and coffee hour, and **Monday -**

Wednesday, April 15-17 from **9:00am - 3:00pm**. Items will not be accepted after those times.

Sign up sheets to help will be in the Church Office and on the front tables during coffee hour. If you have even an extra hour on any day that week, come to church and we'll find a job for you.

Please pick up flyers to post around town in your favorite places.

Rummage Sale Week Schedule:

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Items can be brought into the building after worship; room setup starts after coffee hour.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

MONDAY, APRIL 15:

9:00am to 3:00pm: setup continues - donations accepted

TUESDAY, APRIL 16:

9:00am to 3:00pm: setup continues - donations accepted

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17:

9:00am to 3:00pm: setup continues - last day for donations

THURSDAY, APRIL 18:

9:00am to 3:00pm: pricing all day
NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED

FRIDAY, APRIL 19:

8:00am: doors open - sale closes at **3:00pm**

BAKE SALE Friday ONLY

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: 8:00am: doors open

10:00am: bag sale begins

12:00pm: sale closes - clean up begins

Leftovers will be delivered to local thrift stores. There will likely be a need for pickup trucks to help with deliveries on Saturday.

If you are bringing items for the **bake sale**, please have them packaged and ready for sale. Donations can be left at the church on **Thursday**, or brought in **before 8:00am on Friday**. Due to the increased cost of baking supplies, we are suggesting that **cookies/bars** be priced at **\$2.00 for 6**. Other suggested prices are **cupcakes 50¢**; **cinnamon/caramel rolls \$1.50 each** and **breads from \$1.50 - \$3.00** depending on size and variety.

Young and old, men and women, experts and novices all pitch in to make this sale the best in town. Thank you in advance for joining in on the fellowship of our church's community service through this Rummage Sale.

Good Morning Circle

Good Morning Circle will not meet in April due to the rummage sale. We will meet the **3rd Wednesday of May** as usual.

Spring Ahead with Good Evening Circle!

Good Evening Circle is looking to reorganize and would love new faces and ideas! We've met in the past for dessert and fellowship while working on a community project. If you're at all interested, please see **Dawn Erk** or **Cindy Ledford**.

Church Softball

CHURCH SOFTBALL SEASON is nearly upon us!

First Congregational Church will have TWO teams -both women's and men's -this year (so get your fan-stand-pads ready)!

If you have any interest in joining the team please let **Pastor Erin** or Office Administrator, **Patti**, know by **Sunday, April 14th**.

No previous softball experience required. We will have FUN!

Coffee Hour Help

Coffee hosts and dishwashers are needed for the coffee hour following worship. Easy instructions are posted for each volunteer opportunity. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall on the sheets located next to the cookies if you can help. If you need assistance, indicate it on the sheet and someone will help you. Thank you!

Woodchuck Society

Work has been spotty in March, but as weather conditions and machinery conditions improve we hope to work

more consistently in April. Our normal work days are **Wednesdays** and **Saturdays, 9:00am to noon**.

Cancellations or changes are emailed to interested people, so if you want to know the latest news, contact **Chuck Rounds** at cwskrounds@gmail.com

News from los Guido, Costa Rica -

by **Chuck and Sybil Rounds**

Little did we know when we made our first trip to Costa Rica in 2001 that we would be heavily involved with the people in the community of los Guido for the next 2 decades. There have been 4 work teams there (2001, 2003, 2005, 2007) and we have also participated in the Vacation Bible School programming every year since 2002. Trips were not made during the COVID years of 2021, 2022, and 2023.

We remained in close contact with Pastor Dorotea Yucra and so we were not surprised to learn that she had resigned from the board that supervised the Comunidad Cristiana de los Guido 5 when her eldest daughter had a cancer diagnosis that would ultimately end with Sarvia's death on December 15, 2023. It appeared that the sister church relationship that we had enjoyed since 2001 had come to an end. We felt the need for closure so planned a week long trip to bid farewell to many people who had become family.

Even in her intense sorrow, Dorotea opened her home to us for a gathering of her family and friends, all of whom had been deeply involved in the

church. Dorotea's daughter Gady took the time to drive us around the neighborhood so we could see as many old friends as possible in the few days we were there. It was wonderful to meet the children of parents whom we had first known as children themselves, and to hear stories of success for those parents raised in a tough place.

Pastor Dorotea expressed her deep gratitude for all the help received from First Congregational members over the years. Without the help from the Angels of Los Guido fund many children would not have been able to attend school, or go to swim classes, or in some cases even have enough food. The feeding program money had been included in First Congregational's budget for many years, and provided nutritional meals 2 or 3 times a week for the single mothers and their children.

The opportunity to serve in conditions so different than we experience here has been life changing for us, and we sincerely hope that another opportunity will arise for those who want to make a difference. But be warned: these people will change you, and you will worry about them for the rest of your life.



MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer Concerns

Please hold the following members and friends in your prayers:



Bert Bolie following his surgery and overnight hospitalization on March 22. Cards are welcome. His address is in the church directory.

Lee Boyles has ongoing health concerns.

Evelyn Bradshaw is in the hospital following foot surgery. She is in room 806 and would love short visits and/or cards.

Vivian Dittmer fell and was in the hospital. She now is rehabilitating at Clarkson Mt. View, room #19. As Vivian no longer lives in her apartment, cards may be sent to her daughter's new address:
c/oTerry Brouillette
335 S Canyon Rd B-18
Rapid City, SD 57702

Barb Knight is recovering well following her shoulder surgery.

Jill Kundtz is back at work, but still is having pain.

Sheila Long's mother-in-law, **Ann Long**, is fighting cancer.

Vera Mettler fell and broke her wrist. She is in a cast, but may require surgery. Cards are welcome.

Reva Ortega's father, **Gerald Stapert**, is recuperating and receiving rehabilitation at Westhills Village Health.

Jodie Thuringer's father is in Hospice care. Continued prayers for the family are appreciated.

John Wrede who works with the Woodchucks, was recently hospitalized due to a heart attack. His wife, **Margie** had hip replacement surgery.

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, Eunice Johnson, Merrie Miller, Marrelyce Seaman, Dorothy Slingsby, Helen Snyder and Elena Van Pelt

Update on Shana Bendixen

Shana Bendixen, granddaughter of **Chuck** and **Sybil Rounds** and sister of **Kelton Bendixen**, was moved to a regular room at the hospital in Council Bluffs on March 19 and will likely be moved to a rehab hospital in Omaha when she is strong enough. She continues to amaze us with her recovery. Thank you all for your prayers!

Directory Update

Scott and Colleen Schuft
311 Yellowstone Pl
Spearfish SD 57783

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who wished me a happy 90th birthday at coffee hour on February 18, and with cards and letters. I had a wonderful weekend celebrating with almost all of my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and assorted spouses and partners, and a zoom call with one who was absent because of Covid.

I was grateful our gathering was for my birthday and not my funeral so I was still here to enjoy it! My family members all expressed appreciation for the meaningful worship that Sunday. After more than 20 years in this congregation, I will miss all of you after I move to Sioux Falls in April, and will probably still keep in touch through the live-streamed services. Blessings to you all. *Mary Keithahn*

Birthdays

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

April 1: **Andy Knight, Valena Stetson**
April 3: **Brendan Lyons**
April 4: **Laura Smith**
April 6: **Corrin Burke, Jakob Nickel**
April 7: **Heather Heinert**
April 8: **Jane Glover, Tish Wilkinson**
April 9: **Peggy Nielson**
April 11: **Chad Tipton**
April 12: **Lynn Grauman, Nick Strampe**
April 14: **Pat Sutliff**
April 15: **Bonnie Edwards, Salim**

Golden, Noelle Schendzielos

April 17: **Jet Cruz**
April 20: **Courtney Strampe**
April 21: **Robin Franzon, Dick Green**
April 22: **Marvin McMacken**
April 26: **Bertie Roberts**
April 27: **Arie LaCroix, Lynari Pettit**
April 30: **Benjamin Tipton**

Birthday Celebration

Jane Glover will celebrate her birthday **on April 8**. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship to share a piece of birthday cake with Jane.

APRIL CALENDAR

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

Monday, April 1

11:00am: Midday Meditation

Tuesday, April 2

11:00am: Midday Meditation
12:30pm: Spiritual Practices
1:00pm: Craft Day

Wednesday, April 3

11:00am: Midday Meditation
6:00pm: Bell Choir Practice
7:00pm: Choir Practice

Thursday, April 4

11:00am: Midday Meditation
4:00pm: Diversity and Inclusion

Friday, April 5

10:30am: Watercolor Painting
5:30pm: Making Marriage Work

Saturday, April 6

8:30am: Making Marriage Work
1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

Sunday, April 7

8:45am: Coffee in the Parlor
9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School
10:30am: Fellowship Hour/Adult Forum
10:45am: Dept. of Hospitality
Dept. of Worship

Monday, April 8

9:45am: Church Chat
11:00am: Midday Meditation
5:00pm: PEO Meeting BR

Tuesday, April 9

11:00am: Midday Meditation
12:30pm: Spiritual Practices
PEO Meeting BF
1:00pm: Craft Day

Wednesday, April 10

10:00am: Women's Fellowship Board Meeting
11:00am: Midday Meditation
6:00pm: Bell Choir Practice
7:00pm: Choir Practice

Thursday, April 11

10:00am: Altar Guild Meeting
11:00am: Midday Meditation
6:30pm: Stewardship and Budget

Friday, April 12

10:00am: Watercolor Painting

Saturday, April 13

1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

Sunday, April 14

8:45am: Coffee in the Parlor
9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School
10:30am: Fellowship Hour
10:45am: Rummage Sale Setup

Monday, April 15

8:00am: Rummage Sale Setup
11:00am: Midday Meditation
5:30pm: Church Response Meets

Tuesday, April 16

8:00am: Rummage Sale Setup
11:00am: Midday Meditation
12:30pm: Spiritual Practices

Wednesday, April 17

8:00am: Rummage Sale Setup
11:00am: Midday Meditation
12:00pm: Interfaith Round Table/
Pastor Erin
2:00pm: Communion at Westhills
6:00pm: Bell Choir Practice
7:00pm: Choir Practice

Thursday, April 18

8:00am: Rummage Pricing Day
11:00am: Midday Meditation

Friday, April 19

8:00am: Church Rummage and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 20

8:00am: Church Rummage Sale
10:00am: Bag Sale Begins
12:00pm: Rummage Sale Cleanup

Sunday, April 21

8:45am: Coffee in the Parlor
9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School
10:30am: Fellowship Hour
10:45am: Pastoral Relations/
Personnel Meeting
Dept. of Education
3:00pm: BH Chamber Concert

Monday, April 22

9:45am: Church Chat
11:00am: Midday Meditation

Tuesday, April 23

11:00am: Midday Meditation
12:30pm: Spiritual Practices
1:00pm: Craft Day
7:00pm: Church Board meets

Wednesday, April 24

11:00am: Midday Meditation
2:00pm: Communion at St.
Martin's Village
6:00pm: Bell Choir Practice
7:00pm: Choir Practice

Thursday, April 25

11:00am: Midday Meditation
1:30pm: Memoir Writing Group

Friday, April 26

10:00am: Watercolor Painting

Saturday, April 27

8:00am: Rotary Meeting
1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

Sunday, April 28

8:45am: Coffee in the Parlor
9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
9:45am: Sunday School
10:30am: Fellowship Hour
2:30pm: Ordination and Installation for Pastor Erin

Monday, April 29

11:00am: Midday Meditation

Tuesday, April 30

9:30am: Church Kitchen Cleaning
11:00am: Midday Meditation
12:30pm: Spiritual Practices
1:00pm: Craft Day
1:30pm: Dept. of Ministries



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

Church Picture Directory



We have the dates set up for taking pictures for our new Directory!

The photographer will be here **April 23-25**. The sign up times are from **10:00am-4:00pm**, and **4:00pm-7:00pm** for those who may need after hours times.

There will be a table for sign ups in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, April 7** and following Sundays. There is an online link for viewing and ordering your photos, as well as a price package, if you decide to order. Please sign up for a time today!

*Please note, that you are not required to buy a photo package to get your picture in the directory. You may instead, send a picture of your own to the office, and we will print it in the directory.