

# THE CALL TO WORSHIP

May  
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 Reverend Erin

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

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

**Perspectives** — those lenses through which we all see the world. Yet, we each wear different, unique lenses that are the only edition in the world. And according to neuroscience, perspectives are built based on past experiences, the environment we come from, our upbringing, and the culture into which we were born.

My question for you this May is: Are you having a hard time controlling your perspective? Perhaps you can try this... when I'm in "a funk" I ask myself, "What is influencing my perspective?" Is it the media I've been watching recently? An influencer on Social Media or Instagram? Is it a past experience that I'm allowing to color my current reality? By asking myself which factors are contributing to the way I'm feeling, I'm able to take a step back and separate what's real (the blessings in my life, the resources available to me) versus what I might be making up (a potentially negative future I've made up based on nothing more than my imagination).

Here's something my dad used to say for us to remember- we're in control of two things in life: **our attitude and our effort.**

That's it. We get to choose our attitude and our effort. So, what's it going to be?

I'm not saying if you shift your perspective all of your pain will go away. Pain is guaranteed, but facing it with the right mindset certainly helps. I'm going to share four things I found online which really do help with shifting perspective.

### **1. Ask yourself – is this real or is this a story I'm making up?**

I always evaluate whether it's a feeling I've felt before because if it is, I could be letting my past show up in my present too much.

### **2. Step outside of your perspective**

If we're surrounded by negativity, we're only going to get weighed down. Change your scenery and do something (take a walk, put on your favorite music, talk to someone who makes you feel happy) to actively separate from the negativity.

### **3. Remind yourself you're in control of how you view a situation**

Ask yourself "How would the best version of me handle this situation? What would her perspective be?"

### **4. Arm yourself with examples of the perspective you want**

If you're unsure how to achieve the perspective you desire, surround yourself with those who have it. Listen to podcasts, read books and consume media created by people who have the mindset you'd like to adopt.

**Perspectives** have a great impact on our lives. And, on how we communicate with people around us.



*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,  
Reverend Erin



## THANK-YOU!!!

A most sincere and heartfelt thank-you for all the cards, gifts, food, cake (DEB!), and kind words of support on my Ordination & Installation! ...AND most especially (!! for the GORGEOUS and deeply MEANINGFUL stained glass creation from my church family (DAVE!)! You guys are THE BEST!!!

# BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

## Moderator's Moment

by Susan Kelts

The Church Board met for its monthly meeting on April 23. As usual, we had a full agenda.

There was representation from each department and we made decisions on two major issues:

**Fire suppression:** We approved funds to install a wet fire suppression system in the classroom wings, basement and office area. We are hopeful this will be completed by the end of summer.

**Request from Empower Ed to have their K-12 school move to our building:**

The Board voted against allowing Empower Ed to move to our building.

The Rummage Sale was a great success! Thank you to all those who donated, helped to set up and take down the sale, worked to sort and price goods and made purchases. The next sale will be in mid-August or early September.

## Department of

### Ministries by Laura Switzer

#### Mission Meal

The next Cornerstone Mission meal is **Friday, May 31**. We would love cookie donations and ask that the donations be dropped off in the church kitchen by May 31 by **4:00pm**.

#### Church Response

A special offering for Church Response was taken during worship on April 14. Thank you to our church family for

your generous donations and support of Church Response!

The food request for May and the summer is canned fruits and vegetables. Church Response continues to collect Styrofoam or paper egg cartons, which may be placed in the grocery cart along with food donations.



#### Strengthen the Church Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

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.

First Congregational Church will receive the Strengthen the Church (STC) offering on **Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024**. Please make your checks out to **First Congregational Church with STC** on the memo line. Thank you for your support.

#### Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The Black Hills Center for Equality is holding its annual **Rainbow Color Run/Walk on May 18**. This is a fun, family-friendly event. More details can be found on their Facebook page.

The Black Hills Center for Equality is also hosting the **Black Hills Pride Parade on June 1 at 10:00am** in downtown Rapid City.

## Department of Stewardship and Budget

#### A New Way to Give!

Scan this QR code to donate.



Use the camera on your phone to scan this picture and a link to our Giving page will appear. Click the link and donate to our church.

Thank you for your donation!

## Congratulations

**Erin Erickson**, responding to God's call to be a representative servant leader in the United Church of Christ, received the rite of ordination and installation on April 28, 2024 at First Congregational Church, Rapid City South Dakota.

Congratulations to **Reverend Erin!**



## Out-of-Town Contact for Rev. Erin

**Rev. Erin** will be away from church **May 2-6**. Contact **Pastor Becky Fleming** if needed. Her number is 605-484-3194.

## Coffee in the Parlor

Join us each Sunday at **8:45am** for **Coffee in the Parlor** before church! Have coffee and socialize with friends prior to the start of worship at 9:30am.

## 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**.

## Communion Services

**Rev. Erin** serves Communion at **Westhills Village** on the **third Wednesday** of each month at **2:00pm**.

**Pastor Erin** also serves Communion at **St. Martin's Village** on the **fourth Wednesday** of each month at **2:00pm**. All are welcome to join either service.



## Church Board Minutes

For those interested, copies of Church Board minutes are in the Narthex on the table with the church directories. Church Board minutes also are posted on the church website.

## Good Morning Circle

The Good Morning Circle will meet on **Wednesday, May 15 at 9:30am**.

A short business meeting will follow the program and morning treats. Please join us this month!

## 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. Thank you!

## Placerville Camp

**It's time to register for Placerville Camps!**



- 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](http://placervillecamp.net/camps)



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

We are having a wonderful Spring! The kids have been hard at work practicing songs to share with the congregation on **Sunday, May 12th**. We are eagerly putting plans in place for our Vacation Bible School this year. "God's Toolbox" will be construction-themed and will run from **June 10th - 12th** from **5:30 - 8:00pm**. Registration forms are available on the last page of this edition of The Call newsletter and in the Narthex. You can also register using the link on First UCC's website at [rcfirstucc.com](http://rcfirstucc.com)! If you want to volunteer for VBS, please talk to **Mary Haan** or **Patti** in the office.

We are also excited for our end-of-year celebration at **Placerville Camp** on **Sunday, May 19th** from **noon - 5:00pm**. We'll enjoy lunch, games, fellowship and a hike to celebrate a wonderful year of Sunday School and programs! **Please RSVP** to Patti or Mary so we can get a head count for **lunch** at Placerville.



Thank you to everyone for their generous donations and support of the Teens & Tweens when they hosted the coffee hour and held a bake sale on April 14. All proceeds go to support youth service projects and registration costs for Placerville Camp this summer!

The Department is incredibly grateful to Sharon Darrow, Dawn Erk, Sue Maynard, Crystal Hamann, Ashley Ferguson, Courtney and Nick Strampe, Patti Arneson, Reva and Mark Ortega, Lynn and Elsa Grauman, Willy Grigg, and Jenny Kozel for all the hands-on help with the kiddos this past year!

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Adult Forum/Scams

The Office has been made aware of an email that was sent from [pastoremmapeterson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoremmapeterson@gmail.com) pretending to be UCC staff. Please do not reply to this email.

Our work emails are [office@rcfirstucc.com](mailto:office@rcfirstucc.com), [pastorerin@rcfirstucc.com](mailto:pastorerin@rcfirstucc.com), and [maryh@rcfirstucc.com](mailto:maryh@rcfirstucc.com).

We will have an Adult Forum presentation by BH Federal Credit Union on "Avoiding Scams" following worship on **May 5**.

### 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 **Rev. Erin**.

### Church Chat

Church Chat will meet on **Monday, May 13** and **Monday, May 27** at **9:45am**. For more information, contact **Becky Fisher** or **Kathleen Batchelder**. Please join us!

### 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 disciplines require practice and having a group with whom to practice can strengthen the discipline and the faith it gives.

Spiritual Practices is held on **Tuesday** each week at **12:30pm**. Please consider joining the group in the church library. For more information, contact **Rev. Erin**.

## April 2024 Church Rummage Sale

The April 2024 First Congregational United Church of Christ Rummage Sale is in the books, and by all accounts, it was a grand success. From Sunday after church set-up to Saturday afternoon Takedown, we had a multitude of excellent volunteers. We had a little inclement weather during the week, but it didn't seem to deter rummage sale workers or buyers. Donations were in abundance including a lot of children's toys, books and clothing. By Saturday noon, when the sale closed, we had very little to box up and load into trucks to take to the Mission Thrift Store. As a matter of fact, we had such great help, that we had everything packed up and put away and all the furniture put back in order by 12:45pm on Saturday!

The rummage sale team of **Susan Kelts, Melanie Palm, Eileen Rossow, and Denise Webster** would like to recognize each person who helped with this endeavor, but that would take forever, because there were a LOT of you who helped. So we will just say one big **THANK YOU** for all that you do for our church! The church raised **\$7,860.75!** The monies will be donated to the church fire suppression fund. Congratulations to all of you!



## Prayer Chain Group

The Prayer Chain at First Congregational Church is an active and involved community. This group receives verbal and/or email requests for prayers for people with health concerns, for people suffering loss, for people celebrating joys, for people within our congregation and with shirttail relation to one of us. This group prays for those with prayer concerns listed in the bulletin as well as those who desire to have their concerns held a little more privately. For those with prayer concerns who are more private yet, Rev. Erin and Pastor Becky hold things in confidence as requested. However, it is vital for all to understand the importance of supportive prayer in

times of concern or joy. Having others to share our burdens and joys is part of BEING A CHURCH. Allowing others, even just one other in your church, to pray for a concern or joy of your heart is integral to BEING A PART OF A CHURCH. Prayers bring comfort and peace. Prayers increase our faith. Prayers give us wisdom and guidance. Prayers give us strength and hope. Prayers help us grow closer to God. Prayers give thanks and praise. Prayers give us the opportunity to experience God's miracles.

Being a church is more than sitting in a pew on Sunday. It is about asking for support or reaching out in prayer for someone else. It is about celebrating joys

and praying through fear, nerves, worries, and concerns. Won't you please consider being a part of the whole church?

When you have a joy or concern to share, please email the information to **Pastor Becky Fleming** at [blrfleming1973@gmail.com](mailto:blrfleming1973@gmail.com) or [pastorbecky@rcfirstucc.com](mailto:pastorbecky@rcfirstucc.com). You may also call Pastor Becky at 605-484-3194, but please remember you may need to leave a message! Please include if you would like the information shared with just Rev. Erin, or the Prayer Chain, or the Prayer Chain and the bulletin. If you would like to join the prayer chain as an active prayer participant, please let **Pastor Becky** know at either of the email addresses above.

# MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

## Prayer Concerns

Our sympathy and prayers to those who recently lost loved ones:



### **Kathy Oulman-Johnson**

and **Stephanie Tipton** and families following the death of Kathy's mother and Stephanie's grandmother, **Erma Ames**, in Tulare, SD.

**Laura Switzer** and **Lynn Grauman** and family following the death of Laura's brother-in-law and Lynn's uncle, **Doug Switzer**, on April 5 in Omaha, NE.

Please hold the following members and friends in your prayers:

**Lee Boyles** has ongoing health concerns.

**Evelyn Bradshaw** has been moved to the Westhills Health Care unit room 38a.

**Kay Daugherty** had cardiac ablation on April 22 and all went well. She is at home to rest and recover.

**Vivian Dittmer** fell and was in the hospital. She now is rehabilitating at Clarkson Mt. View, room #19.

**Jill Kundtz** is having eye surgery on May 13.

**Vera Mettler** fell and broke her wrist. She is in a cast, but may require surgery. Cards are welcome. Vera's address is in the church directory.

**Linda Parrott** was hospitalized but now is home. Prayers for health concerns, as her medications are being changed.

**Doug Reeves**, brother-in-law to Kay Daugherty, has no further surgical treatment options for his neck.

Prayers are needed for Doug and his wife, Evelyn.

**Gerald Stapert, Reva Ortega's** father, is recovering with family. Thank you for all the prayers.

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

**Deb Tompkins' great-niece's** fiancé, **Gage Curry**, his best friend, **Nate**, and Nate's fiancée received extensive injuries in a UTV accident in Iowa. His best friend's mother was killed.

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 released from her rehab stay and has been moved to her group home! She will be far more comfortable in the comforts of her normal environment.

## Directory Updates

### **Mary Keithahn**

2622 E Whisper Trail  
Sioux Falls SD 57108

### **Scott and Colleen Schuft**

311 Yellowstone Pl  
Spearfish SD 57783

## Birthdays

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

- May 2 **Linda Parrott**
- May 3 **Bruce Nearhood**
- May 6 **Trent Eddy**
- May 10 **Georgia O'Connor**
- May 11 **Kim Bell-Wynia**  
**Sharon Darrow**  
**Lily Hamann**
- May 12 **Linnea Putnam**
- May 13 **Opal Igo**
- May 15 **Lisa Lyons**
- May 16 **Merrick Fisher**
- May 19 **Ruthie Schemmel**
- May 21 **Lia Green**
- May 24 **Benjamin Deyo**
- May 25 **Macey Wathen**
- 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](http://Rcfirstucc.com)



**Wednesday, May 1**

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

**Thursday, May 2**

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

**Friday, May 3**

- 10:00am: Watercolor Painting

**Saturday, May 4**

- 1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

**Sunday, May 5**

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

**Monday, May 6**

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation

**Tuesday, May 7**

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

**Wednesday, May 8**

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

**Thursday, May 9**

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation
- 6:30pm: Stewardship and Budget

**Friday, May 10**

- 10:00am: Watercolor Painting

**Saturday, May 11**

- 1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

**Sunday, May 12**

- 8:45am: Coffee in the Parlor
- 9:30am: Worship Service/Nursery available
- 9:45am: Sunday School
- 10:30am: Fellowship Hour/Muffins for Mother's Day
- 10:45am: Dept. of Education

**Monday, May 13**

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

**Tuesday, May 14**

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation
- 12:30pm: PEO Meeting/BF
- 12:30pm: Spiritual Practices
- 1:00pm: Craft Day
- 4:15pm: Trust Board

**Wednesday, May 15**

- 9:30am: Good Morning Circle
- 11:00am: Midday Meditation
- 12:00pm: Interfaith Round Table/ Pastor Erin
- 2:00pm: Communion at Westhills
- 7:00pm: Choir Practice

**Thursday, May 16**

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation

**Friday, May 17**

- 10:00am: Watercolor Painting
- 1:00pm: PEO Game Day/Barb Knight

**Saturday, May 18**

- 11:00am: Piano Student Recital
- 1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

**Sunday, May 19**

- 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

**Monday, May 20**

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation
- 5:30pm: Church Response meets

**Tuesday, May 21**

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

**Wednesday, May 22**

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

**Thursday, May 23**

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

**Friday, May 24**

- 10:00am: Watercolor Painting

**Saturday, May 25**

- 1:00pm: Stained Glass Group

**Sunday, May 26**

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

**Monday, May 27**

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

**Tuesday, May 28**

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

**Wednesday, May 29**

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation

**Thursday, May 30**

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation

**Friday, May 31**

- 10:00am: Watercolor Painting
- 3:30pm: Mission Meal Prep



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: \_\_\_\_\_

(You can also register using the link on First UCC's website at [rcfirstucc.com](http://rcfirstucc.com))