



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

717 Jackson Street

Belle Fourche, SD 57717

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Friendly Visitor Newsletter October 2024



Join us this Sunday!

St. Onge UCC 8:30 am

Belle Fourche UCC 10:00 am

Communion on the first Sunday of each month

Services also on Facebook & our webpage: www.bfsoucc.net

The Pastor's Pen



The coming elections are on everyone's minds these days...oh, you thought I was talking about the state and national elections? Nope, I'm talking about the upcoming special congregational meeting at the BF First Congregational Church where we will consider, discuss, and possibly vote on adopting a completely new set of bylaws for our church. Over the years, our governing documents have only received "cosmetic" updates, and our practices have changed so that we aren't really following them as closely as we should. Also, we have a smaller congregation, so do we really need nine deacons and seven trustees? Is a music committee optional or mandated? These are some of the questions that we will talking about so that our congregation can move confidently forward to serve Jesus Christ, our membership, and our community. This is the first rewrite of our constitution and bylaws since our denomination (the United Church of Christ) was established in 1957.

Jesus asked the crowds if they understood the changing signs of the earth and sky to discern the weather, yet they do not know how to interpret the present time? Through our congregational meetings, we seek the Spirit's guidance to lead us out of the past and into the future.

And we'll see you in church,

Pastor Chuck Aurand

COFFEE & CONVERSATION FOLLOWING WORSHIP

(And you don't really have to drink coffee!)

Belle Fourche UCC Oct 6th
St. Onge UCC Oct 13th

Join us for refreshments and refreshing conversation.

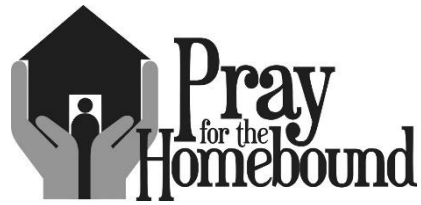


Scriptures for October 2024

10/06	Mark 10:2-16	World Communion Sunday
10/13	Mark 10:17-31	A God of Impossible Possibilities
10/20	Mark 10:35-45	Sitting Next to Jesus
10/27	Mark 10:46-52	What Do You Want?

"Whoever wishes to be first among you must be servant of all." ~ Mark 10:44

Edgewood Vista
Vi Barnes
Cheri Miller
Dottie Clarkson-Teague



Judy's Assisted Living
Irene Olson

Sundance Long Term Care & Rehab
Betty Schnaible

Rolling Hills Long Term Care
Lydell Koerner

Sandstone Senior Living
Jack & Mary Ann Wells

Monument Health Sturgis Care Center
Harry Haivala

Hickory House Apartments
De Johnson

OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Belle Fourche UCC

BIRTHDAYS

Teresa Aspen	1
Mary Ann Wells	7
Thom Martin	7
Serena Lorenz (Kokesh)	10
John Cooper	11
Chuck Aurand	18
Graydon Dailey	18
Darian Reede	18
JoAnn Lange	19
Winter McMahon	22
Braydon Moser	22
Jean Helmer	27

ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Teresa Aspen	11
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St. Onge UCC

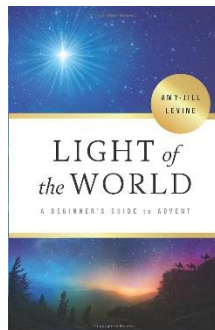
BIRTHDAYS

Marva Ryther	11
Jackie Crowley	18
Megan Ryther	19
Joe Russell	26
Micah Canfield	26
Lori Fairbanks	28

ANNIVERSARIES

Kim & Mark Bachman	3
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Our Upcoming Advent Study



Beginning November 20th at 7pm.

Light of the World

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine
is a professor of New Testament
and Jewish Studies.

Order your book now from your
favorite book retailer to avoid delays
in the holiday rush.

Bible Quiz



(c) Samuel (1 Sam. 28:3-25)

What dead person did the witch of Endor call to speak with King Saul?

- a) Moses, the Law-Giver
- b) Jacob the Patriarch
- c) Samuel, the Prophet
- d) The Apostle Paul

BF Youth Sunday School



Youth Sunday School returns October 6th.

BF August 2024 Financials

Beginning balance	44,842.53
Deposits	8,128.69
Expenses	8,738.60
End of month (July)	44,232.62

Dear UCC Church Family,

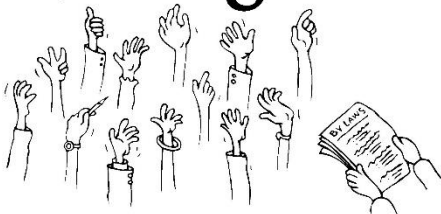
Thank you for the beautiful grand piano music box! I am grateful to have been able to play for our church services, funerals, weddings, etc. those many years.

I feel very blessed to have been able to be a part of our church life. Thank you again for such a wonderful remembrance.

Love,
Lanelle



Congregational Meeting



A Special BF Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for October 20th to consider a new set of bylaws for our church. Copies of the proposed bylaws are being mailed out and are available in the church office.

This Special Meeting will begin immediately following our worship service.



The Black Hills Association
is meeting at the Spearfish
UCC (920 Main Street) on
Sunday, October 13th.
Registration begins at 2:30 pm.

All are invited!

(Dinner is provided for \$10)



Spooktacular is coming soon.

Bring your donated (wrapped) candy to the church office and we will pair it with a "First Congregational Church UCC" pencil to hand out to all the trick-or-treaters this Halloween.

And THANK YOU!

Upcoming Camp at Placerville

Fall Youth Event

November 1-3, 2024

Placerville Camp is also available for your group or family event. Call or email for more information
Phone: 605-342-1390
placervillecampucc@gmail.com
www.placervillecamp.net



Minutes of Congregational UCC Church Council Meeting

September 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5pm. Opening prayer by Pastor Aurand.

Members Present: Colleen Anderson, Blaine Anderson, John King, Diane Kappes, Pastor Aurand, Kay Cooper (by telephone)

Trustees report by Kay Cooper: New insurance for the church has been obtained and is paid through the end of the year. The trees have been trimmed, and one removed. The city will pay for a portion of the cost. The front steps of the church are going to be repaired with an epoxy coating. An estimate is forthcoming and if accepted, the work will be done possibly this fall. The sign will be an upcoming project, no design has been chosen yet. There was a leak in the boiler that required the gas to be shut off. It has been repaired and once it has been checked and confirmed to be fixed, the gas will be turned back on.

Pastor Aurand gave a report that things are going well within the church. The worship in the park was a success that everyone enjoyed.

Diaconate report by Colleen Anderson: The worship in the park went very well- there were over 60 in attendance. Upcoming events are Spooktacular in October, the Hunters Supper in November and the decorating of the church for the Christmas season in December.

Colleen moved to approve the minutes of the May and July minutes; Diane seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: The draft of the by-laws was reviewed, and a few changes were made.

Colleen moved that a congregational meeting be held on October 20th after church for the purpose of considering the new by-laws. Motion passed.

John moved to recommend the new by-laws to the congregation. Motion passed.

On the 6th and 13th of October it will be announced that the church will be having a congregational meeting for the discussion of the by-laws.

New business-none

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. Pastor Aurand gave a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Kappes

Board of Trustees Minutes of the August 13, 2024 Meeting

Members Present: Kay, Shawn, Sandra, Dennis, Dick, Carol, and Pastor Chuck

Opening prayer by Pastor Chuck

Call to Order by Kay

Reading of the Minutes of the August 5, 2024 Special Meeting. Motion by Shawn to approve the minutes as presented. 2nd by Dennis. Motion passed.

Financial Reports were presented by Kay. Offerings are holding steady. Expenses are overall slightly under budget. Net income for January through July 2024 is up \$6315.00. Motion by Dick to accept the financial reports subject to audit. 2nd by Dennis. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Kay presented John Carbajal's bid regarding the 5 trees in the boulevard. The total of \$1911.60 includes cutting out the dead branches from the ash tree, \$250, the 3 honey locust trees at \$350 each, and removal of the dead tree second from the end at \$500 plus a bit more to grind out the stump. The City of Belle Fourche requires an application for a 50-50 cost share grant. Motion by Sandra to accept John Carbajal's bid and file the grant application with the city. 2nd by Dick. Motion passed.

Kay reported that Tony Albright has repaired 2 roof leaks and will fix the fascia on the north side within two weeks.

Shawn reported that he has not received a response from his inquiries regarding contractors who do epoxy coating on the surfaces of the front steps, and the powder coating of the metal framework.

Kay talked to Austin Bishop regarding the church sign. He will work with the industrial technology students after school begins to design and fabricate a sign.

New Business:

Kay summarized the Church Council's proposed revisions to the Church By-laws regarding the Board of Trustees. The Pastor is considered an ex-officio voting member of all church boards and committees. The Board of Trustees will consist of 4 members, two elected each year and may serve two-2- year terms. The Board will elect a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and a Recording Secretary each year at their first meeting after the annual congregational meeting. The Board of Trustees meets monthly and requires a 3-member quorum to conduct business. The proposed revisions of the Church By-laws were accepted by consensus. The Church Council meets September 17 to finalize the proposed revisions of the Church By-laws.

A discussion was entertained regarding the Special Funds Account, especially regarding increasing the balance of the Capital Improvement Account if the need arises. Funds from the CD savings and money market account could be accessed if necessary to cover a large capital repair or insurance deductible.

A Pioneer Bank Debit Card has been acquired for the Church. It will be used to pay urgent bills that may be over the current Credit Card limit, with Pastor Chuck and Bobbi as signers.

The need to add several new brass plates for the Memorials plaque was brought to the Board's attention. Becky Jeitz is the engraver who has prepared and installed the plates in the past. She will need an updated list of names for the new brass plates.

Pastor Chuck presented the Pastor's Reimbursement Report. Reimbursement for mileage and office expenses were presented. The St. Onge newsletters will be mailed using regular postage in the future. Frames were purchased for the educational posters in the education building hallway. Eight books for Pastoral use were purchased. Motion by Dennis to accept the Pastor's Reimbursement Report, 2nd by Shawn. Motion passed.

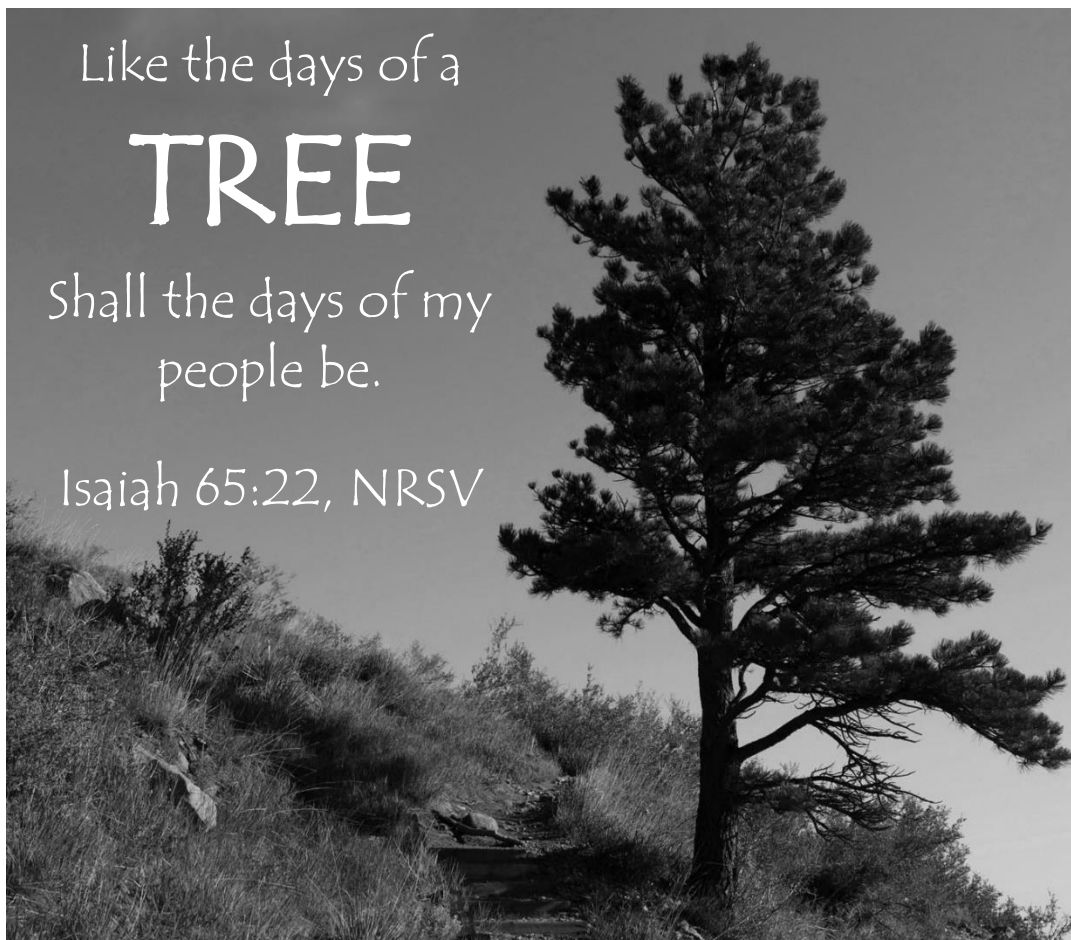
The Diaconate is searching for a church musician. They want to know the salary amount to offer. After discussion a motion by Dick to offer \$100.00 per week was entertained. 2nd by Dennis. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Closing prayer by Pastor Chuck.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Umenthum, Secretary



Board of Trustees Minutes of the September 17, 2024 Meeting

Members Present: Kay, Carol, Lyn, Dick, Sandra, Shawn, and Pastor Chuck

Opening Prayer by Pastor Chuck

Call to Order by Kay

Reading of the Minutes of the August 5, 2024 Special Meeting and the Meeting of August 13, 2024. Motion by Shawn to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Lyn. Motion passed.

Financial Reports presented by Kay: Kay reported a correction to Office Expenses to reflect \$333.86 and Worker's Compensation line item should be \$511.00. The Income Statement for month of August shows a loss of \$609.91 due to the payment of the Church Insurance premium to the end of the year. Kay reviewed the Special Funds account and noted that the Capital Improvement account balance is above \$7000. Motion by Lyn to approve the financial reports as corrected. 2nd by Dick. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Five Boulevard Trees: Kay reported that John Carbajal has completed the boulevard trees project. The total invoice amount was \$2309.85. The City of Belle Fourche will pay \$1000.00 from the grant program. John and 2 or 3 men worked 2 days to remove one tree, grind out the stump, and cut out the dead branches from the other 4 trees. Discussion was entertained to compensate John for the extra labor costs above the amount of his bid. They did an excellent job. Motion by Sandra, 2nd by Dick to pay John an additional \$1600.00 above his total invoice amount. Motion passed.

Front Steps: Dick, Lyn, and Shawn met with Kay and a contractor to resurface the front steps with an epoxy material. The contractor, James Urbansky, offered a ball park estimate of under \$2000.00 to grind the surface smooth, apply a sealer coat, and apply an epoxy coating colored to match the bricks. The final coating has a non-slip surface. The work should be completed before the end of October. Motion by Lyn, 2nd by Shawn to authorize the contractor to resurface the front steps with an epoxy coating at cost not to exceed \$2500.00. The metal framework beneath the steps will be refreshed by grinding away the old paint and rust, applying primer and new paint. The Trustees and volunteers from the congregation will refurbish the metal framework. The motion passed.

New Business:

Natural Gas leak on the boiler: MDU turned off the boiler. Blake repaired the gas leak. Lyn will use a special sensor to check for any gas leaks and work with Blake to restart the boiler.

The lawn sprinkler system needs to be drained and blown out before the cold weather sets in.

Pastor Chuck has been in contact with the professionals who service the church's fire extinguishers.

Pastor Chuck presented the Pastor's Reimbursement Report. Two boxes of paper were ordered at a good discount, the Diaconate purchased 2 boxes of pencils for the Spooktacular from their budget. Pastor Chuck paid the subscription for the Christian Century Monthly periodical, and purchased a large-print NIV Bible for the Pastor's use when making pastoral calls. Pastor Chuck reported that he

has one week of professional leave and one week of vacation remaining. Motion by Dick, 2nd by Sandra to approve the Pastor's Reimbursement Report as presented. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be October 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Closing prayer by Pastor Chuck

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Carol Umenthum, Secretary



UCC Diaconate Minutes

September 4th, 2024

Opening prayer given by Pastor Chuck.

Motion made by Harlene H, 2nd by Margaret S to approve minutes, motion carried.

Attendance: Colleen A., Harlene H., Margaret S, Phyllis S., Pastor Chuck, Melanie A. and Marilyn H.

REPORTS:

Pastor's report: Church members and hospice visits done through the month of August. Attended Trustee and Diaconate meetings. Presided at a non member funeral, as well as, attending Rita Holdhusen's memorial service. Edgewood Vista wanted a memorial service for their staff in regards to residents that have passed on. Our church worked the Compassion Cupboard this past week. They are in need of saltine crackers, canned beans (not green beans). Grief group begins Sept 5th at Spearfish UCC. Bible study (Creed) starts Sept 11th.

Shut in report: Church members continue to be doing well and thank Harlene for calling and checking on them.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Communion for October 6th – Marilyn, November - Blake

Replacement musician: No one so far. Melanie is still checking on some possibilities. If anyone has any ideas of someone that might be interested to let Pastor or Diaconate members know.

Kick off picnic: Phyllis/Dennis hamburger/buns donated. Colleen has picked up hot dogs. she will also get plates, silverware, cups, napkins, ketchup, mustard, relish, drink mix ice. Clay and Jesse will cook the hamburgers and hot dogs. Set up to start at 8:30 am.

NEW BUSINESS:

Halloween Spooktacular: October 31st at Rec Center. Will participate again with giving out pencils and candy. Pastor Chuck will order pencils with our church name on them. Diaconate members to bring candy and if any congregation members want to bring a bag that would be appreciated. Discuss at next meeting when to assemble.

Hunter's Supper : November 9th is the date set. Will discuss further at October meeting.

Christmas baskets/decorating church: Decorate church on the 24th of November following church.

Congregational concerns: Ed Denham is now living in Iowa near his niece Brenda Bell. If you want to send him a card you can send it to him at Brenda's address 604 Grand Ave., Emmetsburg, IA 50536.

Lanella will be moving to Rapid City at some point as her apartment is available.

Melanie's nephew is fighting cancer and is now in Hospice care. Out of the Darkness Walk Sept 14th. Church bell to ring at 8:45 to start the walk.

Next meeting October 2nd at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marilyn Hespe



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
 OF CHRIST

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Times St Onge 8:30 am BF UCC 10:00 am	Holy Communion First Sunday of each month	1	2 BF Deacons, 5:30 pm Bible Study, 7pm	3 Grief Group, 5pm Spearfish UCC	4	5
World Communion 6 NIN Offering BF Coffee hour		8 BF Trustees, 5:30 pm	9 Bible Study, 7pm	10 Grief Group, 5pm Spearfish UCC	11	12
St Onge Coffee Hour BH Assoc. Meeting Spearfish UCC 2:30 pm		15	16 Bible Study, 7pm	17 Grief Group, 5pm Spearfish UCC	18 	19
BF Congregational Meeting Following Worship	21	22	23	24 Grief Group, 5pm Spearfish UCC	25	26
Reformation Sunday	28	29	30 	31 Halloween Spooktacular at BF Rec Center 5-7:30 pm	<div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Remember: Daylight Saving Time ends November 3rd </div>	

EVENTS

Congregational Meeting is Oct 20th
 Mark your calendar! The BF Church Council has called this Special Meeting for the purpose of considering (and voting on) a new set of Bylaws for the Church.

Spooktacular is Coming
 The Belle Fourche Community Recreation Center's "Spooktacular" is almost here. Please bring your donation of candy to the church so we can bundle it with a First Congregational Church pencil.

