



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**

717 Jackson Street

Belle Fourche, SD 57717

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **The Friendly Visitor Newsletter December 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](http://www.bfsoucc.net)

## The Pastor's Pen



Christmas is a time of remembrance and anticipation.

We remember the loving-kindness of God throughout the ages. We recall our God beside us through the exodus from Egypt and the trials in the wilderness of Sinai. Our minds race with our Lord God guiding Aaron and Joshua as we entered into the promised land.

We remember the excitement of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem with the coming of the shepherds and angels. Oh, how our hearts were stirred with the teaching of Jesus on the mount and beside the Sea of Galilee. And we remember his death and resurrection! This is our history and we remember.

We also anticipate the coming again of Jesus Christ into the world in final victory. It is no wonder that Christmas is one of the most celebrated of our Church holidays.

I hope you will join us in our preparation and celebration of Christmas. Our Advent study continues on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We are offering a Blue Christmas service this year on December 21<sup>st</sup>—the longest night. Our youth Christmas programs will be held on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Belle Fourche congregation will then go caroling as we deliver our Christmas baskets. And of course, our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve worship will be offered at both locations. For all of our many activities: You are welcome here.

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 Dec 1st**  
**St. Onge UCC Dec 8th**

**Join us for refreshments and refreshing  
conversation.**



### **Scriptures for December 2024**

12/01	Luke 21:29-38	First Sunday of Advent - it's coming
12/08	Luke 3:1-6	Elijah...er...John the Baptist prepares
12/15	Luke 3:7-18	Who's in prison and who's stepping up
12/22	Luke 1:39-56	Mary sings with joy and remembrance
12/29	Luke 2:41-52	Jesus tours the Temple

*“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit  
rejoices in God my Savior.” Luke 1:46*

Edgewood Vista  
Cheri Miller

Sundance Long Term Care & Rehab  
Betty Schnaible

Rolling Hills Long Term Care  
Lydell Koerner

Monument Health Sturgis Care Center  
Harry Haivala



Sandstone Senior Living  
Jack & Mary Ann Wells

Hickory House Apartments  
De Johnson

# DECEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Belle Fourche UCC

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Brent Scheele	5
Barb Embrey	14
LaDawn Hespe	14
Jesus	25
Devin Stephens	27
Kevin Fuhrer	30
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
none	



### St. Onge UCC

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Helen Royall-McKeown	4
Jesus	25
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
none	



Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Christmas Programs at both locations  
Belle Fourche caroling following worship

Christmas Eve (Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>)  
Belle Fourche UCC.....5:30 pm  
St Onge UCC.....4:00 pm

# Bible Quiz



Joseph means God adds; Zechariah means God remembers and Joshua/Jesus means God saves. (a)

Jesus' earthly father was Joseph.

Joseph means \_\_\_\_\_,

- a) God adds
- b) God remembers
- c) God saves
- d) None of the above

## BF Youth Sunday School



Youth Sunday School  
December 1, 8, 15, & 22  
at 9:30 am

### BF October 2024 Financials

Beginning balance	45,878.76
Deposits	8,118.64
Expenses	8,485.79
End of month (Oct)	45,497.61

## Blue



## Christmas

A Blue Christmas service, happening on December 21 at 5 pm, is a quiet place where grief, pain, or disappointment can be acknowledged in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. This may be a contemplative respite for weary hearts.

In a season of celebration, grief doesn't seem to have a place. But in reality, the holiday season can amplify feelings of sorrow and pain.

Loss of any kind such as broken relationships, a health crisis, or financial uncertainty can cause suffering that brings hurt, pain, grief, and disappointment.

Blue Christmas offers a reflective and quiet approach to Christmas for anyone grieving a loss of any kind with words of comfort, music, and heartfelt prayers all designed to give you comfort and strength.

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills -- where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."  
~ Psalm 121:1-2*

## Lost & Found

There are two nice jackets, a cap, and a Pontiac key fob hanging on the hooks outside the church office. If you know the owners of these items, please direct them to the church office.



## Hey, Belle Fourche UCC!

Join us as we deliver our Christmas baskets to some of our “super” Senior members. We will have an hay ride (maybe without the hay) to sing up some Christmas cheer with every delivery.

And of course we will have some pizza before we head out!  
Meet us after worship in the Fellowship Hall on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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## First Congregational Church’s Christmas Program is December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We will be practicing on the Sundays leading up to Christmas:  
December 1<sup>st</sup>; December 8<sup>th</sup>; December 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Join us downstairs at 9:30 am for Christmas fun as we get everything ready. **All children and youth are welcome!**



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## Yankton State Hospital Needs Your Holiday Gifts

The Belle Fourche UCC is collecting gifts to be delivered to Yankton State Hospital. Many of the patients at the State Hospital will not be able to go home for the holidays. Your donation will likely be the only holiday cheer that they will receive.

Any article of new clothing, personal care supplies, puzzle books, commercially wrapped food items are welcome. A complete list of suggested items is on the Collection Box in the back of the sanctuary.

Help us remind the Yankton patients that they are not forgotten while they seek mental health services.  
**Donations are needed by December 6<sup>th</sup> to ensure delivery by Christmas.**

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## UCC Diaconate minutes, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Opening prayer given by Pastor Chuck.

Review of Minutes: Harlene H. made motion to approve minutes of previous meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melanie A., Motion carried.

Meeting Attendance: Colleen A., Melanie A., Aurora V., Margaret S., Phyllis S., Harlene H., Mischelle R., Pastor Chuck and Marilyn H. Blake H was absent.

### REPORTS:

**Pastoral Report:** Visits for October 11 members/ 15 hospice. Attended Trustees, Diaconate, BH Association meeting. Finished up Bible Study. Also help with Compassion Cupboard and Spooktacular. Continues with the Grief/Bereavement classes. New Bible study starting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November "Light of the Advent" 4 week class.

**Church Attendance for October:** 156 adults, 15 children.

**Shut in Report:** Harlene's list is getting shorter. Everyone she contacts continue to appreciate her calls/visit.

### OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Communion Dec1st:** Melanie/Aurora will set up. Mischelle, Margaret will help serve. Mischelle will order bread. We will also need some grape juice.

**Hunter Supper:** November 9<sup>th</sup>- 5:00 – 6:30. Pastor Chuck will make up some posters and Harlene will take them around.

**Sanctuary decorating:** After church on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Christmas baskets:** Sign-up sheet passed around. Will assemble baskets on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and go caroling/hand out baskets after church with a hayride if not too cold. Everyone is invited to go caroling, the more the merrier.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Christmas letter for pastor:** Colleen has written this up and will check with Margy Kokesh to see if she will take care of the money.

**By law meeting:** Church council and anyone interested are asked to attend the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November starting at 5:30 pm.

**Active member list:** We need to take off the following members from this list: Joe Thomas, Dottie Clarkson, Teague, Irene Olson, Glenn Stephens, Ed Denham, Rita Holdhusen.

**Good of the church:** Letter from Yankton hospital read regarding needs for hygiene products for residents. Will leave a drop box at the back of the church and mail it out by the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Motion made by Marilyn H., seconded by Phyllis S., motion carried.

**Next meeting:** December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Meeting adjourned with a prayer from Pastor Chuck.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marilyn Hespe

Board of Trustees Minutes of the November 12, 2024 Meeting 5:30pm

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

Call to Order, Kay            Opening Prayer, Pastor Chuck

Reading of the October 8, 2024 meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Kay presented the Financial Reports: Revenue is up and Expenses are under the budgeted amounts for January through October of 2024. M-Dick 2<sup>nd</sup>-Lyn to approved the financial reports as presented subject to audit. Motion passed.

Kay reported updates on several old business items: A) Tony Albright has replaced the facia on the north peak of the gable end and presented an invoice for material and lift rental of \$2313.47. The hail damage settlement account has a balance of \$9000 ample to cover the invoice. Some discussion as to whether the facia has been painted and if not, whose responsibility is it. B) Resurfacing the front steps is on hold. James Urbanic has the correct materials and needs 3 8-hour days of 50-degree weather to apply the epoxy surface. It will probably be spring before the resurfacing can be completed. C) The two CDs in the amount of \$50,000 and \$60,000 were renewed as one \$110,000 CD for 6 months at a rate of 4.4%. The \$2883 interest earned was deposited into the Capital Improvement account. D) Fire Pro has serviced all of the church fire extinguishers and recharged one of them.

Kay reviewed the Special Fund Accounts, all of the special account balances are in a good place. Some potential projects for the undesignated Memorial funds were discussed. Purchasing new pew cushions has been entertained previously. An estimated cost of \$5100 was received last year from Waggoners, Inc., Hutchinson, Kansas. The cushions are reversible, have a 20-year warranty, are available in several fabrics and colors. M-Dick 2<sup>nd</sup>-Dennis to pursue the replacement of the pew cushions and get a refreshed estimate, fabric swatches, and color chart from Waggoners, Inc. Motion passed.

Kay presented the design from Austin Bishop and his students for the church sign. Discussion regarding the color of the sign and the contrasting background, the artwork, and additions of worship time, and the web address were entertained. Kay will return to Austin with suggestions.

Recommendations regarding the proposed Church Constitution and By-Laws changes for the Board of Trustees were discussed. By consensus, the board should be made up of 5 members. Consideration regarding the number of terms and the term lengths should be discussed by the Church Council.

Dennis will check into a loose outlet duplex reported in the kitchen.

Pastor Chuck presented his reimbursement report including purchases of stamps, books, and a subscription to Christian Century. M-Lyn 2<sup>nd</sup>-Shawn to accept the Pastor's Report and reimburse Pastor Chuck for his personal expenditures. Motion passed.

Kay presented the proposed Church Budget for 2025. Most of the line items will remain the same as the 2024 budget. Changes for 2025 include the Pastor's salary increase, the addition of a line item for a part time office secretary, and the premium increase for the Church property hazard insurance. The overall proposed budget for 2025 reflects a total increase of approximately \$9600 after projected revenue and expenditures. The proposed 2025 Church Budget will be presented at the next Church Council meeting. M-Dick 2<sup>nd</sup>-Dennis to propose a 5% salary increase which includes annuity and housing allowance for Pastor Chuck; and to add a line item for a part time office secretary salary reflecting 8 hours per week at \$15 per hour plus payroll expenses in the amount of \$6740. Motion passed.

Next meeting is December 10, 2024 at 5:30pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Closing prayer by Pastor Chuck.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Umenthum, Secretary



## **A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED FOR JANUARY 5, 2025**

In regard to the current Church Constitution, revised in 2019:

### **MOTION #1: To change the current number of Trustees necessary to fill the Board of Trustees: AS WRITTEN:**

"Section F. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

There shall be a board of seven regular Trustees, four elected in even-numbered years and three elected in odd-numbered years, at the annual meeting from the membership of the church, for a term of two years. They shall be ineligible for re-election after a service of two terms until the lapse of one year."

#### **CHANGE TO READ:**

"Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members elected from the congregation. Members shall be elected at each annual meeting for a two-year term. Two members elected even-numbered years, three members elected in odd-numbered years. Each member may be re-elected to serve two full terms. They shall be ineligible for re-election after a service of two terms until the lapse of one year."

### **MOTION #2: To change the current number of Deacons necessary to fill the Board of Deacons: AS WRITTEN:**

"Section G. **DIACONATE.**

The Diaconate shall consist of nine (9) members, five to be elected in even-numbered years and four elected in odd-numbered years, at each annual meeting from the membership of the church for a term of two years. They shall be ineligible for re-election after a service of two terms until the lapse of one year."

#### **CHANGE TO READ:**

"Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall consist of six (6) members elected from the congregation. Three members shall be elected at alternating annual meetings to a two-year term. Each member may be re-elected to serve two full terms. They shall be ineligible for re-election after a service of two terms until the lapse of one year."

### **MOTION #3: To change the current number of members on the Christian Education Board and their terms:**

#### **AS WRITTEN:**

"Section J. Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education shall consist of four members, two to be elected every year at the annual meeting from the membership of the Church for a term of two years. They shall be ineligible for re-election after a service of two terms until the lapse of one year."

#### **CHANGE TO READ:**

"Board of Christian Education

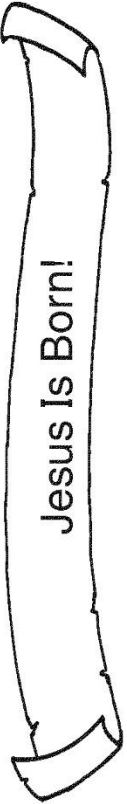
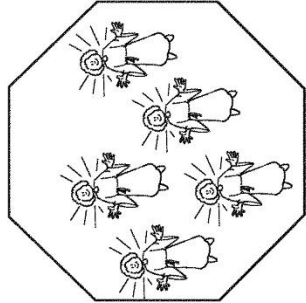
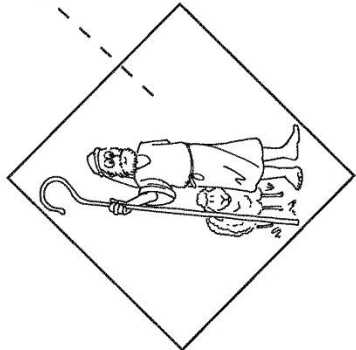
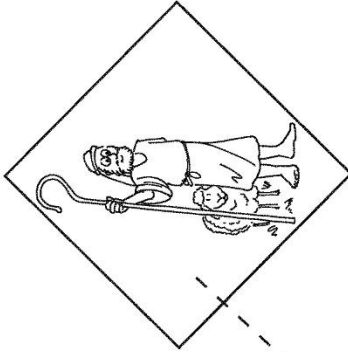
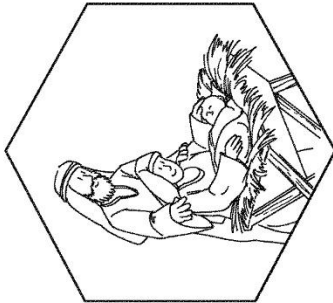
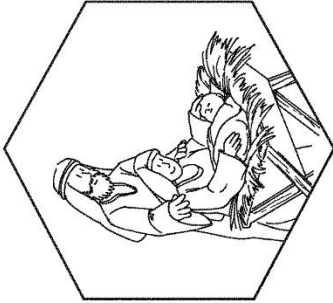
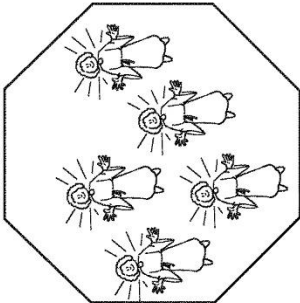
The Board of Christian Education shall consist of three (3) members, to be elected each year at the annual meeting from the membership of the Church, for a term of one year. There will not be a limitation on the number of consecutive terms served."

Ages 3+

December 1, 2024 • Luke 2:1-20

The shepherds praised God for all the things they had heard and seen!

Match the pictures.



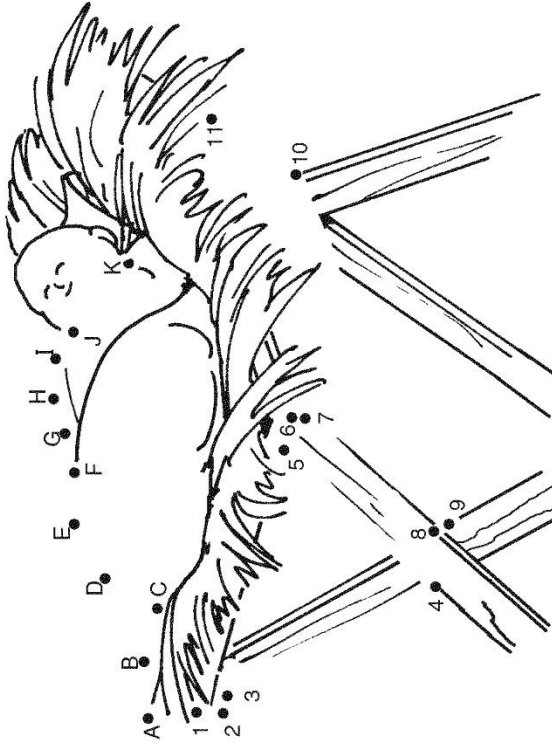
Jesus Is Born!

Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to register for the census.

While they were there, Jesus was born.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
A B C D E F G H J K



Belle Fourche & St Onge UCC  
Yoked Parish  
717 Jackson Street  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
ucc.bfso@gmail.com

Enter your SECRET CODE to unlock games @  
games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE  
HE9405

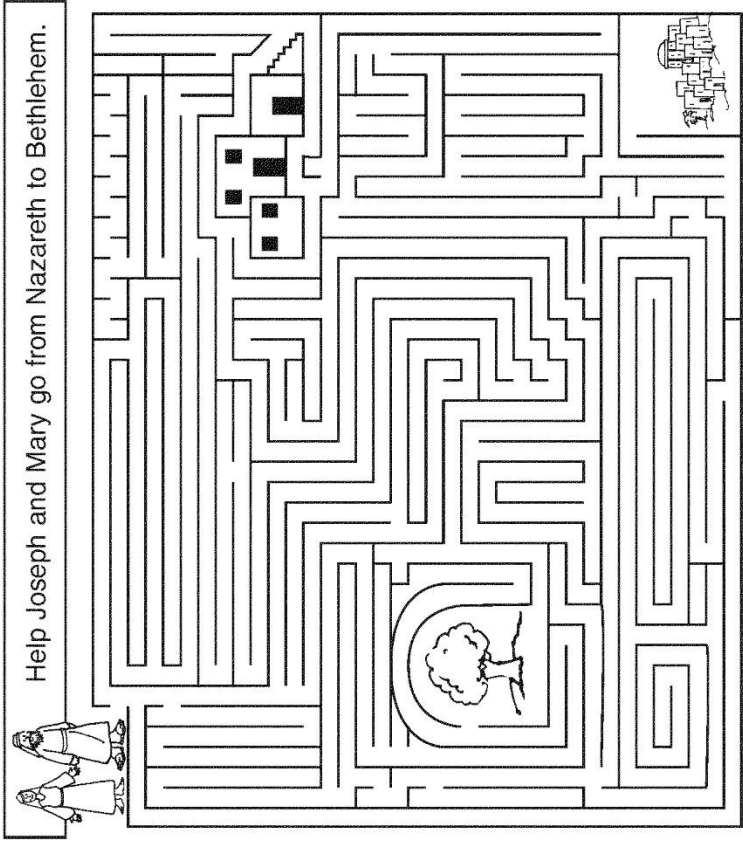
Ages 7+

December 1, 2024 • Luke 2:1-14

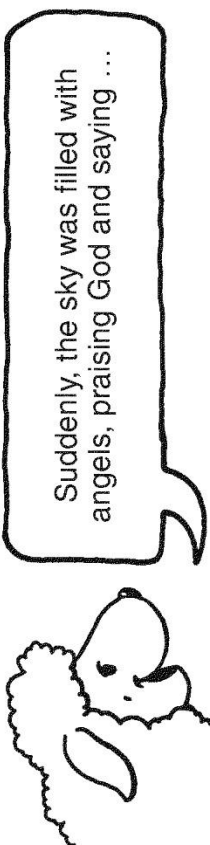
# Jesus Is Born!

Caesar ordered that a census be taken. Everyone had to go to the city of their ancestors to be counted. So Joseph, along with Mary, who was expecting a child, went to the town of Bethlehem.

Help Joseph and Mary go from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

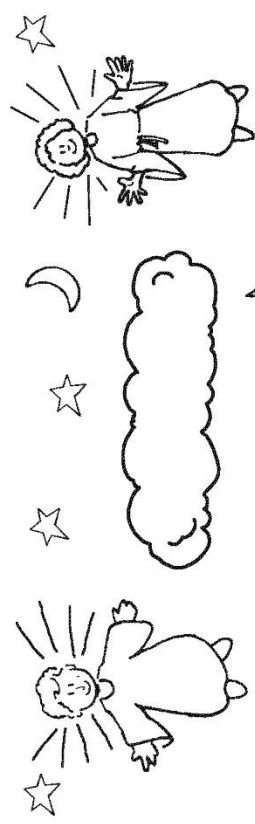


**Belle Fourche & St Onge UCC**  
Yoked Parish  
717 Jackson Street  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
ucc.bfso@gmail.com



Use this code to find out what the angels said.

— = A   d = G   o = N   s = S   c = H   o = T  
 — = D   p = I   i = P   y = Y   e = E   l = L   r = R



“


\_\_\_\_\_ ,

\_\_\_\_\_”



*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
 OF CHRIST**

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Advent Begins</b> 1 BF Sunday School BF Coffee Hour	<b>Worship Times</b> 2 St Onge 8:30 am BF UCC 10:00 am	3	4 BF Advent Study, 7pm	5	6	7 
SO Coffee Hour 8 BF Sunday School, 9:30 am	9	10 BF Trustee Mtg, 5:30 pm	12 Deacons, 5:30 pm 11 BF Advent Study, 7 pm	13	14	21 BF Blue Christmas Service, 5 pm
15 BF Sunday School, 9:30 am	16 <b>Newsletter</b> DECEMBER <b>16</b> Deadline	17	18	19	20 	28 O Come, O Come Emmanuel 
BF Youth Program 22 BF Sunday School, 9:30 am	23 Christmas Eve 24 SO.....4:00 pm BF.....5:30 pm	24	25  HELLO 2025 	26	27	
29 	30 New Year's Eve	31				

## EVENTS



### Candlelight Services

We will host our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Services in St. Onge at 4pm, and in Belle Fourche at 5:30 pm. Candles and glow sticks will be provided.

### BF Caroling

A-caroling we will go following worship on December 22nd. Join us as we deliver holiday baskets to our "super" senior members.

