



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**

717 Jackson Street

Belle Fourche, SD 57717

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **The Friendly Visitor Newsletter January 2025**



### **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

A new year is dawning. My wife starts most days with a list. It's a this-is-what-I-want-to-accomplish-today list. I admire her for getting organized so quickly every day. Still whether you write a quick summary of what you want to accomplish, or if you plan out where you want things to go in the next month (more my speed), having a plan or an objective can help you achieve your goals.



This is the foundation for our tradition of setting a New Year's resolution. This year, I'm not going to ask you to write out a resolution. Still, it is a spiritual exercise to consider where you want to be in your walk with Christ. Give yourself a target to pursue. It's okay if you don't get there...all the way. Getting there partially means that you are still on your journey. God isn't shouting at us to hurry up and run. God wants us to walk...to walk with Christ into the dawn of this new year.

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 Jan 5th  
St. Onge UCC Jan 12th

Join us for refreshments and refreshing conversation.

## Newsletter

January

20

Deadline

### Scriptures for January 2025

1/05	John 1:10-18	Rev. Gail Arnold, preaching
1/12	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The Baptism of the Lord
1/19	John 2:1-11	The First Public Miracle of our Lord
1/26	Luke 4:14-21	Good News

*"Today this scripture has been fulfilled  
in your hearing." Luke 4:21*

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



Heartland Senior Living  
Jack Wells

Hickory House Apartments  
De Johnson



# JANUARY

*birthdays & anniversaries*

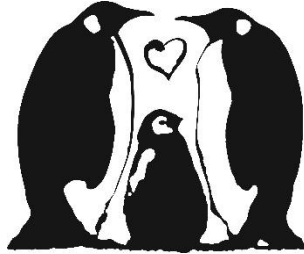
## Belle Fourche UCC

### BIRTHDAYS

Kathy King	11
Deb Scheele	12
John King	18
Harry Haivala	23

### ANNIVERSARIES

JoAnn & Doug Lange	23
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## St. Onge UCC

### BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Steiger	20
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### ANNIVERSARIES

none

## Bible Quiz



(c) Job 37:9 Out of its room comes the storm, and cold out of the north.

According to the Bible where does the cold come from \_\_\_\_\_,

- a) The mouth of God
- b) Its room
- c) Duh, the north
- d) None of the above

## BF Youth Sunday School



Youth Sunday School  
First Sunday of each month  
at 9:30 am

### BF November 2024 Financials

Beginning balance	45,497.61
Deposits	7,205.87
Expenses	6387.81
End of month (Nov)	46,315.67

**A Congregational Meeting** has been called for **January 5<sup>th</sup>** in the Belle Fourche UCC following worship to consider the number of people serving on the various boards and committees of the church.





**Our Churches' Annual Meetings** will be held on **January 26<sup>th</sup>** following worship in both St. Onge and Belle Fourche. At these meetings we will receive reports from our committees and boards, vote on the church budget, and elect our officers for the new year. Please make plans now to attend these important meetings.

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*Thank you* for your generosity this holiday season!

- Together we raised \$5,550.98 for the **Compassion Cupboard** through the Ministerial Association's Bell Ringing.
- Together, we shipped 3 large boxes packed with Christmas gifts for the patients at the **Yankton State Hospital (Human Services Center)**.
- Together, we collected \$494 for the **Christmas Fund Offering** (one of the UCC special annual offerings).

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ.



*Christmas Program*



*& Caroling*



# Advent Decorating



A BIG thank you for everyone who help decorate for the season!

Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!

## We Are Collecting “God Moments”

In the sanctuary is a brightly colored box with a hinged top. Tell us your favorite God Moments and we will include them in this newsletter.

Maybe it’s a rainbow that you saw while driving to Spearfish. Maybe something nice that another person did for you. Whatever your moment was that made you praise God, write it down and share it with us.

God Moments are meant to be shared.



## Christian Ed

November 3rd, 2024

Members Present: Brianne Fox, Becky Bishop, Megan Vetter and Samantha Hunter

Samantha Hunter called the meeting to order.

### **Old Business**

-The committee voted to purchase 8 bibles for the Sunday School children to use for Sunday School. The children were excited and have been reading from them!

### **New Business**

-Christmas Program: The Sunday School children will have their program on December 22nd and Sunday School will happen on Dec 1st and 8th to get ready for the program.

-Christmas gifts: The committee was all in favor of purchasing gifts for the children to open after the program. The committee felt \$20-30 a child would be sufficient. Becky motioned to spend up to \$300 and Brianne seconded it.

-Crafts: Samantha wants to purchase ceramics to paint for the Christmas season and all were in favor.

-Bigger table: the Sunday School students will need a bigger table to complete their learning.

-Tessa Voyles reached out about getting a youth group together for the older children and more discussion to follow.

Becky Bishop motioned to adjourn the meeting.

## Christian Ed

December 8th, 2024

Members Present: Brianne Fox, Becky Bishop, Megan Vetter and Samantha Hunter

Samantha Hunter called the meeting to order.

### **Old Business**

-Christmas Program: The Sunday School children will have their program on December 22nd and Sunday School will happen on Dec 1st and 8th to get ready for the program.

-Christmas gifts: The committee was all in favor of purchasing gifts for the children to open after the program. The committee felt \$20-30 a child would be sufficient. Becky motioned to spend up to \$300 and Brianne seconded it.

-Crafts: Samantha wants to purchase materials to paint for the Christmas season and all were in favor. Samantha will turn in the receipts to Kathy.

-Tessa Voyles reached out about getting a youth group together for the older children and more discussion to follow.

### **New Business**

-Colleen Anderson borrowed some of the costumes for the play at the Rec Center and will return them on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

-Bigger table has been into the room and is ready for Sunday School kids

Becky Bishop motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Belle Fourche United Church of Christ First Congregational Church  
**Diaconate Meeting**

**Date: 12-11-24**

**Present:** Colleen Anderson, Mischelle Reede, Blake Hunter, Harlene Hill, Margaret Shoemaker, Melanie Anderson, Phyllis Simmons and Pastor Chuck

**Absent:** Marilyn Hespe

**Opening prayer:** led by Pastor Chuck

**Reading of minutes from previous meeting were approved**

**Pastoral Report:**

-New Grief Group starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of February

-Attended Candlelight Memorial Service in Rapid City

-Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm will be the Blue Christmas Service

-Dec 24<sup>th</sup> the Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30pm for a candlelight service

-Vacation will be taken from Dec 26<sup>th</sup>-Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>

-Study Leave will be taken from Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>- Jan 9<sup>th</sup>

-Margaret motioned to approve Pastor Chuck's study leave for 2024 to be used in 2025 and Mischelle seconded it

**Old Business:**

-Attendance Report: 171 in November

-Shut in report was given and has been well received

-Communion will be Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and Colleen and Margaret will take care of it

-Christmas Baskets: 23 total baskets will be assembled before church at 9am and then distributed after church

-Pastor Christmas Gift letter will be distributed

**New Business:**

-Membership has no change

-Members coming off the Diaconate Board: 3 will be coming off the board and 5 will remain and Aurora the youth member if the numbers are approved at the special Congregational meeting

-Jan 5<sup>th</sup> will be the Congregational meeting for the board members numbers

**Congregational Concerns:** none

**Closing prayer:** Prayer was given by Pastor Chuck

**Next Meeting:** Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30pm



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

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

Call to Order, Kay            Opening Prayer, Pastor Chuck

The minutes of the November 12, 2024 were read, and approved as presented.

Kay presented the Financial Reports: Revenue continues to be up and Expenses are under the budgeted amounts for January through November 2024. Motion Dick 2<sup>nd</sup> Lyn to approve the financial reports as presented, subject to audit. Motion passed.

Kay reported updates on several old business items: A) Tony Albright has donated the amount of the invoice owed him of \$2313.47. Kay has written a thank you note for his generous donation. B) Austin and the students are continuing to work on the church sign design and artwork. C) The church has received a bequest from the Ed Denham estate. The principal amount of \$25,000 will be held in an interest-bearing account for 50 years. The interest earned will be available to the church annually. Carol has written a thank you note to Ed and Joanne Denham's nieces and nephew expressing our gratitude for their commitment to the church family and to the community. D) Dennis has inspected the faulty kitchen outlet and the receptacle will be replaced. E) Kay presented an update on the 2025 Church Budget. The line-item amounts will be finalized at the end of December. A total projected budget increase of \$10,000 is expected for 2025. F) James Urbanic has the materials for resurfacing the front steps and has requested that the invoice amount of \$967.49 for the materials be paid. He will store the materials until the weather allows the application of the resurfacing material and completion of the project. Motion Lyn 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick to pay \$967.49 for the materials. Motion passed.

New Business: A) By consensus the board approved an honorarium for the special music at the Christmas Eve service. B) The new estimate for the pew cushions was presented and the board selected the classic fabric and 3 prospective color choices to be presented to the congregation for their input following church December 15. Undesignated Memorial funds will cover the cost.

Pastor Chuck presented his professional expense report for stamps, postage for the Yankton Hospital gifts, ornaments for the kids on Christmas eve, birthday cards, all on the church credit card. His 2024 total for professional expenses is under budget. Motion Lyn 2<sup>nd</sup> Shawn to approve the Pastor's expense report. Motion passed. He requested the remaining 2024 leave-one week of vacation and one week of professional leave beginning December 26 through January 9, 2025. Motion Dennis 2<sup>nd</sup> Shawn to approve one week of vacation and one week of professional leave from the 2024 budget beginning December 26, 2024 through January 9, 2025 per the call letter. Motion passed.

Next meeting is January 14, 2025 at 5:30pm. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Closing prayer by Pastor Chuck

Respectfully submitted by Carol Umenthum, Secretary

## Church Council Meeting

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Present: John King, Blake Hunter, Kay Cooper, Pastor Chuck and Samantha Hunter

King called the meeting to order, and Pastor Chuck opened with a prayer.

### **Pastoral Report:**

- Advent begins November 24<sup>th</sup> and Dec 1<sup>st</sup> will be the hanging on the greens and communion
- God Moment Box was discussed. The God Moment Box is an opportunity about God in your life. More information will be shared in the newsletter
- Attendance numbers are slightly up
- Another Grief Group will be held in the future and possibly in Spearfish as Pastor will alternate locations.
- Advent Bible Study will begin on the 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Trustees Report:**

- Steps will be worked on when the temperatures are above 50 degrees so it will be this spring
- New Sign is being discussed and will go above the main doors. The High School kids are creating the sign, and we discussed the color and Blake mentioned adding a bible verse to the bible on the sign
- Fascia is done and the work has been donated
- Dennis Simmons is working on the plug in the kitchen
- Pew Cushions will be purchased with memorial money
- CD came due and money was added
- informed of the proposed budget the trustees is working on

### **Christian Education:**

- 8 children are attending Sunday School
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the Sunday School Program and the children will be receiving a gift

### **Diaconate:**

- Decorating the church for Christmas will be on November 24<sup>th</sup>
- December 1<sup>st</sup> will be the start of Advent
- Marilyn Hespe and family will be setting up the Christmas tree
- Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the hayride and basket delivery
- Hunter's Supper was successful

### **Old Business:**

- By-laws meeting was successful, and it was helpful to continue creating them with other members
- January 5<sup>th</sup> will be a meeting to propose to amend the current by-laws for term limits: Trustees is proposed to go from 7 to 5 members, Diaconate is proposed to go from 9 to 6 members, Christian Education is proposed to change from 4 to 3 people and for 1 year unlimited.

### **New Business:**

- Nativity Scene- Schuft family has offered to donate a Nativity Scene that they will purchase and paint. The Nativity Scene will be Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the stable and the angel. Kay motioned to accept the Schuft family donation and Blake seconded it.
- Dennis and Phyllis Simmons made a beautiful Yankton box for the Yankton State Hospital. Donations are appreciated.

Adjournment by King. Next Meeting will be January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

Ages 3+

January 1, 2025 • Psalm 1:1-6

# The Lord watches over the righteous.

Find the hidden objects in the picture.

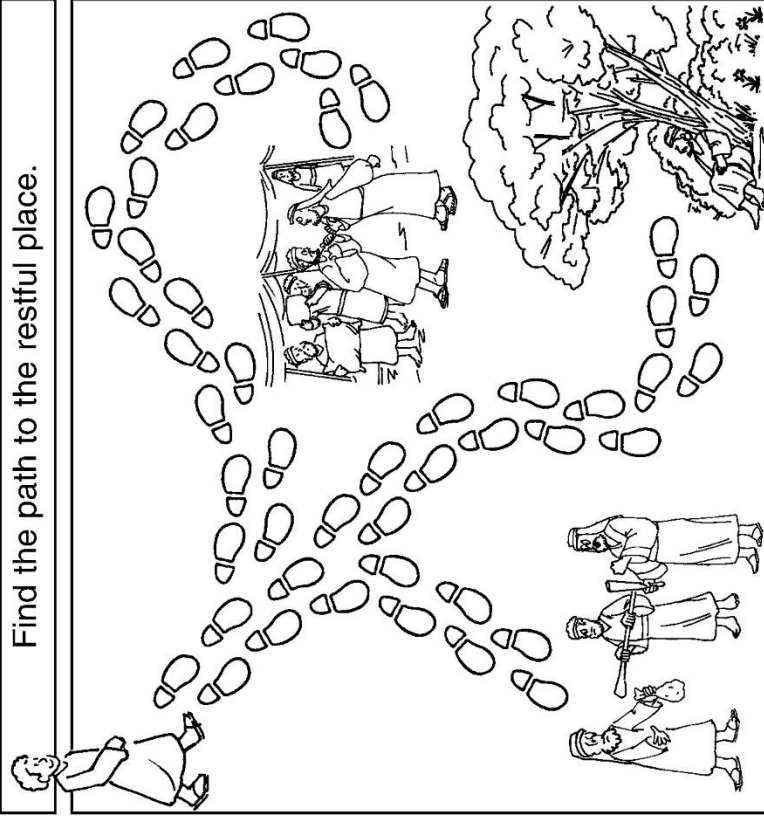


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# The Two Ways

Blessed is the person who does not walk in the way of the wicked.

Find the path to the restful place.



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

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[games.childrensbulletins.com](http://games.childrensbulletins.com)

**SECRET CODE**  
**N03347**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Holy Communion</b> First Sunday of each month	<b>Worship Times</b> St Onge 8:30 am BF UCC 10:00 am		1 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			
5 BF Sunday School, 9:30 am BF Coffee Hour	6 <b>EPIPHANY</b>	7	8 Deacons, 5:30 pm	9	10	11
12 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> SO Coffee Hour	13	14 Trustees Mtg, 5:30 pm	15 Council Mtg, 5:00 pm	16	17	18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. -DAY-	21	22	23	24	25
26 BF & SO Annual Church Meetings	27	28	29	30	31 	



# EVENTS

**Annual Meetings Coming Up!**  
 The Annual Meetings for both Belle Fourche UCC and St Onge UCC are immediately following worship on January 26th. See you there.

**New Bible Study Starts in February**  
 Our new Bible Study starts on February 5th. We will be reading "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws" by Adam Hamilton. This is the principal Gospel for the year 2025. Order your copy today.