



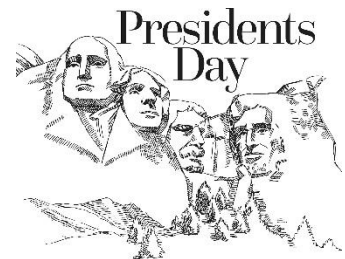
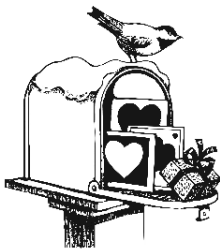
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**

717 Jackson Street

Belle Fourche, SD 57717

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **The Friendly Visitor Newsletter February 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



The 1993 movie, *Groundhog Day*, starring Bill Murray gives us Christians something to think about. In the movie Bill Murray's character relives *Groundhog Day* 38 times, although considering that *Groundhog Day* only comes once a year, that would be 38 years; time enough for him to learn how to play piano, and a variety of other skills. And, of course, time enough for him to learn how to be a decent and caring human being.

*Groundhog Day*, the movie, isn't good Christian theology. The movie is cyclical—going round over and over again. God—our God—doesn't have us on a treadmill or hamster wheel. History in the Bible is linear: headed toward a particular goal. This goal is a mystical union with God and Christ with all of the other men, women, and children who honor our Triune God who will live in the new Jerusalem. How about you?

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 Feb 2nd  
St. Onge UCC Feb 9th

Join us for refreshments and refreshing conversation.

## Newsletter

FEBRUARY

16

Deadline

### Scriptures for February 2025

2/02	Luke 4:21-30	Jesus, the Hometown Boy
2/09	Luke 5:1-11	The Unworthiness of Peter
2/16	Luke 6:17-26	The Good and the Bad News
2/23	Luke 6:27-38	Jesus vs. Prosperity Gospel

*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35*

Edgewood Vista  
Cheri Miller

Sundance Long Term Care & Rehab  
Betty Schnaible

Rolling Hills Long Term Care  
Lydell Koerner

Hickory House Apartments  
De Johnson



Heartland Senior Living  
Jack Wells

The Village (Rapid City)  
Lanelle Cundall

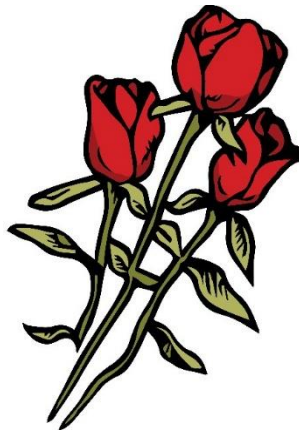


# FEBRUARY

*birthdays & anniversaries*

## Belle Fourche UCC

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Shawn Stinton	3
Kelly Keegan	3
Blake Hunter	6
Marilyn Hespe	19
Janice Stinton	22
Gracie Hunter	28
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Gary & Jean Helmer	8



## St. Onge UCC

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Paul Steiger	19
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
none	

## Bible Quiz



a) Genesis 22 (the sacrifice of Isaac)

When is the word LOVE first mentioned in the Bible?

- a) Genesis 22 (sacrifice of Isaac)
- b) Exodus 3 (the burning bush)
- c) Matthew 1 (birth of Jesus)
- d) First Corinthians 13

## BF Youth Sunday School



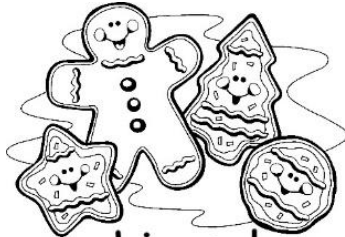
Youth Sunday School  
First Sunday of each month  
at 9:30 am

### BF December 2024 Financials

Beginning balance	46,315.67
Deposits	11509.97
Expenses	10300.43
End of month (Dec)	47,525.21

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## Help Support our Youth Sunday School



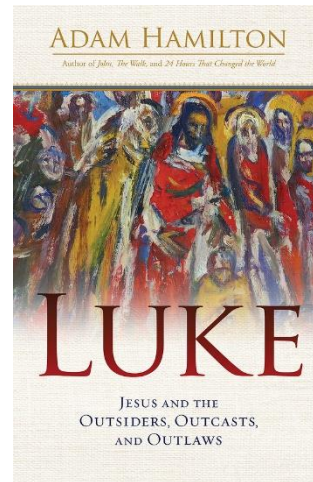
cookie sale

CUSTOM DECORATED

Free-will Donation

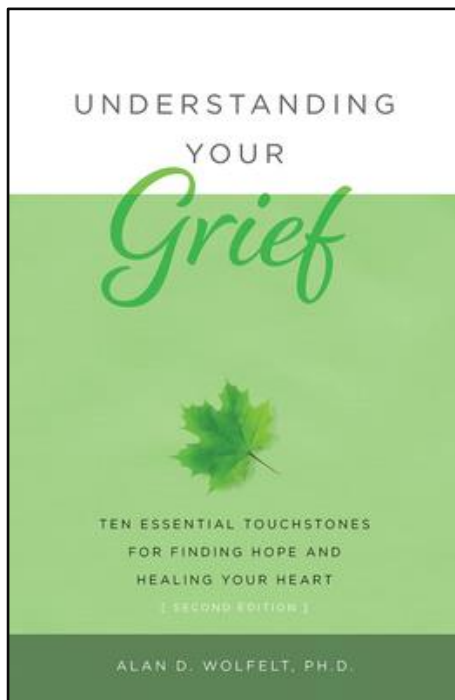
**February 2nd after Worship,**

During Our Coffee Fellowship



Our Wednesday Study begins February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the BF Comfort Room

Order your book today



**Pastor Chuck is facilitating a 10-week Grief Group** for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. We are meeting at the Spearfish UCC located at 920 Main Street; Spearfish, SD from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm beginning Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

We will be reading and discussing Dr. Alan Wolfelt's book, Understand Your Grief, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

This is a free group sponsored by Stillwater Hospice, Spearfish UCC, and our own church.

For more information, please contact Pastor Chuck.



# \* OUR \* AMAZING Volunteers

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Ushers for February		open
Feb 2nd	Reception Host	Sunday School Kids
	Cookies	Sunday School Kids
	Greeters	Open
	Snow	Open
Feb 9th	Greeters	Open
	Snow	Open
Feb 16th	Greeters	Open
	Snow	Open
Feb 23rd	Greeter	Open
	Snow	Open
Mar 2nd	Reception Host	Open
	Cookies	Open
	Greeters	Open
	Snow	Open



### 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 it’s 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.



# Special Congregational Meeting

January 5, 2025

A special Congregational Meeting was held on 1-5-25 immediately after church for the purpose of voting on the amendment of 3 motions pertaining to the new church by-laws.

Moderator John King called the meeting to order.

A quorum was declared by the clerk.

Motion #1: To change the current number of Trustees necessary to fill the Board of Trustees to 5. Moved by Carol Umenthum, seconded by Cathy King. Motion carried.

Motion #2: To change the current number of Deacons necessary to fill the Board of Deacons to 6. Moved by Larry Praeger, seconded by Barb Embry. Motion carried.

Motion #3: To change the current number of members on the Christian Education Board and their term. Three members will 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. Moved by Devin Stephens, seconded by Steve Kappes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Diane Kappes, Clerk

## **Christian Ed**

January 12th, 2025

Members Present: Brianne Fox, Becky Bishop, Megan Vetter and Samantha Hunter  
Samantha Hunter called the meeting to order.

### **Old Business**

- Christmas Program was a success!
- We finished painting the Nativity sets!

### **New Business**

- February 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Cookie Sunday with a free will donation. Becky, Megan and Samantha will bring cookies and Brianne will bring frosting. The older students have been invited to join
- April: Students will wave palms on Palm Sunday, and we will have an Easter egg hunt on Easter before church.
- May: we talked about having a Mother's and Father's Day program.

# Minutes of Congregational UCC Church Council Meeting

January 15, 2025

Moderator John King called the meeting to order at 5pm.

Opening prayer by Pastor Aurand.

Members present- Blake Hunter, John King, Diane Kappes, Reverend Aurand

Last meetings minutes were approved as written.

Pastor's report- Pastor Chuck was on vacation in late December into the first week of January. He expressed thanks to the pastors that served in his absence.

Diaconate report- The deacons undecorated and stored all the Christmas decorations. There are three deacons completing their terms. This leaves 6 members for the committee. Harlene Hill gave a shut in report to the deacons.

Trustees report- A proposed budget for 2025 was presented to the Council. A motion was made by John King to recommend the proposed budget as written to the congregation. Pew cushions have been ordered and the accepted deposit was made. The new cushions should arrive in March or April. The steps will be resurfaced in the spring.

Christian Ed report- There are 2 new students, making a total of 8 children attending Sunday school. The children have completed their nativity sets. Upcoming events are the Easter Egg Hunt for Easter. On Mother's Day and Father's Day the children will be presenting a small skit/talk. There is going to be a cookie sale on the first Sunday in February after church.

Old business- The council went over items for the annual meeting.

New business- Reports for the annual meeting are being received. There is another light in the basement that Blake Hunter is changing out.

Adjourned by John King at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting will be March 18, 2025 at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kappes

Clerk

Board of Trustees Minutes of the January 5, 2025 Meeting at 5:30 pm

Present: Kay, Dick, Shawn, Sandra, Dennis, and Carol

Call to Order and Opening Prayer, Kay

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

Kay presented the December 31, 2024 Financial Reports: The year ended with \$12,000. income above 2023, expenses were \$5600. under budget resulting in a year-end net income of \$8997.68. The year- end balance of the Pioneer Bank account was \$47,525.21. The Special Funds accounts ended the year with healthy balances. Undesignated Memorial funds will be used to purchase new pew cushions at a total cost of \$5787.90. The cushions have been ordered and the deposit paid. There are two accounts with balances that could be transferred to the Capital Improvement Fund., \$15.00 from the Delta Dental account and \$9000. from the hail damage line item. Motion Dick 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis to ask Kathy to move \$9000. from the hail damage account to the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion passed. Motion Shawn 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis to move \$15. from the Delta Dental account to the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion passed.

Kay presented updates on several old business items: The brass plates to update the Memorial Gift Plaque will require the purchase of an additional plaque. The Memorial Gift Plaque will have to be moved, since the current space will not accommodate another plaque, a topic for future discussion. Reviewed the church sign design, color, and artwork, an item for future finalization. The resurfacing of the front steps is on hold until spring. The invoice for the resurfacing material has been paid. James Urbanic will complete the project when weather permits.

Kay introduced the new business items: The Fire Marshall has required the purchase and installation of a carbon monoxide detector in the boiler room. Mischelle has been informed that it is also necessary for the recertification of the Day Care. By consensus, Dennis will check into what is available and make the purchase. A suggestion was explored regarding the purchase of a battery-powered snow blower for the church. Dennis offered to investigate options before the next meeting.

Kay presented the Proposed 2025 Budget. The total proposal is \$110,042. for 2025, the 2024 total budget amount was \$93, 951. It was reviewed and there is ample opportunity for savings, since the actual 2024 expenses were under budget, and the actual income was above the amount budgeted. Motion Sandra 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis to accept Kay's proposed church budget for 2025, and refer it to the Church Council for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

The Board members thanked Kay for her faithful leadership and commitment to the Church.

The February meeting date and time TBD after the Annual Meeting.

Closing prayer by Kay. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Umenthum, Secretary



**Belle Fourche First Congregational Church/UCC**  
**Diaconate meeting 1-9-2025**

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

Pastor Chuck led us in prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved

Pastoral Report: Bible study: Light of the World Sessions 3 & 4. Special worship services: Blue Christmas, Youth Christmas Program & Caroling, Christmas Eve Service. Funeral Services for Mary Ann Wells

Church Attendance for 2024 was up with 41.6 average attendees from 37.8 the previous year.

Shut in Report: Harlene made many calls those whom she calls are always appreciate having someone from the church check in on them.

Old/ Unfinished Business: Communion in February, Blake will set up. Just a reminder you don't need to be on the diaconate to help set up or serve. It was discussed adding the minister's Christmas fund letter to the December newsletter. The remaining Advent decorations were taken down and put away. We appreciate Marilyn and Mark taking down the tree and Melanie taking down other decorations.

New Business: Three members will be coming off the diaconate board and the 5 + one youth, remaining current members will fill the diaconate board for 2025.

Please keep John and Kay in prayer as they travel to Denver for medical appointments.

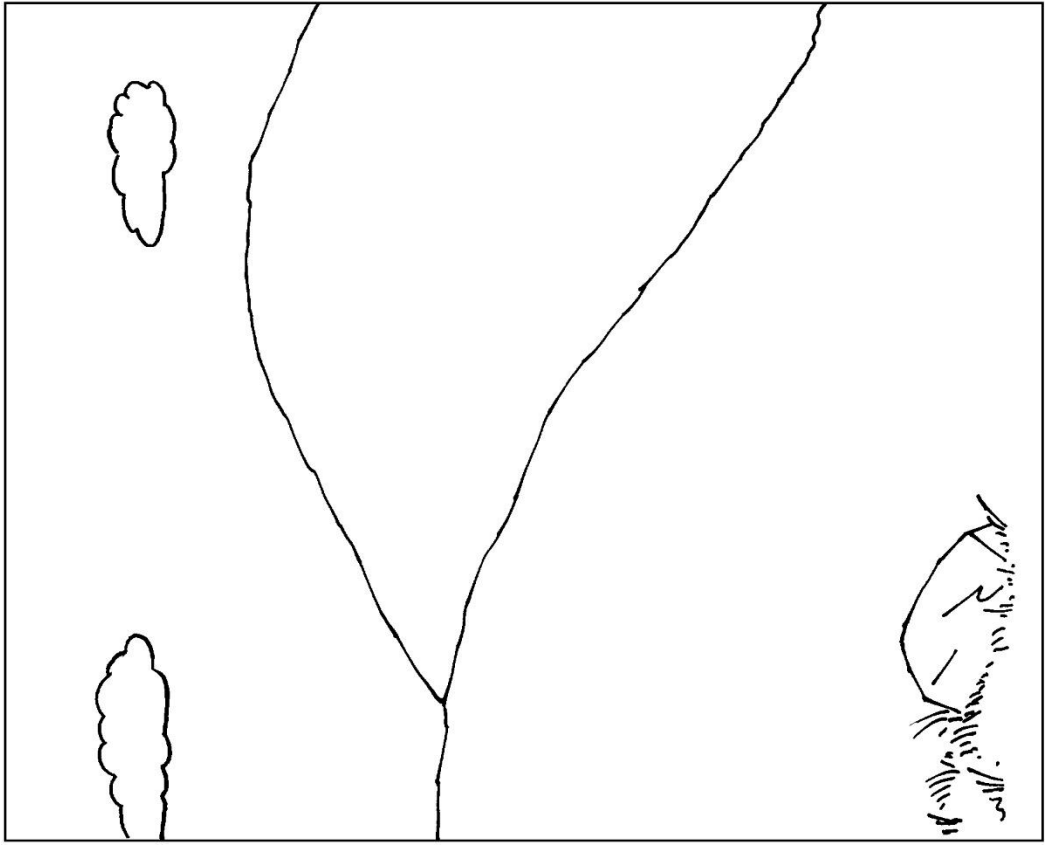
Next meeting February 5th at 5:30

Pastor Chuck closed in Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Anderson, Secretary pro-tem

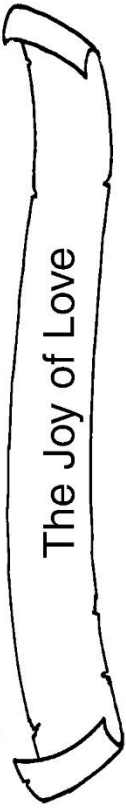
The person in love also said,  
"The season of singing has come."

Finish the picture. Draw 1  , 2  ,  
3  , 4  , and 5  .



Ages 3+

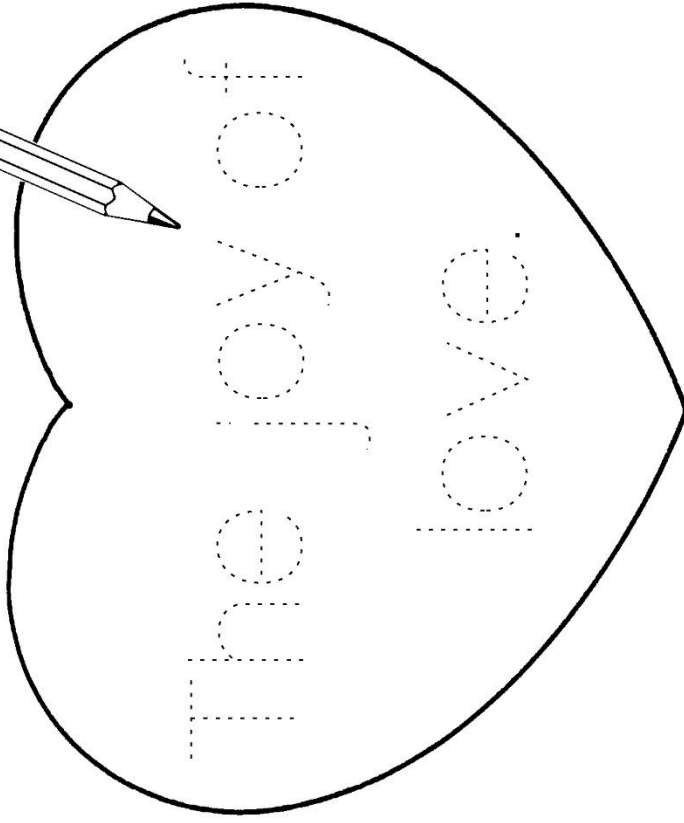
February 1, 2025 • Song Of Solomon 2:8-13



## The Joy of Love

The Song of Solomon is a song  
of true love.

Trace the letters.



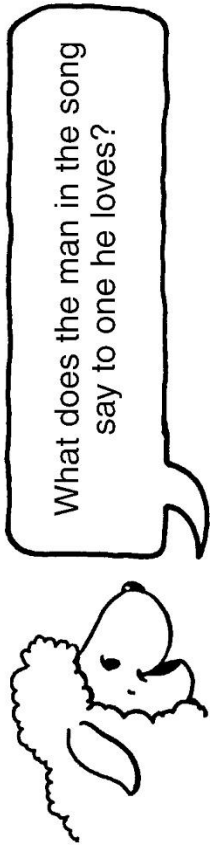
Belle Fourche & St Onge UCC  
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Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
ucc.bfso@gmail.com

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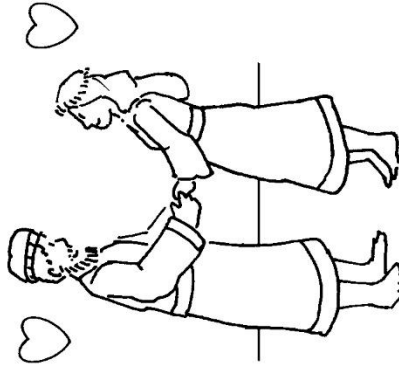
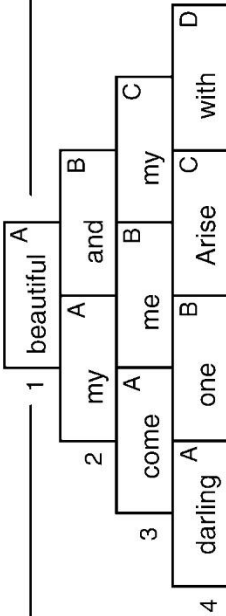
Ages 7+

February 1, 2025 • Song Of Solomon 2:8-13



What does the man in the song say to one he loves?

Use the pyramid code to find out.



“ \_\_\_\_\_ 2A \_\_\_\_\_ 4A  
 4C \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1A \_\_\_\_\_ 4B  
 3C \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3A \_\_\_\_\_ 4D \_\_\_\_\_ 3B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ”

# The Joy of Love

Love is often associated with springtime. What does this Scripture say happens with love?

Find the underlined letters in the picture below.

“Flowers appear on the earth. The fig tree forms its early fruit.”



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





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



# February 2025

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 Memorial Service for Harry Haivala, 11 am
Ground Hog Day !2 BF Cookie Sale & Coffee Hour following worship	3	4	5 BF Deacons Mtg, 5:30 pm Bible Study, 7 pm	6 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	7	8
SO Coffee Hour	9	10	11 BF Trustees Mtg, 5:30 pm	12 Bible Study, 7 pm	13 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	14 
	16	17	18	19 Bible Study, 7 pm	20 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	21 22
	23	24	25	26 Bible Study, 7 pm	27 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	28 

# EVENTS

## Youth Cookie Sale – Feb 2nd

The Belle Fouche Sunday School is selling plates of Valentine's cookies for a free-will offering. Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

## New Bible Study Begins

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.

