

First Congregational Church UCC
Redfield, South Dakota
NEWSLETTER
June 2023

⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled; ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men. ⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. Mark 6:41-46

Greetings from the pastor's desk,

The air was still and cool with the smell of pine in the early morning sun. The grass was heavy with dew. The only sound was the chatter from the unseen birds in the pine trees. It was very calming and peaceful. As I stood on the porch of our cabin west of Custer the morning of this past Memorial Day, I thought, "I could get used to this."

Deb and I bought the property in the southern Black Hills after our son Ben's death with the intention of eventually building a house for future retirement. The Custer area would be closer to our two children, plus Deb and I have always enjoyed the southern Hills. We were only looking for bare ground to build on at a later date. I have to admit, the cabin was a nice bonus. Over the past several years, it has been a source of spiritual retreat for me. That sense of spiritual retreat is something I seem to be desiring more and more. Maybe it is a sign I am getting older.

There are times that we all need a chance to get away from the busyness of work and worries. There are times that life can become a little overwhelming. We need a chance to slow down, take a look at life, and maybe even seek some answers or at least slow down enough to ask the questions. We need an opportunity to reconnect with God, with ourselves, and with those who are close to us. When Jesus needed a break he would head off into the mountains or the wilderness to pray. Sometimes he would take a few of his disciples with him. Sometimes he would go alone for a little solitude.

Summertime can provide that opportunity for people to get away to reconnect with God and with oneself. For busy families, summertime also provides an opportunity for people to reconnect with their families and loved ones. That might be a retreat to the lake or river for fishing or boating. It might be time on the golf course. It might include traveling and sightseeing. For some it is a trip to the "Cities," which may or may not include shopping. For some it might just be some quiet time alone wherever that might be. For me, the combination of camping and the Black Hills is when and where I am most at peace.

The name of our cabin is "semmi gönd kabin," which in Hungarian means, "no worries cabin." My hope for all of you this summer is that you too will find some time to get away, reconnect with God, yourself, and with loved ones. Mostly I hope that wherever this summer takes you that you will have a safe summer with at least some time of "semmi gönd" ...no worries or at least limited worries.

Enjoy time with loved ones. Be conscious of your needs for wholeness. Breathe deep the breath of God.

Blessings & peace,
Pastor Keith





If you have a gift – bring it
If you have a song – sing it
If you have a talent – use it
If you have love – diffuse it
If you have sadness – bear it
If you have gladness – share it
If you have happiness – give it
If you have religion – live it
If you have a prayer – pray it
If you have a kind word – say it.

We all have gifts that we may bring
We all have songs that we may sing
We all have kind words that we may say
We all have prayers that we may pray
We all have love and joy to give
And what a joy life is to live
If we just scatter everywhere
These things God's given us to share.

Years ago, I had copied this poem inside the cover of one of my Bibles and I wish I had written the author's name so that I could give the appropriate credit to that person. Thanks to each of you for sharing your talents and gifts with us....God Bless - Deb

Financial & Attendance Reports

Avg. Attendance at in-person Sunday services: **55**
Avg. Weekly YouTube views in May: **22**
Avg. Weekly Facebook reach in May: **144**
Average Weekly offerings for May: **\$1,682**
Avg. budgeted expenses require a **weekly** income of \$3,025.

Our Church's Wider Mission

Total OCWM "blessings" for May - **\$790**
Total OCWM "blessings in 2023– **\$5,056**
2023 goal is **\$10,000**

Live-Streamed Church Services are available each Sunday on YouTube and Facebook. Subscribe to the "First Congregational UCC Redfield, SD" YouTube channel or follow our Facebook page "Redfield First

Congregational United Church of Christ"

@RedfieldUCC to receive notices of when each service starts to stream. If you have trouble finding our service on-line or if you'd like to leave an e-mail address, please call Becky in the Church Office at #472-1590.

Pastor Keith and Deb Kraft are starting a **Suicide/Mental Illness Family Support group**. They will be meeting at 4:30 PM Sunday June 25 in the chapel area on the east side of First Congregational UCC at 125 E 7th Avenue of Redfield. These gatherings are open to any and all whose lives have been touched by suicide or mental illness within their families or friends. If you have questions, please call First Congregational UCC at 605 472-1590 or Keith at 605 848-1822.

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Pastor Keith is starting a **Grief & Loss Support Group** to meet on the third Wednesday of the Month. The next meeting will be on June 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the UCC chapel. The Support Group is open to all. If you have questions, please call First Congregational UCC at 605 472-1590 or Keith at 605 848-1822.

Meeting Scheduled for **Monday, June 5:**

Trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m.

May Cabinet Minutes

Treasurer's Report: OCWM is at \$3,066.32 to date. The Parsonage was sold at the end of April. The check from the parsonage sale will be invested at First Interstate Bank. Half the year's property taxes have been paid.

Trustees: Most of the Trustee's report was provided in the Treasurer's report.

Diaconate: Has not met yet. They will meet May 7

Christian Education Committee: Vacation Bible School will be held with Our Saviors Lutheran Church on May 24th.

Mission Committee: They will be encouraging the church to donate money for personal hygiene products for women. Next missions meeting is May 15 at 2 p.m.

Memorial Committee: Received \$269 in interest this month. Becky Leonard will be a member of the memorial committee.

Flower/Decorating Committee: Will use interest from the memorial committee to buy real flowers to decorate the altar.

Nominating Committee: Still need a moderator-elect. Becky Leonard is on the Memorial Committee.

Music Committee: May look into finding music on the screen for church services.

Women's Fellowship: Next meeting is May 3rd at 2 p.m. Flowers will be delivered to nursing home residents, etc. They will be finalizing Rummage sale

details. **Angela moved to approve Kitchen update from Thomas Memorial funds which will include painting and spending \$2,916.61 on flooring; Onilee seconded; motion carried.**

Long Range Planning Committee: Will be meeting next Monday, May 8th. They will be looking at membership of committees, by-laws, etc.

Pastor's Report: Maundy Thursday went very well. Deb and Pastor Keith attended a workshop on Suicide in Agriculture. The grief/loss support group will meet in the chapel on the third Wed. of the month at 10 a.m.

Other Business: **Angela Rice moved to combine June and July Goalposts; Juanita Esser seconded; motion carried.** Need to update the Redfield Press on church listings with Pastor Keith listed. No cabinet meeting until Aug. 7

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Please Pray for our members & friends who reside in care facilities:

Eastern Star Home:

Susan Kayl, Paul Klebsch,

Asst. Living –Donna Bushong, Lois Groft, Duane Sanger, Marilyn Schmidt

Lakeside: Adrienne Versteeg, Jo Wood

Home: Les Wienbar



Please keep in your prayers:

Terry Houghtaling, Janet Swayze, Jo Wood, Peggy Ellis, Sally Nuhsbaumer, Larry Price, Kayla Farle, Terry Shantz, Pat, Sandy Thornburg, Shelby Hersmen, Pat Issacson, Evelyn Holm, Phyllis Hardie, Karen Stephenson, Dr. Susan, Jacki Schaffer, and Monique Diz

Remember to pray for military service personnel.

In Sympathy

...to the family and friends of Stan Christensen at his passing on May 6. Stan's celebration of life was held Thursday, May 18 at Hyke Funeral Home.

...to the family and friends of Rita Lunney at her passing on May 21. Rita's funeral was held Thursday, May 25th at our church. Pastor Keith officiated.

Pictures from FLOW May 2023



Vacation Bible School "God's Promise, Our Hope" (Noah)



Youth in the News:

★ Redfield School Honor Roll:

6th Grade: Tatum Zens*, Kasey Hermann,
Caleb Nelson, Ellie Rhodes,
Braylee Siebrecht

7th Grade: Jaycee Appel*, Josie DeYoung
Octavia Paulsen

8th Grade: Tia Esser,
Layla Hardie*, Addyson Rice*,
Kendyl Siebrecht

9th Grade: Chloe Appel, Kylie Hermann,
Tucker Nelson*

10th Grade: Teige Lewis*, Jadie Nelson,
Taijsa Puok

11th Grade: Deven Fliehe*, Kaitlyn Rozell*

12th Grade: Ashlyn Clausen, Tyler Esser,
Teryn Jandel, Tegan Marzahn,
Colby Mitchell, Gavin Nichols

(*) indicates a 4.0 GPA



The **Women's Fellowship Spring/Summer Rummage Sale** will be from 4 pm-7 pm on Friday, June 9th and from 7 am-5 pm on Saturday, June 10th. Rummage set-up will begin Sunday, June 4th when we can use help setting up tables and clothing racks. You can start dropping off your gently used clothing and household items that day, too. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, June 7th at 9 am to sort and display items. We also need volunteers on Saturday, June 10 to clean up from the rummage sale after 5 pm.

Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Plus One Pregnancy guidance center is holding a baby bottle fundraiser where you can take an empty bottle from the box in the breezeway between the church and the fellowship hall and bring it back with your donation in it by Father's day. Your donation helps them provide peer counseling/services through a variety of programs including pregnancy education, infant care and parenting education, sexual integrity education, post-abortion peer counseling, support group for women coping with miscarriage or stillbirth, bible studies, adoption information, a 24-hour crisis hotline and more.

The **2023 General Synod service project is addressing period poverty** in our communities. Funds are needed to put together Church World Service Period Packs/Menstrual Hygiene Kits. The goal is to make 1,000 period packs by July 4th. These will bless those that lack permanent housing, are in transit or have been affected by disasters. We want to provide free access to essential period products to help vulnerable people facing period poverty so they can avoid using unsanitary alternatives or making unsafe choices to earn income to purchase these products. To support this mission, put "packs" on the memo line of your check and place in the offering. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to:

...Nancy Johnson for taking care of our garden courtyards again this summer.



Camp Registrations Have Been Sent . . .

but if you still wish to register for Placerville Church Camp, you may do so – with an additional \$25.00 fee.

Campers love to get mail at Camp

and it is pretty special to know your church family is praying for you while at camp.

Here's who has signed up for Camp through the church office:

Women's Camp – June 4-8

Angela Rice,

Seekers – June 11-16

Bentley Appel, Marcus Fugman,

Faith Explorers– June 18-23

Jaycee Appel, Dani DeYoung, Josie DeYoung,
Emma Fugman, Braylee Siebrecht, Kendyl Siebrecht

Grand Camp

Addelyn Rhodes and Sheri Zens

Crossroads – June 25 – July 1

Family Camp – July 23-29

Chris & RaNette Fugman, Emma & Marcus,

***If you are attending Camp and your name is not on this list, please contact the church office to let us know.*