

First Congregational Church UCC
Redfield, South Dakota

NEWSLETTER

May 2024

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; ² for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. ³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. ⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation. **Psalm 24:1-5**

⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God. **Luke 24:49 -53**

Greetings from the pastor's desk,

The month of May is known for the holidays of Mother's Day and Memorial Day, as well as the month for many graduations. For our church, the month of May also brings Vacation Bible School on May 23rd. We will once again share in VBS with Our Savior's Lutheran Church here in Redfield. There are also two holidays or holy days that the Church recognizes in May this year. One, Pentecost, I am guessing that most people are familiar with. It is the day that we remember as the day the Holy Spirit descended on the gathered disciples.

The other day, quietly tucked in between Easter and Pentecost many people might not be aware of and if they are, probably do not give it much thought. Forty days after Easter and ten days before Pentecost, there is Ascension day ...the day the Church officially recognizes Jesus ascending to heaven to sit at the right hand of God. Some of the reason most of us are not aware of Ascension day is because it will never fall on a Sunday. Many of the Protestant churches do not hold a special service to recognize the event.



Even if it is not in our religious tradition, there is a way that all of us can recognize and honor Ascension Day. We can use the day to begin our own ascension to God. We could ascend beyond our own egos and self-centeredness. We could ascend beyond the hatred that keeps us divided. We could ascend beyond our own judgmental attitudes of viewing those who think differently than we do as the enemy. We could begin our ascension to God by ascending beyond what Apostle Paul calls the works of the flesh: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. Galatians 5:19-21

Apostle Paul goes on to say that we should strive to ascend to the Spirit of Christ: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23. Think of what a better community and world this would be if we would all lived with clean hands and pure hearts, moving beyond our human pettiness, ascending to the Spirit of truth of the love of God.

I'm just raising up something to ponder as we approach Ascension Day on May 9th. Happy Ascension Day.

Blessings & peace,
Pastor Keith

Financial & Attendance Reports

Avg. Attendance at in-person Sunday services: **58**
Avg. Attend. at in-person Wed. night services: **28**
Avg. Weekly YouTube views in April: **9**
Avg. Weekly Facebook views in April: **65**
Average Weekly offerings for April: **\$2,656**
Avg. budgeted expenses require a **weekly**
income of \$4,539.

Our Church's Wider Mission

Total OCWM "blessings" for April - **\$325**
Total OCWM "blessings" in 2024- **\$3,602**
2024 goal is **\$10,000**

Meetings Scheduled for

Monday, May 6:

Trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m.

Cabinet will meet at 6:30 p.m.

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April Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report: OCWM giving is currently at \$3,622. Juanita moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented; Deb seconded; motion carried.

Trustees: Several trustee projects are on hold this month but they are looking into sealing the west steps, ordering new parking signs, and painting parking lines. The camp fund has grown to the point where we may look at providing some funds to help supply statewide camperships. We will be sharing info on how members and online attendees can give online through the Vanco website starting this month.

Diaconate: A new members orientation will be held Sunday, April 14th. Pizza and bars will be provided. Two confirmands will be confirmed on May 5th and the diaconate will provide a breakfast for their families. Pastor Keith will be taking a 4-week course on rural ministry and suicide provided through the Dept. of Ag. He has been invited to become a board member on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention SD chapter board.

Christian Education Committee: The last FLOW Wednesday of the school year will be April 10th. They will be having breakfast for supper. The FLOW meals balance is currently \$388.34. Pastor Keith said that having the confirmation classes split into two groups worked well this year.

Missions Committee: The Missions committee is organizing a UCC Mission trip to Feeding SD in Pierre on April 26th.

Memorial Committee: \$86,000 of memorial funds have been invested in a CD and the remainder of the funds are in a Heartland State Bank account. A white lectern cover has been purchased with memorial funds. The account earned \$5.39 in interest this month.

Women's Fellowship Report: The Women's Fellowship next meeting will be May 1st at 2 p.m. May day flowers for UCC members in nursing homes will be delivered that day. The next rummage sale will be held Saturday, June 8th as part of the city-wide rummage sale. Becky will sign-up and pay the registration fee.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Keith and Deb will present on Suicide prevention at the Mitchell UCC on April 28th and they will present Soul Shop at the Watertown UCC on May 19th. Pastor Keith will be officiating at the committal service for Joyce Kellett Barrington on Friday, April 12th at Greenlawn Cemetery in Redfield.

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Prairie Lakes Association Spring Meeting

Delegates and guests are invited to the PLA Spring Meeting on May 5th at the Lake Gospel Church in Willow Lake. Worship begins at 3:00 p.m. followed by the business meeting and supper. Please RSVP to Crystal Knock, 605-223-1065 or email to knockcrystal@hotmail.com



FLOW (Faithful Learning on Wednesdays)



Time for Children on Wed. April 10

Women's Fellowship Meeting – May 1st

Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, May 1st at 2 p.m. to discuss rummage sale plans and deliver May Day flowers in the area.



Confirmation Sunday – May 5th

We are excited to announce that Jadie Nelson and Taijsa Puok will be confirmed on Sunday, May 5th!





Feed Your Soul is meeting on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring a snack to share with the group. As a way to honor our mothers, please text Becky a photo of your mother or special person who felt like a mother to you (605-450-8567) before Tuesday night and we will play a guessing game that night.

2024 Vacation Bible School Good Samaritan

Vacation Bible School will be Thursday, May 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Redfield. UCC and OSL are working together to provide this VBS. All are welcome! Ages K - 5th grade for the 2024-2025 school year. Older kids and adults are needed as volunteers as well donations. Contact the office if you can help. The registration link is tinyurl.com/redfieldvbs2024

Congratulations!

...To our new members: Ralph & Gwen Johnsen, Allison Schaffer and Terri Akin.



...To

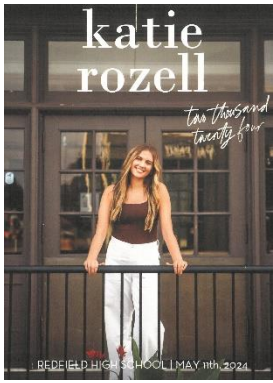


Deven Fliehe, Cameron Noethlich, Melakye Paulsen, Jadit Puok, and Kaitlyn Rozell.

Graduation Sunday is May 19th

Jadit Dawn Puok invites you to her graduation reception following the Redfield High School Graduation Ceremony on May 11th. Her reception will be at Shanty Haven, 1223 W 5th St. in Redfield.





Katie Rozell invites you to her graduation reception at Leo's on Main Street following the Redfield High School Graduation Ceremony.

Thank you to:

- The UCC members who went on the mission trip to Feeding SD in Pierre: Nancy Carter, Shari Harr, Deb & Pastor Keith Kraft, Becky Leonard, Sheila Sprague, and Yvonne Stulken.



Redfield receives 250 boxes each month in the Feeding SD mobile food truck and we were able to pack 256 of these boxes as an assembly line in the three hours we were there.



THANK YOU FROM LAYLA, CAEL AND MASON

we would like to thank all those who donated to the personal Hygiene supply drive. The Donations will be used for Clover care kits.

Frankfort ringnecks
4-h club members,

Cael Jessen

Mason Mogen

Layla Hardie



FRANKFORT RINGNECKS 4-H CLUB MEMBERS
CAEL JESSEN, LAYLA HARDIE AND MASON MOGEN



The next **Grief & Loss Support Group** meeting will be on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the UCC chapel. The support group is open to all.



The Women’s Fellowship rummage sale is “in the works.” We will accept (but are not limited to) small furniture, household linens, usable glassware, knick-knacks, decorative house and yard goods, and only CLEAN, WEARABLE footwear and clothing. If in doubt, call Mikki Permman (605) 472-3446. Thank you so much for your donations!

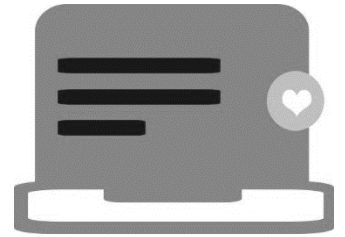
Donations can be brought on Sunday, June 2nd UNTIL 3:00 p.m. They also may be brought between 7:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3rd. No donations will be accepted after that time. The rummage sale will be held with the City-Wide Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 8th. Doors open at 7:00 a.m., bag sale starts at 1:00 p.m. that day.

Mark your calendar for **Stock the Food Pantry Family Fun Day**, a Thrivent event. Saturday, June 8, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Wylie Park - Picnic Shelter. Join us for free Mini Golf, Go Carts, Bumper Boats, and Bike Shop Rentals from 10AM to Noon. We invite you to bring a non-perishable food item or monetary donation that will be utilized to help stock local food pantries, including the mini food pantry which is located outside the Thrivent office. You do not need to be a Thrivent member to attend, but we ask that you register for this in advance by calling 605-725-2025. Walking Tacos will be served at 11:00 a.m. No products will be sold at this event. Hosted by Northern Prairie Group.

The **Suicide/Mental Illness Family Support group** will meet at 4:30 PM Sunday, June 2nd in the UCC chapel area. These gatherings are open to any and all whose lives have been touched by suicide or mental illness within their families or friends.

A New Way to Give

You now have an additional option for giving tithes, offerings and more by using our new online giving page through Vanco. To access this page, go to **uccredfield.com** and click on “giving” in the menu bar or on the “giving” button on the homepage. This will take you to a secure, user-friendly site where you will see all the different ways you can give. You can set up giving using a credit/debit card or ACH payment from a bank account for a one time or recurring gift. Or add the “Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement” app to your phone or device. These gifts will show up on your end-of-the year giving statements just like your current giving. Contact Becky at 472-1590 or 450-8567 if you have questions. Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.



May Mission of the Month



The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become an accessible to all Christian church.

IN SYMPATHY

...to Rick and Deb Shaw at the passing of Rick’s mother, Sharon K. Shaw, on Friday, March 29th at the Eastern Star Home in Redfield. Funeral services were held April 11th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gettysburg.



From Holy Ground

- A Prayer to Strengthen the Church

By Rev. Dave Long-Higgins,
Conference Minister, Heartland Conference

Loving God,
Ground us anew
In Your deep desire
For a fullness of flourishing
Yearning to rise throughout
Your whole creation.

Plant us deep
In the soil of Your love
Bursting open seeds
Often long-forgotten
Except by You
Bearing a strength
For blessing and healing
In a world of hurt.

Form Your self-giving
In our deepest selves
Giving grace and space
For Your strength of soul
To rise anew in acts
Of joy-filled giving
Bearing unexpected hope
In a world weary with worry.

Grow us in Your Holy Ground
Supplying every needed nutrient
Of body, mind, and soul
In just the right amount
At just the right time
Giving rise to a beauty
And delight not of our making
Yet requiring our consent.

By this, O Love,
Strengthen the covenant
Of Your Christ-formed community
Gifting a renewed energy
To bear Your deep desire
Into a world that hungers
For resurrection risings.

Now, strengthen Your church
With Your self-giving Spirit
That we may strengthen others
For Your holy work of unfolding
Abundant, blessed, beloved, joy!

Yes, O Love, raise us up
From your Holy Ground
For nothing less than this
And let it be more than enough.
Amen.

From Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson: *"God calls us into community. God desires for us a big, inclusive, expansive, welcoming community. One where "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome." I call this a "big tent" community. God wants our congregations and our whole Christian movement to be a "big tent" where all can be genuinely welcomed.*

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the United Church of Christ's "big tent" vision. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations." Thank you for your Strengthen the Church offering support!

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

Eastern Star Home:

Donna Bushong, Lois Groft, Susan Kayl,
Paul Klebsch,
Asst. Living – Marilyn Schmidt

Lakeside: Adrienne Versteeg



Please keep in your prayers:

Aidan Robertson, Ramona Tennill,
Shandra Wilhelm, James Bower,
Lynda Marzahn, Shari Harr, Lyvie Roach,
Lisa Jandel, Terry Houghtaling, Pat Issacson, and
Jacki Schaffer



Remember to pray for military service personnel.

Please Note -- for donations to
camp scholarships, checks should
be made out to the **UCC Camp
Fund.**



Camp Registrations Have Been Sent . . . but if you still wish to register for Placerville Church Camp, you may do so – with an additional \$50 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. Mail can be sent to: *Placerville Camp UCC, 13801 W. Hwy 44, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702.*

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

Women's Camp – June 2-6

Angela Rice, Olivia Rice, Kristen Kochejian

Family Getaway – June 6-9

Chris & RaNette Fugman, Emma & Marcus,

Seekers – June 9-14

Bentley Appel

Faith Explorers– June 16-21

Marcus Fugman

Grand Camp – June 21-23

Addelyn Rhodes and Sheri Zens

Crossroads – June 23 –29

Emma Fugman

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



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 @RedfieldUCC. If you have trouble finding our services on-line or if you would like to leave an e-mail address to receive a link to the service each week, please call Becky in the Church Office at #605-472-1590.

Redfield Senior Center Nutrition: Adopt A Senior!

From the Area IV Senior Nutrition program that serves Redfield: "The Adopt A Senior program allows us to bring a personal touch to Seniors by directly providing them with socialization, nutrition education, and a nutritious meal. By donating to our non-profit organization, you can help ensure that a senior in your community will receive a nutritious meal at no cost to them every weekday.



Adopt-a-Senior

We serve numerous folks that are unable to afford a hot meal and live on limited budgets and we still deliver 5 meals a week, or more, if they request. In addition, many seniors live their remaining years lonely, and this is an opportunity to help a senior feel less isolated. Your gift would enrich their lives. You don't have to make a GRAND GESTURE to let someone know you care; you can give anonymously if you wish. Your generosity is highly valued!" If you wish to give to the Adopt A Senior program, contact Cyndi Bachman at the Redfield Senior Center. \$100 covers one month of meals.



ADDRESSES for the NEWSLETTER: Please keep the Church Office updated if you have a change of address. The Post Office will not forward newsletters, so they are returned to the church with 68¢ postage due. If you have a change of address or no longer wish to receive our newsletter, you can send an e-mail to the church secretary at:

office@uccredfield.com



Redfield Narcotics Anonymous Recovery Supports

Open meetings: Mondays 7-8 p.m.
Wesleyan Church (38519 - 174th St.)

Friends and Family welcome

Contact: Marcie - #605-450-6031

What are your “*Five Wishes*?”

It’s something we’re all faced with: Do our loved ones and healthcare teams know our treatment preferences and wishes if a health crisis were to arise? The *Five Wishes* booklet can help in the process of documenting and discussing your advanced care planning with your loved ones, health care team and legal advisors. We encourage our members to walk through the planning guide to determine who you would like to make decisions for you if you are unable to do so; what types of medical treatment you would want - or not want; what is most important for your comfort and dignity; what faith traditions should be remembered; and what you want your loved ones to remember during a health crisis. You will appreciate the peace of mind you and your loved ones feel as you share your wishes and empower your family, friends and doctors to make decisions that are what you would want. **Pick up a Five Wishes booklet in the Fellowship Hall and start the conversation today.**

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Have you given YOUR Our Church’s Wider Mission gift for the year yet? Please know that your “blessings” to OCWM is the working budget funds for the SD State Conference office and the National Office of the United Church of Christ and a very important “covenant” to keep.

Remember to specify OCWM on your check or envelope.