

First Congregational Church UCC
Redfield, South Dakota
NEWSLETTER
August 2024

A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother." He replied, "I have kept all of these since my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him. "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

Luke 18:18-24

Greetings from the cabin,

Overheard on our camping trip with the four grandchildren: They were discussing what to do. One granddaughter, age 8 was giving instructions to the other three. Grandson, age 6 and brother to the granddaughter giving instructions, was not paying attention. One of the other granddaughters asks our grandson, "Did you hear what your sister just said?"

Grandson's response, "Blah, blah, blah."

There seems to be this continued push to bring our country back to its foundation of Christian morals and values. (I am not quite sure what that means or if it was ever there, but that is beside the point here.) I am all for living Christian morals and values. The question is, is that enough? If we talk living good Christian morals but do not live good ethics, all people are going to hear is, "Blah, blah, blah." If we push putting the Ten Commandments in our schools, but those who are pushing them do not live them, all our students are going to hear is, "Blah, blah, blah." If we tell our children not to bully or call other children names or make fun of them, and yet adults are posting memes on Facebook making fun of people they do like and congressional leaders calling their opponents names, all our children are going to hear is, "Blah, blah, blah."

A rich young ruler asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. He has kept all of the commandments. He has lived a morally right life. Jesus tells him that is good, but not enough. To truly inherit eternal life ...to fully enter the kingdom of God, one must look beyond oneself, do acts of compassion towards others, and trust God by following Jesus. Jesus was not condemning the man because he was rich. Jesus felt pity for the man because his wealth was preventing him from having compassion for others and trusting in God. In the same way, if we preach morality but we do not live out God's love through acts of justice and kindness, all people are going to hear is, "Blah, blah, blah."

I truly am concerned about our children and our youth. And it is not because of the way that they are acting or behaving. I am concerned about our children and our youth because of the way that many of our adults in our country, in our places of leadership, and even those who are professing to be God-fearing Christians are acting towards one another. We need to move beyond an understanding that salvation is just about where we might go after our deaths. Salvation ...experiencing eternal life ...life in God's presence begins here on earth. Salvation is about doing saving acts of compassion towards those we come in contact with on a daily basis. Eternal life begins now with how we live out God's love and compassion now.

As we approach another school year and especially Sunday school year, let us be conscious of what we are teaching our children, not through what we say, but how we act towards one another. May our acts of love, respect, and compassion for others speak louder than our words.

Blessings & peace,
Pastor Keith

Financial & Attendance Reports

Avg. Attendance at in-person Sunday services: **45**
Avg. Weekly YouTube views in June & July: **13**
Avg. Weekly Facebook views in June & July: **14**
Average Weekly offerings for June & July: **\$1,440**
Avg. budgeted expenses require a **weekly** income of \$4,539.

Our Church's Wider Mission

Total OCWM "blessings" for June & July - **\$826.29**
Total OCWM "blessings in 2024- **\$4,503.29**
2024 goal is **\$10,000**

Meetings Scheduled for Monday, August 5th:

Trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m.
Cabinet will meet at 6:30 p.m.

* * * * *

Meals on Wheels



We will need volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels the week of Aug. 5-9.

A sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. We are needing some additional people to volunteer. A good way to begin is to go with someone who's done it before. Just let us know you're willing to deliver meals and we can partner with you.

* * * * *

Construction Projects Planned for Fall

We have several construction projects coming up this fall that you may wish to share some additional support for. The breezeway will be repaired from water damage and reconstructed to prevent future problems and the parking lot will be repaved with concrete. Your offerings and/or designated giving in memory of a loved one will help ensure there are funds to complete these projects. Thank you so much!



The next **Grief & Loss Support Group** meeting will be on August 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the UCC chapel. The support group is open to all.

* * * * *

The **Suicide/Mental Illness Family Support group** will meet at 4:30 PM Sunday, August 25 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 with your donation options. 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 the church 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 2024 Vacation Bible School

Hosted by Our Saviors' Lutheran Church and UCC



All 2024 VBS children singing



THE FIFTH GRADE CLASS ACTING OUT THE SCRIPTURE READING OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN. THE TRAVELER (CAEL JESSEN) BEING ATTENDED TO BY THE INNKEEPER (SADIE ZENS) WITH PASTOR KEITH NARRATING.

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with VBS!

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.

Congratulations!



...To **Lauren & Stuart Meyer** married June 15, 2024

at the First Congregational UCC in Redfield, officiated by Pastor Keith.

Thank you to:

...Juanita Esser and all the Women's Fellowship funeral committee members for serving at Gaylord Hanson's funeral and Jo Wood's funeral this summer.

...Mikki Permann and all the ladies who helped with the Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale in June. The profit from the sale came to \$1,502.91.

...Sharon Eldeen and Mickey Permann for decorating the fellowship hall for each season.

IN SYMPATHY

...to Courtney Appel, Jadie, Tucker, Caleb and AlleRae Nelson and family at the passing of Isaac Appel on June 27th. A private funeral service with military honors was held on July 2nd with a public visitation that evening.

...to Melissa Randolph and family at the passing of Ramona (Koenig) Tennill on June 28th in Mission, KS. Her services will be held in 2025.

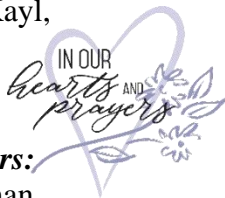
**Please Pray for our members & friends
who reside in care facilities:**

Eastern Star Home:

Donna Bushong, Lois Groft, Susan Kayl,
Paul Klebsch,

Asst. Living – Marilyn Schmidt

Lakeside: Adrienne Versteeg



Please keep in your prayers:

Val Flihs, Shelby Hirshman,
Aidan Robertson, Shandra Wilhelm,
James Bower, Lynda Marzahn, Shari Harr,
Lyvie Roach, Lisa Jandel, Terry Houghtaling,
Jacki Schaffer



Remember to pray for military service personnel.

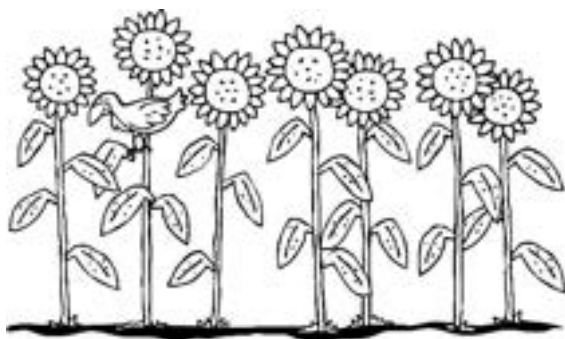
* * * * *

**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.

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.



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.**

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



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



Loving Our Neighbors in Election Season

In the midst of a divisive election season, it can be challenging to navigate the turbulent waters of political discourse while maintaining our commitment to loving our neighbors. As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers and to extend grace and understanding to those around us, even when we disagree. To help us navigate this difficult time, the Wisconsin Council of Churches working with the Clergy Emergency League have shared this set of prayers along with other resources designed to equip us to love our neighbors effectively, thoughtfully, and meaningfully.

SEVEN PRAYERS WITH SEVEN SCRIPTURES

YOU CAN PRAY ONE EACH DAY OF THE WEEK, WHEN YOU READ THE MORNING NEWS OR SOCIAL MEDIA, AT YOUR LUNCH BREAK, OR AT THE END OF A TROUBLING DAY. OR, YOU CAN PRAY THE PRAYER YOU NEED IN THAT MOMENT.

On your way to the polls, conventions, or demonstrations

When our anger leads us to roads of rage;

Spirit of Wisdom, guide us to take hopeful action.

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." – Psalm 34:14

When the news is disturbing

When hopelessness troubles us;

Gentle God, may we know Your presence is with us.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." – John 14:27

When social media posts or politics threaten friendships

When politics and systems of the world threaten to divide us;

Prince of Peace, reign in us.

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." – Colossians 3:15

As political signs are posted

When we see our neighborhoods covered with blue and red signs; Creator God, remind us You created every one of us, all our neighbors, in Your image.

"If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." – Romans 12:18

When we feel defeated, or don't want to engage with others

When our despair causes us to withdraw;

O Lord, remind us that we belong together.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." – Matthew 5:9

When your mental health is affected

When our anxiety keeps us up at night;

God Who Watches Over Us, grant us restful sleep.

"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety." – Psalm 4:8

When fear of what might happen overwhelms us

When hope seems but a glimmer;

Eternal One, remind us that seeds take time to be planted.

"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." – James 3:18

loving your neighbor

IN ELECTION SEASON

MORE RESOURCES AT WICHURCHES.ORG/ELECTIONS