



**First Congregational Church UCC  
Redfield, South Dakota  
NEWSLETTER  
September & October 2024**



<sup>21</sup> Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. <sup>22</sup> Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good? <sup>23</sup> Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. <sup>24</sup> Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. **Psalm 34:11-14**

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

**Mark 4:26-29**

Greetings from the pastor's desk,

September is here. School is in full swing. That means FLOW (Faith Learning On Wednesday) will begin soon. The Wednesday schedule for FLOW is: 5:00 Sunday school, 5:55 meal, 6:25 worship, 7:00 confirmation. There will be youth group at 7:00 the last Wednesday of the month. Depending on how youth's schedule line up, we might have a 4:00 confirmation class. This is our second full year of having FLOW on Wednesdays. Periodically, I will hear an adult say, "I'm glad kids are coming to Sunday school, but I sure miss seeing them on Sunday morning."

I agree. I miss seeing the children and the young families in church on Sunday morning as well. It is nice when we can all worship together as one church family. Unfortunately, like it or not, times change. Somehow, we as the church need to figure out how to adapt to those changes. One of the things that might help is to remember that when it comes to faith education is to remind ourselves that we are planting seeds. We are planting faith seeds. How those seeds of faith will take root and grow, we do not know. We might never know. We are just called to sow seeds of faith.

Just a reminder, all are welcomed to come and join us for a meal and a time of worship on Wednesday night. It is not limited to children and youth and their families. Wednesday night also provides an opportunity to worship if you happen to miss on Sunday. The worship service message is the same as the Sunday before, but the format is a little different to fit the shorter time period. Come and eat and worship with our children and youth. Also, when it comes to planting seeds of faith, we must not forget that we are not only planters. We are also soil. We are also the recipients of faith seeds. We too need to nurture and grow in our faith as well.

FLOW begins on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

September 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM, we will host a Placerville Camp Rally. Prairie Lakes Association UCC churches are invited to join us. It will be a time of games, music, and learning about Placerville camp. This is not just for youth. All are invited to come join in the fun.

September 8<sup>th</sup> will be our outdoor worship and potluck at the north picnic area in the city park. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Bring a salad, hot dish, or dessert to share. If you are unable to bring food to share, bring yourself and share in the food and fellowship. Hopefully, the bees will not invade us this year. Come join us for worship, food, and fellowship. We will have to wait and see which character might show up to join us for worship.

September 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be having our MISYA (Mental Illness/Suicide Yearly Awareness) walk. We will be meeting at the armory and walking in the city park starting at 3:00 PM. Come join us to help raise awareness of the realities of mental illness and suicide, and support those who are affected.

September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> is the Joint Annual Tri-conference meeting in Omaha.

It is promising to be a busy month. We hope you will join us in sowing and growing in faith.

Blessings & peace,  
Pastor Keith

## Financial & Attendance Reports

Avg. Attendance at in-person Sunday services: **50**  
Avg. Weekly YouTube views in August: **8**  
Avg. Weekly Facebook views in August: **15**  
Average Weekly offerings for August: **\$1,954**  
Avg. budgeted expenses require a weekly income of \$4,539.

## Our Church's Wider Mission

Total OCWM "blessings" for August - **\$50**  
Total OCWM "blessings in 2024– **\$4,197.74**  
2024 goal is **\$10,000**



## Meetings Scheduled for

### Monday, October 7:

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

## **August Cabinet Meeting Minutes**

**Treasurer's Report:** Dane and Deb Sanger audited the financial books that Angela keeps this past Friday, and they looked good. They will look at the other church books sometime this month.

**Trustees:** The construction projects the trustees have been lining up will probably start in about a month. The supplies for the breezeway construction project have arrived at the lumberyard and they have been paid for. Clayton Odland will be pouring concrete for the church parking lot after he finishes some other projects. The pipelining company that will line the basement sewer pipe out to the cleanout at the street will come when they are in the area.

**Diaconate:** We will have an outdoor service at the north shelter in the city park on September 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be a potluck. The Diaconate will probably furnish the meat served. Kevin and Brad will spray the park area for bees the night before. Pastor Keith will be attending the Tri-Conference Annual meeting in Omaha on Sept. 27-28. The Diaconate will arrange for pulpit supply on Sept. 29.

**Christian Education Committee:** The committee will be getting together this month. The Red Sea Pedestrians are putting together a weekend when they will be arranging special events at a few churches on the east side of the state. They would like to come to Redfield, possibly on Sat. Sept. 7.

**Missions Committee:** No report

**Memorial Committee:** So far, there is \$7,020 in previously undesignated memorial funds that are committed to help with the cost of this year's fall construction projects. Since May's meeting, memorials in memory of ten people have been received. A bird feeder, shepherd's hook, birdfeed and pruners were purchased with funds designated for the church courtyard.

**Women's Fellowship Report:** Women's Fellowship will meet on September 11 at 2 p.m.

**Other Business:** The church use policies for weddings, funerals and other functions hosted in the church were reviewed to bring them up to date. **Pat moved to set the recommended professional fees listed in the wedding policy as Pastor's fee - \$250, Audio/Visual Tech. fee - \$150 and Custodian fee - \$100 (members)/\$150 (non-members) and recommended professional fees in the funeral policy as Pastor's fee - \$250, Weekend Audio/Visual Tech. fee - \$150 (no A/V tech fees if funeral events are during the week); Juanita seconded; motion carried.** Becky will update the policy documents, and the Cabinet can make final approvals at the next meeting.

**Pastor's Report:** The Grief/Loss Support Group and the Suicide/Mental Illness Family Support Group will meet this month. The suicide support group might meet earlier than usual.

Pastor Keith and Deb are new volunteers in the "Healing Conversations" program coordinated by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). They are the only volunteers for the program in South Dakota right now. Pastor Keith is also now an AFSP South Dakota Chapter Board Member. Meetings for the board are held on Zoom. He will be assisting with area AFSP "Out of the Darkness" walks this fall. Pastor Keith and Deb are looking at possibly scheduling the Redfield MISYA (Mental Illness/Suicide Yearly Awareness) Walk on Sept. 22 this year.



## FLOW Has Begun!

The schedule for Wednesday night FLOW evenings will be:

- 4:00pm – Confirmation class
- 5:00pm - FLOW for Children 4 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5:50pm - Free will donation meal in Fellowship Hall provided to children, family members, UCC members, and anyone who wants to join in.
- 6:25pm - Worship- 30-min. service for anyone to attend.
- 7:00pm – Confirmation Class

## Sign-Up To Help with Meals for Flow

There are options for everyone!

Sign up to prepare an entire meal or a portion:

- Main dish
- Dessert
- Sides such as chips, fresh vegetables, salad, etc.

Contact Deb Kraft at 605-848-0011 if you have questions.

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## Meals on Wheels

We will need volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels the week of **Oct. 21-25.**

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.



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The **Suicide/Mental Illness Family Support group** will meet at 4:30 PM Sunday, October 27 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.

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## New Women's Fellowship Booklets will be available soon!

Be sure to pick one up in the fellowship hall.



## Placerville Fall Youth Event – "This I Know" November 1-3, 2024

For Grades 7-12. Confirmation students will receive info and an application form on Wed. night but let the office know if you have any other students in mind that might like to go. We hope to take a bus/van again this year. The Bushong family has generously shared some funds in memory of Delbert Bushong to help with the transportation expenses of the trip. The fee is \$50 per camper, made possible with the UCC Camp Fund. Deadline to register is October 18<sup>th</sup>.

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## Halloween Feed Your Soul

will be Thursday, **October 24 at 6:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall.

Costumes are encouraged! Look forward to spooky treats, drinks and games. Future Feed Your Soul meetings will be on Nov. 14 at 6:00 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 6:00 p.m. Join in the fellowship and fun! This women-led group is open to anyone, no matter what age.

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It's time to find a Moderator and a Moderator-Elect for the term starting January 2025. Please pray about filling one of these positions or encourage another member that you know would be good in one of these positions. We also will need a few new male diaconate members and possibly some other committee members, so we appreciate your consideration of filling these positions. Please let Deb Sanger or the church office know if you would like to volunteer for any of these roles. Thank you!

## Sunday, Oct. 6 is World Communion Sunday!



The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

During our worship service, we also remember our neighbors throughout the world with the **Neighbors in Need Offering**. As you may recall, one third of this nationwide offering is directed to the UCC Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) which supports our Native American friends and neighbors in the Dakota Association.

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## Our Young People in the News

Some of our church youth are also 4-Hers who have worked hard and learned a lot this year.

At the 2024 Spink County Achievement Days, Cael Jessen received the Reserve Best in Show Dog with his dog, Trixie, and the Reserve Champion Beginner Dog Showmanship award!



Cael Jessen and his dog, Trixie, posing with their Reserve Champion Beginner Dog Showmanship Award duffle bag.

## “Our Young People in the News” continued...

Cael Jessen also displayed his skills in the sheep division, earning the Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe award and he was selected as the Reserve Champion Beginner Sheep Showman. Cael went on to earn purples with his breeding ewes at the State Fair, too!

Among the many high quality static exhibits Cael entered in this year’s Spink County Achievement Days, his photo of his Dog Trixie was selected as the Spink County Outstanding Photography Exhibit of the year.



In describing his award-winning photo (above), Cael Jessen said: “This is a picture of my dog, Trixie, taking a break in a pile of wool. We were shearing that day. I like it because she looks so happy!”



Layla Hardie’s 4-H project this year was constructing a dining room table runner for which she received purples at both the Spink County Achievement Days and the South Dakota State Fair. Layla learned how to quilt and sew from Grandma Elaine Jessen. (Photo not available.)



“Our Young People in the News” continued...



Recreation ball holder designed by Mason Mogen.



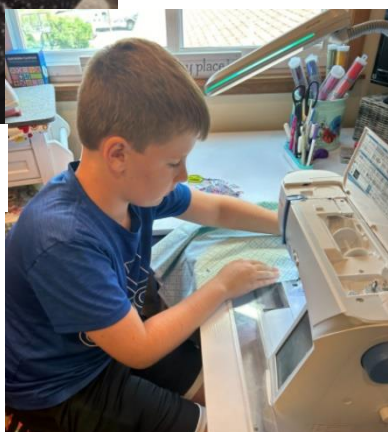
Mason and Grandpa Russell building the ball holder.

Another 4-er, Mason Mogen, was busy this year designing and building a recreational ball holder with the help of Grandpa Russel Jessen, processing his own deer meat into deer sticks alongside his uncle Brett Jessen and sewing and quilting a table runner under the guidance of Grandma Elaine Jessen. Mason turned these projects into exhibits for Achievement Days, received purples there and went on to receive purples at the South Dakota State Fair too.



Mason Mogen processing deer sticks.

Great Job!



Mason sewing a table runner.

OCWM

Have you given YOUR Our Church's Wider Mission gift for the year yet? Please know that our offerings to OCWM are 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.

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Did you know?

Redfield UCC is set up to receive online offerings for more than just our regular “blessings.” Use our online giving page called “MyVanco” to support additional funds such as Blanket Sunday, OCWM, Camp Fund or share a memorial gift just by using a debit or credit card or having funds transferred from a bank account. Donations can be made one time or scheduled weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Would automating your giving make life easier?

Go to the church website [www.uccredfield.com](http://www.uccredfield.com) and click on “Giving.”

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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.

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THANK YOU TO:

...Nancy Johnson for maintaining the beautiful flowers in the courtyard area this summer!

...Juanita Esser for her faithful writing and sending of cards to ill or grieving church members on behalf of the UCC Women’s Fellowship Courtesy and Calling Committee!

...Sharon Eldeen, Juanita Esser, Lynette Kuehn, and Mikki Permann for decorating our church and getting us in the “autumn mood!” Also, thank you to Mikki for keeping all our indoor plants watered!

# CONGRATULATIONS!



...To **Sarah & Max Moore**

who celebrated their wedding on August 10, 2024, at the First Congregational UCC in Redfield, officiated by Pastor Keith.



## Outdoor Church Service

Did you know that Moses showed up to our Outdoor Church Service on September 8<sup>th</sup> in the Redfield City Park? It was a very nice day outside as our congregation gathered in the park for worship and a potluck. Pastor Keith characterized Moses for his sermon. The service was even recorded and can be found on the church's Facebook and YouTube accounts. The bees were not bad at all and it's a fun way to shake things up and worship God in nature!

# PRAYER list

**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:**

Christy Schaffer Lindberg, Val Fliehs,

Shelby Hirshman, Aidan Robertson,

Shandra Wilhelm, James Bower,

Lynda Marzahn, Lyvie Roach, Lisa Jandel,

Terry Houghtaling, Jacki Schaffer



*Remember to pray for military service personnel.*

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## IN SYMPATHY

...to Viola Hardie and family at the passing of her son, Lynn Hardie, on September 1, 2024. His graveside service, with military honors, was on Friday, September 20, at Greenlawn Cemetery in Redfield. Pastor Keith officiated.

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## Mark your calendars!

The UCC Missions committee is hosting a **Baked Potato Feed on Sunday, Nov. 17**

from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

to raise funds

for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).



Watch for a signup sheet of ingredients needed for the supper in the fellowship hall.



**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 73¢ 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](mailto:office@uccredfield.com)



## Placerville Camp Rally

We were fortunate to have Kerry Steever, Placerville Camp Director, his family and the rest of the "Red Sea Pedestrians" Praise Band members visit us in Redfield on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and lead a Placerville Camp Rally Event!



*Red Sea Pedestrians Praise Band play while Octavia Paulsen, Layla Hardie, and Addy Rice lead actions to the songs. I think Mason Mogen is in the front pew. I apologize if I'm mistaken.*

We've already received the following thank you from the Placerville Camp Crew:

*"First Congregational,*

*Thank you so much for letting us invade your space and supplying the food and refreshments!*


*It was wonderful to see everyone and share some camp fun!*

*Blessings!  
Kerry"*

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## Redfield MISYA

### (Mental Illness/Suicide Yearly Awareness) Walk

 Thank you to all who walked with us on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Redfield City Park!  
(Pictured below)



## PRE-ELECTION SILENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

As we know, anxiety is high as we draw near the Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> election. We (Iowa, Nebraska, & South Dakota UCC Conferences Staff) would like to offer a Zoom "Prayer Room" one evening a week in the six weeks leading up to election day.

From our experience with our TCM Contemplative Prayer Group, there is power and Holy Spirit presence when we pray together, even with miles between us. These prayer groups will not involve talking in any way about politics or outcome of the election, but rather offer a safe place for people from a wide variety of viewpoints to come together to pray for peace and the Holy Spirit to be present with us in the days leading up to and following the election.

We will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm cst, beginning September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85708131049>

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## *My Apologies*

*I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter! By the time I had everything in, it made sense to make it a Sept./Oct. Newsletter. Thank you for bearing with me.*

*Sincerely, Becky*

### Redfield Narcotics Anonymous Recovery Supports

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

\*Friends and Family welcome\*

Contact: Marcie - #605-450-6031



[988](#) is the national three-digit number for all mental health, substance use, and suicide crises. 988 calls are routed to South Dakota's only 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline center, the Helpline Center. The Helpline Center has trained crisis specialists available 24/7 via call, text or [chat](#).