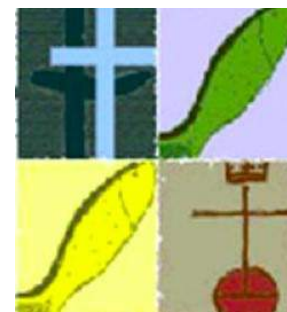


THE CALL TO WORSHIP



The newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Rapid City, South Dakota

January, 2016

137th Annual Meeting January 31, 2016

The 137th Annual Meeting of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Rapid City, South Dakota will be held Sunday, January 31 following worship in the fellowship hall. All members and friends are encouraged to participate.

More than business as usual

The meeting will include the adoption of a budget for the year to come, the election of officers to lead us, and the receipt of reports of the activities of the congregation. More importantly, it is the annual opportunity for all members of the congregation to express their concerns, share their visions for the future, and realize the fullness of our unique way of governing our congregation. We have a long heritage of local church autonomy and self-governance by democratic principles and we exercise that privilege each time we gather as a congregation.

Our work is worshipful work, infused with prayer and devotion. Our leaders are called by the congregation, but also by God. Our budget is about our operations, but more about our mission to do the work to which we are called.

Our annual meeting is an expression of the faith of the people of the church that God continues to work in the lives of our members.



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A Proud Tradition

Before the settlers left the Mayflower, they agreed on a document to guide their organization and work as a colony. The Mayflower Compact was their governing document that set out the standards for democracy as opposed to the monarchy of England. It has come to be known as one of the foundational documents of American Democracy. It also is the foundation of how Congregational churches have governed themselves. We are proud of our tradition of making decisions in assemblies of our congregations. Less publicized is the fact that of the 101 people aboard the Mayflower, only 41 were signers of the Mayflower Compact. We've come a long way since then. Our annual meeting allows youth and women to participate fully. We have built upon the foundation of our forebears and continue to grow in our ability to provide a voice for each person in the process of making church decisions.

Join us for the annual meeting to participate in this process.

—Pastor Ted

Follow the light

Epiphany is the season of light.

After Christmas, we enter into a season that makes Jesus' identity manifest. The Christ, the anointed of God, is revealed to the whole world, made present symbolically in the persons of the Magi. These sojourners from the East seek, recognize, and adore the child Jesus as the Christ.

In the weeks leading up to the beginning of Lent, we explore not only the identity of Jesus, but our own identities as well. As disciples, we also seek, just as those ancient visitors sought, the messiah. John the Baptist poses the question that defines us as well: "What are you seeking?" We are seeking the revelation of God in the person of Jesus the Christ. We seek to love and follow him.

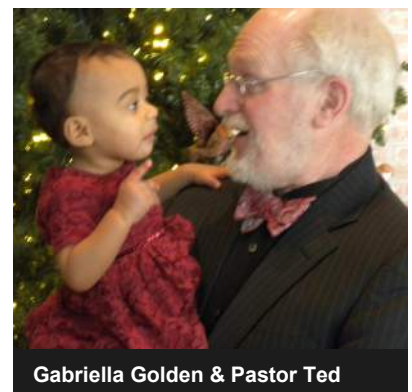
Our season is framed with the Baptism of Christ at its beginning and the Transfiguration at its end. Each of these celebrations includes the clear affirmation of God: "This is my son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

God is our Light

The Psalmist declares, "God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? God is the stronghold of my life; of whom should I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1) In this time of increased fear in the world, we are called to turn to God for courage and the light to envision a way forward.

In this season of light, we are reminded that following the light means following Christ. Indeed, as the hymn suggests, we are "Called as Partners in Christ's Service."

May this season of light bring new opportunities for discipleship and ministry for each one of us.



Gabriella Golden & Pastor Ted

Scholarship Opportunity

The Yankton College Scholarship Program awards scholarships to deserving high school seniors and post-graduate students each year to use at an accredited college or university.

You can learn more about Yankton College Scholarships by following the "Scholarships and Grants" link at the top of our church web page at rcfirstucc.com. While you are there, check out the other scholarship and grants offered by our congregation.

Yankton College scholarship applications are also available online at: www.yanktoncollege.org.

February 19 is the application deadline.



Board and Departments

Moderator's Musings by Gerry Boehrs

This will be my final Moderator's article in the Call; my term as Moderator will end at the conclusion of the Congregational Meeting on January 31st. Assuming congregational approval at that meeting, Sheila Long will begin her term as Moderator of our church. A full slate of nominees will begin their terms as well, including a new Assistant Moderator and a new Clerk of the Board. Once again, I think you will agree that we have a great slate of nominees for all positions, and that the Board and Departments of the church are in good hands.

Following our tradition, I was Assistant Moderator for two years and then Moderator for two years. These four years have passed quickly, as time seems to do, and the work has been fulfilling and rewarding. I have been continually impressed by the commitment, abilities and willingness of the volunteers who staff our Departments and Church Board; they certainly have made my time as Moderator easier and more enjoyable. The Ministers and office staff have been equally helpful and supportive. These observations are borne out by the successful and fully voluntary undertaking of two capital fund drives over the past 2-3 years, while fully supporting all the regular work and mission activities of the church. The most rewarding part of my time as Moderator has been the opportunity to meet with, to work with and to converse with so many of you, the people of our church. We are blessed with a talented and dedicated congregation, and it has been a privilege to serve as Moderator. I wish you all a happy, healthy and productive new year!

Church Board by Eileen Rossow

The UCC Church Board met on Thursday, December 17, 2015 with Moderator, Gerry Boehrs, leading the meeting. The meeting had to be postponed from Tuesday to Thursday because of inclement weather. The financial reports for the year through November are very good. Expenses are down and both pledged and non-pledged giving is up. The Capital Funds Project Phase II is at about 97% of its goal. The 2016 Pledge Drive is at about 84% of its goal. The Department of Stewardship and Budget will finalize the 2016 budget the second week of January.

The nominating committee has been hard at work in filling all of the department and officer openings. We only need two more volunteers for the Department of Ministries. If you would be interested in either of those openings, please contact Gerry Boehrs, Moderator.

As was reported last month, the Department of Hospitality is working on a new program to provide transportation for those who would like to come to church, but don't have the capability to get to church on their own.

Volunteer sign-up sheets for this program will be distributed starting January 10, 2016. It is expected that the kick-off of the program will be scheduled for the beginning of February.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2016, after church services. The Annual Report is scheduled to be distributed Sunday, January 24, 2016. **The cut-off for submission of articles for the Annual Report is January 10, 2016.** If you are submitting an article, please help the church staff by getting it to them via email at: uccoffice@rushmore.com.

The next board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 19, 2016.**

Department of Hospitality by Ben Anderson

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED--for people who need a ride to church

Many of us know that some people cannot drive because of their disability, age, illness, or injury. I am one of those persons that cannot drive because of my disability, but I always wanted to come to church. I had three options. I could stay home. I could walk, or I could ask for a ride. The last option was always who do I ask? Who is willing to give me a ride?

In February 2016, the Department of Hospitality is going to roll out a transportation to church program for those who need it. There will be sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall starting **Sunday, January 17.** Please stop by to do one of the following: to sign up to be a volunteer driver or to let us know if you, or someone you know, needs a ride to church. Drivers must be over 25 years old and have liability insurance.

On February 7, we will begin having volunteers pick up people who need a ride to our church. The volunteer drivers will receive either a phone call, email or text the Friday before each Sunday to let them know who needs a ride. This is another way to show hospitality to our congregation.

News from Church

Church Chat--January 19

Beginning in January, our Church Chat group will discuss *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder* by Kent Nerburn. This book tells the story of two men, one white and one Indian, locked in their own understandings yet struggling to find a common voice. The first six chapters were discussed on January 5. Our next meeting will be on **January 19, noon to 1:00pm in the Fireside Room.** If you would like to purchase a book for \$13.50, contact Kathleen Batchelder. We hope you will join us for this important discussion of cultural misunderstandings and connections.

4th Tuesday Ladies' Lunch Group

Are you hungering for some good food, conversation and fun? Then mark your calendar for the next gathering of The Fourth Tuesday Ladies' Lunch Group at **11:30am on Tuesday, January 26 at Minerva's Restaurant.** For more information, contact **Maureen Dymock.**

Congregation Connections

The New Year of 2016 promises to be a banner year for our congregation! The Congregation Connection Team is more active than ever in making home visits, phone calls, cookie deliveries, and greeting cards to our members who are unable to regularly attend worship. The CC Team thanks **Mary Mead** as she retires from our group—Mary has been generous with her time and energy in making visits. We welcome new members for our team, and we always appreciate new contact suggestions. If you would like to be a Congregation Connection Team member, please contact **Kathleen Batchelder.** And **PLEASE** let one of the pastors or the church office know if you or someone you know needs a visit or call. Each one of us is a crucial link in our Congregation Connections.



Why Do We Do That?

A conversation with the Department of Worship

It is true, we do pass the offering plates in virtually every worship service we hold. Of course the church depends on offerings for our mission and ministry, but the practice of making offerings is more than simple finances. It is one of the most ancient forms of worship in our tradition.

The book of Leviticus opens with seven chapters outlining rules for making offerings to God. The prophets and Jesus offer commentary and explanation of offerings.

It is clear that offerings are about much more than money. Our offerings are about submitting all of our lives to God, who is the source not only of what we have, but also of who we are.

The process of making offerings is an invitation each week to think about the lives we live and the choices we make in our everyday lives and to dedicate ourselves once again to the service of God.

We make offerings because the process of doing so enhances our worship and adds quality to our lives.

Spiritual Practice Group

At the beginning of a new calendar year, many of us make resolutions to adopt healthy practices—to improve our physical and mental health. We may also resolve to deepen our spiritual practices of Bible study, prayer, and good work. Our Spiritual Practice Group meets each **Tuesday, 1:15-2:15pm** in the Church Library for quiet prayer, Bible study with the practice of Lectio Divina (or holy reading), and discussion about religious writers through the centuries. We hope you will consider joining our group as we seek to deepen our spiritual practices.

For more information, contact **Kathleen Batchelder**.

Memoir Writing Group

The Memoir group will meet on **Thursday, January 28 at 1:30pm** at the church. Anyone interested in sharing or hearing stories is welcome to join us. For more information, contact **Mary Keithahn**.

Library News and Reviews

In this issue of THE CALL, a few of our readers have shared their thoughts on a few of our UCC's Library books. The librarians would appreciate any comments you, the readers, have about any book. Just slip it in the book, with or without your name; it will guide us in providing a library for you.

JoAnn Leonard's thoughts are: "Since I have discovered the library at UCC, I have enjoyed a wide variety of books. Some are old but still relevant and interesting subjects, as *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain and *Enthusiasm Makes the Difference* by N.V. Peale. Some displaying human nature are *Thunder Dog* concerning a guide dog for the blind and *Home Town Tales*, a heartwarming collection of short stories."

Eleanore Moe shared this review: *The Cloister Walk* is a journey that Kathleen Norris, a South Dakota author and an oblate, took into the Benedictine community at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. Not the easiest reading but provocative, educational and well worth your time.

Ruth Ann Karlen shared this review: *An Invisible Thread: A Christmas Story* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski is a sweet picture book, in which Laura retells the first Christmas that she and Maurice spent together. This heartwarming tale captures the true meaning of the holidays and will be one you'll want to share with your family year after year.

Kathleen Batchelder shared this review: *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life Welcoming the Soul and Weaving Community in a Wounded World* was written by Parker J. Palmer.

In *A Hidden Wholeness*, Palmer explores his thesis that each of us is born with a "spiritual DNA" which integrates our connection with God, our soul, and our experience. However, as we learn and adapt to the ways of the world, Palmer notes that we allow our spiritual connections to become separated and hidden. In this book, Palmer reminds us of our potential as fully integrated beings. The book is readable, inspiring, and encouraging as we journey. Look for it in our church Library.

Education News

Winter Quarter Sunday School

Regular Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 10, following the theme “Journeys with Jesus.” During the coming weeks, we’ll be looking at stories from the life of Jesus, studying teachings and events in his life. Sunday School classes are offered for children and youth age three through grade 9. We at First Congregational UCC are fortunate to have a great team of Sunday School teachers! Patti Rea and Terry Brouillette teach the preschool class. Lisa Lyons and Pandi Bollock are the teachers for the younger elementary class and Jenny Seals teaches the older elementary class. A variety of leaders will be working with the youth as we begin the Confirmation program in earnest this month. If you have any questions about Sunday School, please feel free to speak to any of the teachers or to Susan Huffman, Minister of Education.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes are offered for youth as an opportunity for them to explore issues of faith and come to some understanding of their own beliefs. Confirmation classes are typically offered to youth in grades 8-9, but sometimes younger or older youth will join with a particular class. Parents of middle school and high school youth will be receiving information about Confirmation and will be involved in helping to plan the schedule for this year’s Confirmation class.

The program is mentor-based, so that all students work closely with an adult who is not a family member. The mentors guide students through the activities and lessons and help them to explore issues of faith and church membership. We recognize that most youth will not end up as members of the clergy, but we hope that many will end up as strong and faithful members of churches across the land. To that end, the mentors share insights about the importance of church membership and ways to become involved in the church.

If you have a young person who is interested in Confirmation or if you would like more information about serving as a Confirmation mentor, please talk to Susan Huffman.

Kerygma

The Kerygma class is taking a winter break in order to avoid the coldest days of winter driving. The seven session class on Job will begin on February 24. The tentative schedule includes classes on February 24, March 2, 23 and 30 and April 6, 13 and 27.

Thanks

Some have asked about which roles the children and youth played in the Children’s Christmas Worship service on December 20 and in the Christmas Eve service. Thanks to the following children and youth, as well as their families and teachers, for their participation in these two worship experiences:

December 20:

Jesus: Waylon Trana

Mary: Oona Evans

Joseph: Jay-que Vrooman

Wise men: Jayce Angel, Brendan Lyons and Destin Vrooman

Shepherds: Daniel Lyons, Mekhi Mann and Carter Seals

Angels: Ella Anderson, Vaya Anderson, Clara Crutcher, Elle Emerson, Elsa Grauman, Gianna Grigg, Lucia Grigg, Dakota Vrooman, Stormy Vrooman and Sydney Wathen

Readers: Isabel Bryant, Cayden Heinert, Eva Heinert, Maya Hughes, Emilee Nickel, Elyse Seals, Hailey Wathen and Macey Wathen

Musicians: Aparna Ayyangar, Arjun Ayyanger, Stephen Branch, Jenna Cruz, Ryan Webster, and members of the Adult Bell Choir.

December 24: Jesus: Caroline Strampe (*age 24 days*)

Mary: Emily Eckholm

Joseph: Cayden Heinert

Wise men: Evan Eckholm, Rowan Evans and Eva Heinert

Angels: Isabel Bryant and Oona Evans

Shepherd: Macey Wathen.

Family First

The Family Nights of this season have been a lot of fun and faith forming, too. If you have missed the first few, now is a great time to get on board. If you've been attending, plan to continue! Take a break from cooking. Enjoy time with church friends. Share in Faith Formation activities with your children. Mark ALL these dates in your calendar and plan to participate!

February 3: The Gift of Love

March 2: Lent

April 6: Easter and spring

May 4: theme TBA

Activities are designed for ages 3-11 to share WITH THEIR FAMILIES and for youth. Come, join the fun! Invite your friends, too.

New Member Class by Susan Huffman

An informational meeting for potential new members will be held **Sunday, January 17** in the parlor following worship. The meeting will last about an hour and fifteen minutes. During the session, information about First

Congregational Church and our parent denomination, the United Church of Christ, will be presented. There will also be time for questions and discussion among participants.

When I was growing up, the classes for new members were called "Inquirer's Classes." I still think that's a good name for such gatherings. Our purpose is not to instruct participants in a particular set of beliefs nor to say that those attending are necessarily going to become members of the church. Rather, the meeting provides an opportunity for people to inquire about the church, about matters of faith and about the meaning of church membership in our time.

The Reception of Members is planned for **Sunday, January 24** during the 9:30am worship service. Other opportunities to learn more about the church and to join the church will also be presented throughout the year. If you are interested in church membership or in attending the session on January 17, talk to any of the pastors: Kathleen Batchelder, Susan Huffman or Ted Huffman. Or you can simply come with an inquiring mind and share in the fellowship.

United Church Youth

United Church Youth has been plagued by a particular set of challenges this fall. Injuries, illness, traveling for sports and overwhelming homework assignments have kept kids away. So, after the Christmas break, we'll be re-grouping and making plans for the coming months. We'll kick off the winter semester with dinner at **Perkins at 6:30pm on January 13**. Mark your calendars and plan to come and eat. From that point, we'll set the plans for the coming weeks.

February Family First

February is a time when the stores are filled with valentines and symbols of love. In the Church, love is always a focus, not just in February! One long-standing tradition is making valentines for the shut-ins and others in need of TLC. Usually, these valentines are made by the Sunday School classes. However, because there will not be any Sunday School classes on the Sunday before Valentine's Day, this year our Family First night activities will include making valentines for our shut-ins and others needing a little extra care. Plan to come and create some original valentines as well as to share in food and fellowship.

Member News and Notes

Happy Birthday

The following members and friends have **January** birthdays:

- January 1:** Karen Boehrs
Layne Martin
- January 2:** Donald Gustin
- January 3:** Marcella Knispel
Cindy Ledford
- January 5:** Don Hansen
- January 7:** Irma Becker
Kathy Dannenbring
- January 9:** Olivia Diedrich
- January 12:** Lindsay Wathen
- January 13:** Gabriella Golden
- January 14:** Jeanette Hill
- January 15:** Beth Benusis
Carol Donnenwirth
- January 16:** Kyle Grauman
- January 17:** Cindy Bryan
- January 18:** Aubrie Darrow
Ronald Hill
- January 19:** Ron Comley
Rob Knight
Chuck Knowlton
- January 20:** Velma Speck
- January 21:** Mary Mead
- January 22:** Luke Deurmier
- January 23:** Keith Alexander
Harold Miller
Al Pitts
- January 24:** Robin Eddy
- January 25:** Carol Boyles
Luca Murano
- January 26:** Eleanore Moe
- January 29:** Marilyn Lindly

Prayer Concerns

Our sympathy and prayers are with

the family of **Betty Bossen** following her death on **January 4**. Services were held at First Congregational Church on January 7. Our thoughts and prayers are with **Maralee Dennis** who is at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Please hold the following in your prayers as they battle cancer: **Laura Boyd's** brother, **John Winder**; **Carol Boyles'** brother, **Terry Hammon**; **Jill Kundtz's** sister-in-law, **Mindy**; and **Sheila Long's** mother, **Debbie Torrey**.

Other church members are in our prayers including: **Hazel Heil** and **Mavis Iverson** at Clarkson Health Care; **John Arneson** at Echo Ridge; **Gordon Magnusson** at New Underwood; and **Ida Muree St. Pierre** and **Shirley Triggs** at Westhills South.

Our prayers are with the following members, families and friends: **Jayce Angel**; **Marvin Bitterman**; **Carol Boyles'** brother, **Rex Hammon**; **Vivian Dittmer**; **Al Dymock**; **Rev. Ray Schatz**; **Jane Seaton's** daughter, **Gail Johnson**; **Rev. Don Stoebner**; **Deb Tompkins'** nephew; brothers, **Bob Hills** and **Joe Hills**; and friend, **Barb Reynolds**; and **Tish Wilkinson**.

In Military Service: **Ed and Ginny Ensz's** grandson, **Kyle Kloeckl**; **Melanie Moore**, and all serving our country. **Johnathan Nickel** has returned to California to begin the next step of his Marine Corps training.

Thank You

Thank you for your overwhelming support and making Waylon's baptism such a special day. We will

Baptisms

Gabriella Lynn Golden, daughter of **Salim and Chris Golden** was baptized on December 6, 2015. Family members include grandparents, **Becky and Randy Fisher**, great-grandmother, **Marjorie Sagen** and aunt, **Merrick Fisher**.

Dakota, Destin and Stormy Vrooman, children of **Lacey and Cory Vrooman** and **Justice Hertel, Satara Hertel** and **Tiana Vrooman**, children of **Kelsey Vrooman** were baptized on December 13, 2015. Family members include Dakota, Destin and Stormy's brother, **Jay-que Vrooman** and **Karen and Gerry Boehrs**.

Carson Stephen Reiser, son of **Rachel and Craig Reiser**, was baptized on December 27, 2015. Family members include grandparents, **Julie and Rob Burton** and **Margaret and Steve Reiser** and great-grandparents, **Maralee and Arnett Dennis**.

Emmala Eve Huffman, daughter of **Allison and Isaac Huffman**, was baptized on January 3, 2016. Family members include grandparents **Susan and Ted Huffman**, brother, **Elliot Huffman** and aunt and uncle **Rachel and Michael Calabrese**.

We surround these children and their families with our blessings and prayers.

Directory Updates

Ben and Dee Anderson
217 Stumer Road #4
Rapid City SD 57701
(715) 554-1179

Jeff and Shyla Anderson
22451 E Peakview Drive
Aurora CO 80015
(303) 565-6118

Thom and Melanie Palm
13622 246th Street
Hermosa SD 57744
(605) 791-2707

Keith Alexander
1222 Cascade Avenue
Hood River OR 97031



think of all of you as we enjoy our new quilt. Thank you for being such a blessing in our lives!

Lisa, Joe, Wyatt and Waylon Trana

Thank you for the yellow prayer shawl, the wooden cross, your cards, prayers and concerns and visits by Ted.

The Bossen Family

Thank you so much for the prayers, good wishes, and cards after my father's death, and for my brothers. One good note, Terry's latest surgery went very well and his survival chances are vastly improved. This congregation is a huge blessing!

Carol and Lee Boyles

Please accept my sincere gratitude for all of your prayers, thoughts and well wishes during my recent health concerns. We are truly blessed to be a part of this church family.

Tish Wilkinson

Thank you to all who contributed their time and talents to our worship services during the Advent and Christmas seasons, including the adult choir, the bell choir, the Altar Guild, the soloists, the instrumentalists, our organist, our pastoral staff and the children and youth music leaders. Thank you, too, to the children and youth who led worship on December 20 and participated in the Christmas Eve Service.

Everyone's efforts created truly inspirational worship experiences. Thank you one and all.

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational UCC,

In the United Church of Christ, we are blessed with strong seminaries that equip leaders for the future and support congregational leadership

and learning. The UCC is strengthened by the leadership of graduates from Chicago, United and Eden seminaries. Your church's faithful support of CUE seminaries is an investment in the current and future leadership of the United Church of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Alice Hunt

Rev. David Greenhaw

Rev. Barbara A. Holmes

Dear Friends of Storybook Island,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Storybook Island and the Rotary Clubs of Rapid City, we thank you for the use of your tables and chairs for the Annual Princess and Pirate Ball Silent Auction. Thank you again for supporting the place "Where Magic Happens."

Connie LeZotte

Executive Director

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!

Please know that we appreciate EVERY SINGLE PERSON who prays for the Cornerstone Rescue Mission, gives to Cornerstone, volunteers for Cornerstone, or blesses Cornerstone in any way! The efforts and generosity from all of you are what keep Cornerstone open. We appreciate you and thank you.

Deb Berg

Volunteer Coordinator/Fundraising



Vacation Bible School 2015 in los Guido

Mission and Outreach

Angels of los Guido

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Angels of los Guido fund. As many of you know, the families in the community surrounding our sister church are mainly from Nicaragua and el Salvador, and therefore do not qualify for government assistance in most areas. Most are poorly educated and ill-equipped for any job that pays a living wage.

Pastor Dorotea Yucra has been involved with this community for 20 years, and knows the needs around her. She very carefully and prayerfully considers these needs, and uses our monetary gifts to assist the families who are in the most need. She and her family know where to get the most value for their money, and often do the shopping for school uniforms or supplies for the children. Sometimes it is unwise to hand money for these things to the mother, for instance, because the man of the house is an addict or alcoholic who will find there is money in the house and use it to fuel his addictions. Unfortunately, there have been many cases where the mother is the addict, and abandons the family. It is not an easy job to shop for so many children, but it means that the children always get what they need.

We have been privileged to be in Costa Rica just before school starts in February, so have been part of the distribution of uniforms and supplies. The joy on the children's faces as they see brand new school shoes or uniforms, never worn by anyone else, sized perfectly for them is wonderful to witness. They and their parents never fail to thank us sincerely, and we insure that they know we represent a lot of people back in "Dakota" who believe in them and wish them every success.

We are leaving on January 13, and have a few days to prepare for the week-long VBS that goes from January 18 to January 23. We will be gone just two weeks this year; the maintenance needs of the church are being met by men in the congregation, which means that our stay does not need to be as long. We look forward to bringing you fresh news of old friends and new ones, and thank you for your continued support of this mission.

Love INC Furniture Ministry

Love INC will be hosting a Pizza Pie Lunch at its office, 140 North Street, on **Wed., January 13 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm**. It is open to all who have participated or are interested in Love INC's Furniture Ministry. This ministry undertakes weekly mission trips into the homes of Rapid City folks who have earned furniture or appliances. Come and learn more. Call the Love INC office to RSVP at 718-5683.

Cornerstone Rescue Mission Banquet

The Cornerstone Rescue Mission will be holding its annual Bird & Bison Banquet on **Saturday, March 12**. The Rescue Mission is seeking donations of gift baskets to be sold at their silent auction that evening.

If interested, please let Deb know at:

dberg@cornerstonemission.org or 718-8712.

Baskets should be delivered to Deb at the Cornerstone Thrift Store, 401 11th Street, by **March 2**.

January

Fri Jan 8, 2016

1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm -BH Watercolor Group

Sun Jan 10, 2016

Annual Reports are due
8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship and Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Dept. of Education
4:00pm The Well

Mon Jan 11, 2016

1:30pm Westhills Bible and Book Study
6pm Evening Rotary Group

Tue Jan 12, 2016

8:15am BH Retired School Personnel
10:30am Staff Meeting
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices

Wed Jan 13, 2016

6pm Bell Choir Practice
6pm Stewardship & Budget
6:30pm United Church Youth
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Thu Jan 14, 2016

10am Altar Guild Meeting
4:30pm Dept. of Worship

Fri Jan 15, 2016

1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm BH Watercolor Group

Sun Jan 17, 2016

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
8:30am Dept. of Ministries
9:30am Worship and Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
3:30pm Jail Ministry
4:00 pm The Well

Mon Jan 18, 2016

Martin Luther King Day

6pm Evening Rotary Group

Tue Jan 19, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting
12pm Church Chat
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices
7pm Church Board Meeting

Wed Jan 20, 2016

9:30am Good Morning Circle
6pm Bell Choir Practice
6:30pm Good Evening Circle
TBA United Church Youth
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Thu Jan 21, 2016

4:15pm 1st Congregational Trust

Fri Jan 22, 2016

1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm BH Watercolor Group

Sat Jan 23, 2016

10am Survivors of Suicide

Sun Jan 24, 2016

Annual Reports available online and for pick up at church
8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship and Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
3:30pm Jail Ministry
4:00pm The Well

Mon Jan 25, 2016

1:30pm Westhills Bible & Book Study

Tue Jan 26, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting
11:30am 4th Tuesday Ladies Lunch
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices

Wed Jan 27, 2016

6pm Bell Choir Practice
TBA United Church Youth
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Thu Jan 28, 2016

1:30pm Memoir Writing Group

Fri Jan 29, 2016

1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm BH Watercolor Group

Sun Jan 31, 2016

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship and Sunday School
10:30am The 137th Annual Meeting of First Congregational United Church of Christ
10:30am Fellowship
4:00pm The Well Service

Tue Feb 2, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting
12pm Church Chat
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices

Wed Feb 3, 2016

11:30am WF Board Meeting
6pm Bell Choir Practice
6pm Family First Night
6:30pm Dept. of Hospitality
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Fri Feb 5, 2016

1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm BH Watercolor Group

Sun Feb 7, 2016

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship and Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
4:00pm The Well Service



1st Congregational

United Church of Christ

1200 Clark Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Commissioning Our Costa Rica Missionaries

On **Sunday, January 10**, we will once again commission Chuck and Sybil Rounds for their travel to our sister Church, The Community Christian Church of los Guido in Costa Rica.

While in Costa Rica the Rounds will carry our greetings to Pastor Dorotea and the people of the church and participate in the annual Vacation Bible School.

As usual, they will hear the reports on the ministries of the congregation for the past year and deliver our annual Angels of los Guido funds to Pastor Dorotea for use in the church.

Of special interest will be the reports of the feeding program.

Join us for this special service of dedication and worship.



Contact Us

We'd love to talk to you and answer any questions you have.

**1st Congregational
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Visit us on the web at
www.rcfirstucc.com

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!