



THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ
1200, Clark Street, Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 342-5787
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March, 2017

IN LENT WE REMEMBER JESUS EMBRACED OUR LIFE AND OUR DEATH

Every Christian carries images and perceptions from other times into each season of the church. It is common for faithful Christians to think of Lent in terms of somber attitudes and solemn services. Many Christians associate self-deprivation with the season, giving up something in observance of the season.

Lent, however, does not have to be somber and it does not have to be defined by what we give up. It is a season of being intensely aware of the depth of God's commitment to humans in Jesus and the totality of Jesus' embracing of human nature. Jesus was fully human, and like each of us, his life ended in death. Death, however does not define Jesus and it does not define us either.

The season of Lent comes from the celebration of new life that burst forth in the springtime. The name "Lent" means "lengthen" and it refers to the lengthening of days and the promise of warmer weather that are a part of the season. In the church, spring is the season when we recall the Passover—the great story of God's call to our people to return to a life of freedom after the time of slavery in Egypt.

There are many vestiges of ancient traditions in our observances of Lent, but there are also opportunities for new and fresh observances and liturgies.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS THE BEGINNING OF LENT

The six weeks of Lent officially began with Ash Wednesday, which in 2017 was March 1. Our Ash Wednesday service contains the elements of the water of baptism, the oil of healing and the ashes that remind us of our mortality. It is a simple and moving opportunity for reflection and sharing our common human lot. The next five Sundays have worship

services that are geared to remembering Jesus and his life-giving ministry to all who met him.

HOLY WEEK OFFERS RICH WORSHIP

As has been our tradition in recent years, we will have special worship services throughout Holy Week including

- The festival of Palm Sunday on April 9.
- The liturgy of the passion at 7:00pm on April 10.
- Sittin' with the Blues concert at 7:00pm on April 11.
- A Christian Wake Service on April 12 at 6:00pm.
- Maundy Thursday Footwashing at 6:30pm and a special choral service with communion at 7:00pm on April 13.
- Good Friday Children's service at 11:00am and the Journey to the Cross liturgy at 12:00pm on April 14.
- The Great Vigil of Easter at 6:30pm on April 15.
- Resurrection Celebration on April 16.

LENT IS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Between now and Holy Week is a journey of worship and an opportunity to embrace and celebrate Christ's humanity. It is a joy to be human and we are called to enter into that joy. Perhaps this year is a year to consider not so much what you will give up for Lent, but what you might take on for Lent. Perhaps you are ready to take on some extra visitation with other church members, or a more active role in one of our mission and outreach programs. Perhaps this is your Lent to engage in additional Bible Study or volunteer to serve at coffee hour following worship.

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



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Here we are. It is Lent again. I don't know if it is the result of advancing age or simply a change in attitude, but I find myself looking forward to Lent these days. I used to think of it as a somber time of self-denial, but I have had enough experiences with grief in my life to know that grief can be an opening to a new depth of understanding of God's world.

In our fast-paced society it seems as if we rarely take time to just let ourselves sit and think. When I work with families, I am aware of all of the things that compete for their attention, pull at the edges of their days and require investments of time. No wonder we all go around acting like we are tired all the time. We are.

Lent, with its theme of lengthening days, is an invitation to change our pace as we face a new season.

The one thing in our society that demands that we drop every thing else that is going on and demands our full attention is grief. When there is a death in the family, you drop everything and deal with the immediacy of the loss.

Lent is our season to practice for that time in our lives. We don't have to wait until the loss is of an immediate family member to learn to turn aside for the temporal and the demands of everyday

life and focus our energies on that which is eternal.

In the season of Lent, we are invited to lay aside our sense of time as a linear progression with each event following another in a pre-specified order. Although it might seem chaotic to consider time in any other fashion, we need to learn that eternity is not just an extension of time—a time in which everything lasts forever—but rather an entirely different perspective on the flow of time.

So welcome to this season. Sit back. Take a few deep breaths. Relax. Allow God's presence to seep into your life. Focus your attention on the things that are most important. Open your mind to embrace the concept of eternity.

All of Lent leads to Holy Week, the week in which Jesus enters Jerusalem and faces death. From Palm Sunday, through the intensity of the passion and the night-long vigil of anticipation for the Easter Sunrise, the week is filled with opportunities to gain a fresh perspective on the reality of the costs and joys of discipleship.

When Jesus embraced our humanity, he embraced both our life and our death. Join me in the journey of discovery of the depth of Jesus' presence.

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SPRING FORWARD ON MARCH 12

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12. You won't want to arrive a whole hour late for worship. On the other hand, if you forget and

do show up late, we promise to have plenty of refreshments and fellowship to share with you!

BOARD AND DEPARTMENTS

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE by Sheila Long

What is it they say about March? In like a lion, out like a lamb or will we have in like a lamb and out like a lion? I'm not sure which one we will have yet, but as I sit here typing this article the weather has turned cold again. Snow is lightly falling and temperatures are dropping.

But I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the week of 60 and 70 degree weather we had in February. It was a nice reprieve from this winter's cold and ice, and a sign of the coming spring.

Another sign of spring in our church is the Women's Fellowship spring rummage sale. This is scheduled for March 17th and 18th. You can begin your spring cleaning a little early and bring in your donations. There is information on how and when to do this within this newsletter as well as in the weekly bulletins.

So, while it's unknown how March will start or end, we always know April is right around the corner.

CHURCH BOARD by Sheila Long

Capital Funds Project Phase II –

Current funds are at \$99,208 plus the air conditioning fund. The numbers are hard to predict, but donations appear to be on track based on pledges.

Updated heating controls for the boiler have been researched. It has been determined that the new controls will work with the future boiler. We will proceed with that project when weather permits, as we have to shut down the heat. In addition, the boiler passed inspection this year.

There is a vacancy in Department of Worship and Marilyn Fransen was approved to fill the vacancy.

The Good Evening Circle is selling fun-shaped pasta as a fund raiser.

Women's Fellowship is donating money to the Department of Building and Grounds for the purchase of a shed to hold rummage sale supplies.

The next church board meeting will be at 7:00pm on March 21, 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRIES

by Jeff VanCuren

On February 16, the Department of Ministries served a meal for the Life INC classes offered by Love INC at Canyon Lake Methodist church. We served about 75 individuals who were there to better themselves and their lives. We would like to thank Cindy and Becky Ledford, Sue Maynard and Cinnamon Hill Preschool for providing cookies for dessert. The Administrative Colleagues, Pam and Laura, joined us in serving the meal.

Our next meal will be at the **Cornerstone Mission on March 31**. We once again will be asking the congregation to donate cookies for dessert. Cookies can be dropped off at the church before **Wednesday, March 29th**. **Volunteers to serve the meals are also welcome. To help, please contact Jeff VanCuren at 716-5157 or vancurenj@gmail.com.**

The March "Food of the for Month" for Church Response is canned fruit and can be dropped off in the grocery cart in the narthex. Finally I would like to thank Pat Sutliff for volunteering to sell grocery gift certificates on the 2nd Sunday of the month so, we will now be selling certificates on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALITY

The Department of Hospitality invites you to a St. Patrick's Day celebration!

Come enjoy live Irish music following worship in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, March 19**.



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CHURCH CHAT

Notes from the
Department of Worship

Some of our faithful members have asked about the liturgy for communion on the first Sunday of each month. They noted that sometimes the services are long and very wordy. Other times they are more brief. Some of the elements of the liturgy occasionally feel like "high church" and others seem more informal.

Some of the reasons for change come from the simple fact that our heritage encourages using fresh words for familiar elements of worship. We stand in a long line of creative thinkers and writers who have tried to use fresh language to make connections between worship and everyday life.

Each month our pastors prepare a fresh liturgy for our communion that seeks to be innovative in the use of language, but also respectful of tradition. Some months this results in longer liturgies. However, because our children share in our communion liturgies, there is also a need to respect their understandings and to choose language that is easy to understand. It is a balancing act that some months we get just about right. Some months, however, we don't hit the mark perfectly.

The Department of Worship welcomes your comments and feedback on our worship and we take them very seriously. Feel free to talk with any member of the Department with your questions and concerns.

Our Church Chat discussions continue on Eric Weiner's book, *The Geography of Genius: Lessons from the World's Most Creative Places*. On **March 21**, we will discuss Chapter 3 "Genius Is Expensive: Florence." On **April 4**, we will discuss Chapter 4 "Genius Is Practical: Edinburgh." Everyone is invited to join us in the **Fellowship Hall** from **noon to 1:00pm** on **March 21** and **April 4**. For more information, contact **Bonnie Edwards, Barb Knight, or Kathleen Batchelder**.

PIANO CONCERT

South Dakota native Calvin Jones will perform a piano concert at First Congregational Church on **Saturday, March 18 at 7:00pm**. Jones' career has spanned over twenty years and he has composed music for film, TV and radio commercials. The concert will feature new original compositions and fan-favorite music from Jones' five albums. Admission is by donation.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Each **Tuesday** from **1:15 to 2:15pm**, our small group meets in the church library for prayer, Bible study, and discussion of spiritual disciplines. We welcome guests and new members any time.

Beginning **March 21**, we will discuss *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu. For more information about the Spiritual Practice Group and/or about ordering the book, contact **Kathleen Batchelder**.

MEMOIR WRITING GROUP

Have you ever had questions you wish you had asked your parents or grandparents while they were still alive? Writing your memoirs is a way to answer questions your children and grandchildren may not think to ask until you are no longer around to answer them. This is especially important now when families are scattered and communication is often limited to skype conversations and brief electronic messages. How will future generations know who you were and how you lived your life? How will they remember you? Everyone has a story to tell, and these stories are important to preserve not just for our families, but also for people who want an "inside" look at the times in which we live. If you would like some help in getting started on telling your story, come visit our Memoir group at **1:30pm** on **Thursday, March 23**, at the church.

4TH TUESDAY LADIES' LUNCH GROUP

Please join us on **Tuesday, March 28** for good food, conversation and fellowship. We will meet in the lobby of Minerva's Restaurant at **11:30am**. For more information, call **Joyce Tripp** at **342-1352**.

LIBRARY NEWS

Looking for a good book? Have you browsed the readings on the Fellowship Hall Book Table? Here are a few

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH

books the librarians would recommend: Our own Rapid City Journal writer, Dorothy Rosby's *I Didn't Know You Could Make Birthday Cake from Scratch* will make you chuckle at her style of raising children. Tickle your funny bone with Karen O'Connor's *My Favorite Senior Moments* and Missy Buchanan's *Talking With God in Old Age*, a collection of meditations and Psalms—some meditative and some really humorous. Karen Kingsbury, our most-checked out novel writer, relates stories of adoption, including her own adoption story, in *A Treasury of Adoption Miracles*.

GUESS WHO'S COMING FOR DINNER

Our new dinner fellowship program met in January for a potluck dinner. Following dinner we drew names to

form three groups which will meet for one shared meal during the next three months. During each calendar season, we plan to follow this sequence of large potluck dinner, followed by small group (6-8 people) shared meals.

On **Sunday, April 23**, following church, we will have a potluck lunch. Everyone interested in joining a group for spring and early summer is welcome.

For more information, contact **Jeanne Berry (390-5160)**, **Kathleen Batchelder (342-8720)** or **Carol Boyles (348-5697)**.

LOST AND FOUND

Many items have been found in the church in recent months. Stop by the Lost and Found table in the Fellowship Hall to see if any items belong to you. All unclaimed items will be donated to the March Rummage Sale.

PASTA SALE

The Good Evening Circle will be selling fun-shaped delicious pasta items during coffee hour in March. Stop by our table in the Fellowship Hall on March 5 to test taste a sample or two. You may place an order with us at church or you may place an order online at: funpastafundraising.com. Click on the MENU button and select SUPPORT YOUR GROUP. Our group name is: *Good Evening Church Circle*. All proceeds go toward the charities our circle supports. For more information, contact any Good Evening Circle member. Thank you!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

The spring rummage sale is fast approaching. Sale dates are **Friday, March 17 from 8 :00am to 3:00pm** and **Saturday, March 18 from 8:00am to noon, with a bake sale on Friday only**. To insure that we have everything ready, work days will start after fellowship time on **Sunday, March 12**. With enough help Fellowship Hall becomes the Sale Hall in less than an hour and a half. Please consider helping with this change-over; it's quite amazing to watch.

Weekday set up hours are from 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Thursday. Pricing takes place on Thursday and we especially appreciate help that day.

Rummage can be brought to the church after worship on Sunday, March 12 or any time the church is open from Monday, March 13 through Wednesday afternoon, March 15.



There are many wonderful opportunities for fun and fellowship during the week. There are jobs for everyone and we welcome helpers of all ages. The only requirement is a cheerful attitude and the desire to form closer relationships with other women and men. Yes, men! Women's Fellowship greatly appreciates the men who do the heavy work, testing electrical appliances, moving and toting box after box. Much manly conversation goes on that week and we invite all willing men to participate.

If you want to **Be** involved, remember to **Bake** something, or **Bring** something, or **Buy** something! Profits from the sale benefit the church as well as local, national and international groups chosen by the Women's Fellowship Board.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

LENTEN CHALLENGE

For many Christians, Lent is a rather confusing time. We feel like we are supposed to “do something spiritual,” but what? Many Christians try to “give up” something for Lent, like chewing gum, chocolate, soda pop, or fried foods. Those efforts often feel superficial and unsatisfying, leaving us uneasy with the season and our responsibilities as Christians.

In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis suggest that what Christians should give up for Lent is indifference to others. “Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians,” the Pope said. “Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt and the desire to do good fades. We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people’s pain and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else’s responsibility and not our own.”

Pope Francis reminds all Christians that when we give up this indifference, we can begin to feast of God’s love. As we enter into this season of Lent, let us face that which tempts us, including our own indifference to others, and set our sights on the ministry to which we are called.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

While 90 percent of people agree that talking with their loved ones about end-of-life care is important, only 27 percent have actually done so, according to a survey of the Conversation Project, 2013. Church is a natural and vital place to begin these Caring Conversations. Our Caring Conversations began in the fall, and now we will continue with actual conversation-starting materials. On March 5, we will provide and discuss the Conversation Starter Kit from the Conversation Project as a springboard for group and individuals. On March 12, we will provide and explore the booklet Five Wishes. And on March 19, we will conclude this series with conversations on topics suggested by participants.

When: following worship on March 5, 12, and 19

Where: the Fireside Room

Who: all adults are invited to begin/continue Caring Conversations

For more information, contact **Kathleen Batchelder** or **Jill Kundtz**.

KERYGMA CLASS

The Kerygma class is currently studying the book of Ruth. The schedule for the remainder of this course is:

March 8—Lesson 3

March 15—no class

March 22—no class

March 29--Lesson 4

April 5—Lesson 5

April 12—wrap-up

YOUTH NEWS

The youth of the church will be serving coffee and cookies for the congregation for the ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY! The youth themselves came up with this idea. (Special credit goes to Elyse Seals). They have been thinking about different ways to serve and this is one of their projects. We hope that you will stay for coffee and goodies during the month and get to know our great young people!

Our youth also made fleece pillows for the preschool Sunday School class. The youth will be presenting these gifts on Sunday, March 5 during worship. Come and share in worship and see the interaction between our (heroic) youth and our (adorable) preschoolers! It’s sure be wonderful!

The Wednesday night youth events for March include:

March 1, 5:30 pm in church kitchen: prepare and serve the Ash Wednesday pancake supper

March 8, 6:30 pm in church kitchen: bake cookies to serve at coffee hour on March 12

March 15: rummage sale week, no UCY

March 22, 6: 30 pm at Pottery@Paint: Empty Bowls project. See the article on page 7 about this project.

March 29: No UCY

April 5, 5:30-7:00 pm:

First Wednesday Family Night

EMPTY BOWLS

United Church Youth will decorate Empty Bowls on **Wednesday, March 22 at 6:30 pm**. Empty Bowls supports Feeding South Dakota, raising funds and awareness about hunger in our community. We will gather to paint bowls at Pottery2Paint, 1919 Mt Rushmore Road. Young Adults, youth and their parents, other family members or friends are welcome to join this fun evening of fun. Due to racks of breakable items at Pottery2Paint, we want to limit the number of younger kids, so if younger siblings want to participate, please talk to Susan Huffman.

The bowls we paint become part of Feeding South Dakota's Empty Bowls luncheon. This event benefits the Backpack Program of Feeding South Dakota. The event also serves as a time to raise awareness of hunger in our community. At the Empty Bowl lunch, participants share a simple meal of soup, bread, dessert and beverage. Attendees also receive a hand painted ceramic bowl as a reminder of the bowls we still need to fill to feed the hungry. This year, the event will be held on Tuesday, April 11.



EXPLORING RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Several people in our congregation have requested the opportunity to learn more about religions of the world. In our global society, we frequently encounter those who belong to other faith traditions and so the need to understand the perspective and beliefs of others becomes more than mere curiosity.

When first presented with this request, our reaction was, "oh, we've done that several times before." However, with a some investigation, the truth emerged. It has been a while since our church has held discussions on religions of the world.

In 2002 and again in 2004, the late Dr. William Hughes organized a series of discussions on the Abrahamic faiths: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Bill brought Dr. Ahrar Ahmad from Black Hills State and Dr. Rafiq Hasan from SDSM&T to speak on Islam. Dr. Steven Benn, a local physician from the Synagogue of the Hills, spoke on Judaism.

In the fall of 2002, we hosted a World Community Day celebration, sponsored by Church Women United. At that event, women representing Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism spoke. Additionally, Michael O'Connor has spoken about Buddhism. But none of these events have been very recent. So, the time has come to do it again. Beginning in March, we will hold monthly sessions focusing on different religious traditions around the world.

The first session will be held on **Sunday, March 26 at 11 am in the church parlor**. Our speaker that day will be Naveen Malik, who will speak on Islam. Naveen is a student at Black Hills State University, studying Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She earned a B.S. from Northwestern University in Communication Science. She then worked for the Department of Defense, beginning as an assistant. Subsequently, she was selected for the prestigious White House Liaison Office Defense Fellowship. As a Defense Fellow, she worked as the Deputy Country Director for Qatar, UAE, and Bahrain, on the Gulf/Arabian Peninsula Team -International Security Affairs/Middle East Division, as well as Country Director for Pakistan in the Asian Pacific Security Affairs/APC Division, for the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Naveen brings a broad understanding of current affairs to our conversation, combining experiences of her own religious tradition with extensive international experience. We look forward to hosting Naveen and learning more about Islam.

We are currently working with religious leaders in our community to schedule presenters on Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism. Although the exact schedule has not yet been confirmed, the initial contacts have been enthusiastic. We look forward to continuing to explore issues of faith in our contemporary world.

If you have questions or ideas about possible speakers, please contact Susan Huffman or Alicia Sutliff-Benusis.

MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

PRAYER CONCERNS



Our sympathy and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones:

the family of **Marvin Bitterman** following his death on February 19. Services were held on February 24 at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home.

Todd Eddy and family following the death of Todd's mother, **Shirley Eddy** on February 25 in Belle Fourche.

Laura Boyd and family following the death of Laura's husband, **Ed Boyd**, on February 28. Services will be held at **11:00am** on **Tuesday, March 7** at First Congregational Church.

Our prayers are with **Vera Mettler**, who is at Dorsett Healthcare Community as she recovers from surgery for injuries she sustained in a fall on February 15. Cards and letters can be mailed to:

Vera Mettler
1020 N 10th Street
Spearfish SD 57783

Please hold **Carol and Lee Boyles'** foster son, **Jerry Hernandez**, in your prayers following his kidney transplant on February 11.

Shut-in church members are in our prayers including: **John Arneson** at Peaceful Pines; **Lois Herndon** at Bella Vista; **Mavis Iverson** at Clarkson Health Care and **Ida Muree St. Pierre** and **Shirley Triggs** at Westhills South.

Our prayers are with the following members, families and friends:

Carol Boyles' brother, **Rex Hammon**;

Terry Brouillette's daughter-in-law, **Britney Brouillette**; **Dona Cheney's** daughter, **Leslie Mullins**; **Cyrus Cox**; **Dorothy Davis's** great-grandson, **Jesse Mitchell**; **Becky and Jim Fleming's** son-in-law, **Chris Kuehler**; **Jane Ireland's** son-in-law, **Pat Kearney**; **Jill Kundtz**; **Jill Kundtz's** sister-in-law, **Mindy**; **Jo Ann Leonard**; **Ted McBride**; **Lynn Renee's** sister, **Laura Scheider** and family; **Jane Seaton**; **Jane Seaton's** daughter, **Gail Johnson**; **Rev. Don Stoebner** and his wife and caregiver, **Rosie**; **Ernie Summarell**; **Drew Stephens** and **Deb Tompkins'** mother-in-law, **Dorothy Tompkins**.

In Military Service:

Deb and **Bruce Tompkins'** granddaughter, **Cpl. Briana Gabel-Mackulin**, and her husband, **Cpl. Gabe Mackulin**. **Ed and Ginny Ensz's** grandson, **Kyle Kloeckl**; **Melanie Moore**; **Jakob Nickel**; **Johnathan Nickel**; **Jane Ireland's** grandson, **Luke Serbousek** and all serving our country.



BAPTISM

Hazel Julian Cushman, daughter of **Carla** and **Alex Cushman**, was baptized on February 19. Hazel was born on April 14, 2016 in Rapid City. **Elsie** is Hazel's big sister. Our blessings to all.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

- March 9:** Coen Grauman
Bob Moore
- March 10:** Jordan LaPoint
Mindy Nickel
- March 12:** Diana Koehn
Dwight Schnabel
- March 13:** Todd Eddy
- March 19:** Terry Brouillette
Chance Lester
Jim Wosepka
- March 21:** Laura Bareis
- March 22:** Ryan Long
Scott Nielsen
- March 23:** Del Maynard
- March 25:** Ethan Thompson
- March 29:** Anna Benusis
Jodi Burke
Maya Hughes
- March 30:** Helen Snyder
- March 31:** Kain Cruz
Hallie Downs
Sue Maynard
Layne Putnam
Dorothy Slingsby



MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Jim and Kathy Dannenbring
4702 Chalkstone Drive
Rapid City SD 57701



THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donation of \$382.00 and 840 pounds of food to Church Response. Your donation will help us provide food, toiletries and utility assistance for those in need. We appreciate your show of concern for others.

Church Response

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your gift of \$1,283.00 in support of the United Church of Christ's blankets ministry. We are deeply grateful for your donation. Your support is extremely important to the work we do. Through it, you partner with us to support programs and services coordinated through the national setting to help local, national and global communities change lives for the better.

Mary A Paxton

Director, Office of Philanthropy
and Stewardship

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The church office is working on publishing a new church directory. We now have the capability to include cell phone numbers in addition to "land line" phone numbers in the directory. Please fill out the form below with your current information and turn it into the church office.

Email addresses will not be included in the directory, but will be kept on file in the church office.

You may also email your information to: ucoffice@rushmore.com.

Name _____

Address _____

Alternate Address _____

Include in directory? Yes _____ No _____

Alternate Address Dates _____

Home phone _____ Include in directory? Yes ___ No ___

Cell phone _____ (Name) _____

Include in directory? Yes _____ No _____

Cell phone _____ (Name) _____

Include in directory? Yes _____ No _____

Email address _____ (Name) _____

Email address _____ (Name) _____

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

MISSION AND OUTREACH

LOS GUIDO NEWS by Sybil Rounds

I just received an email from Pastor Dorotea, and she reports that an average of 30 children and mothers are participating in the meal program on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:30am to 12:30pm. School has only been in session for a week or so, and the number normally rises when school has been in session for a while. We would expect to see higher numbers in the next few months. The Saturday family programs will begin on March 5th, with workshops directed by Gady for the mothers and children's activities led by Sarvia and Dorotea. The women are busy preparing for these activities, and send a big hug to the church for our help. Please continue to hold these faithful servants in your prayers.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Most know that Habitat for Humanity builds homes, but it offers Home Preservation services as well. Leaking roofs, drafty windows, and sinking floors are all conditions preventing families from thriving. Completing projects like these are invaluable to those who currently own their own homes so they can continue to live in dignity. Even while utilizing volunteer labor, Home Preservation projects, on average, cost \$2,500. With 25 families approved and waiting for project start-up dates, another \$62,500 in critical funding is needed.

To support this mission financially, checks payable to Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity can be mailed to: 610 E. Omaha Street, Rapid City SD 57701. For more information, contact Debbie Pack at (605) 348-9196.

LOVE INC'S LIFE INC PROGRAM

Thank you to members of our Dept. of Ministries who served a meal for the Life INC classes offered by Love INC on February 16.

The following description of what Life INC classes are all about comes from Love INC's website:

Sometimes life can spiral out of control. No one should have to walk through the changes alone. Life INC uses a philosophy of providing a safe, nurturing environment for people who want to improve their circumstances.

Volunteers donate time to serve meals, provide child care, teach classes, donate groceries and diapers for the food pantry, be a mentor and be prayer warriors.

We do not provide a hand out to our participants. Instead, we work to encourage the dignity of all people by allowing participants to graciously accept a hand up. This means that all class participants are expected to:

Do any homework assigned to them by their instructor or mentor, arrive on time, and fully participate in class.

Life INC began in late 2005 with one class, Financial Freedom. Organizers quickly realized that peoples' issues with debt were just the tip of the iceberg. Everyone has changes that need to be made in their lives. So, additional classes were created. Today we have a full suite of 8 class choices for people. These classes meet throughout the year at several locations in Rapid City.



MARCH CALENDAR

FRI MAR 3, 2017

1pm Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SAT MAR 4, 2017

9am Woodchuck Wanblee Delivery

SUN MAR 5, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship for All Ages
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Caring Conversations
11am Dept. of Hospitality
11am Dept. of Education
4pm The Well

TUE MAR 7, 2017

10:15am Adult Choir Rehearsal
11am Services for Ed Boyd
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practice

WED MAR 8, 2017

9:30am Kerygma Bible Study
6pm Bell Choir Practice
6:30pm United Church Youth
7pm Adult Choir Practice

THU MAR 9, 2017

10am Altar Guild Meeting

FRI MAR 10, 2017

1pm Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SUN MAR 12, 2017

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS

8am Bell Choir Practice
8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship/Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Caring Conversations
11am Rummage Sale Setup
4pm The Well

MON MAR 13, 2017

9am Rummage Sale Setup
1:30pm Westhills Bible and Book Study

TUE MAR 14, 2017

9am Rummage Sale Setup
1:15pm Spiritual Practice

WED MAR 15, 2017

9am Rummage Sale Setup
6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

THU MAR 16, 2017

9am Rummage Sale Setup
4pm Dept. of Worship

FRI MAR 17, 2017

8am Rummage and Bake Sale

SAT MAR 18, 2017

8am Rummage Sale
7pm Calvin Jones Piano Concert

SUN MAR 19, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
8:30am Dept. of Ministries Meeting
9:30am Worship/Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship/Irish Music
10:45am Caring Conversations
4pm The Well

TUE MAR 21, 2017

9am BH Retired School Personnel
12pm Church Chat
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practice
6pm Dept. of Stewardship and Budget
7pm Church Board Meeting

WED MAR 22, 2017

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

THU MAR 23, 2017

1:30pm Memoir Writing Group

FRI MAR 24, 2017

1pm BH Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SAT MAR 25, 2017

10am Survivors of Suicide Support Group

SUN MAR 26, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship/One Great Hour
of Sharing/Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Exploring Religious Traditions
4pm The Well

TUE MAR 28, 2017

11:30am 4th Tuesday Ladies Lunch
1pm Craft Day

1:15pm Spiritual Practice

WED MAR 29, 2017

9:30am Kerygma Bible Study
6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

FRI MAR 31, 2017

1pm Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SUN APR 2, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship for All Ages
10:30am Fellowship
11am Dept. of Hospitality
3pm BH Chamber Music Concert
4pm The Well

TUE APR 4, 2017

12pm Church Chat
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practice

WED APR 5, 2017

9:30am Kerygma Bible Study
11:30am WF Board Meeting
5:30pm Family First Night
6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

FRI APR 7, 2017

1pm BH Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SUN APR 9, 2017

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

MON APR 10, 2017

7pm The Liturgy of the Passion

TUE APR 11, 2017

9am BH Retired School Personnel
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practice
7pm Sittin' with the Blues Concert

WED APR 12, 2017

9:30am Kerygma Bible Study
6pm Bell Choir Practice
6pm Christian Wake Service
7pm Adult Choir Practice



1st Congregational
United Church of Christ
1200 Clark Street
Rapid City SD 57701

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Special offering will be received on March 26.

