

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ
1200 Clark Street, Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 342-5787
www.rcfirstucc.com uccoffice@rushmore.com

September, 2017

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF ON SEPTEMBER 10

Hey, kids! It's time to register for Sunday School this year! Come, join the fun on **Sunday, September 10!** Register for Sunday School and meet this year's Sunday School teachers. There will be a Bounce House and other fun activities to kick-off the Sunday School year. The Bounce House will be up, rain or shine, so don't miss the fun!

Sunday School classes are offered for preschoolers through middle schoolers. Perhaps you know a family who is looking for a church home. Or perhaps you have grandchildren who would like to attend Sunday School. Invite them to come and share in our Sunday School program. We have enough kids in each class to form friendships, but the learning groups are small enough to offer personalized attention. Friendships built between children and adults are an important part of faith development! A nursery is available for children under age 3. High school students are encouraged to worship with their families. A great team of dedicated Sunday School teachers is being assembled. The teachers will be introduced in the next issue of *The Call*.



Sunday School classes begin **Sunday, September 17.** This year, *Seasons of the Spirit*, a lectionary-based curriculum, will be used in the Sunday School classes. The use of a lectionary-based curriculum means that the children will focus on the same scriptures in their classes as the adults hear during worship. This coordination between worship and Sunday School will make it easier for family members to connect with one another and to apply the lessons of the day to their life together. With this curriculum, there will also be expanded opportunities for the children to connect their experiences in Sunday School to worship. The

Sunday School teachers believe they can make better use of the limited amount of teaching time by focusing on the same story in both worship and Sunday School. As has been the case for the last few years, the first Sunday of the month will be observed as a Family Sunday and children will be encouraged to stay in worship and share communion with other family members. Communion will be served in the nursery for the youngest children.

Come, join the fun as we kick-off the Sunday School year!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 1

The Church Board has set **Sunday, October 1** following worship for a special congregational meeting to consider the sale of a Permanent Easement and H Lot to the City of Rapid City for utility work on Tompkins Street as a part of the Fulton Street Reconstruction Project.



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Maybe it is just a sign of my age, but I'm having a bit of trouble wrapping my mind around the coming of autumn. We've had a full and busy summer here at the church and it has been a fun time to be together. I have especially enjoyed preaching our way through much of Genesis and into Exodus as we focused on some of the great themes of our Hebrew Scriptures.

The coming of fall programming means that there will be a few more meetings, a few more rehearsals, and a few more programs. While programs aren't the only focus of our church, many of us find great meaning in participating in the choir and engaging in regular study groups.

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

As I write, we are making great progress on our bathroom remodeling project, but there is more yet to be completed. We continue to negotiate with the city in regard to the proper way to install our lift to the choir loft.

As children return to public school and our church school kicks off a new program year, it is a good time to explore your commitments to the church. Is there something new you'd like to try this year? Perhaps you'd like to see a new program or mission developed for our congregation. Speak up! We'd love to hear from you what ideas give excitement and meaning to your church experience.



August 15, 2017

Dear Board of First Congregational UCC,

First, I want to thank the board, the staff, and the congregation of First Congregational UCC for the precious privilege of participating in our shared ministry since my ordination on October 10, 2010.

This summer I have celebrated my 70th birthday, and I believe it is time to retire from employment with the church. Michael and I plan to be active members of this congregation as long as we live in Rapid City. I hope to remain active in church groups, activities, and projects for many years. Especially, I hope to continue volunteering as a visitor to those who are shut in, ill or in need of comfort. If it suits the board, I would like to continue as coordinator/chairperson of Congregation Connections which has been an important source of connections for our church members. When it is appropriate for someone else to lead this group, I will happily be a member of the team.

While plans may alter, it is currently my hope that in worship on Sunday, October 15, the congregation will hear my gratitude and will release me from my staff duties. My final day of employment can then be October 31.

While I have only served as Pastor and Teacher for seven years since my ordination on October 10, 2010, this has been a season of deep joy in my life. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve our congregation.

Peace and blessings,
Kathleen Batchelder

BOARD AND DEPARTMENTS

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE by Sheila Long

You will see in the board report that Kathleen Batchelder is going to fully retire this October. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a big Thank You to Kathleen Batchelder for her 7 years of service to our congregation. I know many members have enjoyed her visits, leadership and guidance over the past 7 years. I am also thankful that she is staying on as an active member of our congregation, and that we will still get to enjoy the benefits of her wisdom and kindness. The Pastoral Relations Committee is meeting to discuss this change, and will meet with Ted and Kathleen and report back to the board.

I also wanted to congratulate Ben Anderson on receiving the Genesis grant from the national church for disability education and anti-bullying. This is a recognition of his hard work for years, and I'm glad to see this grant will allow him to expand his work to other churches. Congratulations and job well done, Ben.

CHURCH BOARD by Sheila Long

The UCC church board meeting was held August 15 with moderator Sheila Long leading the meeting.

- The financial reports for the July 2017 were presented by Andy Knight.

- Capital Phase II Funds are at \$112,898 and growing. The bathroom project is underway with some volunteer labor.
- Women's Fellowship has purchased a shed for storage.
- Kathleen Batchelder, Minister of Christian Nurture, has tendered resignation effective October 31, 2017. She will remain an active member of the church.
- The Pastoral Relations committee will meet with leadership to discuss future staffing options.
- Susan Huffman shared that we have received a Genesis grant for Disability Education and anti-bullying. The grant will help to extend Ben Anderson's work to more churches and retreat settings.

DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRIES

We would like to remind the entire congregation to prayerfully consider supporting the special offering for Neighbors in Need on **Sunday, October 7, 2017**.

We will serve another meal at the Cornerstone Mission on **Friday, September 30th** and we would again like to ask for donations of cookies for dessert. We also ask for volunteers to serve the meals. To help, please call **Jeff VanCuren** at **716-5157** or send an email to **vancurenj@gmail.com**.

The September "Food of the Month" for Church Response is canned vegetables and can be dropped off in the grocery

DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALITY

Please join us for the annual **Church Birthday Celebration** after worship on **Sunday, September 24**.

Sign-up sheets for birthday cakes and table decorations will be in the **Fellowship Hall** beginning **Sunday, September 3**.

Hope to see you there!



**We're having a birthday party for
EVERYONE!**

When: Sunday, September 24th at 10:30am

Where: Fellowship Hall, First Congregational Church

WHY DO WE DO THAT? ADULT CHOIR NEWS

Notes from the
Department of Worship

The Department of Worship and the Department of Education are having conversations about the Christmas Eve Living Nativity Service. Both Departments want to make sure that the service is as meaningful as possible. While we understand that the world is constantly changing and that the circumstances surrounding our services do not remain the same, we also are deeply aware that tradition is an important part of the Christmas season and we want to honor those traditions.

Worship, however, is not just a function of Departments and meetings. It requires the participation of our members. We know that the Christmas season is a busy time and that many church families plan to travel away from our church during this season. We do, however, rely on volunteers who give a little extra effort to provide leadership to the music and drama of our worship.

As we plan and connect, we welcome comments and suggestions from the whole church. Please contact Bonnie Edwards, chair of the Department of Worship, or Patti Rea, chair of the Department of Education, with your comments and suggestions. Your ideas are welcome as we continue our work to provide the most meaningful worship possible for our congregation and for the community we serve.

The Adult Choir will resume singing during worship starting on **Sunday, September 10**. Whether you are new to the choir or have been a part of this wonderful group for years, all are welcome. Just come to a **Wednesday** evening rehearsal at **7:00pm**. Questions? Contact the Adult Choir Director, **Steve Branch**.

BELL CHOIR NEWS

The official fall start of the Bell Choir is **Wednesday, September 6**, at **6:00pm**. The Bell Choir has openings for anyone interested in ringing bells. Please come to our rehearsal on September 6 or call the Bell Choir Director, **Michael Bossen**, at (605) 343-5514 for more information.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT WITH CALVIN JONES

The public is invited to attend a special orchestral concert event on **Saturday, September 16** at **7:00pm** at the Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead celebrating the restoration of the second lower wall portion within the theater interior.

This historic performance by American composer/songwriter/pianist **Calvin Jones** will be accompanied by a 26-member live orchestra featuring musicians from all over the Black Hills.

STAINED GLASS PROJECT

Fall is a perfect time to learn how to make beautiful stained glass art. This group meets on **Fridays** at **1:00pm**. For more information, contact **Dave Ledford**.

WESTHILLS BIBLE AND BOOK STUDY

The Westhills Bible and Book Study group **will not meet on Monday, September 11**. They will resume meeting on **Monday, September 25**.

CHURCH CHAT

Church Chat will begin again on **Tuesday, September 19** at **noon** in the Fellowship Hall. The book selection is *Long Shining Waters* by Danielle Sosin. Each participant will be responsible for obtaining the book. New members are welcome. Bring a lunch if you like. For more information, contact **Bonnie Edwards** or **Barb Knight**.

KITCHEN CLEANUP

Women's Fellowship will be leading the kitchen cleanup on **Monday, September 25** at **9:30am**. **All helpers are welcome!**

4TH TUESDAY LADIES' LUNCH GROUP

Please join us on **Tuesday, Sept. 26** 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**.

MEMOIR WRITING

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

GUESS WHO'S COMING FOR DINNER

Our dinner fellowship program last met in April for a potluck dinner. Following dinner we drew names to form three groups to meet for one shared meal during the next three months. During each calendar season, we follow this sequence of large potluck dinner, followed by small group (6-8 people) shared meals. On **Sunday, October 1**, following the congregational meeting, we will have a potluck lunch. Everyone interested in joining a group for fall is welcome. Questions? Contact **Jeanne Berry (390-5160)**, **Carol Boyles (348-5697)** or **Kathleen Batchelder (342-8720)**.

WOMEN'S RETREAT SERVICE PROJECT

Part of the plan to put the Women's Retreat theme of *Kindness Connections* into practice is to collect donations for the Rapid City Area School's Angel Fund. This fund exists for children whose families do not qualify for free or reduced priced lunches. The district policy mandates that no child will be denied a school lunch. When children come to school with no lunch and no money in their lunch account, they are given a lunch and their account ends up with a negative balance. The Angel Fund helps these families by putting money in their children's lunch accounts. If you would like to help this fund, checks can be made to:

UCC WOMEN'S RETREAT



- Who:** All women of the church (and your friends/sisters/daughters/mothers)
- What:** "Kindness Connections" with crafts/hikes/yoga/snacks/Bible study/worship/fellowship/free time
- When:** **Friday, October 13 (3:00pm) -- Saturday, October 14 (4:00pm)**
- Where:** **Placerville Camp and Retreat Center**
- Why:** Fun time in nature/fellowship with women of the church
- How:** Fill out the registration form below and turn into the church office. The form will also be available on our church website, in our church office and following worship in the Fellowship Hall on **September 17, September 24 and October 1.**



We would love to see you there!

UCC WOMEN'S RETREAT

Retreat Fees: (write checks payable to Women's Fellowship)
Full Retreat--\$55.00 (three meals and lodging)
Friday Only--\$20.00 (Friday supper and program)
Saturday Only--\$35.00 (Saturday breakfast --8am--lunch and program)
Bring: Bible, bedding, towel, toiletries, warm clothing, walking or hiking shoes and a flashlight. Optional: donation check or money for the school lunch Angel Fund (see article).
Note: There will be a yoga session (for all experience levels) on Saturday at 1:00pm. Bring comfortable clothes and a yoga mat if you have one.
****In case of inclement weather, calls will be made by noon on October 13th to inform everyone of an alternate plan.**
Questions? Please call Laura Switzer at 605-381-3656.
----Please return the bottom portion of this form by October 6, 2017.

Name _____

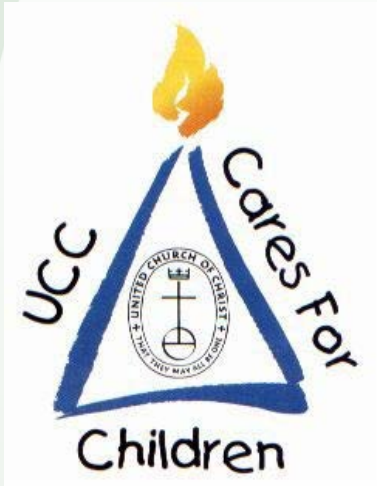
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Roommate Preference: _____

Any special dietary needs? Explain _____

FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER FOR CHILDREN



The *Forty Days of Prayer for Children* begins Sunday, **September 3**. Each fall, our congregation participates in the vigil of prayer, focusing on the needs of children. In the Bible, 40 indicates a “perfectly good and very long time.” We recall that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, the Israelites wandered for 40 years before reaching the promised land and Noah and his crew of family members and animals survived in the ark when it rained for 40 days and nights. Although our 40 day vigil does not provide this degree of challenge, it does offer an opportunity to engage in a time of focus and spiritual discipline as we pray for children—for our children and the children of the world. When we turn our focus to praying for children, we can “dream God’s dream.” We can imagine the world we hope our children will inherit. We can remember the gifts that children bring to our community. We can renew our commitment to bringing up children in

the Christian faith. Sponsoring a day of prayer is easy. All you have to do is sign up. On that day, offer a prayer that includes children. It does not have to be a specific prayer or offered at a specific time. Just pray in your own way. Please sign up to sponsor a day of prayer during the *Forty Days of Prayer for Children*. For more information, talk to Susan Huffman.

PLACERVILLE SUNDAY

September 17 is Placerville Sunday!

Following worship, we’ll head out to camp to share lunch and to enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills as the season transitions from summer to autumn. This event is for ALL AGES, from the youngest to the oldest. Placerville is a great place for everyone! We will gather at Placerville at noon. Rides will be available from the church for those who don’t want to drive. Lunch will be provided at no charge, but reservations are encouraged, so we can tell Camp Manager, Kerry Steever, how many to expect. After lunch, there will be a variety of activities for all ages. Mark your calendars for this Family Day! Let’s get together and enjoy fellowship and share an outing at camp!



EXPLORING RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS



The next gathering to discuss “Exploring Religious Traditions” will be held **Sunday, October 8 at 11:00am** in the Church Parlor. This session will be led by Arjun and Aparna Ayyangar and will explore Hinduism and religions of India. Hinduism is an ancient religion, dating back somewhere between 4,000 and 10,000 years B.C. Hinduism is closely tied to the history of culture of India, but there are an increasing number of Hindus in the United States. American Hindus are estimated at over three million people, with temples in many major cities.

The previous sessions on “Exploring Religious Traditions” have included discussions on Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. This session will continue to expand our knowledge of religious diversity in our country.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this interesting and informative gathering!

KERYGMA CLASS

This Fall, the Kerygma class will begin a study of Isaiah. The Kerygma studies on Isaiah will be published in three parts. The first study, entitled "Isaiah: Holy, Holy, Holy, Part 1," covers chapters 1-39. Isaiah is the largest book in the Old Testament, filled with familiar prophetic writings.

The topics to be covered include:

- Seeing Through the Prophet's Eyes
- The Holy One of Israel
- Isaiah, Son of Amoz
- The LORD'S Righteous People
- New Songs of Salvation
- Built Upon a Righteous Cornerstone
- The Perilous Journey to Salvation

This material has been pre-ordered for the fall. HOWEVER, we have not yet received a publication date for this material. As soon as we have been notified about the material's availability, a fall schedule will be set. If the material will not be available until late fall, the Kerygma class will begin with a short study this fall before beginning the Isaiah course.

The Kerygma class is open to all! New members are invited and encouraged to attend. Isaiah is a fascinating book. Studying this Old Testament document will enhance one's understanding of the prophetic readings that we often hear during the Advent season. Consider adding this study to your plans for the fall. For more information, talk to Susan Huffman.

GENESIS GRANT AWARDED

First Congregational United Church of Christ has been awarded a Genesis Grant from the United Church of Christ to pursue work in the areas of disability advocacy and anti-bullying throughout the Conferences of South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. This grant runs for one year, from Sept. 1, 2017 to Aug. 31, 2018. Ben D. Anderson, Commissioned Minister for Disabilities Education and Advocacy, is the Project Leader. He will work with churches to raise awareness about disabilities and to combat bullying in church and society.

The World Council of Churches statement on disabilities, "The Gift of Being," states: "Our Creator made all human beings after God's image and likeness, not only some human beings. From the perspective of the church, it is exclusion, not inclusion, that requires an argument."

A grant committee has been selected to help Ben with the fulfillment of the grant. This committee consists of Jeri and Mitch Behringer, Julie Burton, Becky Fleming and Revs. Susan and Ted Huffman. The Behringers will focus on connections to wider church. Julie will be the liaison to the Department of Stewardship and Budget and Becky will add experience in program development and youth work.

This is the third time that our congregation has been involved in a Genesis grant. These grants are given for programs that are innovative in nature.

LOOKING AHEAD



Mark your calendars for the October Family Night on **Wednesday, October 4 at 5:30pm**. This year's Family Nights will be expanding the summer's Vacation Bible School theme of kindness. Family Nights will continue to include shared meals and creative projects, but will be expanded to include opportunities for families to work together on service projects of various types. Plan now to attend on October 4!

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer is winding down; Sunday School is starting; school bells are ringing and it is time to re-energize and get back to reading for the Children's Reading Club. When you, or your parents, submit your Reading Log by **September 17**, you will receive your own personalized pencil and book mark on awards day, October 1. Book Logs may be submitted on a paper log in the Library, sent in via Facebook at RCFirstUCC or by email to lauraucc@rushmore.com.



PRAYER CONCERNS



Our sympathy and prayers are with **Randy Fisher** and family following the death of Randy's brother, **Jerry Fisher**, on August 18 in Sweet Home, Oregon.

Please hold members and friends facing health issues in your prayers: **Reva Ortega** as she recovers at home from hip surgery.

Melanie Palm following surgery related to her breast cancer on August 28. **Jill Kundtz's** sister-in-law, **Mindy**; as she undergoes more cancer treatment.

Matt James following surgery in Rapid City.

Eleanore Moe's daughter, **Margaret Jagodzinske** and Margaret's husband, **Duane**, as he recovers from injuries sustained in a car accident.

Sharon Kendall and Sharon's husband, **Don**, following his stroke and hospitalization.

Update: Don Dodge has returned home from West Hills Care Center.

Shut-in church members are in our prayers including: **Joan and John Arneson** at Peaceful Pines; **Cyrus Cox** and **Lois Herndon** at Bella Vista; **Maureen Dymock** at Village at Skyline Pines; **Mavis Iverson** at Clarkson Health Care; **Jerry Snyder** at Golden Living Center—Meadowbrook and **Ida Muree St. Pierre** and **Shirley Triggs** at Westhills South.

Our prayers are with the following members, families and friends: **Terry Brouillette's** daughter-in-law,

Britney Brouillette; Hank Douma; Becky and Jim Fleming's son-in-law, **Chris Kuehler; Jane Ireland's** son-in-law, **Pat Kearney** and Jane's grandson, **Luke Serbousek; Lavona Jonas; Jill Kundtz; Connie McMacken; Vera Mettler; Lynn Renee's** sister, **Laura Scheider** and family; **Jane Seaton; Jane Seaton's** daughter, **Gail Johnson; Helen Snyder; Drew Stephens; Rev. Don Stoebner** and his wife and caregiver, **Rosie; Ernie and Dave Summarell; Deb Tompkins' mother-in-law, Dorothy Tompkins; Patsy Parkin Valandra's** friend, **Sandy Spencer**, and Patsy's cousin's wife, **Micki Williams**. Please hold **Marge and Al Pitts' daughter, Nancy Husby** and her husband, **John**, in your prayers. Nancy and John live in Houston, TX. As of August 31, flood waters had not reached their home and should not do so, unless more rain falls in the Houston area.

Contributions to **Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery** efforts can be made through our church. Make checks to "First Congregational Church" and write "Hurricane Harvey" on the memo line. Donations will be sent through our Conference office to UCC Wider Church Ministries. 100% of these donations go to disaster relief.

In Military Service:

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



BIRTHS

Carissa and Nick Fitzgerald welcomed the arrival of their baby son, Easton Michael Fitzgerald, on **August 9** in Rapid City. Easton went home on August 23 after spending two weeks in the NICU. **Linda Heinrich-Gunn** is Easton's grandmother and **Lorna and Dwight Schnabel** are his great-aunt and great-uncle.

Hudson Heid Miller, son of **Kristen and Justin L. Miller**, was born on **August 19** in Des Moines, IA. **Dona Cheney** is Hudson's great-grandmother and **Cam and Harold Miller** are his grandparents.

Morgan Kay-Adell LaPoint, daughter of **Brittany and Jordan LaPoint** was born on **August 22**. Brittany and Morgan are with family in Michigan while Jordan is deployed in Afghanistan.

Many blessings and congratulations to all!

BAPTISM

Michael Myers was baptized by Revs. Ted and Susan Huffman on August 24 at First Baptist Church in Rapid City.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for their thoughts and prayers on my behalf. All is progressing very well with my recovery from knee surgery.

Colleen Schuft

Thank you to Mike Crutcher for locating and purchasing the new tablecloths and tablecloth protectors for the Fellowship Hall. Thank you, too, for ironing and then placing the tablecloths on the tables. They look great and add a nice touch of color to the room.

CLOTHE-A-KID THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for their generous support of Clothe-A-Kid this year. Your donations provided new school clothes for 22 children. What a blessing it is for families in need to have this help in making their dollars stretch so their children can feel confident as they return to school this fall. Also, thank you to the volunteers who shopped for clothes with the children and their families at Kohls on August 12 and 19. In all, 415 children received new clothes, representing 192 families touched with the love of Christ from volunteers and donors from 22 area churches.



CONGRATULATIONS

In July, **Rev. Jill Kundtz** was appointed by South Dakota governor, Dennis Daugard, to serve on the State Board for Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired. This is a three year appointment. Jill's first meeting with the board will be on September 22 in Pierre. With her education, training and experience, Jill will undoubtedly be a valuable asset to the board. Our congratulations and thanks to Jill for her commitment to those in need in South Dakota!

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Rev. Jill Kundtz

2002 Promise Road #5103
Rapid City SD 57701

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Please join us in Fellowship Hall following worship on September 3 for a piece of cake to celebrate **Bernie Lambert** and **Ben Schnabel's** birthdays.

COFFEE HOUR HELP

Coffee hosts and dishwashers are needed for **September 17** and in **October**. If you can help, please sign up on the sheets in the Fellowship Hall by the cookies. Thank you!

Women's Fellowship is seeking a volunteer to recruit coffee hosts for four months each year. If you can help, please contact **Laura Boyd** at 721-7720.

BIRTHDAYS

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



- September 2:** Joan Koch
- September 3:** Bernie Lambert
- September 5:** Jenny Kozel
Eva Murano
- September 7:** Karen Johnson
- September 8:** Jayce Angel
Amelia Golden
- September 9:** Jane Ireland
- September 11:** Don "Red" Dodge
Bob Franson
Kandee Snoozy
- September 12:** Ben Schnabel
- September 14:** Jill Speck
- September 17:** George Bradstream
Larry Snoozy
- September 19:** Wyatt Martin
- September 20:** Kevin Sandmeier
- September 21:** Elsa Grauman
- September 22:** Evan Eckholm
- September 25:** Deb Tompkins
Lacey Vrooman
- September 26:** Karen Logue
Lois Moore
Cody Ortega
Ron Switzer
- September 28:** Jo Blankley
Asher Darrow
Gwyn Wathen
- September 29:** Eileen Rossow

Jim



Smith

MISSION AND CONFERENCE NEWS

TRI-CONFERENCE MINISTER CANDIDATE PRESENTED

The new Tri-Conference of the United Church of Christ, composed of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences, will be holding special meetings in all three Conferences in October. The South Dakota meeting will be Saturday, October 14 in Chamberlain. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the call of Rev. Brigit Stevens to serve as tri-conference minister. Under the new structure, set to go into place on January 1, 2018, the tri-conference will call a single Conference Minister. Four associate ministers will serve to complete the leadership team. As is true with all Conference meetings, our congregation will be represented by both lay and clergy delegates at this important meeting.

Members of our church who are able to serve as delegates to this meeting are asked to contact moderator Sheila Long or assistant moderator Rob Burton. All members are urged to keep conference leaders and Rev. Stevens in your prayers as we explore this new way of doing ministry together.

Additional information on Rev. Stevens, the tri-conference structure, and the future of leadership in our Conference will be published in the next issue of The Call.

WOODCHUCK SOCIETY

The Woodchucks have been busy at the wood lot, and after a day off to participate in the annual Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale, will be back at the lot on **September Saturdays** from **9:00am to noon**. We may add an additional splitting day during the week if we get more wood, to insure that we have as much wood as possible split and ready for delivery before the snow flies.

If you would like more information about these activities, please call or email Chuck Rounds (605-343-4407, cwskrounds@gmail.com) and you can get up-to-date information on work days.

AUGUST RUMMAGE SALE

Women's Fellowship thanks everyone who worked hard to make this sale a big success. Set up on Sunday was incredibly fast; the workers have obviously done it before and the work was accomplished in record time.

On Monday through Thursday, workers showed up and stayed until the day was done. There were long days full of standing, walking, sorting, and most importantly connecting with one another. At one point, we counted 21 workers in Fellowship Hall, with many more working in rooms down the north wing.

When we opened the doors at 8:00 on Friday morning, there was a long line snaking through the parking lot and the shoppers were not disappointed. Fellowship Hall, and the three additional rooms in the north wing were full of treasures waiting for their new homes. An amazing amount of goods went out the door in the first few hours, and some tables were showing bare spots by noon.

Saturday sales were strong as well, and the cleanup crew was ready and waiting when the sale closed at noon. Once again, the transformation from sale hall to fellowship hall was smooth and fast, and boxes of unsold goods were ready for pickup by Cornerstone Rescue Mission by 12:45pm.

Organizations other than Women's Fellowship that profited from the sale include the Humane Society, Love INC, Mommy's Closet, Peace Lutheran Church, Fountain Springs and Sturgis nursing homes, Altar Guild, SD Department of Human Services, Cornerstone Mission, and Hot Springs VA.

Profit from this sale is about \$6200, with a few accounts yet to be paid. This is the second largest August sale in the history of the church sales. Women's Fellowship supports local, national, and international programs and appreciates your loyal support.

September CALENDAR

SUN SEP 3, 2017

40 Days of Prayer begins
9:30am Worship for All Ages
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Dept. of Education
4pm The Well

MON SEP 4, 2017

LABOR DAY

TUE SEP 5, 2017

1pm Craft Day

WED SEP 6, 2017

11:30am WF Board Meeting
6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

FRI SEP 8, 2017

1pm BH Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SAT SEP 9, 2017

9am Woodchuck Wood Splitting

SUN SEP 10, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship/Sunday School
Kick-off
10:30am Fellowship
11am Dept. of Ministries Meeting
4pm The Well

TUE SEP 12, 2017

9am BH Retired School Personnel
1pm Craft Day

WED SEP 13, 2017

6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

THU SEP 14, 2017

10am Altar Guild Meeting

FRI SEP 15, 2017

1pm BH Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SAT SEP 16, 2017

9am Woodchuck Wood Splitting

SUN SEP 17, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship/Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
12pm Placerville Family Day
4pm The Well

TUE SEP 19, 2017

1pm Craft Day
6pm Dept. of Stewardship and
Budget
7pm Church Board Meeting

WED SEP 20, 2017

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

FRI SEP 22, 2017

1pm BH Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SAT SEP 23, 2017

9am Woodchuck Wood Splitting
10am Survivors of Suicide Support
Group
1pm Makayla Leech-Jason Himrich
Wedding

SUN SEP 24, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship/Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship/Birthday Sun-
day
3pm Black Hills Chamber Music
Society Concert
4pm The Well

MON SEP 25, 2017

9:30am WF Kitchen Cleanup
1:30pm Westhills Bible and Book
Study
6pm Front Porch Coalition Eight
Week Support Group

TUE SEP 26, 2017

11:30am 4th Tuesday Ladies Lunch
1pm Craft Day
4:30pm Dept. of Education and
Worship Task Force

WED SEP 27, 2017

6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

FRI SEP 29, 2017

1pm BH Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

5:30pm Serve Mission Meal

SAT SEP 30, 2017

8am Church Response Planning
Meeting
9am Woodchuck Wood Splitting
3pm School of St. Jude Fundraiser

SUN OCT 1, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship for All Ages
Neighbors in Need Offering
10:30am Congregational Meeting--
Fellowship
--Guess Who's Coming for
Dinner--Potluck
4pm The Well

MON OCT 2, 2017

12pm UCC Retired Clergy meeting
with Gordon Rankin
6pm Front Porch Coalition Eight
Week Support Group

TUE OCT 3, 2017

1pm Craft Day

WED OCT 4, 2017

11:30am WF Board Meeting
5:30pm First Wednesday Family
Night
6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

FRI OCT 6, 2017

1pm BH Watercolor Group
1pm Stained Glass Project

SAT OCT 7, 2017

9am PEO Meeting
9am Woodchuck Wood Splitting

SUN OCT 8, 2017

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship/Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship
11am Dept. of Ministries Meeting
11am Exploring Religious Traditions
4pm The Well



1st Congregational

United Church of Christ

1200 Clark Street

Rapid City SD 57701

NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

On **Sunday, October 1**, we will receive the Neighbors in Need special offering in our church. Plan now to give generously to support these important ministries of service to our neighbors.