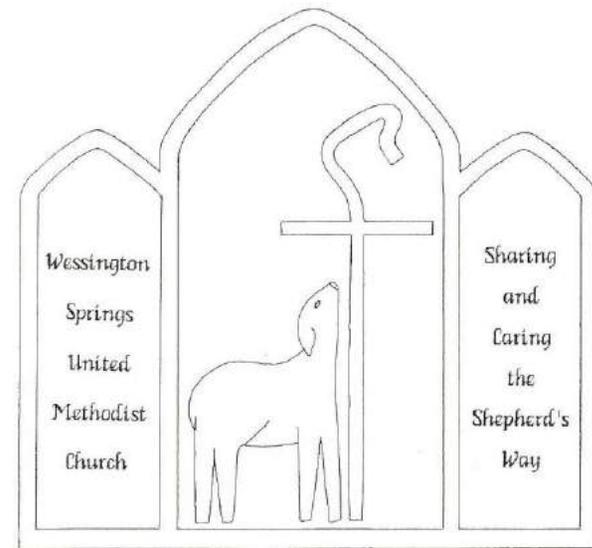


United Methodist Church

110 Main St. W / PO Box 396
Wessington Springs, SD 57392
605.539-1567

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

SHEPHERD'S HERALD
December 2019



Wessington Springs United Methodist Church

**"We will nurture each other and spread the
Spirit of Christian love to all".**

Our mission statement

From the Desk of Pastor Zach

For many of us, Advent is the launching pad to Christmas morning; a twenty-four-day countdown to stockings and presents. Many do not think of Advent as first being about the *second* coming. After all, it's been two millennia since Christ was born, crucified, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit. And for two thousand years, we've been living somewhere between forgetting about or fretting over his return.

Advent is often called a time of watchfulness - where we watch for the second coming. Yet watchfulness does not mean we sit idly by with eyes to the sky waiting for the clouds to be rolled back. In Matthew 25 Jesus tells us that we are to keep our lamps trimmed and burning, which is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to do what God calls us to do. He tells us to be good stewards of what we have been entrusted with because "those who are put in charge of a few things will be given much more." And he tells us how we will be judged when he does return; that whatever we do for the least, we do for Christ himself. This kind of watchfulness doesn't seem very passive, does it?

So for this Advent and Christmas season, I invite you to **participate** in this inbetween time. We watch for Christ's second coming by looking for and uncovering the Kingdom of God as it in-breaks within the world around us. We participate in the Kingdom by doing the work of the Lord, by continuing His mission and purpose of reconciling the world to Himself.

And my friends, these things do not happen only on Sunday! Let us not be Sunday Christians but everyday Christians! Let us forgive because we have been forgiven; show mercy because He is merciful; be generous because of His daily blessings; serve because Christ first served us.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. And until that time of his arrival let us do the work he has called us to do: we will be his people, his church, and bear God's light to a broken and hurting world.

NOTES FROM the Finance Chair

Beginning in December, the 2020 pledge drive will commence. In the pledge letter I refer to the 14 out of 100 plus pledge cards that were the only ones returned. That makes my job and that of all the care takers of your church and the leasers of the church a very scary one. Worship isn't about money. Happiness isn't about money, Sustainability in this broken world requires money and as long as mortal man exists, it will require some kind of monetary support from us mere mortals to sustain all that He has given us, remember, it IS His!

There is a lot of hope to be had in our church and every Christian church that there is. God is with us! Hi is! And when we keep Him in the forefront of our thoughts it becomes easier to keep His church on our own priority list with our service, our attendance and our support.

Last month I talked about change and how 80% of change is usually bad. We have the ability to, working together as a church, to facilitate positive change, but, only if we work together will change ever be good. That's the only way it can happen. Change is always coming, If we all are incredibly lucky (blessed), change will come in leadership, in membership, in attendance and in the growth of our faith community known now as the United Methodist church.

That all being said (what has that got to do with finances??), I ask everyone to pray for the merger committee, pray about your commitment to your church and pray that He will lead you in your pledging that you all will participate in this December, December, what a poignant time to think about giving to Christ church as we prepare to celebrate God sending Jesus to us to save ourselves from, well.... us!

God Bless! Hub Kieser, finance chair

Secretary, Laura Kieser: 605.539-1941 Cell 605.999-0084
umcnews@venturecomm.net genevieve@venturecomm.net



Exploring Membership @ WSUMC

Sunday - Dec. 8 after the service

Feeding South Dakota

FREE FOOD for SENIORS in need. Please contact one of the following individuals if you are interested in learning

more about this program:

Velma Anderson 307.258-2572

April Grubb 605.539-1980

Carol Maxfield 605.539-1727

Tammy Mettler 605.539-1958

Jean Scheel 605.539-1153

Eligibility * At least 60 years of age. * On a limited income.

Merger Discussion Update - Pastor Zach Kingery

As previously announced, we have been in discussion with Wessington Springs UCC and Templeton UCC concerning a possible merger of all three churches. I can report to you that at this time we are in the process of narrowing down the denominational preferences of the merged church, as well as having the three church properties and buildings assessed for the most viable location of the future merged church.

As of your reading this, all three churches worshipped together in a combined service on November 24, with a potluck and fellowship after the service. And there are plans in the works for regular combined worship services starting in the new year.

I want to reiterate that these discussions of a merger are not about the death of a church (or churches) but rather they are about life - new life! Greater numbers, more resources, renewed vision and vigor with which we will advance God's Kingdom and proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

As always, WSUMC (and the church we will become after the merger), will continue to be a church which reaches out to the hundreds in our community and county who have no church home. We are not a church that simply seeks to survive - but thrive for God's Kingdom.

So I will ask you the same as I did last month: **Will you commit to praying once a day for the merger process and the people of each church?** Please pray asking God for wisdom, discernment, and that we follow guidance of the Holy Spirit to further His Kingdom in our community. This process must be surrounded in prayer for it to succeed - and I thank you for praying. If you have questions concerning the merger and how discussions are progressing, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Pastor Zach Kingery: zach.kingery@gmail.com

Office 605.539-1567 Cell 605.838-6303

Our Website: www.SpringsUMC.com

Craft Fair Concessions Report

October 30, 2019

Happy early winter everyone; we had an almost nonexistent Fall! I didn't make the deadline with this note for the November newsletter; however, I hope it's still timely.

Once again, the UMC served the Craft Fair Concessions on October 19th. We had excellent help for the day and plenty of food items donated; we had a great variety of pies and bars and we thank all who donated! We especially want to thank the Boomsma Family for their donation of the pork loin as this annual fundraiser for WSUMC would not be possible without their generosity! We had some hot dogs, pork loin and buns left over which some workers purchased at the end of the day, with pork loin left for after church on October 27th to kick off the church cleaning project and some for potluck on November 3rd! If you offered to give a monetary donation, if I left a message on your phone or if I missed you in the calling process... if you wish to donate it isn't too late! This is our only special fundraiser for UMC. If you wish, you can mail your donation (please note "Craft Fair") to UMC at P O Box 396, leave it in the Membership or Finance box at the church or at Mettler's Locker. A portion of the proceeds will be gifted to the Blue Bag Back Pack Program in Wessington Springs.

Sandy Wenzel, Membership
Craft Fair Concessions Committee

All Women are invited to join in a weekly time of prayer every Sunday afternoon at 1:30 at the church. Join with other women as we pray for our community, our churches, specific needs, and each other.



Ft. Thompson News

Phyllis Comes Flying thanks everyone for the prayers for her sister, Hattie Thigh. Hattie had surgery on November 6th to remove all the toes on her left foot. She was able to return home on Saturday, November 9th and is doing well. The horrible pain and pressure is gone now and the pain from surgery is controlled with pain meds. Hattie will have to start dialysis in the near future. Phyllis asks for continued prayers for her very dear sister.

We are still collecting warm, clean used or new blankets for Ft. Thompson. Warm coats, hats, mittens, gloves, socks and slippers are also appreciated. They are in need of diapers sizes 3 and up. Any donated items may be left at the United Methodist Church or Mettler's Locker.

Tammy Mettler

There's POWER in PRAYER for the soul, body & spirit

Health Concerns – Tad (*the young man in the vehicle with Barry Greive*), Laura Kieser, Dorothy Powell, Cindy & Bill Weier, Mary Anna Jones, Tony Willman, Cory Hainy, Brian VanBuren, Carol Steffensen, Cecile Knight, Joyce Rogers, Lindsey Dubs, Quinn Mohling, Tiny Gohring & Steve Deneke. Delbert (*Phyllis Comes Flying's nephew*), Hattie Thigh, Dale Leischner, Olivia Jo Munce, Don & Dawn Novak and Dawn's mom, David Grieve, Drake Rounds, Leslie Vinderslev, G. Ann Cline, Annie Holset, Marilyn Larson & Christi Swenson.

Cancer Fight – Gloria Fastnacht, Brian Canca, Jared Jost, Sean Rubino, Louise Schaller, Denice Hein, Jerry Jassmer, Jim Marvin, Cecil Deneke and Sonnie Schimke.

Nursing Home – LaVonne Beckman, Joyce Beckman, Beverly Sorensen, Dorothy Powell, Don Kraft & Bessie Kruse. All who are cared for in nursing homes around the world and their care givers.

Other Concerns

For our church, our leaders and those involved in our community who are exploring opportunities to grow in Christ and His church.

Our compassion child Miguel and his brother Rafael.

Those who have lost loved ones as they continue to grieve and heal; the family of Jackie Johnson, Bill Rimpo, Becky Leslie, Irene Olson, Betty Hines & family, Jesse & Shawn Block and the Huberg/Salmen family.

Those working in Missions; Mindy Kraft, Mitch & Sonja Kraft and our Action Team.

Blessings

Rea Peterson's lead poisoning treatment has gone well. Pray that there re no lingering effects.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
the Light of Christmas
CHRISTMAS EVE - 5PM

Feeding South Dakota
Mobile Food Distirbution
Feeding South Dakota's mission is to
end hunger in SD

Follow our Facebook events page
@ FeedingSD
for more details on mobile food distributions.

Food Distribution
at the 4-H / Ag Building
604 2ND St. NE, Wessington Springs
December 17, 2019 at 2 pm
unless announced otherwise

Mitch & Sonja

In this season of thankfulness we wanted to share some stories that we are thankful for at BHSU. These last 2 months have been full of gatherings, learning, and developing new friendships for the students and athletes that attend Campus Ventures. The stories that follow are able to happen because of your prayers and support! Thanks.

In October Campus Ventures did a series on God's heart for the nations. We looked at the cost of discipleship for all disciples of Jesus. This led to some great discussions about what it would take to follow Jesus in school and beyond. The next week we did an offsite simulation of what Christians in a country that does not allow free assembly or worship of God may look like. The students were given a slip of paper with directions and then drove themselves to a location they had never been to before. We then held "church" in an attic loft. Shane shared about the persecuted church and we shared one copy of the bible for all 30 students. After we had some bible study we prayed for the church around the world that is being persecuted. We encouraged the students to not only pray for peace and protection for our brothers and sisters around the world but also for courage, perseverance, and wisdom. Also we encouraged prayer for those prosecuting the church. That they would be saved as well. If you are interested in praying for the persecuted or global church these are some good websites to get started.

<https://www.persecution.com/> This is a the Voice of the Martyrs website. It is a great place to get needed prayer request that are current.

<http://www.operationworld.org/> This website gives you a quick overview of the church in each country and how to pray for them.

This was a great time to help engage the students with a mission mind set as applications for overseas and local summer projects are coming due. A quote that stood out from the night that Shane, campus director, read to us from Nik Ripken was, "don't ever give up in freedom what we would never give up in persecution." Many students express a more appreciation for their bibles and freedom to worship God. We have also witnessed some students still praying for the persecuted church about a month later. It was a very impactful night!

Last update we asked for prayers for faithful men and women to disciple more intentionally. We are pleased to share that your prayers have been answered in part. This November God has put several men into Mitch's life that are hungry for discipleship. He is currently meeting with 3 men from 3 different sports (basketball, cross country, and track). This has been a huge blessing for him and the men are eager to learn more about Jesus and what discipleship means. One of the men had taken the initiative to start memorizing scripture before Mitch had a meeting to talk about the importance of scripture memory. God is moving in his life right now in some amazing ways and we are privileged to help in whatever way we can. Sonja has been able to be at a couple more events which has allowed her to know the women students a little better. We look forward to these relationships growing in the future.

Praises

1. Athlete Bible study has had consistent turnout and the students are starting to bond well.
2. 3 new men started discipleship with Mitch (Colton, Clay, and Seth)
3. Arbin is starting to eat solid foods and likes sweet potatoes, pears, and zucchini. He's not sure about peas

Prayers

1. Students would desire to spend their summers at projects growing in their faith.
2. Creative ideas to build community with athletes who are in and out of town a lot.
3. That athletes would prioritize God over sport. Several students are struggling with this balance.

Thanks again for all your prayers and support. We could not do this without you all. We would love to be praying for you and to hear how you are doing. Don't hesitate to email or call us☺

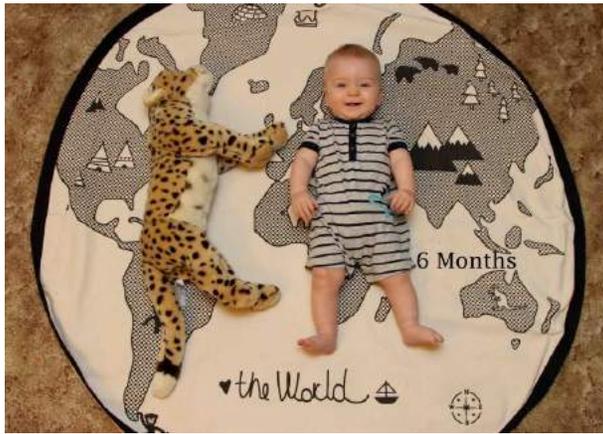
On another note, for those who are in Spearfish we will be at the craft fair in the Rec Center Dec 14 from 8-1 selling items from our friends' businesses in Nepal. If you are around we would love to see you!

Blessings,
Mitch, Sonja, and Arbin



At left, students studying different chapters of 1 Peter at Campus Ventures Persecuted Church night.

Left, Arbin at 6 months old.



SPRINGS BLUE BAG
PACKING DAY
3:30 PM
December 17, 2019
WS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL LIBRARY
THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

A CALL TO PRAYER

IF MY PEOPLE WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY...

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

PRAY ONCE A DAY FOR:

The people of Wess. Springs & Jerauld Co.
 Our Mission & Purpose as the people of WSUMC.
 Our church family.
 The merger discussions between WS UCC, Templeton UCC & WSUMC and the merger committee.

Celebrating Miguel's 16th year!

Cognitive: 16 year-olds in Brazil will likely...

- Have completed secondary education
- Write and present an essay
- Participate in successful group project
- Have written goals for the future
- Have a defined career path to follow

Pray for Miguel's cognitive growth as he:

- Learns a vocational skill through training at the Compassion center
- Writes goals for his future

Thank you for your prayers for Miguel.

Tammy Mettler

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 O – 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am - Church Service Pot-Luck Fellowship <i>(after Service)</i> O – 1:30 pm Women's B – Eric Schroeder	2 P – Day Off B – Quinten Burg	3 P & O – Bible Study @ the Manor 10 am	4 P – Alpena O – Community Youth Group @ OSL 6:30 pm O – AWANA @ IBC	5 P – Office Hours	6 P – Office Hours	7
8 O – 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am - Church Service P & O – <i>(after service)</i> Explore Membership O – 1:30 pm Women's B – Bryanna Kurth	9 P – Day Off B – Peg Olson	10 P & O – Bible Study @ the Manor 10 am P & O – Communion @ the Manor 4:15 – 4:30 pm B – Alma Mohling & Terri Groves	11 P – Alpena P – Ministerial Association Meeting O – Community Youth Group @ OSL 6:30 pm O – AWANA @ IBC	12 P – Office Hours A – Dick & Ellen Powell	13 P – Office Hours B – Mary Lou Cameron	14
15 O – 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am - Church Service O – 1:30 pm Women's	16 P – Day Off	17 P & O – Bible Study @ the Manor 10 am B – Gerald Kraft O – Feed SD Truck O – Blue Bag help	18 P – Alpena O – Community Youth Group @ OSL 6:30 pm O – AWANA @ IBC B – Deanna Hasty	19 P – Office Hours	20 P – Office Hours P & O – Newsletter information due A – Darrell & Diane Winter	21
22 O – 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am - Church Service O – 1:30 pm Women's	23 P – Day Off	24 P & O – Bible Study @ the Manor 10 am P & O – Christmas Eve Service 5 pm B – Beverly Sorenson & Wayne Salmen	25 Blessings to all on this most holy day! Merry Christmas	26 P – Office Hours B – Diane Winter, Billy Roduner & Charlee Holt	27 P – Office Hours	28
29 O – 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am - Church Service O – 1:30 pm Women's B – Julie Kraft & Gloria Vavra	30 P – Day Off B – Sue Faulhaber	31 P & O – Bible Study @ the Manor 10 am	Pastor Zach Kingery 605.838.6303 WSUMC Website www.springsumc.com Key : A – Anniversary B – Birthday P – Pastor O – Other O – AWANA @ IBC Supper 5:30 pm w/ Lessons 6 – 7:30 pm			

Special Ad Council Minutes (Budget 2020)

A meeting was called to order to entertain a motion to approve the 2020 Budget to be taken to Charge Conference. Those present: Hub & Laura Kieser, Sandy Wenzel, Gerald Kraft, Kirk & Lynda Luymes, Randy & Gretchen Burnison, Diane Winter, Lisa Edwards, Jan Krohmer, Lila Hoffman and Pastor Zach.

Lisa moved to accept the 2020 budget as prepared by the treasurer and forwarded by the finance committee to be presented to the charge conference Kirk moved to second the motion. Discussion was an explanation of the line items for the total expense as follows: Pastors salary, pension and medical insurance, plus parsonage phone and utilities. A new line item has been added to show the 1/3rd reimbursement for these items from Alpena.

Motion Carried

Kirk asked for clarification of what in the church would be heated through out the winter. Jan moved to shut the doors to the narthex and the doors at the top and bottom of the east addition for the season to see if it makes any difference in utility expense and / or proper heating of the main facility. Diane moved to second the motion.

Motion Carried

Lisa moved to adjourn with a second from Lila. *Adjourned*

Laura G. Kieser, WSUMC Secretary

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

- I. Devotions** – Randy read today’s “Out the Back Window” from the Upper Room.
- II. Call to order** Gerald Kraft called the meeting to order with Laura Kieser, Sandy Wenzel, Kirk Luymes, Randy Burnison, Diane Winter and Lisa Edwards present. Pastor Zach, Lila Hoffman and Lynda Luymes joined us as soon as they were available.
- III. Secretary Minutes** – A motion was made to approve both the August 25th Ad Council Minutes and the November 10th Special Meeting Minutes. *M/ S (Diane / Kirk) Motion carried*
- IV. Treasurer Report** – A note of gratitude; the windows are now paid for.
 - Sandy submitted an article for the newsletter regarding the Craft Fair. More details will be forthcoming when the committee finalized information regarding the proceeds.
 - A motion was made to approve the Treasurer report. *M/ S (Diane / Lisa) Motion carried*
- V. Finance Report** – Hub was absent due to illness.
- VI. Committee Reports**
 - a. PPR** – No report, just items to share under new business.
 - b. Lay-Leader** – Lynda could use some assistance with decorating the church for Christmas. Please look at your calendars and consider helping either Friday Nov 22nd 5-7 pm or Saturday, November 23rd 11:30 am till complete... or both!
 - WS UMC Church Use Policy needs to be made available to Ad Council members. It would also be nice to have it posted in the Chapel and in the basement kitchen like it used to be. *Laura will get copies made.*
 - c. Trustees** – A couple donors have stepped forth expressing a desire to pay for the ramp that Ad Council has been researching to make our church more accessible for people with wheelchairs and other mobility devices.
 - Seed money has been received (*a gift that was caught up in the mail system for almost 2 years*) for repairs and upgrades in the basement.
 - The parsonage front yard had to be tore up to replace the sewer. When time permits, the inside portion of the sewer will also need replaced.
 - Discussion regarding removing the last pew (directly in front of the main entrance to the sanctuary) to make it easier for people to move around during funeral services took place. It was suggested that it be moved forward “one position” with the 2nd pew being the one that will actually be removed so that the last pew is shorter,

making way if need be for another wheel chair if it is ever needed. A motion was made to allow the Trustees to complete this task as stated above. (Kirk / Randy) Motion Carried

d. Worship – Jan, Lisa and Zach have been working on the combined service with UCC & Templeton, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas eve services.

- A new microphone and antenna has been ordered.

e. Membership – 95 Full, 47 Constituents and 13 Preparatory = 155 Total Members.

f. Education – The bible study Lynda is leading is going well. Blessing & thanks for the funding provided for baby sitting as this has warranted several young woman attending.

New worship attendees have been helping with Sunday school... a true blessing as one week there were 17 children! As well, a suggestion from Philip for Pastor to “go to the kids” since the kids seem to shy to go down front for the Children’s Moment seems to be garnering good vibes!

g. Outreach – No report tonight.

h. Action Teams – Tammy had a notice in the True Dakotan for our Ft. Thompson Mission.

i. United Youth Group – No report tonight.

j. Historian – No report tonight.

k. Pastor: A team of 7 attended the Equip Conference in Mitchell (age 33 – 70 something) so we had someone at each workshop.

- Pastor is very busy facilitating members of 3 churches in researching “best options” for possible merger.

- Started Confirmation in Alpena.

VII. Old Business

– Pastor is not serving Spirit of Faith in Woonsocket due to time restraints.

VIII. New Business –

- a. Randy brought forth a letter from Dakota Wesleyan regarding funding that the UMM placed in Mitchell for a loan / grant program that they feel is being underutilized and have requested the funding be placed in a bigger pool of funds with distribution following the larger program guidelines. A motion was made to approve the request so more students could benefit from the interest earned off the principle amount. M/S (Randy / Kirk) Motion carried
- b. Randy was tasked with finding an independent, 3rd party, subject matter expert to assess the buildings of the churches who are discussing merging (WS UMC, town UCC and Templeton) to decide which facility would be best to use if indeed there is a merger. He was able to secure Kent Schneider who has offered to do a review for “God’s kingdom”. We discussed at least offering him travel expenses.
- c. The merger committee asks their leaders (UCC Board / UMC Council) to rank what they wish to see as an end result of the merger talks so they can continue to move toward deciding what to take before (present for a vote) all three churches. A motion was made to rank Ad Councils choice as follows:
 - i. UMC
 - ii. UMC / UCC (United like Alpena)
 - iii. UCC
 1. M/S (Lila / Lisa) Motion carried

IX. Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn. M (Diane / Sandy) Adjourned.

Laura Kieser, Secretary

Ad Council – Charge Conference – TBA

Ad Council dates for your 2020 Calendar... Put them on your calendar please!
January 15 / March 18 / May 20 / July 15 / September 16 / November 18
8 pm in the “Fellowship” Chapel