

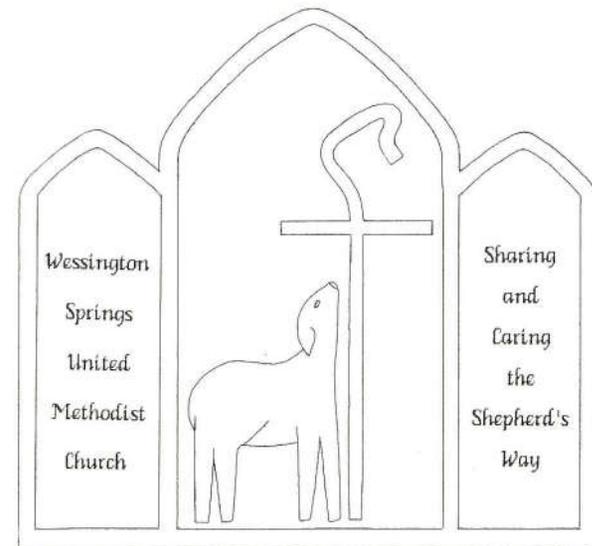


# United Methodist Church

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

*Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors*

## SHEPHERD'S HERALD February 2021



## Wessington Springs United Methodist Church

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

*Our mission statement*

## Wessington Springs United Methodist Church - February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Key</b> A – Anniversary B – Birthday P – Pastor O – Other	<b>1</b> P – Day Off	<b>2</b> P – Office Hours	<b>3</b> P – Alpena O – United Youth Group @ OSL	<b>4</b> P – Office Hours	<b>5</b> P – Office Hours	<b>6</b> B – Mette Ness
<b>7</b> O – 11:00 am Worship Service w/In-vehicle transmission available & Sunday School	<b>8</b> P – Day Off	<b>9</b> P – Office Hours B – Caden Faulhaber	<b>10</b> P – Alpena O – United Youth Group @ OSL	<b>11</b> P – Office Hours B – Michelle Tong	<b>12</b> P – Office Hours B – Duke Wenzel	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> O – 11:00 am Worship Service w/In-vehicle transmission available & Sunday School	<b>15</b> P – Day Off	<b>16</b> P – Office Hours O – Feeding SD at the Ag Building & Blue Bag filling at the elementary school. B – Leslie Vinderslev	<b>17</b> P – Alpena O – United Youth Group @ OSL B – Jeff Reider	<b>18</b> P – Office Hours B – Joyce Beckman	<b>19</b> P – Office Hours	<b>20</b> P & O – Newsletter submissions to Secretary
<b>21</b> O – 11:00 am Worship Service w/In-vehicle transmission available & Sunday School B – Jameson Kingery	<b>22</b> P – Day Off	<b>23</b> P – Office Hours B – Karis Manning	<b>24</b> P – Alpena O – United Youth Group @ OSL B – Wyatt Stevens	<b>25</b> P – Office Hours	<b>26</b> P – Office Hours B – Kari Waters	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> O – 11:00 am Worship Service w/In-vehicle transmission available & Sunday School						

**WSUMC Website: [www.springsumc.com](http://www.springsumc.com)**  
**Online Worship Services: [SpringsUMC.com/Sermons](http://SpringsUMC.com/Sermons)**  
**[Facebook.com/WessingtonSpringsUMC](https://Facebook.com/WessingtonSpringsUMC)**

## From the Desk of Pastor Zach

In the Charge Conference information that was sent out as the January 2021 Newsletter I included in the Pastor Report some of the amazing things God did in our church last year. If you didn't get a chance to read it, I encourage you to do so.

I also took the opportunity to invite you to pray and dream about what God might do next. I know that I would not be serving this wonderful congregation had I not prayed for God's leading. I know that we would not be growing as a church in the way we are without God's leading. And I know that unless we all commit to praying for, and moving with, God's leading that we will never experience the amazing future He has planned for this church and the impact He wants us to have in our communities.

This year of 2021 needs to be a year of focus and building.

1. We must strengthen the ministries of the church so we can have a stronger witness in our community. (build)
2. We must intentionally grow as followers of Jesus, becoming disciples who make disciples. (focus)

In this note I want to speak to the importance of the building under way and the building to come.

- We are physically building here at the church facility.
  - A ramp has been installed at the main entrance.
  - We have plans to renovate and reinforce the bell tower.
  - The Narthex (main entrance room) needs work
  - The basement requires a much needed update & renovation.
- We are building up our programs
  - Toward the end of 2020 we added a nursery program for ages 0-4 that is currently available during the worship service.
  - We have strengthened our children's Sunday School program and are wanting to expand it to a point of being able to offer children and adult Sunday school before the service and a children's activity time during the worship

service. This is still in its exploratory stage but the goal is to allow for more Christian education opportunities while also giving families the option to worship together during the service. To do this we will need to develop a core team of volunteers who are committed to seeing the church thrive.

- Part of building up these two programs will also factor into future basement renovations so that our facility is safe, welcoming, and functional for various programs and activities.
- We are encouraging community building activities
  - As your Pastor I have a heart to see our church grow deeper in community. A church is a family made up of families - and families hang out together! Sit together at sports events, host a game night or card party, go camping and if you can't be back for Sunday morning then livestream the service together, plan a church fishing trip, organize activities in the park.

We each play our part in what God is building in us and through us. I pray we remain faithful!

### **Lemmon Fire Hay & Fencing Drive**

In 2017 our congregation led the charge locally for a hay drive and sent over 100 tons of hay to western Kansas after it had been ravaged by wildfires. On Jan. 14 a fire between Hettinger, ND and Lemmon, SD consumed over 20,000 acres of hay fields, hay bales, shelterbelts, crops still in the fields, pasture and grassland. We are putting out the call to serve our neighbors in their time of need by asking for Hay and donations to cover fencing supplies as well as fuel/transportation costs. **Donations can be made out to the Church with Lemmon Fire Relief on the envelope or memo line.**

More info to come - please be looking for it in the weekly bulletin! Please contact Randy Burnison 605-350-6978 if you have questions or would like to be involved.

# 1ST 3RD GROUP STUDY

**1st & 3rd Study Group** - starts Saturday, Feb. 6 at 9AM  
Starting in February we have a new option for Christian education and growth. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 9AM you are invited to participate in a time of study and discussion as we help each other become more faithful followers of Jesus Christ. This study group meets in the fellowship area next to the Sanctuary.

The first topic of study is a 10 week study from Christianity Today - Dual Citizenship: A Christian Perspective on Government.



## A youthful Christmas program.

Blessings & Thanks for all those who helped bring these young people together to make the 2020 Christmas such a success and so much more meaningful to our congregation and community!

## Miguel News

We received this note from Compassion regarding Miguel:

"We are so grateful for you, and we're praying for you during this time. In this season of constant change, we want you to know that our dedication to serving children in poverty hasn't change. This pandemic can't undo all of the work you have done as a Compassion partner, Friends. Children around the world have hope because people like you have refused to let COVID-19 win.

We want you to know that your prayers and support of Miguel are so essential during this time. Because of you, children have food and hygiene supplies. Parents unable to work will not lose their homes. Vital, lifesaving care will continue. Please know that we, along with millions of children, family members and staff around the world, are praying for you. This is hard for all of us. But we are all in this together.

Thank you, again, for your continued commitment to releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name." - Compassion

We are in a new season of raising funds to provide the personal and schooling expenses for Miguel. He will celebrate his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Please say a prayer for Miguel as he enters adulthood. Thank you!

Tammy Mettler

## SPRINGS BLUE BAG

**Packing Day January 16, 2021 ~ 4:45 PM**

**MASKS  
REQUIRED!**



WS Elementary School Library  
3rd Tuesday of each month.

Prayerfully consider how you might participate in any one of the programs that are being offered in our community. Volunteers are a welcome relief to those who coordinate efforts to reach out to others through the Springs Blue Bag program and Feeding South Dakota program locally.

# Feeding South Dakota Mobile Food Distribution

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



February 16,  
2021  
@  
2 PM

Food Distribution  
at the  
4-H / Ag Building  
604 2ND St. NE  
Wessington Springs

## 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.

## Administrative Council / January 20, 2021

- I. **Call to order** – Gerald Kraft called the meeting to order at 8:12 pm with Hub Kieser, Sandy Wenzel, Lisa Edwards, Lila Hoffman, Gretchen & Randy Burnison, Jan Krohmer, Lynn Neely and Pastor Zach present.
- II. **Devotions** – Sandy shared from Luke 6:46-49; Building a firm foundation and a good visual for teaching kids.
- III. **Secretary Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the November 18, 2020 Ad Council Meeting Minutes and the December 6, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. M/ S (Randy / Jan) Motion carried
- IV. **Treasurer Report** – A motion was made to approve the Treasurer report. M/ S (Sandy / Gretchen) Motion carried
- V. **Finance Report** – Hub overviewed the better position we are in from last year. Pastor Zach spoke about tithing as opposed to budget giving. It was reminded to post last weeks giving in bulletin.
- VI. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **PPR** – No problems to report. Randy's taking care of quarterly reports.
  - b. **Lay-Leader** – No report at this time.
  - c. **Trustees** – Pastor gave the report for Kirk: Light in the bell tower (center section) is to illuminate the stained glass windows. Doing repairs to the bell tower arches. Looking to "help" the parsonage upstairs water closet.
  - d. **Worship** – Well received Christmas Eve service with 178 attending. Planning Lent (begins Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>) and Easter (April 4<sup>th</sup>) Services. Lynn Neely joined the committee.

e. **Membership** – 93 Full, 48 Constituents and 14 Preparatory = 155 Total Members. Pastor shared that a membership class is tentatively scheduled for March.

f. **Education** – Lenten Study in question. Probably no "Westys" Lenten Services. Planning bible study for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of month to start Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Gerald is looking into neighborhood bible study. Still "calling" for volunteers for Sunday school. Need more help if we're to have school before, rather than during church service.

g. **Action Teams** – No report at this time.

h. **Outreach** – Pastor arranged sack lunches for faculty and staff at the schools and the Manor, supporting all they do for those they serve during this COVID pandemic.

i. **Community Youth Group** – Pastor Zach has programming for January and the church has meals. Great thanks to Julie for doing the food, Lynn and Randy for helping and the Burg families for hamburger. 5 – 8 Methodists youth are attending.

j. **Historian** – No report at this time.

k. **Pastor** – Confirmation going well. 6 kids attending.

VII. **Old Business** – All gifts for the church should go through the church treasury for the record. This includes anonymous gifts, which are handled with confidentiality (there is a process for this in the discipline).

## VIII. New Business

a. A motion was made to grant \$1,200.00 from the camps and conference fund to support Mitch and Sonya Kraft continue to fulfill their missions in Spearfish, SD. M/ S (Hub / Randy) Motion carried

b. Randy shared the need for hay, fencing supplies and posts for victims of a huge fire near Lemmon, SD. A motion was made to begin a relief plan. M/ S (Jan / Sandy) Motion carried

IX. **Adjournment** - A motion was made to adjourn at 9:12pm. M (Jan / Sandy) Adjourned.

Hub Kieser, Pro-temp Secretary

## Phyllis Comes Flying News

Tammy talked to Phyllis on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Phyllis didn't have much news but did say all of her family is thankful to have received their first Covid vaccine. She is thinking of us and wishing we all stay well.

Tammy Mettler

## MORE NOTES FROM A THANKFUL MEMBER

It's been nine years now since I started this "notes" thing in a hope that it might make our church seem more attractive and warm to a prospective new pastor (we've had three since). Further, I hoped writing about members and their positive influences in our church might stir memories about folks past and present and maybe others would add their perspectives of how others had influenced their impressions of the church.

I've kinda started to run out of folks to talk about from our membership list, past and present, but, just like manna from heaven, there's some new folks starting to light up the place and some have begun to find their own niche here amongst us, where they too can serve our Lord and make this their faith home here, in His house.

Twenty-five years ago just this last fall, a young couple began a journey at our altar, the same altar that the grooms folks and probably grand folks had started their marriage journey at. I would like to think myself and some other friends prodding's might have had something to do with their cementing together and making a handsome family here in our community, but, that's another story for another time. We'll talk later!

When Zach asked about who might be one who could facilitate a "live" nativity, Tricia Messmer came to mind and as it turned out, was a good answer for that request. And was it ever! Tricia arranged all the right players and workers and on the Sunday before Christmas a very nice "live" nativity scene took place on the church's east side. It WAS a community hit! Car after car after car drove through the scene, some twice, and accolades were shared by many! Two thumb up!! Now, Tricia didn't do it all alone and many players and workers made for a very nice affair, but, for sure Tricia did the arranging and made for a great director.

If you haven't already, be sure and thank Tricia for her work in making the first ever (for our church anyway) "live" nativity, a huge success. Tricia is just another reason this church survives and thrives. We thank God for her and her family's presence here. God bless you, Tricia! You and your crew sure done us proud!

Hub Kieser, thankful member



**A feat  
pulled off  
in short order!**

**The  
LIVE  
Nativity**

Thankful for our neighbors;  
Dana & Sherridan  
Larson, who  
supplied livestock  
for the  
presentation.

