

# Our Journey Together

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ushers & Greeters	2
Financial Update	2
Leadership Update	2
B'Days & Anniv.	2
Leadership Minutes	3-4
June Calendar	5
Come Glorify God	6

*Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. – Ephesians 4:2-3*

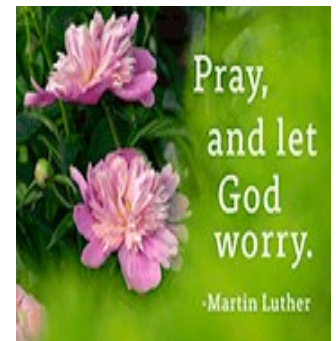


Each year at this time, United Methodists gather in their respective conferences for what is known as Annual Conference. This is a time to come together and celebrate the ministry that is happening around the Conference, to do the business necessary to keep us functioning, and to vision toward the next year of ministry together. But that's not the best part. What makes Annual Conference so special is the fact that we gather together, we celebrate one another, we get inspired by one another, we get to love one another in person. It has been said that especially here, in the Dakotas, Annual Conference feels like a family reunion.

And that has certainly been my experience, more often than not. For me, this is one of the great strengths, the great gifts of the United Methodist Church – our connectionalism. “What is connectionalism?” writes David W. Scott “It’s a peculiarly Methodist understanding of what it means to be the church. According to connectionalism, the church is defined not by formal structures or doctrine or lines of authority. It’s defined by connections between people: connections between pastor and pastor, between pastor and laity, and between laity and laity. When The United Methodist Church claims to be a connectional church, that means that we hold such interpersonal connections in so high a regard that we understand them as the essence of the church.

At the beginning of Methodism, connectionalism meant connection to John Wesley. After Wesley, though, there was no one person who defined connectionalism. Even Francis Asbury, who had a central role in shaping Methodism in America, saw the connection of Methodism as being between the preachers and each other, not between the preachers and him. Thus, connectionalism has become not a hub and spokes model of relationship, but a network.”

Connectionalism is one way that United Methodists live out the Biblical call to “preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together.” We may not do it perfectly, but this is one way that we strive to live into it.



## Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter?

If so, please have them into the church office no later than

June 20



## June Ushers and Greeters

June 4 & 11 Bob & Karen Steptoe

June 18 (Father's Day) & 25 Bonnie Hall & Bev Cain

If you need to miss a week in which you are scheduled to usher, it is your responsibility to find someone to fill in for you.

Please remember also, there are other ways in which you can help serve the church. We are always looking for folks to serve coffee fellowship, to be communion stewards, and lead small groups.

### Financial Update from Administrative Council



#### Financial Update as of April 30, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$49,380.81  
 2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$58,638.17  
 General Fund Difference: (\$9,257.36)



Last Sunday, May 28, I gave a brief update during worship on the work the Leadership Team has conducted regarding the United Methodist Church and the disaffiliation process.

The Leadership Team has met several times and had numerous, in-depth conversations on the topic. We asked for feedback from the congregation and some members did provide their thoughts and comments. Pastor Teresa has made handouts and other information available for those interested in learning more about the topic. The team also worked to set up an educational meeting with various speakers so that church members could attend and learn.

However, the disaffiliation process has numerous steps and is quite detailed. The deadline for all the steps our congregation would have to complete is June 15, 2023. As the team learned more about the process, it became apparent that we would not have time to complete all the necessary work before the deadline.

Due to that, the consensus of the Leadership Team was to put this on hold until after the UMC General Conference in 2024. Please feel free to contact me or other Leadership Team members if you have questions.

Peace be with you,

Joe Fiala

<b>Birthdays:</b>	Jun 19	Judith Apley
	Jun 19	Gentry Wagner
Jun 1	Jun 22	Rhonda Hasart
Jun 2	Jun 23	Erin Moncur
Jun 5	Jun 24	Gwen Otteson
Jun 13	Jun 24	Ron Hoftiezer
Jun 16	Jun 24	Alona Lewellen
Jun 17	Jun 25	Mike Hasart
Jun 17	Jun 25	Whyley Ruhnke
Jun 18	Jun 27	Shirley Gimbel
	Jun 28	Kallie Fernau



#### Anniversaries:

June 9 Robert & Karen Steptoe  
 June 11 Dylan & Cindy Deuter  
 June 14 Jim & Diane Moncur  
 June 23 Jim & Chris Keeter  
 June 28 Kelly and & Shawn Fernholz  
 June 30 Dwight & Sam Greenough



Congratulations to Jaymin VanDerWerff who was Confirmed on May 21st.

\*\*\*\*Please note these minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to modification\*\*\*\*

## Leadership Team Meeting May 25, 2023

**Call to Order** Chairman, Joe Fiala called the May 25, 2023 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:30 pm in Classroom 1 of the church. Sub-committees met a half hour earlier to the full meeting.

Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Linda Blackburn, Andrea Fiala, Joe Fiala, Dwight Greenough, Chris Keeter, Eugene Moncur, Mike Moncur, JoAnn Morford, and Karen Steptoe, and JoAnn Testerman. Absent was Sara Gates. One visitor present was Merle Jenner.

### Loving

Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa led the group with the devotional from The Unofficial United Methodist Handbook. Pastor also relayed a visual from one of the speakers at the preaching conference she attended last week in Minneapolis. The speaker told that group that within every “Lament” prayed there is an “amen” (L amen T). Pastor Teresa then led the group in prayer before they moved on to the business portion of the meeting.

a. The Mission Statement of the UMC was read from the agenda.

2 Word Check-in. Some members stated their 2 words such as sad, grateful, heavy-hearted and blessed. Chairman Joe stated that the 2-word check in helps get a focus for the meeting.

### Learning

a. Consent Calendar-

Secretary's Minutes for March

Finance Report for March (as approved by Finance Committee)

Andrea Fiala then made a motion to accept the items on the consent calendar. Karen Steptoe seconded the motion. All voted in favor to pass the motion.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 21** with committees meeting at 5:00 pm with the full Leadership Team at 5:30.

### Leading

Sub-Committee Reports:

#### **Finance:**

Treasurer's report for April - The report prepared by Mike Moncur showed revenues at \$14,300.38 and expenses at \$15,165.94 for a general fund difference of (\$865.56). YTD general fund difference of (\$9,257.36) Mike stated it was a better month but still running behind. He reminded the group that it takes \$400 a day just to run the church.

Quoin Bank CD- Mike stated the CD was renewed for 18 months at 4.25%.

2023 Bishops Miracle offering will be taken Sunday June 4. It is to benefit mental health programs Helpline of SD and First Link of ND

### Trustees:

- Message sign repairs - complete
- Classrooms (Mike will check with Greg)
- Hearing Assist in Sanctuary (Collin & Andrea)
- Must call Midco to get some wiring done
- Keyless entry for office door – in process – Mike
- Kitchen Counter – front edge repair – pending (Linda/Royce)
- NW Entry – clean and seal leaks – pending weather

Mike Moncur added information he had for the items he was asked to get take care of: He suggested taking keyless entry off the list. He is unable to find one that will work and he had a new key made and it is working well. Pastor and JoAnn's keys are working alright now also.

Mike said Greg Palmer has ordered two thermostats for the classrooms and will install to see how they work before ordering more.

Mike will be turning on the sprinkler system this week. He will check it and will also work on the parsonage lawn ones where the tree was removed.

**Staff-Parish Relations:** Dwight Greenough reported the 2023 Clergy- Church Annual Assessment will be done soon. It is due by July 15.

#### Thoughts on increasing revenue

Chairman Joe Fiala reviewed for the Team some of the thoughts that were stated at the April meeting concerning increasing revenue. He would like to keep this on the agenda for the coming months. The July 4<sup>th</sup> (probably July 1<sup>st</sup>) fireworks time was discussed as a good time to offer snacks or drinks in the parking lot with possibly a flyer of what our church offers. Discussion of how to do this and asking for a committee to head it up. More discussion on this at the next meeting.

- c. Delegate to Annual Conference -June 8-10 in Sioux Falls. No delegate was chosen or volunteered. It was suggested to announce to congregation to see if anyone wants to go. It is not imperative that we have a delegate from our church.
- d. Pastor's Report- Pastor Teresa said she attended a Preaching Festival May 15-18 in Mn. She has had visits to nursing home and hospital here in Miller and Sioux Falls. DS Dan Bader will be here for a meeting with the Leadership Team May 30. Pastor Teresa then excused herself from the meeting as she had to meet with family of Ruby Wharton and prepare for the prayer service in a half hour.

#### UMC/GMC discussion –

Chairman Joe reviewed what Pastor Teresa and Chris Keeter and he had concluded and put in an email to the Team. Following was more discussion on the church direction. Leadership will now wait to see where General Conference leads in 2024.

- f. Communication Plan – Joe Fiala as chairman will tell the congregation where Leadership stands on this discussion at the present time and write something of the same for the Newsletter.

Chris Keeter added one more item of business: Do we still want to do the Church Ad in the Booster Club booklet. General consensus was in favor. Chris stated that she and Jim had always paid half of the \$200 cost and Breitlings and Moncurs had done the other half in past years. Linda Blackburn said they would like to do that this year. Matter taken care of at that point.

There was no more business brought before the group.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:45 p.m.

The United Women in Faith are conducting a food drive to benefit Helping Hands. Non-perishable food items can be brought and placed in the shopping cart in the narthex anytime during June.





Miller First United  
Methodist Church

610 East 4th Ave  
Miller, SD 57362

Phone: 605-853-3656

E-mail:

millerumc@midconetwork.com

Find us on Facebook at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/fumcmillersd>



## Come glorify God together



Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship.

First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you'll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshipping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come.

—Monica L. Wilkinson