

Our Journey Together

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” - Matthew 28:19



The mission statement for the United Methodist Church is derived from the Great Commission found at the end of Matthew’s Gospel. These parting words from Jesus to the disciples are their final instructions on how to carry on. As modern-day disciples of Jesus, these words are for us, too. As individuals and as a congregation everything we do should be about the business of making disciples of Jesus Christ who will work, with the help of God, to transform the world we live in here and now into the Kingdom of God on Earth.

So, that leads me to the question of how we are living into this mission, into this Great Commission. In the 6 weeks leading up to Lent we studied spiritual disciplines which can help us as individuals grow deeper into our own relationship with God and become more closely attuned to God’s will for our lives.

Through the season of Lent we are hearing stories of those who did not live as disciples. And we are left with a choice. Which way do I want to go? Do I want to do as Jesus asked of his followers, or will I too turn my back on Christ?

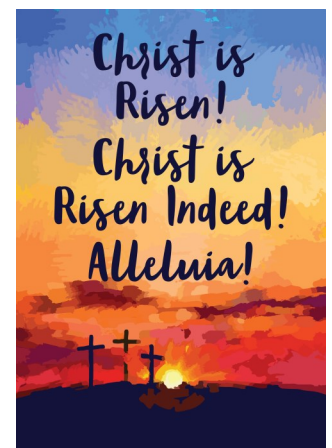
It is my hope that we all live more closely into our mission. So, how are you uniquely called and equipped to share the good news? Can you write letters and cards to those who are lonely or hurting? Can you teach someone to knit or crochet and share life lessons and stories as you do? Can you organize a group for coffee and conversation? Can you host a book group? Can you help others learn to can and preserve food? All of these are ways that we can begin the work of disciple-making, because it begins with relationships, it begins with love.

How can you make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? It starts a whole lot smaller than you think, but those small things can make a huge impact. Just ask Jesus what he can do with a mustard seed.



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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 March 19.



March Ushers and Greeters

Mar 3, 10 & 17
Eugene & Janice Moncur

Mar 24(Palm Sun) & 31 (Easter)
Otteson Family

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.

Financial Update from Leadership Team

Financial Update as of January 31, 2024:

2024 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$6,158.69
2024 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$14,501.80
General Fund Difference: (\$8,343.11)



Due to Easter being the 5th Sunday of March, our regular spare change offering will instead be collected on March 24th, Palm Sunday.

Please support missions by bringing your spare change to church!

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Palm Sunday 3/24—Join the Palm Processional as Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday 3/28—Worship with the Presbyterians here in our fellowship hall. Join us as we remember the last supper as we eat and worship together. Service at 6pm

Good Friday 3/29—The Ministerial Assoc. will have Good Friday service at noon at the Presbyterian Church

Easter Morning— Sing Halleluia! as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Worship is at 10:30

Birthdays:

Mar 2 Dawn Peterman
Mar 4 Darla Welk
Mar 5 Annie Gatzke
Mar 6 Easton
VanDerWerff
Mar 9 Mollie Kopecky
Mar 9 Bobbi Larson

Mar 10 Shawn Fernholz
Mar 10 Walker Wagner
Mar 13 Eleanor Steptoe
Mar 14 Emily Hasart
Mar 16 Ellie Gates
Mar 16 Weslyn Smith

Mar 17 Madison Bowar
Mar 20 James Fritzsche
Mar 20 Gary Larson
Mar 21 Lloyd Schwartz
Mar 22 Gage Russell
Mar 25 Pat Hasart
Mar 30 Linda Conkey

Anniversaries:

Mar 15 Scott & Melanie Bower
Mar 18 Merle & Judy Jenner
Mar 30 Royce & Linda
Blackburn



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

Leadership Team Meeting February 12, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chairman Joe Fiala, called the February 12, 2024 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:19 pm in the Library of the church. The Finance sub-committee met at 5:00 pm to discuss several items prior to bringing them to the full Team.

Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Bev Cain, Joe Fiala, Sara Gates, Merle Jenner, Eugene Moncur, Doug Testerman, and JoAnn Testerman.

II. Loving

- a. Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa lead the opening devotional taken from Live in Grace, Walk in Love. The selection was based on John 13:35 encouraging to love the way Jesus loves.
- b. The Mission Statement of the UMC: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. Everything we do as a church should contribute to this mission.
- c. Pastor Teresa led the group in prayer.

The Team then moved on to the business portion of the meeting.

III Learning

- a. Approval of Consent Calendar
 1. Secretary’s Minutes - approval of January 2024 Minutes
 2. Treasurers Report – January report (as approved by Finance Committee)Chairman Joe Fiala asked for a motion to approve all items of the Consent Calendar. Merle Jenner made a motion to approve the consent calendar items as stated. Bev Cain made a second to the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried.
- b. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be **Monday, March 11, at 5:00pm.**

IV. Leading

a. Work Team Reports:

Outreach: no report.

Worship: no report.

b. Sub-Committee Reports:

Finance:

The Treasurer’s report was prepared by treasurer, Sara Gates. The report was emailed out to the Leadership Team. Hard copies were handed out at the meeting also. The January report showed revenues of \$6,192.69 and expenses at \$14,501.80 for a general fund difference of (\$8,343.11). YTD general fund difference of (\$8,343.11).

Miller C & C membership - The Finance committee-discussed this in the earlier meeting. Their recommendations to the full Team was to continue with membership in the C & C. No motion was necessary. JoAnn was given direction to write the \$75 check for that.

Dollars for Scholars Application – The Finance Committee had a scholarship application from Tyra Gates for Dollars for Scholars for furthering her education at Dakota Wesleyan. The committee is asking for a motion from the Team to pay the church’s share of \$1000.00 from our Dollars for Scholars fund to go with Tyra’s application. Merle Jenner made a motion to pay \$1000 for Tyra Gates’ scholarship application. Gene Moncur seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried. JoAnn was directed to prepare the check for the scholarship application.

Dakotas Methodist Foundation Money- The church received the yearly distributions from endowments in January. Each of the endowments states how they can be used except the Miller First UMC one. It is stated it needs final approval of the Finance committee and ad council how the funds are to be used. The Finance committee came to the Leadership Team with the recommendation that this money (\$1642.47) be used in the general fund. This will be done.

More discussion of finances -With more discussion of the January finance report, the Finance committee recommended that the Pension Rebate 2022 money get moved to the general fund. Chairman Joe asked for a motion from the team to move this money. Gene Moncur made a motion to move the Pension Rebate 2022 (\$11,301.87) money into the general fund. The motion was seconded by Merle Jenner. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

CD at Quoin Bank – There was a question of when the CD at Quoin bank was due. JoAnn Testerman will check that. This was checked and at the writing of these minutes, I have found that this CD will come due in August of 2024.

Trustees: JoAnn Testerman reported that Mike Beaner came January 24th and replaced the front piece of the kitchen counter. Pastor Teresa said he had replaced the window in the parsonage garage that same week he had worked on the kitchen counter. JoAnn said she had not received a bill for any of that yet.

Chairman Joe told the Team we had a request from JoAnn Morford, Franklin Fund Financial Consultant, for paperwork needs for the account. Funds such as those are under the direction of Trustees. Doug Testerman made a motion that Gene Moncur, Trustee Chairperson and Merle Jenner, Trustee Co-Chairperson, to direct and transact, which includes buying, selling, trading, exchanging, updating account information, and giving direction of financial investments and business with Franklin Templeton Investments. Bev Cain seconded the motion. Motion carried

- Replacement of rear facing projector
 - Waiting for Hughes Electric to do wiring work
 - TV and mount have been purchased and are stored in the storage room between the choir room and the T2G room
 - Replacement of light fixture in sanctuary
 - Waiting for Hughes Electric to do this work
 - on the north side, toward the front
 - Parsonage work

To do: make plans to replace the carpet in the middle bedroom.

Staff-Parish Relations:

No report

c. Thoughts on increasing revenue – This discussion was combined with the Dream Big item on the agenda.

d. Dream Big Ideas – Chairman Joe had some thoughts that he shared with the team.

*Putting together a 2023 Highlights Reel to play on the multimedia screens. Pastor Teresa said she has someone in mind that might enjoy doing that.

*Outreach committee might work at putting together something for new people in town whether they are permanent or temporary people (summer workers) to let them know about our church.

* Men's coffee -Joe said he wants to take that on but said it probably wouldn't be on Saturdays.

* Late Spring - Block party- invite those living near the church for food and games.

These were all great ideas and created good conversation.

e. DS Dan Bader- Miller- Highmore - Harold meeting – This will be Sunday, February 18, 2:00 pm at the Highmore Methodist church. All Team members are encouraged to go to this meeting.

f. Pastor's Report-Pastor Teresa reported Lent starts this Wednesday with Ash Wednesday service at the Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm. She will be sharing the message which also will start her Lenten series "The Trials of Jesus".

Pastor Teresa also reported Youth Group was going well. The kids were asking questions about The Twelve Disciples so they are learning about the disciples now.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:15 p.m.

JoAnn Testerman, recorder

March 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

								
			Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm			1		2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
				Library Story Time 12-1 pm				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
 POTLUCK DINNER	1 • Leadership Mtg • Hymn Sing – Good Sam 6:15	UWF Meeting Library 1:30	UWF Work Day 10-2 Lutheran church • Senior Boxes			Baby Shower 16 Fellowship Hall Master Gardeners Library 9-12		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
	CPAC-Library 7:30 pm			Kindergarten Screening 8:00 - 3:00				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
 Palm Sunday				7:00 pm service 		Birthday Celebration Fellowship Hall		
31								
 Ok gladious day	Spare Change Sunday March 24 			Food Truck Noon-1 Mar . 28				

Miller First United
Methodist Church

610 East 4th Ave
Miller, SD 57362

Phone: 605-853-3656

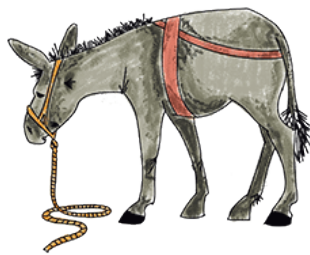
E-mail:

millerumc@midconetwork.com

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



Be the Donkey



Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?