

# Our Journey Together

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Ushers & Greeters	2
Financial Update	2
Graduates	2
B'Days & Anniv.	2
Leadership Minutes	3-4
May Calendar	5
Our Proper Role	6



**So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! – 2 Corinthians 5:17**

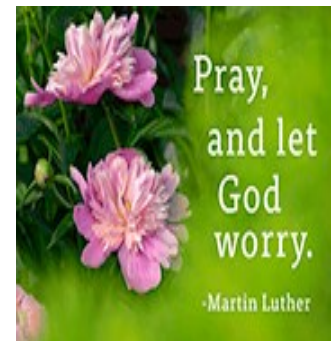
May is a season of many transitions, school year comes to an end, for some students there is graduation bringing at least this current stage of their education to a close, there is confirmation as students prepare to take on the responsibility of their life of faith, our worship times change, the seasons change, our clothing changes, the days get longer (and hopefully warmer). There is just a lot of change, a lot of transition.

For some, that change can be stressful or even frightening, but it can also be exciting and thrilling. How do we navigate all of this change and all of the emotions that come with it?

One thing that I try to remember in times of transition is that God always goes before me. There is no where I can go that God isn't already there. There is no change coming that God is not prepared for. Not only that, but our God is a God of change, of transformation, of creation and re-creation.

God promises us that through Christ, the old ways – the ways of sin and death – will pass away. Also, God promises us that when that day comes new ways, new things better things life-giving, eternal things, glorious things will take their place.

Change doesn't have to be scary, it can be good. So, in this season of transitions, of new beginnings, let's look to Christ to show us the way to live into our new reality.



## 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 May 22.



**May Ushers and Greeters**  
**May 7 & 14 (Mother's Day)**  
Marvin & Pat Hasart  
**May 21 & 28 (Memorial Day)**  
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.

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 March 31, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$35,080.43  
2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$43,472.23  
General Fund Difference: (\$8,391.80)



### Celebrate our Graduates!

On May 14th we will have a breakfast for our graduates during the coffee hour, beginning at 9:30, and then recognize them during worship.



Spencer  
Fernholz



Tyra  
Gates



Mackenzie  
Kopecky



Preslie  
Russell

#### **Birthdays:**

May 1 Marsha Howard  
May 2 Merle Bertsch  
May 2 Riley Canham  
May 2 Mason Russell  
May 7 Beverly Cain  
May 10 Camden Breitling  
May 13 Marla Bertsch  
May 17 Nicholas Bertsch  
May 18 Laura Beilke

May 24 Doris Jury  
May 29 Bill Speirs  
May 31 Aidan Palmer



#### **Anniversaries:**

May 2 Marvin & Pat Hasart  
May 20 Mike & Shelley Moncur  
May 28 Mason & Jaime Russell  
May 28 Rod & Mary Wagner  
May 30 Joe & Andrea Fiala

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

Leadership Team Meeting  
April 20, 2023

**Call to Order** Chairman, Joe Fiala called the April 20, 2023 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Library 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, Sara Gates and Karen Steptoe, and JoAnn Testerman. Visitors present were Leonda Anglin, Merle Jenner, Janice Moncur, Jaime Russell, and Mary Wagner.

**Loving**

Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa led the group with the devotional using the General Rules of the UMC written by John Wesley and a selection from Bishop Rueben Job’s book *Three Simple Rules A Wesleyan Way of Living*. The selection was based on John 17:11. 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 tired and ready for spring.

**Learning**

a. Consent Calendar-

Secretary’s Minutes for March

Finance Report for March (as approved by Finance Committee)

Approve Building Use Policy (as approved by Trustee Committee)

Chairman, Joe Fiala asked that Item 1 Secretary Minutes be dropped out for a change to be addressed after a motion to accept #2 Finance and #3 Building Policy Consent Calendar items. Chairman Joe moved that items 2 & 3 be accepted, Karen Steptoe seconded the motion All voted in favor.

Joe then asked that the words “for her resignation” be replaced with “to resign” in the first paragraph of the March minutes. Andrea Fiala then made a motion to accept the March minutes with the correction being made. Linda Blackburn seconded the motion. All voted in favor to pass the motion.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **Monday, May 22** with committees meeting at 5:00 pm with the full Leadership Team at 5:30.

**Leading**

Election of Vice Chair

Chris Keeter nominated Linda Blackburn, seconded by JoAnn Morford. All voted in favor.

Sub-Committee Reports:

**Finance:**

Treasurer’s report for March- The report prepared by Mike Moncur showed revenues at \$9,689.33 and expenses at \$13,449.86 for a general fund difference of (\$3,780.53). YTD general fund difference of (\$8,391.80) At this point Mike highlighted things like what it costs each month to run the church and what income comes in regularly. Joe asked that the group do some brainstorming of how to increase revenue. Thoughts were to keep reminding people of automatic

deposits, stewardship thoughts, membership drive, block party and opportunities for moms and children. Joe asked that this remain on the agenda for more discussion and actions.

**Trustees:**

Sanctuary Multimedia – in process- Hughes Electric will be here Friday or Monday (4-21 or 4-24). Karl's will be here next Wed (4-26-23) to install the TVs.

Parsonage – in process

Kitchen Counter – front edge repair – Merle Jenner said he had seen Bill Speirs and his shoulder is not allowing him to work at all so we would need to get someone else to put the front edge on the counter.

Message sign repairs – Gene (Royce & Bill)

NW Entry – seal leaks – House of Glass – no update

Hearing Assist System The system is here and was paid for from memorial funds.

**Staff-Parish Relations:** No report given

c. Pastor's Report- Pastor Teresa said she will be out of the office April 30(after church), May 1 and 2 for a Clergy Women's Retreat. She will also be gone May 15-18 in Minnesota for a Preaching Festival.

d. UMC/GMC discussion – Before the discussion began, Pastor excused herself from the conversation. She wanted those present to be able to hold a frank discussion that might be hindered if she were present. She asked if she could lead the group in prayer and then dismissed herself to the sanctuary for further prayer.

Joe then opened the discussion concerning the UMC/GMA matters. Some comments started that Chairman Joe felt were more appropriate for Pastor- Parish Relations and not centered to the UMC/GMC matters. There was a lot of discussion about comments received after the congregational letter went out as to the feelings of folks that replied. There were not a lot of people that replied but the general consensus is that they want to know more of what is going on with the Methodist church.

Pastor Teresa returned to the meeting. After further discussion a motion was made by Linda Blackburn to continue to education the congregation on the issues facing the UMC. Seconded by Chris Keeter. Motion carried. Further discussion led to the decision that a sub-committee of Pastor, Joe F, and Chris K would meet to determine how to educate the committee and present their plan via email to the entire team.

There was no more business brought before the group.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 7:39 p.m.

*Jo Ann*- JoAnn Testerman

# May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p style="text-align: center;">←————→ Pastor gone - Clergy Retreat</p>					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>Camp Sunday CPAC Concert 2:00 pm Featuring Collin Otteson</p>		<p>UWF Library 1:30pm</p>				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>Mother's Day Cradle Rocking Graduation Sunday Blanket Sunday</p>			<p>UWF Workday Trinity 10-2 Senior Box de-</p>			
	<p style="text-align: center;">←————→ Pastor gone—Continuing Education</p>					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	 <p>Meeting—5pm</p>					
28	29	30	31			
						

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>



## Our proper role

"We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges." This quip may bring a chuckle, but it's also a good reminder as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord (May 18 this year). Jesus directed his disciples to spread the good news he had taught them: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ..." (Acts 1:8, NRSV).

While professional lawyers and judges certainly have their place in society and can serve God by working for genuine justice for all, we are not called in daily life to judge others' morality or relationship with God. "Do not judge," Jesus says, "and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV). And what is one of the most powerful forms of witness to Christ? Forgiveness.

