

Our Journey Together

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Introducing: Rev. Allison Galbreath

Vision of the Church

I believe in a church that is at the heartbeat of its community, rooted in love, giving the ability to witness to the love revealed by Christ. We witness the birth of the Church in Acts as the first believers gathered in communities marked by mutuality, interdependence, forgiveness, and friendship. This is a church that is a center of compassion where people can lean into their questions, take greater risks, and learn something new by being in community. This is a church whose doors are open to all people, anchored in God's love and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve as Christ

served and love as Christ loved.

Leadership Style

I follow a servant-leadership model characterized by commitment, courage, compassion, and creativity. Servant leadership focuses on empowering people by helping establish values, mission, and vision so those in the church can live out the calling to be a part of the Body of Christ

Service and Community Involvement

Service is how we live out the inward movement of our faith--it is how we show the love that has been poured into us. In the past, this has meant serving on mission trips, participating in local food ministries, and volunteering with various service organizations. Looking forward, I am excited to find new ways to serve and participate in my new community.

Education

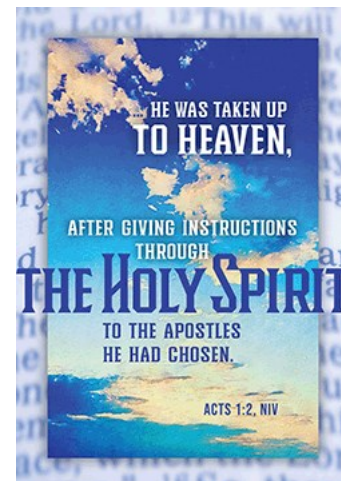
B.S. Psychology (2020) from the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, ND. MDiv. (2024) from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

Family

I grew up in rural North Dakota with my older sister, Amanda, and younger brother, Ethan. Amanda is currently living in Minot, ND where she focuses her time volunteering in classrooms and the local animal shelter. Ethan is in Butte, ND working as a farmhand. My parents also recently moved to Butte, ND and are raising a small herd of sheep.

Gifts for Ministry

I am continuously learning and growing in my ministry, and while that means making mistakes and falling short, I strive to recognize those mistakes and learn from them. Learning has always been one of my deepest passions, and with that, I have developed skills of both a student and a teacher. I see the most powerful teaching moments as the moments when we are willing to be in authentic community and ask the burning questions of our hearts. The gift of teaching is accompanied with compassion and patience, listening to the needs of both individuals and the community as a whole, so we as a church may love more deeply, living into the Kingdom of God. (continued on pg 2)



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.



Ushers & Greeters



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.

May Ushers and Greeters

May 5 & 12 (Mother's Day)

Don & Shirley Hofer

May 19 & 26 (Memorial Day)

Eugene & Janice Moncur

Ginger VanZee

Financial Update as of March 31, 2024:

2024 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$30,472.98

2024 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$41,216.42



Graduation Sunday

We will be honoring our graduates on Sunday May 12. Brunch will be served prior to worship for

a time to spend with the graduates. The seniors will be presented during worship. Come and wish them well in their future endeavors. Our seniors are Savanna Eddy, Hailey Melendez and Journey Palmer.

Carpet Fund

Our carpet fund has a great start! We received \$1448 on the first day. Let's keep it going we still have a ways to go.



CWS Blanket Sunday

Honor your mother by giving to Blanket Sunday. Your gifts go to fund CWS blankets that are used during natural disaster events around the world.



Cradle Rocking

There will be several littles rocked in the cradle by the SS children on Sunday May 12.

Pastor Allison (cont)

Call to Ministry

Growing up in a household that valued faith, I always knew that a relationship with God was going to be an important part of my life, but I did not recognize my call to ministry until the summer after my senior year of high school while on a mission trip when I was asked to think deeper about what I was meant to do. I ignored the call to ordained ministry for another year when I was asked again to think seriously about where God wanted me to go. I realized that I was being called to the role of a pastor, and dedicated my time and studies to growing deeper in my relationship with God. I have always been called to love deeply--to love God, to love others, and to love creation whole heartedly, but that was the moment I realized I was meant to serve in the local church in the Dakotas Conference. It is with great joy and gratitude that this call brings me to my first appointment in the communities of Miller, Highmore, and Harrold, SD.

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 11 Isabel Fink
May 13 Marla Bertsch
May 17 Nicholas Bertsch
May 22 Delton Gimbel
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 17, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chairman Joe Fiala, called the April 17, 2024 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Library of the church. The sub-committees did not have anything to discuss prior to the full Team meeting.

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

II. Loving

Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa led with a devotional based on Luke 24, the walk to Emmaus. Jesus walks with us always giving his care and guidance.

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.

Where have we seen God at work? Joe F. told of reading an article in the Wall Street Journal today. It was titled “Benefits of Going to Church” The article stressed how important church was for being with family, friends and community. Doug T. told about being at his oncology appointment when a young lady came to him in the waiting room and told him she was praying for him. Gene M. said a person he delivers a senior box to told him “God bless you today”.

Pastor Teresa led the group in prayer.

III Learning

Approval of Consent Calendar

1. Secretary’s Minutes - approval of March 2024 Minutes

2. Treasurers Report – March report (as approved by Finance Committee)

Chairman, Joe asked for a motion to approve items of the Consent Calendar.

Doug Testerman made a motion to approve the March minutes and March Treasurers report as given. Gene Moncur seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion passed.

b. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 5:00 pm.**

IV. Leading

Work Team Reports:

Outreach: JoAnn Testerman reported she had sent out an email about dispersing the Spare Change money to other Outreach committee members but had not received any replies.

There was some discussion from Leadership of any projects in our community that we might use this money to help with. The city swimming pool was mentioned. It was discussed that maybe a project might be done to even multiply our money to help with the pool project. JoAnn will do some checking into this.

Worship: Our church will be hosting VBS this year on June 17-20. Beth Palmer is the coordinator for this.

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 March report showed revenues of \$11,494.26 and expenses at \$13,525.78 for a general fund difference of (\$2,031.52). YTD general fund difference of (\$10,743.44).

Trustees:

Hughes Electric said they will get the wiring for the back TV done soon. We have asked them to have it done before VBS in June.

Parsonage Carpeting – Dwight Gutzmer has come to measure and given quotes for replacing living room, 3 bedrooms, office, hallway and basement stairway.

There was discussion of doing all or some of the carpeting areas and also discussion of funding for this and possible fundraising to cover the cost.

JoAnn T. was asked to contact JoAnn Morford about taking money from the Franklin Capital Outlay fund and if there was any penalty with do so. Also, JoAnn T. will contact Quoin bank and inquire about the CD and penalty for taking that out early. When that information is received, an email would be sent out to all members with costs of carpet and options of funding listed. Members will be asked to review all of that and email their vote in a reply as to yes or no with all or some of carpet done, in favor of a fundraiser and where to get funding to cover the cost of the carpet if fundraiser doesn't cover it.

Staff-Parish Relations: No report

Church member requests classroom use for book study.

Melanie Bower has asked to use a classroom for a (1 x/week) 6-week group book study. It was the general consensus that she would be allowed to do this.

d. Report from Highmore-Harold meetings.

Joe Fiala, Sara Gates and JoAnn Testerman are part of the committee with Highmore and Harold. Joe reported that the meetings are going well. The group last met on April 13 with DS Dan Bader. He gave out copies of a covenant that another partnering parish is using to help with some guidance. He also explained about some grants will be available to help with technology cost and ministry in rural areas. He also introduced us to Allison Galbreath. The group were very impressed with her and all agreed in favor of her becoming the new pastor.

e. Pastor's Report-

Pastor Teresa reported that United Methodist General Conference will meet April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC. There will be over 1,000 pieces of legislation to go over. Ongoing reports will be available to see on the UMC church web sites and Facebook pages.

Our Dakotas Annual Conference will be in Bismarck on June 6-9. We are allotted 2 delegates.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: Gene Moncur made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, Doug Testerman made a second to the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:10 p.m.

JoAnn Testerman, recorder

Addendum to the minutes:

An email was sent out on Thursday, April 18 with information about the Franklin Fund and Quoin Bank CD. Also, all the carpet figures were given again and a fundraising suggestion.

Members emailed in their votes on April 18 and 19. as to carpeting all or some of the parsonage, doing a fundraiser or not and where to get the funds to offset the cost if the fundraiser did not cover the cost of the carpet.

The majority vote was to do all of the parsonage carpeting, having a fundraiser to pay for it and to get additional funds from the Franklin Capital Outlay Fund if needed. The electronic votes are saved in the Office Manager's computer.

The trustees will contact Dwight Gutzmer to tell him we will move forward with the parsonage carpeting.

JoAnn Testerman, recorder

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Library Story Time 12-1 pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Senior Recognition Cradle Rocking Blanket Sunday	13 • Hymn Sing – Good Sam 6:15	14 UWF Meeting Library 1:30	15 UWF Work Day 10-2 Lutheran church • Senior Boxes • Leadership 5 pm	16  SOUTH DAKOTA Food Truck Noon-1	17	18 Savanna Eddy's Graduation reception Fellowship Hall
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26  Summer Worship Time Changes to 9:30 am	27	28	29	30	31	

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Open Hands



Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”