

Our Journey Together

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“I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters. Your old men will dream, your young men will see visions. I’ll even pour out my Spirit on the servants, men and women both. I’ll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below: [...] Whoever calls, ‘Help, God!’ gets help. On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be a great rescue—just as God said. Included in the survivors are those that God calls.”

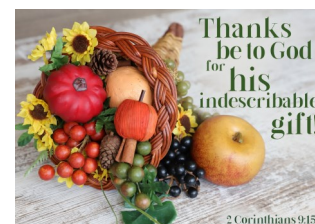
Joel 2:28-20, 32 (The Message)

We spent the month of September “Dreaming Big” about the future of our church, and the month of October talking about our Legacies. As we move into November, and Thanksgiving, and then Advent – the season of waiting for the Christ to appear, I thought we should reflect a bit about where we have been before we start to look forward too much. Included in the newsletter you will find a list of those Dreams that were lifted up during our Dream Big Series, with things we are already implementing highlighted. I invite you to look through that list. Are there items on there that you are passionate about, that you would like to head up, that you would be willing to be involved in? If so, let’s talk about it! Reach out to a member of the leadership team or to Pastor Teresa and let’s see what we can do together.

If this is a project that needs funding, there are ministry grants available from the conference that we could apply for. There are ways to make our dreams a reality, if we are willing to step out in faith and do the work.

What Legacy will we leave for the next generation of the Miller United Methodist Church? Will we invest our time, talent, and treasure now to leave a legacy of faithfulness for those who come after us? As November begins with All Saints’ Day, a day in which we remember the faithful who have gone on to glory, as we remember with thanks all that the generations before have done for us, to lay the groundwork of faith that we stand on, let us also think about what we will give to future generations.

I thank God for all that this community has done, and continues to do. Let’s not stop dreaming, let’s not stop working for a future in which all God’s children have a place to worship, to love and be loved, to be welcomed. - Pastor Teresa



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 November 21.



CHARGE CONFERENCE

Join us Nov 5th following worship for a potluck lunch and our annual charge conference. We will be joined in worship and for our conference by District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Bader.



November Ushers and Greeters

Nov 5 & 12

Mike, Shelley, Erin, & Margaret Moncur

Nov 19 & 26

Lloyd & Paula Schwartz

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 September 30, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$94,251.66
 2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$123,027.02
 General Fund Difference: (\$28,775.36)



Thanksgiving Offering

More than 34 million people in the U.S. face hunger or lack access to healthy food. Closer to home, nearly one in

every 10 adults in the Dakotas and Minnesota have reported there is sometimes or often not enough to eat for their household. There are people in every community who face the very real struggle to make ends meet and provide for their families. Some of our beloved United Methodist siblings are likely among them.

Let us come together to make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites you to join her in participating in a Dakotas-Minnesota Area *2023 Thanksgiving Offering: Five and Two*—as in the story of Jesus taking five loaves of bread and two fish and feeding 5,000.

What might it look like for every United Methodist in the Dakotas and Minnesota to give at least \$5 to two food ministries this Thanksgiving season? On **Nov. 19th**, we will take a special Thanksgiving Offering that will be split between the Helping Hands food pantry and the overdue balances on school lunches at the Miller Schools.



Fall Community Music Concert

Sunday, November 5, 3:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

Come and enjoy beautiful music presented by area church choirs and individuals

Free will offering

Benefitting Hands of Hope

Refreshments following

Birthdays:

Nov 1 Jeff Moncur	Nov 11 Hunter Russell
Nov 2 Maxon Conkey	Nov 14 Diedre Becker
Nov 2 Steve Danburg	Nov 18 Rod Wagner
Nov 2 Kirstyn Ward	Nov 18 Virgil Whetsel
Nov 2 Teresa Whetsel	Nov 20 Madison Kopecky
Nov 5 Jaime Russell	Nov 24 Julie Hoftiezer
Nov 6 Allison Ryckman	Nov 24 Easton Palmer
Nov 6 Judy Jenner	Nov 26 JoAnn Morford
Nov 11 Beth Palmer	Nov 27 Duane Aymar
	Nov 27 Eric Bertsch
	Nov 28 Barry Grogan



Anniversaries:

Nov 7 Barry & Tamie Grogan
 Nov 9 Virgil & Teresa Whetsel
 Nov 14 Mike & Rhonda Hasart
 Nov 27 Doug & Janice Purrington
 Nov 29 Terry & Marsha Howard
 Nov 30 Lloyd and Paula Schwartz

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

Leadership Team Meeting
October 19, 2023

I. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairman Joe Fiala; Treasurer, Mike Moncur, called the October 19, 2023 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:05 pm in the Library of the church. The sub-committees did not have any business to discuss so did not meet prior to the full Team meeting.

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

II. Loving

Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa lead the opening devotion. Titled “To Be Known” was taken from Disciplines daily devotions. It was based on Exodus 33:12-23.

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; was recited by the Team.

Where have you seen God at work lately? Members talked about the community support shown for fundraisers of those going through cancer treatments, positive response on the “Dream Big” Sunday. Pastor also talked about supporting her colleague as her son’s ashes were spread at Storm Mountain last week.

Pastor Teresa led the group in prayer.

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

III Learning

Approval of Consent Calendar

Secretary’s Minutes for September: Andrea Fiala made a motion to accept the September meeting minutes. JoAnn Morford seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Finance Report for September: Treasurer Mike Moncur presented and reviewed a few items of the treasurer report. There were no comments or questions.

Andrea Fiala moved for approval of the September treasurer report. JoAnn Morford seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

A question was brought up about when the General Fund CD would be due. Mike said he will check on that and see what the interest is at now; maybe could be renewed at a better rate.

b. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be **Charge Conference Nov 5 at approximately 12:30 We will have a potluck dinner prior**. The Team will meet briefly after that to set another date for later November or just go with setting the December date.

IV. Leading

Work Team Reports:

Outreach: JoAnn Testerman reported that Mike Moncur helped her get the UEI(Unique Entity ID#) that is needed because we are facilitators for Feeding SD) In the process we received a copy of Articles of Incorporation from the Secretary of State dated October 6, 1884.

In September JoAnn applied for a grant for Table to Go from Miller Area Foundation and in October we received a check for \$2000.

On October 4, Pipestone Helping Farmers – Nordic Farms presented Table to Go with a \$1000 check.

The letters we sent out in April generated \$2170 for Table to Go. We are packing 29 bags at present.

Worship: Andrea Fiala reported

A community concert is planned for Nov. 5 at 3:00 pm. Pastor Teresa said not too many have responded back about being in it.

DS Dan Bader will be giving the message at Nov. 5th worship.

Nov. 12 is Laity Sunday. The Order of Worship is being worked on.

Plans are being made for Advent season.

Pastor Teresa said she has had good feedback from both Dream Big and Legacy series.

Sub-Committee Reports:**Finance:**

- Treasurer's report for July - The report was prepared by Mike Moncur and emailed out to the Leadership Team. Hard copies were handed out at the meeting also. The report showed revenues at \$8,661.75 and expenses at \$11,866.66 for a general fund difference of (\$3,204.91). YTD general fund difference of (\$28,775.36) The trend continues of more expense than revenue.

The Leadership Team reviewed the Purposed Budget for 2024. The general consensus agreed that Finance take it to Charge Conference and move that it be asked for approval.

Trustees: Andrea Fiala, trustee chairperson reported

Parsonage Repairs – complete

Hand County Library -After some discussion it was agreed by Leadership to let the Library use our facilities for storytime once a month. They will be here for around an hour for some stories and a craft.

- Replacement of last projector (rear facing) in sanctuary.
- 65" screen, approximately \$400
- Mount, approximately \$50

Service call from Patrick Price to finish wiring.

The Team had some discussion of this and the Trustees were told to move ahead with this. Funds for it will come from Cotton or Colvin Memorial Fund

- Kitchen Counter – front edge repair
- Mike Moncur said he would talk to Duane Simons about working on this.

Staff-Parish Relations:

Pastor Teresa said SRP worked via text and emails for budget and salaries for 2024. They have not met since then.

Hunters Breakfast – Merle Jenner and JoAnn Testerman reported every is ready for the breakfast, prep day is Oct 20 then the breakfast on Oct. 21 & 22. The money raised will go to the general fund. Merle also reported that the Bunn coffeemaker had quit and a new one would be here this week. It will cost approximately \$450. Treasurer, Mike said we could use memorial money to pay for it.

Budget Review- as stated in Finance report the budget is ready to go to Charge Conference for approval.

Charge Conference is November 5 right after Potluck Dinner. Some yearly reports still need to sent in to the office.

Dream Big Recap – Pastor Teresa had print out of the many ideas written on notes throughout the series. Pastor also said Katie Otteson had talked of interest in having a card writing session to invite or reach out to people of the area. Pastor Teresa asked if Katie went forward with this could she be offered help with stamps or supplies. The Team said yes. Pastor Teresa will visit more with Katie on this.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Teresa reported she had 2 weddings and 2 baptisms and also some visits this month. She will be gone Oct 22-25 to Wesley Acres for a Worship Planning Retreat.

Lay Leadership openings for the fall–Work still needs to be done to fill the empty positions. That will be the main focus the next couple weeks. SPR committee will be very important to fill as Pastor Teresa stated she has asked to be moved this coming year.

Karen Steptoe asked if there was a way to reach out more about suicide prevention? Pastor Teresa said she had more resources and contact information since attending the seminar in September.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:25p.m.

JoAnn Testerman, recorder

"Dream Big" Dreams Shared

For Our Community:

More families
More people step up to be involved
More retail options
More Culture
Meeting Space for community Groups
Community Classes: art, food, skills, etc
Community Choir – like drifters/dreamers
Welcome Wagon
Get sports events not scheduled on Sundays
Youth group section in garden, food or flowers, then share with community
Hunters' Breakfast
Sports meals
Welcome Basket
Community Choir
Invite speakers or entertainment and include whole community
Host groups for community education
More younger farm families
Invite certain groups from community
Invite new community members
Public event such as comedian, etc
Special guests
Make community aware we are here
New to town – welcome to community no matter what faith
Methodists visible/active – toot our own horn
More visiting
Ag appreciation
Youth group with other churches
Reach out to inactive members
Preschool or homecoming events
Thurs night team meal before or after game
Community choir
Approach families not involved in a church
Invite wind tower crew for breakfast and church

For Our Congregation:

More young families
Full Sunday School
Big choir
Small groups
Larger VBS volunteer presence
Men's group
Teacher's for all ages
Adult classes
Sit closer to front/ sit together
Familiar songs
Ring Bell
Leave back 2 pews for people w/ walkers & late comers
Big Sunday School
Big choir
Younger families
Small groups – meet in homes
Kids involved in church
Fill the pews
Youth group- more kids
Need to feel welcomed and involved
Getting more involved with Bible Study
Send birthday cards to members that don't come to church with invitation to come
More/younger people
Song leader
"stand up choir"
People fighting to be on leadership
Wednesday night service in summer
Worship band
A night of fun
Reach out to new comers
New directory
Choir every Sunday

Answers to the crossword puzzle:

Answers: Across 2. Satan, 4. stars, 6. Bildad, 8. Levathan, 12. Eliphaz, 13. boils, 15. sheep;
Down 1. Redeemer, 2. suffering, 3. Job, 4. sea, 5. rain, 7. donkeys, 9. Zophar, 10. camels, 11. Elihu, 12. oxen

For Our Property:

Recycle Paper

- Playground
- Use for many things
- Espresso machine
- Mugs w/church name
- Host after school program
- Community classes
- Summer reading program
- Community choir
- Community meeting spaces
- Lots of help at VBS

Church bell

- After school activities
- Go-to place for people and events
- Digital sign/update activities
- Have a safe outdoor place for children
- Solar panels
- Fenced in area for students
- Men's breakfast

Ring the bell

- Open to use for meetings
- Breakfast for windtower people
- Host 4H groups or others

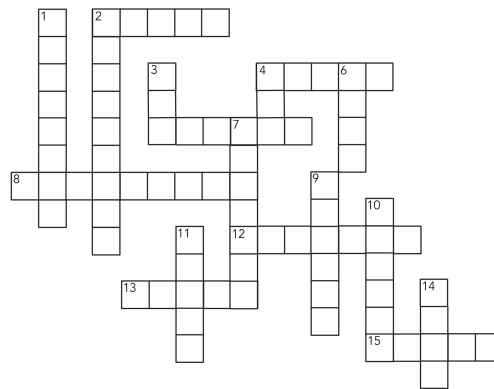


Join us after church on Sunday, Nov 19th as we get the church ready for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

We will be helping to remove the fall décor as well as placing all of the Christmas decorations inside and outside the church (weather permitting).

Lunch will be provided.

Puzzle!

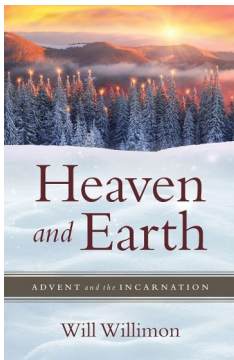


ACROSS

- cause of Job's trouble
- twinkling, heavenly lights
- the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- creature of the deep (41:1)
- the Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- sores
- Job had 7,000

DOWN

- the One who ever lives (19:25)
- affliction
- had seven sons
- ocean
- precipitation
- Job had 500
- the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- Job had 3,000
- Job's fourth friend (32:2)
- Job had 500 yoke



Watch out. God is on the way.

It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.

In *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way.

Join Bishop Lanette Plambeck for this four session, Advent Study via Zoom on Tuesday evenings beginning November 28.

- November 28, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m., Chapter 1: Meanwhile (Mark 12:24-37), pages 1-36.
- December 5, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m, Chapter 2: Surprised (Mark 1:1-8), pages 37-70.
- December 12, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m., central timeChapter 3: Light (John 1:6-8, 19-28), pages 71-94.
- December 19, 2023**, 7-8:15 p.m, central time, Chapter 4: Rejoice (Luke 1:26-55), pages 95-140.

Books are available now in the church office. Get yours today.

November 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1 6:00 Meal 6:30—7:30 Youth Group Each Wednesday</p> 	2	3	4
<p>5 Potluck Dinner 11:30 • Charge Conference 12:30 • Community Concert 3:00</p>		7	8	9	10	11
12	<p>13 Nursing Home 6:15 pm</p> 	14  UWF Meeting Library 1:30	15. UWF Work Day Trinity 10-2 • Senior Boxes	16	17	18
19 •Thanksgiving Offering •Hanging of the Greens	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Advent Series Heaven and Earth begins	27	28	29	30  FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA Food Truck Noon-1		

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A Cornerstone of Inheritance



In Matthew 21:33-46, Jesus tells a parable in which vineyard tenants plot to kill the landowner's son and thereby to "get his inheritance." Of course, that's not how life works: Unless the owner of wealth *gives* it away freely, the recipients aren't heirs — they're *thieves*!

We are all tenants entrusted with the cultivation and harvest of God's worldly vineyard. As such, we are to turn the fruits of the vineyard back over to God. We have no need to hoard them because the divine Landowner provides all our needs. What's more, we *already* have an inheritance of life and love, brought to us by the Son. May we not see Jesus as a threat to our way of life but welcome him among us. May we not hoard what he brings but share it. And remembering these words of Scripture — "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (v. 42) — may we not reject Jesus but let him be the cornerstone of our lives.

—Heidi Hyland Mann