

Our Journey Together

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Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:27

What is a church? When you close your eyes and think of church, what do you see? Do you see a steeple and stained glass? Do you hear bells chime? Or do you see people? Do you see people praying together, or serving one another?

I think there is a very good reason that the Apostle Paul used the metaphor of a body for the church. As the church, we are a living, breathing, group of believers. The building that we think of as a church is not alive, but the members of that church are the heartbeat of the church; it is the people that make a church alive. It is also the people that do the work of the church. It is the people who teach, who pray, who exhibit love and grace. It is the people who embody Christian love that make the church alive, and keep the church living and breathing.

Paul also points out that the people who make up the church are all gifted differently. Some will be teachers, some will be administrators, some will be prayers, some will be helpers. God has gifted each of us differently so that together we can all use our gifts for the betterment of the church. One person or two people alone cannot do all the work of the church. It takes all of us together, using the gifts that God has given to us to do all the work that the church can and should be doing.

The church is better, stronger, more vibrant, and more alive, when we all pool our resources and gifts together to do the work of making disciples. As all of our fall programming gets underway, let us all pull together to follow the instructions that Christ gives to us.

Remember, Christ's parting words to his disciples were, Go and make disciples of all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

That is Christ's command for each and every one of us. But the good news is that we do not have to do this work alone. We work alongside of one another, we join our hands and our hearts together as we preach, and teach, and lead one another in the faith. And even more than that, we walk with the Holy Spirit as we seek to point the way to Christ.

And so, let us remember the hymn that tells us "I am the church, You are the church, We are the church together." We ARE the church, we ARE the hands and feet of Christ in this world, we ARE the ones to show to the world the love that our Creator, our Savior, and our Sustainer has for each and every one of us.

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

October 19



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.

October Ushers and Greeters

Oct 1 & 8

Terry & Deb Kopecky

Oct 15, 22, 29

Brad & Heather Kopecky

Financial Update from Leadership Team

Financial Update as of August 31, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$85,589.91

2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$111,160.36

General Fund Difference: (\$25,570.45)

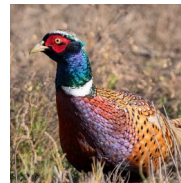


On October 8th, we will celebrate the baptism of 2 little ones into the family of faith.

Ayson Lee VanDerWerff, son of Colton and Amber and Ellie Jane Bertsch, daughter of Nick and Jessica Bertsch.

We welcome you both in Christian love, and celebrate with you and your families!

Blessings, little ones!



Hunters' Breakfast

Oct 21 & 22

We are looking for volunteers to help on the prep day (Oct 20th) as well as on the mornings of the breakfast itself.

If you can help, please sign up in the office.

Birthdays:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Oct 2 Royce Blackburn | Oct 15 Carter Canham |
| Oct 5 Tyra Gates | Oct 16 Mandy Fink |
| Oct 7 Cindy Deuter | Oct 17 Joe Fritzsche |
| Oct 7 Aiden Whetsel | Oct 17 Everlee Smith |
| Oct 11 Pat Shaw | Oct 25 Larry Anglin |
| Oct 12 Chris Keeter | Oct 27 Ellen Canham |
| Oct 14 Jim Moncur | Oct 29 LaVerta Palmer |
| Oct 14 Kris Wharton | Oct 30 Josh Ward |



Anniversaries:

- Oct 5 Larry & Nancy Ames
- Oct 11 Larry & Leonda Anglin
- Oct 16 Shirley & Delton Gimbel

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

Leadership Team Meeting September 21, 2023

I. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairman Joe Fiala and resignation of our vice-chairperson, Treasurer, Mike Moncur, called the September 21, 2023 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:00 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: Andrea Fiala, Sara Gates, Dwight Greenough, Eugene Moncur, Mike Moncur, JoAnn Morford and JoAnn Testerman. Absent were Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Joe Fiala, Chris Keeter, Karen Steptoe. One visitor present was Merle Jenner.

II. Loving

Opening Devotional – We did not have an opening devotion.

The Mission Statement of the UMC: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. was recited by the Team.

Where have you seen God at work lately? Members talked about the school support shown for a school teacher going through cancer treatments, Mike’s mother soon to be released from the hospital, community support last weekend with a fundraiser for a local rancher dealing with cancer and positive response on the “Dream Big” Sunday.

Mike 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 July:

Finance Report for July: Finance committee presented the treasurer report for approval.

Andrea Fiala moved for approval of the Consent Calendar items. Sara Gates seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

b. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be **Thurs. October 19** with sub-committees meeting at **5:00 pm** with the full Leadership Team at **5:30**.

IV. Leading

Work Team Reports:

Worship: Andrea Fiala speaking for worship said they are following up on suggestions from “Dream Sunday” and she and Joe have replaced the rope for the bell. There will be an adult supervising one or two children ringing the bell each Sunday.

Pastor Teresa will be giving some candle lighting instructions to the children over the age of 3rd grade so they can begin lighting the candles on Sunday mornings.

Worship is looking at again hosting another musical event inviting area churches to perform to benefit Hands of Hope. They are looking at Nov. 5th for this.

JoAnn Testerman informed the Team that DS Bader sent an email yesterday(9-20-23) requesting that our Charge Conference be Sunday, November 5th, right after worship.

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 \$7,387.00 and expenses at \$14,421.48 for a general fund difference of (\$7,084.48). YTD general fund difference of (\$25,570.45) The trend continues of more expense than revenue. As in the previous months, there was some discussion of church attendance here as well as across the area and the whole country having an impact on revenues.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) donation request: A letter was sent to the church explaining a donation request from this group. After some discussion, as was a suggestion in the letter, it was decided to set out a donation basket for the congregation members to give as they felt. It was thought that Pastor Teresa could mention it during announcements or if a member of the FCA was present they could talk about it.

Budget Forms for 2024- Mike will email the forms out the chairpersons of each committee. These need to be done as soon as possible and given back to Mike.

Trustees:

- Stained Glass Project
- Not at this time

Kitchen Counter – front edge repair – pending—Mike Moncur suggested Andrea ask Mike Beaner to replace the front counter edge piece.

The Trustees will do a walk through of the parsonage in October. Carpet in one bedroom should be replaced at some time. This will be decided at a later date.

Staff-Parish Relations: Dwight Greenough said someone had contacted him about wanting to help out a congregational family anonymously but wanted to know if it could go through the church. With some discussion, it was thought Dwight suggest it be done with cash in an envelope and given to Pastor Teresa and have her deliver it. There didn't seem to be a way to do it through the church channels that would be anonymous.

Thoughts on increasing revenue

1. Continuing with DS Dan Bader and the Highmore and Harrold churches of pastor partnership.
2. Look at the notes from the "Dream Big" Sunday and follow up with some of those suggestions.
3. Reach out to those not attending church. What are reasons for low attendance?
4. There is a General Fund CD that could be cashed out if necessary.

Hunters Breakfast – it was decided to do it again on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21 & 22. The money raised will go to the general fund.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Teresa gave a summary of her visits and pastoral care duties for this past month. She received the date for our charge conference, which will be held Nov 5th following worship. Youth Group will focus on reading Scripture for deeper understanding and application this year. Our positions for Sunday School are filled, and we are adjusting to a different curriculum for the younger class.



(more of pastor's report in full minutes.)

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:00 p.m.

JoAnn Testerman, recorder

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6:00 Meal 6:30—7:30 Youth Group 	5	6	7
8 Two Baptisms 	9	10 UWF Meeting Library 1:30 	11 Each Wednesday	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 • UWF Work Day Trinity 10-2	19 LEADERSHIP TEAM  Leadership Mtg 5pm	20 Hunters' Break- fast Prep Day 1:30 pm	21  Hunters' Breakfast
22  Hunters' Breakfast	23	24	25 • Senior Boxes No Youth Group	26  FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA Food Truck Noon-1	27	28
29	30	31				

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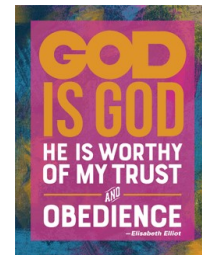
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Total Trust



Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot says our sovereign God is worthy of unquestioning obedience in matters both large and small. Such trust yields mighty results, she adds, providing Christians with rest, peace and guidance.

"God is God," says Elliot. "Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

About the role of obedience in prayer, Elliot asks, "Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person's seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next."