

Our Journey Together

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ushers & Greeters	2
Financial Update	2
Youth Ministry	2
Pecan Sales	2
Choir News	2
B'Days & Anniv.	2
Leadership Minutes	3-4
September Calendar	5
Who, me?	6

"In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit On those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy.—Acts 2:17

I believe it was Albert Einstein who once said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results. Together with the Leadership Team, we have begun to dream about how we, as a congregation, as leaders, as a church body, can be and do things differently to reach more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. As a part of that process, we have been DREAMING about what we would love to see for our church. We have shared dreams of a 20+ person choir, Sunday School rooms full of children, a playground on our property, an after-school program for elementary students, and on and on.

But we want to hear your dreams, too! What is your dream for our church? For the people in the pews? For how our building or property is used? For our service with and to our community? For how we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ? And for how we help others to be and grow as disciples?

Dreams are amazing things. In dreams we can sometimes hear the voice of God more clearly than when all of the noise of living surrounds us. In dreams, God can speak directly to our hearts and souls, without our over-thinking minds getting in the way. We will be exploring some records of dreams in Scriptures in our upcoming sermon series beginning Sept 10th, but (spoiler alert) what I really want you to take from the series is that all of our dreams are important, that God can and does use our dreams to guide us and show us what to do and where to go.

I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE everyone to join us on September 10th, as all of our fall programming gets underway, as we begin our Dream Big series, as we dream together about what our future as a church can and should be, and as we eat together (an activity sanctioned by Jesus, himself). We will be having a lunch served after church that day. Please make plans to join us! - Pastor Teresa

We want you to DREAM BIG!



Sept 10th: Sunday School @ 9:30, ages 4-5th grade
Choir @ 9:30, all ages, all who love music are invited.
Worship @ 10:30, Dream Big Sermon Series & Dreaming about the future of our church
Lunch is provided after worship. No need to bring anything other than yourselves!

FAITH—FRIENDS—FELLOWSHIP—FOOD!



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 September 19



September Ushers and Greeters

Sept 3 (Labor Day) & 10

Dwight & Sam Greenough

Sept 17 & 24

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 July 31, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$78,252.91
 2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: 96,738.88
 General Fund Difference: (18,485.97)

Our church choir will begin its season on Sept 10th at 9:30.

All are invited to come sing.



You do not need to have experience with music or singing. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, wrote in 1761, "Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing." Singing together is a blessing, and it is one we would love to share with you. Join us!



United Women in Faith Pecan Sales

It will soon be time to buy your new supply of pecans! Get your recipes ready, JoAnn Morford says to expect this year's supply to arrive around the 2nd week of October.

Our Youth Group (for grades 6-12) will begin on Sept 13th.



This year, when you sign up to bring a meal for our youth, you will be asked to stay for youth group, and hang out with us. This will give our youth a chance to connect with various members of our congregation. Sign up today for an opportunity to serve and be with these amazing young people!

Birthdays:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sep 6 Larry Hall | Sep 17 Merle Jenner |
| Sep 6 Rose Moncur | Sep 18 Marvin Hasart |
| Sep 7 Lilly Bowar | Sep 20 Steven Fernholz |
| Sep 7 Natalie Bowar | Sep 21 Hillary Smith |
| Sep 9 Chasitie Danburg | Sep 22 Chad Wharton |
| Sep 9 Terry Howard | Sep 24 Jaren Wharton |
| Sep 11 Curt Henson | Sep 25 Megan Fiala |
| Sep 17 Colton VanDerWerff | Sep 28 Brielee Conkey |
| | Sep 30 Paula Schwartz |



Anniversaries:

- Sept 12 Greg & Beth Palmer
- Sept 12 Josh & Kirstyn Ward
- Sept 14 Ron & Julie Hoftiezer
- Sept 15 Dennis & Connie Fawcett
- Sept 18 Eugene & Janice Moncur
- Sept 25 Lee & Ashley Conkey
- Sept 28 Andrew & Julie Canham

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

Leadership Team Meeting August 8, 2023

I. Call to Order

Because Chairperson, Joe Fiala excused himself from the meeting for a work-related phone call, Vice Chairperson, Linda Blackburn called the August 8, 2023 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:15 pm in the Library of the church. The sub-committees met for 15 minutes prior to the full team meeting.

Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Linda Blackburn, Andrea Fiala, Joe Fiala, Sara Gates, Chris Keeter, Eugene Moncur, Mike Moncur, JoAnn Morford, Karen Steptoe and JoAnn Testerman. Absent was Dwight Greenough. Visitors present were Merle Jenner and Shirley Hofer.

II. Loving

Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa led the group with a devotional from Upper Room *Disciplines*. This selection was based on Psalm 105.

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? Most of the members talked about the recent rains we received last week and the beauty of the crops and land in the area. Pastor Teresa related how she could see and feel God’s presence at the Suicide Prevention seminar she attended last week in Fargo.

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 July:

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

Vice Chairman Linda asked to move for approval of the Consent Calendar Andrea Fiala moved to approve the items of the Consent Calendar. Chris Keeter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

b. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Thurs. September 21** with sub-committees meeting at **5:00 pm** with the full Leadership Team at **5:30**.

IV. Leading

Vice Chairman Linda called for the meeting to move into the Sub-Committee reports.

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 \$10,756.85 and expenses at \$13,491.75 for a general fund difference of (\$2,734.90). YTD general fund difference of (\$18,485.97) The trend continues of more expense than revenue. There was some discussion of church attendance here as well as across the area and the whole country having an impact on revenues.

Trustees:

Chairman of Trustees, Andrea made a motion from Trustees to purchase two programable thermostats as quoted from Peitz and use funds from the Cotton Memorial account to pay for them. Sara Gates seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Andrea also told the Team about the stained-glass panels that go with the picture in the Fellowship Hall. These are side pieces that were part of the whole picture when they were in the old church in the 1950's and early '60's. They have been stored on a shelf in the electrical room.

She is asking if Leadership would like her to inquire further with Dakota Stained Glass in Garretson about getting them framed and possibly hang them so they can be seen/used. Everyone thought that would be good as they are very beautiful pieces.

At this point, Chairman, Joe resumed with the order of the meeting.

Staff-Parish Relations: Karen Steptoe and Pastor Teresa had discussed the 2023 Clergy- Church Annual Assessment which was filled out by PPR committee Karen Steptoe, Dwight Greenough and Pastor Teresa. It was decided that the Leadership might like to have copies of this report. This was handed out and there was some discussion of some the different questions. The group thought it was interesting to have that report. Pastor's time audit that she did for PPR was also shared to help group decide on sharing her time with Highmore/Harrold.

Decide on Fall/Winter worship time

After some discussion, Andrea Fiala made a motion to have worship start at 10:30 with Sunday School at 9:30 beginning the Sunday after Labor Day, September 10. Gene Moncur seconded the motion. Motion carried by all voting in favor.

"Dream Big" Sunday – September 10:

Chairman Joe reminded the group of things that were talked about last month of our "dream vision" for our church. What can we do to begin this process? Pastor Teresa said she is working on her message for that Sunday and thinking about more congregational involvement in part of the sermon. The Leadership Team decided they will do a noon meal that day. Mike and Joe said they will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Sara will donate the hotdogs, JoAnn Morford will donate the hamburgers and Karen and Andrea will organize the rest of meal details. There will be information about this in the September newsletter.

Thoughts on increasing revenue

After lots of discussion, Chairman, Joe broke the thoughts into 4 points:

1. Continuing with DS Dan Bader and the Highmore and Harrold churches of pastor partnership.
2. Getting more people involved in church happenings
3. Leadership developing an outreach of talking with people about attending church
4. Small groups doing things together, being there for each other and community within the church.

Joe said all of these things would have a direct impact on the finances.

Pastor's Report- Pastor Teresa said she had 2 parishioner visits and one counseling session. She had one Sunday off. She is doing a pre-marital class with a couple. On August 2 & 3 - she attended a Suicide Prevention Workshop in ND. August 10 - There is a Zoom meeting with Michael Beck author of Fresh Expressions about Dinner Church. She invited any who wanted to join in on that session with her. Aug. 15 -There will be a special conference session for voting of some other churches in the conference disaffiliation. This will be via Zoom.

Aug. 24 - she will have her yearly one on one meeting DS Bader.

Lay Leadership openings for the fall- There was a lot of discussion of positions that need to be filled.

Christian Ed is the main concern for Pastor Teresa. She will be talking with some possibilities for that. Nomination committee are those on the 2nd year of rotation of Leadership Team and Pastor Teresa. They will get together soon to work on filling positions.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:45 p.m.

JoAnn Testerman

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12 	13  6:00 Meal 6:30—7:30 Youth Group	14	15	16
17 Baptism: Oliver Laskarzewski 	18	19	20 • UWF Work Day Trinity 10-2 • Senior Boxes	21  Leadership Mtg 5pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28  Food Truck Noon-1	29	30

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>



Who, me? Yes, you!

**Who, Me?
Yes, You!**

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."