

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
MONDAY 1:00-4:00  
WEDNESDAY 9:00-12:00 , THURSDAY 9:00-12:00  
AND MOST FRIDAY MORNINGS

## NOVEMBER 2019

### Faith Takes Time

I am going to let our Bishop Bruce Ough provide the pastor's notes for this month on some important information about the transitional future of the United Methodist Church.

### A Time for New Birth

The United Brethren-Evangelical-Methodist-Wesleyan movement has witnessed, and endured, more than 25 separate divisions and mergers in its 236-year history. We can look to various causes for these actions, which include slavery, holiness, pew taxes, bishops, laity, the ordination of women, and more. The first major division came in 1784 when the Baltimore Christmas Conference concluded with the birth of a new denomination – the Methodist Episcopal Church – created separate and apart from the Church of England. John Wesley's work to bring spiritual and social holiness alive to the members of the church eventually evolved to the point that the Church of England was unable to hold the Methodists in place, and a new church came into being.

It seems more positive and joyful to claim the image of birth, than the images of schism, separation, and division — even though all those images carry with them the presence of pain and struggle as a new thing comes into being. In each occasion over the last nearly 240 years, a new entity has been birthed, either by the movement of part of the church to leave the larger body, for whatever reason, or the movement of separate parts of the Christian church believing they could serve Christ more powerfully if they were to come together as a new community of faith.

It appears that God's holy time has come to The United Methodist Church. A protracted and intractable issue is rising to the level of a dynamic and dire situation. Years of debate and legislation fail to bring the church closer. Significant segments of our denomination have intentions that do not reflect either the purpose of our life together nor the foundation of our life in Christ. Large portions of our church have decided to fight with one another and to place our energy into working to see how we might "win" in this significant family issue. We have experienced efforts to condemn one another, to place our will over one another, to defame the other person who disagrees with our belief and to ignore or demean the honest theologies and faith decisions of those on the other side. All these actions and intentions, all of them, are our shame, and have broken the ties that bind us, and have denied our hope that we would indeed be the people of God who know how to love one another. In a real sense, we have striven against one another like Jacob and Esau in the womb. As they fought one another, the Lord said to Rebekah, "...two different peoples will emerge from your body..." (Gen. 25:23).

As we admit these things to be so, perhaps at this point in our history and lineage of leaving and joining, it may be helpful to envision our church as preparing for birth. For whatever reason or reasons that we have claimed as near-essential for our life and governance, perhaps it's time to bring new life into being. Perhaps it is time for us to recognize that the battle in the womb of our church means that we have run out of room, and it is time for us to claim our separate places as God's people in this world. It is time for us to live no longer as one body, but as the newly birthed churches of a great tradition, always to be connected by our common history, but now free to bear witness to our faith with the path each of us will take. This is more than an amicable separation—this is the time for us to claim an intentional new life, and new lives as sibling denominations of the larger Methodist movement.

With any impending birth, much preparation is needed. The details of when and where and what may come next can all be answered and worked out in love. The structure and leadership of our current denomination will undoubtedly change, but perhaps, in love, we can find the ways to save each other's dignity, and still allow for mission and ministry to be shared as appropriate. Certainly, the mundane work of organizing conferences and leadership must be answered, but perhaps we can employ holy imagination as we work to set up new homes in which to live out our faith. This becomes easier, so long as each of us no longer needs to win.

*Letter continues on next page*

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

November 1 Mary Jane Eidsness  
Leondro Cavanaugh  
November 10 Kaylee Hodgins  
November 14 Tate Estenson  
November 17 Brandon Atherton  
November 24 Elaine Rath  
Marcia Ulrich  
November 25 James Kirk  
November 27 Gwen Hodgins

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November 16 Ronald & Charlotte Gonser  
November 25 Ron & Sonia Knutson

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LISTS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE. IF ANY OF THESE DATES ARE IN ERROR, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE. THANK YOU!

Remember our residents in our local care centers: Marge Bye and Ervin Harlow, as well as Harold Jorgenson (Bev Oehlke's father) in the Good Samaritan; Glenn Hodous, Delcie Light, Rena Aanstad, Lois Weed and Mary MacArthur at Eventide.

Do you have a family member serving in the military? We would be honored to list their names and stations in the newsletter so that they may be prayed for by those in the church. Please contact the office at 662-2873 to provide this information. Thanks!

We also have placed the basket of toy soldiers in the narthex, meant for people to take home as a reminder to pray for our military personnel.

## **WHAT ARE THE KIDS UP TO?**

Chloe Green is in the second grade at Sweetwater Elementary. She does basketball and volleyball and will be joining archery when it starts up again. She loves to read and watch tv and play with her friends. She is the best big (oldest) cousin a kid could ask for to Ryder, Dayna, Kylie, and Abby. She enjoys music and is high on life. She is a lot of fun in church school because she remembers so much and she always has great answers! Check out next month's featured student of **What Are the Kids Up To?**

*(Bishop's letter continues)*

Of course, we recognize that as exciting as birth can be, it still includes the pain and the sense of loss of a former way of life together. We experience death, even with new life, but perhaps with humility and prayer, and employing God's creative power and love, we may witness that this has become the Way Forward that we had hoped and prayed for – still preserving the unity of God's church, yet living with God's promise to do a new thing, and freed to share the essential love and good news of the Jesus Christ to a world in need, as God leads us in these new paths.

Drafted after a meeting and discussion convened by Bishop Bruce R. Ough, August 2019:

*Rev. Ray Baker*                      *Rev. Sara Nelson*  
*Rev. Derek Brown*                *Rev. Ross Reinhiller*  
*Rev. Thom Bowsher*              *Rev. Bob Ruedebusch*  
*Rev. Randy Cross* *Rev. Rebecca Trefz*  
*Rev. Karl Kroger*

Affirmed by the Dakotas Conference Common Table, September 20, 2019, for distribution to the members of the Dakotas Annual Conference.

## MISSIONS UPDATE

**Instead of a separate ONE THING project for November, we will focus on the annual Christmas Shoebox Project. Please consider filling a shoebox or two with items for the children of Spirit Lake. It's very easy:**

**\*Pick up an empty shoebox at church or use your own. (Available on landing in new wing.)**

**\*Fill it with suggested items per sheets available.**

**\*Wrap the shoebox or bring it to church and it will be wrapped here.**

**If you only wish to *wrap* empty shoeboxes, we appreciate that as well. Or, you may only wish to *donate items* for the boxes. And we can always use more empty shoeboxes. We would like to have the shoeboxes completed by Thanksgiving so they can be picked up by Pastor Mike for disbursement at Christmas.**

## **FUMC Finance Report    Operating Fund through October 31, 2019**

Income            \$9,193.30 (this reflects no church on Oct. 13th)

\*Amount needed per month to meet our 2019 budget is \$11,667.00

Remember to send in your offering when you're not in church. Consider the option of automatic withdrawals from your bank. Thank you for your giving!

## FUMC Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2019

**Members present:** Pastor Lori Broschat, Arlene Kirk, Ray Russell, Perry Lundon, Tana Triepke, Joyce Carter, Chuck and Jonielle Soderstrom, Rodney Brown, Gwen Hodgins, Bev Oehlke, Fran Dockter, and Marcia Ulrich.

**Call to Order:** Chuck called the meeting to order. Pastor Lori offered devotions.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chuck called for approval of the September 2019 minutes as corrected; motion made by Rodney, seconded by Leo, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Perry presented the statement from Western Bank showing a checking account balance of \$27,778.33. The General Fund is in the red; Paul usually recoups this from the memorial fund balance. Perry moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Ray, motion carried.

**Finance Committee Report:** Leo presented a proposed 2020 budget developed by the finance committee prior to tonight's meeting. The primary budgeted items consist of the following:

*Conference Related Accounts* - \$43,365 (Apportionments, Pension Direct Bill, HealthFlex Direct Bill)

*Pastoral Related Accounts* - \$58,375 (parsonage utilities, accountable reimbursements)

*Repair and Maintenance* - \$10,000 (custodial, snow removal, building repair and maintenance)

*Church Utilities* - \$10,000

*Church Administrative Accounts* - \$11,350 (payroll tax, office expense, insurance)

*Church Education* - \$200

*Evangelism* - consists of Radio Ministry. The current expense outweighs sponsored payments. Is this effective, and can the money be better spent elsewhere? Program currently budgeted at \$2,500 for a full year.

*Missions* - \$1,300 (Benevolence, Hope Center)

Total Budget proposed is **\$139,340**. Perry moved to accept the budget as presented, minus the radio ministry, seconded by Fran, motion carried. The new budget is now **\$136,840**.

**Board of Trustees Report:** Ray reported that no recent meeting has been held. They are focused on keeping things operational. The microphones were sent in for assessment and will either be fixed or replaced. Chuck said he ordered one case of light bulbs at a cost of less than \$62 per case. He also talked with Steve Britsch about paying for parking in our large parking lot; we now expect payment by first of the year. Bob Wang has framework for the outdoor sign door done with the rest of project on hold. Chuck referenced a snow removal contract with Klemer's that may have been misplaced. Snow removal will be \$10 more per hour this year, which is still less than with other snow removers. Chuck moved to accept the contract, seconded by Ray, motion carried.

**Staff Parish Relations Report:** Tana reported the committee met yesterday and completed forms which were submitted to the finance committee.

**Missions Report:** Marcia reported a successful Missions Brunch on September 29th with \$297 received as a donation to Spirit Lake Ministries. The current project is Shoeboxes for Christmas; boxes and wrapping paper are available. The monthly One Thing projects seem to be going well.

**UMW Report:** Joyce reported the next meeting is in December. They will participate in the Trunk and Treat on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. The focus now is the UMW bazaar on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Grace and Joyce went to the UMW annual meeting in Pierre, SD last month.

**Education Committee Report:** Jonielle reported about 9 children in Church School program this year. Snacks are being done at the beginning versus the end. Starting October 30<sup>th</sup>, they plan to feed the kids and families at Church School on the last Wednesday of the month. Tana will send messages to parents about the upcoming events and invite them to attend. Each child will be given \$10 from the noisy bucket fund rather than an abundance of candy at the upcoming Trunk and Treat. Instead of a Christmas program, there will be an end of year program with the kids.

**Youth Group Report:** Tana reported talking to several women in the church about coordinating the youth program. They plan to meet the first and third Sundays at 5 pm starting October 27th. They want to invite the youth to make a wish list of items for the youth room to make it more inviting for them to come and continue to attend.

**Worship Committee Report:** Pastor Lori feels the current offering envelopes are too large for the pew holders; she found shorter ones which she can purchase for about \$20 for 500 envelopes. December 1st is the start of Advent, so we need to decorate the church prior to that, maybe over the Thanksgiving weekend.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Lori reported the charge conference is Saturday, Oct 26th in Rock Lake, starting at 4 pm and includes a meal. Lori finished the second course of the masters program; the main project is ongoing, and the current course is stewardship of human interactions. This requires looking at change management within an organization. Her thought is to use youth for this project, creating a comfortable space for them within the church. From the finance course came a narrative budget idea that she will share with the finance committee. The first half of Breakthrough Prayer training was completed; the second half will be done via video conference with those who attended.

**Old Business:** Tana reported that due to a conflict with the Charge Conference date, Pastor Mike has suggested a Spirit Lake Mission trip with our congregation in the spring before the mission teams arrive.

**New Business:** Joyce would like to see our church have a family game night in January. She feels this is a great way for folks to become more acquainted.

Meeting was adjourned. Pastor Lori dismissed us with a prayer. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm  
 Respectively submitted by Marcia Ulrich, Ad Council Secretary

As noted in the minutes above and in the box just below this, our radio ministry is in its last days. We do not have adequate monthly sponsorships to cover the cost of the program, and we no longer receive any monetary donations through the mail from listeners. It was decided by the council to discontinue our Sunday morning sermon on the radio after the end of 2019, but we will continue the daily devotions, as we are not charged for those. Our live Christmas Eve broadcast will also continue.

**FAITH TALK IS WORKING THROUGH  
 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES**

**IF YOU'VE NEVER READ OR STUDIED JUDGES, COME AND LEARN SOME OF THE MOST UNIQUE LESSONS FROM THE BIBLE, WITH LARGER THAN LIFE FIGURES AND STORIES THAT RIVAL FICTION!**

**JOIN US FOLLOWING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

*Please be in prayer for:* Sylvia Loehr, Mark Restemayer, Naomi Modrow, Glenn Hodous, Delcie Light, Jolene Wee, Becky Durbin, Tari Owlboy, those battling cancer (Denice, Dennis, Keith, Doug). Please pray for the finances of our church and for those who are unemployed or underemployed. Pray for the members of the military as well as fire, police, and emergency medical services. Pray for our children, our schools and all who work with them. Pray for our country. Pray for our denomination to stay united amid discord and disagreement. Pray for those who no longer feel welcome in the UMC.

*If you have prayer concerns please contact Pastor Lori at 381-0755. These can be private or shared concerns.*

**Breakthrough Prayer**

*Stop and pray this prayer daily at a time convenient for you. Be open to the changes God can bring to your life and to the life of our Church.*

Lord, I pray for breakthroughs in my life, my church, and the world. Give me faith to see your Spirit at work. Reveal what you want to do through me. I trust in your grace in Jesus' name. Amen.

**KDLR Radio Broadcast Ministry**

Our Sunday morning radio broadcast costs us \$60 per week. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday in honor or memory of someone, please send your donation to the church office and let us know what Sunday you wish to sponsor. A sign-up sheet is also available in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Please listen to our weekly morning devotions at 6:10 am and our Sunday morning sermon broadcast at 9:05 a.m. on KDLR 1240 AM or 99.7 FM.

**Contact the church office or use the form in the sanctuary to sponsor a Sunday.**

- November 3      Open**
- November 10    Open**
- November 17    Open**
- November 24    By Nancy Ludson in honor of Marcia Ulrich's birthday**

**We appreciate your participation in this special ministry.**

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**OCTOBER WEEKLY ATTENDANCE**

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Average</u>
<b>2019</b>	57	N/A	45	48		50
<b>2018</b>	60	37	65	68		58

**By your regular attendance and invitation to bring a friend to worship, your church is blessed and nurtured.**

Calling all music lovers.....

I am hoping to get the handbell choir started again this fall. If anyone is interested, including youth, please let me know. If enough interest, we will work on finding a day and time that works best.

Thanks.....Nancy Ludson

# NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 AA 7:00 pm
3 Communion Faith Talk	4 Choir 5:30	5	6 Church School 5 pm	7 Men's Prayer Break- fast 8:00 am	8	9 AA 7:00 pm
10 Faith Talk	11 Choir 5:30	12	13 Church School 5 pm Evening Circle 7:00	14 Men's Prayer Break- fast 8:00 am	15	16 AA 7:00 pm
17 Faith Talk	18 Miriam Circle 1:30 pm @Fran's apt. Choir 5:30	19	20 Church School 5 pm Ad Council 7:00 pm	21 Men's Prayer Break- fast 8:00 am; Ladies Lunch 11:30 am	22	23 AA 7:00 pm
24 Faith Talk	25 Choir 5:30	26	27 Church School 5 pm	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29	30 AA 7:00 pm

## NOVEMBER SERVING GROUP

### *Chairpersons:*

Vance & Hope Jury 662-2070  
 Chuck & Jonielle Soderstrom 662-6060

### *Helpers:*

Rena Aanstad 662-5435  
 Gayle Gette 662-4256  
 Matthew & Cami Hodgins 662-1818  
 Jocelyn Soderstrom 662-1951

Office hours at the church are changing slightly, as Pastor Lori will now have Tuesday as her day off rather than Thursday. The office will be open Monday 1:00-4:00, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00-12:00, and most Friday mornings after 10:00. Please call prior to visiting the church, as circumstances may change.

## SCRIPTURE READERS

*November 3* Nancy Lundon  
*November 10* Marcia Ulrich  
*November 17* Joyce Carter  
*November 24* Chuck Soderstrom



## USHERS

*November 3* Perry & Nancy Lundon  
*November 10* Dennis & Joyce Anderson  
*November 17* Chuck & Jonielle Soderstrom  
*November 24* Vance & Hope Jury

## OFFERING COUNTERS

Charlotte Gonsler & Mary Oehlke

## Snow Removal Schedule

November 3 through 9 Open  
 November 10 through 16 Open  
 November 17 through 23 Perry Lundon  
 November 24 through 30 Open

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our church has so many good activities to support the community and for our kids, youth group, families, and all members. But, we can only continue to do all these things with your financial support. We are still falling behind on our budget; and, we need your help to “catch up” during the last two months of the year.

Please consider a special donation to at least match what you have given in past years, or give more if possible. We appreciate your past support for the church; and, we need your help during the next two months to cover church expenses for the year.

Remember the opportunity for on-line giving to the church. There are several church members and supporters who have set up automatic contributions on a regular basis. Just contact Gwen Hodgins for instructions on how to set up automatic offerings to the church.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and your gifts.

Finance Committee

*We need you to be part of an awesome experience*

We have been talking about Breakthrough Prayer for several weeks. We know that prayer is important to our lives, our faith and our community. Breakthrough prayer creates opportunities to take the gift of prayer outside the church walls and into the lives of people who are without the knowledge of the power of prayer.

UPDATE: The first half of the video seminar on Breakthrough Prayer has been completed by six of our congregation. We expect the second half to be made available by the end of this year. In the meanwhile, if you are interested in this training and have questions, please contact Pastor Lori. Those who are part of the lay leadership of the church should consider attending, as well as those who were a part of the prayer group gathering held earlier this year. Yet this vital ministry can be something everyone in our church would benefit from within their personal and spiritual lives.

Marcia Ulrich would like to form a core Breakthrough Prayer group within our congregation that might grow into an active prayer ministry. Please talk with her about being a part of this and share your ideas.

***Prayerfully consider this...“Just as the physical body requires food for fuel, the body of Christ, the church, requires food as well. And that fuel is prayer.”***

**WHO'S IN THE PEWS?** Following a recent suggestion by a parishioner, a short questionnaire was created as a fun way to get to know our church family. These will be included in the newsletter as we receive them. Maybe you'll find something in common with someone and start a conversation!

**NAME:** Carol Mangham  
**SPOUSE'S NAME:** N/A  
**# OF CHILDREN:** 2  
**# OF GRANDCHILDREN:** 2  
**PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:** N/A  
**JOB TITLE:** N/A  
**# OF YEARS AT THIS JOB:** N/A  
**RETIRED:** Yes  
**# OF YEARS IN DEVILS LAKE:** 2.5 years  
**HOME TOWN:** Duluth, Minnesota  
**FAVORITE HOLIDAY:** Christmas  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Fish  
**HOBBIES:** Reading  
**WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?:** I love to chat on the phone.

**NAME:** Bev Oehlke  
**SPOUSE'S NAME:** Clint  
**# OF CHILDREN:** 2  
**# OF GRANDCHILDREN:** 0  
**PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:** Lake Region Corporation  
**JOB TITLE:** Certified Support Staff  
**# OF YEARS AT THIS JOB:** 14  
**RETIRED:** N/A  
**# OF YEARS IN DEVILS LAKE:** N/A  
**HOME TOWN:** Leeds, North Dakota  
**FAVORITE HOLIDAY:** Christmas  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** French toast and bacon  
**HOBBIES:** Crosswords, counted cross stitch & Garfield  
**WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?:** I like football.