



2024
Volume: 128

December Inspire

Prayer List: Government officials, World leaders and Local leaders.

Prayers for Alan Stults (Mark Stults brother who is fighting cancer), Holly Hedge, Rich and Sharon Cooper, Brandon Rosenau (Marilyn's grandson) for a successful liver transplant, Grayson Chapeau, Pat Patterson (cancer), Rhian Elmido, Clifford & Elsie Hanson, Mark Milton (inoperable cancer), Barb Howe, Larry Jebens cancer problem (Les and Karen's neighbor), Connie Zimbleman and Larry Reuppel. **Please let Marie know of any changes.**

"Season of Waiting"

I started my day with coffee and a discussion. We talked about what we think of when we talk about Advent. Some said - the story of the coming Jesus. Others said something about family and preparing to gather. Still others talked about being grateful for all we have, even though maybe we can't do the things we used to do.

The Bible passages in Advent help us remember that this is a season of waiting. Jeremiah 33:14-16 is one of the lectionary Old Testament scriptures I read this morning, and he tells us "the days are coming." The gospel of Luke 21:26-36 is a warning. It tells us we must "Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

I told the group at coffee that it might not seem like Christmas is coming when we're talking about warnings. But, it is true that if we are not thinking just about the coming of Christ, but potentially the coming of the Kingdom, maybe we need to heed the warning. Be always on the watch and avoid being "weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life" (as Luke tells us - 21:34).

Let us remember to take time to enjoy every day. And, let us carry the joy through each moment of the day. Let us gather our family as close as we can. Let us be grateful for all our blessings. And, may we be watchful - may we anticipate the coming of the newborn King!

As you review the events and activities for December in this month's Inspire, please note that our Christmas Eve service is at 3:00 p.m. Rides will be available by simply calling the office, if you need one. The service will again be "9 Lessons and Carols" and will tell the Christmas story through readings, special music and congregational singing. The service concludes with our traditional candlelight singing of Silent Night.

Are you paying attention during Advent? What does God have in store?

With hope for a Peaceful Advent Season and a Glorious Christmas!
Pastor Randy

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PASTOR RANDY'S regularly scheduled office hours are **Monday: 9-11 a.m., Tuesday Mornings, 10:00 a.m. to 11a.m.** and **Wednesdays from 1 - 3 p.m.** If you would like to schedule a visit or need him, please call the office and let Marie know, or email him at: pastorandy1057@gmail.com

THE KING'S MEN will meet in the **Fireside room Sunday, December 1st after worship.**

DEACONS MEETING is on **Sunday, December 8th in the Fireside room after Worship.**

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING will be held on **December 22nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room**

RECOVER the PEWS CAMPAIGN: Here's an opportunity to help cover the costs of reupholstering our pews! Both the seat and the back will be upholstered. Your gift or memorial will be recognized with a plaque attached to a pew or chair. It will be like the current plaques on the pews. The placement of a plaque is not a seat or pew reservation!! The project cost is estimated to be \$21,100.00.

Your gift or memorial may be paid in a lump sum at the time of your gift or in equal semi-annual, quarterly or 12 monthly payments.

HERE'S THE DETAILS:

Pews in the Nave at \$600 a pew – 30 available.

Pews in the Choir Loft at \$500 a pew – only 4 available on a first come basis.

Chairs in the Chancel at \$200 a chair – only 3 available on a first come basis.

Pledge forms are available in the office.

Thank you for your consideration.

POINSETTIAS: THIS YEAR POINSETTIES WILL BE PROVIDED. All you need to do is fill out the form for Poinsettias on the back page and give to Marie, so recognition may be given in the bulletin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.



NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR. Please welcome our new choir director, Holly Hedge! Holly comes to us with experience as a choir director for several churches over the years. She is already planning and is inviting others to join the choir! Holly will start in January, after she recovers from hip surgery. She looks forward to making great music with our wonderful choir!

The **Mission Committee** will once again sponsor the **Elder Tree** to benefit 18 residents of Spearfish Canyon Healthcare F/K/A The Dorsett Home. If you would like to participate, please take an angel tree ornament with gift tag attached from the Elder Tree which is in the back of the church. There will be a number on the tag which represents one of the residents. A list of gift items for that particular resident is listed on the tag. Please purchase any of these gift items. You are NOT required to purchase all that are listed. Please place your purchased items in a gift bag and place it under the Elder Tree **WITH THE GIFT TAG ATTACHED**. We MUST have the gift tag attached so that we can match the gift to the correct resident. You may keep the angel ornament or pass it along to the resident. We need your gifts under the tree **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**. If you have questions or unable to make the December 15th deadline, please call **Marcie Nuenke 605-717-7808** or **Trudy Crawford 605-641-0994**.

The Special UCC Offering, The Christmas Fund, has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. The theme for this year's Christmas Fund Collection is "The Glory of God shone around them...." Luke 2:9. Your care and compassion will make a tangible difference in the lives of our ministers, church workers, and their families. The **Christmas Fund Collection will take place on Sunday, December 22nd**. The collection jar will be on the table in the back of the church if you would like to participate. Checks should be made payable directly to The Christmas Fund or to Spearfish UCC with The Christmas Fund in the memo line.



Merry Christmas

~ DECEMBER 2024 Calendar ~

Sunday 12/1 9:00 a.m. **Worship W/Communion**
First Sunday of Advent
Fellowship

After service Fireside Rm. **King's Men's Group Mtg.**

Tues. 12/03 9:00 a.m. **Coffee @ BK**

Wed. 12/04 10:30 a.m. **Chapel @ Edgewood Vista**

Sunday 12/8 9:00 a.m. **Worship/Fellowship**
 After service Fireside Rm. **Deacon's Mtg.**

Tues. 12/10 9:00 A.M. **Coffee @ BK**

Sunday 12/15 9:00 a.m. **Worship/Fellowship**

Tues. 12/17 9:00 A.M. **Coffee @ BK**

Wed. 12/18 1:00 p.m. **Women's Fellowship**

Sat. 12/21 5:00 p.m. **Blue Christmas @ Belle Fourche**

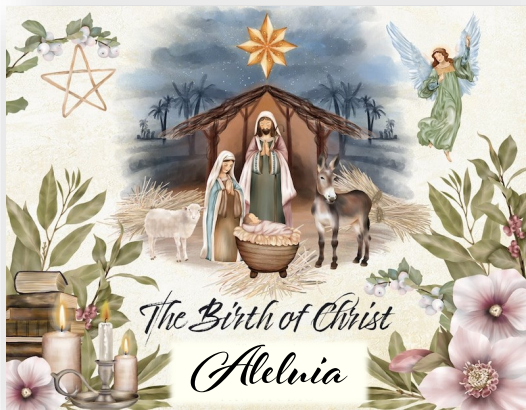
Sunday 12/22 9:00 a.m. **Worship/Fellowship**
 After Service **Council Mtg.**

Tues. 12/24 3:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service**

Tues. 12/25 **Office Closed** **Christmas Day**

Sunday 12/29 9:00 a.m. **Worship/Fellowship**

Tues. 12/31 9:00 A.M. **Coffee @ BK**



Marie's Office Hours:
M,T,W,T: 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 Closed Fridays

December Altar & Tables Committee

Kathy Eddy: Altar
 Sally Levengood: Tables

December Birthdays

8th: Marcie Nuenke
 9th: Ricky Eckhart
 11th: Torin Zehfus
 18th: Josie Grimmett
 20th: Connie Zimbleman
 Keith Bergstrom
 Jason Johnston
 22nd: Karen Turgeon
 Kristi Corey

Happy Birthday!

December Anniversaries

31st. Stephen & Summer Digioia

Happy Anniversary!

December Liturgists

1st: Jo Hansen
 8th: Brian Eberhard
 15th: Rosalie Aslesen
 22nd:
 24th: Jim Hood

December Ushers & Greeters

1st: Marna Bergstrom & Umphrey
 8th: Lynne Quissell & Conny Zimbleman
 15th: Lynne Quissell & Sally Levengood
 22nd: Katie Hood
 29th: Katie Hood

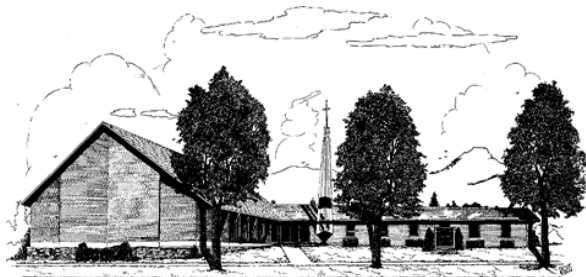
November Attendance & Facebook Viewers

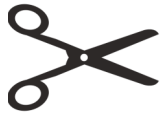
Nov. 3rd: 55/ Viewers: 2
Nov. 10th: 47 / Viewers: 2
Nov. 17th: 53 / Viewers: 2
Nov. 24th: 45 / Viewers: 2

INSPIRE

Spearfish United Church of Christ
 920 Main Street, Spearfish, SD 57783

Pastor: Randy Hedge: pastorrandy1057@gmail.com
 Shirley Jenssen 222-2250
 Marie Hanson 642-8253
 Email: ucc1@rushmore.com





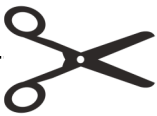
POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

YOUR NAME _____

— POINSETTIAS WILL BE PROVIDED —



2025 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

I plan to give \$ _____ each _____ week _____ month in 2025 _____

For an annual total of \$ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church office.

**United Church of Christ
Congregational
Spearfish, SD**

For Your Records

Date _____

With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ for the year 2025.

I plan to give \$ _____

Each _____ Week _____ Month

Annual Total: _____

