



PRAYER LIST: World, National, and Local leaders. Paula Cotrill; Rodger, Michele (parents), and Dylan Slott (spinal cord injury); Mel Cooper (for successful surgeries – Rich and Sharon’s daughter, friend of Dana Eberhard); Grayson Chapeau; Pat Patterson (cancer); Rhian Elmid (sponsored child); Elsie Hanson; Angie Riggs (friend of Lorie Umphrey – 3rd round of cancer battle); Les Turgeon; June Klinkel; Lorrie Loobey (Jo Hansen’s sister) and Martina Loobey (Jo Hansen’s niece) for health concerns; Marna Bergstrom for recovery.

Please let Shirley B. know of any updates or additions.

Grateful to have served!



The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8

Dear Friends,

My time serving you is coming to a close. I want you to know how blessed I feel to have been convinced in early 2022 by Shirley Jenssen and Glenn Umphrey that I should come out of my retirement and serve as your part-time pastor. It was suggested that I consider serving for at least three or four years, and, well, here we are! You have been so gracious and understanding as I have dealt with health issues, loss of family members, and the challenges of commuting to work from Elmore.

Through a lot of prayer, we have worked together at our Placerville retreats and in Council to follow what God is calling us to do. We also did a lot of listening. And, we had the commitment to follow the path revealed. We have also identified and utilized the unique spiritual gifts that God has provided. I pray we continue following God’s path and utilizing our unique individual gifts for the work of this church.

Deuteronomy 31 is a model in the Bible for transition of leadership. It helps us understand that Moses led God’s people for 40 years to the edge of the promised land. God then instructed Moses to appoint Joshua as his successor. He was to finish leading the people - crossing the Jordan and beginning the conquest into the Promised Land. A different time and a different challenge required a different leader.

So, what does this point in time require for qualities you need in a new pastor? You have a vision of becoming a vibrant church for people of all ages. How will you accomplish this?

Thank you all for your support of my time leading you. You have been a blessing to both me and Holly. Know we will remain in this church, and are looking forward to doing ministry in a different way. We will be traveling quite a bit, and just know I'll need to fade into the background when a new pastor is appointed.

May God Bless this church!

Pastor Randy

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: Please note that office hours are changing! Starting January 1, 2026, the office will be open from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday.

COFFEE TIME: Looking for a great small group? Our weekly coffee group is a social group with a purpose. We meet every week for an hour, and after some social time, we dig into the Word a bit. This group gets a preview of the scripture and discusses the topic and direction the sermon may be headed on Sunday. **Join our group for the Coffee/Bible Study at Burger King at 9:00 a.m. every Tuesday.**

DEACONS MEETING: No Deacons Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 11** due to the potluck dinner. Glenn will coordinate a different date.

COUNCIL MEETING: A Council Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 25** after the worship service.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND INSPIRES: Large print bulletins are available! Just ask the ushers for one. Large print Inspires are available on the table in the back of the church.

MODERATOR NEWS: Moderator Shirley Jenssen reports that she has had a change of plans, and will continue in the position of Moderator until the end of her term (2026).

PLUIMERS: The Pluimers have moved to Rapid City! Their new address is: Juels and Diane Pluimer, c/o Sylvia & Zach Kahl, 1021 East Meade Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

OUR DAILY BREAD: The March-May 2026 issue of Our Daily Bread is available on the glass counter. Please help yourselves!

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

MISSIONS NEWS:

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Missions Elder Tree. The 12 gift bags were delivered to the Spearfish Canyon Healthcare, previously known as The Dorset Home. The staff was extremely appreciative and told us how much these gifts make a real positive impact on the lives of the residents. What a joy to help those in need in our community!

The Special UCC Offering, The Christmas Fund, took place on Sunday, December 21st. \$264 in donations were received for The Christmas Fund. Thanks to all who supported the Christmas Fund Collection this year.

We will continue to provide fruits and veggies for the Good Shepherd Clinic on the 3rd Monday of each month. A new sign up sheet for 2026 will be on the glass counter in January if you would like to volunteer. More information is available on the sign up sheet. If you have any questions please call Marcie Nuenke 605-717-7808 or 605-639-9719.



GREENERY ARRANGEMENTS: Special thanks to Kathy Eddy for the Christmas arrangements in the front and back of the church. The one in the front is dedicated to her father Jim Eddy, and the one in the back is dedicated to her mother Shirley Eddy. Thanks, Kathy!



ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

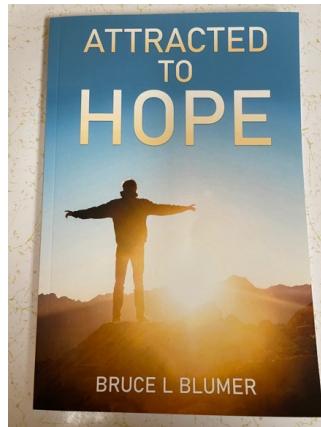
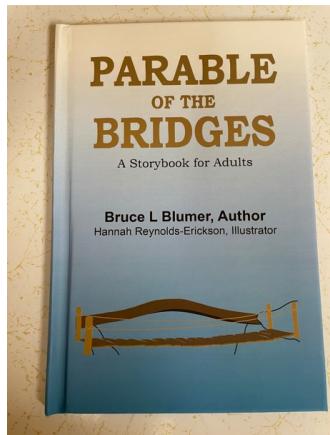
INTERIM PASTOR: On December 28, the Church Council voted to extend an Interim Pastor and Teacher Trial Agreement to Pastor Todd Jones for a period of 3 months. Todd accepted and signed the Agreement on December 29. Todd was already committed to a previous assignment for the months of January through March of 2026. This means that Todd will act as our interim pastor from April 1 to June 30, 2026.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING: The 2025 Annual meeting will be held following the worship service on the first Sunday of February, **February 1, 2026**. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

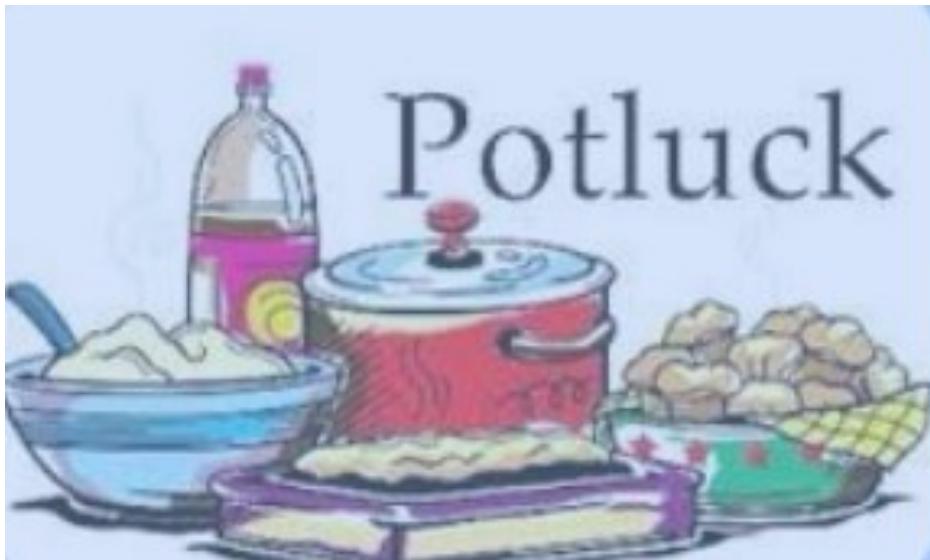
New Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
8:00 am– 12:00 noon

2025 Annual Meeting
Sunday,
February 1, 2026
After worship service

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION



Author Bruce Blumer will be preaching on **Sunday, January 11th**. Books will be on the back table in the Sanctuary if you would like to purchase them. All proceeds go to Bruce's mission in Haiti - "Haiti Alive." The cost is \$15 for both books. Cash is fine, or checks can be made out to Haiti Alive.



We're having a Potluck Dinner to honor Pastor Randy's time as our pastor! It will be held after services on **Sunday, January 11**. There is no sign up sheet for this potluck - bring whatever you like. Please join us for this special event!

~~JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR~~

Thurs	1/1		New Year's Day — office closed —
Sun	1/4	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship (no communion)
Tues	1/6	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at BK
Sun	1/11	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Potluck dinner after service
Tues	1/13	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at BK
Sun	1/18	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship
Mon	1/19		Martin Luther King Jr Day — office closed —
Tues	1/20	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at BK
Thurs	1/22	5:00 pm	Grief Support Group
Sun	1/25	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Council meeting after service
Tues	1/27	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at BK
		10:00 am	February Inspire Deadline
Thurs	1/29	5:00 pm	Grief Support Group



January Anniversaries

** none **

January Birthdays

Jan 2	Carl Deranleau
Jan 6	Shirley Aman
Jan 11	Marilyn Rosenau
Jan 12	Katie Hood
Jan 22	David Crawford



If your birthday or anniversary is missing or wrong, please let the office know so we can update our records. Thank you!



January Liturgists

Jan 4	Rosalie Aslesen
Jan 11	Katie Hood
Jan 18	Shirley Jenssen
Jan 25	Jim Hood

January Ushers & Greeters

Jan 4	Cindy and Alan Merkel
Jan 11	N/A
Jan 18	N/A
Jan 25	Katie Hood

December Attendance & Facebook Viewers

Dec 7	41 / FB: 3
Dec 14	37 / FB: N/A
Dec 21	47 / FB: 3
Dec 24	68 / FB: N/A
Dec 28	26 / FB: 3

January Good Shepherd Clinic Volunteers

Fruit & Veggies:
Clinic Closed for Holiday

January Altar & Tables Committee

Alter: Rosalie Aslesen
Tables: Connie Zimbleman

Shirley's Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am—12:00 noon

INSPIRE

**Spearfish United Church of Christ Congregational
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