

Spearfish United Church of Christ Congregational

2026
Volume: 142

February
Inspire



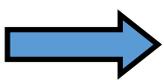
PRAYER LIST: World, National, and Local leaders. Paula Cotrill; Rodger, Michele (parents), and Dylan Slott (spinal cord injury); Mel Cooper (for successful surgeries – Rich and Sharon’s daughter, friend of Dana Eberhard); Grayson Chapeau; Pat Patterson (cancer); Rhian Elmid (sponsored child); Elsie Hanson; 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; Jo Hansen; Elaine Jongeling.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours have changed for 2026. The office will be open five days a week, 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 Edgewood at 9:00 a.m. every Tuesday.



Note that the Coffee Time/Bible Study group has moved their meeting location to Edgewood every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

DEACONS MEETING: A Deacons Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 8** after the worship service .

COUNCIL MEETING: There will be no February Council Meeting.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND INSPIRES: Large print bulletins and Inspires are now available. If you would like one printed for you, please contact the church office at 605-642-8253.

LITURGIST AND USHER/GREETER SIGNUP: Signup sheets for Liturgists and for Usher/Greeters for 2026 are now available on the glass counter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

2025 ANNUAL REPORT: Printed copies of the 2025 Spearfish United Church of Christ Annual Report to the Church are available on the table at the back of the church. The 2026 Annual Meeting, which will discuss this report, will be held following the worship service on the first Sunday of February, **February 1, 2026**. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

CHURCH WEBSITE: We need your help keeping the church's website up-to-date! Please visit the website at <https://uccspearfish.org>. If you see anything that needs to be updated or corrected, or there is anything you'd like to see added, please contact Shirley B at 605-642-8253. We had over 100 visitors on our website in December. Most visitors find the website through a Google search.

OUR DAILY BREAD: The March-April-May 2026 *Our Daily Bread* booklets are available on the glass counter. Please help yourselves!

MISSIONS NEWS:

Our church 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 is on the glass counter 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.

We have received a letter from Rhian, our Mission Sponsored child from the Philippines. Her recent letter is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Missions will once again sponsor a Lenten Food Collection to benefit the Spearfish Food Pantry. There will be a food collection bin at the back of the church beginning Sunday, February 22nd. The Lenten Food Collection will continue throughout Lent ending on Palm Sunday, March 29 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity to help those in our community during the Lenten Season.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18.



ASH WEDNESDAY

UCC CONCERT SERIES: February 15, 2:00 pm, UCC—“Trio Camerata” will present a concert of flute and keyboard music featuring Vivaldi’s “Spring” and other favorites by Italian composers. The Trio is a group of performers who enjoy pleasing audiences with interesting and new arrangements of traditional music. Katrina Garnett received a Masters degree in flute performance from the University of Wyoming and has been a member of the Music Faculty at BHSU for five years. Dr. Rodney Garnett taught flute and ethnomusicology at University of Wyoming, and has performed extensively with orchestras, jazz and folk ensembles. Dr. Janeen Larsen taught courses in music history, theory, and piano at BHSU for 32 years, and has performed regularly as a jazz and classical pianist.



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. He will also be filling the pulpit on February 1 and on March 1. (See the greeting from Pastor Todd on page 4.)



ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR TODD:

Grace and peace to you, Spearfish UCC Congregational family. I am honored and excited to be joining you as your Interim Pastor beginning (officially) Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. I am grateful for the years Pastor Randy Hedge served and for his wisdom and care for this congregation, even as I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you during this season of change in the life of the church.

As I step into this role, I am guided by the words of Scripture found in Joshua 1:9: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” These words remind us that God is present with us in times of transition, calling us forward with courage, trust, and hope.

I am a graduate of Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where I earned both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Alcohol and Drug Addiction Ministry. I was ordained by Radnor Congregational UCC on March 1, 1998, and have had the privilege of serving churches in eastern South Dakota and Iowa before moving to the Black Hills in 2017. While I have not served in full-time ministry for several years, I have remained active as a worship leader and pulpit supply pastor.

I will admit that I was not seeking to serve as a part- or full-time pastor when conversations began with your Search Committee. Yet, I am deeply humbled and excited to accept this call and to walk alongside you as pastor. As with all change, there will be a time of adjustment as we learn of and from one another. During this time, let us remain open to how God is speaking and shaping us—both as individuals and as the Body of Christ.

As we move forward together, let us lean into God’s Word for us in Joshua 1:9, trusting that God’s promises never fail. Thank you for your commitment to this church and for welcoming me into your church family. Together, may we continue to be people of faith, remembering that “God is still speaking,” holding to unity in what is essential, liberty in non-essentials, and in all things, charity.

With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Todd Jones

~ FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR ~

Sun	2/01	9:30 am	Worship/Communion/Fellowship Annual meeting after service
Tues	2/03	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Thurs	2/05	5:00 pm	Grief Support Group
Sun	2/08	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Deacons Meeting after service
Tues	2/10	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Thurs	2/12	5:00 pm	Grief Support Group
Sun	2/15	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship
		2:00 pm	UCC Concert Series concert
Mon	2/16	President's Day — office closed —	
Tues	2/17	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study @ Edgewood
Wed	2/18	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins	
		1:00 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thurs	2/19	5:00 pm	Grief Support Group
Fri	2/20	10:00 am	March Inspire Deadline
Sun	2/22	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship No Council Meeting
Tues	2/24	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study @ Edgewood
Thurs	2/26	5:00 pm	Grief Support Group



February Anniversaries

*** none ***

February Birthdays

Feb 4 Shirley Jenssen
Feb 12 Gary Zimbleman
Feb 25 Vance Umphrey

HAPPY
Birthday

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



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

February Liturgists

Feb 1 Rosalie Aslesen
Feb 8 Katie Hood
Feb 15 Connie Zimbleman
Feb 22 Glenn Umphrey

February Ushers & Greeters

Feb 1 Katie Hood
Feb 8
Feb 15 Shirley Aman
Feb 22

January Attendance & Facebook Viewers

Jan 4 33 / FB Viewers 5
Jan 11 46 / FB Viewers 2
Jan 18 34 / FB Viewers 1
Jan 25 31 / FB Viewers 2

February Good Shepherd Clinic Volunteers

Fruit & Veggies:
Clinic Closed for Holiday

February Altar & Tables Committee

Alter: Rosalie Aslesen
Tables: Marcie Nuenke

INSPIRE

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