

Spearfish United Church of Christ Congregational

2026
Volume: 144

April
INSPIRE



Prayer List: World, National, and Local leaders. Paula Cottrill; Rodger, Michele (parents), and Dylan Slott (spinal cord injury); Grayson Chapeau; Pat Patterson (cancer); Rhian Elmid (sponsored child); Elsie Hanson; Angie Riggs (friend of Lorie Umphrey – 3rd round of cancer battle); Les Turgeon; Lorrie Loobey (Jo Hansen’s sister) and Martina Loobey (Jo Hansen’s niece) for health concerns; Marna Bergstrom for recovery; John Daum; Hilda Locke; Joyce Collins; Carolyn Greenfield; Kathy Johnson (friend of Dana, recovery from bad fall); Karen and Bob Collins.

Please let Shirley B. know if you have any updates or additions.

BEGINNINGS

As I write this article for *The Inspire*, I am mindful of the power of beginnings. Beginnings carry a certain energy with them—hope, curiosity, possibility. In the life of faith, beginnings remind us that God is always at work doing something new among us, creating.

Scripture is full of beginnings. From the opening words of Genesis to the birth of the early church in Acts, we see again and again that God meets people in moments when something new is unfolding. These moments are rarely neat or predictable. They often come with uncertainty, questions, and even a little discomfort. Yet they also come with promise – the promise that God will be with us.

Every beginning reminds us of something else as well: change. Change is not a “maybe” in life. Change is a given! Our lives change. Our communities change. The church changes. The question is not whether change will come, but how we will meet it when it does.

Faith invites us to approach change not with fearful resentment, but with hopeful trust. We trust that the God who has carried us through every chapter before will also guide us into this “new beginning” – this next. We trust that even when the path is unfamiliar, God is still present among us. His promise remains and His grace is sufficient.

As we share this new beginning together, I give thanks for the faith, care, and commitment that already live within this congregation. I look forward to discovering with you how God will continue to shape our life and ministry together. Therefore, let us “be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord [our] God is with [us] wherever [we] go” (Joshua 1: 9, RSV).

In Christ,
Pastor Todd

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

INSPIRE FORMAT: You may notice that the Inspire has a new look this month. The program we use to format and print the bulletins and newsletters (Publisher) is being discontinued by Microsoft in October, so we’ll need to use a different program to create our publications. The suggested replacement for Publisher is Microsoft Word. As a word processing program, Word is not specifically designed to create elaborate publications, and things will not transfer one-to-one from Publisher to Word. So you will see differences in the format of the bulletins and the newsletters as we transition to Word. This month’s Inspire is a work-in-progress. We’d welcome your feedback on the new format – What looks good? What needs improvement? What should be added? Send your comments to ucc1@rushmore.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

DEACONS’ MEETING: A Deacons’ Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 12**, after the worship service.

COUNCIL MEETING: A Council Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 26**, after the worship service.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP: Women’s Fellowship will meet at 1:00 on Wednesday, April 15 in the Fellowship Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

BIBLE STUDY: The Spring Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount was very successful! We had 10 women who attended one or more of the sessions. Our next Bible Study event will be the Summer Supper Series. Each Wednesday in July, we'll meet at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a light supper, followed by a presentation from various church members. We'll be finished by 7:00 pm. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend any or all of the sessions! Watch for more information in the upcoming Inspires. Meanwhile, if you would like to volunteer to be a presenter, please get in touch with the office at 605-642-8253 or ucc1@rushmore.com. There are 5 Wednesdays in July, so we'll need 5 volunteers to give a short presentation (20-30 minutes) on a topic of their choice.



COFFEE TIME/BIBLE STUDY:

Are you looking for a great small group to join? The weekly Coffee Time/Bible Study group is a social group with a purpose. They meet every Tuesday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am at Edgewood. After some social time, they dig into the Word a bit and have great discussions. Here Shirley Jensen, Holly Hedge, Shirley Aman, Marilyn Rosenau, June Klinkel, Karen Carmichael, Hilda Locke, Elsie Hanson and several nonmembers enjoy coffee and fellowship on St. Patrick's Day at Coffee Time/Bible Study. (Thanks to Lorie Umphrey for the pictures!)



ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

OUR DAILY BREAD: The *Our Daily Bread* booklets for June|July|August 2026 are now available. They are in the holder on the glass counter. Help yourself!

FOOD PANTRY: A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who helped out at the Food Pantry in March! It was a busy time for us – we served 109 families with 51 seniors, 120 adults, and 76 children during our 6 days at the Pantry.

Marcie Nuenke, Dana Eberhard, Shirley Aman, Ian Umphrey, Lorie Umphrey, and Sally Levengood help with the food distribution to clients. Other volunteers include Lynne Quissell, Darleen Plunkett, Connie Zimbleman, Allen Merkel, John Sweaney, Natalia Alsup, Randy Hedge, and Bob Ryther (from the UCC in St. Onge).



THANKS also to Shirley Aman, who does so much for the pantry! She serves on the Food Pantry Board, helps with the Walmart and Safeway deliveries on Tuesday and Friday mornings, and operates the computer when our church handles the distribution of food in March and September.

(Thanks to Kathy Eddy for the pictures!)

LITURGISTS/USHERS: We need Liturgists and Ushers/Greeters for April and beyond. There are sign-up sheets on the glass counter – please consider volunteering!

MISSION 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](tel:605-717-7808) or [605-639-9719](tel:605-639-9719).

A BIG **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Special UCC Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing. Donations totaled \$240.00. They were sent to the UCC Conference in support of OGHS.

Another BIG **THANK YOU** goes out to everyone who supported this year's Lenten Food Collection. All donations (food & monetary) were delivered to the Spearfish Food Pantry over the last several weeks. A total of 133 pounds of food was collected. This was a wonderful way to help those in need in our community!



PALM SUNDAY CROSSES: The beautiful crosses that we received on Palm Sunday were made by Elaine Jongeling's son Michael. Thank you, Michael, for these meaningful gifts!



~~ APRIL 2026 CALENDAR ~~

Wed	4/1	10:45 am	Chapel at Edgewood
Thurs	4/2	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday service at the United Methodist Church
Sun	4/5		Easter Sunday
		9:30 am	Worship/Communion
Mon	4/6		Easter Monday
Tues	4/7	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Sun	4/12	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Deacons' meeting
Mon	4/13	6:00 pm	Dakota Youth Orchestra
Tues	4/14	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Wed	4/15	1:00 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thur	4/16	3:00 pm	Dakota Youth Orchestra
Sun	4/19	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship
Tues	4/21	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Sun	4/26	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Council Meeting
Tues	4/28	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study At Edgewood
		10:00 am	May Inspire deadline

April Anniversaries

April 1 Brian & Dana Eberhard

Happy Anniversary

April Liturgists

April 5 Rosalie Aslesen

April 12

April 19

April 26

April Birthdays

April 12 Lynne Quissell

April 13 Lorie Umphrey

April 15 Betty Zehfus

April 21 Alan Merkel

April 27 Sally Levensgood

April 28 Jim Hood

April 30 Barbara Cummings

April 30 Stephen Digioia

Happy Birthday

April Ushers & Greeters

April 5 Jim & Katie Hood

April 12

April 19

April 26

March Attendance & Facebook Viewers

March 1 41/FB Viewers: 2

March 8 37/FB Viewers: 2

March 15 Snow Day

March 22 48/FB Viewers: 0

March 29 36/FB Viewers: 3



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

April Good Shepherd Clinic Volunteers

Fruit & Veggies: Shirley Aman

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

April Altar & Tables Committee

Tables & Alter: Cindy Merkel

INSPIRE

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