

## *Spearfish United Church of Christ Congregational*

**2026**  
**Volume: 145**

*May*  
**INSPIRE**



United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

UCC Mission Statement

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# **EMBRACING CHANGE**

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Last month, we reflected on beginnings - sacred moments when something new takes shape in our lives and in our community. This month, I invite us to consider what makes those beginnings possible: change.

Change is not something that might happen; it is something that will happen. It is woven into the fabric of our lives, our churches, and the world around us. And while change can sometimes feel unsettling, it is also one of the ways God opens doors of possibility before us.

In the book of Isaiah, we hear God's promise: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19). These words remind us that even in places that feel dry, uncertain, or unfamiliar, God is at work bringing forth new life. God is at work creating; God is at work bringing change.

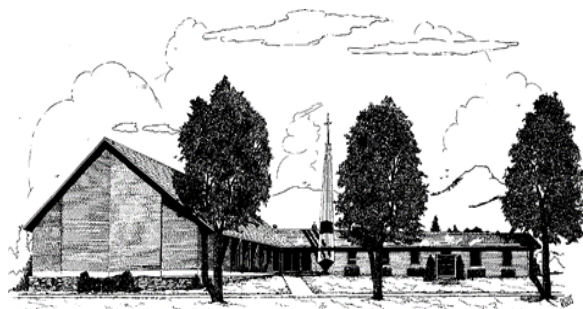
John F. Kennedy once said, “Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” As people of faith, we honor the past and learn from it, but we are not called to live there. Instead, we are invited to watch for the ways God is moving now, often in ways we do not expect, and join God there. As the Church, the community of Christ, we’re to live on the cutting edge of God’s creative work, not merely recognizing it, but participating in it – helping to bring hope, renewal, and new life to dead places.

In light of that, the question before us is not whether change will come, but how we will respond. Will we meet change with fear, holding tightly to what has been, and refusing to participate in God’s creative action? Or will we meet change with faith, trusting that God is already at work in what is becoming and seeking to engage with Him in this ongoing work of salvation?

As a community, we have the opportunity to embrace change with hopeful hearts—listening, discerning, and stepping forward together. If we do, we may begin to see streams in the wasteland and pathways where we once saw none.

May it be so at Spearfish UCC Congregational!

In Christ,  
Pastor Todd



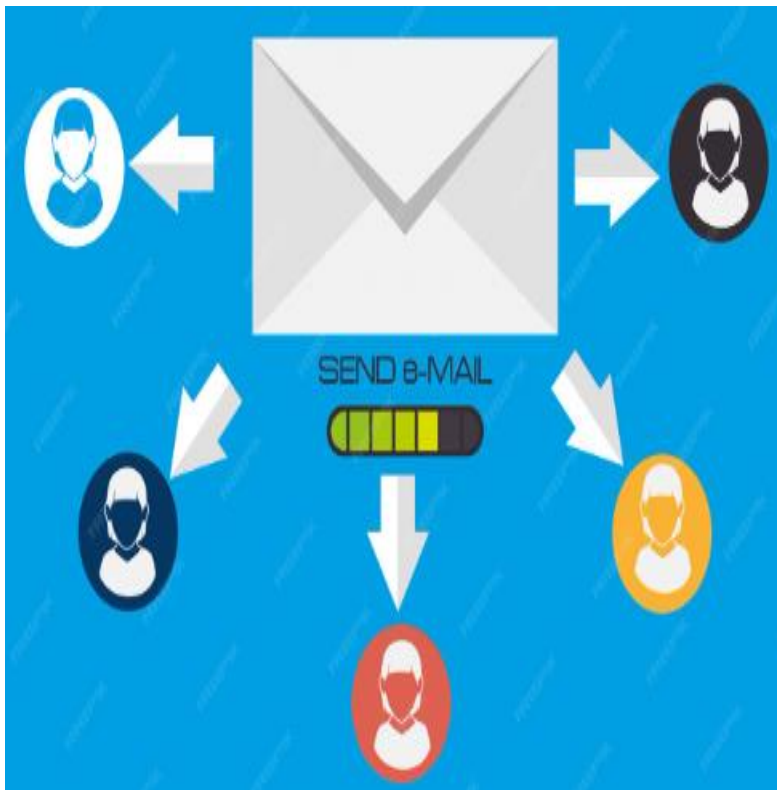
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

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**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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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; June Klinkel; Elaine Jongeling.

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



**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** If you haven't been receiving the *Inspire* and church notices by email, we may not have your email address on file. Please get in touch with the office at 605-642-8253 or send an email to [ucc1@rushmore.com](mailto:ucc1@rushmore.com), and we'll get your email address added to your record. Thank you!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

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**SUMMER SUPPER SERIES:** The Summer Supper Series has been very popular for the past two years, and we're going to continue it this summer! Each Wednesday in July, we'll meet at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a light supper, followed by a short presentation from a church member. We'll be finished by 7:00 pm. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend any or all of the sessions! If you would like to volunteer as a presenter, please contact the office at 605-642-8253 or [ucc1@rushmore.com](mailto:ucc1@rushmore.com). There are 5 Wednesdays in July. We have several volunteers, but need a one more person to give a short presentation (20-30 minutes) on a topic of their choice. We'll also be looking for volunteers to provide the main dishes, side dishes, and/or desserts for selected suppers. Sign-up sheets for these will be available on the glass counter beginning June 1.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON:** Instead of their May meeting, Women's Fellowship will meet at Killian's at **1:00 pm on May 20** for lunch. All ladies are invited to join them, with each paying for their own lunch. **To sign up, call Shirley Jenssen at 605-222-2250**

**DEACONS' MEETING:** A Deacons' Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 10**, after the worship service.

**COUNCIL MEETING:** A Council Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 24**, after the worship service.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

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**PAINTING:** Thanks to Glenn and Ian Umphrey for painting the pastor's office. Stop in and see how nice it looks! Next, they'll work on the outer office and workroom.



**LITURGISTS/USHERS:** There are signup sheets on the glass counter for Liturgists and Ushers/Greeters— please consider volunteering!

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



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

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**KITCHEN CLEANUP:** Thanks to all the ladies who helped with the kitchen cleanup! They worked on Monday and Tuesday, April 20 and 21, to wash and sanitize all of the dishes, cups, glasses, silverware, platters, etc. (and there are a LOT of them!), clean out the cupboards, and organize and generally spruce up the kitchen.



**CONCERT:** The second concert of the UCC Concert Series 2026 will be held on Sunday, May 24 at 2:00 pm at the UCC Congregational Church in Spearfish. The concert will be performed by BHSU music faculty Skye Van Duuren (trumpet) and Symeon Waseen (piano). All donations to the 2026 concerts will go to the Spearfish Food Pantry.

**PASTOR'S OFFICE COMPUTER:** The computer in the pastor's office is extremely outdated and unable to run current software. We have received an anonymous donation to create a fund to replace that obsolete computer with a new laptop. Please stop by the office before May 11 if you would like to contribute to this fund. You can also drop a check in the collection plate with Computer Fund on the memo line. Thank you!!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

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**MISSIONS NEWS:** We will continue to provide food for the Good Shepherd Clinic on the third Monday of the month. We have been contacted recently in regards to a slight change in the food. The GS Clinic is now treating more patients with dental issues. As a result, many of them are unable to eat the crunchy fruits and vegetables that we are providing. The clinic has now asked us to substitute some soft items for the raw crunchy items. For example, instead of 8-10 snack bags filled with raw veggies they are asking for a large bottle of fruit or veggie juice. Instead of the crunchy fruits they are asking for 8-10 individual fruit or jello cups. The GS Clinic will provide cups and plastic spoons for serving these items. If you have any questions in regards to this change, please contact Marcie Nuenke at 605-717-7808 (home #) or 605-63-9719 (cell #). THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING.

Just a reminder to any Spearfish UCC graduating High School seniors or Spearfish UCC students currently attending a College or University. If you will be attending a college or university this Fall, you can submit an application for a Spearfish UCC scholarship. All currently enrolled college or university students are required to submit proof of their GPA. It must be a minimum of 2.5 to qualify. The scholarship application is available in the church office. It must be completed and returned to the office along with the proof of the applicant's GPA by Sunday, July 26th. The applications must be approved by the council. Any questions in regards to the Spearfish UCC Scholarship contact Marcie Nuenke 605-717-7808 (home) or 605-639-9719 (cell). It is the responsibility of the Mission Committee to oversee our church's scholarship fund.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

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**MORE MISSIONS NEWS:** The Strengthen the Church offering will take place on **Sunday, May 24, 2026**. This Special UCC offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. A collection jar will be on the table in the back of the church if you would like to participate in this Special UCC Offering. If making a donation by check, make it payable directly to Strengthen the Church or to Spearfish UCC with Strengthen the Church in the memo line.

**CROSSES:** There are still a few of the crosses available. If you'd like one, stop by the office!



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## ~~ MAY 2026 CALENDAR ~~

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Sun	5/3	9:30 am	Worship/Communion/ Fellowship
Tues	5/4	9:00 am	Coffee Time /Bible Study at Edgewood
Wed	5/6	10:45 am	Chapel at Edgewood
Sun	5/10	9:30 am	<b>Mother's Day</b> Worship/Fellowship Deacons' Meeting
Tues	5/12	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Sun	5/17	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship
Tues	5/19	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Wed	5/20	1:00 pm	Women's Fellowship Lunch at Killian's
Sun	5/24	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Council Meeting Strengthen the Church Special Offering
		2:00 pm	UCC Concert Series Concert
Mon	5/25		<b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>
Tues	5/26	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Sun	5/31	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship

**May Anniversaries**

May 17 Lynn & Sally Levensgood  
May 20 Dave & Marcie Nuenke  
May 29 David & Sandy Stearns

**Happy Anniversary**

**May Birthdays**

May 14 Elsie Hanson  
May 15 Norma Riggs  
May 24 Les Turgeon  
May 30 Elaine Jongeling

**Happy Birthday**



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

**Pastor Todd's Office Hours:**

M 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Shirley's Office Hours:**

M-F 8:00 am—12:00 noon

**May Liturgists**

May 3 Jim Hood  
May 10  
May 17 Rosalie Aslesen  
May 24  
May 31 Lorie Umphrey

**May Ushers & Greeters**

May 3 Katie Hood  
May 10 Katie Hood  
May 17 Katie Hood  
May 24  
May 31

**April Attendance & Facebook Viewers**

April 5 63 / FB Viewers: NA  
April 12 24 / FB Viewers: 3  
April 19 40 / FB Viewers: 2  
April 26 31 / FB Viewers: 3

**May Good Shepherd Clinic Volunteers**

Fruit: Norma Riggs  
Veggies: Marcie Nuenke

**May Altar & Tables Committee**

Tables & Alter: Karen Turgeon

**INSPIRE**

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