



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

# **Making Beauty Out of Ugly Things**

Matthew 18:21-35

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**Sharing God's Love Since 1878**  
**United Church of Christ Congregational**  
**Spearfish, South Dakota**

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**Spearfish United Church of Christ Congregational  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

September 13, 2026

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME to our service today. We hope you find this time of worship meaningful and uplifting and will join us again soon. Please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall after the service.

**\*All who are able may stand.**

**Please wear your nametags & turn off your cell phones.**

**Prelude**

Emma McKirdy-Wilsey

(Please use this time to prepare your heart for worship.)

**\*Choral Call  
to Worship**

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;**

**I can feel His mighty power and His grace.**

**I can hear the brush of angels' wings,**

**I see glory on each face;**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

**\*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 103: 8-13)**

Liturgist: Come, people of God, into the presence of the One who is merciful and gracious.

**Congregation: We come before the God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

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Liturgist: We come carrying what has wounded us, what we regret, and what we have struggled to release.

**Congregation: And yet, God's mercy is greater than the burdens we carry.**

Liturgist: As far as east is from west, God reaches beyond our failures – our brokenness and pain - with grace.

**Congregation: As a loving parent has compassion for their children, God meets us with tenderness and mercy.**

Liturgist: So come, not because everything has been made right, but because God's love is still making all things new.

**Congregation: We come to receive grace, to practice grace, and to become a people of grace.**

Liturgist: Come, let us worship God.

**\*Hymn**      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*      No. 23

**Invocation**

**Scripture**

**Genesis 50: 15-21**

**Glory to the Creator**

**The Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Missions Moment**

Lorie Umphrey

**Welcome and Opportunities**

**Call to Prayer**

FWS No. 2193

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to Your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayer of Our Savior**

**Our Father, who art in heaven.**

**Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation.**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Giving Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*Grace* by U2

**\*A Doxology**

*Praise God*

No. 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn**     *Grace Alone*

No. 2162

**Scripture**     Matthew 18: 21-35

**Sermon**     “Making Beauty Out of Ugly Things”  
Todd Jones

**\*Closing Hymn**     *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

No. 2171

**\*Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**     *Benediction* C. Barrows

**May God’s blessings surround you today,  
as you trust Him and walk in His way;  
May His presence within guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.**

**\*Postlude**

Emma McKirdy-Wilsey

**PRAYER LIST:** World, National, Local leaders, and our Pastor; 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; Hilda Locke; Joyce Collins; Carolyn Greenfield; Karen and Bob Collins; June Klinkel; Leo Orme; Beth Novotny (knee replacement); Lynne Quissell (spinal stenosis); Family of Rosemary Lutz; Family of John Daum; Family of Bud (Charles) Breedlove (Karen Carmichael’s brother).

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

## **POTLUCK DINNER**

The church will be having a Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following today’s service. Everyone is invited to join us as we welcome Pastor Todd and Kim Jones to our congregation!

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

The church rummage sale will be held Friday, Sept 18 (noon – 6 pm) and Saturday, Sept 19 (8 am – 1 pm). Bring your rummage items to the church any time on or before Wednesday, Sept 16. Setup will be on Thursday, Sept 17, starting at 8:00 am. We’ll need everyone’s help for this event! If you can help with the setup or with the sale itself (or both!), please contact Shirley Jenssen or contact the office at 605-642-8253 or [ucc1@rushmore.com](mailto:ucc1@rushmore.com).

## ~~ September 2026 CALENDAR ~~

|                       |                      |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun, Sept 13</b>   | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>     | <b>Worship/Fellowship</b>                                                         |
|                       | <b>After service</b> | <b>Potluck Dinner to welcome<br/>Pastor Todd and Kim<br/>(No Deacons Meeting)</b> |
| <b>Tues, Sept 15</b>  | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>     | <b>Coffee Time/Devotions at<br/>Edgewood</b>                                      |
|                       | <b>1:30 p.m.</b>     | <b>Bible Study in Fireside Room</b>                                               |
| <b>Wed, Sept 16</b>   | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>     | <b>Women's Fellowship luncheon<br/>in Fellowship Hall</b>                         |
| <b>Thurs, Sept 17</b> | <b>8:00 a.m.</b>     | <b>Setup for Rummage Sale</b>                                                     |
| <b>Fri, Sept 18</b>   | <b>7:45 a.m.</b>     | <b>Food Pantry</b>                                                                |
|                       | <b>12:00 p.m.</b>    | <b>Rummage Sale</b>                                                               |
| <b>Sat, Sept 19</b>   | <b>8:00 a.m.</b>     | <b>Rummage Sale</b>                                                               |
| <b>Sun, Sept 20</b>   | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>     | <b>Worship/Fellowship</b>                                                         |
| <b>Mon, Sept 21</b>   | <b>7:45 a.m.</b>     | <b>Food Pantry</b>                                                                |
| <b>Tues, Sept 22</b>  | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>     | <b>Coffee Time/Devotions at<br/>Edgewood</b>                                      |
|                       | <b>1:30 p.m.</b>     | <b>Bible Study in Fireside Room</b>                                               |
| <b>Wed, Sept 23</b>   | <b>7:45 a.m.</b>     | <b>Food Pantry</b>                                                                |
| <b>Fri, Sept 25</b>   | <b>7:45 a.m.</b>     | <b>Food Pantry</b>                                                                |
| <b>Sun, Sept 27</b>   | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>     | <b>Worship/Fellowship<br/>Council Meeting</b>                                     |
| <b>Mon, Sept 28</b>   | <b>7:45 a.m.</b>     | <b>Food Pantry</b>                                                                |

## ~~ September 2026 CALENDAR ~~

|               |           |                                   |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Tues, Sept 29 | 9:00 a.m. | Coffee Time/Devotions at Edgewood |
|               | 1:30 p.m. | Bible Study in Fireside Room      |
| Wed, Sept 30  | 7:45 a.m. | Food Pantry                       |

### **BHSU VISITING ARTIST**

Tomorrow (Monday, September 14), BHSU is hosting two visiting artists (Pard Morrison and David Pyle) who will be installing three outdoor sculptures on the campus and giving a presentation for the Visiting Artist Series. The Sculpture Walk will be at 10:00 am on the Campus Green, and the presentation will be at 1:00 pm in the newly renovated Woodburn Theatre. Both events are free and open to the public. A flyer with more information is on the wall above the glass counter.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us in the Fireside Room this Tuesday, September 15, as we continue our study of Extraordinary Women in the Bible. Assignments for this week's session on Rahab are on the glass counter.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Our Office Hours will be changing as I start a new volunteer schedule. This week, the office will be open M-W, 8:00 – 12:00, and Th 10:00 – 12:00. Starting next week, office hours will be T, 8:00 – 12:00, and Th, 10:00 – 12:00. You'll still be able to call any time (605-642-8253) or contact the office via email ([ucc1@rushmore.com](mailto:ucc1@rushmore.com)). – Shirley B.

## **BORDERLAND**

On October 3 at 7:00 pm, the Homestake Opera House in Lead will be presenting a special screening of the acclaimed documentary *BORDERLAND: The Line Within*. This film explores the human stories behind today's immigration system, the for-profit business it has become, and the resilient individuals who are fighting for, and working toward, a more just future. The screening is free and open to the public. A flyer with more information is on the wall above the glass counter.

## **FOOD PANTRY**

We will be helping at the Food Pantry M, W, F mornings from 8:15 am – 12:15 pm starting this Friday, September 18 through Monday, September 28. If you would like to volunteer, there is a yellow signup sheet on the glass counter.

## **SPONSORED CHILD**

Rhian Elmid, our sponsored child in the Philippines, has a birthday this coming Friday, September 18. She will be 17 years old! We recently received a letter from her – it is shown on the next page. (A larger copy is on the Missions bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.)

# LETTER FROM RHIAN, OUR SPONSORED CHILD



## Dumaguete Kalauman Center for Development

Piñero Subdivision, Sto. Niño Road, Mangnao, 6200 Dumaguete City, Philippines  
Tel. No. (035) 420-6560, email address: Dkalaumancdi21@gmail.com

Dear Sponsor and Friends at Spearfish VEC,

Good day to all of you! I hope and pray that you are all in good health. I would also like to greet you all advance Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Philippines, and my family. I hope you will celebrate Christmas with Love, happiness, and peace.

For a family update, my mother is working as a housekeeper of a family that also lives near our area. My father works as a construction worker. My older brother and older sister are also working now, while my youngest sister is currently in Grade 8. At home, I help my family by washing the dishes, doing the laundry, and cleaning the house on weekends. I am happy to help my family in any way I can.

As for my studies, I am currently a Grade 12 student. We already finished our first periodical examinations and completed our first term. We are now on our end-term break, and will be going back to school on September 15 for the beginning of our second term. When I go to college, I plan to take up Bachelor of Science in Tourism at one of the state universities in Dumaguete City. I am excited about my future studies and hope that I can achieve my dreams with the help and support from you and my family.

The recent examinations were a bit difficult, but I am very thankful because I got passing scores of 57/60 and 47/60. I am very happy and grateful to be one of the classmates who passed the examinations. This motivates me to continue doing my best, not only for myself and my family, but also for my sponsors and friends who continue to support and encourage me.

At Kalauman Center, we will be celebrating our 45th Anniversary on October 10, 2026. There will be different activities, including Sports Olympics such as volleyball and pickleball. I am afraid of balls, so I will just be cheering and giving my support to everyone!

Thank you so much for all your support and prayers for me and my family. We truly appreciate your kindness, love, and encouragement. May God bless you all, and I wish you good health, happiness, and peace always.

With love and gratitude,  
Rhian



**CHURCH OFFICE: 920 Main Street, Spearfish, SD**

**E-mail:** [ucc1@rushmore.com](mailto:ucc1@rushmore.com)

**Office Phone:** 605-642-8253

**Pastor Todd:** 515-835-1238

**Join us online** for worship on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/864852954071879>

**Website:** <https://uccspearfish.org/>

**Office Hours:**

M-W 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Th 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

**Pastor Todd's Office Hours:**

T 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

PASTOR.....Todd Jones  
OFFICE MANAGER .....Shirley Brost  
MODERATOR.....Shirley Jenssen  
ORGANIST.....Emma McKirdy-Wilsey  
LITURGIST.....Rosalie Aslesen  
ALTAR & TABLES.....Shirley Jenssen & Cindy Merkel