



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**  
717 Jackson Street  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

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BELLE FOURCHE, SD 57717  
PERMIT #38

## **The Friendly Visitor Newsletter**

### **November 2020**

### **Join us this Sunday!**

St. Onge UCC                      8:30 am  
Belle Fourche UCC              10:00 am

Communion on the first Sunday of each month

Services also on Facebook & our webpage: [www.bfsoucc.net](http://www.bfsoucc.net)

## The Pastor's Pen



On the first Tuesday of the month, we will vote for our next President, as well as for many other important decisions on the ballot. Many people, good people, are wondering with the pandemic moving unchecked in our county and state, is it worth going to the polls?

As Christians, the Apostle Paul calls us to live “quiet lives” (First Thess. 4:9-11). What if my vote causes dissension? Paul says that we should live peaceably with one another and work out our differences away from watching eyes.

In a DesiringGod.org interview, the point was raised, “How about when Paul created riots in some cities where he preached the gospel? Or what about the ruckus that Martin Luther made when he tacked the 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenberg in 1517 AD?” Did they live “quiet lives”? Jesus is quoted as saying, “I did not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Matthew 10:34). This doesn't sound anything like “quietness” to me.

The context of First Thessalonians is one where the people were not focused on the work of their livelihood. Others, non-Christians, saw what these Christians doing and saying...and it wasn't attractive. “If you are laying a brick all day or digging a ditch or winnowing grain, you are not a nuisance, gadding about and gossiping about other people while they are trying to work.”

When Paul preaches the gospel and the silversmiths riot (Acts 19), Paul is doing his work—preaching Good News to the people of Ephesus. We don't avoid the Gospel because it may offend someone. By its very nature, the Gospel will turn this world upside down. Jesus is asking for everyone to look upon others as someone worthy of care and concern...not how can I profit by their exploitation.

“The overarching concern of Paul in Thessalonica was that the saints walk in love and that they truly exalt Christ in the community so the outsiders see what he is really like. And that is exactly what Paul was doing everywhere he went and what those who led great Christian movements were doing. They were loving people and exalting Christ.” [<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews>]

So, should we go to the polls this election day? Unless you are in a very high-risk group, I would think so. By all means wear a mask. As the weeks go by, it has become very obvious that simply wearing a mask can cut transmission rates dramatically. Using hand sanitizer before and after coming in contact with unknown surfaces can also reduce your odds of becoming infected. Most importantly, by voting we are sharing our values...informed by our Christian faith...with the entire electorate—regardless if our ballot selections win or not.

Living quiet lives means doing our work, and doing it well, without the gossip or histrionics. AND, living quietly means demonstrating our Christian faith by sharing our values. It's not whether I can make more money if this or that happens. It is about doing the work of asking, “What does this selection say about my system of values for our community?”

As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, let us offer our thanks by living quiet lives that reflect our values of community, human dignity, and reflecting Christ in the world.

We're all in this together...with Christ,

*Pastor Chuck Aurand*

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## Scriptures for November

11/01	Matthew 23:1-12	“All Saints Day”
11/08	Matthew 25:1-13	“The Great Oil Shortage of 32-33 AD”
11/15	First Thess. 5:1-11	“The Lord Comes”
11/22	Matthew 25:31-46	“As You Did It to The Least of These...”
11/29	Isaiah 64:1-9	“The Silence Moves”



### From your Pastoral Search Committee

The committee has been working for you. As we have been reviewing profiles, we have learned that we are very fortunate to have such a devoted congregation. As a voice for you, we are soon to be in the negotiation process. We are hopeful that we will be able to send out information in the near future regarding a date for reviewing and voting on our recommendation. Thank you all for

your patience and prayers during this process.

Sincerely,

Austin Bishop

Co-Chair Search Committee  
May God Bless,  
Austin Bishop, co-moderator



### Congregational Singing Resumes

Our Board of Deacons voted to resume limited congregational singing during worship.

In order to limit the risk of virus transmission, we will only sing one congregational hymn per Sunday. All those who wish to sing must be masked.

### Our Church is Open for All

- † Facemasks are strongly recommended. Although not always comfortable, it has been shown that facemasks protect those around you...from you. We wear facemasks as a sign of love for those around us.
- † We ask that you use hand sanitizer when entering the sanctuary so that germs will be less likely to collect upon surfaces.
- † We will practice social distancing (at least 6 feet apart, except for those living in the same household). To assist with social distancing, we will close every other pew.

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT INS

Belle Estate

Al Shaw

Edgewood Vista

Dottie Clarkson-Teague

Sadie Sperb

Judy's Assisted Living

Irene Olson

Key City Assisted Living

Eleanor Schweitzer

Rolling Hills Long Term Care

Betty Anderson

Lydell Koerner

Alyce Voyles

Serenity Corner

Nellie Kidd

### Lawn Cutting & Snow Shoveling

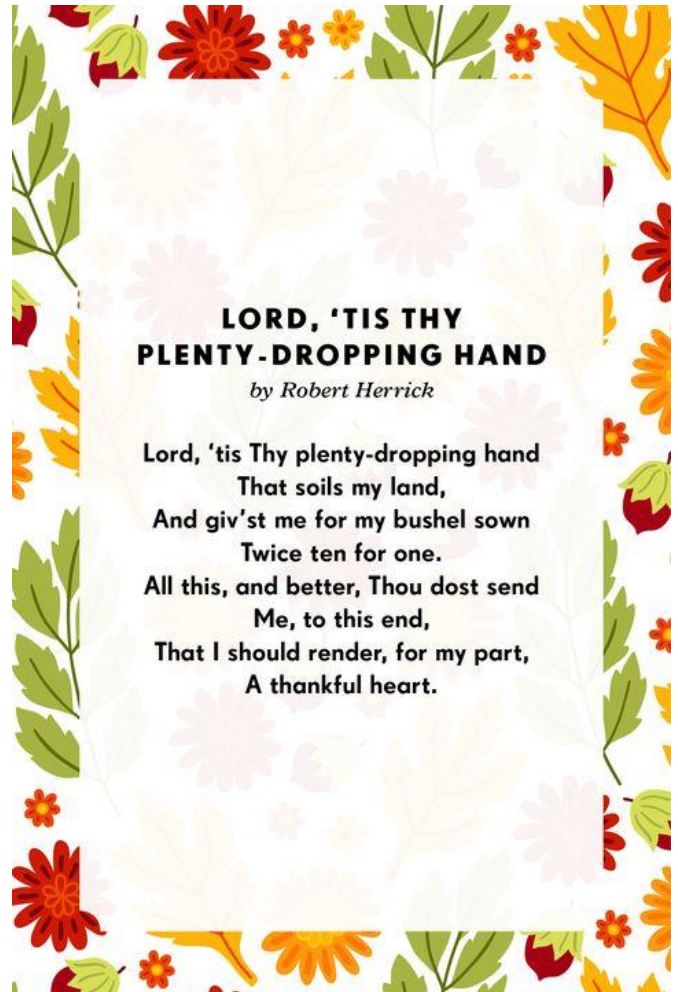
Help is needed to mow the lawn each week while the grass is still growing. If you could please help us out, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please remember that we do have a lawn mower in the shed. You must bring gasoline for the mower. Call the church office for the combination to the shed lock.

This being November, we also have a need for individuals who can help shovel the winter snow. Please contact the church office if you can cover a week or two.

The schedule is wide open, so if you would be able to mow, please call the office. The phone number is 605-892-3402. Help is definitely needed for November and December!

**PLEASE HELP!!** And a great big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donates their time to keep the church yard and sidewalks looking great!! You are appreciated!!



### COMPASSION CUPBOARD

Please remember, to bring food on the first Sunday of each month for the Compassion Cupboard. We also collect grocery receipts from Lynn's Dakota Mart. A box is in the Narthex & Church Office.



### What's Your Talent? We want to hear you.

Especially during this time of the COVID virus, we are asking for volunteers to sing or play music for our worship services.

Harmonica or harpsichord, bass or soprano, we want to celebrate you. No one is too young or too old. If you would like to help us out, please call the church office and let us know what Sunday would work for you. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Belle Fourche UCC**

**St. Onge UCC**



<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Mark Hespe	7
Mark Bachman	7
Mark Weglin	10
Marion Hespe	15
Rylee Anderson	16
Katiana McMahon	16
Del Neumeister	17
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Mike & Dawn Johnson	11

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
Evan Vissa	3
James Merrow	9
Sonja Merrow	15
Judy Russell	16
Evan Vissa	3
James Merrow	9
Sonja Merrow	15
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	



**The Prayer Chain Returns...**

If you would like to be included in the Belle Fourche UCC prayer chain, please contact the church office with your preferred phone number and/or email address. You will be responsible to pray for the individuals / situations and pass it on to the next person in your chain. The prayers begin this month, so call or email today.

**First Congregational Church UCC**

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 Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
 605-892-3402

**St Onge UCC**

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 St. Onge, SD 57779  
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**Visit Us On-line:** [www.bfsoucc.org](http://www.bfsoucc.org)

WE WANT TO  
 HEAR FROM YOU



**Pastor Chuck Aurand**

605-569-3131 (cell)  
[caurand3@gmail.com](mailto:caurand3@gmail.com)



# November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday Worship</b> 8:30 am Saint Onge 10 am Belle Fourche						
<b>All Saints Day</b> Communion Baptism (BF) Faith Focus - Deacons	2	3 	4	5	6	7
Faith Focus (BF)	9	10 Deacons Mtg, 6pm	11 	12	13	14
Faith Focus (BF)	16	17 Trustees Mtg, 7pm	18 Yoked Parish Executive Council Mtg	19	20	21
<b>Reign of Christ</b> Faith Focus (BF)	23	24	25	26 	27	28
<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	30 					

# EVENTS

## Wednesday Study Group

The Study Group will take a break to prepare for the coming Advent season. Beginning on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will begin our Advent Study on "The Songs of Advent". Join us.

## Compassion Cupboard

We dedicate food on the first Sunday of each month. Bring your nonperishable food items to the church office, or to the sanctuary on Sunday before worship. Thank you!

