



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 December 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



The Pastor's Pen



Advent is here. And Advent is “coming”. Really...that’s what Advent literally means. “What is coming?”, we might ask. Well, a lot of things.

On the Second Sunday of Advent (December 6th), we will light our Advent wreath, celebrate the Sacrament of Lord’s Supper, and receive the report of the Pastoral Search Committee. This report (and accompanying vote) will take place during a Congregational Meeting immediately following our worship service. You should have received a letter in the mail describing this, if not, please call the church office.

On the “Joyful Sunday” of Advent (December 13), the St Onge Congregation will hold their Children’s Program. Meanwhile the Belle Fourche Deacons will ready their Christmas baskets.

And on December 24th (Thursday evening) both congregations will celebrate the magic of Christmas with our special Christmas Eve services. For this special service, we will feature the Story of Jesus’ birth, music, special solos, an inspiring message of hope, and a memorable rendition of Silent Night.

On the first Sunday after Christmas (December 29th), Lay Pastor, Kim Bachman will lead worship as we watch baby Jesus transform into an amazing young man visiting the Temple.

In this season of Advent (and Christmas) watch us come together in service, in worship, and in joy.

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

Pastor Chuck Aurand

Christmas Eve Schedule



St Onge UCC Christmas Eve Service 4:00 pm
Belle Fourche UCC Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

Special Music for Christmas Eve



Could you (either solo or with a small group) like to provide special music for the Christmas Eve services? If you like to sing or play an instrument, we would love to have you share your talent. Please let Pastor Chuck know...and thank you.

Scriptures for December

“The Gifts of Christmas”

12/06	Luke 23:50-24:3	“The Gift of Time”
12/13	Luke 1:39-55	“The Gift of Giving”
12/20	Luke 2:8-20	“The Gift of Wonder”
12/24	Luke 2:1-20	“The Gift of Togetherness” (Christmas Eve Worship)
12/27	Luke 2:22-40	“The Gift of Hope”



From your Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee has worked diligently on behalf of both congregations to find the best candidate who can help the church move forward into new seasons of growth through effective leadership. We feel strongly that Pastor Charles (Chuck) Aurand is that candidate.

We will be recommending Pastor Chuck for our settled pastor position. **This necessitates a congregational review and vote to take place on Sunday, December 6th, following each parish's worship service.** The committee has reached consensus to follow the bylaws set forth in our church constitution establishing that those who vote must be present to do so. Therefore, we extend this invitation to all members of both congregations and request your consideration to attend the review following worship service at either church.

Trusting in His care,
Your Pastoral Search Committee



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.
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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

Serenity Corner

Nellie Kidd



Snow Shoveling

Happy December! We 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 move some snow, please call the office. The phone number is 605-892-3402.

PLEASE HELP!! And a great big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donates their time to keep the church 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.

A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

 by the Rev. Richard Bott, Canada

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ear, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.



"Christmas is a necessity.

There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves."

~ Eric Sevareid

Belle Fourche UCC



St. Onge UCC

BIRTHDAYS

Gavin Pearson	3
Brent Scheele	5
Mitch Behringer	10
LaDawn Hesper	14
Kathy Koerner	19
Dawn Johnson	21
Trevor Hoffman	25
Devin Stephens	27
Kevin Fuhrer	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Mitch & Ieri Behringer	11
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BIRTHDAYS

Matthew Hendrickson	3
Katie Johnson	8
Angie Vissia	9
DJ Osborne	30

ANNIVERSARIES



The Prayer Chain is Back

If you or someone you love needs prayer, please call the church office at 605-892-3402. 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.

First Congregational Church UCC

717 Jackson Street
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-892-3402

St Onge UCC

P.O. Box 154
423 Elm Street
St. Onge, SD 57779
605-642-8980

Email Us: bfsoucc@vastbb.net

Visit Us On-line: www.bfsoucc.org



Pastor Chuck Aurand

605-569-3131 (cell)
caurand3@gmail.com



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Saint Onge 10 am Belle Fourche	1 Council Mtg, 7:00pm	2 7:00 pm Weds. Study Group "Songs of Advent"	3	4	5	
Second Sunday of Advent Congregational Mtg	7 	8 Deacon's Mtg 6:00pm	9 Study Group, 7 pm "Songs of Advent"	10	11	12 
Third Sunday of Advent	14 Trustee's Mtg 7:00pm	15 Study Group, 7 pm "Songs of Advent"	16	17	18	19
Fourth Sunday of Advent	21	22	23 Study Group, 7 pm "Songs of Advent"	24 Christmas Eve SO 4:00 pm BF 5:30 pm	25 	26
27 	28	29 	30	31		

EVENTS

Wednesday Study Group

We begin our Advent Study on "The Songs of Advent". Join us as we journey through the Gospel of Luke listening to the songs which herald the coming Christ.

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!

Give a Gift to Our Community

Make an end of the year donation to the Compassion Cupboard, which has been hit hard throughout 2020. Help us enter 2021 with shelves filled for those in need.