



**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**

### **March 2024**



### **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

Lent is typically a time when one sacrificially gives up something—maybe chocolate or alcohol. But I think it would be better all around to add something virtuous to your daily routine.



Perhaps carving out scheduled time to call parents, or children who live far away and remind them (and yourself) how much you care about them. Maybe you could donate an hour of time to a non-profit organization. Or add 30-minutes of physical activity to your schedule, and care for your body which is a temple of the Lord. Of course, daily prayer and/or bible study is always on my list. There is just so much good that we can all do for our community, or even ourselves; so why make yourself miserable by denying a little happiness (in moderation of course).

Our God is a God of abundance and blessing. Jesus, himself, said, I came that they might have life and have it abundantly. During these weeks of Lent before the Easter celebrations, do something new; do something good.

And we'll see you in church,

*Pastor Chuck Aurand*

### COFFEE & CONVERSATION FOLLOWING WORSHIP

(And you don't really have to drink coffee!)

**Belle Fourche UCC March 3rd**  
**St. Onge UCC March 10th**

**Join us for refreshments and refreshing conversation.**



### Scriptures for March 2024

03/03	John 2:13-22	Rev. Gail Arnold preaching
03/10	John 3:14-21	Rev. Gail Arnold preaching
03/17	Psalm 19, Genesis 1	"When Prayers Go Unanswered"
03/24	2 Timothy 3:16-17	"Why Do the Innocent Suffer"
03/31	John 20:1-8	Easter Sunday: He is Risen!

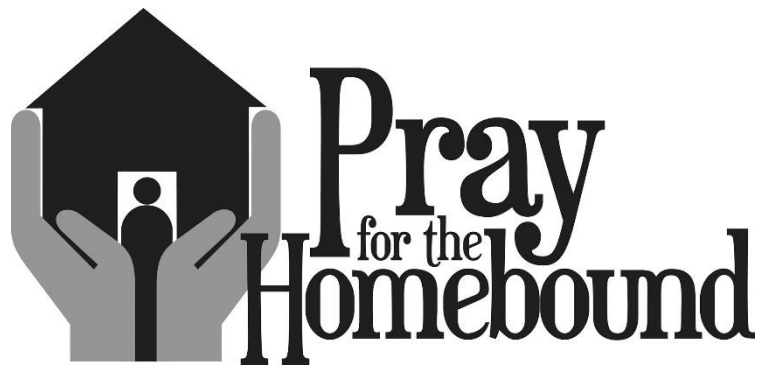
*"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord.' " John 20:18*

Edgewood Vista  
 Vi Barnes  
 Cheri Miller  
 Betty & Bob Schnaible  
 Dottie Clarkson-Teague

Judy's Assisted Living  
 Irene Olson

Rolling Hills Long Term Care  
 Lydell Koerner  
 Martin Jones

Monument Health Sturgis Care Center  
 Harry Haivala



Sandstone Senior Living  
 Jack & Mary Ann Wells

Hickory House Apartments  
 De Johnson



**Belle Fourche UCC**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Dorothy Kirksey	1
Lydell Koerner	6
Dixie Garr	6
Joann Stephens	8
Clay Anderson	10
Lanelle Cundall	14
Daxton Keegan	15
Becky Bishop	15
Gary Stinton	21
Don Schuchhardt	21
Kace Kolb	21
Sue Kokesh	25
Kevin Keegan	28
Gary Helmer	29
Jaimie Jo Hunter	30

**ANNIVERSARIES**

none



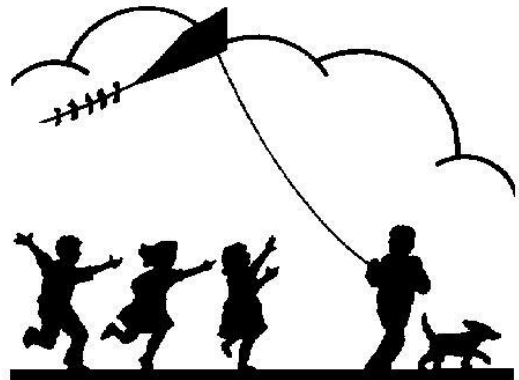
**St. Onge UCC**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Avery Benson	23
Eva Geffre	31

**ANNIVERSARIES**

none



*"Youth has no age" ~ Pablo Picasso*

# Bible Quiz



C. Maundy is an old French word for mandate or commandment. (John 13:34)

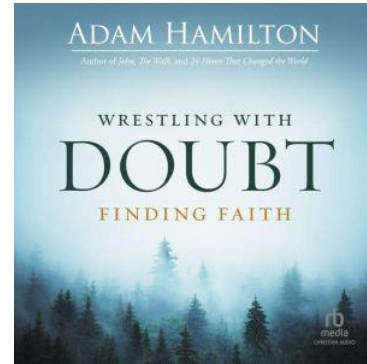
## Why is it called "Maundy Thursday?"

- A. It's so long it takes two days: Monday and Thursday
- B. Maundy means Thursday in French
- C. Maundy means a mandate or commandment.

## BF Youth Sunday School



Always the First Sunday of each month  
at 9:30am in the downstairs classroom.



Our Lenten Study continues each  
Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the BF  
Comfort Room  
(video & discussion group)

## World Day of Prayer



Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm  
St. James  
Lutheran Church

"To be a Christian without prayer is  
no more possible than to be alive  
without breathing."

Martin Luther

# Holy Week Schedule

3/24 Palm Sunday

3/28 Maundy Thursday

3/29 Good Friday

3/31 Easter Sunday

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

Belle Fourche...7:00 pm

Belle Fourche...12:15 pm

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

Easter Egg Hunt in Belle Fourche...9:30 am



# BENEFIT AUCTION for Noah Koerner

Saturday March 9, 2024

Park Pavilion 4-8pm

Silent Auction and soup feed

Noah was diagnosed with a rare blood and liver disease at 20 months called Erythropoietic Protoporophyria (EPP). This disease causes Noah severe pain when exposed to any sunlight. Medical experts recommend a bone marrow transplant, scheduled in April, to cure Noah of this disease.

Donation account set up at BHFCU

Donation items can be dropped off at  
Century 21

Contact

Christina Miles 605-848-2340 or

Marci Heubrock 605-641-6272

PIC•COLLAGE



Happy  
Easter!

## Treasurer's Report January 2024

Beginning Bal	\$38,308.01
Deposits	7,738.21
Expenses	12,285.12
Bal in acct	\$33,761.10



Happy  
Easter



# **Minutes of the Board of Trustees**

**February 13, 2024 at 5:30 pm**

Members present: Kay Cooper, Lyn Smeenck, Shawn Stinton, Sandra Baker, Dennis Simmons, Carol Umenthum, Pastor Chuck Aurand. Members absent: Richard Holdhusen.

Meeting called to order by Kay

Opening prayer led by Pastor Chuck

Minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting were read and reviewed. Motion by Lyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shawn to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Reports were presented by Kay.

Kay gave the new members an overview of the church accounts, the checking account for Budgeted Income and Expenses, the Special Funds accounts, the Money Market account, and the CDs all held at the Pioneer Bank and Trust.

Kay explained that the net loss of \$4785.93 on the January 31, 2024 Income Statement was the result of two items: first, the payment in the amount of \$2074.59 to Albright Construction should have come out of the Capital Improvement account, and not from the Christian Education budget line item. Second the payment to Guide One Insurance in the amount of \$3832.50 for the church insurance reflects a 6-month premium amount. The next payment will be due in mid-July. Motion by Lyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shawn to approve the Financial Reports as reviewed and explained. Motion approved.

Election of Officer for 2024:

Nominations were entertained: Chairperson-Kay, Vice Chairperson-Shawn, and Secretary-Carol. Motion by Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lyn to close nominations and approve the slate of officers for 2024. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- A. Mischelle Reede's maintenance requests in the basement were reviewed. 1) needs a thermostat cover in the southwest corner room. 2) replacement of the floor tiles between the kitchen and the dining hall. 3) replace the transition strip between the hallway and the kitchen. Carol will ask Keith to check into repair solutions.
- B. Kay listed several items for consideration. 1) the brickwork on the church sign is crumbling, discussed the possibility of replacing the sign with a laser cut steel sign. 2) new pew cushions. 3) the deck surface of the front steps needs attention. 4) the weather stripping at the bottom of the southwest door. 5) the latch sticks on the south middle door and there is a very big step down to the landing outside. 6) check with an arborist to cut down the dead tree out front and replace it, prune the remaining trees in the parkway. 7) need to prioritize the replacement of the emergency shut off valves on the

boiler pipes to the 8 or 10 radiator units. Some of them will not open. Blake may be able to replace them.

#### New Business:

- A. Delaney Campbell has been retained to fill in when Lanelle is unable to play for worship. Delaney is available until August. She will be a 1099 sub-contracted musician at a rate of \$75.00 per Sunday. Motion ????
- B. Update the signature cards for the Special Funds account, remove Rhonda and add Kathy King. Motion Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandra to remove Rhonda and add Kathy King to the Special Funds account signature card. Motion approved.
- C. Kay read from the Church By-Laws regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, mainly, to be responsible for the real property of the church and to oversee the financial matters of the church.
- D. Discussed the need to update the By-Laws and to develop Standard Workings Rules. Pastor Chuck stated that the Church Council is studying this issue.

#### Pastor's Report:

- A. Pastor Chuck is requesting that \$4000.00 of his salary amount be moved from the Minister's Salary line item to the Minister's Housing Allowance line item in the 2024 Budget. The change is recommended as a personal tax saving measure. Motion Shawn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lyn to make the change to the 2024 budget line items, deducting \$4000.00 from the Minister's Salary and adding \$4000.00 to the Minister's Housing Allowance. Motion approved.
- B. Pastor Chuck presented his requests for pastoral reimbursements for approval.
  - 1) Office Expenses: Church credit card, \$42.00 and pastor's debit card, \$145.20, totaling \$187.01 for Office Expenses.
  - 2) Professional Expenses: Church credit card, \$36.35 and pastor's reimbursement, \$24.95, totaling \$61.30 for Professional Expenses.
  - 3) Pastor's reimbursements, \$145.20 and \$24.95, totaling \$170.15. Motion Shawn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lyn to approve the Pastor's reimbursements of \$170.15. Motion approved.
- C. Pastor Chuck will be taking 2 weeks of vacation February 26 through March 12 to attend his son's wedding. Rev. Gail Arnold will provide pulpit supply March 3 and March 10. The Grief Support Group and the Lenten Bible Study will be covered by Rev. Jean Helmer?

#### Next Meeting:

By consensus, the Board of Trustees will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. The next meeting is set for March 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Closing Prayer led by Pastor Chuck.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Umenthum, Secretary



## UCC Diaconate Minutes February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Opening prayer given by Pastor Chuck.

Minutes of previous January meeting were read and approved as corrected.

**Members present:** Margaret S., Melanie A., Colleen A., Mischelle R., Harlene H., New member Phyllis Symonds, Pastor Chuck and Marilyn H.

### **REPORTS:**

Pastoral Report: Pastor was busy in January with getting ready for 2 annual meetings, board meetings visiting shut in and getting ready for the upcoming Lenten studies. He will start with Lenten Study on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February with "Wrestling with Doubt". He will also be leading a 10 week Grief Class beginning on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February at the church.

Church attendance for January: Approximately 124.

Shut in report: Harlene continues to make her phone calls. Mary Ann Wells would like to have some company, when people are able to come to Spearfish. Everyone continues to be appreciative of calls.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Communion for March: Assignment for this month has already been taken care of. List for upcoming year passed around.

Pulpit/vacation: Pastor Gail Arnold will be filling the pulpit while Pastor Chuck is gone. Colleen will contact Pastor Arnold to remind him and will also get with Belle Fourche Bookkeeping to get check.

Duties: Sign ups/clipboards: Hand out on Church Constitution given out on duties of Diaconate members. Also discussed usher, greeters, cookie hour hosts and sending out post card to remind people. Will table for now and discuss in March.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Election of officers: Motion made to keep current board members for upcoming year made by Melanie A., seconded by Mischelle R., motion carried. Colleen A will stay as President, Harlene H as Vice President, Blake H as Council Rep and Marilyn H as secretary.

Lenten supper/service: 5:30 – 6:30 for supper followed by Ash Wednesday service at 6:30. Blake is in charge of getting pancake mix. Mischelle will get orange juice, syrup, butter for supper and grape juice for communion. Will start set up at 4:30 on Wednesday.

Other: World Day of Prayer is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Good Friday is the 29<sup>th</sup> of March will have church at noon. Easter Sunday is March 31<sup>st</sup>, with Easter Egg hunt that Sunday.

Congregational concerns: Lydell Koerner's grandson Noah is going to be going through extensive treatment with multiple tests, followed by chemo and bone marrow transplant in April at Denver. Will need to be in hospital/Denver area for 3 months following surgery. Benefit for him and family will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Pavillion in Spearfish if anyone wants to attend or contribute an item.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday March 7th at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Marilyn Hespe, secretary

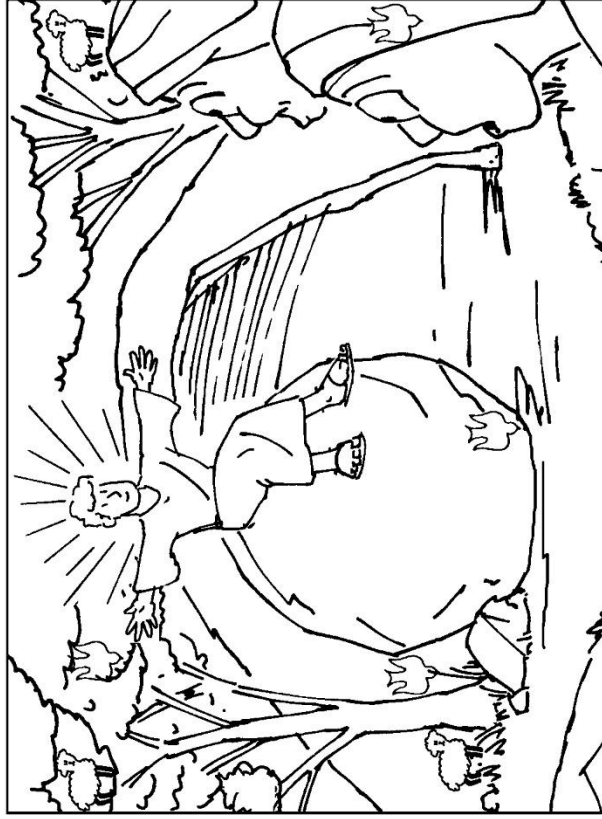
**March 1, 2024 • Matthew 28:1-10**

**March 1, 2024 • Matthew 28:1-10**

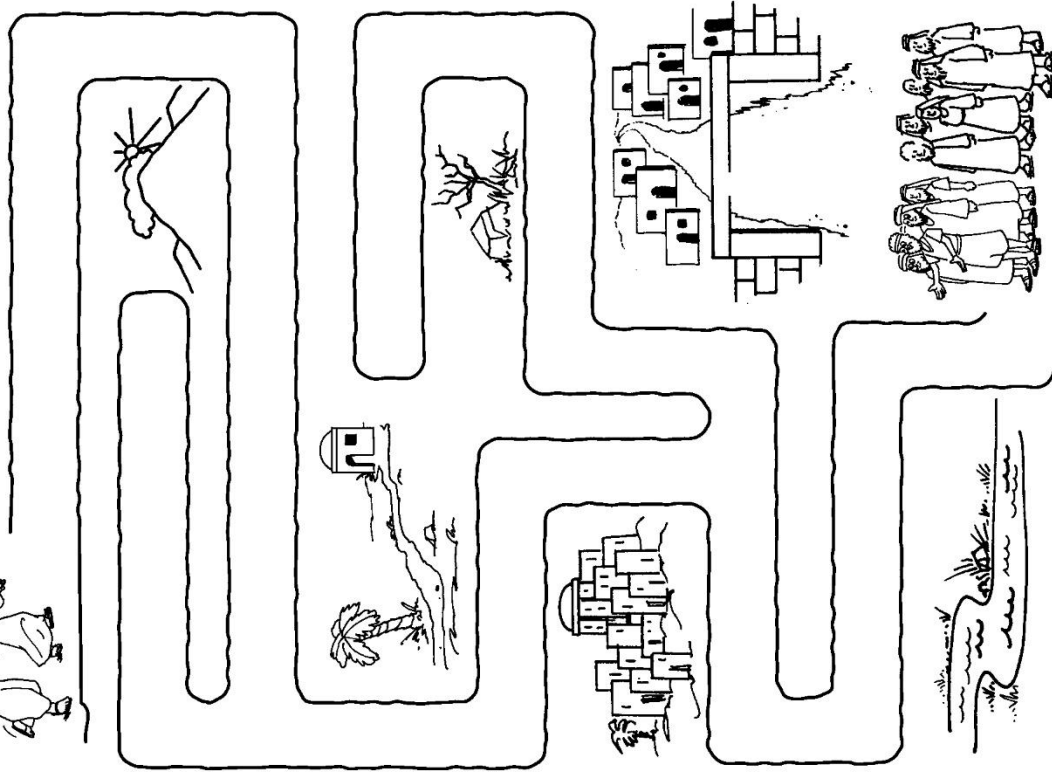
# The Resurrection

3 or 4 ?

4 or 5?



Help the women get to the disciples.



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KKZCY7



The angel told the women something. What was it?

A = B  
B = C  
C = D  
D = E  
E = F

F = G  
G = H  
H = I  
I = J

J = K  
K = L  
L = M  
M = N

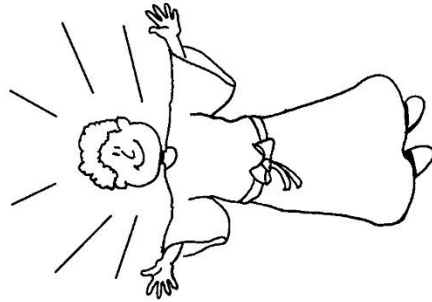
N = O  
O = P  
P = Q  
Q = R

R = S  
S = T  
T = U  
U = V  
V = W  
W = X  
X = Y  
Y = Z  
Z = A

Use the code to find out.

" F N

P T H B J K X



Z M C

S D K K

G H R

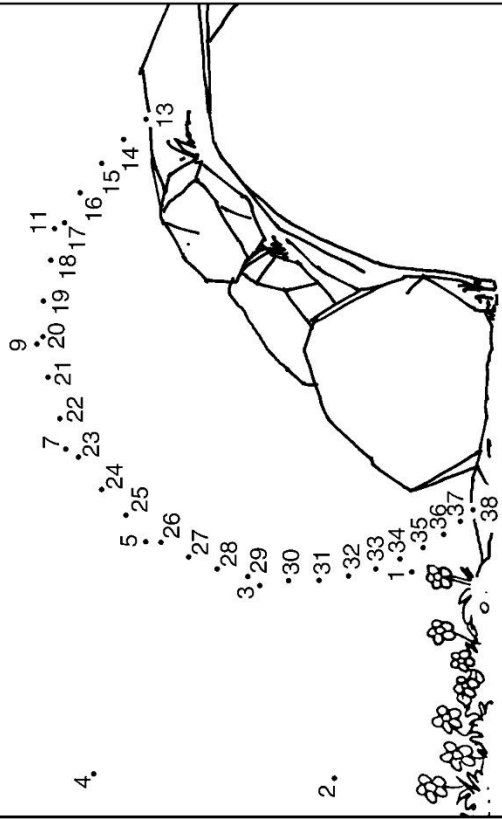
C H R B H O K D R  
!"

## The Resurrection

It was dawn on the first day of the week.  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary  
went to Jesus' tomb.

Connect the dots.

6. .8 .10 12.



Belle Fourche & St Onge UCC  
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ucc.bfso@gmail.com

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# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship Times</b> St Onge 8:30 am BF UCC 10:00 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> First Sunday of each month			<b>World Day of Prayer</b> at St. James, 1pm	1 No Grief Group Meeting	2 No Grief Group Meeting
<b>BF Coffee Hour</b> 3 BF Youth Sunday School, 9:30 am	4	5 <b>BF Deacons, 6pm</b> Weds Study Group, 7pm	6 Weds Study Group, 7pm	7	8	9 Grief Group, 10 am
<b>SO Coffee Hour</b> 10	11	12 <b>BF Trustees Meeting,</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>	13 Weds Study Group, 7pm	14	15 Grief Group, 10 am	16 Grief Group, 10 am
	17	18	19 Weds Study Group, 7pm	20 Weds Study Group, 7pm	21 	22 Grief Group, 10 am
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 24 	25 	26 	27 Weds Study Group, 7pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 28 Communion Service at BF UCC, 7:00 pm	<b>Good Friday</b> 29 BF UCC worship at 12:15 pm	30 No Grief Group Meeting
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 31 				<i>He is Risen</i>		

## EVENTS

### Wednesday Lenten Study

Our Lenten Study is, "Wrestling with Doubt". Please join us for this video-discussion group in the "Comfort Room" at the BF UCC, Wednesdays at 7pm.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on March 24th (Palm Sunday). We join with many other denominations to offer hope in the world.

