

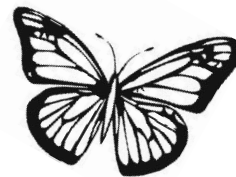


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**  
717 Jackson Street  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

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## **The Friendly Visitor Newsletter** **April 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

This month we will see loads of stuff on television and in the newspapers about the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>. (The maximum coverage will occur at 1:52 pm.) Although the sun will only be about 65% covered by the moon, we will see a dimming of light. And that's something to talk about.



In scripture, Jesus refers to himself as the light of the world (John 8:12). And just as the sun can be obscured by something, bringing darkness all around us, so too can other stuff in our lives obscure Christ's light. Typically, we call this stuff—sin. When we allow sin to run our lives, we dim the light of Christ that we would normally reflect back into the world. Whenever we share lies, or untruths, this diminishes the light of Christ that we can share with others. Whenever we are unkind or even downright mean to others, this darkens the day for everyone.

But just like in a solar eclipse, the actual light the sun is never really lessened. It is shining just as bright as always, it's just that the moon gets in the way. And Christ's light is likewise always shining brightly bringing warmth and love to all it touches; only sometimes that pesky sin of ours gets in the way. Still the light of Jesus never wavers.

Sometimes, we just need to let the light shine. This month, let the light of Jesus shine brightly by sharing love, truth, and your own caring favor upon all whom you will meet.

Let the light shine!

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 April 14th**  
**St. Onge UCC April 7th**

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



### **Scriptures for March 2024**

04/07	John 20:19-31	Why the Gospels?
04/14	Luke 24:36b-48	Getting Ready
04/21	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
04/28	John 15:1-8	The True Vine

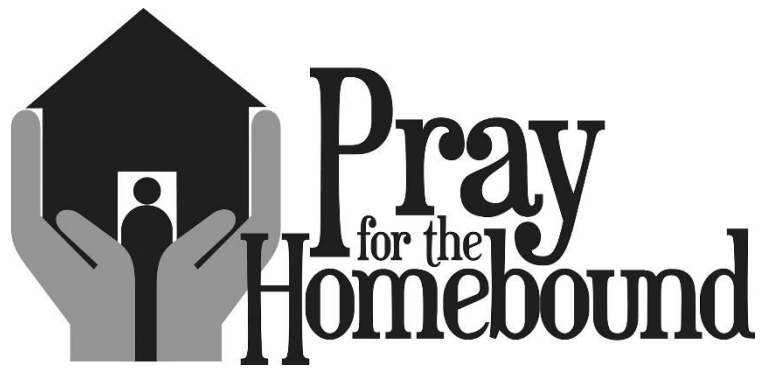
*“So the other disciples told Thomas,  
“We have seen the Lord.” John 20:25*

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**

Bob Schnaible	5
Lorene Goodwin	7
Margy Kokesh	9
Brian Aspen	9
Rosemary McMahon	16
Ed Denham	19
Brooklyn Moser	19
Karen Dailey	22
Delores West	23
Joyce Drabek	23
Jim Kokesh	27
Darren Cundall	27
Rhonda Fuhrer	29
Amanda Moser	30
Kevin Dailey	30

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Bob & Betty Schnaible	7
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**St. Onge UCC**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Kelsey Benson	7
Cammi Geffre	8
Betty Brengle	9
Joslyn Russell	19

**ANNIVERSARIES**



*“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”*  
 — William Shakespeare, Sonnet XCVIII

# Bible Quiz



D. a shepherd, who protects and provides for his sheep

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm likens God to what?

- A. The great protector
- B. A chef providing abundant food
- C. A city worker providing clean water
- D. A shepherd

## BF Youth Sunday School



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

### Treasurer's Report February 2024

Beginning Bal	33,761.10
Deposits	6,844.00
Expenses	-6,806.07
Bal in acct	\$33,793.03

**Thanks  
for Your  
Help!**

For everyone who helped make our  
**Holy Week Services**  
so special... Thank You!

Thank you to Dixie and the Garr family  
for providing Easter Lilies  
in memory of Paul Garr.

Your generous gifts to the  
*One Great Hour of Sharing*  
are appreciated.

*Thank you for caring.*

(Additional gifts to the OGHS offering may be mailed  
to the church office.)





*When I consider your heavens, the work  
of your fingers, the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place, what is  
man that you are mindful of him?*

*Psalms 8:3-4*



*A Season  
of  
Easter!*



## Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC Church Council Meeting March 19,2024

John King, moderator called the meeting to order at 5:10pm. Other members present were Kay Cooper (by phone) trustees; Blake Hunter, Diaconate; Diane Kappes, clerk; Blaine Anderson, out-going Clerk; Pastor Chuck Aurand.

Trustees report by Kay Cooper. There will be a CD maturing in April. There is one bid for the tree work for \$1,000. The committee will try to get a few more bids. Ideas for a new outside sign to replace the old sign are being discussed such as ideas for placement, colors, etc. There is a leak in the ladies' upstairs bathroom that is in the process of being repaired.

Diaconate report by Blake Hunter. New diaconate members are Phyllis Simmons and Aurora Voyles. There was a \$500 donation given to Noah Koerner for medical expenses. There will be an easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday at the church at 9:30- candy was donated by the deacons. Herman Park has been secured for the Sunday School fall kick-off.

Pastor Aurand gave a pastor's report. He is back from a 2-week vacation, while he was gone the pulpit was filled by Reverend Gayle Arnold and Jean Helmer. The theme for the Lenten season has been "Wrestling with Doubt."

Old business: It was discussed that there needs to be some time between the church service and the annual meeting. Kay Cooper MOVED "that the annual meeting packet be available for members after the church service the week before the meeting." SECONDED and PASSED. Any questions that members have about the packet will be discussed within the annual meeting itself.

New Business: The bathroom pipe is still in the process of being repaired, there will be more work on securing tree work estimates. The front steps will need to be repaired in the future.

Pastor Aurand closed with a prayer. The moderator adjourned the meeting at 6:20. The next meeting will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Kappes

Clerk

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees

March 11, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Members present: Kay, Lyn, Shawn, Sandra, Dennis, Carol, and Pastor Chuck.

Opening Prayer led by Pastor Chuck.

Meeting called to order by Kay.

Minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Reports were presented by Kay. She stated that the reports reflect an increase in loose plate offerings and the expenses are basically under budget for the first two months of the year. Motion by Lyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis to approve the Financial Reports as presented. Motion approved.

Old Business:

Motion by Lyn to say a Big Thank You to Dennis for making the necessary repairs and completing the maintenance needs requested by Mischelle. Unanimously approved.

Kay reported that she had met with John Carbajal regarding the 5 trees in the front parkway. He recommends cutting out the dead branches and light pruning of all 5 trees once they begin to bud out. Consensus to pursue the work with John.

Pastor Chuck reported that the new racks for the paraments finished. John King donated his time and the materials for the project. Thank you, John.

We will continue to explore options for the replacement of the church sign on the front lawn. Discussion regarding the type of materials, lighting, and placement will continue.

Continued discussion about resurfacing the front steps, will explore possible material similar to the front steps at the County Court House.

Dennis adjusted the latch on the South middle door. Consensus to paint the edge of the step outside the door to alert people about the big step down.

New Business:

Kay reported that a church member has anonymously donated services from Tru Green to fertilize the church lawn this year.

Kay mentioned that the rock facing on the retaining wall around the front lawn needs some repair on the corner. Need to explore finding appropriate repair materials and a mason.

The next meeting date is April 9, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Closing Prayer led by Pastor Chuck.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Umenthum, Secretary



UCC Diaconate Meeting March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Opening Prayer:** Lord's Prayer

**Review of Minutes:** Minutes were read and approved.

**Attendees:** Melanie A, Aurora V., Aiden V., Harlene H., Phyllis S., Margaret S., Blake H., Colleen A., and Marilyn H.

**REPORTS:**

**Pastoral Report:** given by Colleen A.

Church attendance numbers February: 230

**Shut in report:** Harlene continues to call with much appreciation from everyone called. Continue to keep them all in our prayers.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Communion for April/Maundy/Thursday: Melanie and Marilyn for April. Maundy/Thursday service March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Duties Sign up/clipboard:** Discussed sending them around again.

**Mission funds for Noah Koerner:** Special funds has \$5600.91. Discussed making up a basket or giving money. Melanie A. made a motion to give \$500 to the family, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phyllis S., motion carried.

**Easter egg hunt:** Amount of kids maybe about 10 or so. Bring candy to the church by the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. Marilyn will get in touch with Sammie about filling them before Easter Sunday.

**Fall kick off:** Colleen has reserved the bandshell and picnic area for Sept 8<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reinstatement of a member:** Mike Baker would like to be reinstated to our church. Melanie A. made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harlene H. Motion approved.

**Fifth Grade bibles/Graduation:** We need to get a list of 5<sup>th</sup> graders, so we can order bibles. Graduating seniors, we have Aiden V., Winter M., and Brayden S., We will set May 5<sup>th</sup> as recognition for the seniors and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Music in the Park:** Discussed briefly about doing ice cream again in July during the summer concert series.

**Congregational concerns:** John and Kay Cooper leaving the 13<sup>th</sup> of March to head to Denver. Discussed doing meals for them when they return. Phyllis S. will head this up.

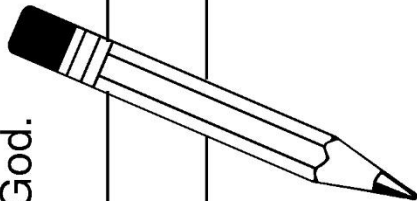
**Next meeting:** April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm.

No further business meeting was adjourned. Closing prayer given by Colleen A.

Respectfully submitted by, Marilyn Hespe

Unity is a blessing from God.

Trace the word.



U N I T Y



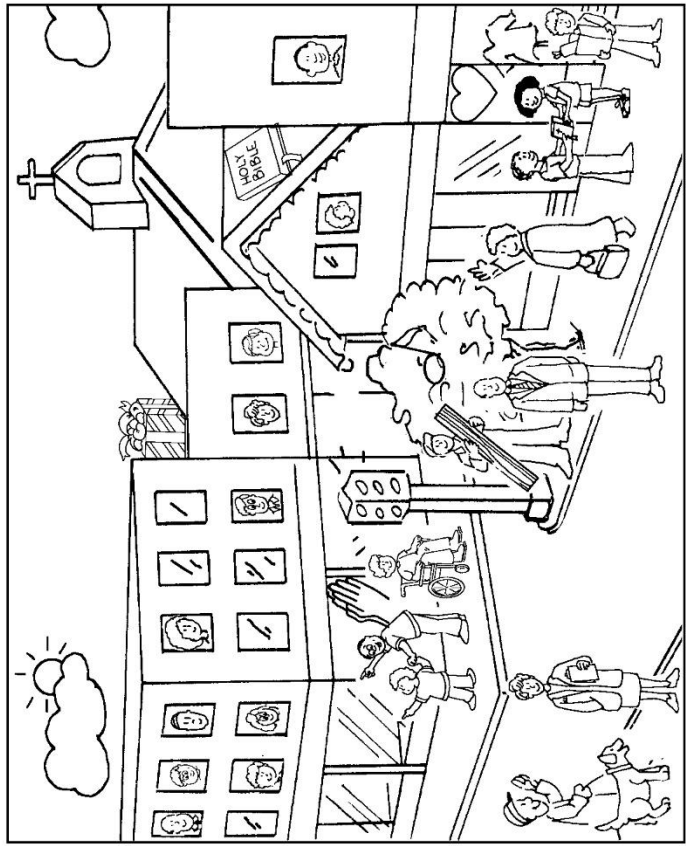
Ages 3+

April 1, 2024 • Psalm 133:1-3

# The Goodness of Unity

It is good when people live together in unity.

Find the hidden objects in the picture.



Belle Fourche & St Onge UCC  
Yoked Parish  
717 Jackson Street  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
ucc.bfso@gmail.com

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Ages 7+

April 1, 2024 • Psalm 133:1-3

What happens on Mount Zion?



# The Goodness of Unity

The psalm is like a song to God.

Add and subtract letters to find out.  
Then fill in the blanks below.

① -tabe + -bwl + -ing

+ -og = \_\_\_\_\_ 1

② -askt + -ick + -rainb

+ -poon = \_\_\_\_\_ 2

③ -ird + -penci + -pi

+ -ock + -kte + -kot

+ -oose = \_\_\_\_\_ 3

“There the \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2

His \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_.”

Fill in the missing parts of the letters to read the lyrics.

“Hc w a c c o r d i t i s  
w h a r b r o i t a r s  
l i v e t o g e t h e r  
i n u n i t y !”



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God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH  
 OF CHRIST**



# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship Times</b> St Onge 8:30 am BF UCC 10:00 am	1 	2  	3 <b>BF Deacons, 6pm</b>	4 	5  	6 Grief Group, 10 am
<b>BF Coffee Hour</b> 7 BF Youth Sunday School, 9:30 am	8  	9 <b>BF Trustees, 5:30 pm</b>	10  	11  	12  	13 Grief Group, 10 am
14 <b>SO Coffee Hour</b>	15 	16  	17  	18  	19  	20 Grief Group, 10 am
Black Hills UCC 21 Association Mtg in Hermosa	22  	23  	24 	25  	26  	27 Last Grief Group, 10 am
28 	29  	30  	 	 	 	

# EVENTS

**Association Meeting**  
 The Black Hills Association of the UCC will be meeting at the Hermosa UCC in Hermosa, SD on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Registration is at 2:30 pm.

**New Bible Study begins May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
 We are reading, *Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know* (2019) by Barry A. Ensign-George & Eva Stimson. In six sessions we will review the Bible.

