



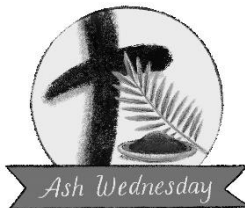
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

717 Jackson Street

Belle Fourche, SD 57717

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Friendly Visitor Newsletter March 2025



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



The battles between the Irish Catholics and Protestants are legendary. St. Patrick was originally from Brittan, enslaved by the Irish, escaped, and was reunited with his family. But this holy man sought clerical training and when he was ordained, chose to return to Ireland...for the need was great. Jesus, our Lord, calls us to go to places where we might not choose to go—ever. Still the need is great.

Today, the Irish Catholics and Protestants are trying to find ways in Christ to live in a united and yet a not-united Irish homeland. In our own country, there are those who would like to pull the minority party, and ethnic or religious minorities out of our union. Perhaps St. Patrick's Day could be a day to remind us that in Christ we are called to go toward our enemies, toward those who differ from us. Through seeking one another's good, we can—and must—unite all under God's rule.

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 Mar 2nd
St. Onge UCC Mar 9th

Join us for refreshments and refreshing conversation.



Scriptures for March 2025

3/02	Luke 9:28-36	The Transfiguration
3/09	Luke 4:1-13	The Temptations of Christ
3/16	Luke 13:31-35	Some Pharisees Warn Jesus
3/23	Luke 13:1-9	The Tower and a Fig Tree
3/30	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	The Parable of the Lost Son

“Jesus wept.” John 11:35

Edgewood Vista
Cheri Miller

Sundance Long Term Care & Rehab
Betty Schnaible

Rolling Hills Long Term Care
Lydell Koerner

Hickory House Apartments
De Johnson



Peaceful Pines - Spearfish
Jack Wells

The Village (Rapid City)
Lanelle Cundall



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
Don Schuchhardt	21
Kace Kolb	21
Sue Kokesh	25
Gary Helmer	29
Jaimie Jo Hunter	30

A God Sighting- by Jean Helmer

Her eighteen-month-old independence fully displayed, Nadia pressed head and heels backward, arched from Mom’s arms, shoulder-shrugged away from my Grammy hand. Following Mom out of the garage, she toddled down the sidewalk. Glancing back at Grammy, she whipped her chin around. Suddenly her blonde defiance faded. Her astonished eyes widened. Independence was forgotten. Just at her shoulder-height, Virginia Bluebells stood in full bloom. Kindling my heart, she gasped an awe-filled, “Wow!” Looking at the blossoms, then at us, she repeated, “Wow!” Mesmerized, she reached one tiny index finger forward, touched a single bluebell. Nadia, firstborn great-granddaughter, recognizes God’s splendor.

Bible Quiz



(c) See Genesis 3:19, Job 30:19, Eccl 3:20

Is “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” in the Bible? We say it at funerals.

- a) Absolutely not
- b) Of course it is.
- c) Well, it’s “biblically based”
- d) Nobody knows

BF Youth Sunday School



Youth Sunday School
First Sunday of each month
at 9:30 am

BF January 2025 Financials

Beginning balance	47,525.21
Deposits	10,231.62
Expenses	6,378.69
End of month (Jan)	51,378.14



Please pray for the friends and families of:

Kevin Keegan died 01/23/2025

Marva Ryther died 02/22/2025

Gary Stinton died 02/24/2025

God Moments



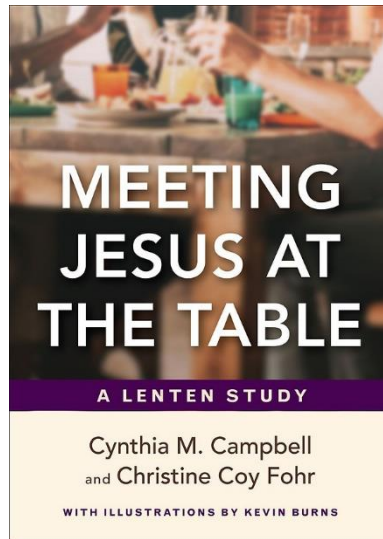
“My alcoholic daughter just reached 5-years of sobriety.”
~ anonymous

“My Church family” ~ anonymous

OUR LENTEN STUDY

Join us for “Meeting Jesus at the Table” by Cynthia Campbell & Christine Fohr. The first session will include chapters one and two.

7 pm in the BF Comfort Room starting March 19th.



March 5th
 (ashes will be distributed at both services)
 St. Onge.....noon
 Belle Fourche7:00 pm

Belle Fourche Pancake Supper
 Serving 5:30 - 6:30pm
 Free-will donation

* OUR * AMAZING Volunteers

.....

Ushers for March

Open

Mar 2nd Reception Host & Cookies Blaine & Colleen Anderson
Carole Zimmerman

Greeters Donald and Lou Schuchhardt
Kristin Durr

Mar 9th Greeters Blaine & Colleen Anderson

Mar 16th Greeters Blaine & Colleen Anderson

Mar 23rd Greeter Scott & Colleen Schuft

Mar 30th Greeters Gene & Barb Embrey

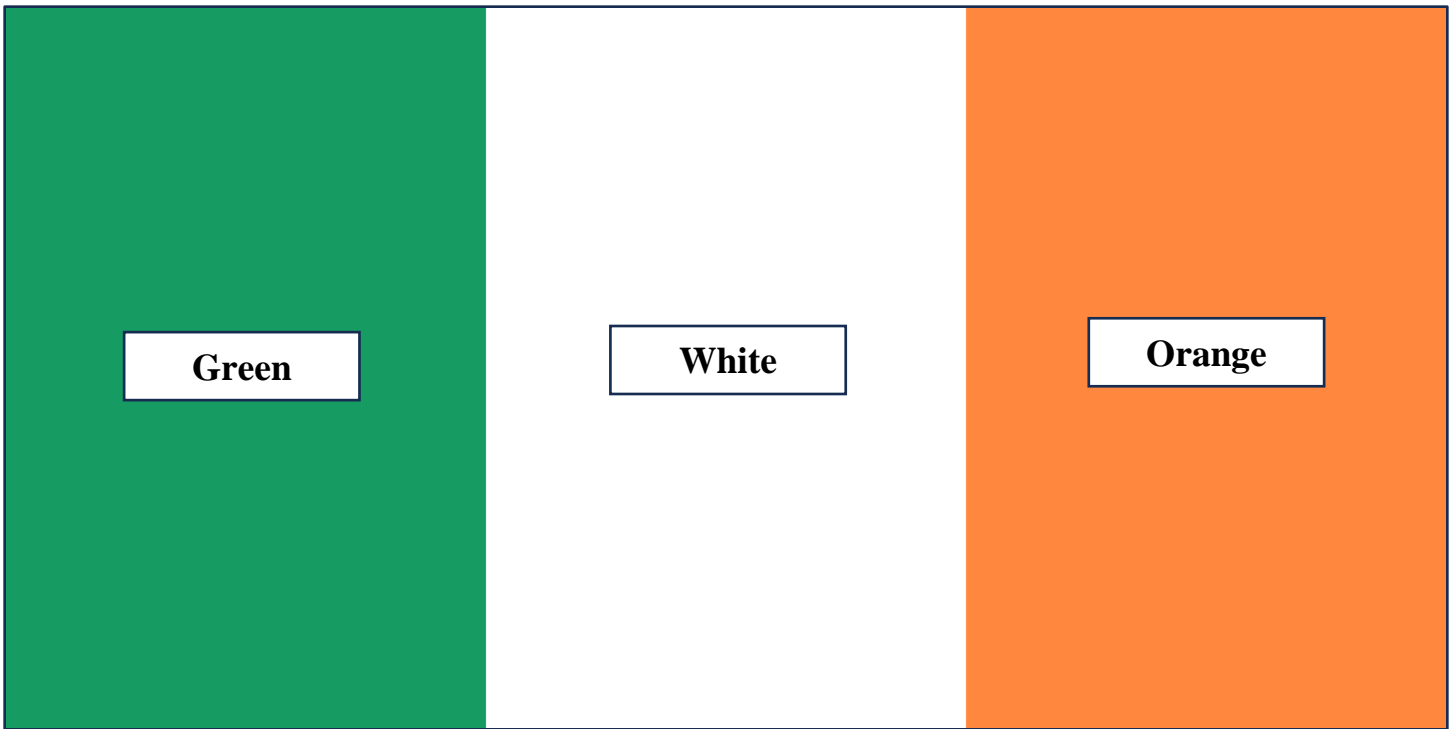


One Great HOUR OF SHARING

This special offering of the United Church of Christ will be received on March 30th. This offering invites us to join our gifts with those of many other Protestant denominations across the country to alleviate suffering throughout the world and within our own United States.

Please share in this One Great Hour of Sharing.





The Irish flag includes the colors green (for the Roman Catholics), orange (for the Protestants), and white (for peace between them).

A prayer for peace:

"Lord God our Creator, you call your faithful people to advance your Kingdom in this world. Heal our divisions, unite us in your name, and draw us closer together in proclaiming your love and peace."

[Irish Council of Churches]



Belle Fourche 1st Congregational UCC 132nd Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

Moderator John King called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. A quorum was declared. Opening prayer was provided by Pastor Chuck Aurand.

Visitors Voice motion made by Diane Kappes, 2nd by Kay Cooper; motion carried.

The Minutes from the 131st Annual Meeting were reviewed by the congregation. Motion to approve the minutes by Jean Helmer, seconded; motion carried.

Committee and Board Reports were received including Pastoral; Moderator; Clerk; Church Council; Trustees; Diaconate; Christian Education; Funeral; Auditor; M&M Daycare; Financial Secretary. Motion to accept the reports as presented by Devin Stephens, seconded; Motion carried.

2025 Budget Proposal The 2025 proposed budget was reviewed and explained by Kay Cooper. Motion by Kay Cooper to adopt the proposed budget; seconded; Motion carried.

Nominations for Board Vacancies The Nominating Committee presented names for vacancies on the boards and committees as follows: Clerk-Diane Kappes; Moderator- John King; General Funds Treasurer-Jake O'Brien; Special Funds Treasurer- Kathy King; Financial Secretary- Devin Stephens; Auditors- Carole Zimmerman and Dan Kokesh; Trustees- Steve Kappes; Diaconate- Marilyn Hespe, Margaret Shoemaker, Aiden & Aurora Voyles; Christian Education- Samantha Hunter, Becky Bishop, Brianne Fox.

After calls for nominations yielded no results, a motion to cease nominations and approve those listed to be approved to serve on their respective positions and boards was made by Jean Helmer, seconded. The entire slate of nominees were elected unanimously by acclamation.

Old Business Wm. Blaine Anderson gave a brief update on the proposed By-Law changes. Moving forward, a new meeting will be scheduled after the new committees have had time to meet.

New Business no new business was presented.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned FOLLOWING the installation of officers.

Next Annual meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2026.

Installation of Officers: Pastor Aurand led the installation of the officers with the congregation participation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Kappes, Clerk

Board of Trustee Minutes for February 11, 2025 5:30 PM

Present: Kay, Dennis, Lynn, Carol, Steve, Sandra and Pastor Chuck

Kay called the meeting to order and Pastor Chuck gave an opening prayer.
The minutes from the January 5th meeting were read and approved as presented.

Election of officers. Dennis MOVED to elect a slate of officers as follows:

Chairperson: Carol Umenthum

Vice-Chair: Steve Kappes

Secretary: Sandra Baker

Church Council Rep.: Sandra Baker and/or Carol Umenthum

Seconded. A unanimous ballot PASSED.

Kay presented the financials for January and the group reviewed the information.
Dennis MOVED to receive the reports, subject to audit. Seconded. Motion PASSED.

Old Business: We reviewed ongoing projects: new sign, front step, pew cushions. Dennis and Phyllis Simmons donated and installed a carbon monoxide detector in the furnace room. Kay will continue to work on updating the memorial board.

New Business: We talked about scheduling a date for a church Spring work day in March or April. No date was set at this time.

Pastor Chuck presented his reimbursement report. Lyn MOVED to accept. Seconded. Motion PASSED.

Maintenance reminders: Every 6 months: Open and close valves on boiler. Schedule to have piano tuned.

Pastor Chuck closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 11 at 5:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Baker, secretary

BF Trustees:

Chair	Carol Umenthum
Vice Chair	Steve Kappes
Secretary	Sandra Baker
Council Rep	Sandra Baker
	Dennis Simmons
	Lyn Smeenck

BF Deacons:

Chair	Marilyn Hespe
Vice	Blake Hunter
Secretary	Melanie Anderson
Shut-ins	Phyllis Simmons
Council Rep	Margaret Shoemaker
Youth Rep	Aiden and Aurora Voyles

UCC Diaconate Meeting Minutes 2-5-2025

In attendance: Colleen Anderson, Blake Hunter, Margaret Shoemaker, Marilyn Hesse, Melanie Anderson, Aurora Voyles, Pastor Chuck

Pastor Chuck led the opening prayer.

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

Election of officers: Chairman-Marilyn, Vice Chairman-Blake, Secretary-Melanie, Church Council Representative-Margaret, Shut-in calls-Phyllis

Pastoral Report:

*Pastor Chuck shared information on visits made and church and community meetings attended.

*The deaths of Kevin Keegan and Harry Haivala were noted, both of whom will be dearly missed.

*Pastor Chuck is requesting vacation time Aug. 28-Sept. 10. We will need to find pulpit supply for Aug. 31 and Sept. 7. Marilyn made the motion to accept the request for vacation time. Seconded. Motion passed.

Church attendance for January was 155. No shut-in report was given.

Old business:

*Communion for March 2nd-Marilyn will set up and Margaret will prepare the bread.

New business:

*The greeters for each Sunday will be asked to do a count for attendance and record it on the calendar on the bulletin board by the restrooms.

*Due to the high level of illness in our community, it was suggested that we forego shaking hands during our Sunday service for the time being.

*Hymn choices were discussed with the suggestion that the first Sunday of the month would include a hymn/song the children could sing. A request was made for hymns the congregation is more familiar with.

*Ash Wednesday service is on March 5th at 7:00 PM. There will be a pancake and sausage supper (free will offering) from 5:30-6:45 prior to the service.

*Palm Sunday service is on April 13th. Marilyn will order palms.

*Easter service will take place on April 20th, with an Easter egg hunt for the children prior to the service.

* We are planning to worship in the park on Sept. 7th. Pastor Chuck will make the reservation. Communion will be moved to the 2nd Sunday in September.

*Community World Day of Prayer services are being planned for March 7th at 1:00 PM. More information to follow.

*Next meeting: March 12th at 5:30 PM.

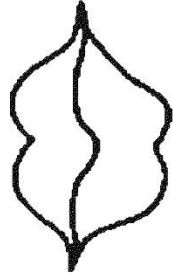
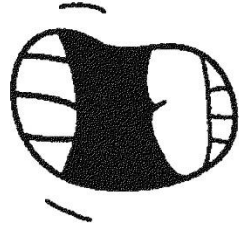
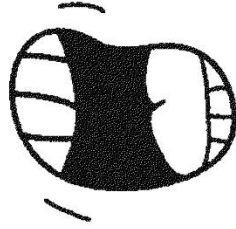
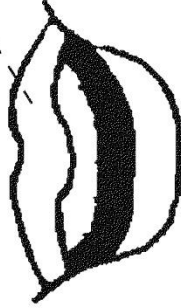
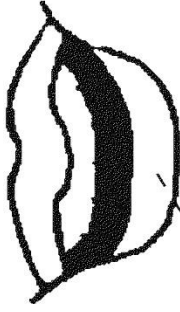
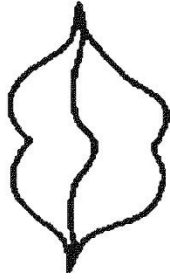
Colleen made the motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Chuck led us in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Anderson

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Match the mouths.



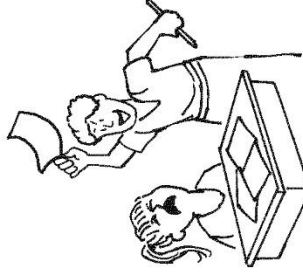
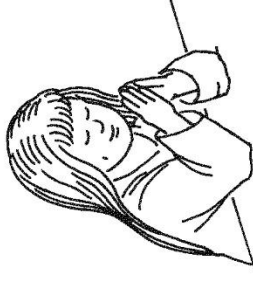
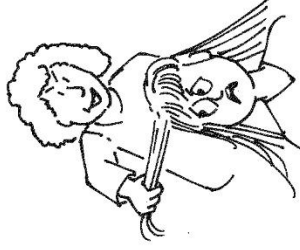
Ages 3+

March 1, 2025 • Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15

A Prayer of Confession

I know my sins.
Against You, O God, I have sinned.

Circle 1 picture that is different.



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

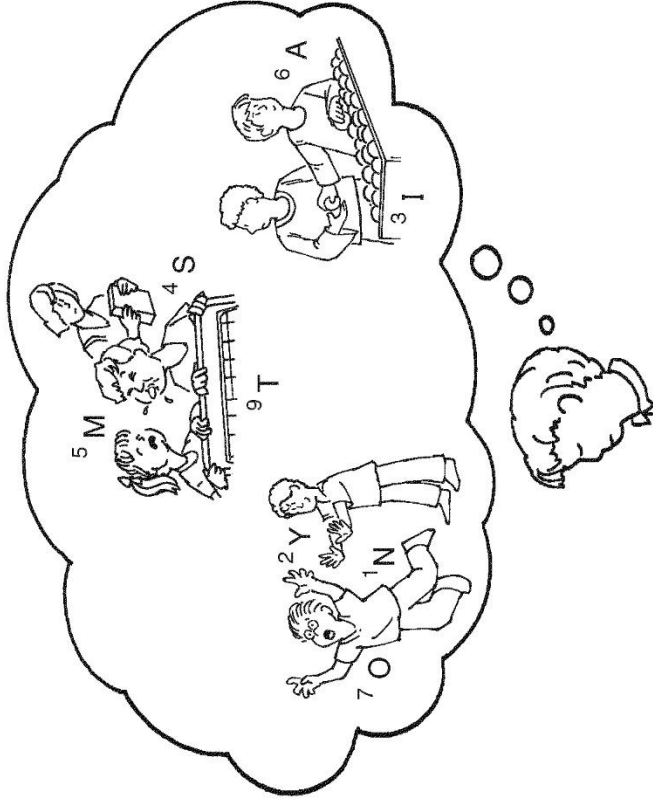
Ages 7+

March 1, 2025 • Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15

A Prayer of Confession

David, the psalm writer, said he could never ignore or forget something because it was always there. What was it?

Find the numbered letters in the picture. Write them on the lines.



“ _____ is always before me.”



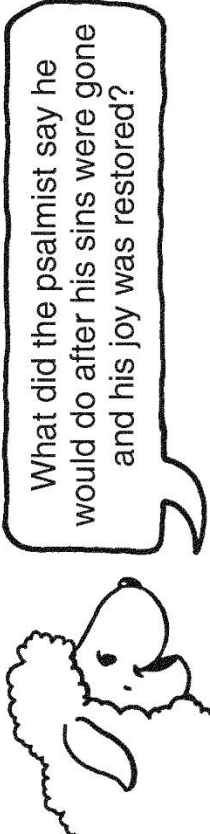
Belle Fourche & St Onge UCC

Yoked Parish

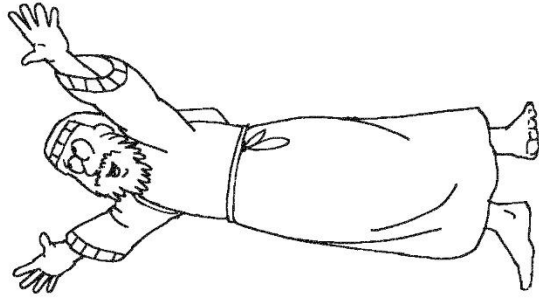
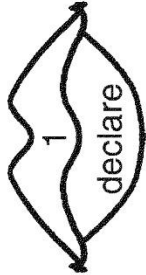
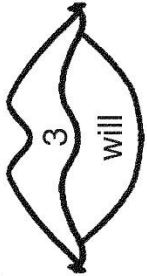
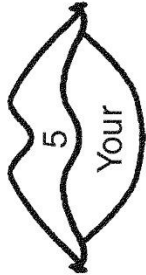
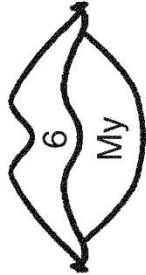
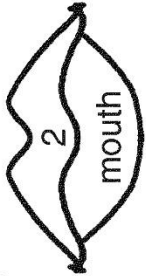
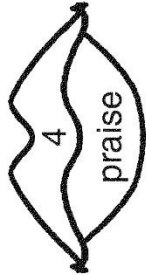
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Solve the math problems and fill in the blanks below.



“ $1 + 5 =$ _____ $18 - 16 =$ _____ ”

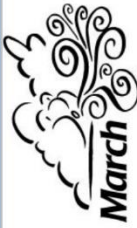




$7 - 4 =$ _____

$10 - 9 =$ _____ $4 + 1 =$ _____ ”

$2 + 2 =$ _____



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Communion First Sunday of each month	Worship Times St Onge 8:30 am BF UCC 10:00 am			 March		UCC Women's Week, March 1-8
2 BF Coffee Hour following worship	3	4 Ash Wednesday 5 SO worship, noon BF Pancake, 5:30 pm BF worship, 7:00 pm	6 Marva Ryther Service, 11 am Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	World Day of Prayer 7 1:00 pm at the BF Methodist church	8 International Women's Day 	15
1st Sunday in Lent 9 SO Coffee Hour following worship	10	11 BF Trustees, 5:30 pm	12 BF Deacons, 5:30 pm Bible Study, 7 pm	13 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	14	22
2nd Sunday in Lent 16	St. Patrick's Day 17 	18 Council Mtg, 5 pm	19 Lenten Study begins, 7 pm	20 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	21	29
3rd Sunday in Lent 23	24	25	26 Lenten Study, 7 pm	27 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	28 	
4th Sunday in Lent 30 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	One Great HOUR OF SHARING 31 					

EVENTS

Lenten Pancake Dinner

Join us in the BF Fellowship Hall for a Pancake Dinner on Ash Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm. The Ash Wednesday Service begins at 7pm.

Our Lenten Study begins March 19th

Join us for "Meeting Jesus at the Table" by Cynthia Campbell & Christine Fohr. The first session will include chapters one and two. 7 pm in the BF Comfort Room.

