



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

717 Jackson Street

Belle Fourche, SD 57717

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Friendly Visitor Newsletter April 2025



Easter

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.org



The Pastor's Pen



“Christian faith is a matter not of certainty but of love.” While some seem to argue endlessly that Christian faith is based on absolute belief, giving rise to absolute pronouncements...and punishments. The great Reformer Martin Luther who lived in a period of an absolute Church and social chaos, found that faith may be a form of certainty, but it's revelation is shrouded in paradox. Luther, himself, chose to witness to Christ amid the chaos of his life, and then ponder how we might do the same in the chaos of our own.” All of which is to say, faith, in teaching and life, is not certainty at all; save in the name of love.

Today, we have way too many pundits spouting absolutes about God and Christ, when perhaps, humility over our every limited understanding of an infinite God ultimately leads to far more questions than declarative pronouncements. Easter is a time to consider the love of God and the love of Christ, who died in faithfulness on the cross, who while on that cross racked with pain, pitied a sinner who hung beside him saying, “This day you will be with me in paradise.” Love opens the door to new life for all. In fact, the only certainty that theologians can all agree on, is that God loves and Christ loves. Maybe we could give it a try as well.

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 6th
St. Onge UCC April 13th**

Join us for refreshments and refreshing conversation.



Scriptures for April 2025

4/06	John 12:1-11	The Anointing of Jesus
4/13	Luke 19:28-40	Palm Sunday
4/17	various	Maundy Thursday
4/18	various	Good Friday
4/20	Luke 24:1-12	Easter Story
4/27	John 20:19-31	The Purpose of this Book

Remember...that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ~ Luke 24:6-7

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



Belle Fourche UCC

St Onge UCC

BIRTHDAYS

Lorene Goodwin	7
Margy Kokesh	9
Brian Aspen	9
Rosemary McMahon	16
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

BIRTHDAYS

Joslyn Russell 19



Bible Quiz



e) Both c & d

In Luke's gospel, when the (male) disciples heard that women had been to the tomb on Easter morning and found that Jesus had risen. What did the men do?

- a) Threw confetti and celebrated!
- b) Told the women to be quiet.
- c) Thought it was an "idle" tale or nonsense.
- d) Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself
- e) Both c & d

BF Youth Sunday School



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

BF February 2025 Financials

Beginning balance	51,378.14
Deposits	7,961.71
Expenses	6,685.76
End of month (Feb)	52,654.09

God Moments

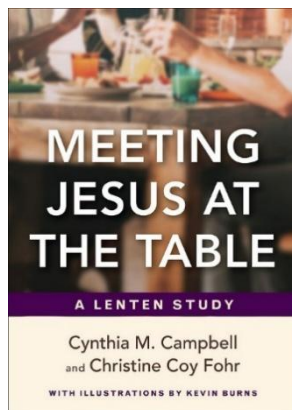
Watching the kids sing and dance
when listening to “He’s Got the
Whole World in His Hands.”
~ anonymous



OUR LENTEN STUDY

Join us for “Meeting Jesus
at the Table” by Cynthia
Campbell & Christine Fohr.

7 pm in the BF Comfort
Room Through April 23rd.



Youth Easter Egg Hunt is coming!

On Easter Day at 9:30 am the kids will meet in the downstairs Classroom for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year we need candy for about 100 eggs.

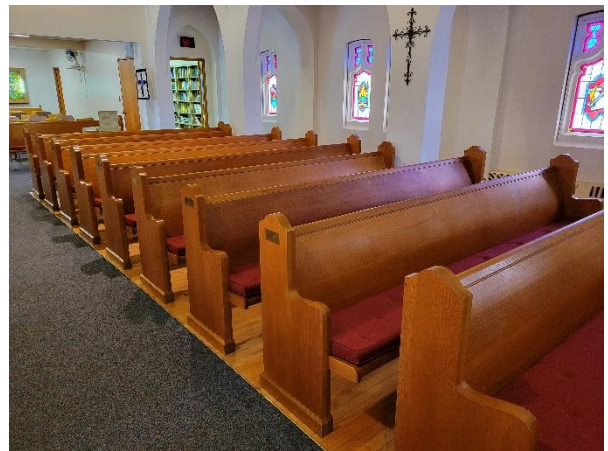
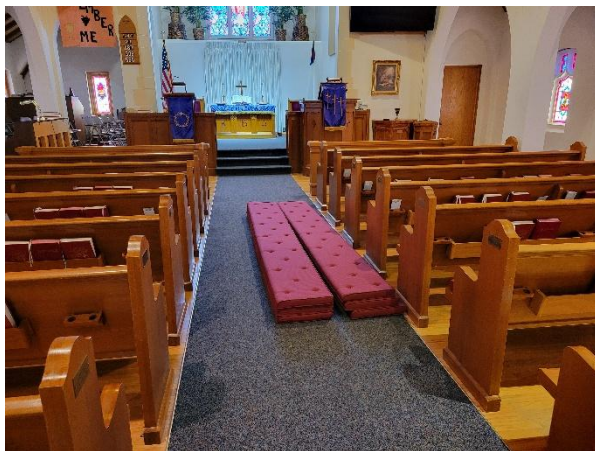
We have the plastic eggs in hand, but alas, they are empty. Could you bring a small bag of individually wrapped candy to the church office on or before April 13th?

Thank you for supporting our kids.



We Have New Pew Cushions!

(One church member remembers our old cushions being in place during Christmas of 1955—70 years ago!)



**Thank you, Waggoners, Inc.
Pew Cushions and Pew Upholstery.**



Victory!

Death has
been swallowed
up in victory.

•••

1 Corinthians 15:54,
NIV

Thank you, Volunteers!

Ushers for April	Cory & Tessa Voyles
April 6th Reception Host & Cookies	Scott & Colleen Schuft Keith & Carol Umenthum
April 6th Greeters	Keith & Carol Umenthum
April 13th Greeters	John & Kathy King
April 20th Greeter	Dixie Garr
April 27th Greeters	Jim & Margy Kokesh



		HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE
		

April 13 th	Palm Sunday	St. Onge, 8:30 am / Belle Fourche, 10:00 am
April 17 th	Maundy Thursday	Belle Fourche UCC, 7:00 pm
April 18 th	Good Friday	Belle Fourche UCC, 12:15pm (noon)
April 20 th	Easter Sunday	St. Onge Worship, 8:30 am BF Egg Hunt/Sunday School, 9:30 am Belle Fourche Worship, 10:00 am

Christian Ed

March 2nd, 2025

Members Present: Brianne Fox, Megan Vetter and Samantha Hunter

Samantha Hunter called the meeting to order.

Old Business

-Cookie Sunday was a great success! The kids had the best time decorating cookies and adding lots of sprinkles; however, their favorite part was selling the cookies! Thank you to everyone who bought cookies- your generosity was greatly appreciated!

New Business

- Adding Sunday School on Palm Sunday and students will wave palms during the service.
- Adding Sunday School on Easter Sunday as the Easter Egg hunt will take place during Sunday School time.
- We are looking at an end of the year celebration!

Megan Vetter motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Board of Trustees Minutes for March 11, 2025

Present: Carol, Dennis, Sandra, Lynn (on phone) and Pastor Chuck.

Carol declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Pastor Chuck gave an opening prayer.

Minutes of the February 11 meeting were read and approved as presented.

The group reviewed the financial reports for February. Dennis moved to receive the reports, subject to audit, seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business: We need to change the signatures on the main checking account at Pioneer Bank. Dennis made the motion to replace Kay Cooper and Rich Drabek with Carol Umenthum and Sandra Baker. The motion was seconded and passed.

Other old business updates:

- The front step resurfacing will be done when the overnight temperatures moderate.
- Pew Cushion update: the company remeasured and re-counted pews. The cushions should be delivered around the end of April or early May.
- Received the recertification for the boiler.
- Church sign project: trying to coordinate with Austin Bishop and the shop teacher.

New Business: The copier is to be replaced with a newer version and a new 60-month contract/service plan for \$20 less than the current contract. The new copier is to be installed March 24.

Pastor Chuck has a potential person for the secretarial position. We authorized Pastor Chuck and Carol to interview and hire this person for the secretarial position starting on or before April 1 for 6 hours a week at \$20 an hour. Sandra made the motion, seconded and the motion passed.

Pastor Chuck will contact the piano tuner for the sanctuary piano to have its 6-month retuning.

The group scheduled a Spring workday for Saturday, April 12 from 8-12.

Pastor Chuck reported on the upgrade Blue Peak did on the phone line, it is now voice over IP and the work he did on the church laptop computer.

Pastor Chuck submitted reimbursements for postage, rental of the bandshell and shelter for the September service, and some study materials. It was moved to approve the reimbursements, seconded and passed.

The Church Council meeting is Tuesday, March 18 at 5:00 pm. Sandra will represent the trustees.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 8 at 5:30 pm.

Pastor Chuck gave a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

UCC Diaconate Meeting Minutes 3/12/2025

In attendance were Marilyn, Margaret, Blake, Phyllis, Pastor Chuck, and Melanie.
Pastor Chuck led the opening prayer.
February minutes were reviewed and approved.

Reports:

- *The Church Directory Online 3-year renewal and a reimbursement to Pastor Chuck for reserving the Herman Park bandshell will be paid out of the Diaconate fund.
- *Pastor Chuck reported on visits made, meetings attended, February Bible study, Grief/Bereavement group, and the funeral service for Harry Haivala. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will take place at the end of March. A request was made for vacation time off from May 7th-May 13th for Pastor Chuck to spend time with his brother who is facing health problems. The request was approved. Blake will check on pulpit supply for Sunday, May 11th.
- *Church attendance for February was estimated at 170.
- *Shut in report: Through a card followed by a phone call, Phyllis has introduced herself to the members she contacts each month. Phyllis enjoyed the phone visits and learning about our members.
- *Maintaining our membership records was discussed.

Old Business:

- *Ash Wednesday meal donations totaled \$190.00, Thanks to Blake and Samantha Hunter for donating the pancake mix. Bills for the other supplies will be turned in soon.
- *Communion on April 6th will be set up by Melanie and Aurora.
- *Palm Sunday is on April 13th and palms have been ordered.
- *April 17th is Maundy Thursday. Service will be in our sanctuary at 7pm.
- *The Sunday school kids will have an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday (April 20th). We will donate candy and stuff the eggs.
- *One of the fall dates for Pastor Chuck's vacation is covered. We will continue to look for a fill-in for the other Sunday.

New Business:

- *Discussion was held concerning how to encourage more people to sign up to be ushers, greeters, coffee hour hosts, etc. We would love to have members we have not seen for a while join us in church!
- *Margaret will monitor and replace the communion supplies monthly as needed.
- *Melanie will monitor and resupply the Summer Concert supplies as needed (ice cream, toppings, etc.).
- *We will check to see if we have any graduating seniors or 5th graders to honor.
- *Discussion was held concerning painting the walls of the stage downstairs. The task could be added to the list for the workday on April 12th.
- *An inquiry was made as to the availability of a space for a potential preschool in our church. A space would be available for rent and Pastor Chuck would share information as needed.
- *Mother's Day and Father's Day treats will be planned in conjunction with the Sunday School children.

***Next meeting is April 2nd at 5:30 pm.**

Pastor Chuck led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Anderson

The other disciple joined Peter inside.
He saw and believed.

Use the code to write in the letters.

† = a ☁ = e ☁ = i
♥ = o ☀ = u

They still did not understand
from Scripture that

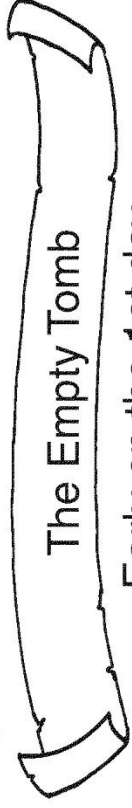
J _ s _ s _ h _ d _ †
☁ ☀

t _ r _ s _ fr _ m
♥ ☁ ☁

th _ d _ d _ †
☁ ☁

Ages 3+

April 1, 2025 • John 20:1-9

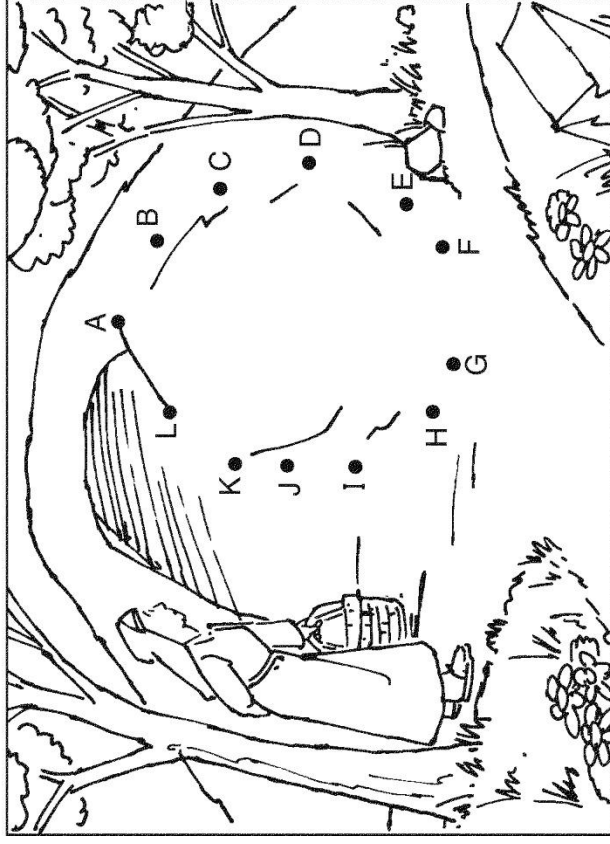


The Empty Tomb

Early on the 1st day
of the week Mary Magdalene went
to the tomb and saw that the stone had
been removed from the entrance.

Connect the dots.

A B C D E F G H I J K L



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

Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @
games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE
TN6730

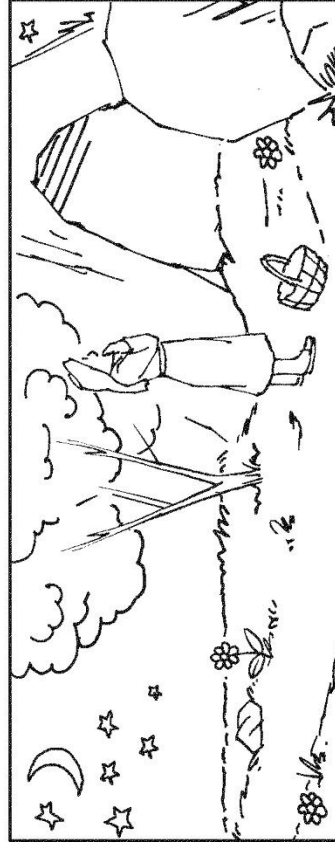
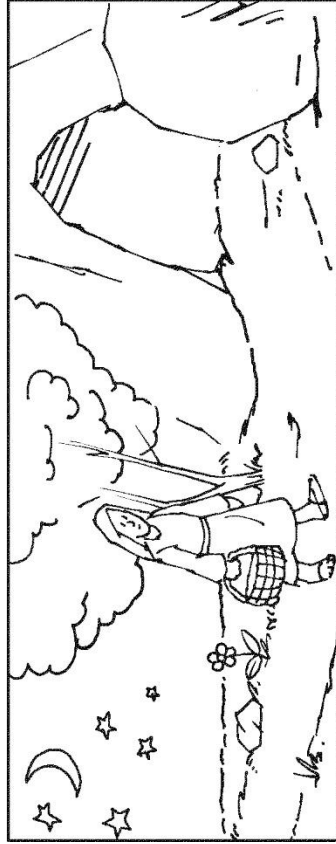
Ages 7+

April 1, 2025 • John 20:1-9

The Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

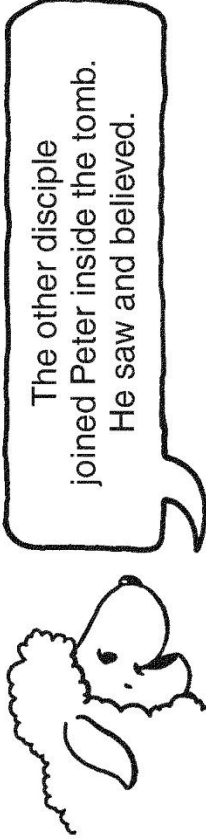
Find 12 differences in the bottom picture.



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

SECRET CODE
A98455

Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @
games.childrensbulletins.com

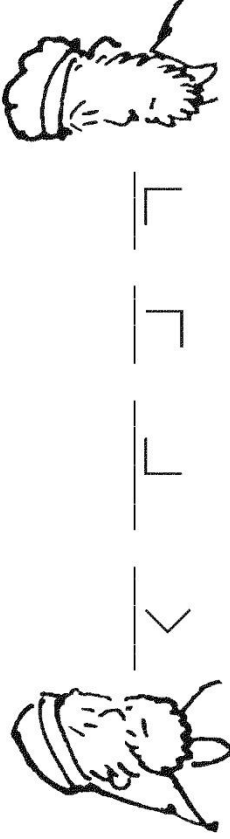


The other disciple
joined Peter inside the tomb.
He saw and believed.

Use the code to write in the words.

DID	THE	THAT	SCRIPTURE
TO	FROM	DEAD	RISE
NOT	HAD	STILL	UNDERSTAND

JESUS



< _ _ _ > < _ _ _ >
 ^ < _ _ _ > >
 L O T >
 _ U U C

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



April 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	1	2 BF Deacons, 5:30 pm Lenten Study, 7pm	3 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	4 	5
BF Sunday School 6 BF Coffee Hour following worship	7 	8 BF Trustees, 5:30 pm	9 Lenten Study, 7pm	10 Grief Group at Spearfish UCC, 5 pm	11	12 BF Work Day 8:00 am to noon
Palm Sunday 13 SO Coffee Hour following worship	14	15	16 Lenten Study, 7pm	Maundy Thursday 17 Communion, (BF) 7 pm	Good Friday 18 Worship (BF), 12:15 – 12:45 pm	19 Holy Saturday
Easter Sunday 20 He is Risen	21	22 	23 Lenten Study, 7pm	24	25	26
27	28 	29	30			

Celebrate Easter with Us
 Join the joy of Easter day.
 St. Onge UCC at 8:30 am.
 Youth Sunday School at 9:30am (BF).
 Worship in Belle Fourche at 10 am.

Maundy Thursday
 Join us in the Belle Fourche UCC sanctuary at 7:00 pm on April 17th for our special Communion worship.



EVENTS