**COUNCIL DELEGATES & OFFICERS PRESENT:** Jerry Bertelson, Cody Church, Michael White, Lindsey Mehlbrech, Dick Dawson, Doreen Fry, Sarah Woltzen, Eric Tieszen, Carol Woltzen, Jeff Scott, Ivan and Katie Ortman and Karyn Montgomery. **A Quorum Was Present**

**COUNCIL DELEGATES & OFFICERS ABSENT:** Alex Montgomery

**ELDERS PRESENT:**

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**VISITORS:**

**MODERATOR:** Rev. Jerry Bertelson

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Cody Church

**DEVOTION AND OPENING PRAYER:** Eric Tieszen

**\*APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Lindsey Mehlbrech made a motion to approve the June 25, 2023, agenda as printed. Eric Tieszen seconded the motion. Council VOTED and approved the agenda.

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Eric Tieszen made a motion to approve the May28, 2023, minutes as printed. Carol Woltzen seconded the motion. Council VOTED and approved the minutes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Bylaws—carry it forward into August.

**TRUSTEES:** no report

**STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE:** Received bid for flooring & labor for kitchen & 3 bathrooms of  
$4372. Will be more like 6600.00 by the time you factor in paint dividers and 2 new sinks and that also will include labor. Trustees will decide on moving forward with project.  
Submitted by Dianne Dawson

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FUND** | **May 1, 2023**  **BALANCE** | **DEPOSITS** | **DISBURSEMENTS** | **May 31, 2023**  **BALANCE** |
| **General Fund** | 251,672.91 |  |  | 245,565.77 |
| **Capital Improvement** | 44,534.49 |  |  | 44,523.85 |
| **Special Services** | 7,364.96 |  |  | 7,414.96 |
| **Music-Choir Fund** | 124.25 |  |  | 124.25 |
| **Scholarship Fund** | 41,234.53 |  |  | 41,234.53 |
| **Riverside Cemetery** | 11,681.23 |  |  | 11,681.23 |
| **Memorial Funds** | | | | |
| **Undesignated** | 8,837.91 |  |  | 8,837.91 |
| **Library** | 311.60 |  |  | 311.60 |
| **Music** | 2,065.15 |  |  | 2,065.15 |
| **cd #4878** | 4,649.93 |  |  | 4,649.93 |
| **Horse Camp** | 4,516.61 |  |  | 4,516.61 |
| **TOTAL MEMORIAL FUNDS** | 20,381.20 |  |  | 20,381.20 |
| **riverside cemetery upkeep** | 789.78 |  |  | 789.78 |

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** no report

**WORSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP:** no report

**PASTORAL RELATIONS**: June PPR report: No report.  A committee meeting will be held before the August council meeting to discuss evaluations to be completed. Submitted by Carol Woltzen

**WORLD OUTREACH**: no report

**UWS:**

June UWS report

UWS served lunch and snacks to 50 people attending the Presbytery of South Dakota meeting held at the church on Friday, June 23.  Thank you to those who donated food and helped serve and clean up.  We received many compliments on the great food served!!  We are continuing to work with the trustees on the ordering of the new flooring and updates in the kitchen and bathrooms. Clarification on removal of items from the church are being made on the "Use of the Church" form.

Submitted by Carol Woltzen

**MEMBER AT LARGE:** no report

**ELDERS:** no report

**COMMISSIONER TO PRESBYTERY:** Commissioner to Presbytery meeting ReportI attended the June Presbytery meeting held at the United Church of Canistota on Friday, June 23, 2023.  A report given by the Board of Pensions representative included changes are being made to the plan for retirees and will begin in 2025.  I will be asking for further clarification from the stated clerk on the membership roll as it relates to active membership and apportionments.  The new cottage at Camp Rimrock is nearly complete and will be available for use within the next month. The camping program is in full swing with camps for all ages. A men's retreat is scheduled for Sept. 8-10 and a women's retreat is scheduled for Sept. 22-25.  In addition, the Oct. Presbytery meeting will be held at the camp.  The biggest need at this time is paying for the camper’s bus transportation.  The Presbytery has contracted with a private company to provide the transportation this year instead of owning a bus.  Any donations would be greatly appreciated.Submitted by Carol Woltzen

**LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**

Katie Ortman attended the Annual Conference in Sioux Falls June 8-10, 2023.

Here are some highlights from the Annual Conference:  
  
**Theme:** Drawing on Luke 24:13-35, the theme of this year’s gathering was “Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience.” This post-resurrection story where everything has changed and the implications still seem a bit cloudy mirror the time and space we are living in as a church. We, like the two disciples, are on the road, asking deep questions, and trying to make sense of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. And we, too, are finding that we encounter Christ in transforming ways when we do.    
  
**Bishop's Episcopal Address:** In the Emmaus Road story, the impossible becomes possible as the world is made right again through encounters with the resurrected Christ who brings healing, reconciliation, and hope. Bishop Lanette Plambeck, in her inaugural Episcopal Address, reminds us that this story for the two disciples on the road is our story too. During this challenging time in The United Methodist Church, she invited Dakotas United Methodists to move forward and declare that there is enough love for all of us, and she reminded each person: You are loved. You are a child of God and a person of worth. There are no exceptions.

**Fresh Expressions with Michael Beck:** Rev. Dr. Michael Beck is co-pastor of two Florida churches and a network of “fresh expressions” led by laity that gather in various community venues and public spaces around shared interests and hobbies. He talked about fresh expressions as a new movement of Christian communities where people with no connection to the church are finding life and encountering Christ. Dinner church whereby people gather to share a meal is an easy starting point for a fresh expression, Beck said. Some of the other fresh expressions he’s involved with take place in a tattoo parlor, at a restaurant, in a virtual reality space, at dog park, and even at Tesla charging stations.

**Ministry milestones**: Those gathered honored and thanked 14 clergy entering retirement, and they celebrated a pastor ordained as an elder, four commissioned as provisional members, eight local licensed pastors who completed their educational requirements, and six people authorized to serve as local pastors in the congregations and ministry areas in which they are appointed

**Legislation:**Voting members of the 30th Session of the Dakotas Annual Conference ratified 24 church disaffiliation agreements, approved four legislative items, referred one item, and one legislative item was ruled out of ordered. The body approved the 2024 budget and spending plan, the nominations report, and the consent calendar

**2023 Miracle Offering:**Bishop Lanette Plambeck invited those present to the 2023 Miracle Offering: The Road to Hope. "We need to reach into our pockets, not only for financial gifts, but also to let people know that every local church is a pocket of hope," said Bishop Lanette. So far $42,000 has been collected for the 2023 Miracle Offering.In response to the increasing numbers of deaths by suicide, ideation of suicide, and attempts among youth in North and South Dakota, and the mental health crisis in our nation, the offering recipients are Helpline of South Dakota and FirstLink of North Dakota. Pledges and donation will continue throughout 2023.

**Bishop McAlilly’s sermon:**What does it mean to abide? This was the question set before the Dakotas Annual Conference on Friday morning by Bishop Bill McAlilly, the bishop of the Nashville Episcopal Area serving the Tennessee and Western Kentucky Conferences of The United Methodist Church. For Bishop McAlilly, the answer can be found in trust and service. 

Submitted by Katie Ortman

**EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE:**

Building Exploratory Committee Report

The committee determined through a text conversation that it was best to delay the vote on the building project until August due to many committee members being gone this summer. In addition, Cody and Sarah wouldn’t be available on the original date of June 11th and one of them would need to be present to conduct the special meeting. The new date for the congregational vote is August 13th. There will also be 2 more Q&A presentations on June 25th and July 16th.

Submitted by Sarah Woltzen

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE:** no report

**PASTOR’S REPORT:**

June 2023

“Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.”

—Psalm 105:4

Below are a few ministry notes from June:

* Family vacation from June 15 – 22. Thank you to Cody Church for filling in for me while I was gone.
* Met with pastor discussion group on June 6.
* Officiated Kim Bunger and Andrew Tsosie’s wedding at the church on June 10. Also, officiated John Tappin and Kassie Sellin’s wedding on June 11 at private residence.
* Attended UMC Dakotas Annual Conference in Sioux Falls on June 8 and 9.
* Attended the Presbytery of South Dakota’s June gathering on June 23 at our church, and offered a sermon at the gathering. Thank you to the UWS for providing snacks and lunch meal during the gathering.
* Led worship w/communion at the Good Samaritan Skilled Nursing Facility in Canistota on June 25 at 12:30 pm.
* Made two hospital visits, on in-person home visits, numerous text messages and phone calls, and continued preaching, teaching, and leading worship.
* Currently planning/brainstorming Fall – Spring preaching schedule and adult education opportunities.
* Meeting one-on-one with church member and reading a book on discipleship together.

Upcoming in July

* July 7 – bonfire held at the church. Music, stories, and a short devotional will be shared. Was originally going to be a youth activity, but is now opened to the entire church.
* July 29 – August 3 – I will be assisting with pastoral duties at Family camp at Camp Judson. Rev. Mike Japenga will be filling for me on July 30.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Jerry

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Dick Dawson made a motion to approve the committee reports. Jeff Scott seconded the motion; Council VOTED and approved the reports.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NEXT MEETING: August 27, 2023** at 7:30 PM UWS will have opening devotions.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ivan Ortman made a motion to adjourn. Lindsey Mehlbrech seconded the motion, Council VOTED and adjourned.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Cody Church

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