

SHINE KICKOFF

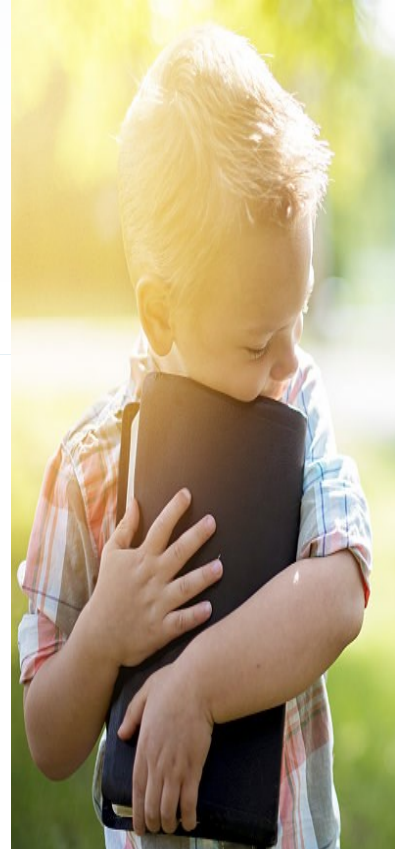
SHINE KICKOFF SUNDAY, SEPT. 10th

SHINE Kickoff will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 after worship. We will be having a potluck inside. The Christian Education committee will be providing sloppy joes for everyone and they ask that everyone please bring a side dish to share. There will be yard games outside for all the kids and adults who would like to participate!

Bibles given to 2nd and 6th graders

The Christian Education Committee will be giving out bibles to all those SHINE kids that are in 2nd and 6th grade! Congratulations to all those kiddos who will be receiving these Bibles!

Psalms 119: 9-12 "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees."





Sunday School starts

Sunday School starts on Sunday, September 17th! Please talk to Susie Schroeder if any questions.

- Shine begins at 6:00 pm on September 13
- Youth groups (middle and high school) begin on September 20

Choir practice begins on September 24 at 8:15 am

Praise Band is starting here soon!! They are looking for a drummer and anyone who is interested in being a pianist for them for a couple of months as needed! Talk to Erin Church or Karyn. Thank you!

"Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from Him." Psalms 127:3

Confirmation is starting

Confirmation is starting on Sunday, September 17th. Confirmands, their parents and their mentors are all asked to meet with Pastor Jerry after the worship service on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

There will be two monthly meetings, with Pastor Jerry leading the teaching and then the mentor having one on one time with their mentee afterwards.

If you have a freshmen who is interested please talk to Pastor Jerry or Karyn. Thank you!





New kitchen flooring

NEW FLOORING

UWS picked out new flooring for the kitchen and the bathrooms. There are also new vanities in both bathrooms and a toilet in the handicapped bathroom as the old one was broken. A big thanks to Kathy Hofer and Janine Nielsen who painted both bathrooms. Also the partitions in the women's bathroom were taken over to the body shop and re painted. It looks lovely in there now:) We appreciate all of the hard work that everyone put in to make our church even more lovely! Thank you!



United Church Spotlight

and completed the degree in May 2022. Tami enjoys gardening, playing music, reading, and leading youth group.

Tami and I have been blessed with three remarkable daughters. All three attend Canistota Public School. Alina, is our oldest and is 13 years old. She is an 8th grader and participates in volleyball. For the past nine years she was involved in figure skating and still enjoys it recreationally. She is looking forward to getting her driving permit in November. Alina enjoys reading and spending time with friends.

Clara is our middle daughter and is 10 years old. She is in the 5th grade and participates in band lessons, piano lessons, and is active in the Sioux Falls Children's Choir. She enjoys music, acting, reading, and art projects. One day she hopes to study marine biology and become a marine biologist.

Kennedy is our youngest daughter and is 7 years old. She is in the 2nd grade and likes to be active. When not reading or working on an art project she likes to play games (board games, card games, really any sort of game) and participate in creative play. She hopes to one day be a nurse "like mom."

Our family also has two dogs – Sophie, who is 15 years old and is half shih-tzu and half chihuahua, and Molly who is 4 and is a Britney spaniel.

Tami and I are so grateful to be part of United Church and excited to see how God is at work among us. God continues to call people unto himself, and United Church has a unique role to play in that work right here in Canistota. It is heart-warming to see how lives are being transformed and renewed and how God is up to something subversively beautiful in our midst.

Tami and I are so proud to be your pastoral family, and we look forward to much more mutual ministry together!

In Christ,
Pastor Jerry



Pastor Jerry Bertelson and family
Greetings! My name is Jerry Bertelson and I have served as pastor at United Church of Canistota since August 2019. I am originally from South Dakota, having graduated from West Central High School in Hartford, SD in 2002. I came to faith and was called into full-time ministry in 1999, and eventually went on to the University of Sioux Falls where I received my bachelor degree in theology and philosophy in 2006. I then attended and graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2009 (Master of Divinity), and am currently finishing up my Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary (although much of my DMin work was completed at Northern Theological Seminary). Having come to faith in 1999, I quickly realized I enjoyed the intersection of learning and faith, and find faith formation a significant part of my own journey. I've pastored two churches in Iowa before moving back to SD in 2019. I'm ordained in the American Baptist Churches USA. In additional pastoral work, I serve as president of the Sioux Falls Children's Choir board, serve as a spiritual care consultant for the Good Samaritan Society, serve on the McCook Food Pantry board, and as moderator of the Commissioned Ruling Elders committee for the Presbytery of South Dakota. When not in meetings ☐ I enjoy reading, traveling, and trying out new restaurants.

I am married to Tami Bertelson, who is a nurse in the pediatrics department at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls. She is originally from St. Paul, MN, having graduated high school in 2001. She then studied art and education at Augustana College in Sioux Falls and graduated in 2005. (She's an amazing painter and potter!) She spent time serving as a missionary in South Africa before returning to the US where she and I were married in 2006. She attended seminary for a year before she transitioned to full-time work in art education. After the birth of our first child in 2009, she stayed home with Alina, owned a small business, and continued offering personal art instruction. Upon moving back to SD in 2019, she began working toward a B.A. in nursing



September 2023 Pastor's Reflection

Friends in Christ,

Occasionally, a word will hop in my pocket and journey around with me for a few weeks. For the past month the word "serenity" has been my companion. I've reflected on it, journaled about it, and have done a little reading, too. It's something I long to have more of and yet discover unexpected moments of it from time to time.

Earlier this year I came across an updated Serenity Prayer that I offer to you. The prayer was written by Fr. James Martin, SJ. It reads:

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the people I cannot change,
which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage
to change what I need to change about my-
self,
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.
It's better for me to focus on changing myself
than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,
I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room,
that no one knows what they're talking about
except me,
or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God,
grant me the wisdom
to remember that I'm
not you.

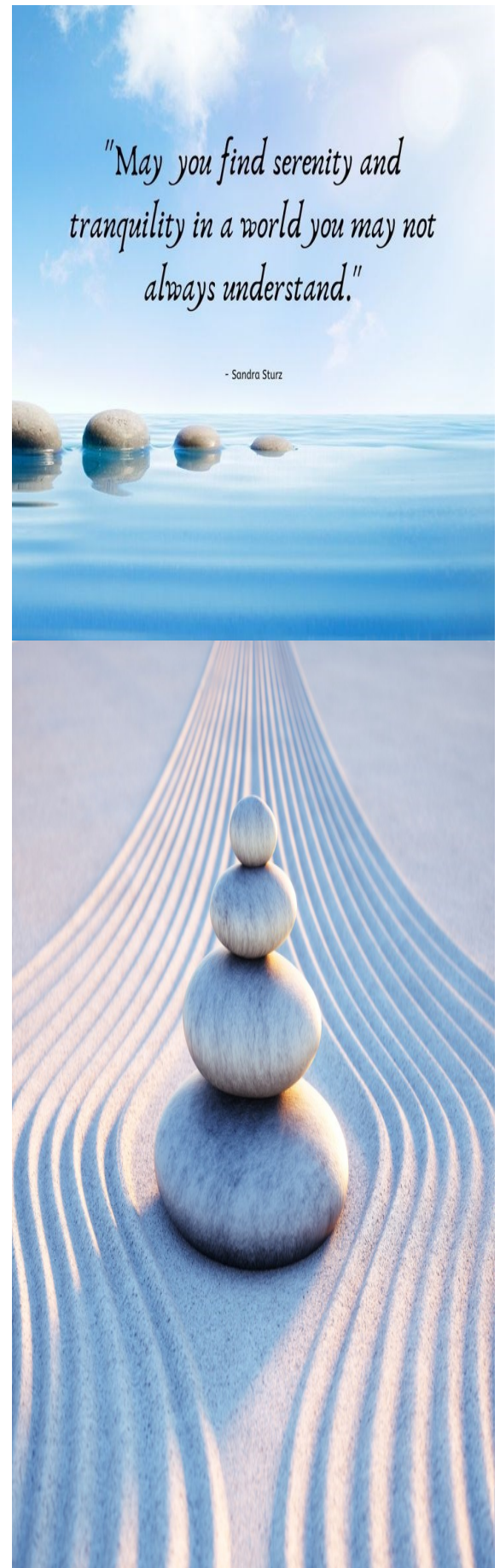
Amen.

May you find moments of serenity in your lives and remember the goodness and peace of God from which it comes.

All the best,
Pastor Jerry

*"May you find serenity and
tranquility in a world you may not
always understand."*

- Sandra Sturz



United Church

**Experience and Share
Life In Christ By:
Experiencing God's
Love and Grace in
Worship,
Experiencing God
through Christian
Fellowship,
Sharing Christ's
Love through Minis-
try to Others,
Sharing the Hope
and Promise of Jesus,
Experiencing and
Sharing Christ's Prin-
ciples for Life.**

SAVE THE DATE!!

*There will be a bridal shower for
Keri Nebelsick on Sunday, Septem-
ber 24, 2023 from 2pm-4pm at the
United Church of Canistota.*

*Keri will marry Jason Glasco on
December 31, 2023. The couple is reg-
istered at Target and Crate and
Barrel.*

United Church

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