

BE ENCOURAGED.

April 2024

Youth@First "Coming Alongside"

by Eric Fjerestad, Youth/Young Adults Director

I want to start with a little question for you, "when you were a teenager how did you know that you belonged to your church family?" Did you grow up in the church and you created a community of believers that came alongside you and encouraged you on your faith walk?

Was it a mentor who challenged you and taught you how to make your faith an important aspect of your life? We all have different experiences and thoughts on what it means to belong as a church family.

As a youth ministry leadership team, we challenged ourselves and asked a tough question "What does it mean for our students to belong to our Youth@First family?"

After a lot of praying and discerning we came up with a new discipleship model we call "**The Three Be's: Be Known, Be Equipped, and Be Love.**" Each of our three Be's coincides with our church's discipleship model which consists of the following three main points: gathering to grow in fellowship, growing together in faith, and serving others as Jesus served others.

Be Known is the pillar of our youth ministry that includes our weekly "Ignite" hangout time with our students before youth group, along with any special events that we do monthly. Along with any time myself or our leaders gather with students outside of our weekly programming for coffee or to cheer them on at their games.

The **Be Equipped** pillar is about equipping our students to be anchored in their faith every day, which sets that basis for the rest of their lives. Our students only have a

few short years with us. We have that short amount of time to teach our students how to anchor themselves in their faith while growing closer to God every day and trusting he is working in their lives. We accomplish this through our weekly worship, message, and life groups where we pick series about topics our students battle with daily and teach them how to attack them from a faith perspective and trust that Jesus is working through their lives.

The last pillar of our ministry is **Be Love**. We believe that we are called to serve others through our words and actions. We teach our students to be servant leaders and to humble themselves before others, and really ask the question what does it look like to put others first before ourselves? Jesus says in the book of Matthew "the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many." We believe that as a youth ministry, we exist to teach our students to give back to those who are in need and learn the value of service to others. We accomplish this by our quarterly service projects, like serving at the Banquet, Feeding South Dakota, mission trips, and our Mission Stay that takes place in July.

Youth@First exists to be a place of Christian hope, love, and encouragement, for the next generation at the heart of Sioux Falls. We pray that we live into that mission every day for our students, and show them the love of God.

For more information about these opportunities contact Eric @ (605) 336-3652 or fjerestade@sfumc.org

The Three Be's:
BE KNOWN
BE EQUIPPED
BE LOVE



BE KNOWN

- Gather -

Students are known by name, cared for by leaders, and know they are loved by God!



BE EQUIPPED

- Grow -

Students are actively equipped, trained, disciplined, and mentored in the teachings of Jesus Christ.



BE LOVE

- Go -

Students live a life of service through their actions, deeds, and care for others.

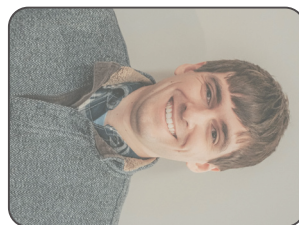
Holy Surprises with Pastor Jordan Louks

Surprises are unexpected. They can take your breath away. They can leave you in a state of shock or in a state of joy, depending on the circumstance. I have been surprised in many ways throughout my life. My favorite surprises are when something new is revealed to me. That is why I loved school so much and continue to love learning today.

This April, we are beginning a new sermon series called "Holy Surprises." It includes many stories about the early church found in the book of Acts. In these stories, enemies become friends. What people thought unclean becomes clean. And God's Spirit blows through the people to set them out on a mission to declare the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

The resurrection changes everything because it means assurance of

eternal life, but it also means that we live transformed lives now. And we can continue to grow in our ability through the Spirit's guidance. Through this transformation we will often be surprised and amazed at how God works to build the kingdom



Pastor Jordan Louks

Join us for the next six weeks as we see how God surprises us and how we, in turn, can surprise the world with that same love and grace.

God's peace be with you,

Pastor Jordan Louks

Pastor Jordan

April Love the 605!

Our April Love the 605 is the **Bishop Dudley Center for Families**. This is a new ministry starting soon in Sioux Falls that will help families stay together at the Bishop Dudley. Located at the former Children's Inn building on Western Avenue, the Center will have 10 total family units. Thanks for helping those in our community!"



TYPICAL UNIT LAYOUT

Forward in Faith

Final Town Hall Meeting in the Chapel

Sunday, April 7
9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Take a virtual tour and fill out your pledge card today

Make your recurring or one time gift now

A Sanctuary for Today and Tomorrow

2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

First United Methodist Church
401 S. Spring Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4398
605-336-3652
E-mail: fumc@sfumc.org
Website: www.sfumc.org
Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #606
Sioux Falls, SD

Kids@First

by LuAnn Berkhof, Children's Ministry Director

Easter Fun!

Science, Peace, and God's Love

In March we explored the amazing peacemakers in the Bible. We discovered how Jesus' teachings can bring peace into our own lives, and that's exactly what we celebrated this Easter!

We had some Easter egg-citement (*sorry, we couldn't resist!*) at our super fun, and a little messy, science experiment that reminded us of God's amazing, peaceful love that surrounds us all.

It was a fantastic way to celebrate the true meaning of Easter together and be amazed by the power of science and God's love at the same time!

We can't wait to share all the details about this egg-speriment (*another pun, we promise!*) with you soon!



For more information about Kids@First contact LuAnn Berkhof @ (605) 336-3652 or berkhofl@sfumc.org

SPRING FLING BRUNCH

SATURDAY
MAY 4, 10 A.M.

United Women In Faith



Make plans now to attend this annual event! This is a great way to celebrate spring with food, fellowship, fun, entertainment, and a speaker. Tickets will go on sale in April. Stay tuned for more details!



Building the Second Saturday of Each Month, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

We meet at a work sight for sharing, fellowship and of course a little bit of work.

Join us as we share our love with others by helping members of our community build a home so they have a safe and secure shelter for their family. You do not need any special skills. There are plenty of support tasks to perform.

For more information go to siouxfallshabitat.org or call Doug Cleveringa @ (605) 366-0960

Calling All Bakers!

We serve about 100 people each week at Wednesday night supper. The meal is catered by Tony's but we serve cookies/bars for dessert. We need cookies/bars to be donated. If you are interested in providing cookies/bars, please bring them to the church during office hours and mark them for Wednesday night supper.

Thank you for helping with this project.



April "Gather, Grow, Go!"

GATHER with friends in fellowship:

- Every Sun. – **Worship** @ 8:30 & 9:45 & 11:01 a.m. All ages, nursery provided @ 9:45 & 11:01 a.m.
- Every Sun. – **Kids Connect** @ 9:45 & 11:01 a.m. Kids 4 years - 5th grade
- Every Wed. – **Family Meals** @ 5 p.m.
- Every Wed. – **Choir Rehearsal** @ 7 p.m. | All are invited
- 3rd Tue. – **Read @ First** @ 5:30 p.m.

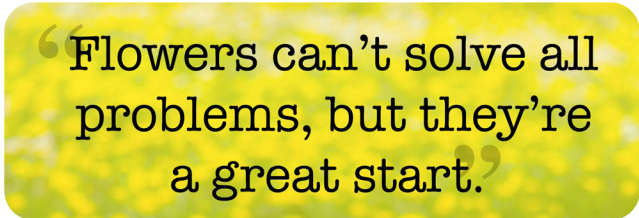
GROW in your faith:

- 2 & 4 Sun. – **Grateful Table Young Adult Ministry** @ 6 p.m. 20 & 30-something years
- Every Tue. – **Tuesday Refresh Book Study** @ Noon
- 1 & 3 Tue. – **Amen's Book Study** @ Noon | All are invited
- 2 & 4 Tue. – **Higgins Bible Study** 8 a.m. | All men invited
- Every Wed. – **Women's Bible Study** @ 9:30 a.m. All women invited
- Every Wed. – **Zoom Bible Study** @ 2:15 pm Call the church office for the Zoom link.
- Every Wed. – Pastor Jordan's **Adult Bible Study** @ 6 p.m.
- Every Wed. – **Jans Bible Study** @ 6 p.m.
- 4th Mon. - **United Women of Faith @ 6:30 p.m.** | Adult Women 70+ (email Cynthia for location details)
- Wed. Apr. 10 – **S.A.G.E.S.** @ 11:30 a.m., \$10 | Senior Adults Speaker will be Brady Lowen from the Sioux Falls Police Dept. Enjoy a Tony's catered meal of beef stroganoff, corn, pistachio fluff, and dessert. Call (605) 336-3652 to RSVP. Drawing for free meal in May!
- 3rd Thu. – **United Women of Faith @ 9:30 a.m.** | Adult Women 70+
- 3rd Thu. – **United Women of Faith @ 7 p.m.** | Adult Women 50 - 70
- Sun. Apr. 28 – **Lunch-n-Learn** @ 12 p.m. **"What is United Methodist Conferencing?"** (pre-registration requested)



GO put your faith into action:

- 1st Mon. monthly – **Nightwatch** Serving hot meals at Hayward Elementary School @ 5 p.m.
- 1st Wed. monthly – **Feeding SD** Helping end food insecurities @ 5:15 p.m. Serving spots are limited; call the office to sign up.
- 2nd Sat. monthly – **Habitat for Humanity** Building safe, affordable housing @ 8:30 a.m.
- 2nd Tue. monthly – **The Banquet West** Funding, cooking & serving dinner / Preparing @ 2 p.m. / Serving @ 5:15 p.m.
- 3rd Tue. monthly – **The Banquet Downtown** Funding, cooking & serving breakfast / Preparing @ 5:30 a.m. / Serving @ 6:30 p.m.



CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Deckert Family (requested by Caitlin Marsh)
- The family of Al Top (friend of Caitlin Marsh and Dawn Hieb)
- Mike McConnel (husband of Cynthia McConnel)
- Troy Baltzer (husband of Rhonda Baltzer, son-in-law of Larry & Sue Engeltjes, brother-in-law of Pam (Nate) Knuth)
- Anna Gilbertson & Conner Gilbertson (daughter and son of Tracy and Brad Gilbertson)
- Family of Luke Reimers (requested by Dawn Hieb)
- Jerry Wadleigh (father of Dina (Jason) Vostad, grandfather of Jacob & Justin Vostad)

BAPTISM

- Shaylee Constance Glynn (daughter of Stephen & Sadie Glynn)
- Zander Fitch & Addison Fitch (son and daughter of Chris & Jocelynn Fitch)

DEATH

- Joyce Rosenberg

ATTENDANCE

- Feb 11 In Person304
Online312
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday
In Person95
Online62
- Feb 18 In person280
Online356
- Feb 25 In Person290
Online358
- Mar 3 In Person313
Online336