

# BE ENCOURAGED.

## Kids@First — Spring Has Sprung!!

by LuAnn Berkhof, Children's Ministry Director

### Ozzy the Orangutans Olympics

Well, after the Easter Egg-stravaganza we barely took a breath before we began planning our summer events. This year, we are honored to have Ozzy the Orangutan planning an Olympics here at First Church! That's right, Ozzy, the Orangutan, feels like he is not strong enough, fast enough, or brave enough. And he feels God forgot about him. Sadly, our children feel the same way at times. We want to teach them the Truth from the Bible! We have planned our own Olympics, and Ozzy wants us to invite all our children so they, too, can learn about how they are strong, determined, and loved.

Our Olympics will look like the Olympics we will see in Paris this summer. We will have an opening ceremony, athletic games, awards, and food. However, our Olympics will include lessons from people in the Bible who realized their strength came from God.

Our Olympics will help us "Go for the Gold with God" and teach us to "Go Onward with Love and Determination."

**Ozzy the Orangutans Olympics**  
Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7 p.m.  
June 12, July 10, and August 14

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this memorable event, please call LuAnn at (605) 336-3652 or email her at [berkhofl@sfumc.org](mailto:berkhofl@sfumc.org).

If you are interested in registering children for the event, watch for registration information to come. Registration will be required and is limited.

**We would LOVE to have you experience the excitement with us!**



### Easter Eggstravaganza A Huge Success!!

For those who may have missed it, the Easter Egg-stravaganza was an absolute triumph! We delighted in serving a whopping 420 mini donuts, and the joy was palpable as 1,500 plastic Easter eggs, brimming with treats, were discovered by eager children. More than 300 adults and children were captivated by the true Easter story, brought to life through crafts, a snack mix that mirrored the Easter narrative, poems, and stories shared using "Resurrection Eggs!" It was a truly memorable celebration of our faith and community.

I can hardly explain my gratitude to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep up with the endless lines of families anxious to participate in all the events. We were all overjoyed by the attendance.

### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Anyone who helped in ANY way with the **Easter Egg-stravaganza** is invited as we celebrate with a thank-you Volunteer Dinner. We want you to know how you blessed us and many families!

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**  
**Sunday, May 5, 5 p.m.**  
**R.S.U.P. to the church office @**  
**(605) 336-3652 by Thursday, May 2**

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

## General Conference

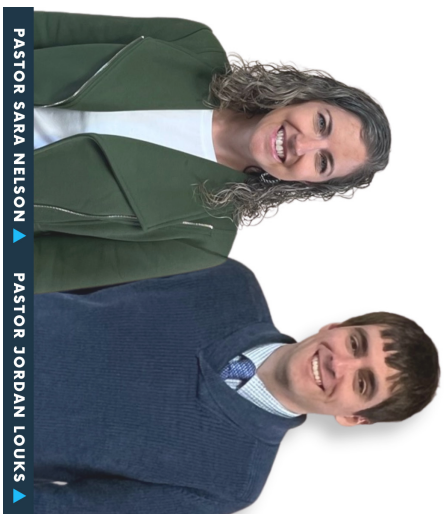
with Pastor Sara Nelson & Pastor Jordan Louks

One of the founders of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, began the tradition of meeting together to plan the work of ministry. He considered Christian conferencing a means of God's grace. Therefore, each year our congregation sends delegates to the Dakotas Annual Conference, which provides a space for worship, fellowship, and to plan the work of ministry in our region. This typically happens on the second weekend in June every year.

this process are then heard on the floor of the General Conference. This ultimately results in new legislation and resolutions that are adopted into either the Book of Discipline, which details church law and governance, or The Book of Resolutions. There is also work done on budgets and boards/agencies of the UMC. Alongside this, the General Conference gathers to dream and vision about how we can continue sharing God's love. It is a blessing to be a part of a worldwide denomination that can make an amazing impact through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as we live out our mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

In Ministry Together,  
Pastor Sara Nelson and  
Pastor Jordan Louks

The 600-1000 delegates meet for two weeks to do the business of the UMC. That is, sift through and review hundreds of legislative petitions in committees. The petitions that make it through



PASTOR SARA NELSON PASTOR JORDAN LOUKS

**Forward in Faith**

**A Sanctuary for Today and Tomorrow**

**Let's Celebrate Together Over Brunch!**

**Sunday, May 12**  
**8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Multi-Purpose Room**

*The Children's Choir will be singing a special Mother's Day song at the 9:45*

First United Methodist Church  
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Website: [www.sfumc.org](http://www.sfumc.org)  
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Sioux Falls, SD

# Youth@First

by Eric Fjerestad, Youth/Young Adults Director

## SUMMER 2024

### MAY / JUNE

May 31- June 7 Memphis Mission Trip

### JUNE

June 09 Elevation Sunday  
June 19 Gaga Tournament  
June 26 Lake Day

### JULY

July 8-12 Middle School Camp  
July 16-18 Youth@First Mission Stay  
Sioux Falls  
July 21-26 High School Camp  
July 31 Games & Bonfire Night

### AUGUST

August 14 Slip & Slide Kickball  
August 18 Sunday Backpack Blessing

### MEETS WEEKLY

Tuesdays @ 1pm Summer Days  
A time for games, food, and study.



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

**SPRING FLING BRUNCH** United Women In Faith



**SATURDAY MAY 4, 10 A.M.**



### 2024 Dakotas Conference Miracle Offering

The miracle offering will go to support various ministries in South and North Dakota.

These include 31:8 Project (a ministry raising awareness about human trafficking), the Abbott House's Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care program, recovery ministry in the Dakotas, the Clergy Sustentation Fund, and Bravery Backpacks (a ministry of the 31:8 Project) for kids/teens who need additional resources.

**Thank you for supporting these various ministries throughout our region!**



**Put the FUN in FUNDRAISING**



Show your support for



**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

**Fundraiser Code: NM**

To ensure your purchase counts toward your goal - Online orders enter this code in the coupon code section. In store & phone orders mention code upon ordering.

**ORDER ONLINE @ PIZZAHUT.COM**

Find participating locations at Hutamerican.com/fundraisers  
Fundraising event is only valid at Hut American-owned Pizza Hut locations on the day specified. Fundraiser is excluded from purchase of alcohol, tax, delivery fee tip and future orders. ©2023 Pizza Hut, LLC.

## May "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 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue. – **Read @ First** @ 5:30 p.m.
- Sun. May 19 – **Pentecost Kite Flying** @ 12-2 p.m.



### GROW in your faith:

- Every Tue. – **Tuesday Refresh Book Study** @ Noon
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mon. - **United Women of Faith @ 6:30 p.m.** |  
Adult Women 70+ (email Cynthia for location details)
- Wed. May 8 – **S.A.G.E.S.** @ 11:30 a.m., <sup>s</sup>10 | Senior Adults  
*Speaker will be Brandon Fey from the Sioux Falls Dire Dept. Enjoy a Tony's catered meal of BBQ pork, potato salad, baked beans, and dessert. Call (605) 336-3652 to RSVP. Drawing for free meal in June!*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu. – **United Women of Faith @ 9:30 a.m.** |  
Adult Women 70+
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu. – **United Women of Faith @ 7 p.m.** |  
Adult Women 50 - 70

### GO put your faith into action:

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

### 21st Annual AMEN's GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Spring Creek Golf Course  
Sunday, June 2, 2 p.m.**

Sign up now at the Information Center or  
contact Steve Quincey [squincey@sio.midco.net](mailto:squincey@sio.midco.net)

*A Fundraiser for First Church Youth*

### Thank you from the Chancel Choir!



**...was a resounding success!**

Thank you to everyone who attended or supported the annual Flapjack Follies pancake supper. A special recognition to the youth who were an integral part of the event. These young folks are the future of our church. Evidenced by their work ethic, the future is in good hands!

**A portion of the funds raised has been dedicated to the youth mission work in Memphis this summer.**

## Happy Mother's Day!

### APRIL CHURCH FAMILY

#### PRAYER CONCERNS

- Deckert Family (requested by Caitlin Marsh)
- Anna Gilbertson & Conner Gilbertson (daughter and son of Tracy and Brad Gilbertson)
- Katherine Mickelson (daughter of David & Val Mickelson)
- Court (requested by Cornell Iyotte)
- Tricia (requested by Pastor Sara)
- Diane Dumire (aunt of Dawn Hieb & Caitlin Marsh)
- Mary Goddis
- Mike McConniel (husband of Cynthia McConniel)



#### DEATHS

- Richard Breit
- Harvey Schmidt
- Marilyn Skogstad

#### ATTENDANCE

- March 10 In Person ...285  
Online .....510
- March 17 In Person ...310  
Online .....376
- March 24 In Person ...285  
Online .....442
- March 31 In Person ...525  
Online ..... 604
- April 7 In Person ...298  
Online .....420
- April 14 In person ...295  
Online .....342