

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 8

11:30 am Coffee Hi
 11:30 am Cabinet Meeting
 6:00 pm Confirmation I

Tuesday, March 10

10:00am- Noon Coffee with Pastor Katie @ The Bean

Wednesday, March 11

NO LAF
 6:00 pm Confirmation II
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 13

12:00 pm Lent Service @ UCC
 12:30 pm Lent Soup Lunch @ UCC

Sunday, March 15

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
 10:30 am Worship- Communion
 11:30 am Coffee HI
 6:00 pm Confirmation I

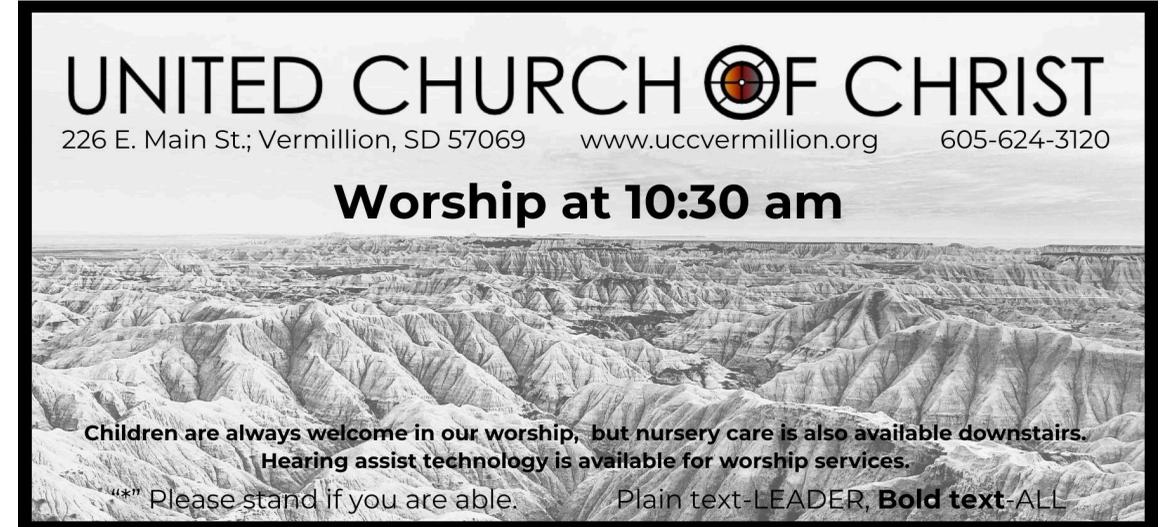
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Worship Leaders and Church Staff

Rev. Katie Miller - Sr. Minister	Rev. Elaine Miller - Minister of Visitation
Benjamin Barth - Organist	Kari Jensen - Christian Ed Director
Gretchen Burbach - Choral Director	Taylor Ebsen - Church Administrator
Anthony Burbach - Bell Director/ Piano	Sarah Gregg - Church Financial Officer
Paul Ebsen - Media Director	Kathy Hasenbank, Linda Moe - Custodians

2025-2026 Interns

Madison Maschmann- Choir, Alto
 Maleah Wright - Choir, Soprano
 Sam VanGerpen - Choir, Tenor
 Charlee Huska - LAF, Nursery
 Tommy Gress - Organ
 Lucas Thomas- Media Intern



March 8, 2026

PRELUDE "What Wondrous Love is This?" Curry Fritz

WELCOME
 Friendship Pads
 Announcements
 Joys and Concerns

Please also complete a "Prayer Card" and put it in the collection plate.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Introit "Give Me a Clean Heart" 188
Give me a clean heart so I may serve you. God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us sing to the Holy One.
Let us rejoice in the Rock of our salvation.
 Let us live with thanksgiving.
Let us lift our voices in praise.
 Come, let us worship and bow down.
We kneel before the One who made us.

(Continued on next page)

Today, if we hear God's voice...

Soften our hearts.

Break the ground we have hardened.

Tear down the walls we have built.

Christ waits for us at the well.

Living water is offered to all.

*HYMN "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" 89

*INVOCATION

God of living water, You meet us across lines we thought were permanent. You

speak where we expected silence. Break open our hardened assumptions.

Loosen the soil of fear and prejudice. Give us water that becomes courage

within us. Meet us here. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 95

MUSIC TO INSPIRE "Beautiful Savior" Christiansen

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE John 4:5-42

MEDITATION "At a Well"

HYMN OF MEDITATION "Crashing Waters at Creation" 326

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

At the well, Jesus begins with vulnerability. He asks for a drink — and creates connection. We give today as people who believe that scarcity and separation are not the final word. May our gifts become wells in dry places and bridges across imagined divides. Let us give generously.

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Fairest Lord Jesus" Vogt

**Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, Receive these gifts. Use them to break open hardened ground. Use them to build connection where division once lived. Use them to carry living water into thirsty places. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "My Life Flows on in Endless Song" 476

*BENEDICTION

Go now to the wells in your life. Go toward the people you were taught to avoid. Drink deeply of grace. Offer living water freely. And may the God who breaks open hardened ground make of you a spring that never runs dry. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS FOR LENT LUNCH MARCH 13

We are looking for volunteers to bring soup for the day we host the VMA Prayer Service and Lenten Lunch on Friday, March 13 at 12:30 pm. We're hoping for 1-2 more soups to help feed everyone attending. If you're able to bring a soup, please let Taylor Ebsen know! We are also looking for a few folks to help in the kitchen that day with setup, serving, and cleanup. If you can help with either (or both!), send an email to the church office. Thank you for being part of this meaningful time together!

VERMILLION MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES

You're invited to Lenten Prayer Services and Lunch
Prayer Service 12:00 pm Lunch 12:30 pm.

- Friday, March 13- United Church of Christ
- Friday, March 20- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Friday, March 27- St. Agnes Catholic Church
- Friday, April 3- First Baptist Church

4th ANNUAL TPAN FUNDRAISER

Rooted in resilience across generations, we continue to show up — grounded in care, community, and hope — working toward a South Dakota where transgender people are not pushed to leave the place they call home. Generations of trans lives, families, and futures are rooted here. The 4th Annual TPAN Fundraising Gala is an opportunity to strengthen the capacity to respond to discriminatory legislation, expand life-saving resources, and stand alongside trans South Dakotans. Together, we are investing in a future where trans people are safe, supported, and able to live openly and authentically right here in South Dakota. UCCV has been invited to sponsor a table at the Gala on Friday, March 13. If you would like to contribute toward sponsoring our table, please email the church office at uccv@uccvermillion.org.

FIND PEACE DURING TROUBLING TIMES

You are invited to a Zen Buddhist dharma talk by Dr. Lisa M. Pettit, Ph.D. from Compassionate Dharma Cloud Monastery, Morrison, CO. Dr. Pettit was ordained in Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh's Order of Interbeing in 2011. The title of her talk is *Our Light is Still Shining: Living the Moment*. The talk is at 3pm on March 14th at the UCC Church. The Compassionate Heart Sangha of Vermillion is sponsoring this event.

If you would like to donate to the Vermillion United Church of Christ, Congregational using PayPal, please scan this QR code with your phone.



LENT PROJECT: GAS CARD COLLECTION

During this Lenten season, our church is collecting gas gift cards to help members of our community who need assistance getting to jobs, job interviews, medical appointments, and other essential commitments. We recommend Bob's Sinclair gas gift cards, but cash, checks, or PayPal donations are also welcome. Please note "Gas Cards" in the memo line so we can direct your donation appropriately. Donations will be collected now through Easter, April 5. Gas cards or donations may be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate during Sunday worship.

Thank you for helping us support our neighbors with this meaningful Lenten project.

LETTER FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Vermillion Community Garden (VCG) is located on land owned by the UCC. The UCC sponsors the garden by providing free access to water, liability insurance, and charging no fee for the use of the land. The VCG charges a small fee for plot rentals for the coordination of garden use, maintenance, and a communal-use tool shed. Garden improvements and projects are funded by plot rental fees, grants, awards, and fundraising.

Maintenance work around the garden is conducted by gardeners as part of their rental contract and volunteers. The VCG maintains the area across the alley designated as a food pantry plot, a community composting area, and a native plant garden. For the 2025 gardening season the VCG hosted 43 individual plots, 3 raised garden beds, 1 half plot, and 39 in-ground 8' x 9' plots. The garden was open from April to October when the first hard frost happened. The Garden hosted an intern from the USD sustainability department and Boys and Girls club, who donated 11 hours per week from June to August.

More than 25 volunteers maintained the Food Pantry Plot by planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, or hauling produce to the food pantry. A total of 534 lbs. of produce was donated, more than doubling what was donated in the 2024 season! The VCG looks forward to another wonderful harvest next year and thanks the United Church of Christ for partnering with us on this project.