

2025 April

The Faith We Live

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors



Holy Fools: The Wisdom of God's Foolishness

April 1st is known to the world as April Fools' Day—a time for pranks and laughter. But in the Christian tradition, there is a deeper and holier kind of foolishness: the wisdom of God that often looks like folly to the world.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV), “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” Throughout history, God has called people to live in ways that seem foolish by worldly standards. Noah built an ark before a drop of rain fell. Moses confronted Pharaoh with nothing but a staff and faith. The disciples left everything to follow a wandering rabbi. And Jesus Himself—the Son of God—humbled Himself to die on a cross, a death that seemed like defeat but became the greatest victory.

As followers of Christ, we too are called to be Holy Fools—to trust in God's promises when logic says otherwise, to love our enemies when the world says to seek revenge, to give generously when we fear scarcity, and to rejoice in trials because we know God is working through them.

The world often values power, success, and self-sufficiency, but Christ teaches us that true greatness comes through humility, service, and reliance on God. When we forgive those who wrong us, choose faith over fear, or serve others without expecting anything in return, we may appear foolish to society. Yet, these very actions reflect the heart of God and the wisdom of His kingdom.

Consider the saints and martyrs throughout history who lived as Holy Fools for Christ. St. Francis of Assisi abandoned his wealth to embrace poverty, preaching that joy comes not from possessions but from complete trust in God. The desert fathers and mothers sought solitude, devoting themselves to prayer while the world

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Baker's Notes continued

pursued earthly gain. Even today, missionaries, pastors, and everyday believers step out in faith, often facing ridicule or hardship, because they know the wisdom of God surpasses human understanding.

This Holy Fools' Day, let's embrace the "foolishness" of the Gospel. Let's live with joy, humility, and radical love, knowing that in God's eyes, the greatest wisdom is found in surrendering to His will. Let us not be afraid to stand out, to be different, and to trust in the Lord's plan even when it seems unconventional. In doing so, we become lights in a world that desperately needs the love and grace of Christ.

May we be bold enough to be fools for Christ!

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



During the March 10, 2025 Leadership Team Meeting, the following items were discussed:

- Pastor Jordan Louks has been appointed the new pastor of Faith UMC beginning July 1, 2025. We are please to welcome him and his wife to our congregation.
- Even though Pastor Ray will be retired after June 2025, he has agreed to pastor Hillsboro United Parish. He will take July and August off and take one Sunday off each month for next year.
- Faith UMC will be the beneficiary of Urban Development Funds from the conference. These funds have been generated from the sale of churches and/or church property. The funds we receive will be used to pay the 25% of our pastor's salary and insurance. This would be the same amount as what Hillsboro was paying per year.
- Because of the aforementioned changes, the congregation will be canvassed to see if it want to change the time for Sunday services for its current time of 11:00 am..

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS (cont)

Faith Food Pantry

During March, we served 320 families with about 14,400 pounds of food. An average of 25 volunteers were at each distribution. Thank you to all of our great volunteers for so faithfully serving!

Date	Families Served	Lbs of Food/family
March 14	155	45
March 28	165	45

Thanks so very much for all your support!

Deb Laber



2025 March Attendance & Giving

	2025 Attendance	2024 Attendance	2025 Offerings	2024 Offerings
Week 1	48	59	\$1,710	\$ 2,125
Week 2	49	62	\$9,440	\$ 8,980
Week 3	55	70	\$2,000	\$ 5020
Week 4	53	65	\$1,125	\$ 120
Week 5	50		\$1,177	
Donations			\$15,452	\$16,245



Worship

2025 April Worship Series

Date	Topic	Bible Verses
April 6, 11:00 am	"Peace Be with God"	
April 13, 11:00 am	"The Little Bug"	Luke 19:28-40
April 20, 11:00 am	"It's Empty"	Matthew 28:1-10
April 27, 11:00 am	"Your Walking Around Life"	Romans 12:1-2:



Flowers to Remember and Honor a Loved Ones

For Easter we will be purchasing flowering plants. If you would like to purchase a flowering plant in remembrance or honor of a loved one, please call the office at 701.232.6844 or email office@fargo-faithumc.org



To date, those that have given in memory or remembrance of a loved one are:

Ken & Deb Laber in memory of Jake Laber

Susan Martin in memory of Chad Martin

Teresa Dittmer in memory of Lenora Dittmer

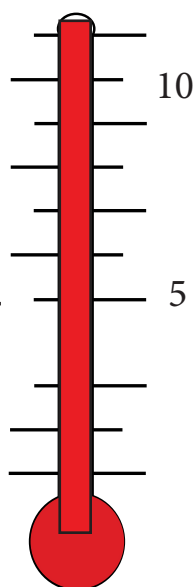
Solar Oven Partners Fund-Raiser

We have reached our goal of funding 12 Solar Ovens.

Thanks to those who have given to this very important proejct. Your gifts do make a difference in the day-to-day lives of many people who lack resources to prepare hot meals to their families and communités.

What a wonderful gift to give to those communities so much in need.

Goal:
12 Solar Ovens





Wednesday Night Lenten Services & Easter Service

April 2, 2025 at 6:30 pm - Faith UMC

April 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm - First United Methodist

Palm Sunday: April 13, 2025 at 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday: April 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm - Faith UMC

Good Friday: April 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm - First United Methodist



Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025 at 11:00 pm

Faith United Methodist

Apportionments Extend Shared Mission and Ministry

“ *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.*” Acts 4:32 NIV

This image of the early church from the Acts of the Apostles paints a vision of love, care, and mutuality that can be hard to conceive in a world of hyper-individualism, materialism, and division. Yet, United Methodists worldwide seek to capture a bit of this vision through one aspect of our connectional system—apportionments.

What are apportionments

Apportionments are the financial resources that are contributed to the larger mission of the United Methodist Church. Apportionments are also a means for every congregation to invest “equally” in our shared mission. In the Dakotas Conference, the formula is currently 13% of a church’s general operating income. “Apportionments reflect our commitment to being a connectional church,” said Bishop Lanette Plambeck. “They allow us to join together in mission, accomplishing far more than any one congregation could achieve alone.

Supporting the mission

Apportionments support the mission of the United Methodist Church—to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21 NIV). Like tithing and stewardship giving through apportionments is a communal formational practice that cultivates spiritual maturity and counter-cultural, Christlikeness. This act of connectional generosity helps us focus beyond ourselves and reminds us of our interconnectedness and our need for one another—church, community, or country coming to know Jesus, having clean water, medical or educational resources, or experience transformation because of our generosity.

Apportionments also support the mission through the ministries, programs, systems, and services that are made possible by this shared missional giving. Through our shared apportionments’ giving:

2025 Budget of Dakotas Conference Apportionments
Total Operating Budget Expenditures



- UMCOR provides infrastructure to deliver aid, provide disaster response training and support casework and long-term recovery initiatives, ensuring that all donations for disaster relief go directly to those in need and are not used for administrative costs.
- United Methodist missionaries serve in about 60 different countries in many types of professional careers, including as pastors, evangelists and church coordinators; teachers and educators; doctors, nurses and other health workers; agriculturists; development specialists; community organizers and peace builders.
- Global Ministries increases access to clean and safe water; revitalizes sanitation facilities and shares knowledge on sanitation and waste management; and helps to reduce infection from preventable, water-borne diseases by enhancing the quality of care in health facilities.
- GBHEM provides an average of \$4 million is awarded to help students in the U.S. and abroad pursue higher education, opening pathways for students of all backgrounds to earn their degrees and serve as the next generation of leaders for the church and the world.
- UMC general agencies provide resources to help churches welcome people of all abilities, recruit volunteers, develop stewardship, and reach new people, utilize liturgies, sermons starters, and resources for planning and leading worship, understand what racism is, and understand and advocate for systems and policies that combat domestic violence, improve global health, support climate justice, and work for human and civil rights.

“For the 2025 fiscal year, the Dakotas Conference as an operating budget of over \$3 million for the allocation of apportionments. I want to take this opportunity to thank churches of all sizes and contexts who give so faithfully through our Conference apportionments,” said Jim Ducker, Dakotas Conference treasurer. “Whether it’s helping to support our conference leaders, our camps, missionaries, or our broader worldwide connection, your apportionment giving helps create and sustain vital ministries that are making a difference in people’s lives every day and demonstrates what it means to be Christ followers.”

Upcoming Congregational Events

2025 April Events

April 6, 13, 20, & 27
11:00 am Worship



10:30 am - Fellowship
11:00 am - Worship

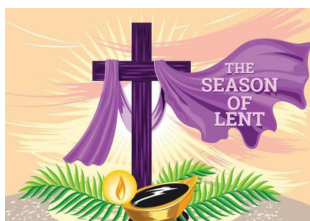
"Easter Sunday" - April 20th

April 4, 11, 19, & 27
8:00 am



Faith UMC Men's Gathering ;
Fry'n Pan for Breakfast

Apr 2, 9, 17, & 18
Lenten Services &
Faith UMC Youth Group



April 2, 2025 at 6:30 pm - Faith UMC
7:00 pm-8:00 pm-Faith Youth Group

April 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm - 1st United Methodist

April 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm - Faith UMC
"Maundy Thursday"

April 18, 2025 at 6:30 - 1st United Methodist
"Good Friday"

April 30
Wednesday Nights



6:00 pm Light Meal
6:30 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm Christian Book Study

Committee/Team Meetings & Affinity Groups

**April 3 & 17
12:00 pm**



Care Ministry Team; Fellowship Hall

**April 11 & 25
1:30 pm-3:00 pm**



Faith Food Pantry is an outreach service providing food to those in need. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact the office at 701.232.6844.

**April 4, 11, 18, 25
4:30 pm**



English Conversation Group; Library

**April 14
6:00 pm**



Leadership Team, Library

Affinity Group Events

Weekly Events:- Affinity Groups

First two Mondays, 6:00 pm Scouts; Fellowship Hall
Last two Thurs, 6:00 pm Scouts; Fellowship Hall

Mon, 8:00 pm Families Anonymous; Library

Tues, 6:15 pm- 8:00 pm Dawn Hoherz's Bible Study Group

Tues, 7:00 pm AA Men's Group; Fellowship Hall;

Sat, 5:30 pm Chinese Church; Fellowship Hall

April Sat 5:00 pm Golden 4-H Club

Birthdays & Prayers

April Birthdays



4/1-Sally Hamilton
4/5-Joe Prushek
4/10-Alex Flores
4/10-Roger Moen
4/12-Janice Randerson
4/13-Oscal Flores
4/17-Ben Bernard
4/17-David Brown
4/18-Maggie Hoherz
4/23-Teri Dittmer
4/25-Sandy Whited
4/28-Jay Horherz
4/28-Joe Rudd
Kay Braun

If your birthday isn't listed
and it's your birthday this
month, please let us know in
the office.



To make a prayer request or remain on the prayer list, please call the office at 701.232.6844.

Prayers of Health & Healing

Janice Randerson
Pastor Ray & Sarah Baker's Brother and
Sister-in-Law
Janet Jones' brother

Prayers of Sympathy

Family of Jennette Dittman

Prayers for the World

Those who are serving in the military
Leaders of the our nation and world
Law Enforcement throughout the nation
People of the Ukraine, Israel, & Palestine

Prayers of Support

Carol Brooks	Alan Dexter
Gene Jones	Diana Moen
Molly Moore	Howard Richardson
Donna Sell	Vernon Youngs

Committee/Team of Faith UMC

Trustees: Ken Laber, Roger Moen, Vern Hofman, Larry Wurgler, Jay Hoherz, Steven Wheeler

Leadership Team: Deb Laber, Kate Najuakos, Ken Laber, Kay Braun, Dawn Hoherz, Janet Jones, Roger Grimm, Teresa Dittmer, Pastor Ray Baker

Finance Committee: Teresa Dittmer, Kay Braun, Dawn Hoherz, Susan Reed, Pastor Ray

Staff Parish Committee: Roger Grimm, Carol Fowler, Melissa Wheeler, Janet Jones, Pastor Ray Baker

Care Ministry Members: Mary Davidson, Carol Fowler, Sharon Miller, Sandy Whited, Twila Hofman, Deb Laber, Pastor Ray Baker

Foundation: Roger Grimm, Ken Laber, Oscar Flores, Vern Hofman, Harold Mattingly, Martha Moore, Pastor Ray Baker

Education: Dawn Hoherz, Pastor Baker,

Missions & Outreach Team: Dawn Hoherz, Liz Hanson, Carol Fowler, Sarah Baker,

Precious Ngwayarudza Pastor Ray Baker

Landscape Team: Ken Laber, Larry Wurgler, Kay Braun, Jane Winston, Carol Windels, John Jarman,
Heidi Farrell, Teri Dittmer

Confirmation & Discipleship: Pastor Ray Baker



Faith United Methodist Church
Fargo ND
701.232.6844
office@fargofaithumc.org