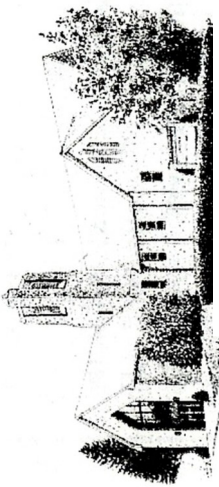


Never place a period....  
where God has placed a  
comma. —Gracie Allen



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# SS&T GOSSIP

A Publication of  
Custer Community Church

April 2026

## PASTORAL CARE...

If you are in need of pastoral care, know of someone ill or in the hospital, please contact the church office at the following number.

Church Office: 673-4350

Web Site:

[custercommunitychurch.org](http://custercommunitychurch.org)

Emails directed to Joann in the office can be sent to [joannboggs@yahoo.com](mailto:joannboggs@yahoo.com)

Joann's Cell Phone: 605-673-1651

Rev. Barry Rempp

402-460-7000

Email: [beardad2001@gmail.com](mailto:beardad2001@gmail.com)

Office Hours Monday 8-12 noon,

Wednesday 2-5pm

## Custer Community Church Mission Statement

“To build a family of faithful believers through community service, inspiring worship, and a welcoming and inclusive space where people of all ages can grow”

## Electronic Giving Instructions:

Go to the church website: [custercommunitychurch.org](http://custercommunitychurch.org)

Click on links. On this page you will see [myOffering.com](http://myOffering.com).

On that site you will be asked to register. Fill out the registration and click “register now” Once you have registered you will be in the system so each time you want to make a donation, you will only have to put in your user name and password.

Once you have registered, you will receive an e-mail within a few minutes from myEOffering. Click that link to verify your email address. Sign in using your email address as your user name and your password that you chose. Click on **new donation** to bring up the new donation screen. Fill in the donation amount, frequency, start date and number of donations. Select type of payment. Fill out your necessary information for your account, then select **Authorize Payment**.

## From the Pastor's Desk: Pastor Barry

Easter is more than candy, colored eggs, and bunnies (whether chocolate, stuffed, or real.) Easter is a season of the church's year, and, significantly, it comes immediately after Lent. If Lent (forty days long) is a season for being laid low in humility and honest self-examination, then Easter (fifty days long) is a season for being lifted up in the joy of new beginnings and God's acceptance. If the focus of Lent is repentance, the focus of Easter is refreshment. If the theme of Lent is the passion of the Christ, the theme of Easter is the resurrection of the Christ and all it means for us in our daily living. Easter is Lent's destination, and we will arrive on April 5.

But April 5 is Easter's starting point. During "The Great Fifty Days" of Easter, we will see mysterious appearances and visitations of the Risen Christ. We will see the disciples begin to grapple with their role in representing Christ to the world. We will explore our own parts in making Christ's resurrection real in our own world.

It is my hope and prayer that we will discover new depths of faith during this year's Great Fifty Days of Easter. May we enter into the fullness of life in Christ, and live into God's intentions and desires for us.

Christ's peace be with you all!

Pastor Barry

## Calendar of Events

Apr 1 (Wed)	Stitching in Faith	9:30 am
	Bells	5:00 pm
Apr 2 (Thurs)	Maundy Thursday Service	5:30 pm
Apr 5(Sun)	Sunrise Service	6:15 am
	Easter Worship Service	9:30 am
	Communion Sunday	
Apr 6 (Mon)	Bible Study	5:00 pm
Apr 8 (Wed)	<b>Fidelis</b>	<b>Noon</b>
	Bell Choir Practice	5:00 pm
Apr 12 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
	Hat Day and <b>Flannel</b> Shirt Day	
	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>10:45 am</b>
Apr 14 (Tues)	Meet and Eat	5:00 pm
Apr 15 (Wed)	Stitching in Faith	9:30 am
	Bell Choir Practice	5:00 pm
Apr 19 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
	BRING YOUR COINS FOR THE BUILDING FUND	
Apr 20 (Mon)	Bible Study	5:00 pm
Apr 22 (Wed)	Stitching in Faith	9:30 am
	Bell Choir Practice	6:00 pm
Apr 26 (Sun)	Worship Service	9:30 am
Apr 29 (Wed)	Stitching in Faith	9:30 am
	Bell Choir Practice	6:00 pm
May 2 (Sat)	Jerry Cobb's Celebration of Life	11:00 am

***"Don't be alarmed," the angel said. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. "Christ has risen!"***

***Mark 16:6 NJV***

Wishing you and yours a blessed Easter.

From SD Conference of the United Church of Christ

**Please join us for Easter Sunrise Service at the overlook of Heddy Draw in Custer State Park at 6:15 am Easter Morning.**

**A park pass is needed.**

**Income and Expenses for February 2026**

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 10,450.92	\$ 8,675.29
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 358.07	\$ 258.16
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Fidelis</b>	\$ 70.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Youth Group</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 10,808.99	\$ 8,933.45

**Traditions of Custer Community Church**

- 1st Sunday of Each Month : Communion  
 2nd Sunday of Each Month: Hat Day and **Flannel/Hawaiian** Shirt Day  
 3rd Sunday of Each Month: Change for Change  
*Bring your coins for the Building Fund*

Custer Community Church, 3/18/2026  
 The Storehouse gratefully appreciates your gift of \$100 for Storehouse food.  
 Barbara Lewison, Storehouse Board  
 Food Collected: 1/17/26—147 pounds, 3/11/26 — 108 pounds

**April Birthdays**

- 5-Apr Sue Kainz
- 6-Apr Tom Pekarna
- 7-Apr Greg Graue
- 8-Apr Sheila Thomas
- 19-Apr Vachel Rice
- 23-Apr Paul Nettinga
- 28-Apr Dalton Rice
- 28-Apr Vikki Parsons



**April Anniversaries**

4/28/1961 Jerry and Karen Baldwin (65 years)



**Custer Community Church  
 March 8, 2026  
 Council Meeting  
 Unapproved Minutes**

With three sharp raps of the gavel, Moderator John Henderson called the meeting to order. There was one adjustment to the agenda added to new business. Moderator Henderson asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting. Mike Murphy offered a motion to approve, Deb Kuhn seconded and all members voted aye.

Pastor Barry offered an opening prayer. Pastor Barry reported he continues to make calls on elderly which he enjoys doing. He reminded members that he will be gone for several Sundays. Joann said Sharee Johnson has agreed to supply the pulpit during his absence. Julie Beck will be available to provide care for anyone in need during Pastor Barry’s absence. Holy Week services are being planned.

Joann Boggs gave the financial report. A question was asked about the money requested from the Endowment Fund. More on this during the Endowment Committee report. The Financial report was approved by voice vote.

TRUSTEE COORDINATOR, Pat Walker asked about what to do with the old refrigerators? No one seemed to know. Pat, along with Mike Murphy, plan to move both old units to the church narthex until calls are made. There is a new white board in the basement which uses magnets to hold announcements.

DIACONATE COORDINATOR, Darlene Bergeron explained

events planned for Holy Week such as Maundy Thursday service. A soup/bread service after Communion is being planned. There will be no 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Soup in March as some members will attend the Catholic Ham Dinner to show support.

Worship Committee Coordinator Mike reported that all seems to be going well.

OUTREACH COORDINATOR, Deb Kuhn said an important event coming soon is the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign which will begin on Sunday March 15. Deb will be leaving us in late April as she moves closer to family in Nebraska. Deb, YOU WILL BE MISSED!!!! As the group pondered someone to fill Deb's position, Susan Merchen volunteered. Bless you Susan. Motion was made to approve Susan. All members voted to affirm Susan as the new Outreach Coordinator.

Christian Education report was given by Mike Murphy. He told the Bible Study with video is going very well with about 12 attending.

Endowment Committee report was given by Pat Walker. Pat told of the request for \$1800 of which \$1500 was for purchase of a new refrigerator. A second request was for \$300 for Safety Plan improvements. Two new refrigerators were purchased, one for the church kitchen and one for the parsonage. And as Joann, Office Manager reported there was \$69 leftover after the purchase of two refrigerators. Any monies left over after purchases made will revert to the General Fund. Endowment Treasurer Susan Merchen reported the fund is doing well as noted by her report. End of February, 2026 value was \$39,674.77. Endowed amount is \$35,230.08. This leaves an available amount of \$4444.44 for capital expenditures.

Darlene reported that Fidelis has purchased some new kitchen equipment which should be helpful for any and all events at the church. She also noted there will be a Memorial Service for Jerry Cobb on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. More details later.

Thank you all, I received your package. I am truly lucky to have such an amazing community back home. It's always nice to hear your thoughts and prayers are with me. As mine are for all of you. I hope your all are doing well as you celebrate this Easter

Yours truly,

Dalton Samuel Rice

Friends at Custer Community Church;

Hooray, our homes on Lower French Creek were saved. Praise the Lord and the tireless work of all those fighting fires.

**Wayne and Gertrude Martin's new address is:**

**Clarkson Health Care Room #10**

**1015 Mountain View Rd**

**Rapid City, SD 57702**

Thank you to all of you that continue to do so much for all of us. A special thank you to Chelly Rice who called Vikki to see if Wayne was at his house or somewhere safe. She was Vikki's first source that a fire was nearby. She is an "angel" to so many. Family of Wayne and Gertude Martin.

### **\$52 for 52 Weeks Fundraiser**

This is a Fundraiser. Sponsors of each week give \$52 to the church in sponsorship to honor someone or something, a memorial, birthday, anniversary, etc. **Feel free to add more than one donation per Sunday.**

Apr 5 **Sheila Thomas** for her 86th birthday

Apr 12 **Sateera Thompsen** in honor of her birthday

Apr 19 **Charlie and Mary Myers** in honor of grandson  
Elliot Weeks birthday

Apr 26 **Paul Nettinga** in honor of his 85th Birthday  
**Vikki Parsons** in honor of her 75th birthday

There is a sign up sheet in the upper Narthex, plan early and get the dates you would like to sponsor.



Members of the “Ice Tea Ladies” (mostly from our church) helped with the lunches for the fire fighters on the Query fire. On Wednesday 375 sack lunches were made and on Friday, 275 were made. In the above picture the helpers were: Edie, Mary, Darlene, Deb, Jan, Julie and Sheila.



Owners of Our Place, Steve and Diane Brown and Diane’s dad, Julian Zornes

**Thank you for your help in this time of need.**

Scholarship reported applications have been sent out but none returned at this time.

Deb reported she has talked to Custer Ambulance about some training. More on this in April.

Joann and Deb have been in touch with Cozy Dorton about taking over the piano leadership after Deb leaves. They were asking for some thought and guidance from the Council members. It was thought by most Council members to have Cozy play for regular church services only at this time. The question of someone playing for choir is undecided at this time. Choir will go on summer break soon after current accompanist Deb leaves.

There being no additional business for Council to consider, Moderator Henderson adjourned the meeting with three sharp raps of the gavel.

Next meeting will be April 12, 2026 following worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Nettinga, Secretary

## **Endowment Fund**

**This fund was established to provide a stable financial base as well as a means for extending the mission of the church and is intended to exist in perpetuity with the principal preserved and invested, with only the interest/dividend income to be expended.**

**To date many building projects have been accomplished using this interest/dividend income of the Endowment Fund.**

**Now is a great time to make a gift to this important fund in the life of your church. For further information, please contact Paul Nettinga or Pat Walker, or place your offering in the plate with a memo of “Endowment Fund”**

**UNAPPROVED FIDELIS MEETING MINUTES  
March 11, 2026**

Chairman Darlene opened our meeting with the Opening Prayer. There were 10 in attendance.

Hostess was Phyllis and devotions were given by Joann (for Deb).

Previous meeting minutes were read. Minutes were approved: The motion was made by Joann, and seconded by Edie.

Treasurer's Report was given by Joann Boggs. Fidelis has a current balance of \$1670.83. The report was approved as presented. Motion was by Phyllis and seconded by Julie. Motion carried.

Cares & Concerns shared by Sheila Thomas. Cards were sent to Mitch Behrenger's family, and Mitch Paulson.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

February Food Drive to honor Marge and Lois: We have collected food and \$165 for the Store House.

Maundy Thursday Service followed by a soup and rolls "simple supper" April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kass, Mary, Sateera – soups, Linda – Rolls.

Recent purchases: the endowment committee approved the purchase of two new refrigerators. One for the parsonage and one for the church kitchen.

**NEW BUSINESS**

We need a new secretary for the remainder of the year as Deb Kuhn is moving back to Nebraska. KJ was VOLUNTOLD to be the new secretary.

Sheila will talk to Marge about the Summer Sack Lunch program so that we can get that on the calendar for June.

Pastor's report: Barry gave an update on some of our parishioners who are shut-ins or in a nursing home. There will be a celebration

of life for Jerry Cobb on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 am. The reception will follow at Custer State Park's event center. Bonnie has requested that Fidelis provide dessert bars and cookies. More information to follow.

There was a request to borrow some tables and chairs for an event; Sheila made a motion and it was seconded by Julie. Motion carried.

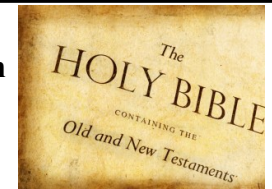
Our next meeting is April 8, 2026.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Kuhn, secretary/ KJ stood in for Deb

**Bible Study is the 1st and 3rd  
Monday of each month. It is held at 5 pm  
in the Baldwin Room. They are studying  
a video series and soup is served before  
the study.**



**We are still saving  
Lynn's Dakotamart Receipts.  
For Every \$10,000 worth of receipts, the church  
receives \$100.  
Please bring your receipts and put them in the  
container in the Upper Narthex.**

It is with a sad heart that we find that Deb Kuhn will be leaving us this month. She is returning to Nebraska City to live near her family. We will greatly miss her! She has served in so many capacities in the church since her arrival here.

**We will be looking for a organist/pianist for the church.** If anyone knows of someone that could fill that capacity, please let the council know.