

# CORNERSTONE

Here's what is happening at Hartford UMC this month!



## May Birthdays

- Brooke Kaiser - May 2
- Brooks Polley - May 3
- Grayson Polley - May 3
- Austin Caslin - May 4
- Joel Stearns - May 6
- Sarah Johnson - May 9
- Amber Lueth - May 9
- Gail Smith - May 11
- Don Ortman - May 12
- Marlis Stowsand - May 16
- Althea LaBounty - May 17
- Tessa Swanson - May 19
- Tim Haberer - May 21
- Sharon Mathison - May 21
- Wyatt Boy - May 22
- Ben Lueth - May 22
- Brodie Nelson - May 23
- Leighton Peterson - May 23
- Tina Schneider - May 25
- Lynn Stockwell - May 25
- Pattie Greenfield - May 26
- Red Shannon - May 26
- Rachel Johnson - May 28
- Emily Krumbach - May 29
- Bri Lubenow - May 30
- Irene Shannon - May 30



## Faithful Through Every Season

By now, I hope the news of my being reappointed this summer has lost some of the initial ‘sting’. While I, at least, am still wrestling with the mixed emotions of it all, I hold onto the fact that this part of our system is both a reminder of our connectional nature and an opportunity to reflect on the enduring identity of the local church. Pastors are called and sent for a season, but the mission of the church remains constant. While leadership transitions can bring uncertainty, the Church’s identity is rooted in God’s call, God’s people, and God’s purposes — not in the tenure of a single pastor.

And throughout Scripture, God’s work continues across generations and changing leaders. Moses was succeeded by Joshua, Elijah by Elisha, and the early church flourished through many hands and voices. In each case, the mission endured because it belonged to God. Ephesians 4:11-12 reminds us that leaders are given to equip the saints for ministry, not to be the ministry itself. The true strength of a congregation is found in its shared faith, collective gifts, and commitment to Christ’s mission. As we navigate this season of reappointment, may we remember that pastors may come and go, but the church remains the body of Christ: called, sustained, and sent by God for a purpose far greater than any one person.

God bless!

-Pastor Seth LaBounty

**To start the Prayer chain call:**

Lois Kaiser	605-941-1294
Nancy Gacke	605-940-7714
Pastor Seth	605-528-3822 or 308-641-2761



United Women in Faith

### United Women in Faith Meetings

Evening Blessings will be pausing their meetings for the summer.

Faith Circle will be meeting on May 7th at 1:30 pm.



Clothes donated BY the community FOR the community

### The Closet

We are proud to host "The Closet"! This is a second-hand clothing ministry which will offer clean, gently used clothing to anyone in need throughout our community. To learn more about how to help or otherwise get connected, contact Darin Johnson or Danielle Polley!



### Across our Connection: Washburn UMC Answers the Call

Washburn UMC, located in the Northwest part of North Dakota, averages 40-50 people in worship each Sunday, but in less than a year has raised \$14,000 for the community.

The congregation gives back to the community financially by utilizing a portion of the earnings from an endowment fund established by generous donors. The first project, a true turning point, was for the local library. The library needed funds for the summer reading program for children and youth. One member of the congregation requested \$500 from the endowment fund earnings for the reading program. Rev. Annie Carlson, Washburn UMC, loves reading and libraries. She urged the congregation's leadership to lean into an invitational opportunity.

"We could just write a check, but who would know? I challenged them to think about how we could invite others in the community to assist with the need," said Pastor Annie. "How could we invite the community to learn about the library, the summer reading program, and help? That is how it all got started."

The congregation's leadership team decided to do an upscale taco bar. Funds from the endowment supported the costs for the taco bar, a book to give to each child who attended, and a bookmark for each adult.

Pastor Annie shared, "It was a way for people to learn about what the library is all about and give back. The taco bar, which was really upscale, raised \$2,400. We turned \$500 into \$2,400!"

After the library fundraising experience, people in the congregation began to ask, "What is next? Who else can we help?" The congregation was inspired to identify other needs throughout the community and invite others to help.

## Christian Education Opportunities:

- Sunday School at 10:35 am
  - Ages: PreK to 2nd Grade
  - Starts September 15
- Wild Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
  - Meal from 6:00 to 6:30 pm
  - Classes from 6:30 to 7:30 pm
  - Ages: PreK to High School
  - Confirmation Classes
  - Adult studies offered during the seasons of Advent and Lent.
- Bibles & Brews at Buffalo Ridge Brewing, Sundays at 4:00 pm

Whether you have been part of Bible Studies your whole life, or are just looking for a place to start, you are welcome to join any of our Christian Education groups! For more information, please contact Pastor Seth or Abbey Nevins.

## Leadership Team Meeting - May 19th at 6:30 pm

All are welcome to participate in our next Leadership Team meeting, scheduled for May 19th at 6:30 pm. Help us dream and plan for the ministry of God's Church!



**CAMP BELIEVE IT!**

Hartford United Methodist Church

**Vacation Bible School**

**July 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30 - 8pm**

Join us!  
102 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

**Meal, Music, Games, Crafts & Learning about Jesus!**

**Ages Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Register NOW**

**Want to Volunteer?**

We've got room for you, even if it's only for 1 day!



## Feeding South Dakota

Thank you to everyone who helped support Feeding South Dakota (including David & Rachel Stearns, who are not pictured)!



# Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL)

a strength, balance, and fitness class for adults 65+

## We are proud to be a host site for the SAIL program!

We are a host site for SAIL (Staying Active & Independent for Life) on Mondays and Wednesdays! This is a strength, balance, and fitness class specifically designed for adults 65+. Participants improve balance and mobility, reduce risk of falls, and improve their quality of life while having fun meeting new people. To learn more, call Valerie Horacek at 605-261-7488.

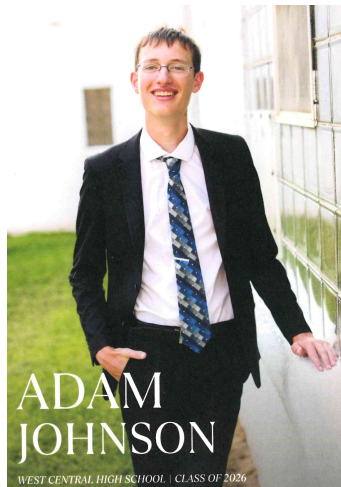
## Please join us in celebrating our graduates on May 10!

We want to honor all the graduates within our lives and community, but especially Ashton Gebhard, Adam Johnson, and Max Nordlund! During worship on May 10th, we will take time to hear what their next steps will be after graduation, and pray for them as they begin this new adventure.

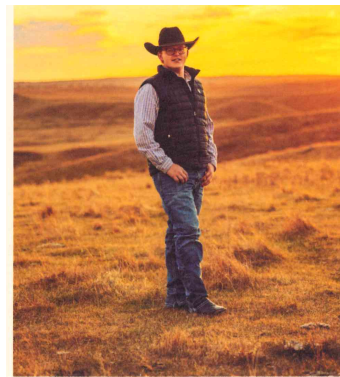
## Amplify Media

Churches across the Dakotas now have a powerful new tool for ministry: the **Amplify Dakotas channel**. This is a **shared platform for digital discipleship and resource sharing** that both celebrates the unique gifts of the Dakotas Conference and draws on the rich theology and tradition of the wider United Methodist connection.

Churches and individuals are encouraged to explore Amplify Dakotas, using it in worship, small groups, youth ministry, leadership training, and personal discipleship. Together, these resources create a stronger foundation for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—right here in the Dakotas. To learn more, ask Pastor Seth!



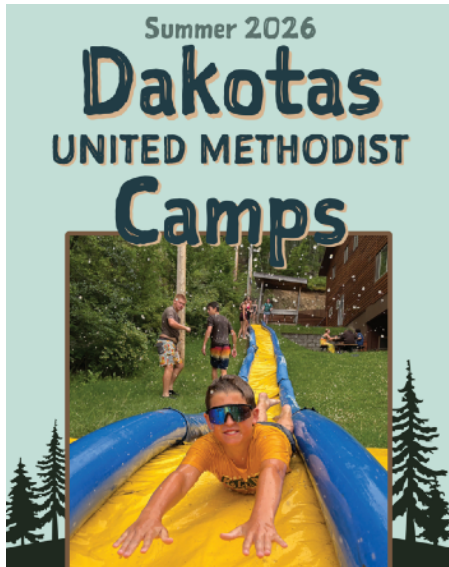
ADAM JOHNSON  
WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL | CLASS OF 2026



MAX NORDLUND  
HIGHMORE/HARROLD HIGH SCHOOL  
class of 2026



ASHTON DEAN GEBHARD  
West Central High School 2026 Graduate



**Church Camp  
Registration is  
OPEN!**

Summer will be here before we know it, and our Dakotas United Methodist Camps are gearing up for a wonderful time at camp! Go online to [dakotasumc.org/camping](http://dakotasumc.org/camping) to look up what programs will be offered at our three camp & retreat centers. Register by April 30th to receive a free \$25 credit for the Camp Store, and use Hartford UMC's promo code (**112261CA**) for an additional discount! For more information or additional financial support, please contact Pastor Seth!

**Noisy Bucket Offering for May - Sioux Falls  
Noon Sertoma Club**

Our Noisy Bucket offering for the month of May will support the Sioux Falls Noon Sertoma Club and their efforts to expand the playground at Sertoma Park! This project is about more than slides and swings. It is about dignity, connection, and belonging. It is about creating a place where a child who uses a wheelchair can finally play side by side with their friends, where grandparents with limited mobility can join their grandchildren on the playground, and where families of all backgrounds can gather and feel welcome.

**Women's Retreat at Lake Poinsett**

*Save the date...*  
**AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
WE ARE HOSTING ANOTHER  
WOMEN'S RETREAT

- Who:
  - Women of any age
- Where:
  - Living Waters Retreat Center - Lake Poinsett
- What to expect:
  - Bible Study, Campfires, Singing, Free time to relax and visit.
  - We will also give back with a service project around camp
- Cost: \$155 for 2 nights, meals included!

**More information and sign up forms are at the back of the sanctuary**  
Contact Rachel Stearns @ 605-595-5259 with any questions

## Hartford Food Pantry Sponsor

We are asking members of Hartford UMC to consider being a food pantry sponsor of the month. If you wish to make the donation in honor of a birthday, anniversary, loved ones, etc. please list that on the form. Funds received will be utilized to purchase items of greatest need for the pantry throughout the year. Sponsors will be highlighted in the newsletter and bulletin. A full month sponsorship is \$100 and a half month is \$50. You can turn in your pledge form at the office, in the offering plate or email a copy to [humcsd@gmail.com](mailto:humcsd@gmail.com). Monthly sponsors will be assigned in the order they are received.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Month	\$100
Half Month	\$50

### Hartford Food Pantry Sponsors of the Month

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Thank you to our Food Pantry sponsors for the month of May! This month, our sponsors are: **David & Rachel Stearns** in honor of their 50th anniversary, and **Erik & Buffy Edberg** in honor of their 56th anniversary.



Worship Volunteer Schedule	Usher/Greeter	Fellowship Food	Acolyte	Liturgist
May 3 5th Sunday of Easter	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
May 10 6th Sunday of Easter	TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A
May 17 Ascension Sunday	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
May 24 Pentecost	TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A

## Help with Worship!

We are always open to having more people involved with worship! If any of these opportunities interest you (or if you have other suggestions on how you'd like to make worship better), please let Pastor Seth or Linda Blue know! We can offer training and other support to make any or all of these work for you and your schedule!

- Read Scripture
- Usher / Greeter
- Light candles
- Sing or play with the Praise Team
- Share a Musical Offering
- Play with the Chime Choir
- Run sound or video for the service
- Lead the Children's Moment
- Preach
- Coffee / Treats
- ...and more!

# May 2026

-  humcsd@gmail.com
-  US Holidays
-  Christian Holidays

April 2026							May 2026							June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4				5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30AM Sunday Worship 4:00PM Bibles & Brews	27 9:00AM SAIL	28	29 9:00AM SAIL 6:00PM WILD Wednesday	30	1	2 5:30PM Saturday Night Worship
3 9:30AM Sunday Worship 4:00PM Bibles & Brews	4 9:00AM SAIL 7:00PM Evening Blessings Women's Group	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 9:00AM SAIL	7 1:30PM Faith Circle	8	9 5:30PM Saturday Night Worship
10 Mother's Day 9:30AM Sunday Worship 4:00PM Bibles & Brews	11 9:00AM SAIL	12	13 9:00AM SAIL	14 Ascension Day 7:30AM DHI Meeting	15	16 5:30PM Saturday Night Worship
17 9:30AM Sunday Worship 4:00PM Bibles & Brews	18 9:00AM SAIL	19 6:30PM Leadership Team Meeting	20 9:00AM SAIL	21	22	23 5:30PM Saturday Night Worship
24 Pentecost 9:30AM Sunday Worship 4:00PM Bibles & Brews	25 Whit Monday Memorial Day 9:00AM SAIL	26	27 Eid al-Adha 9:00AM SAIL	28	29	30 5:30PM Saturday Night Worship
31 Trinity Sunday 9:30AM Sunday Worship 4:00PM Bibles & Brews	1 9:00AM SAIL 7:00PM Evening Blessings Women's Group	2	3 9:00AM SAIL	4 Corpus Christi 1:30PM Faith Circle	5	6 9:30AM UWF District Meeting 5:30PM Saturday Night Worship

For the most up-to-date calendar, please go to [humcsd.org](http://humcsd.org) and use the "Calendar & Newsletter" tab.