

February 2026 | <http://abc-dakotas.org> | 605-575-2071



### Pastor Aaron's Post-It

Nicholas Graham wrote, "The problem with the golden rule is ... everyone has different values and interests... For this reason, the 'golden rule' shouldn't be about what you would want done for yourself— rather, it should be ... listen to others before you assume they want what you want!" To answer the question, if everyone treated each other like they'd like to be treated, I imagine the world would be pretty similar to the way it currently is— chaotic and seemingly self-centered."

His point about listening to others before assuming they want what we do has merit. For example, I once did nothing when I could have helped someone pick up spilled items in a grocery store. I felt guilty about doing nothing and believed I should have helped pick up the items.

Based on his insight, I should have asked, "May I help you pick up"? I should not assume people want what I do. On the other hand, his conclusion that the world would be unchanged if everyone followed the golden rule couldn't be more wrong. If everyone lived to be a blessing, if everyone's eyes turned toward others' needs and how to meet them, how does he conclude the world would be "seemingly self-centered"? That's why we must love one another as Christ has loved us. Jesus is the standard, not ourselves.

### Camp Judson Summer Camp 2026 Registration Open!

**Registration is open for:** summer camps, trail camp, family camp, young adult camps, and day camps. That's a lot of camps for everyone! Space is limited and it is highly suggested that you make plans and register sooner than later

Please be in prayer for not just our campers but the staff and counselors who will be put in place to help make camp one of the best faith-filled events of the coming summer.

Registration can be found on this link: <https://campjudson.org/>

- Please note that families who wish to register for either week of Family Camp must call the camp office at 605.574.2314.



### Prairie Pastors Conference!

**Keynote Speaker:**  
Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford

**REGISTER NOW**

**PRAIRIE PASTORS CONFERENCE**

**March 16-18, 2026**

**Sunset Hills Baptist Church**  
9416 Pacific St.  
Omaha, NE 68114

There is no registration fee unless you register for the optional boundaries training. Lodging and some meals will not be provided.

Prairie pastors, which includes N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, and other region pastors who just wish they could be in the prairies are all invited to come this year to Omaha, NE for an engaging and refreshing time! If you need to complete the "Boundaries" course as an ABC pastor, Mike Justice will be leading the course at the conference. Our own Soozie Ford will be speaking, as well!

Registration is open and can be accessed by the QR code above or at:  
<https://pci.jotform.com/form/253486234058158>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!



## Camp Judson Campaign



Your executive minister, Aaron Kilbourn, had some time last month to visit Camp Judson and spend some time with Camp Judson's director Tracy Koskan. The main Gables of the Lodge are up as well as the trusses. Roofing tiles are next and once the building is enclosed, the plumbing and electric contractors can begin installing plumbing and electric.



A lot of staining is done, thanks to Bethany, Jake, and others! Thank you so much for your consistent efforts!

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to be so faithful in giving to Camp Judson as we see the possibilities of a completed Lodge in the coming fall. Your prayers for workers' safety, flexibility, and wisdom are evidenced in the way they have had to flex building schedules and plans.

When you consider the plans and scope of the Lodge, you can appreciate the way Tracy and others have planned out what works for helping camp ministry be as accommodating and safe as possible. There have been work crews that have come to volunteer as well. This has helped keep costs down as the Lodge gets closer and closer to completion. Thank you for your interest and prayers! May God get the glory!



## Love Prevails

During World War II, Hitler commanded all religious groups to unite so that he could control them. Among the Brethren assemblies, half complied and half refused. Those who went along with the order had a much easier time. Those who did not, faced harsh persecution. In almost every family of those who resisted, someone died in a concentration camp. When the war was over, feelings of bitterness ran deep between the groups and there was much tension. Finally they decided that the situation had to be healed. Leaders from each group met at a quiet retreat. For several days, each person spent time in prayer, examining his own heart in the light of Christ's commands. Then they came together.

Francis Schaeffer, who told of the incident, asked a friend who was there, "What did you do then?" "We were just one," he replied. As they confessed their hostility and bitterness to God and yielded to His control, the Holy Spirit created a spirit of unity among them. Love filled their hearts and dissolved their hatred. When love prevails among believers, especially in times of strong disagreement, it presents to the world an indisputable mark of a true follower of Jesus Christ.

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. - James 1:2-3*

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## Tech Training Opportunity



The American Baptist Home Mission Societies – Center for Continuous Learning offers an exciting new eight-week series called Techno Praxis: Hands on Skills for Digital Disciples.

- This course is designed for: Clergy and ministers
- Faith and nonprofit leaders
- Digital innovators in ministry

Benefits of taking this course:

- No Charge - you can benefit from a full, multi-week professional development experience without financial barriers.
- Hands-On - Can be applied immediately in ministry settings—such as preaching, administration, outreach, and communication.
- Strengthen Your Digital Ministry - Refine how you use digital spaces to support discipleship, communication, and community-building.
- Integrate Technology with Spiritual and Ethical Reflection - This helps ministers and leaders think critically about technology's role in faith practice.

**Learn more at:**

<https://ccl.abhms.org/courses/techno-praxis>

## Camp Bentley Broadcast

Camp Bentley board continues to plan for our summer camps. We are currently hiring for an assistant cook and assistant manager(s). Counselor hiring information will come out in late February. Anyone who is interested can contact Lori at [abcdaklori@gmail.com](mailto:abcdaklori@gmail.com) or by phone at 701-595-2313.

Giving Hearts Day giving is open from January 12 to February 12<sup>th</sup> at midnight. We have obtained \$50,000 in match and hope to raise \$50,000 towards a new rec hall. Our link is <https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/1257> or scan the QR code. There is a credit card charge for online gifts. You have the option to pay the charge. To donate by check include Giving Hearts Day in the memo. Write checks to Camp Bentley and mail to: Lori Lundblad 9115 Baine Dr. Bismarck, ND 58503. We hope to start construction fall of 2026. Please help us reach our goal!



**We thank you for your prayers, your gifts, and your commitment to Camp Bentley!**



**Giving Hearts Day**



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### Here and There

As Executive Minister, I have the distinct privilege of traveling the open range of the Dakotas and visiting with pastors & believers of all kinds.

January was kind enough in weather where I was able to preach at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist in Aberdeen, SD as well as make some visits including Camp Judson with Tracy Koskan. It was heartening to see the plan and progress Tracy and the crew are making on the new Lodge. Taking time to work with search committees at Emmanuel Baptist in Sioux Falls, SD and First Baptist Church in Pierre, SD were a blessing as these churches are prayerfully searching for a new pastor.



Lori Dvirnak-Lundblad and I continue to work together to help our churches thrive and keep connected. Your prayers are appreciated in this venture! I also had the chance to stop by and visit our Baptist Church in White Owl as well. Whether near or far, please keep our ABCD churches in your prayers!

### Church and Pastor Resources



**Across our churches, things are changing faster than many of us anticipated.** Assumptions are being challenged, new possibilities emerge, and leaders are discerning what faithful ministry looks like in shifting landscapes. While this season asks a lot of us, it also carries real opportunity for renewal and deeper trust in God's work among us. That's exactly why we're gathering for the Ascent Summit, March 10-12. This Summit isn't about quick fixes or hype. It's about creating space for leaders to step back, breathe, and ask deeper questions together: The Ascent Summit brings together pastors, planters, and church leaders for thoughtful teaching, shared worship, honest conversation, and practical learning shaped by a deep trust in the gospel and the renewing work of the Spirit. Our hope is that leaders leave encouraged, grounded, and re-imagining what is possible in their own contexts. If you are feeling stretched, uncertain, or simply longing for renewal, this gathering is for you. Register at: <https://www.ascentmovement.org/summit-2026>



### A Time to Pray

*Each month, we will feature prayers concerning our ministries in the Dakotas that we can offer to God, knowing that we can, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." - Rom. 12:12*

- Prayer for believers to be faithful and true
- Pray for pastors and church leaders as they work through cultural changes
- Pray for churches and unity in Jesus Christ
- Pray for churches that are seeking pastoral leadership
- Pray for believers to be people of truth and love
- Pray for revival and a desire to please the Lord in every area of our lives
- Pray for youth and adults that are turning to the Lord and seeking His Way

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, - Phil. 1:3-4*

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