

First United Methodist Church

310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301

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“Sharing the Love of Jesus with the next generation from the heart of downtown.”

The above statement is the “Purpose” that our church leadership adopted for our church last year. It’s a statement of who we are and why we are here. It is to guide our church in our decisions and in our ministries. Just recently I had a person tell me about their experience and impression of our church that I thought all of us could benefit from. We all need to hear examples and stories of when we do something well, especially as it relates to the purpose of our church.

Recently an individual came to our church on a Sunday morning. This person is actually a member of another church in our area, but they were in our church for a specific reason. As I visited with them, he/she shared about their perception of our church. Of course, during the Sunday School hour our facility just bustles with activity and energy, and that was the case that morning. The person commented on the number of children involved and the number of and energy of the teachers and leaders that were working with the children.

The welcome this individual received by various people upon arriving at our church and during the time spent within our facility was also noted. Several individuals greeted the person, visited with them, and invited them to get a cup of coffee and a cookie. This happened at several points during their time in our facility.

What struck me about my brief conversation with this person was how they experienced our church family that morning. The most powerful comment made was when the person said to me, “I’m going to go talk to my pastor and recommend that our church do something more like what “your” church (Downtown Mitchell First UMC) is doing. “You’re doing something right here!” were the parting words I heard.

Wow, those are great words to hear! In the midst of negative news and a world awash in problems, it is good to hear when something noticed is positive. I couldn’t keep this to myself. I felt that you, our church family, should hear about a moment in which we were doing “it” right. Well done...and keep up the good work!!!

Children and families are a very important part of “Sharing the Love of Jesus...” So, thank you to our dedicated Children’s Ministry Team, including Carolyn and all the teachers and helpers. Thank you to our Hospitality people (official and unofficial) who go out of their way to help people feel welcome and comfortable. This too, is so important! And thank you to this church family that is truly working at creating the kind of environment in which the Love of Jesus is seen, felt, heard, and experienced in many different ways. We are changing lives...as we share the love of Jesus with the next generation from the heart of downtown. Amen!!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

-Join us for worship on Sunday at 8:30 & 11:00 am. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45 am. This week’s Message theme is “Cherishing Uniqueness.” The scripture readings for the message are Psalm 139:1-14 and I Samuel 16:7. Plus I’ll also draw from Genesis 16:13.

-If you are a Committee or Ministry Team Chair or member, or just interested in our church direction, join us for our Church Leadership Retreat on Saturday January 27. We’ll start at 8:00 with Pancakes prepared by Dennis Westgard. Alisha Vincent from DWU & The McGovern Center will lead our training time. Our retreat will conclude around 11:30.