

# **First United Methodist Church**

**310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301**

**Rev. Keith Nelson, Lead Pastor**

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Wasn't **Christmas Eve Candle Light beautiful?!** It doesn't matter which of the three services you were here for. I experienced them all, and they were each special and beautiful in their own way. Thank you for helping make it happen!

Yes, there were those who provided music or special music for these services, there were those who helped prepare for communion, and other set-up preparations, there were those who helped with sound and technology in each of those services, there were those who greeted, handed out candles and bulletins and helped with other "ushering" duties. Thank you to all of you who helped make these services possible. But even beyond these folks, I still say "thank you" to all of you for helping make it happen.

Right now some of you might be wondering, how? **"How did I help make it happen?"** It is through your financial giving to our church! That's how you helped make it happen. Your giving helps pay the electric and heat bills. Your giving helps pay the salaries of those involved in the planning and leading of these worship services. Your giving helps cover the costs for the technology and other "furnishings" that help us do what we do here.

Throughout 2017 our Youth Group has grown under the leadership of Jessica Kremer and her team of servants who help with our youth ministry. Most of us will never know of the seeds that are planted and the meaningful conversations that were held during youth group or in private with Jessica and her team. But what I can tell you is that you helped make it happen.

Several weeks back many of us witnessed a young man in our church family being baptized. He came to that decision on his own...through the nurturing of **Sunday School teachers and helpers and such**. And again, you helped make that happen by providing the resources that empower our children's ministry.

Maybe it was a small group setting, maybe it was a Sunday Morning worship service or some other special worship service throughout the year. Maybe it was through serving the Love Feast (I've had several powerful "God Moments" there). Maybe it was through your personal quiet time that has been "blessed" by the Youth Group Bible reading challenge. Maybe it was through the Noisy Bucket offering. Maybe it was through mission work or giving. Maybe it was through some other means of service to God through our church or in our community. Who knows, maybe it was even through one of these Pastor's Reflections articles that your soul was touched. If any of this is true, it is through your giving to our church that helps make this ministry happen.

As we come to the end of the year, we can use your **"year-end" extra gift** to end the year on a strong note. I am committing \$300 above the tithe that Nancy and I give to our church. If just 100 other people would do the same, we would end the year with all bills paid and a bit of a cushion to start 2018 on. Mark your gift "year-end challenge" and we'll know how to direct it. Thank you for your consideration of this...And thank you for how you help make ministry happen.

Serving Together,

*Pastor Keith*

Church Family, remember...**Just one worship service on Sunday December 31 at 9:30 am!** January 7 will begin the new Sermon Series and small group gatherings for "Cherish." This series is about strengthening marriages and improving other relationships in our lives. Join Us!!