

First United Methodist Church

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We all see them. The orange signs that make us groan. Those signs proclaim a simple message – Road Construction! Ugh!! Just a week ago we were in the throws of a good old-fashioned South Dakota blizzard, and now we're in the midst of RCS (Road Construction Season). Actually, the signs and cones started appearing several weeks before last week's blizzard. Maybe that's the sure sign of Spring in the Dakotas...road construction!!

We all know this type of work is going to be a reality in our community and lives. We all appreciate the smooth surfaces and marked streets to drive on to get to our various destinations around town. But there is a cost to have the streets and roads, especially with the extreme weather conditions of our area; ice, snow, rain, hot temps, cold temps, etc. And most of those conditions happened within a two-day span last week. 😊 Anyway, streets and roads have to be maintained, repaired, and updated, which is an ongoing need in any community.

There are two main projects underway in our community; the south Burr Street project, which is a continuation of last year's project, and the south Sanborn Boulevard project, which will have Sanborn closed from Havens to First Avenue for several months. The Sanborn closure represents quite a disruption for many of us to our usual driving routes, but we are adapting. We have to!

Fortunately, the Sanborn closure doesn't greatly affect our church, but there are some businesses along south Sanborn that this is a huge disruption for them because of the impact the street closure has to the flow of traffic by their business. Here's what I'd ask us all to consider over the next several months; first, to pray for those business owners and employees. This is a challenging time for them. Second, that we find ways to intentionally support those businesses. Yes, there is still a way to get to all of them and to my knowledge they are all still open; you just have to be a bit more creative and intentional about getting to those businesses. I've stopped at several of them over the past week or so, and they have been appreciative of the business and an opportunity to serve.

Growing up on the farm, when one neighbor was having difficulty, the other friends and neighbors came to the assistance of the one in need. It's just the way we cared for one another in the rural regions. Well, we now have an opportunity to do the "town" version of this intentional caring. There are some of our neighbors who are having difficulty. This is an opportunity for us to go out of our way (literally) to encourage, support, and help one another.

We will all appreciate the new smooth streets when the work is done. But in the meantime, we have an opportunity to provide an encouraging word and to help our neighbors in a time in which they could probably use a bit of a boost.

Serving Together,
Pastor Keith

Do you remember what it's like to learn something new? Learning to drive? Learning to dance? Learning to use a smartphone? (I'm still learning that!) Even as a church, we have to learn new ways to be effective in our work. On **Wednesday evening, April 25**, we have a special relearning event in the chapel. The evening begins at **6:00 pm** with a simple meal and our Wednesday Evening Worship. Then at 6:30 Rev. Bob Ruedebusch will lead us in a Resource Refocus event. This is an MCCI event aimed to help us all understand how our world has changed, and therefore how the people we are trying to connect with have to be reached in new ways. This is an important event for our entire church family. Hope to see you there. The evening will conclude by 8:30.