

# ***First United Methodist Church***

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

***Rev. Keith Nelson, Lead Pastor***

***keith@mitchellfumc.org***

***605.630.6586***

“Today is the first day of the rest of your life!” That is a saying from years past that really captured my attention. I thought on those words, I repeated those words to myself, I shared them with others, and I wondered what exactly they meant for me? That simple saying spoke to me of possibilities and opportunities that were available to me regarding the direction of my life. In fact, those words still impact my life today. The message I hear for myself in those words is that tomorrow is not yet determined, but it can be greatly influenced by what I do today.

I was reminded of these words by another quote that has been shared and repeated in recent days. The quote is from Ernest Hemingway, but these words were spoken at the funeral service of Senator John McCain by former president Barack Obama. Following is the saying. “Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the other days that will ever come can depend on what you do today.”

Let those words linger in your heart and mind for just a moment. Those are powerful words. Those are true and inspiring words. Today is just one day...but today has the power to influence the moments, the decisions, and the directions that will be followed for the days to come.

For almost a year our church has been praying our Breakthrough Prayer. It’s a prayer that has been preparing us for our MCCI Consultation Weekend. A year ago, when the leadership of our church voted to participate in this process, it seemed like it was a long way off. Now it is almost here. In fact, as I write these words, the Consultation Team will be gathering at our church in exactly one week on Friday September 21. The team is already praying for our church that God’s presence and direction will be sensed through this upcoming weekend.

Now if we all need a reminder of what MCCI (Missional Church Consultation Initiative) is all about, it’s summed up best by saying, it is strategic planning intentionally involving God. So, next weekend is our time.

Two years ago, when I first came to Downtown Mitchell First UMC, one of the things I sensed and shared with people was that I believed the best days for the church are yet to come. Many of you believe this and I do too. I feel that our upcoming MCCI Consultation Weekend will truly help shape our church for the months and years to come. Our best days are yet to come!!

These words from Hemingway are so fitting for us as a church body; “Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the other days that will ever come can depend on what you do today.” This is our time! These are important days. That’s why it is so important that as many of our church family as possible participate in our Consultation Weekend.

I know many of you have been praying for this moment. Let’s continue to pray that God’s Spirit and Power will truly breakthrough in the work we do together as a part of our consultation weekend. God is present and God is at work in our midst!!! I’m excited to be on this journey with you!!

Serving Together,  
*Pastor Keith*

## **MCCI Events for entire Church Family:**

**September 22** – Saturday Seminar – **9:00 am – 3:00 pm** – All are welcome and invited.

**September 23** – Sunday Worship – One service at **10:00 am** – Prescriptions will be first presented.

All are welcome and invited.