



Lorna Braught – Organist

My ministry in the church is music. I have been the organist here at the church for 30+ years. I am responsible for playing the organ for the Traditional Sunday Worship services as well as some Blended and Special Services.

John Claggett - Sunday Morning Support

My official title is “Sunday Morning Support.” This ministry involves arriving early to make sure doors are unlocked, lights are on, the coffee is brewing, the heat or air conditioning is working, and that everything is a “go” for a great Sunday morning. Scheduling of Sunday morning van drivers is also on my list of responsibilities. It’s great to be a part of Mitchell First UMC.



This directory contains the paid staff of Mitchell First United Methodist Church. However, there are also dozens of volunteers within this church family that head up ministries, serve on committees and ministry teams, give of their time to teach, lead, help, and quietly work behind the scenes to make sure the work of the church continues on. Thank you all so much, volunteers and staff, for what you do to ensure that the “disciple making” mission of this church continues on today and into the future.

*Meet the
FUMC Staff
10.16.16*

**Downtown Mitchell
First United Methodist Church
310 N Rowley
Mitchell SD 57301
www.mitchellfumc.org**



Keith Nelson - Lead Pastor

My ministry is about providing leadership and oversight to the staff and the ministries of the church. I am also very involved with planning and the leadership of Sunday morning worship. As “Lead Pastor” I am also the chief dreamer for the mission and vision of the church which revolves around loving God and loving neighbor, reaching new people with Jesus love, and bringing Christ’s healing presence to the brokenness of our world.

Jerry Stravia, IV - Connection Pastor

My ministry is about helping “connect” young and old alike with our church family. I oversee our use of social media to keep people informed and connected with the ministries and happenings of our church. I also help with the Visitation Ministry of the church to our shut-ins, the hospital, and the care facilities in Mitchell and the area.



Carolyn Knight - Director of Children’s Ministries

Children’s Ministries includes infants and children up through 6th Grade. I am blessed to work with a wonderful team of people who are passionate about children and their faith development. Finding, training, nurturing and supporting our Sunday School and VBS staff is on my list of responsibilities. I also oversee the Nursery and Parent’s Day Out Staff. Throughout the year we try to enhance our children’s involvement in worship and other special activities planned just for them. We want our children to know that they are important, welcomed, accepted and loved by the FUMC congregation and by their awesome God!





Short Larson – Office Manager

My ministry here at FUMC includes everything from communication, managing multiple priorities, staying organized and focused, keeping records/calendar up to date, publishing the Sunday bulletin, and scheduling events, to searching for food that has been donated to the church and cannot be located. I love people and feel that my ministry is to make everyone who calls or walks through these doors feel welcome and loved by God and this church.



Kimberly Lofgren – Bookkeeper

I have the ministry of preparing month-end financial reports for the church and committees as well as managing contributions and giving to the church. I also calculate payroll and other relevant employee transactions. God has given me the gift of “numbers” and I’m glad to use this gift here at Mitchell First.

Tim Friederich – Facility Manager

My ministry includes maintenance and safety of the building, event preparation, outdoor maintenance, plumbing, painting, carpet cleaning, refinishing floors, and whatever is asked of me that I am able to do.

I am originally from Tripp, SD. I have three children and five grandchildren. I enjoy cooking, movies, dancing, and any kind of music concerts. I love life!



Jessica Kremer – Youth Director

My ministry at the church revolves around high school youth - coordinating youth activities, helping with confirmation and helping the youth know they are loved by God. I spend my days with my husband Ryan, my children Nichole, Alexzander, Christian and our ferret, Nicodemus.



Irma DeSmet – Office Secretary

The ministry I have at our church involves working on Friday mornings and filling in when Short is gone. My duties include but are not limited to: finishing the bulletin by stuffing and distributing, recording attendance, updating on-line web calendar and doing power point of announcements for Sunday mornings.



Matthew Bader – Middle School Youth

This year will be my 7th year overall of working with youth and my 4th year here at FUMC. Working with Middle School youth is a great ministry to be involved with. We have fun every week doing devotions, Bible study, worships, large and small group discussion, service projects, games, and special events. Encourage your middle school kids, grandkids, neighbors, etc. to come and be a part of this awesome group. Thank you for your support of these amazing youth!