

THE INFORMER



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MARCH MATCH For the Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry March 2—April 6, 2025

FILL UP the Fish Bowl
with your change,
dollars, and checks!!



During the month of March the Richland-Wilkin Food Pantry is going to be involved in a dollar for dollar match by the Great Plains Food Bank for all funds raised. Breckenridge United Methodist Church would like to donate funds to help combat hunger in our area by our participating in this worthwhile project. We are asking our members to continue with our monthly food donations as well as participate in the "March Match ." This project will begin on **Sunday, March 2 and will run through April 6. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 which will then become \$2,000. Bring your dollars to Church and fill up the "Fish Bowl"!**

**So far, we have raised \$452.65 and
160 pounds of food and non-food items.**

ATTENTION YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS!

Pastor Shandon wants to hear from you! Please fill out this Survey to share about activities you would like to engage in in the upcoming year, topics that are on your heart, and best times that you would like to gather with others for fellowship. It will only take 5 minutes of your time! Your answers will help plan for after Lent!

For Youth: <https://breckumc.org/youth>

For Young Adults<40: <https://www.breckumc.org/youngadults>

From the Pastor's Perspective —Shandon Klein

From the Pastor—April 2025

We have reached a little over the halfway point of Lent, a season focused on remembering Jesus's 40-day journey through the wilderness, supported by the Spirit that affirmed him as God's beloved Son. I've been contemplating how Jesus found support during this unknown wilderness journey—not only during those 40 days but throughout his entire ministry—and what lessons we can take from it for our own lives.

First, Jesus was nurtured by an earthly family that affirmed his identity as a child of God. His step-father, Joseph, upon consultation with the angel, even named him "God with us," Emmanuel. Mary and Joseph cared for and nurtured Jesus as a child and young adult until he was ready to embark on his own journey. Who in your life has affirmed your identity as a child of God and encouraged you in your calling? Who do you look up to as an example of God's abundant love and light? Whether they are biological parents or spiritual mentors, we all deserve nurturing in understanding who we are and to whom we belong.

Second, the Spirit never left Jesus or forsook him. Jesus was present at the beginning of time, as described in the Scriptures: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." He was there as the Spirit stirred the waters of creation, bringing forth something new and hopeful from chaos. It was this same Spirit that guided him through the wilderness and into a revolutionary ministry of love and reconciliation for all people with their Creator. That very same Spirit dwells within you, ready to ignite your imagination to envision a world free from pain, a world of unity rather than uniformity, one that cherishes the beauty of diversity in God's creation and aspires for peace. What is the Spirit stirring within you during this season of uncertainty?

Finally, Jesus had the support of the disciples to practice his gifts, teach, and share the insights he gained in the wilderness. Our journeys through the unknown can sometimes feel solitary, but as social beings, we owe it to ourselves and to God's mission to share our inner journeys and learnings with others. Jesus surrounded himself with people from various backgrounds, never confining himself to those who thought exactly as he did. He offered them a new way of living, fostering loving relationships built on compassion, care, and honesty. Who in your life supports you in your ministry? Who do you not only learn from but also inspire and guide to discover their own callings from God?

I am truly grateful for your support during my Lenten wilderness journey as I have performed four funerals in the past eight weeks. The journey has been difficult both emotionally and spiritually but your patience, kindness, and support have been a beacon of God's light for me amid the darkness. As we approach Resurrection Sunday, may you also find glimpses of hope in the wilderness seasons of life and recognize the power of new life beyond and in spite of death that God provides us!

With much love, *Pastor Shandon*

FAIRMOUNT UMC NEWS



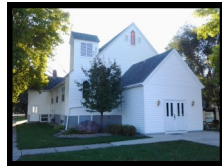
Prayer Concerns

Fairmount UMC Congregation: Brooke Mayo (Shane Klein's 17 year old niece); Michelle Collins (Shandon's mother):

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Marcia Krause at St. Catherine's (#703), Wahpeton. (... and Jesus also said to pray for our enemies.)

Sunday Schedule

Coffee at 8:30 a.m.
Worship at 9:00 a.m.



Food Pantry donation:

Fairmount UMC had 10 pounds of donations for the month of February!

April

- 2 Scott & Sandy Meyer*
- 3 Pam Braun
- 15 Sue Kaehler
- 15 Roger Hamman
- 17 Danny Walter
- 18 Earl Schouweiler
- 30 Denise Wik

* Wedding Anniversary



HOLY WEEK

Friday, April 11—
at Breckenridge Lutheran
6:00 p.m.—Soup Supper
7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 13—
at Breckenridge UMC
10:15 a.m.—Coffee Fellowship
10:45 a.m.—Worship
with Sunday school kids

Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday
10:15 a.m.—Coffee Fellowship
10:45 a.m.—Worship



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 6—
- April 13—Palm Sunday
- April 20—Easter
- April 27—

BRECKENRIDGE PRAYERS, CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS



PRAYER CONCERNS THIS MONTH

Breckenridge UMC Congregation: Annalisa Anderson; Carol Grotjohn; Steve Hanson; Shane & Shandon Klein; Artis & Gordon Martinson; Don Taylor.

Our Friends: Aden Abdile; Ed & Stacy; Michelle Collins (Shandon's mother); Adrian Dahm; Pete Eikeland (Terry Boldingh's friend); Deb Foertsch (cancer); Cheryl Goldade (cancer); Victoria (Tori) Grenier; Hannah Henry (Darlene Anderson's great-niece); Brooke Mayo (Shane Klein's 17 year old niece, recovering from surgery); Vicki Steinwand (Hulda's daughter-in-law); Bruce Strom (Mary Lou Roecker's brother); Scott & Andrea Ubben (daughter and son-in-law to Dave & Janel Sayler).

OUR MEMBERS RECEIVING CARE: Mary Lou Schimmel at Leach Home; Helen Olthoff, Joan Beyer at St. Francis Home; Doris Leinen at 2520 Pebble Lake Rd, Fergus Falls; Don & Lola Patnoudé, Merwin & Annabel Peterson, Alwyn Martinson at Twin Town Villa. (... and Jesus also said to pray for our enemies.)

NOTE: Please contact the Church Office or Pastor to inform them of all emergencies, hospitalizations, illnesses, births or special prayer requests of any kind. Thank you.



April

- 1 Stacee Manock
- 4 Mike Neese
- 5 Alex Osvold
- 6 Charlie Dupree
- 7 Paul Meindl
- 12 Annette Loken
- 13 Tom Jirak
- 13 Tim Jirak
- 17 Nathan Green
- 20 Don Facey
- 20 Robert/Barbara Heitkamp*
- 20 Jerry Kallstrom
- 21 Brayden Heitkamp
- 23 Linda Thulen
- 24 Deb Hiedeman
- 28 Valetta Kallstrom
- 30 Alysa Cliff

*denotes Wedding Anniversary



OUR SYMPATHIES TO

Shandon & Shane Klein on the death of Shandon's grandmother, **Earthlee Collins**, Sunday, March 2. Her Wake was held March 18th and Funeral on March 19th.



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS made in March:

Breckenridge UMC donated: 160 pounds of non-food and food items & \$452.65 donated! Great Work!!



The Chancel Team would like to invite you to share flowers/plants to help adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

Please bring your flowers/plants to the church by Friday, April 18th. You may take them home following the Easter Worship. If you would like them in honor or memory of someone, please let the church office know by Tuesday, April 15th (218-643-5158 or email at office@breckumc.org).



BRECKENRIDGE - U.M.W. NEWS FOR ALL! - LOLA PATNOUDE, PUBLICITY

APRIL MEETING . . .

Breckenridge United Methodist Women will meet **Wednesday, April 2, 1:30 p.m.** with Phyllis Hiedeman & Mary Boldingh as hostesses. All women of the fellowship are welcome to attend. The meeting will be conducted by Sharon Olson, president, and Mary Boldingh will give devotions. *Please bring your program booklet inserts to the meeting.*

VISITATION. . .



Shut-in Visitation

Pam Facey will visit shut-in's this month, whether it be in-person visiting, telephone calls, or friendship letters.

A list of those to visit is in the church office. Our THANKS to Pam!

SUMMER CAMP POLICY . . .

Once again, here is the UMW Camp Policy: **United Methodist Women will underwrite one-half the cost of fees, not to exceed \$150 per student, from our Campership Fund, for all interested youth of the church, grades 5-12, to attend summer camp at Northern Pines, Lake Koronis, or any other United Methodist camp in our Headwaters district (per child, per year).** *Camp brochures are at the church.*

OTHER BUSINESS DECISIONS. . .

1. It was decided to have the May potluck be coffee & dessert (instead of a full meal). The program may be given by a member & her husband. Guests will be invited, as usual. (Details will be worked out by the committee & announced at the April meeting.)
2. The Good Friday supper (preceding the service) is to be held at Breckenridge Lutheran Church this year. Furnishing soup are Carol Anderson, LaVonne Dupree, & Mary Boldingh; bars will be provided by Hulda Steinwand & Stephanie Kaufman.



NEW FUNERAL SERVING POLICY. . .

A 'Funeral Reception Requirements' plan was presented at the last meeting wherein catering service would include: food, plates, utensils, napkins, cups & glasses; serving the meal; and doing all cleanup. UMW would furnish cupcakes & set up tables.



RECORD OF SERVING UPDATE

The UMW Serving Group *No functions were served last month.*

RICHLAND-WILKIN EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

April 2025

Needed Items:

- ◆ Jelly
- ◆ BBQ Sauce
- ◆ Pickles or Relish
- ◆ Shampoo or Conditioner
- ◆ Liquid Hand Soap



These 5 items are under \$10 for all, less than a lunch out. If you would rather not shop, a monetary donation is always appreciated. Thank you!

BRECKENRIDGE UMC—



Income March 31, 2024		
Beginning Cash balance	\$	54,588.16
Income to date	\$	22,893.90
Transfers to Savings	-\$	670.36
Transfers from Savings	\$	
Expenses through Mar. 31, 2025 - \$ 48,593.61		
Cash Balance, 03/31/25	\$	28,218.09
LESS: Prepaid Pledges		- 18,100.00
Cantata 2024 holdover		- 2,474.25
Plus: Fairmount Payment	\$	1,800.00
Available Balance	\$	9,343.84

Weekly Giving & Attendance for March

	Attendance	Offering
March 2	33	\$ 1,543.00
March 5	35	
March 9	48	\$ 6,157.12
March 16	36	\$ 353.00
March 23	48	\$ 984.00
March 30	40	\$ 3,022.45

Congregational Permanent Trust Fund

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

1. One Camp Scholarship per child, per year
2. UMC Camp Scholarship of \$150.00 per child/per year.
3. Christian Camp Scholarship of \$75.00 per child/per year.

We realize that the total cost of many of these Summer Camps is approximately \$300, but we would like to encourage "all" of our youth to attend at least one Summer Camp before they are Confirmed. These Camp Scholarships are also open to High School Youth. If you are interested in sending your children to either a United Methodist or other Christian Camp please have them contact Ricki at the church.



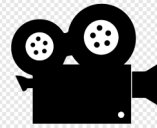
METHODIST MOMENS
on KBMW 1450

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

April 6, 2025— Sponsored by the UMW in memory of past UMW members.

April 20, 2025— Sponsored by the UMW in honor of present UMW members.

Listen to past broadcasts at [KBMWnews.com!](http://KBMWnews.com)



Weekly Recordings of our worship services are now being posted on the Breckenridge UMC Facebook page, YouTube page, and the church

website page.



Breckenridge Church Fellowship Potluck

Sunday, April 6, 2025
(Hosts are).

Sunday, May 4, 2025
(Host needed).

Please bring a dish to share!
Everyone is Welcome!!



Our church delivers the first week of each month for 7 months (October through April). **THANK YOU** to Paul & Linda Thulen, Dale & Carol Anderson (2), Dave & Janel Sayler; Joanna & Emma Etzler for delivering in the month of March.

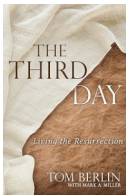
BRECKENRIDGE UMC — EDUCATION



Sunday School NEWS!!!

Come to the Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. and after the Children's Time you will be dismissed to Sunday School.

April 13—wave Palm Branches during Worship
Mindi Bruce & Ramona Taylor,
Sunday School Team Teachers



LENT STUDY (6 weeks): On the third day, he rose again.

In *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss.

Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives. Please let the office know if you would like a book.

Breckenridge: Wednesdays April 2 & 9 & 16 at 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

This year, join United Methodists across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area in reading through the books of Luke and Acts— one chapter at a time. There are 52 weeks in the year and 52 chapters between Luke and Acts. **There is a booklet & bookmarker available at the church to track your progress and record your reflections throughout 2025.** May this be a fulfilling, fruitful, and faith-building experience! If interested in doing a small group study on this, let the office know.

READING SCHEDULE FOR April

Week of...	April 6—Luke 15	April 13 —Luke 16	April 20—Luke 17
	April 27—Luke 18		

RE: Methodist Moments Sponsors for 2025 Year

METHODIST MOMENTS SPONSORSHIP—Cost is \$60 for each broadcast.

(Please return to our church office, 910 Main St., Breckenridge, MN 56520)

Sponsor's Name _____

(Circle one) _____ **In Memory** _____ **In Honor** _____

of _____

on the occasion _____

Sponsor which Sunday?

Jan. 5 —Butch & Corinne Jirak

Jan. 19—Hulda Steinwand

Feb. 2—Butch & Corinne Jirak

Feb. 16—Butch & Corinne Jirak

March 2—Paul Bruce

March 16—Al & Pam Braun

April 6— UMW

April 20—UMW

May 4—Paul & Joy Eichhorn

May 18 -

June 1—Al & Pam Braun

June 15—Gail Kippen Williams

July 6—Dave & Janel Saylor

July 20—Terry & Mary Boldingh

Aug. 3—

Aug. 17—Terry & Mary Boldingh

Sept. 7—Kathy Dye

Sept. 21—Gail Kippen Williams

Oct. 5—Phyllis Hiedeman

Oct. 19— Paul & Joy Eichhorn

Nov. 2—Buth & Corinne Jirak

Nov. 16— Paul Bruce

Dec. 7—Rose Ella Matejcek

Dec. 21—Paul Bruce

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April 2025
Volume 1
Issue 9

**United Methodist
Church**
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56520

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Phone: 218-643-5158
Pastor's E-mail:
pastor@breckumc.org
Phone: 218-517-5553

Check out our Website!!
Breckumc.org

Office hours:
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Our **MISSION** is to proclaim the love of God.

Our **VISION** is a community of faith in relationship with the world through Jesus Christ, glorifying God as we reach out to people in love, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Our **PURPOSE** is to develop a community of spiritually mature believers, loving and nurturing all in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our **VALUES** are Fellowship, Outreach, Music, and Youth.

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD—

 **Global Ministries**
The United Methodist Church

IN 3 YEARS, UMC SHELTERS WELCOME THOUSANDS OF DISPLACED UKRAINIANS

March 21, 2025 by Fred Vanderwerf

"It was a chaotic time. Nobody knew what was happening! The war started, people were dying, and our main purpose was our family's safety," recounts Pavlo Osypenko of Life Spring UMC in Kyiv.

Pavlo and his friends—Slava Zinchuk, Evgen Boshov, Serge Shvets, and Maksym Pryhodko—moved their young families to the Slovakian border on the day Russia invaded Ukraine, Feb. 24, 2022. A Baptist church in Ternopil provided shelter, food and a place to sleep on their first night. Thankfully, along the journey, they encountered numerous acts of kindness.

Once the five men neared the Slovakian border and ensured their families' safety in Slovakia, they were welcomed in Kam'yanytsya, Ukraine, by pastors Vasily and Alla Vuksta through the United Methodist connection. With their life savings in backpacks, the displaced men decided to establish a shelter for others. They began by visiting a local administrator in Onokivtsi, where they were given keys to a school. By the night of Mar. 6, they were sheltering 12 displaced people, which increased to 120 by the fifth night.

The community generously provided pillows, mattresses, blankets and food. Support poured in from United Methodists and other Christian friends worldwide, enabling the purchase of beds, sleeping bags, washing machines and more food. About 600 people passed through that school before it had to resume classes.

In May, they rented a former printing house on the edge of Uzhgorod, transforming it into a shelter with space for 60 guests, later expanding to accommodate at least 100. The total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltered has reached over 1,500. Some stayed for a night, some for more than 3 years.

District Superintendent the Rev. Oleg Starodubets and his wife, the Rev. Yulia Starodubets, of the Ukraine Annual Conference, regularly visited the shelter and provided significant help, both spiritually and physically. They also partnered with UMCOR to provide a van to transport people and supplies and began regularly supporting the shelter financially. Bishop Christian Alsted of the Nordic-Baltic Episcopal Area and UMCOR staff members, Katie Hills and the Rev. Jack Amick, also visited the shelter, sparking discussions on establishing a permanent property for the UMC's mission and ministry.

UMCOR confirmed a significant grant to build or purchase property and, through local connections, negotiated the procurement of the "Under the Castle" (UTC) hotel, restaurant and event venue near Kam'yanytsya. The purchase was finalized in March 2024. While the UMC still uses the former printing house, the new UTC shelter hosts 40 IDPs and provides space for United Methodist conferences, training and community outreach. The long-term vision for UTC is to transform it into a rehabilitation center for war-related trauma.

Under the Castle recently reopened its first-floor restaurant and began renting out its large hall for private events as ways to support the shelter's residents on the second floor. Today, the residents are mostly women, children and the elderly, with many having stayed for years because of the war's ongoing devastation.

Pavlo, now residing in the Netherlands with his family, reflects on his experience: "I want this story to be told, it was the most important part of my life – for God's glory and power. I witnessed many amazing testimonies during this two and a half years."