

# GUIDELINES

MITCHELL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

301 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, MITCHELL SD 57301

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[www.uccmitchell.org](http://www.uccmitchell.org)

605-996.5104

**JUNE 2021**

## **Matt's Minutes**



Friends,

I have been thinking a lot about the parable of the prodigal son lately (Luke 15:11-32). Mostly because I am a parent but also because I know that there have been times in my life when I have acted in an extravagant and wasteful fashion regarding God's grace. I think we all have at one time or another. It got me thinking about this song by Matthew West, "The God Who Stays."

In the parable, the youngest son demands his inheritance prior to his father's passing. Now, what you must know is that in Hebrew culture, this would be the very same as saying to your father "I wish you were dead" or "You are dead to me." This sort of statement had huge implications throughout the community and it brought shame to the father and his household.

Imagine if you and I went around acting as if we were entitled to God's grace and mercy then turned around and we somehow failed to observe God's grace and forgiveness! Regardless of intent, we somehow took advantage of God's grace. I think about all the times that I have unintentionally hurt someone's feelings, or acted wrongly out of my own ignorance or selfishness. We sometimes recognize how our human imperfections can run deep.

That's why I am so thankful for our God! In the story of the prodigal son, the son realizes that he has squandered his inheritance and is in desperation. Yet he has sinned against God and his father. And when he does return to his father, what happens? His father sees him coming from a distance and runs out to him and hugs his neck!!! I hope you know what kind of hug I am talking about, the big old daddy bear hug! The father not only welcomes the son home but he gives him a signet ring and a robe with the family crest. There is a huge celebration. The father in the parable is the God character and we can know that our God welcomes us in the same way. God not only stays when we need that but God runs to us as well.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Matt Richards

PS. The video below is pretty cool.

**Subject:** Watch "Matthew West - The God Who Stays (Official Music Video)

[https://youtu.be/QPwd\\_TQpsHY](https://youtu.be/QPwd_TQpsHY)



**MINISTRY OF MISSIONS  
& EDUCATION**  
will meet on Thurs., June 3  
at 5:00 PM

**MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE/BUILDING/GROUNDS**  
will meet on  
Mon., June 14 at 5:30 PM

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
will meet on  
Mon., June 14 at 7:00 PM



### **How to continue your regular giving to the church:**

Mail a check to - 301 East 4<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell,  
SD *or* set up automatic payments  
through your bank *or* use Givelify on  
our phone, mobile device or through our  
website.

**Givelify**  
Tap. Give. Done.



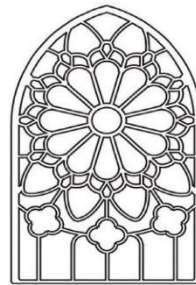
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN  
THE MEN FOR BREAKFAST,  
FELLOWSHIP & CONVERSATION  
THEY ARE MEETING AT THE CHURCH  
ON  
SATURDAY, JUNE 12 AT 8:30 AM**

[pride | month]

**June 13**

**We will be hosting a celebration of  
PRIDE month with a special  
worship service followed by a  
potluck.**

**The service will begin at 10:00 AM  
and will be held at the  
Hitchcock Park enclosed shelter  
(west of the tennis courts)  
Please bring a chair and a friend  
and a food item to share.  
Beverages and utensils will be  
provided for the potluck.**



### **Stained Glass Window Project**

On May 23, 2021, at a special congregational meeting, we unanimously voted to go forward with the restoration of our stained glass windows. This is a project that has been talked about and needed for years. Because of the continued deterioration of the windows, we knew it was not something we can continue to postpone.

We will lock in the total project price of \$92,817 (a substantial savings from the original proposal) by making a deposit of at least 25% to Willet-Hauser.

We are looking for a volunteer to spearhead our fundraising campaign for this project.

We are submitting grants that hopefully will cover a portion of the cost, but are looking to each of our members and friends to help us out by donating what you can toward the stained glass windows.

**Please help us preserve our sacred windows.**



We plan to continue broadcasting  
EACH SUNDAY at 10:00 AM

Join us remotely by

**Livestreaming on Facebook**

(search for Mitchell Congregational United Church  
of Christ)

**or on YouTube**

(search for UCC Mitchell)

We send a weekly email with an Order of Worship  
and lyrics for the hymns of the day. If you would  
like to be included, please let Wendy know.

We look forward to worshipping  
with each of you.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### Landscaping projects:

**Bushes on north side**

**Vegetable garden**

**Northeast corner by front door**

**Spearhead fundraising for stained glass  
window project!!**

**Tie strips on COVID memorial**

### Serve on a Ministry:

**Worship**

**Justice**

**Missions**

**Chairperson of F/B/G**

### Attend gatherings of:

**Men's Fellowship**

**W.O.W. (Women of Worth)**

**Lead an adult education group**

**Bring forward any ideas you have to  
grow our church/minister to God's  
people/upkeep of our building, etc...**



**Pastor Matt and his family will  
be on vacation following  
church on Sunday May 30  
through Saturday June 12.**

**Praying for safe journeys and  
lots of fun and rest to all!!**

**In case of emergency, please  
contact Wendy at the church  
or on her cell 770.2740**



*New Members Are Joining*

**We are hosting a  
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY  
on July 11<sup>th</sup>.**

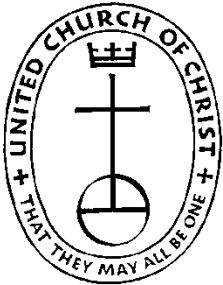
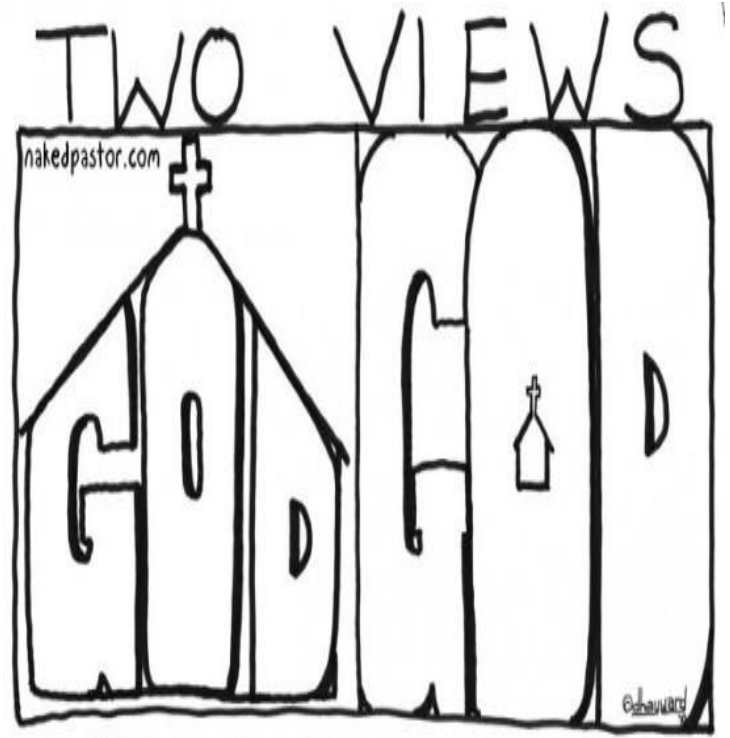
**If you are interested in  
joining our church,  
please talk to  
Pastor Matt.**



## Leona Stehly

recently celebrated a very special birthday. Her family requested a card shower to celebrate her. Please send a belated birthday greeting to Leona at:

2100 North Wisconsin #135,  
Mitchell SD 57301



Congregational  
**United Church of Christ**  
301 E 4th Ave  
Mitchell, SD 57301

Find us on the internet!  
Facebook:  
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United Church of Christ OR  
our website at:  
[www.uccmitchell.org](http://www.uccmitchell.org)