

# Mitchell Congregational United Church of Christ

*A place where  
God is still speaking...*



301 East Fourth Avenue  
Mitchell, SD 57301

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Pastor

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Ministry Assistant

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*Like us on Facebook!*



*We are a "come as you are" congregation,  
where no matter who you are, or where you  
are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*



The Congregational United Church of Christ, originally organized on August 18, 1881 under the laws of Dakota Territory as a non-profit corporation, is a diverse community gathered for worship, mission, learning, social justice, discipleship, and fellowship.

Located at the southeast corner of East Fourth Avenue and Kimball Street in Mitchell, we invite you to make our architecturally accessible and carefully maintained historic brick building your church home. We are, obviously, much more than the church building, as we strive to be the "church of the open door," welcoming all people into our congregation to celebrate the diversity that contributes to the richness of the tapestry that is the Body of Christ.



## Pastoral and Administrative Staff

Pastor - Rev. Matthew G. Richards



Church Ministry Assistant - Wendy Figland

Moderator - James Taylor

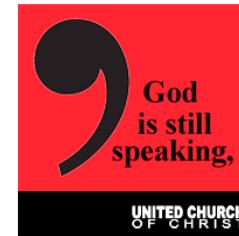
Moderator Elect - John Richards

Clerk - Lynette Higgins

Treasurer - Dave Epp

Financial Secretary - Margo Taylor

Maintenance - Isaac Eagle Star



***Our faith is over 2000  
years old.***

***Our thinking IS NOT!***



## Top 10 Reasons to Check Out the United Church of Christ

### 10. What if church is like spinach...?

You know, like something that you hated as a kid but you love as an adult because you eat it in ways that suit you much better. Guess what? A lot of people are having the same sort of experience with church . . .

In the UCC, things are often quite different than you would expect and are well worth checking out.

### 9. Variety...

UCC churches tend to tailor themselves to fit the people they feel called to serve in their local community. The result: A wide variety of traditions, expressions and values that have integrity and purpose. From conservative to liberal, we're not short on variety.

### 8. No apologies...

You are what you are...and so are we – we like that just fine.

### 7. No waiting...

You don't have to join to be active in many UCC churches. If you want to get involved, many of our churches will find a place to help fulfill your need to give – whether or not you decide to join.

### 6. No boxes...

God can blow the lid off any box, unfold it and turn it into a dance floor. We tend to be the "out of the box" people. Among our many firsts, we were the first mainline church to take a stand against slavery (1700), the first to ordain an African American person (1785), the first to ordain a woman (1853), the first in foreign missions (1810), and the first to ordain openly gay lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons (1972). We value education for all people. We founded Harvard and Yale, as well as many

historically black colleges, six of which remain affiliated with the UCC to this day.

### 5. One God, One Faith, One Baptism for All...

When we baptize you into our community, we promise that we will never take it back – no matter what you discover about yourself or what others discover about you along life's journey. We believe that baptism places each of us into the "body of Christ" and lasts forever. We believe that everyone – old, young, straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, physically or emotionally challenged, rich or poor, sure or unsure, lost or found, Democrat or Republican has a place in the body of Christ. Baptism is like a badge that says, "You're a full member of the church and no one can take that away from you."

### 4. Good News People...

We believe that No. 5 is good news!

### 3. "Party" Church...

God is having a party and we are all invited. At God's party our spiritual hungering is fed and our thirsting is satisfied. At God's party we get strength, stamina and community support that helps us through the tough times that come to everyone. Feeding our spiritual hunger helps reduce those, "I can't believe I'm so stupid" moments – but we'll never eliminate them all. That's why we need friends and companions and not judges (no offense to judges) for the journey.

### 2. Spiritual Guidance...

It's not about commandments. It's about relationships with God and the rest of the human family. In balance, these relationships produce justice amid injustice, kindness in the face of meanness, and the humility of self-acceptance that comes as we sense the presence of a God who knows our inmost thoughts and loves us uncontrollably – just as we are. Spiritual journeys can be like the exercise equipment we buy and leave under the bed. Without coaches and workout partners, most of us don't stick with it. We're the "Journeys Wanted" people . . . bring yours.

## 1. WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU!

### Church Opportunities:

#### Sunday

- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Fellowship Hour
- 11:15 Cracker Barrel Meeting:  
(3<sup>rd</sup> "Sunday of the Month")

#### Monday

- 5:30 Finance, Building, and Grounds Ministry (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 7:00 Church Council (2<sup>nd</sup>)

#### Wednesday

- 10:00-2:00 Helping Hand Pantry

#### Thursday

- 5:00 Missions & Education (1<sup>st</sup>)

#### Saturday

- 8:30 Men's Fellowship (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 1:00-4:00 Helping Hand Pantry

### Other Ministries

- Worship & Hospitality Ministry
- Stewardship & Outreach Ministry
- Women Of Worth (WOW) Ministry
- Women's Fellowship Ministry
- Bell Choir & Vocal Choir Ministries  
(These ministries meet irregularly.  
Call the church office for the latest information about them.)

Also held are various youth activities, Bible studies, discussion groups, potlucks, and other social events. Notifications of these events will be in the Sunday bulletins, monthly newsletters, and/or posted on our website and Facebook page. Like us!!