

## Invite Others to Join!

We thank you for being a part of Builders Club and supporting churches in the Dakotas Conference. We encourage you to invite others to join Builders Club. They may choose to receive the quarterly calls by either email or mail. Share the application below or join online under the "Builders Club" tab on our website.

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my calls by:

Mail or  Email

Send your application and gift to:

Builders Club  
PO Box 460  
Mitchell, SD 57301

Donate online  
[www.dakotasumf.org/donate](http://www.dakotasumf.org/donate)

Is your church planning  
a building project? Apply for a  
Builders Club grant online.

*Thank you for doing  
ministry together  
with your  
Dakotas United  
Methodist Churches!*

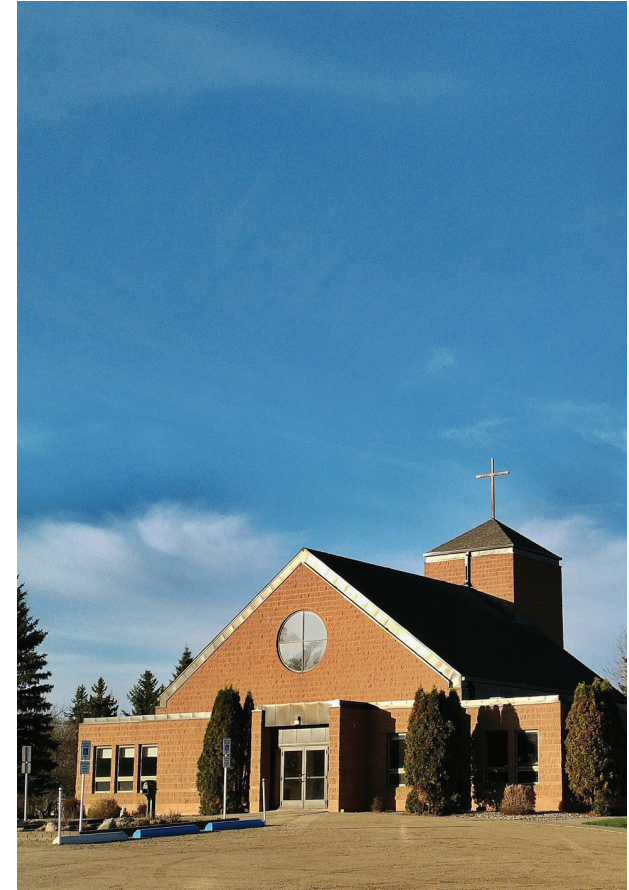


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## Spring 2023 Call

### Flame of Faith UMC West Fargo, ND



# West Fargo Flame of Faith UMC Builders Club Call ~ Spring 2023

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:26-28*

Flame of Faith United Methodist Church was born a little over 40 years ago when a small group of United Methodists began meeting in West Fargo, North Dakota. Throughout those years, the church and its congregation have faced many ups and downs, but have always been dedicated to speaking Christ's name and seeks to live out that calling.

In addition to active ministries for children, youth, and adults, Flame of Faith UMC is also very involved in various community outreach programs. A huge focus of their ministry has been on making church friendly and accessible for all people, including neurodiverse and neurotypical people. Neurodiversity is the concept that people think, learn, process, experience, and interact with the world around them in unique ways that are outside the "norm". Some ways that Flame of Faith UMC has adapted to make church more welcoming to neurodiverse and neurotypical people are by introducing busy bags, providing sensory aids, making a see-and-do guide available to use during the service, and creating a calming area for people who need to escape from the busy environment. Pastor Sara McManus has also started incorporating different visuals and learning styles during her sermons.

With so many things happening at the church, the need for accessibility and safety is essential. The gravel parking lot at Flame of Faith UMC has been a struggle for many years. The soft soil and subsoil shifting have left the gravel uneven, with dangerous angles in the winter and mud-soaked low spots in the spring. In order to fix the parking lot, the church leadership has a two-step plan. The plan is to dig out and re-fill the gravel parking lot with proper drainage and then increase the amount of paved parking spaces to make the parking lot more accessible and usable for everyone.

A parking lot is not seen as an exciting part of ministry, but it offers the first impression for everyone entering the building. If the parking lot is uneven and dangerous, it limits accessibility for all to feel welcome at the church. Local families also use to church parking lot to access a nearby park, which provides an opportunity for Flame of Faith UMC to develop relationships with those families and individuals. The congregation has been very supportive of this project and has raised nearly half of the \$400,000 needed for both parts of the project.

Flame of Faith UMC is dedicated to sharing God's love and welcoming all people into God's family. "With a safe and accessible parking lot, we can truly be a place where loving our neighbor is as much a part of our architecture as it is our words," says Pastor Sara.

We are grateful for your continued support of the Builders Club and aske that you prayerfully consider a gift of \$25 or more to support Flame of Faith UMC. The gifts for this call will be received until June 30, 2023.

***Piedmont Grace UMC thanks you . . . . \$7,600 granted!***

*If you would prefer to receive your Builders Club notices by email, send your name and email address to [info@dkmnmf.org](mailto:info@dkmnmf.org) to be added to the email call list. Write Builders Club in the subject line.  
Thank you for helping us conserve postage and paper for this important ministry.*

## Because you gave...

Builders Club is unique in that it is a partnership of hundreds of individuals, organizations, and churches across North and South Dakota. Individually the gifts wouldn't make much of a difference, but together, they provide the support and opportunity for change. In the same way, a single church being helped doesn't make a big difference, but the number of churches that have received support of the years has added up and thousands of lives have been reached for Christ because of it.

## Make a difference

Each year, the Builders Club chooses to support the building projects of four churches across the Dakotas. The goal of Builders Club is to assist churches in need of financial support for their building, remodel, or expansion projects. By providing support for the building projects of churches, it allows them to grow current ministries or build new ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

*"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it."*

**1 Corinthians 3:10**