

## **2026 Grace United Methodist Church Community Garden**

10060 Foothill Dr, Piedmont, SD 57769

(605) 787-4858

### *Guidelines, Expectations, and Application*

Plot registration will run through May 9, 2026. If more gardeners are interested than there are plots available, a lottery will be held for plots.

#### Basic Guidelines:

- † The use of garden beds for the 2026 growing season will be free of charge and assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis starting May 9, 2026.
- † Please fill out the application either online or in the church office so that we have your basic contact information and submit the application with the \$10 fee for water/soil.
- † Four of the plots will have 3 raised beds in them. If you need a raised bed gardening plot, please indicate why you feel that you need one in the “Special Section for Raised Bed Gardens” portion of the application.
- † We will notify those who are assigned a plot as soon as possible. Plots will be marked.
- † The end of the shed closest to the community garden has rakes, hoes, and other basic gardening equipment that gardeners are welcome to use. Return all items to the shed and close the shed doors when you are done. If any tools are broken or in need of repair, please notify the church so that we can replace the item(s).
- † If the plot is kept neat throughout the growing season and cleaned up by the end of season deadline (October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026) the “renter” will have the option to keep the same bed in the next year.
- † If any plots remain unclaimed on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, additional plot allocations can be requested by garden participants. These will be chosen on a lottery basis.

#### Expectations:

- † Each gardening individual or family will be responsible for keeping their garden bed and surrounding area clean. Plant and maintain garden for ENTIRE growing season (May 9 to October 10). All plots and surrounding areas must be kept free of weeds, trash, and litter. There is a trash can available in the garden.
- † The garden area is open dawn until dusk, seven days a week. Also, please keep the garden gates closed.
- † The church will provide water throughout the garden on an every-other-day basis. If you would like to water in addition to this schedule, gardeners will need to provide their own water and cans.

- † As you are able, to assist with the conservation of water, mulch with leaves, untreated grass clippings or straw (not hay) to reduce water evaporation.
- † Roughly 95% of the church garden's produce is donated to four local organizations. In this spirit of giving, as a favor to us for providing free irrigation and garden space, we kindly ask that you donate 10% of your produce to a neighbor, to the Piedmont Valley Food Bank (12365 Sturgis Road, open Wednesday and Sunday 9 to noon), or to some other local organization such as CISS in Sturgis or the missions in Rapid City.
- † A shared compost bin is provided on the premises. Please use this for any greens left from a harvest or for your plants at the end of the season.
- † Only organic fertilizers and other amendments not containing herbicides and pesticides are allowed. For the consideration of the other gardeners, please do not spray or apply fertilizers or amendments on a breezy day.
- † We ask that you do not plant self-seeding or quick-spreading plants (like mint) that can drift over to your neighbors' gardens and ruin what they have planted.
- † This year's deadline for all vegetation to be removed or cut back is Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- † Please practice common courtesy by maintaining a neat garden, helping maintain common areas as you are able, and respecting others and their belongings.
- † Please be considerate of your neighbors. Do not plant sprawling crops or tall ones that might interfere with others. Keep insects and weeds under control (landscape fabric is ok but must be removed at the end of the growing season). Your neighbor has the right to prune any plant that encroaches on their plot. Harvest only from your garden plot.
- † Please remind small children to be respectful of others' garden beds, produce, and belongings. There is a playground at the church near the community garden. Children are welcome to use this space. Please make sure that they are appropriately supervised.

Your compliance with the above guidelines and expectations will help everyone have an enjoyable and prosperous garden. Failure to comply with above regulations during the season may result in a loss of gardening privileges. If you are going to be gone (vacation...) please arrange for someone to care for your garden plot.

Abandoned gardens that have been left unattended and appear to be failing due to neglect shall be considered for reassignment. Reassignment and/or forfeiture will be managed by the church garden team. The plot "renter" has 14 days after notification to appeal the decision by remedying the situation.

Contact persons: Don Hilton (605-786-4386) Pastor John Britt (605-787-2414)

Grace UMC Community Garden Application

2026 Gardening Season

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

All gardeners must read and sign a copy of the garden guidelines and expectations before planting begins.

Special Section for Raised Garden Beds (if applicable):

- 1) Why are you in need of one of the raised bed gardening plots?

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please include the \$10 fee with this application. Thank you.\*\***