



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

MESSENGER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and in good health. I am thankful for the sunshine and rain which usher in the spring. I am also thankful for the Celebration of Easter that marks a high point in the Christian calendar and in our life as the church.

With Holy Week and Easter safely in the previous month of March, it may seem that April is a time to catch our breath. Easter always seems to be the finish line and never the start line for our faith. Functionally, the resurrection is both of those things. It is the evidence of God's mercy and grace and the promise that this mercy and grace has been extended to us.

We live daily with the struggles of being living witnesses to this grace. We are Easter people but rarely does our life or the world at large around us feel like a world transformed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. With things as they are, how should we live? What does it mean to live a Christian life?

This season, after Easter, our worship series will be *The Christian Life*. To help guide us in this we will be exploring the letter 1 John. This letter, that reads more like a sermon, seeks to impart the knowledge of eternal life through Jesus Christ and to encourage a holy life. I hope you will join us in April and May as we explore 1 John and seek to walk in the light of Christ.

April as a beginning to spring, also calls us into new beginnings as the church and a community of faith. We have several new people that have been attending our church and we wish to get them connected to this community. In April I will be leading a new member class each Sunday after church for those who wish to join the church. We will take those Sundays to learn about the UMC and what it means to be a member of the church. If you are interested or have someone that you would like me to reach out to, please let me know.

At the end of April, the United Methodist Church will be having its General Conference in Charlotte, NC. This global gathering of United Methodists marks the first meeting in almost five years. There are many important topics that the General Conference will work on in this session. If you are interested in reading about how the conference is structured, what resolutions are created and may be voted on, and where the delegates come from, the office can print out an information booklet for you.

I hope that you will join with me in prayer for the safe travels of all the delegates and the peace of Christ in their work of holy conferencing. If you have any questions, or need some clarification about General Conference, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

I hope that you will take this April to come and feel loved in this church, and help be a part of the ever-growing ministries and work of God in our community. I look forward to this next month and all the great things that are in store for us. May God bless and keep you.

Pastor Ray



Every Sunday
 Worship Service at
 9:30 a.m.
 Join us in person or
 online on our
 Facebook page
 (First-Faith United Methodist Church)!

Director of Children and Youth
 At First-Faith we have been grateful for Chyna’s many years of service. As she prepares to retire this Spring, the Staff Parrish Committee is searching for our next Director of Children and Youth.

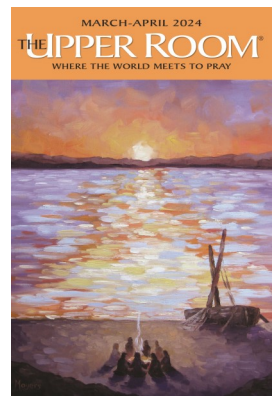
- Position to be filled – June 2024
- Anticipated Time Commitment: 10-15 hours a week
- Hourly wage commensurate with experience \$13-\$15 per hour

Please contact Pastor Ray for full Job Description.

Meetings and Circles



Mon, Apr 1 - Trustees Mtg at 7 pm
Tues, Apr 5 - Ruth Circle meets at 1 30 pm
Mon, Apr 8 - Finance Committee Mtg at 5:30 pm
 Church Council Mtg at 6:30 pm
Tues, Apr 9 - UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm
Thurs, Apr 11 - Worship Committee Mtg at 6:30 pm
Mon, Apr 22 - Susanna Circle meets at 6:30 pm
Thurs, Apr 25 - SPRC Meeting at 5:30 pm



**THE UPPER ROOM
 DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Pick up your copy of the March/ April 2024 issue in the narthex!

Suggested donation amounts:
 Regular Print: \$1.50
 Large Print: \$2.00



The church office
 will be closed on
Friday, April 12th

UMCOR Total Donations
 United Methodist Committee On Relief
March 2024
\$1,097.00



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Please join us here at the church!

Friday, May 10, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Whether you’ve donated before or it will be your first time, please consider signing up.

Blood Drive
First Faith United Methodist Church
 Sanctuary
Friday, May 10, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



You can make an appointment by:

- Signing up in the narthex
- Calling the church office
- Visiting RedCrossBlood.org and clicking on “Donate Blood”.
- Using the American Red Cross Blood Donor App



We need at least 20 people to make our drive successful so please share with family and friends!
 The promotion gift will be announced soon. Thank you :)

2 - Vivian Igo
 3 - Marise Hopkins
 4 - Annette Glos
 5 - Diane Rangel
 DeWayne Schick
 10 - Ted Berggren
 15 - Jean Chesnut
 18 - Nelda Hallner
 20 - Gene Spencer

22 - Dale Hoagland
 Anna Morrow
 24 - Pam Clausen
 Judy Jensen
 27 - Sharon Kleint
 28 - Jessica Igo
 29 - Vera Krueger
 30 - Layla Ford



APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Kent and Colette Sorensen - April 3, 1982
Jim and Linda Bogus - April 4, 2009
Doyle and Cheryl Henke - April 20, 2003
Lonnie and Jodi Awtry - April 22, 2012
Bill and Mary Jo Mowinkel - April 26, 1975
Rocky and Stacey Salpas - April 27, 2002



Ladies' Sewing Group

**April 9 and 23
 at 9:30 a.m.**

We meet at the church and all are welcome!

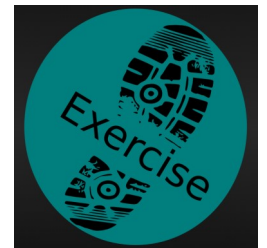
EXERCISE CLASSES

Strong Women
 Every Monday and
 Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Yoga
 Every Tuesday and Thursday at
 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Step Aerobics
 Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!



Thank you so much to those of you who have donated money to the Ladies' Sewing Group fund. With the donations, we were able to take one sewing machine and one surger in to have them cleaned (they were quite dirty!) and have minor repairs done.

Thank you so much for your generosity. It is very much appreciated!

Men's Fellowship and Cornhole

Come on out and join us for some fun! We'll be playing every Thursday night at 7:30 pm in the church sanctuary.

Please enter through the kitchen door.



The Christian Life

We will have a new worship series in April and May. Please join us as we read through 1 John and grow in knowledge and grace about the Christian Life.

April 7—Light and Life—1 John 1:1-2:2
 April 14—Purify in Hope—1 John 3:1-7
 April 21—In Truth and Action—1 John 3:16-24
 April 28—Perfect Love—1 John 4:7-21





Wood River Ministerial Association Offering Help

Due to a house explosion in Wood River on March 2nd, and multiple houses, churches and other buildings sustaining much damage, First Faith stepped up and took a donation on March 17th.

The total amount given was \$1,536.00 and was deposited on March 18th at Heritage Bank. This will allow the Wood River Ministerial Association to be able to help people in need at this most difficult time.

Also, the First-Faith Sewing Group donated 11 beautiful quilts to two families who were displaced because of the explosion.

Thank you all so much for your generous spirits and kind hearts!



Spring Fling at Calvary Lutheran Church
1304 N. Custer Ave
Grand Island

Saturday, April 27th
at 11:30 am

They will have:
Food * Rummage Sale
Raffle * Silent Auction

If you are single, we would love to have you join us!

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, April 24th, so that we know how many to plan for.



WHAT IS LUNCH BUNCH?

It's a monthly gathering of old and new friends. We gather to share a potluck meal (bring a dish to share) and have lots of good conversation. Then, we play a game or cards.



Come and join us on

Wednesday, April 10th, at 12 noon

Then, save the date on your calendar for the second Wednesday of every month.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WITH ENGLEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



We would love to have you join us in this ministry. This month, we will meet at Engleman on Thursdays, April 11th and 25th, at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Glenda Vetter at 308-383-1716.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Sunday, April 14th

An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities. The offering allows us to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans. Last year, your generosity delivered over **\$243 thousand** towards this ministry.

There will be a special offering envelope in the bulletin, on April 14th, where you can give your donation. Checks should be made payable to First Faith UMC. Thank you!



Join us for Pitch (a card game)!

Monday, April 22nd
7 to 9 p.m.
at the church.

Bring a partner or we'll find you one!

MEN'S COFFEE TIME

Come and join us every Tuesday at 9 a.m. for some coffee and great fellowship at the church!





Our Refresh "Grandmas" would love to give you a break. We provide FREE quality childcare for ages 6 and under. If you need a few hours to get things done, bring your little ones by the church and our ladies will take great care of them! They will have fun during play time, reading, having a snack and making a craft.

We will be open on Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. - April 10 and 24

Please feel free to invite friends and family to use this service.
Questions? Call Sharon Sorensen at 308-382-7543.



**A Perk & A Prayer...
...is back in full swing!**

Come by and see us on Wednesday mornings, from 7 to 9 a.m. You can drive in to the church parking lot and get a free cup of coffee and lots of smiles. If you have a prayer request, someone will be there to pray with you.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

5-Year Anniversary of A Perk & A Prayer!

Come and join us as we celebrate 5 years of this very important ministry. Come by on Wednesday, April 17th, between 7 and 9 a.m., and get a free cup of coffee and a sweet treat!

Has God been calling you to this ministry? If so, please see Melanie Sheen for more information or come by on April 17th to see what we're all about!

GRAND ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE GAMES



The new season begins on Monday, April 29th!

Every year, we sell snacks and beverages to the teams to be a blessing to our community.

With that, we will need lots of volunteers to help in the Snack Shack Mondays through Thursdays for about 7 weeks.

The volunteer hours are from approximately 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. depending on the game schedule. We should more information soon.

If you would like to help, sign up sheets will be in the narthex beginning on Sunday, April 7th, or you can call the church office at 308-384-5620.

For more information, contact Terry or Melanie Sheen.

New Member Class

Each Sunday, after church in April, Pastor Ray will be having information meetings for new members and visitors that wish to join the church. Each week we will be covering the United Methodist Church and its history and structure, as well as our task as members of First Faith. Please contact Pastor Ray if you are interested.

Trustee's Ministry

Definition: Effective Trustees will function as Christian stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation.

Here are a few things that the Trustees have been working on during the past three months:

- 1 - The new digital sign was completely installed and working on January 22, 2024.
- 2 - Approved purchase of one wireless and one wired microphone for the Sanctuary.
- 3 - Met with the Grand Island Little League and signed the contract for them to use our fields this summer.
- 4 - Got 3 bids on having the church carpets cleaned and selected Bob's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning. They came out on Friday, March 8th, and did a great job. The cost was \$1,480 and it was taken out of the Church Building Sale Fund at the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation. A big thank you to all of the men who came and moved chairs and furniture before and after the cleaning!
- 5 - We had a very successful All-Church Work Day on March 2nd. Thank you to everyone who came out to help!
- 6 - Approved the purchase of panel blinds for the front of the sanctuary. Also had new LED lights put in on both sides of the sanctuary. Both of these projects are to help lighten up the sanctuary.

Thank you to our Trustees for faithfully working hard to keep the church in good repair!



First-Faith United Methodist Church
 4190 W Capital Ave
 Grand Island, NE 68803
 Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit #22
 Grand Island, NE

Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:30am - Morning Service
 10:30 am - Sunday School and Fellowship Time

Office Phone: (308) 384-5620

Office Email:
 firstfaithumc@gmail.com

Website:
 http://firstfaithumc.org

Office Hours:
 Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30
 (Closed 12-1 pm - Lunch Hour)

Pastor: Rev. Wm. Ray Stone



New Steps Youth Group

New Steps Youth will meet on the following
 Wednesdays in April and May:



- April 3:** Game night!
- April 10:** Exploring the Gospel of Matthew
- April 17:** NO MEETING
- April 24:** Exploring the Gospel of Mark
- May 1:** Exploring the Gospel of Luke
- May 8:** Exploring the Gospel of John, pizza, and drawing for \$20 attendance prize!

This will be our last meeting for the school year.



COMING UP! We will be having Bible and BBQ twice each month during the summer. Pastor Ray will be keeping you informed of our summer plans!



Follow the simple steps below to get the Church Directory on your phone:
 * Go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app (see picture of icon to the right).
 • Use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the app. If you are not listed in the directory, or, if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.
 No picture or want to update? Email one to the church office at firstfaithumc@gmail.com.



Article Deadline for May Newsletter: April 19, 2024